



January 2012 Kit-E-News

Stevens County Cat Care

P.O. Box 776
Chewelah, WA 99109
(509) 935-MEOW (6369)

**Our next clinic:
Feb. 12th in Kettle Falls**

Our volunteers and veterinarians hold mobile clinics in a different town's community center one Sunday each month. Our low cost mobile clinics are made possible thanks to the generosity of local veterinarians, grants, and local donations. Low income Stevens County residents may call

(509) 935-MEOW (6369)

to make reservations for their cat(s) at an upcoming clinic.

Check out our website in progress at www.stevenscountycatcare.org

New Rabies Law in Effect

Copied from the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association E-Newsletter

Beginning January 1, 2012, all dogs, cats, and ferrets in Washington must have up-to-date rabies vaccines. Any mammal can get rabies. However, bats are the only animal in Washington known to carry rabies. In other states, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes are known to carry rabies. Many cities and counties required rabies vaccination for pet licenses before the new state rule took effect. The rule, [WAC 246-100-197](#), says *an owner of a dog, cat, or ferret shall have it vaccinated against rabies and revaccinated following veterinary and vaccine manufacturer instructions. An "owner" is any person legally responsible for the care and actions of a pet animal.*

The Washington State Departments of Health and Agriculture have no provision for rabies vaccine exemption through the use of rabies titers. It is recognized that rabies vaccination may under specific conditions pose an unacceptably high risk to the health of an individual animal. This is a decision made by the owner in conjunction with their family veterinarian and should be documented in the medical record. However, if the pet that does not have proof of current rabies vaccination is exposed to a potentially rabid animal or bites a person, the pet would be looked upon by public health as a non-vaccinate. Washington State follows the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control developed by the National Association of State and Public Health Veterinarians which does not accept titers as an alternative to vaccination for reasons stated in the document.



Rabies is still not common in Washington State. The Department of Health tests 180 to 350 animals each year. In 2011, they tested 193 bats and found 11 that were infected with rabies. It is very rare for a person to get rabies in Washington. However, 251 people had to receive the series of shots (known as post-exposure prophylaxis or PEP) in 2011 following their exposure to potentially rabid animals. In December 2011, a person in Thurston County was bitten by a rabid bat that was sleeping in a bedroom slipper.

The last reported case of rabies in an animal other than a bat in Washington State was in 2002. A cat developed rabies after catching a rabid bat. The last reported human cases of rabies in Washington were in 1995 and 1997. In 2007, a puppy imported from another country passed through Washington on its way to another state. It was diagnosed with rabies shortly after arriving at its destination. While the puppy was temporarily housed in Washington, several people were exposed to the puppy and had to undergo post-exposure prophylaxis.

There is no fine or enforcement at the state level. However, the intent of this new rule is to educate pet owners about the rabies vaccine so they'll protect their pets, themselves, and their families. Any fines would come from cities or counties. Many communities already require proof of rabies vaccination in order to get a pet license.

If a pet is not vaccinated, and is bitten by a stray or wild animal, the pet needs to be confined and observed for up to six months. If the pet shows signs of rabies while in confinement, the animal must be euthanized in order to be tested for rabies. For more information go to www.doh.wa.gov.

Volunteering with Tina: Meet Teresa!

At the Jan. 15th clinic in Springdale SCCC was honored to have a volunteer from Germany. Teresa is the daughter of volunteer Pat Lowe, who also volunteers her time to CVAS. Teresa also spent time at CVAS while visiting.

Teresa has lived in Germany with her German husband for the past 13 years near the town of Hamelin, known as the origination of the Pied Piper story. They have 2 cats named Moira and Esma.

She is an artist, producing ornament size glass sculptures. Her subject matter is mostly female figures, masks and tribal themes. She also teaches the medium. She markets her art online.

Prior to moving to Germany, Teresa worked for 12 years in Orlando as a shift supervisor at an emergency veterinary clinic. She worked spay-neuter clinics as well. She says it was her favorite job ever. She would have liked to do something similar in Germany but their laws are more restrictive.

Some other differences between Germany and the U.S. are quite interesting. Teresa states that it is very unusual to see a stray dog running loose. There are no suburbs as we know them. There are cities, villages and farm lands. When you leave a city or village there are no strip malls or endless developments, just a definite boundary then direct to farming areas. Declawing of cats and ear cropping and tail docking of dogs is illegal in Germany. People are allowed to bring their dogs into stores and

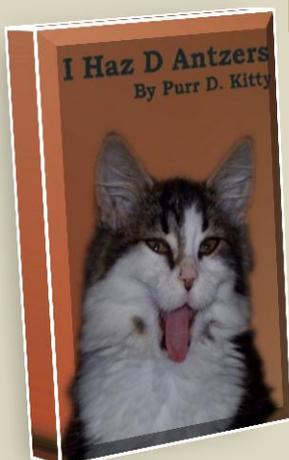
restaurants with them, as long as they are well behaved, and that it is common to eat in a cafe with your dog sleeping under the table! People do let their cats loose, but again homeless strays are minimal. Due to laws and the lifestyle she believes that is why stray dogs and cats don't seem to be a problem. In short, it seems like many dubious "pet" owners in the U.S. could learn something from the animal ethics practiced by Germans.



When asked what she thought about the SCCC clinic, Teresa was amazed and impressed. When first she heard there were 170 cats signed up her thought was "No Way". She was picturing utter chaos. She was happy for the opportunity to participate and pleasantly surprised at how well and professionally it was run.

