

What to do about polydactyl cats, shedding; the best pet vacation spots

"I just adopted an 8-month old kitten. On both of her front paws, she has seven toes, and five toes on one of her back paws. Should I have the extra toes removed?

25 Your new kitten is called polydactyl. The normal toe patterns on cats are they have five toes on each front paw and four toes on each back paw. Polydactylism is a fairly common inherited trait in cats. You should take the kitten to your veterinarian to have your kitches paws looked at. Normally the extra paws do not cause a problem. Be sure to keep the claws on the toes trimmed. The nails may become ingrown which could be painful to your kitten.

I have two 8-year-old cats with short hair. They are shedding so much this time of year. When I try to brush them the hair files everywhere. How can I get rid of this hair without giving them a bath which they dislike with a passion?

I don't give my cats a bath unless I really have to get rid of the shedding hair. In order to keep the hair from flying around during their combing or tornshing, I wet the brush or comb with water. Don't forget to give your cats hairball goop after you are finished brushing. They lick themselves a lot after brushing.

My husband and I enjoy staying in bed & breakfast inns when we travel. Are there any B&Bs that allow you to bring cats?

Yes, there are a few. Hopefully these will be in the area you wish to visit.

Big Bay Lighthouse B&B 3 Lighthouse Rd. Big Bay Lighthouse Rd.
Big Bay, MI 49808
Web site: http://www.lightousebandb.com nousebandb.com e-mail: keepers@lighthouse-bandb

A Country Pince B&B 79 North Shore Drive N South Haven, MI 49090 616-637-5523 Web site: http://www.csi-nct.net/acountryplace e-mail: acountryplace@cyber-sol.com

The North House 325 N. Main St. Vassar, MI 48768 (517) 823-3047

We have five indoor cats. I recently heard about cat parvo. Is there a vaccine against this disease, and how do cats get cat parvo?

Feline parvo is a virus that is usually fatal. The virus is transmitted through fecal-oral contact. The feline parvo virus can contaminate cages, bowls and litter boxes. It also can be spread through poor hygiene.

Symptoms of this particular disease are fevor, anorexia, vomiting or diarrhea.

Death can occur quickly due to severe dehydration and electrolyte imbalance. Most vaccines available provide complete protective immunity.

We have just recently lost our dog to old age. Our two children are ages 8 and 5. They and my husband are very upset about losing our dog. The kids have known her since they were born. Are there any books on bereavement for children?

Yes, there are many that are very good. These three are the ones I am most familiar with: "Understanding Bereavement Reactions in Adults and Chindren, A Booklet for Lay People," by Marian Osterweis and Jessica Townsend, National Academy Press; Touchpoints Your Child's Emotional and Behavioral Development," by T. Berry Brazelton, Addison Wesley; and 'Dog Heaven, by Cynthia Rylant, The Blue Sky Press (Scholastic).

Bev Cornell is a DNR licensed wildlife rehabilitator and a former veterinary aide. She will answer your pet questions in care of: Ask Bristol, The Fermington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington MI 48335.

Or you can e-mail her direct-ly at: bristol_dog@msn.com

Farmington Hills Historical Society

Young essay winners honored

The Farmington Hills Historical Society has announced the winners of the Lee S. Peel Research Writing Contest.
Titled in honor of the local historian and author, the contest tory from all erns. The contest so conducted and judged by senior members of the Farmington area historical Boeiety with prize money provided Commission.
This year's winning entries were announced June 3. All contest entries were from Power Middle School.
Kate Williams won the \$100 first prize for her paper "23534 Farmington Road." It told the history of the commercial building first ersected at that address in 1923. She outlines how the building was first used as a bowling alley, then a butcher chop in 1938 and finally how it was transformed into a Firestone tire dealership in 1968. Today that same business is carried out by the tire dealer's son.

Weight Loss cente.

Second prize resulted in a tie with duplicate awards going to Keara Donohue for "Our Lady of Sorrows" and Natalie Schauer for "Hold Your Breath While I Take You Through the Miss Farmington/Hills Pageant." They each received a certificate and a \$30 check.

Keara gave a concise history of the Catholic church, which is the first such church established in Farmington. She describes the various church buildings and pastore and various details about the growth of the parish, its buildings and major events. She included several photos depicting parish buildings that exited through the years.

Natalie's pager of the Miss Farmington Hills Pageant was accompanied by a videotaped interview with the current crown holder, Jeanifer Hoemke, The pager is a complete study of the pageant, how it is run, guidelines for entry and benefits available to entrants.

Beat in Age award were given to four students who tied for the honor. Each received a certificary History, David Seley for Honor. Each received a certificary of the Fire Department and the first Syles.

Weight loss center collecting goods for shelters

Victims of domestic and sexual abuse in metro Detroit have a lot to gain from Medical Weight Loss clinics this summer.

The chain will collect house-hold items for women and chil-dren in five emergency shelters Highway between Middlebelt now through Sept. 1. MWL will and 13 Mile roads.

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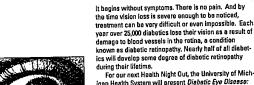
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Diabetic eye disease: What you don't know can hurt you



igan Health System will present Diabetic Eye Disease: What you need to know. Leading the presentation will be University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center compre-hensive ophthalmologists Jeroma I. Finkelstein, M.D., and Susan S. Thoms, M.D., both of whom treat patients at the University of Michigan Center for Specialty Care

In Livonia.

During the presentation you'll learn how the normal eye functions...how doctors diagnose and treat the two types of diabetic retinopathy...why diabetic patients are more likely to develop cataracts and glaucoma...who is at risk for a vitreous hemorrhage...what surgical options are available...what every person with diabetes

can do to help prevent eye problems...and more.
Join us on Thursday, June 25 for our next Health Night Out at the Holiday Inn - Livonia West, Find ou what people with diabetes can do to lower their risk for eye disease and to preserve good vision for a lifetime.

Diabetic Eye Disease: What you need to know Thursday, June 25, 1998 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served FREE- No reservations necessary

Moliday Inn - Livonia West, Renaissance Room B&C
1-275 and Six Mile Road in Livonia

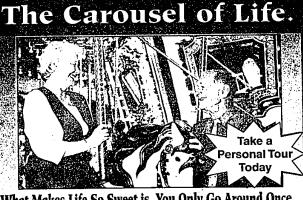


health niaht out

or directions to the Holiday Inn - Livonia West, pleasa call (734) 464-1300.

Visit the U-M Health System Community Calendar at http://www.academic.med.umlch.edu/LassoPages/ PublicEvents.lasso

Health Night Out is sponsored by the FRIENDS of the University of Michigan Health System. For further informa-tion, call U-M TeleCare at (734) 763-9000, category 1075.



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