



THE FELINE

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A MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER INSERT FOR CAT LOVERS, FALL 2012

CAT-FRIENDLY PRACTICE PROGRAM



Magrane Pet Medical Center is taking steps toward becoming a Cat-Friendly Practice through the American Association of Feline Practitioners. Dr. Neuhoff, one of our owner-veterinarians, is a member of this organization, as well as being Board-certified in

small animal practice including felines. Dr. Neuhoff has assembled a Cat-Friendly Practice Task Force from the Magrane staff, which has reviewed the recommendations of the AAFP.

The AAFP distributes a checklist, which lists 100 recommendations for cat-friendly veterinary practices. The Cat-Friendly Practice Task Force at Magrane has taken these recommendations to heart, and has looked closely at our clinic to improve compliance with them.

Because Magrane is an accredited hospital under American Animal Hospital Association guidelines, our staff is used to similar checklists, and our clinic was already in compliance with many of the AAFP's recommendations. For example, we have had a separate cat examination room as well as a separate ward for cat hospitalization and boarding for many years. But other items on the list needed extra attention, as well as approval from all five of our veterinarians.

For example, the checklist recommended using Feliway, a synthetic copy of the feline facial pheromone, in our cat exam and boarding areas. Feliway is used because it calms cats, making their visits to Magrane more pleasant for everyone. The Task Force has ordered diffusers and supplies

of Feliway for the two areas, and these will be installed very soon.

Another recommendation of the AAFP was that full mouth dental x-rays be taken with every dental cleaning done for cats. In the past, we have included these x-rays with moderate and severe dental cleanings, but not with the mild level of dental cleaning. When the Task Force members questioned Dr. Neuhoff about the need for this step, she responded with the story of Bear the cat.

Fifteen-year-old Bear had been ill off-and-on since December of 2011, but no specific cause had been found.

An exam of Bear's teeth revealed "mild tartar," but no amount of looking could show the severe dental problems hiding below Bear's gums. When Dr. Neuhoff's surgical team x-rayed Bear's mouth on the morning of his dental cleaning in mid-September, they found severe sub-gingival lesions around both of his lower canine teeth. Dr.



Bear

Neuhoff removed those teeth and two others, then treated Bear with antibiotics and pain medication. Since that time, Bear has returned to normal activity, and his owner wants full-mouth x-rays done with his future dental cleanings.

After hearing Bear's case history, the Task Force decided to step up to the AAFP's excellent level of cat care, recommending full mouth x-rays to accompany all cat dentals. After all, your cat can't really tell you where it hurts.

There are other AAFP recommendations that the Task Force is pursuing. As a result, your future visits to Magrane with your cat may turn out to be much more pleasant, as well as beneficial, than in the past!



FELINE TIP SHEET LITTER BOX ISSUES

"Why is my cat doing this?" • "How can I make my cat stop?"

There are many reasons why a cat suddenly stops using his/her litter box. The first step towards finding the solution should always be a complete physical exam by your veterinarian. The exam may include a urinalysis and/or blood tests to rule out any physical cause for the inappropriate urination. If the problem is determined to be behavioral, the veterinary team can start working with you, the pet owner, to resolve the problem as quickly as possible. Although this type of problem can be extremely frustrating, a majority of the time it just takes some simple changes in the litter, the box location, or the box cleanliness. To help decide if this is true in your cat's case, please take time to ask yourself these simple questions:

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

- ✓ Is the litter box located in a quiet, private area away from food and bedding?
- ✓ Is the same type of litter being used consistently? (Don't coupon shop)
- ✓ Is the litter box too clean? Cats hate the smell of soap and pine scented products.
- ✓ Is the litter box too dirty? Scoop daily and change gravel litter once weekly.
- ✓ Does your cat like the litter you've provided? Most cats prefer clump-able litter or sand because of its small particle size. Litter must also not be too dusty or heavily scented.
- ✓ How much litter is in the pan? Most cats prefer about 2 inches. Some older cats with arthritic hips might like the box filled at a slant to provide better footing.
- ✓ Is the number of litter boxes equal to or greater than the number of cats in the house?
- ✓ Does the litter box have a cover or high sides? Not all cats appreciate these features.
- ✓ NEVER punish a cat in, on, or around the litter box!! The cat will begin to associate the negative experience with the litter box.
- ✓ Are the accident areas around the house being cleaned effectively? The smell of urine will keep a cat going back to the same spot. Proper cleaning and treatment of areas are important. Natures Miracle is a product readily available for effective urine clean up.
- ✓ Has the stress in your cat's life recently been increased? New people in the house, new pets, and other changes in routine can be very stressful to a cat.
- ✓ In some cases, confinement can be used to retrain your cat to use the litter box. A small room or large kennel can be used to house your cat, food, toys and the litter box. This technique will help to retrain the cat to use the litter box because it will avoid soiling areas it sleeps on. After the cat is consistently using its litter box, it can be gradually reintroduced to the house.

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FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK

Magrane Pet Medical Center prides itself in staying current with the most up-to-date medicine available for your pet. When it comes to social networking, we want to do the same. However, we can't do this without your help. Please search for and friend Magrane Pet Medical Center on Facebook today and begin networking with our clients and staff. It is a fun way to share stories, pictures, and information with people who have something in common—a unique bond with their pets!



CAT GROOMING AT MAGRANE

Due to popular request, Magrane Pet Medical Center is offering cat grooming. Needed most by long-haired cats, the grooming will include removal of matted hair and shaving to restore a balanced appearance to your pet. Other options include bathing, shaving cats to resemble lions or teddy bears, nail trims, and banishing fleas. For highly nervous cats, we offer mild sedation to make the experience more pleasant for everyone.

Give us a call to schedule your cat's beauty treatment!



If you have a short story about your cat that you would like to share with us, please email it to stezich1@yahoo.com or bring it in to Magrane Pet Medical Center. We would also like a photo to go along with the story. We will make an effort to publish all of the entries submitted. Thank you!
