

Morrisville Cat Hospital Newsletter



March 2025 - 158th Edition

Greetings!

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring!

Announcements:

Understanding Pet Insurance & Finding the Right Plan for Your Cat

At Morrisville Cat Hospital, we know that unexpected veterinary expenses can be stressful. Pet insurance can help you manage the cost of care so your cat gets the treatment they need without financial worry.



What is Pet Insurance & How Does It Work?

Pet insurance helps cover the cost of medical expenses if your cat becomes ill or has an accident. It works similarly to human health insurance in some ways but also has key differences:

Similarities to human health insurance:

- Has premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and maximum payouts
- Includes waiting periods before coverage begins (which may vary by condition)

Differences from human health insurance:

- Does not cover pre-existing conditions
- Works on a reimbursement basis—You pay the vet bill first, then file a claim for reimbursement. Unlike human insurance, the doctor does not file the claim on your behalf.
- No provider networks—You can visit any licensed veterinarian in the U.S., and some plans offer coverage while traveling abroad.

Find the Right Insurance for Your Cat

There are many pet insurance providers, and coverage options vary. To help you compare plans based on your cat's needs and your budget, we recommend using Pawlicy Advisor, a free tool that provides personalized recommendations.

Microchip company's closure means pet owners will need to reregister their pets' microchips

The closure of Save This Life, a pet microchip company, has prompted alerts for potentially affected pet owners. The Austin, Texas–based company appears to be permanently closed on Google.

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), which hosts a Pet Recovery Service registry for companies, including Save This Life, removed the provider from its Microchip Registry Lookup tool in mid-February after receiving reports of failed searches.

Read more on the AVMA website: [HERE!](#)

FelineVMA Representatives at the 2025 AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference

FelineVMA

Holly Dodson, DVM, and Tina Hall, DVM, DABVP (Feline) discuss their experiences representing the FelineVMA at the 2025 AVMA Leadership Conference held last month in Chicago.

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Tracking Health in Mature and Senior Cats

Clinician's Brief

Detecting subtle health changes is essential for aging cats. A study of 259 cats, aged seven and older, examined unnoticed conditions. Over two years, physical exams and lab tests revealed hidden diseases, including kidney disease and hyperthyroidism, emphasizing the need for routine veterinary checkups.

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From Fierce to Floppy: Science Finally Explains Why Cats Fall Over in Harnesses

Catster

A harness disrupts a cat's natural movement by interfering with its touch-based sensory feedback, temporarily making it lose coordination. However, most cats adapt over time, regaining their balance as their bodies adjust to the new sensation.



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If You Think Your Cat is Holding a Grudge, This is the Maximum Time He Will Be Angry with You According to Experts

Diario AS

Cats have long been mysterious companions, balancing independence with affection. Their behavior often leads to misconceptions, including whether they hold grudges. Experts clarify that feline responses stem from instinct, not resentment, as cats avoid stress rather than act out of spite.

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Studies Led by NC State's Top Researcher Propelling First Drug to Treat Feline Heart Condition to Market NC State College of Veterinary Medicine

A groundbreaking drug developed through NC State-led research has shown success in reversing hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) in cats, the most common feline heart disease. With Food and Drug Administration conditional approval expected in March, this treatment could soon transform veterinary cardiology.

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After Bird Flu Detected in Local Cat, County Health Officials Say Pet Owners Should Contact Veterinarian When Their Pets Are Sick

San Mateo County Government

A stray cat in San Mateo County, California, tested positive for H5N1 (bird flu), prompting health officials to urge pet owners to monitor their animals for symptoms. While the risk of transmission to humans is low, vigilance is needed to prevent the virus's spread.



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Ohio State University Needs Obese Cats for Veterinary Study: Do You Have a Fat Feline?

WOIO-TV via MSN

Ohio State University's Veterinary Medical Center is seeking overweight but otherwise healthy cats for its Feline SLIM Study. Funded by the Morris Animal Foundation, the study explores how cats lose weight using diet and fecal microbiota transplants, with some already showing promising results.

