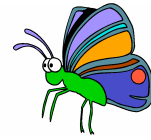


## Four Seasons News for May



"April showers bring May flowers," or so goes the old expression. We at Four Seasons hope that your May is full of flowers and Springtime cheer! We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, and always welcome your input and feedback. Write us at [info@fourseasonspetsitting.com](mailto:info@fourseasonspetsitting.com) to submit article ideas or requests, or to let us know what you think.



**Ask Foo-Foo:** "I noticed that my kitty has a sore looking rash under his chin. At first I thought it could be from playing with my other cats, but the rash has gotten worse, and he's started to loose hair in that area - what could it be?!" - Fretting Feline Mom, Castleton

Foo-Foo knows pet care. As the self-appointed pet expert in the Laraway household, Foo has dedicated the two hours a day that he is not napping to researching and sharing information with Four Season's clients who need pet advice. If you would like to submit a question or topic for Foo to address in future issues of the Newsletter, send your question or topic to [info@fourseasonspetsitting.com](mailto:info@fourseasonspetsitting.com).

**Foo's Response:** Dear Fretting: Let me preface my response by saying that while I am decidedly sage and all-knowing in the area of all things animal, the one group of folks I defer to always are veterinarians. So my advice should not take the place of speaking with or visiting your cat's doctor, but I think I can help in identifying one very solid possibility - your cat may very well have cat acne. Unlike in humans, cat acne has nothing to do with hormones or hygiene. In fact, there are two causes of cat acne - allergies to food bowls, and stress. The first is easier to treat than the second.

Using a steel, glass, or porcelain bowl may help reduce the condition if it is an allergy to a food dish. If you are using a plastic dish, that would be the first step I would recommend - and be sure to wash the dishes after each use. To treat his chin, your doctor may recommend that you use a bit of peroxide to keep the area clean and free of infection, but if so, be careful - he's going to be a little sensitive in that area. Since stress can be a cause, think about any recent changes in your cat's world. Has a new cat come into the neighborhood or your home? Have there been any other changes in his environment that could be causing him stress? If so, try and mitigate those stressors as best you can.

If you do not see some progress in a week or so, or if the condition worsens, I would give him a ride to the veterinarian so that his doctor can advise on the best course of treatment - he may require antibiotics, or may have another condition that requires attention. And unlike acne in humans, this condition can be quite serious if left untreated in cats. Personally, I feel for your cat - while we don't worry about how the acne looks, anything that interrupts our daily routine of napping, hunting dust bunnies, and serving humans in a lap-warming capacity is quite an inconvenience... so I wish him a speedy recovery!



### Terrific Tilda: Four Seasons' Dog of the Month!

Here's a riddle: what has four legs, an appetite for fruits and veggies, and is all heart? That is an easy one! It's our Pet of the Month, Tilda. Tilda's mom and dad adopted her from the Menands Shelter in January of 2003. And she had a tough act to follow - they had lost their first family dog only six months before. But Tilda's deep soulful brown eyes and absolutely contagious enthusiasm won them over easily, and she came to live with mom, dad, and new brother Ezra (the feline channel of James Dean - one supercool cat).

Tilda has, er, odd tastes in cuisine. She'll eat any fruit or veggie (including onions), and has an unnatural affection for cilantro. But, she's really a slave to her passion for cheese, for which she will do anything – learn new tricks like sit, lay down, and shake. She's currently working on learning to play dead, but the darn cheese keeps 'reviving' her. Tilda's happiness is contagious, and she's a real fun loving gal – she even helped FSPPS consultant Audrey build a snowman this past winter. How can you resist a cutie like Tilda who is always glad to see you? We sure can't, and we wouldn't want to either! We love you, Tilda.



## Holy Moses! That's One Cool Cat: Four Seasons' Cat of the Month

There is no question that Moses has regal roots. This 7-year old feline came to live with his family from Cats 'N Dogs 'N More, a now defunct pet store in Rensselaer that found homes for homeless animals. The family was told he was part Seal Point Siamese, and it certainly shows... the only tell-tale signs of non-Siamese bloodlines are white circles that be-speckle his face, bib, and paws. He actually hails from a quite regal family, flanked by sisters Maggie (a calico Scottish Fold) and Reba (a Tonkinese – that is a cross between a Burmese and a

Siamese, for those of you who may not know such cat-ology). But don't take our word for it - check out their glamour shots in our [Pet Gallery](#)...

