

Morrisville Cat Hospital Newsletter



March 2026 - 170th Edition

Greetings!,

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Announcements:

**Feline Symposium: Health Breakthroughs
for EveryCat — April 11–12, 2026**

We're thrilled to announce that our very own Dr. Wendy Simpson will be a featured speaker at Health Breakthroughs for EveryCat: Feline Healthy Aging, a feline health symposium presented by EveryCat Health Foundation and the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine Feline Health Center!

When: April 11–12, 2026

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

Who: Open to veterinary professionals and cat lovers alike — with both in-person and livestream options.

This two-day event offers continuing education for veterinary professionals alongside a one-day track tailored for cat owners and caregivers. Attendees will gain insight into the latest feline health research, practical care tips, and expert strategies for healthy aging.

Whether you're a veterinary professional or a devoted cat parent, this symposium is



not to be missed!

Learn more and register today: felinesymposium.squarespace.com

Comment on a Recent Policy Change by the American Veterinary Medical Association's House of Delegates Regarding Pain Management and Declawing

Journal of Small Animal Practice



A new AVMA policy change has raised concern among veterinary pain experts. They warn that removing references to pain and quality of life contradicts established science. They argue that weak language on declawing risks legitimizing harmful practices.

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Acceptance and Preference of a Commercial Dry Renal Diet in Healthy Cats: An In-home Proof-of-concept Trial

Journal of Animal Physiology and Animal Nutrition

Renal diets are recommended to manage complications in cats with kidney disease. Despite reported benefits, many cats do not fully transition to these diets. Researchers tested whether healthy cats would accept a renal diet as readily as their usual food.

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Why Do Cats Like Dryer Sheets? Vet-reviewed Causes & Safety Precautions

Catster

Cats may enjoy dryer sheets for their texture and scent. Cat caregivers sometimes use them to reduce fur on furniture. These sheets contain corrosive chemicals that can harm cats through contact or grooming.



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The Real Reason Your Cat Meows Back When You Talk to Them

Kinship

A talkative foster cat raises the question of whether feline replies are meaningful communication. Experts say cats rarely meow at each other and reserve meows mainly for people. Humans respond to these sounds, encouraging cats to keep using them to engage us.

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Washington Reports First Wildlife-linked Bird Flu Case in Domestic Cat and Separate Poultry Detection

dvm360

A Washington cat has died from H5N1 after likely coming into contact with an infected wild bird. Officials also confirmed there was a nearby backyard poultry infection. Authorities are urging vigilance as the virus continues circulating in shared outdoor spaces.



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Is Cat TV Good for Cats?

Kinship

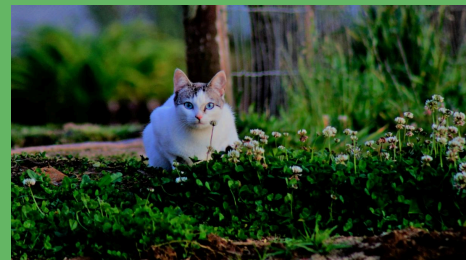
Cats often fixate on screens showing prey-like motion. These videos stimulate tracking and hunting instincts that indoor cats may lack. Used wisely, cat TV can offer helpful mental enrichment.

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The Wild Survival Instinct That Makes Cats Hiss at Their Caregivers

Catster

Cats may hiss or act aggressively when defending valued resources. This behavior is rooted in early-life competition and wild survival instincts. Even well-socialized pets can react this way when they feel their territory is threatened.



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Diagnostic Approach to the Coughing Cat Algorithm

Today's Veterinary Practice

Coughing in cats can signal a wide range of conditions, from infections to lower airway disease. Early evaluation focuses on history, exam findings, and stabilizing distressed patients. Radiographs then help narrow causes before further testing guides a targeted workup.

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What Cats Can Teach Us About Long Covid

Catster

Researchers link decades of Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) studies to breakthroughs in treating human COVID-19. Earlier vaccine work helped speed COVID-19 vaccine development. Ongoing parallels highlight how feline science continues to inform long COVID research.



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Behavioral Dynamics in the Multicat Home

Clinician's Brief

Experts urge caregivers to use terms that reflect natural feline instincts. They caution against labels that imply moral judgment. The guidance encourages more accurate, less anthropomorphic interpretations of cat interactions.

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What Your Cat's Snuggling Style Says About Your Bond, According to an Expert

Parade Pets

A cat's cuddle habits can reveal surprising insights about your relationship. Experts say snuggling supports trust and relaxation. Even less cuddly cats communicate affection through presence and playful engagement.



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Your Cat May Share the Same Cancer Genes as You, and Offer Clues for Treatment

Discover

Researchers examined feline tumors and found genetic patterns that mirror human cancers. The findings suggest shared environmental exposures may drive similar mutations. Scientists say these parallels could help reveal how certain cancers develop.

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