

# Blind Cat Rescue: The Cats Purr for the First Sponsor Spotlight!

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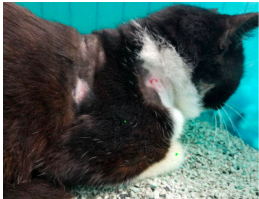
## We welcome them home, whatever their condition...

Thanks to your support and love, BCR is a very happy home to cats who literally wouldn't be alive without them. Because we accept cats who have tested positive for feline leukemia and FIV in addition to blind cats, the staff has to be ready to treat anything a new cat might arrive with...and that can be quite a lot.

Our cats have come from hoarding situations, the streets, and even from natural disasters. They've been through all sorts of traumas that result from the weather, unfriendly and threatening people, having to scrounge for whatever they can find to eat, illness, injury... and the list goes on. Any or all of these factors determine the health status of every cat that arrives at BCR.



For instance, poor Trevor was in very bad shape when he arrived in February from his rough life on the Baltimore street. He had very bad teeth and extremely alarming blood work. He was so sick that, even with a feeding tube, weeks of treatments and medications, his liver just couldn't respond. BCR tried everything to save him.



A luckier cat was Gabriel. Literally pulled out from under a car in Hurricane Irma, he got here with many wounds to his skin (maybe some from other animals or maybe even flying debris), infected eyes and a mouth full of rotted teeth. Like Trevor, his immediate condition had to be handled first to stabilize him enough to take care of his eyes and teeth. While he was being assessed, he tested positive for feline leukemia - a game changer for a cat's health opening the door for all kinds of potentially fatal illnesses. We treated Gabriel for seizures when he got them and the recent tumors that hindered his mobility and caused him pain. We sadly lost him on March 31.

Gabriel was a BCR cat, and when we say "lifetime commitment," it means we treated him for every condition that he developed as long as he was with us.



The same will be true for one of our newest arrivals, Dixie, who came from animal control with blood pressure so high (over 300) that she was bleeding from behind her retinas. It's likely that she lost her sight because she was never treated for hypertension. When she arrived, job one was to get her on blood pressure medicine right away.

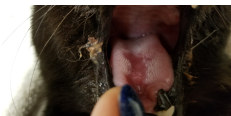
We'll never know what her life on the streets was like before coming to BCR but her blood tests show very badly functioning kidneys and liver. On top of that, she has gallbladder problems and has developed pancreatitis. As a result of all that, Dixie has had an ultrasound and now takes eight medicines every day, for her pancreatitis, her liver, kidneys and for pain.

Like Gabriel, Dixie has a lifetime commitment of care from BCR and we'll do everything we can for her for as long as we can.



We all remember sweet Isabelle. She arrived at BCR near death and only weighed three pounds. She had to have emergency surgery right away to remove the infected eye that was causing so many of her problems. She also tested positive for feline leukemia - which played a big role in her overall health. Isabelle's weight got up to seven pounds, which was wonderful, but she suffered with stomatitis and was treated for it for months.

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We did our best for Isabelle - she made multiple trips to the vet in her final weeks and was even hospitalized for a time while we tried to make her better. But when it was clear that the ulcer on her tongue had developed into cancer, we knew exactly why she was in so much pain and that no treatment would heal her.

As it often is when a cat gets this sick, we had to ask ourselves if it was better to keep trying to treat her condition even though Isabelle was in extreme pain and suffering, or to let her go. Anyone who is a pet owner has faced this agonizing decision and knows how hard it always is. It's the same at BCR. Rather than let Isabelle continue to suffer with something that was incurable, it was time to let her go.

It's true that the BCR family has suffered the loss of quite a few cats in the last year. As you see, cats who arrive with a positive test for FIV or leukemia are very susceptible to dire changes in their health. The same can be true for senior cats who have lived a hard life on the streets for years.

Of the cats we've lost recently, most were leukemia positive and developed conditions that are fatal and very painful. Two were positive both for leukemia and FIV. The senior cats we've lost developed problems associated with old age, liver failure and cancer. Those cannot be avoided.

The bottom line is this - even though we don't know for sure what we're facing when a cat arrives at BCR, with your support we take care of every cat who comes here, whatever their health needs are, to make sure they have the best quality of life possible. Our lifetime commitment to our cats also means knowing when to let go - we won't allow a cat to suffer.

This family always feels joy when a new cat arrives here because we all know that he/she will for the rest of their life be safe, secure and loved. The down side is having to say goodbye to them when it's time. It's a balance that we accept and embrace and will continue to work with for the love of our cats.



The Cats Need YOU!

They really want BCR to stand out and shine on the GreatNonprofits website and that's where you come in!

It's easy to do - just share why you love BCR! Use [THIS LINK](#) to visit our GreatNonProfits web page and click on the "Share Your Story" button. One you press "Submit," they'll send you a confirmation email.

You can Help BCR once again be named a Top-Rated non-profit for the coming year!

BCR's blind, FIV- and feline leukemia-positive cats thank you!

Things We Know That We Wish Others Did, Too!



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**\*\*JUST ANNOUNCED\*\*** Human use of topical pain relief products can be fatal to cats! This was recently reported by the FDA and confirmed by the AVA. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.



Spring has come and with it comes kitten season. Not all kittens are as lucky as Valencia was to make it to BCR and that means your local shelters will soon be full of kittens looking for homes. As we know, most won't get one. In fact, as many as five to eight million kittens will be euthanized this year alone. The best and most effective way to help address this problem is by spaying or neutering your cats.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a BCR blog story about why spaying/neutering is the kindest thing you can do for your cat. [CLICK HERE](#) for a great Q&A about spaying and neutering.



