



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?

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 kitten's 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 flies 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 brushing, I wet the brush or comb with water. Don't forget to give your cats hairball goop after you give them 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, MI 49808
Web site: <http://www.light-housebandb.com>
e-mail: keepers@lighthousebandb.com

A Country Place B&B
79 North Shore Drive N
South Haven, MI 49089
616-537-5523
Web site: <http://www.csi-net.net/acountryplace>
e-mail: acountryplace@cyber-sol.com

The North House
325 N. Main St.
Vassar, MI 48768
(617) 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 fever, 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 Children, 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 Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335. Or you can e-mail her directly at: bristol_dog@man.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 encourages original research and writing on Farmington area history from all eras. The contest is conducted and judged by senior members of the Farmington Historical Society with prize money provided by the Farmington Area Arts 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 erected at that address in 1923. She outlines how the building was first used as a bowling alley, then a butcher shop in 1939 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, Bruce Habermehl Jr.

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 \$50 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 pastors and various details about the growth of the parish, its buildings and major events. She included several photos depicting parish buildings that existed through the years.

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

Best in Age awards were given to four students who tied for the honor. Each received a certificate and a \$25 check.

Receiving these awards were Alex Duncan for his paper, "The Civic Theatre," Erka Henriksen for "The History of Miss Farmington," Karen Murphy for "The History Behind Heritage Park" and Katie Streit for "The Library's History."

Ten honorable mention certificates and prizes of \$10 each were awarded to Julie Goettlicher for "Farmington Did Its Part in Freeing the Slaves," Courtney Greyson for "Farmington Founders Festival," Whit Hemmingsway for "The History of First Baptist Church," Lindsay McKennett for "The History of Farmington Libraries," Kimberly Otsuji for "Farmington Cemeteries" and Kinney Patel for "Mrs. Lillian Drake Avery 1856-1936."

Also honored were Vignesh Prabhu for "Farmington: An Early History," David Seley for "A Short History of My House," Ryan Stigleman for "The History of the Fire Department" and Rebecca York for "Farmington's Hair Styles."

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 household items for women and children in five emergency shelters now through Sept. 1. MWL will

accept goods in Farmington Hills at 31425 Northwestern Highway between Middlebelt and 13 Mile roads.

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

It begins without symptoms. There is no pain. And by the time vision loss is severe enough to be noticed, treatment can be very difficult or even impossible. Each year over 25,000 diabetics lose their vision as a result of damage to blood vessels in the retina, a condition known as diabetic retinopathy. Nearly half of all diabetics will develop some degree of diabetic retinopathy during their lifetime.

For our next Health Night Out, the University of Michigan Health System will present *Diabetic Eye Disease: What you need to know*. Leading the presentation will be University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center comprehensive ophthalmologists Jerome 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 out 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
Holiday Inn - Livonia West, Renaissance Room B&C
1-275 and Six Mile Road in Livonia



University of Michigan Health System

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

Visit the U-M Health System Community Calendar at: <http://www.academic.med.umich.edu/LassoPages/PublicEvents.Iasso>

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

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