



Newsletter

Montgomery County's Newest Animal Welfare Group

Volume 1, Issue 10

December 31, 2006

**Animal Welfare League of
Montgomery County**
P.O. Box 7041
Gaithersburg, MD 20898
Telephone: (301) 740-2511
website: www.awlmc.org

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Adoption Events

Kentlands Petsmart Saturday Adoption Events

- Jan 6
- Jan 13
- Jan 20
- Jan 27

White Flint Petsmart Sunday Adoption Events

- Jan 13 (Saturday)
- Jan (TBD)

Upcoming Fund raising events

- None planned for January

ANY ARTICLE IDEAS? PLEASE E-MAIL ROGER
OR JONATHAN WITH THEM. GUEST WRITERS
ARE MOST WELCOME! THANK YOU LAURIE,
NONA, KACEY, HEIDI AND JANET CULP WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER.
JONATHAN & ROGER

Message from the President



Laurie Graham

Fellow volunteers,

It is time to celebrate! After much work, we finally have a shelter. Over the holiday season, we got all of our county inspections done, and the county has approved us for an occupancy and use permit for the property at 18959 Bonanza Way in Gaithersburg. We can now officially open the doors on the shelter! In the next couple of weeks, the Board will be calling upon you to come down to the shelter and help us get things ready. We will also be contacting volunteers to try and get our cat care staff together. Isn't it great to be talking about cat care staff? I can hardly wait. While there is still much work to be done, we should take a moment to pat ourselves on the back. This is truly a momentous moment for the AWLMC and I want to thank all of you for making it happen. I want to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the permit process.

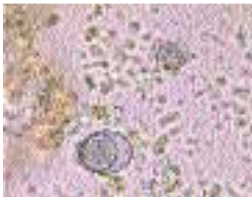
We have had many ups and downs over the last year, but we have persevered. Now, one of our major goals is within our grasp. The New Year is certainly starting off on a good note. However, we are just getting started as an organization. I know that the AWLMC will continue to expand and increase its presence in the community. I look forward to working with all of you over the next year to help the animals of Montgomery County.

Happy New Year!!! ∞∞∞

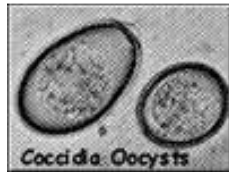
Detecting Coccidiosis

Jonathan Allen

Often confused with symptoms arising from worms, Coccidiosis is a parasitic disease of the intestinal tract that is caused by protozoa (single-celled organisms) known as coccidian which live in the intestinal lining. Numerous species of coccidian exist, and each is infective in different animals. For this article, we'll focus on cats, both inside the home and at the shelter. Cats are susceptible to two species of coccidia: *I. Riolta* and *I. Felis*.



I. Riolta



I. Felis

Detection in the Home

Coccidiosis is a relatively minor problem for cats in homes, fortunately easy to detect and even easier to treat and eliminate.

Kittens under six months of age are most likely to suffer from coccidiosis. These kittens may have received enough maternal antibodies from their mother's milk to guard against active coccidia reproduction, but as that protection begins to wane at about 35 to 40 days of age, the kitten becomes a target for the illness. The kitten will most likely contract coccidiosis through ingesting coccidia eggs in infected fecal matter; in most instances, a kitten or cat would contract it by licking fecal matter that sticks to their feet and fur.

Most adult cats also carry coccidia, but their immune system keeps it in check. Unfortunately, some adults may shed cysts in their stool, which can lead to infection in kittens or adults who are either highly stressed or suffering from a compromised immune system due to other causes, as FIV. Self-reinfection is common in both individual animals and in litters; the eggs are extremely resistant to common disinfectants and easily transferred from one litter to another through human contact.

The first tip-off that a cat owner may find is a sudden, messy diarrhea, which may be so severe that fluid feces

simply flows from the cat. Another tip-off is the odor of the stool, which is typically very sour. As soon as an owner observes this, he or she should schedule an appointment with a vet, who can conduct routine fecal examinations to confirm the condition. Though a positive fecal exam confirms the presence of coccidia, a single negative fecal exam also does not completely rule it out. As coccidia is always a prime suspect in diarrhea in kittens, vets will often treat a cat whether the test is negative or positive, as the cat may run the risk of dehydration from diarrhea. Luckily, effective medications are inexpensive and not harmful; in some cases, cats can recover completely without any treatment, though this is obviously not recommended.

