

# Cat Tales

## Spring 2011

### Dr. Colleran's Corner

Cat Scratch Disease

The organism that causes cat scratch disease in people was identified in 1992. Since that time much more has been learned and can be helpful in understanding the importance of this disease and dispel a lot of incorrect information. The organism is called Bartonella and it is transmitted by fleas and other insects. It is not a disease caused by cats, rather a disease that can be transmitted by many flea species, including cat and rodent fleas, ticks, sand flies, human body lice, and biting flies. Pocket pets like gerbils or mice, ground squirrels, dogs, cats and rabbits all are potential Bartonella carriers.

The symptoms caused in humans vary widely and are related to immune system strength. Immune suppressed people – pregnant women, children, geriatric people, transplant recipients and patients treated with immune suppressive drugs – are at higher risk for more severe symptoms. Enlarged lymph nodes, fever, joint pain, unexplained nose bleeds in children and other vague symptoms have been described, making Bartonella a difficult diagnosis to make. Unexplained and chronic illnesses have been attributed to Bartonella. On the other hand, some patients diagnosed with Lyme disease and other illnesses that have a broad range of symptoms and highly variable patient presentation may, indeed have Bartonella infection instead.

Veterinarians and physicians are working together to arrive at an understanding of this difficult organism. Diagnosis can be difficult. New tests are being developed to help in diagnosis. The most important consideration in preventing this illness is very judicious use of flea and tick control in companion animals of all types. Treatment of homes that have been exposed to fleas, ticks and other insects, along with regular monthly treatment of pets is essential to preventing this disease.

### SPRING CLEANING?? WATCH FOR ALLERGIES

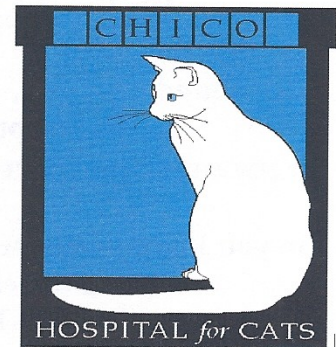
Watch your pet for any symptoms of allergies such as scratching, biting, irritated eyes or a runny nose. Just like humans, pets can experience allergic reactions to materials in their environment. Cleaning can stir up mold spores or dust that might irritate their respiratory system. Take care to properly dispose of old cleaners, medications, and any other hazardous materials that might pose a danger to your cat. Keep our number handy and do not hesitate to call if you notice any unusual behaviors or symptoms.

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

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

Chico Cat Coalition 530.894.1365  
Top Cats 530.872.8112  
Butte Humane Society 530.343.7917

THE ANIMALS DEPEND ON US

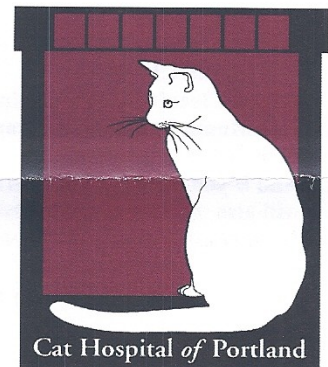


### Chico Hospital For Cats

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



SPAY and NEUTER  
Don't contribute to  
the millions of  
animals that are  
euthanized every  
year.

## PET CHAMPIONS

Abandoned pets, abused animals,  
feral cats, puppy mills,  
the nightmare never ends for many animals.

Do you know someone that goes above and  
beyond to help animals?  
We would love to hear about them.

Please send your story to  
[Sandy@chicocats.com](mailto:Sandy@chicocats.com).

## DID YOU KNOW

that 85% of all cats over the age of 3  
years have some form of  
periodontal  
disease???

To help prevent this progressive  
disease in your cat, we have a new  
**PREVENTATIVE DENTAL  
PROGRAM**

### INCLUDES:

Pre-anesthetic exam  
Anesthesia  
IV Catheter and Fluids  
Anesthetic Monitoring  
Full Mouth Charting  
Dental Cleaning and Polishing  
Full Mouth Dental Radiographs  
Cost: \$ 277.67

And if you buy a bag of Purina Dental Health Diet you  
will also receive a rebate check for \$ 50.00 from Purina

*\*IF NEEDED, extractions and any blood work will be an additional cost.*

Call today to schedule

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## Domino says Make Me Laugh



Why are cats such good  
singers? They are very  
mewsical!

What do theatrical cats say? Tabby or not  
tabby!!

What do you call a cat that can jump 6feet  
high?? A great jumpurrr!!

Which cat should you never play cards with?  
A cheetah!!

## Random's Cool Cat Facts

- Cats have a special scent organ located in the roof of their mouth, called the Jacobson's organ. It analyzes smells - and is the reason why you will sometimes see your cat "sneer" (called the flehmen response or flehming) when they encounter a strong odor.
- Cats lap liquid from the underside of their tongue, not from the top. <http://www.thedailytail.com/videos/video-cat-drinks-water-in-slow-motion/>
- Cats purr at the same frequency as an idling diesel engine, about 26 cycles per second

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## Benefits of Cat Grooming

- Reduces painful knots
- Prevents shedding throughout the house
- Prevents flea outbreaks
- Cats ingest fewer hairballs
- Produces a beautiful shining coat