Teresa is unaware of clinics in Germany similar to what SCCC and other non-profits run. However, she enjoyed her day with SCCC so much that she is going to look into what might be available in Germany.

SCCC is glad to have made such a positive impression on Teresa and appreciates the time and effort she took out of her vacation to volunteer. We wish her safe travels!



Things you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask your cat.

Overeating or improper eating, hormone imbalances or a genetic predisposition can sometimes be blamed for us being overweight, but usually it's because we eat more than we exercise off. We're obese if we're 20% over weight. Obesity can cause us to be at risk for medical problems such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory disease, liver disease, a greater surgical risk, and joint problems. Help us keep in shape by chasing laser pointer lights, or a string attached to a stick, catnip mice, etc.

National Days *(yes, really!)*



cat-egorized by month

2012

January

- 14th- National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- January 22nd- Answer your Cat's Questions Day



February-

- Responsible Pet Owners Month
- February is also National Pet Dental Health Month
- February 28th (last Tuesday of the month) is the 18th annual Spay Day (Started by the Doris Day Animal League in 1995) and has graduated to being World Spay Day!

March

- 18-24 National Animal Poison Prevention Week



April-

- National Pet Month from April 7 to May 7
- 1-7 National Pooper Scooper Week
- 10-16 National Animal Control Appreciation Week
- April 11th National Pet Day
- 15-21 National Pet ID Week
- and also National Volunteer Week
- the 28th (Last Saturday in April) is World Veterinary Day
- Last Sunday in April is National Pet Parents Day



May

- 6-12 (first full week) Be Kind to Animals Week
- May 31st is Hug Your Cat Day



June

- is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

July

- 4th- is a dangerous and frightening day for animals. Keep your cats safely away from fireworks

August

- 20th International Homeless Animals Day



September

- is Happy Cat Month
- World Animal Remembrance Month

October

- is National Animal safety and Protection Month
- October 4th Blessing of the Animals Day
- October 16th- National Feral Cat Day

November

- is Adopt a senior pet month
- Pet Cancer Awareness month
- and the 1st is National Go Cook for your Pets Day



December

- December 25th Santa Paws comes!



January 15th, 2012
Stevens County Cat Care
spay/neutered
151 cats in Springdale

Meet Mac and Mimi-



The saga continues: Last month we began with Mac and Mimi coming to America. Living in a large sanctuary in Taiwan, they were not considered adoptable after having had their eyes removed because of infections.

"Living with blind cats"

When Mac and Mimi came to live with us, they adjusted easier than one might expect. Their whiskers told them if they were too close to furniture, a wall, or a sleeping dog as they explored their new domain. Their sensitive paws told them which rug they were crossing, which helped them recognize their location. It wasn't long before they could trot across the living room, turn sharply at the bottom of the stairs without running into the front door, and gallop full speed up the stairs without missing a beat.

They played with cat toys appropriately. A ball with a bell in it provided enormous entertainment. If it became momentarily lost, Mimi's nose would run a gridline back and forth until she located it and rearing up, she would pounce on it and the bell would rattle across the floor again with Mimi in hot pursuit. When too many balls and catnip mice found their way under the cook stove, she would sit in front of it

and extend a pathetic paw in their general direction until I would rescue her toys with a broom handle.

Mac and Mimi would mock attack each other, rolling and wrestling like typical kittens. The only difference being that sometimes one would tentatively put out a paw, patting about to feel where the sibling was before completing the attack.

It wasn't long before Mimi discovered a room in the house with indescribably delicious smells located somewhere above her. From my human perspective, the clever kitty learned to climb up the drawer handles to get on the counter, but I'm sure that from a blind cat's perspective, she had discovered the ladder that led up to the snack bar! The counter also housed other items of interest, such as paperclips, pencils, rubber bands, receipts, and other objects awaiting a decision to be reached as to their permanent location. Mimi began to assist with this chore by taking them upstairs. Many a morning I awaken to an object lying on my bedroom floor that I distinctly remember being on the kitchen counter when I went to bed.

One of the few problems Mac and Mimi had was with doors. Mac, in particular, likes to go in the bathroom and sit on the lid of the trashcan. He sits there, in the dark, like a silent sphinx. However, as he would navigate his way about, he often bumped the door shut behind him and would yowl in great distress until the door was opened and he was rescued. The problem was cured by laying a short 1 x 4 board in the doorway to prevent the door from closing completely. New visitors to our bathroom look at the board on the floor in confusion, their expression

changing only slightly when I explain its purpose is to prevent blind cats from locking themselves in.



When the grandchild arrived, we installed a gate between the kitchen and living room. The bars seemed too narrow for the cats to fit through but Mimi quickly learned that one bar was set slightly wider apart than the others. Now if the gate is closed, she quickly counts bars and squeezes through. We also put a gate at the bottom of the stairs. The cats learned which part of the design on the back of a bench aligned with an opening in the stair rails and they jump on the bench and are through the opening and up the stairs so quickly it's hard to believe they can't actually see what they're doing.

Neither cat trusts company until they have been around long enough to be presumed safe. Then Mac is the first to show himself, tip toeing across the room, eyeless face and big ears zeroing in on the strange voice. It takes Mimi longer to trust strangers. She usually waits until they leave before seeking out my lap, following the 'tsk tsk' sounds of my tongue clicking until she finds me. Then, purring contentedly, she snuggles down. I treasure these moments as it took them six months to purr after their arrival. While shelter workers had fed them, no one had time to pet them so they had no understanding of affection. Then, when her purr fades into sleep, I wonder, 'What does a blind cat dream about'?