

### Laurie Patton — SE Regional Director

*A Note From Your Director .....*

The seasons are changing but our show season is almost half gone.. We have some great shows coming up and I encourage all to look at the calendar and make your plans ahead of time... We really need to help the show managers plan for their shows... Last minute entries are a headache that no one needs...

There has been another breeder turn in that left 40 dogs without homes... I ask that all please look at your own numbers and if you have that many animals, think about getting help placing a few in forever homes... I work with a great rescue and can help...



Look out for others and if you know someone that might need help, let me know...

**Happy Turkey Day..!!!  
“It’s ALL About the Cats”**



### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

#### ELIZABETH “RUTH” WILLETT

My name is Elizabeth "Ruth" Willett. I am located about 12 miles north of Durham, N.C. I used to show in CFA but tried a TICA show a little over a year ago, and fell in love with everything about TICA. I am now a member and plan to stay with TICA. I have always loved Persians, for as long as I can remember.

Last year I did show my Persians and had such a wonderful time. I do show any/all of my cats that I am considering breeding, because, I fall in love with them and I want the input of the judges who are the professionals, when they say this is a good cat then I know the cat meets the criteria for breeding. I do want to better the breed.

I live out in the country on 21 acres which I share with my Persians and My Old English Sheepdogs. I am a stay at home mom for all my pets. For me there is nothing better than greeting all of my cats and dogs, feeding and caring for them.

I show with a good friend and we try to work some fun into some of the shows, such as Disney World, Sea World, Grand Ole Opry, the Hershey Factory, and when up north a visit to New York City for a great meal and take in a Broadway Play. I have made some very good friends, I find TICA to be a family setting. People do not just show together they care about each other. Their devotion to long time members and Judges is heart warming. My first year has been wonderful and I look forward to the years ahead.



## BITS AND PIECES -- *Rene Knapp*



### BITS AND PIECES



#### LITTERBOX BLUES

One of the most frustrating problems for us cat lovers is when one of our kitties decides it no longer likes using litter and we have no idea why. When all of a sudden a good cat “goes bad”, we have to try and figure out what kind of emotional turmoil our pet is going through. The following suggestions are for cats who are NOT declawed and are having litter box issues. Declawed cats have a whole other set of problems when they stop using litter.

The very first thing that needs to be checked is to make sure there is not an undiagnosed medical problem and that means a vet visit for some lab work. If a medical problem is not found, then reasons for the behavior need to be found in order to be modified.

The easy steps to start with would be to increase the frequency and thoroughness of cleaning the litter box. Oftentimes scooping the litter at least twice a day removes odors and encourages your cat to use a clean box. You also need to consider if you have changed litter brands lately. Just because you have decided a new brand of litter is better than the old one, does not necessarily mean that your cat will agree with you.

Your cat might have been totally satisfied with the old brand of litter and is telling you without a doubt that the new smells you think are so great, aren't. So if you have changed your litter and all of a sudden have the problem of your cat eliminating outside the box, change back. Then, once things are back to normal, slowly transform the litter to what you want to use. Put a little in the box with the old litter, gradually increasing more and more until you have completely replaced the old litter – without having any problems.

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 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.

It is not easy dealing with the litterbox blues, but anyone who has an indoor cat has probably had to face it at one time or another.

---

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

**Email: [entaclecats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:entaclecats@sbcglobal.net)**





# RECIPES



## BACON & ONION FOIL PACKET POTATOES

### Ingredients

2 to 3 sheets of heavy-duty foil  
1 packet onion soup powder  
10-12 baby red potatoes, thinly sliced  
12 slices of cooked and crumbled bacon  
1 small onion thinly sliced and diced  
1 cup cheese (optional)  
Salt and pepper to taste  
3 tablespoons butter  
Sour cream for serving (optional)



### Directions

Spray each sheet of foil with cooking spray. Top each piece with equal portions of potatoes, bacon, 1 packet onion soup powder and mix. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add 1 tablespoon of butter to each serving. Wrap securely.

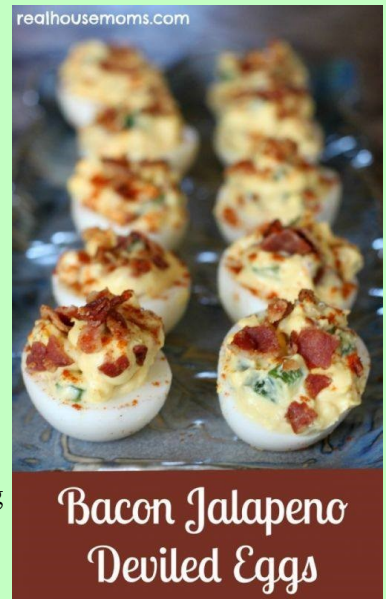
Grill for 20 to 30 minutes. Or you can bake it in the oven, at 350° for about 35 minutes or till done. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serve in foil, topped with sour cream if desired.

### Ingredients

12 large eggs, hard boiled and peeled  
1 cup mayonnaise  
1½ tsp rice vinegar  
¾ tsp ground mustard  
½ tsp sugar  
3 jalapeños, seeded and chopped  
7 pieces bacon, cooked, crisp, and crumbled  
paprika  
Salt and pepper optional

### Instructions

1. Slice the hard boiled eggs in half, lengthwise
2. Remove the yolks and put them in a mixing bowl
3. Mash the egg yolks with a fork
4. Add the mayonnaise, rice vinegar, ground mustard, and sugar to the mashed egg yolks and stir until well combined
5. Mix in the jalapenos and bacon
6. Put the mixture in a ziploc bag and cut a small hole in the corner of the bag
7. Fill each egg hole with the mixture
8. Sprinkle with paprika
9. Chill until ready to serve



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](mailto:shutterbug1948@gmail.com)  
Judith Milling

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