

## From the Doctor's Desk

In the wild, cats are both predator and prey. If a cat shows signs of being injured or in pain they may become a target for larger predators. Cats have evolved to conceal their illness and pain by hiding and keeping quiet. This is why an ill cat may start napping under the bed in a low-traffic area of your home rather than in their usual perch in the living room.

Cats are masters at disguising pain, but you know your cat better than anyone. They are creatures of habit and routine, any change in their routine or behavior may signify a problem. Pay close attention to your cat's behavior. Often by the time you have noticed your cat is less social, hiding away from the rest of the family, or just not quite themselves, they have been ill for quite some time. Don't wait too long before getting veterinary help to find out if something is wrong. Often we can help when we discover an illness early in the disease process.

## Updates from the Clinic

**Follow us on Twitter: @ABQCatClinic**

Albuquerque Cat Clinic will be closed December 26 and January 2 to observe the holidays.



## Veterinary Technician Advice

*The holiday season is a wonderful time of year full of friends, family and celebration. The Albuquerque Cat Clinic Veterinary Technicians have some advice to help keep your kitty safe during the holiday season.*

- If you chose a live Christmas tree this year, keep the area clear of pine needles. While they may not seem dangerous, the needles can puncture your pet's intestines if ingested.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is secure and stable. Your cat may want to climb in the tree, this can be unsafe for you and your cat. Secure your tree using a stable tree stand and place your tree in the corner.
- Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettia plants are poisonous to your cat. If you use these plants to decorate your home keep them out of your cats reach.
- When gift wrapping, be sure to keep your pet away. Wrapping paper, string, plastic, or cloth could cause intestinal blockages.

### Employee Spotlight

**Jessica Opper** is our newest Veterinary Technician. Jessica started with Albuquerque Cat Clinic in September 2016 as a preceptor. Jessica served in the United States Army as an Animal Care Specialist. She has lived all over the country and is enjoying learning about and living in New Mexico. She graduated in November from Miami-Jacobs Career College in Ohio with an AAS degree in Veterinary Technology. Jessica will soon take the national and state licensing exam to become a Registered Veterinary Technician. Jessica has three cats at home and loves working with the cats at the Albuquerque Cat Clinic. We are so happy to have Jessica on board as part of the Albuquerque Cat Clinic Team!



### Albuquerque Cat Clinic is now a Certified Fear Free Practice

All Albuquerque Cat Clinic Employees are now Certified in Fear Free Practice Methods. Developed by “America’s Veterinarian,” Dr. Marty Becker, the Fear Free(SM) initiative aims to “take the ‘pet’ out of ‘petrified’” and get pets back for veterinary visits by promoting considerate approach and gentle control techniques used in calming environments. Utilization of Fear Free methods and protocols leads to reduction or removal of anxiety triggers, which creates an experience that is rewarding and safer for all involved including pets, their owners, and veterinary health care teams. Learn more at [www.fearfreepets.com](http://www.fearfreepets.com).



The Albuquerque Cat Clinic understands that it can be a stressful experience to bring your cat to the Vet for a checkup. We take you and your cat’s comfort very seriously and have taken steps to make your visit more comfortable. All employees at the Albuquerque Cat Clinic are now certified in Fear Free Practice. We have learned new techniques to help keep your furry friend fear free not only while at the Vet office, but we can also offer advice and products that can make the days and moments before your visit more pleasant. Ask our trained staff about Fear Free options!