

KATS' TALES

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10 END OF WINTER HAZARDS FOR YOUR PET

As we head out of the dark long cold days of winter into the bright warm sunshine of spring, take care that your pets avoid these hazards: 1. Exposure to Hypothermia There are still quite a few cold days ahead of us. If it's too cold for you to stay outside, it's too cold for your pet. Keep your pets in a weather-tight enclosure with adequate bedding to allow them to cuddle up and sleep without concern about freezing. 2. Salty Feet The chemicals that help keep our tires gripping the pavement can be caustic and painful if allowed to settle between the toes of our pets. There are many pet-friendly options available. You can get your pet a pair of protective booties, or wash their paws off by thoroughly immersing them in warm water after each trek across salted pedestrian paths. 3. Rat Poison All creatures seek warmth and hospitality through the winter. As unwanted house guests—mice and rats—seek shelter in or near our homes, the incidence of unintentional pet poisoning rises. Accidental ingestion of rodenticides can be fatal for a dog or a cat. The safest way to protect your pet is to not use rodent killers in your home. 4. Obesity or Weight Gain The struggle to convince ourselves to get off the couch, eat healthily, and exercise is even more challenging as we layer up and seek the warmth of calorie-dense comfort foods in winter. Those extra pounds put extra stress on your joints and your pets' joints, which can strain and stretch, or even rupture with that first spring sprint trying to haul extra winter weight around. The first weeks of spring are the busiest days of the orthopedic surgeon's calendar. Keep your pets at their optimal weight by adjusting their caloric intake if their metabolism is taking a winter respite. 5. Fleas Many pet parents spare the monthly flea preventives in winter in the hope of saving dollars and minimizing their pet's parasiticide exposure. Unfortunately, within 48 hours of above freezing temperatures, a few fleas can quickly turn into thousands and take your pet by storm. (continued next issue) By Krista Magnifico, DVM Source: www.everydayhealth.com/columns/everyday-pets retrieved 3/13/15



Butler is a nearly one-year old neutered male with a great personality. He loves to be petted, scratched, and rubbed. He is a bit shy, but he gets over that shyness quickly. He likes to hide under his blanket, but once he gets to know you, he'll be a purr-fect companion. Come in and meet Butler today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 3 Cinco de Meow North Congo Church, St. Johnsbury Food, Games, Music, lots of fun for the whole family



7 REASONS YOUR CAT LIKES TO LICK YOU

Here's why some kitties groom their humans - and what to do if yours needs an intervention. 1. Licking is a means of social bonding. Kittens groom each other, and older cats who aren't related but get along well also spend time grooming one another. Often they'll get the spots that are hard for a cat to reach by themselves, such as the top of the head and inside the ears. Exchanging scents through grooming also increases the bond between a pair of cats. 2. When your cat licks you, she's paying you a huge compliment. A tongue bath from your cat is an indication that she feels totally safe in your presence. You are truly a member of her family, and she reinforces that by cleaning you like her mother cleaned her when she was a kitten. 3. Your cat's tongue is covered with barbs. Your kitty's tongue feels like sandpaper because it's covered with papillae—backward facing hooks made of keratin, the same material that makes your kitty's claws. The papillae help cats rasp meat off bones, and they also assist in grooming by acting like a comb to pull out loose fur and dirt. 4. Your cat might be licking you because of anxiety. Some cats get so stressed that they begin licking compulsively. One mysterious condition is called hyperesthesia. Cats who lick themselves bald are often trying to comfort themselves because they're stressed. Other compulsive kitties might lick and suck on fabric, plastic, or even your skin. 5. To stop your cat from licking you, distract her. Learn the signs that your cat is about to start licking. Before she starts washing your arm raw, redirect her attention with a toy. If your cat likes catnip, slip a catnip-filled kicker toy in front of her when she's about to lick you. If she's not a catnip fan, try a treat-dispensing toy instead. 6. De-stress your cat with interactive play. Play is always good. It keeps your cat fit and trim, and it strengthens the bond between you. Not only that but the chemicals released during exercise can help your cat to relax and feel content. 7. Be patient. It's not easy to retrain a cat who has gotten used to performing a habitual behavior such as licking. Remember to stay gentle and avoid yelling or intense physical reactions like shoving your cat, tossing her off your lap, or (heaven forbid) hitting her. By JaneA Kelley Source: www.catster.com/lifestyle retrieved February 23, 2015

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Did you know....when a cat rubs the side of its head on you or your furniture, it is called "bunting."

OUR MISSION STATEMENT The purpose of the Kingdom Animal Shelter is to facilitate the placement of stray and unwanted animals and pets in desirable homes; to establish and maintain an animal shelter and associated procedures that promote health, care and handling; and to prevent overpopulation and the prevention of cruelty to animals. The animals in our care, our guests, are never euthanized merely because we lack space or because the animal's stay with us has exceeded a predefined amount of time.

Please forward this to your friends, family, co-workers, or anyone interested in supporting our shelter. If you no longer wish to receive emails from Kingdom Animal Shelter, please hit "Reply" and change the subject line to UNSUBSCRIBE. Kingdom Animal Shelter respects your privacy and will never share or sell your email address or other information.