



# *Palm Beach Island Cats, Inc.*

P.O. Box 173 • Palm Beach, FL 33480 • 561-512-4884

## BARTENDER EVENT MAY 3, 2011 AT 264 THE GRILL



**PBIC HAS THE  
BEST SUPPORTERS  
IN THE WORLD!!!**



**Guest Bartenders  
were Helga Wagner  
and Eva Jacobi who  
were terrific behind  
the bars and helped  
make this event such  
an enjoyable night!**



**We're glad you came  
to this party and  
thank you. We hope  
you had fun like we  
did. We'll do it again  
October 16 which is  
National Feral Cat Day**



**THANK YOU  
264 THE GRILL  
FOR  
WELCOMING  
PBIC TO YOUR  
RESTAURANT**





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### You Missed the Party?

If you didn't join PBIC at 264 The Grill on May 3 you missed another fun evening with PBIC. About 60 friends gathered to visit, listen to live entertainment, enjoy appetizers, share stories and get caught up on what's happening in each other's life. Questions about homeless cats living in various areas were answered, and problems about cats were resolved. Every event provides an opportunity to meet with the Directors and Field Director to talk about problems and concerns regarding the homeless and feral cats in Palm Beach. The next two events will be July 10 and July 12 (see details about these events in this issue of the newsletter). October 16 is National Feral Cat Day, and there will absolutely be an event hosted on that day. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss another chance to get together with old friends, or make new ones, and have a really fun time!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Such high-profile places like Disneyland and the Los Angeles Police Department have partnered with feral cat management groups to allow feral cats to roam around controlling their rodent problems? Deli's in New York City and businesses in San Francisco also recognize they have rodent problems and are controlling it by allowing ferals to control it. With so many condominiums and restaurants in Palm Beach, not to mention just being an island, it only makes sense that residents and business owners recognize that the feral and homeless cats actually earn their keep. The alternative is being over-run with rodents which are the proven disease carriers – that's a problem too horrible to consider!

### CARETAKER SPOTLIGHT



#### **ALL CARETAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

July 10, 2011 ~ Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.

are invited to the annual appreciation picnic to be held at Royal Poinciana Chapel. Registration begins at 12:30; lunch will be served at 1 p.m. There are many unsung heroes working with feral and homeless cats throughout the Island, and PBIC wants to recognize them for their tireless efforts. "It's the least we can do as an organization," President David Leavitt said, "but this is one way we can express our thanks for all they do to benefit the cats." Call 512-4884 to let PBIC know that you will be there!

### SAVE THE DATE



**October 16, 2011**

#### **National Feral Cat Day**

*PBIC will host another party for supports and volunteers to take part in the nationwide celebration of National Feral Cat Day. Check back frequently for further details. Plan to join us that evening, so mark your calendars now.*



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### **UNDERSTANDING THE BITING BEHAVIOR**

It may be difficult to believe that biting is a form of communication -- especially after your cat has nipped at you during what you thought was a nice petting session -- but it is. Cats may bite because they're scared, because they don't feel well, or simply because they don't want to be touched anymore.

Kittens will bite because, along with scratching and wrestling, it is a form of play for them. It's important to train your kitten early on not to bite, and that includes not using your hands as playthings. We know it's tough to resist a little lighthearted tickling of your kitten's fuzzy tummy, but once that kitten grows up, those little teeth grow up along with him.

"Always use a fishing-pole type toy when playing with a kitten. Save the furry toy mice and other small toys for the cat to enjoy on his own," says feline behavior expert Pam Johnson-Bennett. "You want to send a clear-cut message concerning what is and isn't an acceptable target." Those targets can include feathers, string, or paper bags with a little ball inside -- anything that's not attached to your body. Even older cats benefit from regular play sessions, which help them blow off steam. "It's important to give a cat an appropriate outlet to release energy," says Johnson-Bennett. This will help cut down on "ambush biting," where a cat suddenly dashes out and bites, usually around your ankles. It's a "chase the prey" game, and more appropriate games will help control this behavior.

A common form of biting is called petting-induced aggression. This is when a cat lashes out at his owner during what seemed to be a pleasant session of petting. This form of aggression is one of the most confusing cat behaviors because it seems so sudden and unpredictable. However, from the cat's standpoint, he's already given you several signals that he's had enough. "Cats usually give several warning signs before biting," says Johnson-Bennett. "They include tail-lashing or thumping, skin rippling, growling, cessation of purring, ear flicking or rotation sideways [or] shifting of body position." So if you watch your cat's body language, you can learn to tell when he doesn't want any more petting. Stop before he reaches his limit.

Many cats, too, have certain areas where they don't like to be touched, such as the back legs, paws or chest. However, if your previously docile cat starts biting at you when you touch a particular area, it's time for a visit to the vet. Your cat may have started to bite because there's something wrong and it hurts.

Despite the best of training, accidents do occasionally happen. Sometimes, something -- a strange cat, the vacuum cleaner, moving day -- may scare your cat into biting you. In these cases, use reverse logic to release yourself. "Most people make the mistake of pulling away from the cat, but that only makes him bite down harder because your movements resemble prey," says Johnson-Bennett. "Instead, gently push toward the cat, which will momentarily confuse him and also disengage your hand from his teeth." She also recommends letting out a nice yelp, which confuses the cat and makes him shift his focus from your hand.



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### *Oh no ... my cat is lost! What can I do?*

Start looking for Fluffy by calling Palm Beach Animal Care and Control at (561) 276-1344. The next calls should be made to valuable resources like Island Animal Hospital at 561-833-8552, Palm Beach Police Department at 561-838-5454, and definitely call PBIC at 512-4884. Provide as much descriptive information as possible so that Fluffy can be visually recognized, and if the owner has a microchip number that is very beneficial. Never underestimate the use of flyers circulated around the neighborhood and posted on bulletin boards at public places. Many retailers will allow flyers to be placed on their counters or in the window. Don't hesitate to start looking for your beloved pet!

Everyone should know that PBIC is trapping cats every day. It is not the intent to trap anyone's pet, but it can and does happen. Maybe PBIC has Fluffy in their care and is trying to find the rightful owner for the safe return. By telling PBIC about your missing pet, it also means there are many more eyes on the ground helping the owner find their furry friend. PBIC is here to help!

### ABOUT CATS

A cat drinks by lapping up liquid with the underside of its tongue, not the top as one might suspect.

A cat's heart beats between 110-140 beats per minute. That's twice as fast as a normal human heart.

Though cats don't always land on their feet, they have the ability to "parachute" to safety by spreading their legs and arching their backs.

Newborn kittens ear canals don't begin to open for nine days.



**BE OUR  
FRIEND**

**PBIC is now on Facebook!**

Everyone is urged to visit our page and become our friend. When we have 25 Face book fans, PBIC will earn its own URL whereby you can go directly to our page rather than go your own page and search our page or other nonprofit!

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