Detection at the Shelter

Coccidiosis at a shelter is a completely different story than in the home: there it is a far more serious, even epidemic, threat. While it doesn't often outright kill kittens or adult cats, it can be debilitating enough to weaken an animal's immune system and predispose young animals to other problems lurking in the background of a shelter environment. The condition is especially devastating during warm seasons, when shelters are handling a large amount of stressed kittens of varying ages and cage space is at a premium; in this environment, when kittens are rotated in and out of cages with many different litter boxes, coccidiosis can lurk, waiting for the right environment. Once it is present, the spread can happen rapidly and be almost impossible to halt completely.

Detection in the shelter is exactly the same as in the home: watch for diarrhea and/or the smell of the feces, then have a vet confirm the suspected illness with a fecal test. Unfortunately, avoiding or eliminating the illness in the shelter is far more complicated, and, again, can be almost impossible to stop. An organization's best bet is to carefully treat all infected cats, then thoroughly clean the shelter, carefully removing all feces and other debris. Once this is complete, hose down any cages to ensure that as many of the eggs have been removed as possible.

Coccidiosis is an insidious disease in the shelter, easy to detect and treat, but difficult to eliminate. It is essential that shelter volunteers know what to look for and be proactive about detection and treatment.

Continued on page 3

Sources:

http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/magazine_articles/mar_apr_2003/controlling_coccidia.html

<http://lbah.com/intpar.htm>

<http://www.cat-world.com.au/CoccidiosisInCats.htm>

<http://www.reptilerooms.com/Sections+index-req-viewarticle-artid-42-page-1.html> ∞ ∞ ∞

Shelter Holiday Party

Roger Gagne

AWLMC held a Holiday Party celebration for the volunteers on Sunday December 17, 2006 from 1 to 4 pm. The party was held at the site of the soon to be functioning AWLMC Shelter. Approximately 30 people showed up armed with food and gifts for the shelter (i.e., food and water bowls, towels, toys, bedding, etc.). For many it was the first opportunity to see the shelter. It was a good turnout especially given the competing activities coincident with the holiday season!

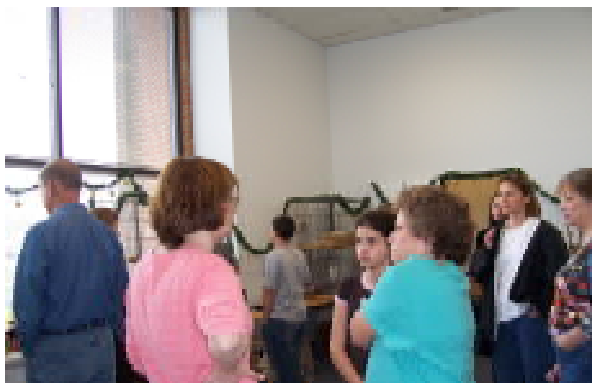
Good Food!!!



Good Camaraderie! (1)



Good Camaraderie! (2)



Here are a few additional pictures for those who have yet to see the shelter!

Below is an outside view of the AWLMC Shelter. Note all the windows which are on two sides!!



Below is the cage setup on the right side as you enter the shelter.



The next picture (top left next page shows the backroom entrance! Note the additional cages to the left and front of the entrance.

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The back room (shown in the following picture) will serve as a sick room, office and storage area. The bathroom entrance is behind the picture taker.



Decorated cages with most already supplied (at the holiday party) are waiting for the kitties to start arriving!



Editor's Note: Thanks to Amy Jaslow and Pat Gagne for providing the pictures.

AWLMC Financial Status

Amy Jaslow, Treasurer

Now that 2006 has come to a close, I thought it would be helpful for everyone to have a general overview on how we did financially for the year. 2006 was our first truly complete year (that is, January - December) as an organization. I have listed below the total income and expenses for 2006 and 2005. I also included 2005, even though it is only for September - December, just for comparison.

INCOME

2005 = **\$10,142.64**

2006 = **\$39,740.25**

EXPENSES

2005 = **\$9,840.71**

2006 = **\$31,421.89**

OVERALL END-OF-YEAR STATUS

2005 = + **\$301.93**

2006 = + **\$8,318.36**

Other financial news:

Our latest 3 fund raising events brought in the following amounts (after expenses): (1) Wine & Whiskers = \$227 (NOTE: we are expecting one more check for our cut of the proceeds from sales that day, as of press time it had not arrived); 2) Barnes & Nobel gift wrapping - 2 shifts total = \$421 (absolutely no expenses for this one, pure profit!); (3) Shelter Mailing = \$1871 (so far, envelopes are still trickling in).

For more accurate bookkeeping in 2007, as mentioned at our last all-hands meeting, I have created three accounts.

1 = our main account. This is the catch all for what doesn't fit the next two categories. As needed, money in this account will cover any shortfalls in the other two accounts.

