



# Cat Tales

## Autumn 2008

### TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE AND ACUPUNCTURE

By Dr. Colleen Prather

Acupuncture has been used on animals as long as 3,500 years ago, when, as legend says, an elephant was treated for a stomach disorder similar to bloating. Since then acupuncture and other forms of Traditional Chinese Medicine have been used to treat a variety of problems including pain, arthritis, heart, lung, kidney, digestive, allergic and behavioral problems. Traditional Chinese Medicine can be used to treat almost any imbalance except those requiring surgery. People wonder why we need to know about these ancient healing arts when we have such a technologically advanced system of Western medicine in this country? Western medicine can effectively treat acute, traumatic illness, but is limited in its approach to the chronic problems.

Traditional Chinese Medicine is a more rounded and holistic approach. It recognizes patterns of disease and imbalances that Western medicine does not. Traditional Chinese Medicine encompasses a broad framework of interactions. It can pick up an imbalance before it becomes a disease. In this way, it can be used as a preventative therapy to help keep an individual healthy.

As our feline companions' life spans increase, geriatric health care becomes a focus of veterinary practice. With geriatric patients, the primary goal is to promote their quality of life rather than cure their diseases. A number of reports have demonstrated that Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine could help accomplish this goal.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE - BE A VOLUNTEER!!!

**North Valley Animal  
Disaster Group**  
[www.NVADG.org](http://www.NVADG.org)

**Chico Cat Coalition 530.894.1365**  
**Top Cats 530.872.8112**  
**Butte Humane Society 530.343.7917**

### DANGEROUS FOREIGN OBJECTS

With the holidays coming up it is a good time to remind people that "cats eat the weirdest stuff". We are always amazed at the unusual things we remove from cat's stomachs. Just recently we found a huge pile of hair ties, rubber bands and a canvas string. Yep, that gross picture used to be pretty hair ties!

Even cats that have never shown a prior interest can find something that will pique their interest. The problem is that cats can not cough things back out, they can only continue to swallow something once it is in their mouth (unless of course it is a prescription pill!).

As always with the holidays comes the hard to resist foods, good smelling trash, pieces of plastic bags, aluminum foil, sewing thread w/needles, pieces of fabric, yarn, tape, ornaments, tinsel, string, dental floss, hair ties/ribbons, twistie ties, pull tabs, rubber bands, shoe strings, small pieces of children's toys, fruit pits. The list is endless.....

Cats can be very sneaky when eating things they shouldn't. If you notice a decrease in appetite, vomiting or lethargy do not wait before making an appointment.



**Chico Hospital  
For Cats**  
548 W. East Avenue  
Chico, CA 95926  
530.892.2287  
[www.chicocats.com](http://www.chicocats.com)

**Cat Hospital  
of  
Portland  
& Feline Laser  
Center**  
8065 SE 13th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202  
503.235.7005  
[www.portlandcats.net](http://www.portlandcats.net)



**CHC Cat Boutique is  
Open**

If you are looking for a unique gift for your favorite cat(s) or cat lover, come in and see some of the fun items we have. Heated beds, fluffy beds, cool cat carriers, dishes, collars, toys, toys and more toys! We can even order cat trees with quick delivery!!

## EMERGENCY CARE

Are you able to distinguish the signs of minor feline illness from those calling for an immediate trip to the emergency veterinary clinic? Knowing signs of serious symptoms may save you a midnight trip to the emergency clinic. If your cat (or other pets) have any of the signs listed below, take them immediately for care as these are considered emergencies!

- Labored breathing, respiratory distress
- Loss of consciousness
- Difficulty walking or staying on feet
- Inability to urinate
- Penetrating wounds or fractures
- Any evidence of poisoning
- Massive bleeding
- Severe burns
- Frequent vomiting

### BE PREPARED

Know the address and phone number of the emergency clinic. Keep this information near your phone at all times.

Transport cat in carrier for everyone's safety.

Take relevant documents, medical records and list of medications your cat may be taking.

Be patient, unstable animals are seen first and there may be a wait.

Be prepared to pay for all emergency services at the time services performed.

Our local clinic is moving 10/29/08. New address is

The North Valley Emergency Veterinary Clinic 2500 Zanella Way, Chico

Located a few blocks from old location **530.899.1720**

## Rising Cost of Pet Foods

The economy has been hard for all of us, but pet owners face an additional challenge. The U.S. Bureau of Labor's Consumer Price Index reports that pet food prices for the second quarter of 2008 have risen by 9%. While that is not as high as our groceries or our gasoline, it is the most significant increase in pet food in years. The reason is the cost of grains. Corn and rice that are used in pet foods have gone up and the costs have been passed on to the consumer.

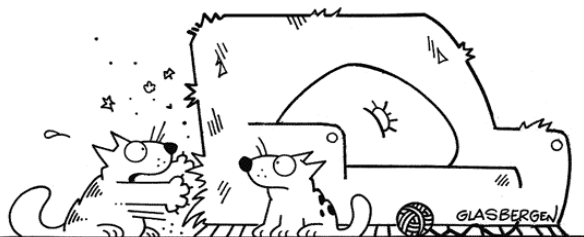
CHC and Purina have teamed up to help give you a little bit of relief. When you purchase any of the Purina CNM Veterinary Diets cut and save the weight circles.

Bring in 9 weight circles and receive your 10th bag FREE!! If there are any questions, feel free to call for more details.

We hope it helps.....



© Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



**"This exercise is great for your arms, shoulders, chest and back. Do four sets of 15 repetitions, then move on to the yarn ball for your aerobics."**

## Make Me Laugh



- What do cats like on a hot day?

### Mice cream cones

- What do cats like for breakfast?

### Mice Krispies

- What has more lives than a cat?

### A frog. It croaks every night

- What kind of cats like to go bowling?

### Alley cats

- Below is a list of some movies your cat would love to find in his/her Christmas stocking along with their favorite toys!

"Bye-Bye Birdie", "Predator", "Bird on a Wire", "The Hunger", "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"

## Happy Thanksgiving

### DID YOU KNOW?

- \*Some people believe that black cats have special powers and abilities.
- \*In Australia and Britain, black cats are thought to be lucky.
- \*Another belief states: A bride will have a happy married life if a black cat sneezes near her on her wedding day.
- \*All cats were thought to be sacred in ancient Egypt.
- \*Fisherman's wives kept black cats while their husbands went away to sea. They believed that the black cats would prevent danger from occurring to their husbands. These black cats were considered so valuable that they were often stolen.
- \*If a black cat crosses your path, you will have GOOD luck. Yes, that's right some believe that this event bring GOOD luck. Variations to this belief say that you must politely greet the cat OR stroke the cat 3 times to bring the good luck
- \*King Charles I of England owned a black cat, whom he valued very much. He treasured the cat so much that he had his guards watch over it 24 hours a day. As luck would have it, the day after the cat died from an illness, the king was arrested.....

