

Pets and their People

with Dr. Karen Bardecki

One more reason to love cats

First of all, put down that snack and don't read this before dinner...

Coprophagia is the medical jargon. In layman's term it is poop eating. Cats never do this but some dogs do, hence one more reason to love cats.

Some dogs eat other species' stools. Rabbit and horse poop are considered delicacies in some doggy circles. Owners can take some solace in the fact that rabbit, horse and cattle poop is not harmful when eaten (probably somewhat nutritious even). But the thing that grosses dog parents out even more is when their pooch eats their own or other dogs' stools.

"What can I do about my dog eating its own stool?", is one of the most common behaviour questions I am asked. Medical problems causing coprophagia are rare but they do exist. Feeding a poorly digestible diet, not feeding enough, or certain medical problems that cause poor absorption of nutrients all can lead to coprophagia.

As well, some medical conditions or medications can cause an increase in appetite and may lead to poop eating.

Some dogs start as puppies and outgrow the habit, some start as adults (there is more likely to be an underlying medical reason when this happens), some partake only in winter (we call them "poopsicle" eaters), some eat stool only occasionally and others are lifelong, two poops-a-day addicts.

Why poop eaters do what they do is a good question. Left without supervision, some puppies will play with and investigate their poop and this can lead to eating it. Owners who see their pups do this and give the pup attention (even negative attention) may inadvertently reinforce the behaviour. Sort of like the bad kid in class who likes to make a ruckus because bad attention is better than no attention. There is also a theory that because mother dogs normally eat their pups' stool to keep the den clean, some pups mimic this behaviour and start to eat stool too.

Whatever the cause, the really

important question is how do I get it to stop? Coprophagia is common amongst puppies but most cases will stop by adulthood with good nutrition and proper supervision. First, you need to prevent access to the stools. This means accompanying your dog to the yard (every time). After your dog eliminates, call him over to get a non-poop treat then quickly clean up the stool. Changing your dog's diet may help as diets that are high in carbs and low in fibre tend to encourage poop eating. Feeding regular breakfast and dinner meals can help too. I have also heard of adding meat tenderizers (a product called "Forbid") to your dog's food and also giving a Certs at mealtime to your dog to discourage coprophagia, but I have had little to no success with these two products.

If your dog has special nutrition requirements, check with your vet before starting a new diet. In summary, the only reliable ways to stop this nasty habit are: deny access, train your dog to eat a good treat instead, and feed regular meals of a highly digestible food. With Valentine's Day this month, maybe you will be able to kiss your dog once again.

A new Twist on Oliver!

"Some new acquaintances are introduced to the intelligent reader, connected with whom various pleasant matters are related to this history". This is the heading to Chapter 13 from Charles Dickens classic novel *Oliver Twist*. This so accurately conveys the journey of casting Lionel Bart's wonderful musical *Oliver!*

Casting a large musical theatre production is always an eventful journey, much like the journey Oliver travels during the show. You meet lots of different "characters" who may charm, bedazzle, or mystify you. All of them sing, dance and act their hearts out, hoping for a chance fill a role in the show.

In Uxbridge we are blessed to have so many talented residents from which to choose. This can make a director's, musical director's and choreographer's life both simple and very complicated. However from that lot you, as an audience, will find orphans and pickpockets that will charm the handkerchiefs straight from your pockets! You will

discover a wonderful adult chorus, who you will want to sing along with during their rousing rendition of Oom-pah-pah! The varied instruments of the four-piece band will accompany the fabulous voices you will hear from the soloists, such as Nancy pleading for her man in the ballad As Long as He Needs Me, Fagin reflecting upon his life in Reviewing the Situation, and Oliver joyfully loving the moment in Who Will Buy.

So you will find some new acquaintances and some old friends in the Ryleepuss Production of *Oliver!* playing at the Uxbridge Music Hall beginning on Sunday February 10 at 2pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and seniors and \$12 for youth 13 years of age and under. You can purchase tickets from 10am to 6pm at Sugar Fx on Brock St W. Please call Mike Bridgeman at 905-852-1836 for more information or group rates. For full details please check our website www.ryleepussproductions.com or see the ad on page 14 of this issue.

THE RENAMING OF THE KENNEDY HOUSE PROPERTY

Thank you to all residents that submitted a name. After our first round of submissions we believe we need to give a bit more description to the concept of re-naming the property.

History: In 2008 the Township of Uxbridge purchased the former St. John's Training School/Kennedy House property from the Province of Ontario through the Ontario Realty Corporation.

The Township has always felt that we should eventually rename the property and we feel the time is now. A committee was formed in late 2012 to begin this exercise.

The Committee has established a few new guidelines to help with the renaming of Kennedy House.

1. The Master Plan below shows what the property will eventually look like. We would like to choose a name that reflects this vision. As you will note, this property will be the future home for parks, recreation and cultural activities.

2. While many of the components that will eventually be located at this site will have specific names such as the Rotary Skate Park, these names will be part of a sponsorship program and may be subject to change in the long term for those specific components. The Committee feels the property name should never change and should therefore be timeless.

3. No individual's name be considered as a name for the Park.

4. The name should include Uxbridge.

At present two names have risen to the top: Uxpark and Uxbridge Common. If you have another suggestion, please go to our Website www.town.uxbridge.on.ca and submit a name. Be part of History and submit a name that will be our future destination name for this property.

You may also submit your name at Uxpool, 1 Parkside Drive (open Monday - Sunday) and fill out a suggestion form.

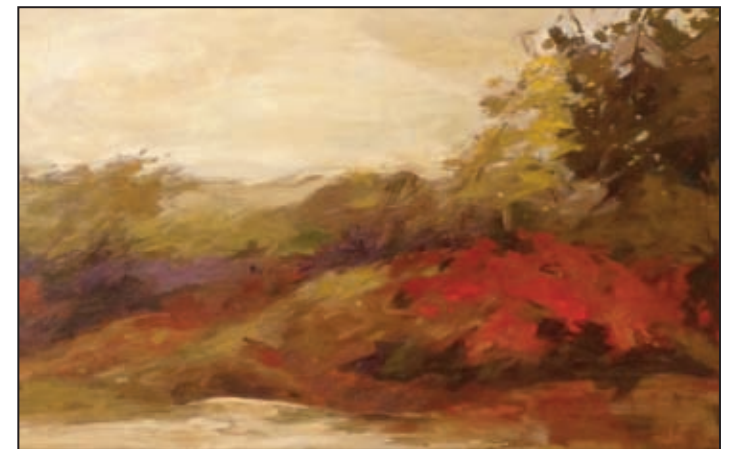
Deadline: March 1st, 2013.



BUCKINGHAM GALLERY of FINE ART

Since 1981

A BEAUTIFUL GALLERY TO DISCOVER



Raging Red Passion, Sumac • Joan Armour • Acrylic on Canvas • 30" x 40"

The Gift of Fine Art for the one you love on Valentine's Day

Over 150 paintings, sculpture, objet d'art.

Fine oil paintings in miniature, from \$350, to large oil canvases up to eight feet in length.

Sculpture and objet d'art, in bronze, wood, stone and glass starting at \$250.

Just 3 minutes south of Walmart plaza, just before Old Stouffville Sideroad, west side of the highway

Open Saturday & Sunday Noon to 4:00pm
Tuesday to Friday by appointment

Telephone 905 852 6874 Cell 905 852 0913
Email buckinghamfineart@gmail.com



BUCKINGHAM GALLERY OF FINE ART
A BEAUTIFUL GALLERY TO DISCOVER