A Note From Your Director …….

Members, the end of this month I will be attending the winter meeting in Harlingen, TX... I am asking all of you to please read the agenda and if you have a comment about any of it please let me know... The issue of realignment is a very important to the Southeast region... If the Board goes through with this proposal we will lose 2 states... Please let your voices be heard and stop this now before it is too late...

Please check with your state, county, and local laws about a cattery, number of pets, etc. so you can be legal... Hiding does not work and we all need to be proud of our catteries and the wonderful cats we raise... If you can’t properly vet, feed, and care for the cats you have, you are not doing any of us a favor... Stand proud and fight PETA and the rest... If you know of anyone in need please let me know... There are resources and we have people that will help as best we can...

“It’s ALL About the Cats”

It’s a New Year!

We wish you bright moments of happiness, quiet moments of beauty, and a year filled with all the good things you deserve!
Overcrowding can cause litterbox problems. If two cats want to claim the same litterbox as their own, and only theirs, it can cause cat fights and non use of the litter by one or both of the cats. Since we love our pets and giving up one of our cats is never a good (or acceptable) option, increase the number of litterboxes, and the number of resources for the cats. More play, more attention, private resting places, etc. will increase the level of harmony in the house.

Praising the cat for using the litter box can also be a positive reinforcement. Cats love verbal praise, even though they seldom acknowledge they hear us give it!

Now, if your cat is declawed, you have all sorts of different types of problems. Depending on the age of the cat or when it was declawed, your cat is in pain and/or developing arthritis. When you declaw, you take bone, ligaments and tendons along with the claw, causing serious discomfort and often cats will have ghost pains, similar to that of human amputees. When they dig in the litter, it causes pain and the cats will avoid that pain by searching out anything soft – i.e. clothes, towels, rugs, couches, bedding and mattresses. Your only options are to find a litter that their paws can tolerate, or confine them to one room without a lot of furniture.

It’s sad but true – declawed cats often get thrown away because they don’t use the litter and the cause of their behavior problem is actually the fault of the owner who loves them and didn’t know any better when they had the procedure done. There are a few options, the first being to see if your cat will use Feline Pine or Yesterday’s News. If that fails, you can use Cat Attract (which you can get from your vet) or shredded newspaper. The newspaper usually ends up being your best bet because it does not hurt when the cat digs through it.

If this does not work, then the cat needs a safe place with a minimum amount of furniture that it can ruin. Giving the cat to a local shelter will not alter the behavior of the declawed cat – in fact, it will often increase the bad behavior, because of the stress of being abandoned by its family.

If you have recently gotten another cat, remember the rule of thumb is one litterbox per cat in the household, plus one extra. If your cat has an accident, clean it immediately with an enzymatic cleaner and then follow up with an odor neutralizer like X-O or Nok-Out. Also, try different types of litter in the different litterboxes since not all litters fit all cats. Place multiple boxes near each other with different types of litter – clumping, processed paper, wheat, pine, corn, or old fashioned clay – and see what cats are drawn to what types of litter.

Do not place your litterbox next to the food and water dishes. No cat wants to eliminate near where it eats. Also, don’t put the litterbox in high traffic areas or near noisy appliances. Cats like privacy and will probably find their own hidden spots if you don’t find it for them.

Overcrowding can cause litterbox problems. If two cats
The SE Newsletter is posted monthly. Anyone wanting to submit articles, recipes, trivia, or anything you think others would enjoy, please send the information (Subject Line: SE Newsletter) to:

shutterbug1948@gmail.com
Judith Milling

Don’t forget that the SE Region is on Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=300505338191

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**RECIPES**

**Crescent Pie Bites**

**Ingredients**
1 (21 oz.) Can Pie Filling (Any Flavor)  
2 Tubes Crescent Rolls …  
1 cup Powdered Sugar  
2 Tbsp. Milk

**Directions**
1. Preheat oven 375.  
2. Spray two muffin tins with cooking spray (If you only have one tin, you will have to make two batches)  
3. Open crescent roll cans and lay out the crescent roll dough flat.  
4. Separate into individual sections and lay each piece in the muffin tins, widest section at the bottom.  
5. Put pie filling into each crescent roll.  
6. About 1-2 Tbsp. per crescent.  
7. Gather the edges of the dough and fold up around the filling.  
8. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes.  
**★ NOTE: You want the tops to be brown and the dough to be completely done. ★**

**For the glaze:**
1. In a bowl whisk the powdered sugar together with the milk until smooth.  
2. Use a spoon to drizzle glaze over each pie bite.  
**★ NOTE: You can also sift powdered sugar over the top instead of using glaze. ★**

**CRACK CABBAGE**

**Ingredients**
1 medium cabbage or already shredded  
1 pound ground beef (with beef drain grease first)  
1 stick butter  
1 cup sour cream  
1 cup ricotta  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Garlic powder to taste  
1 small onion

**Directions**
Shred cabbage and put in skillet with butter. Brown meat first. Cook cabbage and then add meat and onion.  
Add sour cream and ricotta. Add salt, pepper, garlic powder to taste. Cook until cabbage is tender.

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