

Morrisville Cat Hospital Newsletter



January 2025 - # Edition

Happy New Year!

Announcements:

New CKD Study!

We are excited to share an opportunity for eligible cats to participate in a clinical study aimed at investigating a new medication that has shown exciting promise in treating chronic kidney disease (CKD) in cats. This study provides comprehensive veterinary care for participating cats at no cost to you!

Who is eligible?

- Cats must be ≥ 5 years and < 15 years of age and weigh at least 4.8 lbs
- Cats previously diagnosed CKD (Stage II-III) or a creatinine level of 1.6–5 mg/dL
- Cats in good enough health to reasonably expect to live for the next year
- Owners who can commit to multiple scheduled visits over a 9-month period
- Owners who are able to administer an oral tablet whole (tablets cannot be crushed or mixed into food)

What does the study include?

- All study-related procedures are fully covered, including:
- Comprehensive diagnostic workup initially
- Blood work, urinalysis, blood pressure checks, x-rays, and abdominal ultrasound
- Routine monitoring over the next nine months
- Blood work, urinalysis, blood pressure checks

Study Details:

- Duration: Approximately 9 months with 6-7 scheduled visits
- Medication: A weekly, oral tablet that must be administered whole (a pet piller will be



- provided to assist)
- Visits: Screening, enrollment, and follow-up appointments ranging from 30 minutes to 1 hour

Why participate?

By enrolling, your cat will receive high-quality diagnostic and monitoring care at no cost, while contributing to research that may help improve CKD management for cats everywhere. If you complete the study, you will receive \$700 in appreciation for your efforts.

If you think your cat may qualify and would like to learn more, please send us an email at morrisvillecat@gmail.com or call us at 919-678-1554. The study coordinator will be happy to discuss the study further and determine if your cat is eligible.

Thank you for helping us advance veterinary care for cats!

New Year, New Pawsibilities!

Is your kitty carrying a little extra fluff? This year, let's resolve to help our feline friends feel their best with healthy weight goals! Maintaining a healthy weight can add years to your cat's life and keep them feeling purr-fectly happy.

- Portion Control: Measure meals carefully to avoid overfeeding.
- Play More: Increase their activity with engaging toys or a laser pointer chase session.
- Routine Weigh-Ins: Track their progress regularly to stay on target.

Need help getting started? Ask your vet about weight management! Let's make 2025 their healthiest year yet!

Join Us for an Important Feline Health Event!

We are excited to announce that EveryCat Health Foundation and the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine are partnering for the Health Breakthroughs for EveryCat Symposium! This event will focus on Future Therapies for Feline Heart Disease and Beyond, offering critical insights into advancing feline health.

When: April 26-27, 2025

Where: NC State College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC

There are two tracks available:

A two-day track for veterinary professionals with continuing education credits

A one-day track for non-veterinary professionals (perfect for cat lovers and enthusiasts!)

We're especially thrilled to announce that our very own Dr. Wendy Simpson will be a featured speaker at the event again this year!

This is an incredible opportunity to learn from the top minds in the field and help support our mission to improve the well-being of our beloved cats.

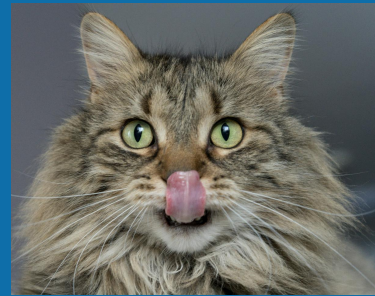
For more details and registration info, visit <https://felinesymposium.squarespace.com/>.

Let's work together for a healthier future for EveryCat!

FDA Outlines Ways to Reduce Risk of HPAI in Cats

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advises pet owners to prevent cats from consuming unpasteurized milk, raw or undercooked meats, and hunting wild birds to reduce the risk to their animals of contracting Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1). Recent cases link feline infections to contaminated food sources. Dogs are also susceptible, though less so.



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Avian influenza kills 20 big cats at Wash. sanctuary

KING-TV

The Wild Felid Advocacy Center in Shelton, Wash., has lost 20 large cats to an avian influenza outbreak that began in November, one cat is in critical condition, four are sick and 12 have shown no signs of illness. The USDA and the state health department are investigating the source of the infection, but "there's no evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission, and there's no evidence of mammal-to-human or human-to-human transmission," said Washington State Veterinarian Amber Itle. Infected raw meat may be the culprit, and the sanctuary has had to discard thousands of pounds of meat.

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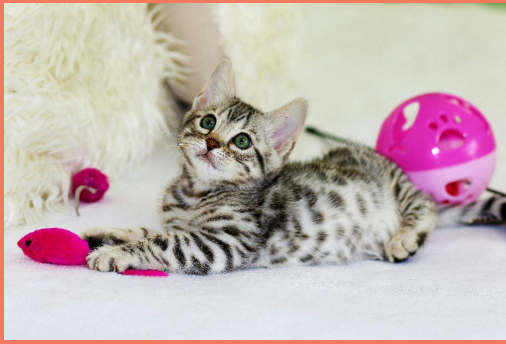
The Terminal Purr: When Purring Isn't a Sign of Happiness

Catster

Cats often purr not only when content but also as a self-soothing mechanism during illness or pain, possibly releasing endorphins for comfort. This behavior highlights their unique way of managing discomfort and seeking calm in challenging moments.



