

A Warm Hello

A feline veterinary expert is here to answer your questions at CatChannel.com.

Arnold Plotnick, D.V.M.

Warm greetings to my fellow feline enthusiasts. I'm Dr. Arnold Plotnick, the newest CatChannel feline health expert. I'm very excited that I've been given this opportunity to answer your kitty questions and share my experiences as a practicing feline veterinarian.

Allow me to tell you a little about myself. After earning my Masters degree in immunology in 1983 from the University of Florida, I attended UF's College of Veterinary Medicine the following year, earning my DVM degree in 1988. I then attended the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, where I completed a one-year internship in small animal medicine and surgery. It was at Penn that I started to be known as The Cat Guy. My professors and fellow interns could see that I had a special kinship with cats and they encouraged it. I'm grateful that they did.

I took my academic flair for felines to the world of private practice and became an associate veterinarian at the Cat Hospital at Towson, a high-quality cats-only veterinary hospital in Towson, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore. With a little real-world experience under my belt, I left to pursue a residency in small animal internal medicine at Colorado State University and became board-certified in small animal internal medicine in 1997. I returned to private practice, joining the VetSmart Pet Hospital and Health Center in Columbia, Maryland, as their chief of staff and hospital director. While in practice, I continued my academic pursuit of all things feline, and became board-certified in feline medicine in 1999. Seeking to return to my hometown, I accepted the position of vice president of animal health at The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the oldest animal welfare organization in the United States. I was promoted a year later to vice president of the prestigious ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital.

In January of 2003, I opened my own veterinary hospital, Manhattan Cat Specialists, a feline-exclusive veterinary facility on the Upper West Side of New York City. This is where you'll find me toiling away, six days a week.

When I'm not tending to my clients and patients (and to my own cats, Crispy and Mittens), you'll often find me in front of the typewriter. As many of you know, I am a frequent contributor to CAT FANCY magazine. I am also the medical editor of Catnip magazine, and I'm on the editorial advisory board of Veterinary Forum magazine.