Despite his regal breeding, Moses' behavior was less than princely when he arrived at his new home. He was 'a barbarian at mealtime' plundering all available food, and pushing his petite sisters aside for more. As a result, he needed finishing school – his people taught him to count to three with his paws when his dinner is set out for him. He also now waits for an invitation to begin noshing... next stop... Animal Planet!

In addition to his 'skills', Moses reigns supreme because he is a highly affectionate kitty who is willing to function as lap-warmer or bed-warmer without hesitation. He also voluntarily keeps his home free of any field mice that venture into the basement portion of his domain. And, he has hearing that is unparalleled by any superhero – just try and quietly open a cupboard door to sneak a snack for another kitty, and he's there in a flash to collect his due. His favorite pastime is losing plastic spiral twisty toys in the house... at last count, he had managed to lose roughly 100 of them.

Moses, you are one cool cat, and we love you!



**Welcome!**

## Welcome, New Four Seasons' Clients!

Four Seasons would like to extend a warm welcome to our clients who have joined us during the month of April. We look forward to serving your needs and the needs of your owners now and in the time to come.



## Four Seasons' Pet Health Corner: Why Licensing and Microchipping Matters

You may or may not have read the recent story about Cheyenne, the amazing kitty from Florida who was found in San Francisco, seven years after being separated from her owner (<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/custom/fringe/sfl-429missingcat.0,4993778.story?coll=sfla-news-fringe>). She was found roaming on a busy city street, and was identified by her identification microchip. Her rescuers have speculated that Cheyenne may have gotten stuck in a moving van or was taken for a stray and moved to California with a former neighbor. Without that microchip, Cheyenne's mom may never have seen her again. She may have been taken for a stray and put up for adoption. Depending on what shelter she ended up in, she may or may not have been euthanized after a certain number of days if she was not adopted.

It's the time of year where towns are renewing dog licenses and organizations are promoting pet microchipping. Dog licenses are sometimes thought of as a nuisance – but they could save your pet's life. For a minimal fee, they provide a means of identifying your pet and obtaining your contact information in the event that your pet is separated from you. Your dog may not be an off-leash dog, but the occasional accident happens. And you want to safeguard against it. Plus, it's the law to license your dog, even if he or she is primarily an indoor, on-leash dog – so licensing can save you headaches and fines, in addition to saving your best friend.

Microchipping is an additional safe, painless, high-tech means of identification for your friends – both canine and feline. Visit HomeAgain, a microchip vendor, for more information on pet microchip identification at <http://www.homeagainid.com/index.cfm>.



### It's a Bird, It's a Plane... Nope, It's a Greenie™

In case you had not heard, Greenies are the tastiest, easiest dental supplement available for your pooch. Given as a treat, your pal chews it, thereby cleaning harmful tartar and plaque from his teeth and away from his gums, preventing decay and gum disease, and freshening his breath. Greenies are promoted by many veterinarians – ask your vet how Greenies can supplement your dog's dental regime.

Four Seasons proudly sells Greenies – in packages, and now individually, for those who would like to try one or two to see how their friend likes them. For more information on ordering individually, contact Four Seasons at [info@fourseasonspetsitting.com](mailto:info@fourseasonspetsitting.com) today!



### Yo Quiero Uno Rawhide Taco!

Ever get that 'call to the border' only to have the soulful eyes of your best furry friend quietly plead for a bite of the Burrito Grande or Nachos Supreme you're polishing off at record speed? Sharing your Mexican chow with Spot may not be the best idea (one of you will pay for it later, if you get our drift...), but now, you don't have to leave him out in the cold when you get the Mexican munchies!

Four Seasons is pleased to offer Rawhide Tacos – they look like the real thing (well, they do to Spot), and you can give them without guilt. Visit our [Treats](#) page for more information, and stop the cycle of Mexican food guilt today!



### Spring is Here... And Summer is On the Way!

It's hard to believe after that 'eternal Winter' that is just behind us, but Summer is on its way! And with it come barbecues, sprinklers, and yes, Summer vacations and getaways.

It's important that you let Four Seasons know as soon as you have planned your vacation. We want to be sure that we reserve your dates so that your friend's routine is not disrupted in any way while you are away.

So take a peek at the calendar for the months to come, and give us a call! We'll take good care of your friends while you are away.

*The Rented Writer* 