



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### IS YOUR KITTY'S FOOD BOWL CREATING A TOXIC MEAL?

In the past several years, there's been a lot of media focus on the safety of certain types of plastics used to manufacture consumer products, including water bottles, sippy cups, and food storage containers. Though the debate continues, numerous studies have provided solid evidence that certain plastics appear unsafe for use in everyday household products.

Just like you, your kitty (and other pets) are susceptible to plastic toxicity. All plastics release undetectable fumes, especially when heated. This outgassing means that chemical-containing fumes and carcinogenic substances can pass into foods that are served or stored in a plastic bowl. Certain types of plastic bowls can also leach chemicals into your pet's water.

It's not uncommon for kitties to be hypersensitive to plastic, creating an allergic or inflammatory reaction. Additionally, plastic is porous and can trap germs and bacteria which may be transferred to your cat, leading to a variety of systemic infections.

Symptoms of plastic toxicity can include:

- Blackheads and pustules on your kitty's chin or around the lips
- Excessive sneezing, allergies
- Chronic skin diseases
- Severe mouth inflammation or swelling in the lips, gums, and back of the throat
- A type of lesion known as a rodent ulcer. These open sores often begin on either side of the upper lip, though they can also occur on the lower lip, at the back of the jaw behind an upper molar, or on the tongue. An untreated rodent ulcer can lead to partial erosion of the lip.

- Recurrent infections of the ears and urinary tract
- Immune system, digestive, endocrine, chromosomal, and reproductive system disorders
- Impairment of brain and neurological function
- Cardiovascular system damage
- Cancer

Fortunately, there's a simple way to help keep your kitty safe from plastic toxicity: replace your pet's food and water bowls with clear glass. (Please note: Metal, ceramic, and painted glass bowls are not recommended, as they also can trigger allergic, inflammatory, and toxic responses in your pet.) Clean the glass bowls frequently with water and a hypoallergenic dishwashing liquid (we recommend Dawn).

If you notice areas of discoloration or irritation on your cat's chin, or any other possible signs of toxicity as noted above, please contact us to schedule an appointment for an examination.

### FELINE BOARDING AT THE SACRAMENTO CAT HOSPITAL

If you're planning to travel during the holidays, we'd like to invite your feline family member to be our guest while you're away. We offer boarding accommodations in a loving feline-only environment. Beds, toys, and fresh litter boxes are provided -- along with lots of daily petting and attention from our kitty-loving doctors and team members! All of our feline guests receive daily weight monitoring, monitoring of food and water intake, and twice-daily exercise sessions. We can administer any medication or special foods that your kitty requires.

We can also schedule your kitty's routine or preventive health care needs during their stay. Wellness exams, vaccinations, dental cleanings, and more can be conveniently taken care of while you are away. (When you call to make your boarding reservation, please remember to also schedule any exams or special procedures.)

To stay with us, your kitty must have had a wellness exam at the Sacramento Cat Hospital within the past 12 months.

### NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Board your kitty at the Sacramento Cat Hospital through November 30 and every sixth night is free! That's 6 nights of boarding for the price of 5! (Please note that additional charges will apply for dispensation of medications or other treatments while your kitty is our guest.) Please ask us for more information or to make your boarding reservation.



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