2 = Dino/Special Medical Needs fund. This covers any extraordinary medical expenses. That is, those which are not the standard check-ups, vaccinations, and spay/neuter, which are standard procedures.

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3 = Shelter Maintenance fund. The money in here is exclusively for rent, utilities, and other shelter-related expenses outside of taking care of the cats who will reside there. All money from the Shelter Mailing has gone into this account.

NOTES:

(1) - adoption fees continue to cover the cost of standard medical cat care.

(2) - if you have not considered the easy way to donate to AWLMC via a PayPal year-long subscription, please consider doing so now. It is very painless and can be accessed via our web site (www.awlmc.org). All you need to do is set up a free account (if you do not already have one) and instruct PayPal to send us a set amount each month. This way we know that we will be getting "X" amount of dollars on a monthly basis which will greatly help with budget plans. Currently, there are just 3 people doing this, but it does give us \$55 each month. With more folks doing it, we'll know that we have money for the rent and/or utilities. If you have any questions about how to set this up, please contact me. I'll be happy to walk you through the process.

(3) - I will try to have a monthly (or at least quarterly) financial report submitted for the newsletter on a regular basis. Please let me know if there are any specific categories you would like to have highlighted.

And finally, do contact me with any financial questions - either via email (aljae@earthlink.net) or phone (301-515-0118 h or 301-944-2836 w). ∞∞∞∞

Volunteer Profile:

Jonathan Allen

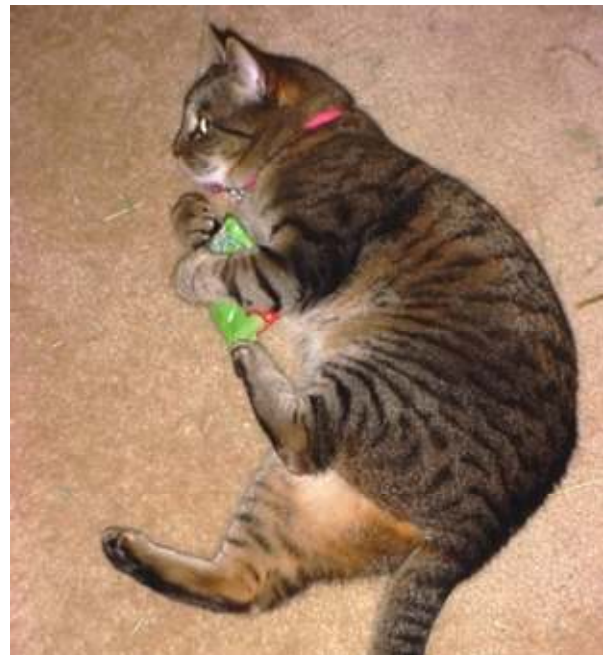
The holidays have made it extremely difficult to get a hold of anyone for the volunteer profile. For this reason as well as everyone's busy schedule, the monthly volunteer profile article will be put on hiatus for this month but is planned to be resumed next month. ∞∞∞∞

Recycled Cat Toys

Kacey Nolle

Few things are cuter than a cat playing. And no matter how many handmade catnip sachets and store-bought mice we buy for them, cats always find things around the house to turn into toys. This can be good, since it benefits the environment to reuse and recycle, but it can also be dangerous if your kitties get their paws on certain objects. Listed below are common objects that can be reused as cat toys. Also listed are objects to keep away from cats, and toys that your cat should have only when you're able to monitor her play session.

Tabby with Toy



Good cat toys

Instead of throwing away the following when you're done using them, why not give them to kitty instead?

Makeup sponges

Bottle caps

Boxes big enough for the cat to fit into

Paper bags - Remove the handles first, to prevent kitty from getting stuck.

Old socks - Put some catnip in them.

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Ping pong balls or similar – Just make sure they're too big for a cat to swallow or choke on.

Snowbelle in Cardboard Box



Bad cat toys

Your cat will probably find the following things appealing, but they're too dangerous for kitty to play with.

Rubber bands

Twist ties

Plastic bags

Packing tape on boxes

Styrofoam peanuts

Any plastic that can be swallowed

Ribbon

Okay only when supervised

The following can be dangerous for kitty to be left alone with, but if you're watching to make sure kitty doesn't entangle herself or chew up and swallow pieces of these, let her have some supervised fun.

String/yarn

Q-tips

Cotton balls

Sheet of paper (non-dyed) rolled into a dense ball – NEVER use aluminum foil!

Judy With String



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Administering Liquid Medication to Cats: Tips and Tricks

Jonathan Allen

Last month we looked at methods for giving cats pills; this month we hit the (somewhat) easier topic of giving your cat liquid medication. Some cat owners swear that this is a straightforward job, at least in comparison to giving them pills, but many other owners learn that, rather than being a cakewalk, it's more a matter of being the lesser of several evils.

