



# Cat Tales

## Spring 2008



### Dr. Colleran's Comments

When we lesser species go to the dentist, we describe where it hurts or is cold sensitive or tender to the touch. Unfortunately cats cannot point to dental abnormalities with their paws so in order to determine the proper treatment plan, other tests are usually necessary

Unfortunately by the time some pets come in for dental care, it is too late to save all of the teeth. Preventative care and periodic check ups should help hinder the loss of additional teeth. Just as your dentist periodically takes x-rays of your teeth, we use dental "x-rays" or radiographs to evaluate teeth, compare to previous condition and plan appropriate therapy. X-rays show the inside of the tooth and the root that lies below the gumline. Many decisions are based on these x-ray findings.

Here at CHC we have gone digital. Digital x-rays permit us to reduce the amount of radiation, improve the quality of the images and evaluate all the teeth quickly and easily. We would be very happy to show you examples of dental x-rays and how they help us keep your cats healthy.

Cats do not have to suffer the pain and discomfort of untreated broken or loose teeth or infected gums. With the help of thorough examinations, x-rays, dental care, and home care, your beloved kitties can keep their teeth where they belong, in their mouths.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE BE A VOLUNTEER!!!**

<b>North Valley Animal Disaster Group <a href="http://www.NVADG.org">www.NVADG.org</a></b>	<b>Chico Cat Coalition 530.894.1365 Top Cats 530.872.8112 Butte Humane Society 530.343.7917</b>
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**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)

## 'Cutest Cats' Photo Contest

We are having the cutest cat photo contest. Sort through all those precious kitty photos and send or mail me a copy. We will post them in the reception to share with all our clients. The top three pictures will be featured in our Summer newsletter. Please use only pictures of your cats or cats you know (no internet pictures). Here are a couple of examples from our collection.



## H<sub>2</sub>O

Everyone knows the health benefits of drinking plenty of fresh water throughout the day. What many of us don't realize is that our cats' health relies on drinking the right amount of water as much as ours does. Drinking plenty of water has good effects on our pets digestive systems, kidneys, skin and hair coat, as well as gives them an overall healthy and hydrated feeling. Keeping your pet hydrated can also help to improve existing conditions such as lower urinary tract disease and renal disease.

A lot of owners feel that it is hard to get their cats to drink adequate amounts of water just by offering water in bowls and/or glasses around the house. Many cats love the movement and the sound of running or dripping water and they will jump into the bathtub or sink to drink from and lick the faucets. While this may be annoying to many owners, their cats are just trying to tell them that they would drink more water if it were presented in a more interesting and playful way. A circulating water fountain is a great way to keep your cat hydrated and entertained. These fountains have a base filled with water and a waterfall that tumbles into it. This provides eye-catching movement that most cats can't resist. A lot of cats are fascinated by the moving water and spend a lot of time playing and drinking from the fountain.

Offering multiple water sources throughout the house can also help your cat consume enough water. Placing a water source in the primary feeding area as well as in a few other rooms of the house where your cat spends time such as the bathroom or bedroom. If your cat goes outdoors, always make sure there is fresh, cool water available at all times. Offering canned food or tuna is another good way to keep your pet hydrated. Some pets love a little variety in their diet; canned food is also a great way to help an overweight cat lose a little weight while still keeping them satisfied.

### *Some of the items in our Cat Boutique are:*

Drinkwell Water Fountains \$49.99  
CatNip Scratchers, CatNip Spray and CatNip Bubbles, Laser Mice (and other assorted toys), Beds and Cat Trees and Novelty Food Bowls

## Make Me Play!

They asked me to stop telling jokes and get serious. I am supposed to write about something I

know so I decided on the importance of **PLAY!** It just so happens I am an expurrrrt on this topic. You see, since I have come to 'work' at CHC, I have mastered the art of play as well as teaching the other employees the value of joining me. There are so many benefits to laughing and playing. Building trust and strengthening bonds, healthy physical exercise (especially for us lazy indoor cats!), building feline confidence, reducing feline stress (yes, we *DO* get stressed) and it has been proven that human's stress is reduced when we let you pet us! So you see, play is the key to a long, healthy and happy life together.

**Play on!!**



## SUNSHINE, WARM WEATHER AND FLEAS!!!

Have you ever noticed that the fleas love springtime as much as we do? I believe that Chico is the most popular spot for flea family reunions... Here are some tips for evicting your unwanted flea guests!

**Vacuum** - all rugs and carpets, furniture, especially between and under cushions and couches. Remove and dispose of vacuum bag.

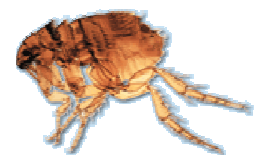
**Mop** - all concrete and vinyl floors.

**Wash** - all bedding.

**Pets** - remove and clean all pet bedding. Take flea-carrying pets in for professional flea bath while your home is being treated. Remove all pets from home during treatment. (Fish bowls and aquariums may remain if properly covered.) Use Revolution, Frontline or Advantige on your pet. Every month, year round.

**Floors** - including closet floors, must be cleared of all objects to give access to all floor surfaces

**Spray** - spray a light mist of Siphotrol Plus II Premise Spray throughout house. Repeat in 10-14 days if needed.



**off the mark** by Mark Parisi  
www.offthemark.com