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Preliminary Evaluation of the Effect of Dietary Supplementation of Bacillus Clausii for Adult Healthy Cats

Italian Journal of Animal Science

This study explores the effects of Bacillus clausii supplementation on feline health, reflecting pet owners' increasing focus on probiotics. Researchers conducted a 42-day trial with 14 neutered Chartreux cats, monitoring diet, body condition, and stool quality. Results suggest improved digestion, enhanced gut microbiota, and reduced inflammation.

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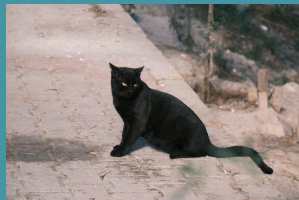
Bird Flu Cases in Household Cats Spark Raw Pet Food Warning

Newsweek

Agriculture officials in Washington and Oregon have issued an urgent alert after indoor cats in Oregon contracted highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1). The infected cats were euthanized due to severe illness from consuming raw pet food from Wild Coast Raw. A multi-state investigation is underway.



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Why Do Cats Like Hair Ties So Much? An Expert Explains

PetsRadar

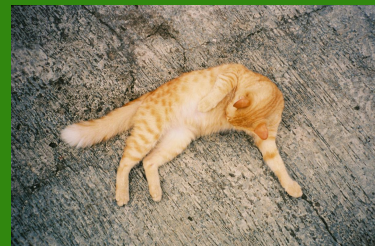
Ever wondered why your cat is obsessed with hair ties? Despite having an array of toys, cats often prefer everyday objects like elastic bands and boxes. To understand this fascination, vet Dr. Rebecca MacMillan shares insights into why hair ties captivate cats and their hidden dangers.

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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A Virus Infection of Indoor Domestic Cats Within Dairy Industry Worker Households — Michigan, May 2024

Centers for Disease Control

HPAI A (H5N1) virus, clade 2.3.4.4b, genotype B3.13, was detected in cats on U.S. dairy farms, prompting an investigation in Michigan after two indoor cats developed respiratory and neurological symptoms. Health officials emphasize the need for veterinarians to assess owners' occupational exposure and coordinate with public health agencies to protect both human and animal health.



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Setting Client Expectations for Feline Atopic Skin Syndrome

Clinician's Brief



Feline atopic skin syndrome (FASS) is a lifelong condition requiring ongoing management to control symptoms, minimize flare-ups, and improve a cat's quality of life. Effective treatment involves identifying triggers, adjusting therapies over time, and maintaining clear communication with clients about expectations and costs.

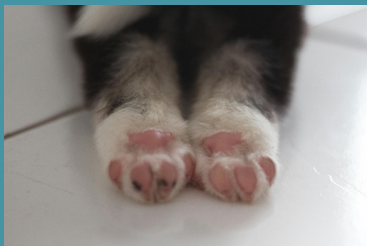
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Why Do Cats Make a Face When They Smell Something?

ParadePets

Social media is flooded with hilarious clips of cats sniffing everyday items, then reacting dramatically with comically horrified expressions. This amusing feline response, scientifically known as the flehmen reaction, helps cats thoroughly analyze intriguing scents through specialized nasal structures.

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Why Do Cats Have 'Toe Beans'?

Live Science

Cats' paw pads, affectionately known as toe beans, enhance balance, soften landings, and help communicate. These sensitive cushions absorb shocks silently and discreetly, aiding stealth and agility, essential for hunting and exploration in diverse environments.

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Sorry I Barfed On Your Bed

(and Other Heartwarming Letters from Kitty)

by **Jeremy Greenberg**

"Dear Master,

I should've known this day would come. Last night when

you were petting me, you said, "Who's a good kitty?" That's how you talk to a dog! Cats don't care if they're good. You clearly want someone who is in constant need of approval. Why don't you just get a dumb doggie, if you want one so much. I'm sure you can find some idiot pooch who will balance food on his nose, or go crazy when you say the word jogging. I'm sorry you can't go jogging with a kitty. But have you ever thought that with me you don't need to jog--I'm happy ignoring you just the way you are.

**Love,
Sugar"**



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