

SE REGION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

LAURIE PATTON — SE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

A Note From Your Director

What a wonderful month! Not only do we celebrate our Nation's freedom, but we have our SE Regional Banquet. On Friday night there is cookout for everyone at the host hotel. Come and relax with hot dogs and hamburgers.



I hope to see everyone at the banquet to share good times and celebrate our cats. And don't forget to get your photos to Vanadis for the PowerPoint presentation.

It's ALL About the Cats"



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

HEATHER L. SMITH

I live in Sarasota, Florida I have always had cats in my life ever since I can remember. My parents are cat lovers too.

We haven't started showing yet, but my daughter and I thought it would be a fun thing to do together. We are learning about the process and what we will need to show. My daughter's name is Maggie, she is 12 years old and is very interested in joining the JE program.

We have 3 kitties. Two (Shadow and Shade) are Persian mix brothers, black with some grey in their undercoats. The third is a purebred Ragdoll we call Big Guy.

I love to cook/bake, knit, sculpt and I am a costume and props person by profession. We are also involved with horses (through 4H) and rabbits.



BITS AND PIECES -- *Rene Knapp*



THE HABITS OF CATS

Some cats have the strangest habits. Do you ever find your feline chewing or sucking on wool, cotton or other fabrics? Or maybe he even likes to chew plastic. Chewing disorders can result in some serious medical complications if your cat ends up swallowing something foreign, so it is important that the minute you notice weird habits you start to do something about it.

In cats, excessive chewing and sucking is just one of the strange habits some cats pick up. There is also hunting and pouncing at unseen prey, running and chasing, paw shaking, tail chasing or foot chewing, and severe over grooming that could lead to your cat companion pulling out its own fur and chewing himself raw. There may actually be genetic predisposition to some of these behaviors. For example, wool and sock sucking, is more common in Oriental breeds of cats.

The diagnosis begins by having your vet rule out or treat possible underlying medical causes. Since a variety of medical problems - including painful conditions, neurological diseases and dermatologic disorders can cause many of these signs - an extensive diagnostic workup may be needed to rule out underlying medical problems. If your cat is exhibiting self-injurious behaviors such as tail mutilation or alopecia, a dermatologic workup might include diagnostic tests on the blood and skin, as well as perhaps medication or diet trials to rule out food allergies, parasites or other bothersome conditions.

One of the treatments that seem to be immediately in order would be a steroid shot to stop the itching and compulsive behavior and give it time so the cat forgets about the self destructive behaviors it was doing. Also on the agenda would be to spend some quality time with your cat. Interactive play, grooming and petting may sooth your cat enough to start the behavior changes necessary to promote the good health of your pet.

One of the most common ailments in cats is Alopecia or hair loss. This happens when cats over groom and remove fur. Over Grooming can take the form of excessive licking, or pulling out tufts of hair. The diagnosis of Psychogenic Alopecia as a compulsive disorder is reserved for those cases in which no underlying medical problem is evident. Cats normally are fastidious groomers and as much as 30 - 50% of the time they are awake is spent performing some type of grooming behavior.

As with other compulsive disorders, Feline Psychogenic Alopecia may begin as a displacement behavior arising from situations of conflict, frustration or anxiety, but might in time become compulsive. That's why increasing interactive play with their humans (chase toys, training) and increasing environmental stimulation (play centers, chew toys, food or catnip packed toys, kitty videos) should help calm your cat as well as give him something interesting to do while you are out of the house. In order to keep toys novel and enticing, they should be changed every day. Include food-filled and treat-filled toys and those that can be batted or chased and remember that cardboard boxes and paper bags are always an interesting and new challenge to your fur babies.

These are just a few of, "The Habits of Cats". Next month, I will continue with a few more areas concerning these issues.

I would love for people to send me suggestions for [Bits and Pieces](#) on anything that is feline related.

Email: pentaclecats@sbcglobal.net





RECIPES



Zucchini Casserole

Ingredients

4 medium zucchini, sliced
¾ cup carrot shredded
½ cup chopped onion
6 tablespoons butter
2-1/4 cup herbed stuffing cubes
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 cups sour cream



Courtesy of Judith Milling

Directions

Cook zucchini and drain – cook carrots and onions in the butter – put all ingredients in casserole dish and bake 350 degrees – 30-40 minutes

4th of July Strawberries

Ingredients

1 pint fresh strawberries (approx 12 oz)
4-oz white chocolate
Blue sanding sugar or sprinkles

Directions

Line a baking sheet or cutting board with wax paper or parchment paper.

Chop up the chocolate roughly with a knife if it is in block form. In a medium-sized, microwave safe bowl, melt the chocolate in the microwave. Heat it in 45 or 60-second intervals, stirring between each time to ensure that the chocolate is melting evenly and not burning. Meanwhile, place blue sanding sugar into a small bowl and set it aside.

When chocolate is smooth, dip the berries ¾ of the way into the chocolate, dip the tips into the blue sprinkles, and place on wax paper.

Berries can set at room temperature if you live somewhere cool, otherwise refrigerate them until ready to serve to allow the chocolate to set up.



Red, White, and Blue



ODDS AND ENDS



The Future of the Cat Fancy

The International Cat Association's Junior Exhibitors are tomorrow's leaders. As future fanciers, breeders and potentially judges, they will shape the future of TICA and the cat fancy.

TICA's Junior Exhibitors Program is open to anyone under the age of eighteen. As members of TICA, each Junior Exhibitor's continued success is gauged by their accomplishments and personal growth.

The program consists of six levels through which the youth may progress, with each level having different activities and testing questions. At the three junior levels, the emphasis is on learning about TICA, the etiquette and procedures of showing, and basic cat health and welfare. At the three senior levels, the emphasis is on advanced knowledge of cat showing, cat breeds, working at a show, and TICA.

Youth involved in the program learn to be responsible and ethical cat fanciers and caretakers, and productive members of TICA. Along the way, they can earn a TICA Junior Exhibitor's award of excellence, become a TICA and regional club member, and learn a great deal about cat breeds and cat exhibition. At the higher levels, they may become licensed TICA clerks who actually work at a show and run a judging ring. At the senior advanced level they will work with an experienced Show Manager participating in the planning and execution of a show, first as a Junior Show Manager and then as a Co-Show Manager.

Each youth in the program has a mentor. This is someone other than a parent or guardian, to be their counselor and oversee their progress in and enjoyment of the program. They will work on individual projects, participate in Junior Exhibitors rings, and perhaps group projects or activities like stewarding (another job at a show) to support their local cat clubs. In the Junior Exhibitors rings, they will present their cats and describe them, and answer basic questions about cats, show etiquette, and TICA.

This is a positive program, focused on involving young community members in TICA and showing cats in a responsible and fun way. The emphasis is on learning and having fun with their cats, not presentation skills which will be improved and enhanced with practice in the Junior Exhibitor rings. It is a program designed to improve self-esteem, confidence, and interaction abilities of our youth along with knowledge of their cats, cat health and care, cat husbandry and TICA.

The Junior Liaison for the SE is Bonnie Charvat (shetari@yahoo.com). I will be contacting Juniors who are already in the program to start spotlighting them in the SE Newsletters.

(Judith Milling)

The SE Newsletter is posted monthly. Anyone wanting to submit articles, recipes, trivia, or anything you think others would enjoy, please send the information to:

shutterbug1948@gmail.com

Judith Milling

Don't forget that the SE Region is on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=300505338191>