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Cats May Help Spread Bird Flu, Scientists Warn

Newsweek

The H5N1 avian influenza virus, commonly known as bird flu, has been detected in domestic cats across multiple U.S. states. Health officials are investigating potential transmission routes, including from humans to pets. While the risk to the general public remains low, authorities advise pet owners to exercise caution and monitor their animals for symptoms.

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Do Cats Communicate with Their Tails?

Live Science via MSN

Cats' tails reveal more than balance; they reflect emotions like fear, joy, and curiosity through movement. Tail anatomy enables flexibility, with nerves facilitating instant, precise motions. Tail positions, from upright to puffed-up, convey mood and intent in various contexts.

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What is Silver Vine? Everything You Need to Know About the Catnip Alternative, According to a Vet

Pets Radar

Silver vine, a climbing plant native to Asia, is gaining popularity as a catnip alternative, especially for cats unresponsive to catnip. Its active compounds can induce behaviors like rolling and cheek rubbing, enhancing feline enrichment.

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The Next Normal

Today's Veterinary Business

As a last-century veterinary school graduate, I came of age as a general practitioner in the 1990s. I recall it as a time of remarkable innovation. When I entered the profession, we relied on paper records, wall-mounted rotary telephones, the Yellow Pages, postcard reminders, high vaccine prices, low exam fees, flea bombs, and on-call shifts.



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Understanding FeLV: What Cat Owners Should Know

The Sentinel

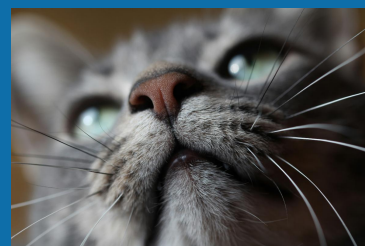
FeLV, a prevalent cat disease, affects 1%-3% of cats globally, with higher rates in high-risk areas. Kings County's feral cat population heightens exposure risks, making understanding prevention crucial for local cat owners. FeLV, a retrovirus, permanently alters infected cats' cells, rendering the body unable to eliminate it. Transmission occurs through close contact, including grooming and shared spaces.

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Veterinarian explains feline infectious peritonitis

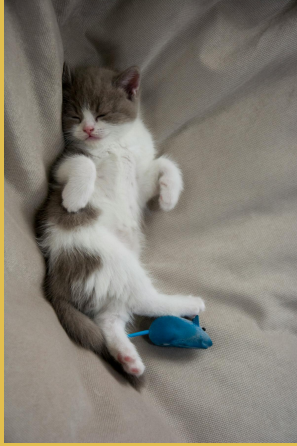
The Sentinel

Feline infectious peritonitis is an often deadly disease caused by a variant of a coronavirus that usually causes only mild illness in cats and is not infectious to humans, but signs of FIP can be similar to those of other diseases, so a veterinary exam is important as soon as a cat has a seizure or becomes unstable or lethargic, writes veterinarian Kait Betchel. No FIP treatments are approved in the US, but vaccinating kittens and cats prevents the disease, and supportive care can keep cats with FIP comfortable, Dr. Betchel writes.



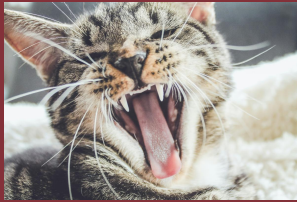
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Rising number of pets poisoned by owners' cocaine, meth



Hundreds of cats and dogs in the US have been accidentally poisoned by cocaine and methamphetamine left out by owners, and the number of pets poisoned by cocaine rose significantly from 2019 to 2023, according to a study in JAMA Network Open. "Any degree of exposure should be considered concerning, as there is a high risk of toxicity and death, even with aggressive medical therapy," researchers wrote.

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Sorry I Barfed On Your Bed

(and Other Heartwarming Letters from Kitty)

by **Jeremy Greenberg**

"Dear Nasal Irritant,

As you know, I'm not just a kitty cat. I am an alien from a distant planet sent to Earth to study the effects of sleeping on heating vents. But my work has been disrupted by a series of uncontrollable cat sneezes. And you know what, human? Laughing at me is not helping. You probably think that with all the hair kitties shed, and all the allergy attacks we cause, it serves us right to occasionally have adorable little sneezing fits. But did you know that cat sneezes can actually be the sign of a bacterial infection? That would make sense, since I live with you, and I have never once seen you lick yourself clean. Or the sneezes might be from accidentally getting litter dust up my nose, But I haven't done that since I was a roadie for Faster Pussycat. Plus, I typically poop in the neighbor's vegetable garden.

No, the reason I am sneezing is because you're wearing too much of that new Kim Kardashian perfume. If you wanted to smell like a feral cat, you should've just asked. I would've been more than happy to spray you myself.

Love,
Tussi"





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