Most liquid medications come with an eyedropper attached to the lid. If your medication does not, eyedroppers or oral syringes are readily available from pharmacies.



A reminder of standard measures as you may receive them from your vet:

1 ml = 1 cc

5 cc = 1 teaspoon

15 cc = 1 tablespoon

Cat owners around the Internet recommend many different methods for administering liquid medication. Here are just a few.

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Food Methods

If a cat is not on dietary restrictions, and the vet said that the medication can be given with food (always be sure to ask about this), and the dose is small, it is possible and easiest to mix the medicine with a small amount of canned food. It is best to give a small amount of the food without the medication first, as this will lower the cat's suspicion. It is best not to mix the medication in an entire meal, since if the cat does not eat the whole meal, he or she will not get the appropriate dose of medication.

If food methods do not work or are not recommended, the poor cat owner is faced with hand-administering the liquid medication. Following are two methods for administering the liquids.



Method 1

1. Draw up the prescribed amount of medication in the eyedropper or oral syringe.
2. Firmly grasp the cat's head using your non-dominant hand. If you are right-handed, use your left hand. If you are a lefty, use your right hand. Grasp the top of the head just on top of the ears with the thumb on one side of the face and the fingers on the other. Avoid holding the lower jaw, and do not hold it so tight that it is uncomfortable; the cat may not be able to swallow if you do this. It may help to have someone else hold the front legs and chest of the cat to hold him still.
3. Once the cat's head is secure, raise the nose toward the ceiling; this should open the mouth.
4. Place the tip of the eyedropper or syringe in the mouth, just behind the l



flat teeth.

5. Push the eyedropper until it is just past the tooth line (jaw bone).
6. Administer the medication slowly. Be careful not to give it faster than your cat can swallow. Be prepared for some spitting. If this occurs, do not re-administer another dose unless you feel the entire dose did not get in.

Your cat will be more cooperative if you are fast in performing this procedure. Remember to praise your cat and maybe offer a treat afterwards, which will help make future administration easier.

Method 2

1. Prepare the medication; shake the bottle if necessary, and withdraw the appropriate amount of liquid into the dropper or oral syringe. Keep the syringe nearby, where it will be most handy.
2. Ready a moist towel or washcloth, and get another very large towel or blanket.
3. Bring the cat to the location where you will administer the medication, talking to him or her in a happy, bright voice.
4. Wrap the cat in a blanket or very large towel, leaving just the head sticking out. Place his or her back end against something, perhaps between your knees on the floor, against your stomach, or against the back of a chair, so that the cat cannot back away.
5. Pick up the syringe or dropper with your dominant hand.
6. Using your other hand, gently (but firmly) grasp your cat's head from above with your thumb on one side of the hinge of the jaw and your fingers on the other.
7. Place the tip of the eyedropper or syringe into the mouth in the space right behind the long canine teeth.



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8. Advance the eyedropper or tip of the syringe into the mouth until it is just past the teeth.
9. Slowly administer the medication. Give the medication in small amounts, with a slight pause between each portion. Be very careful not to give it faster than your cat can swallow it. Do not try to give all of the liquid at once, since this may cause choking or vomiting. Your cat may spit out some of the medication. If this occurs, do not re-administer another dose unless you feel the cat spit out the entire dose.
10. Hold your cat's mouth closed with his or her head in a normal position. This makes swallowing easier. Gently rub or blow on your cat's nose; this often stimulates a cat to lick his or her nose, and then swallow.
11. Use the soft, moist cloth to wipe off any medication that got on your cat's face.

As with the first method, when this is finished, talk softly and stroke your cat, or give another type of praise your cat will enjoy, such as a food treat. Remember, the more efficiently you can give the medication, the easier it is on both of you.

Remember, even though these methods are recommended by cat owners who have been there, seeing a live demonstration is even better. If your veterinarian prescribes liquid medication for your cat, have one of the veterinary staff show you how to give it.



Faced down a difficult cat and lived to tell the tale?
Have any other suggestions for administering liquid

medication? Send your stories to Jonathan at crimnos@gmail.com. If we get enough responses, we'll write a follow up article with the best stories and suggestions from AWLMC volunteers.

Sources:

<http://www.petplace.com/cats/medication-to-your-cat/page1.aspx>

http://www.peteducation.com/category_summary.cfm?cIs=1&cat=1393 ∞ ∞ ∞

Wild Birds Unlimited – A Sharing Partner



**Please don't forget to donate to
AWLMC:**

<http://awlmc.org/Donate.html>

Or, please send a check to:

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