We're always glad to see spring come - when plants green up and the flowers start to bloom again. This is the perfect time to remind ourselves about which plants are poisonous to our pets. We need to be sure to keep them safe this spring and summer! [CLICK HERE](#) to see what plants are poisonous to pets and what to look for if you think your pet ate something poisonous.



Welcome to our new feature, Sponsor Spotlight! The BCR family is full of wonderful people who truly love the cats and we want you to meet them! Each sponsor is given a set of questions to answer and asked to send along their favorite photos of their sponsor cats. In our first Sponsor Spotlight is Fiona Dudley!

**How did you first learn about BCR?**

I first learned about Blind Cat Rescue & Sanctuary quite accidentally, back in 2013. I was cruising the web when BCR popped up on my radar - that one click turned out to be the happiest and most influential one of my life. The first cat I saw online was Angel. She is so beautiful, and the story of BCR was so compelling, I was determined to visit as soon as I possibly could.

**Have you visited BCR and, if so, what did you enjoy the most?**

I made my first visit to BCR in winter of 2012. (Can't find pics from that visit!) That first visit was life-changing for me. Before then, I'd had no idea how cats became blind or how often it happens, even due to very preventable causes. I'd never seen a blind cat - even more so, a blind and deaf cat like Penny - zip up and down tall kitty climbers with total ease. I also didn't know that blindness is cause for euthanasia at shelters according to NC law. On that first visit, my own eyes were opened! Ever since then, I've visited and volunteered as often as I can.



**What surprised you most when you first visited BCR?**

Every time I'm there, something new awaits - sometimes a new kitty who has just arrived at the happiest cat forever home ever, or perhaps I learn a new invaluable skill in cat care. Far more than being a casual vacation destination, Blind Cat Rescue literally changed the entire pathway of my life. Shortly after my first few visits, I had both the need and opportunity to build a new career. Blind Cat Rescue was my inspiration for going back to college to become a Registered Veterinary Technician. I've been pursuing a career in animal care and nursing ever since, and it remains at the core of my being to this day. Supporting Blind Cat Rescue is extremely important to me.

**What cat or cats do you sponsor? Why did you choose them?**

In addition to volunteering and sending the occasional wish list box of goodies, I've sponsored a few cats over the years: Stevie, [Lisa](#), Crystal, and [Sophie](#). All have been special to me in one way or another. Lisa is delightfully playful with her roller derby 'tude. Stevie "the hat" always leapt to my shoulders and head the minute I stepped into the room. Crystal was an unusual kitty - she simply spoke to me from her shyness and unusual eyes that could not see. Sophie, my latest, is extra special to me. She was rescued from another rescue right here in western NC. That rescue ran into serious problems caring for their charges. Ultimately, more than 80 animals needed new homes after being seized. Sophie is an elderly girl who had very painful damaged eyes that had not been treated at all for years. Thank goodness BCR had a place for her! I'm eternally grateful that Sophie will have a life of love, good food, friends, and veterinary care for the rest of her life.

**If you could tell people one thing about BCR what would it be?!**



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Dear reader - I want you to know that being a friend of Blind Cat Rescue is one of the most rewarding things you will ever experience. And if you can, please visit in person - I promise love, joy, surprises, education, inspiration, and a cracking good time that you will never forget.

More Kitties to Love -  
Meet our Newest Arrival



Pi was living in the parking lot of a Georgia Pizza Hut before she came to BCR. Thanks to a watchful vet tech who rescues cats in that area, Pi made it safely out of there. The tech had Pi checked out and scanned for a microchip (there wasn't one). Her first snap test indicated she was leukemia positive. The rescuing vet tech has cats of her own and wasn't secure about bringing a leukemia positive cat into her home. Pi was only given a short time to stay at the vet practice so the euthanasia clock starting ticking. While she was looking for a solution, the tech retested Pi with the more reliable IFA test and she still showed as leukemia positive. Pi was also spayed and given her shots. The tech reached out to us to see if we could take Pi and then drove her seven hours each way to bring her to us! That is true compassion! Since she came to us on national PI day, that's now her name! Pi is very sweet and is adjusting to her new roommates. [CLICK HERE](#) to sponsor Pi.

BCR's Classy New York City Kitties!  
These babies started life in the Big Apple.



Penny purrs THANK YOU to everyone who has added to the pantry shelves!  
She is thrilled to see the shelves starting to fill up!  
Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the things we need most!

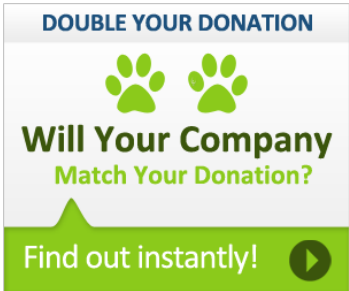




Helping the cats is EZ!



When you purchase from one of our great sellers on eBay, they donate a portion of the sale back to us! Graduation, wedding or a baby shower, coming up? [Try eBay!](#)



Matching gifts are a great way to [double your BCR donation!](#)



Have a birthday coming up? Tell your friends to skip the sweater and instead donate to [your BCR birthday fundraiser!](#) It's easy and is a huge help to the cats.



When you shop online, please [use Amazon Smile](#) and pick Blind Cat Rescue as your charity. With every purchase, their foundation donates to BCR. There is no charge to you!

Direct link: <https://goo.gl/4DJHX2>



Have an old car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or even an airplane? Donate it BCR! [Find out how to do it here.](#)

**Important Reminder!**  
Please remember to add blindcat@blindcatrescue.com to your email "safe" list so we don't wind up in your Junk Mail box!



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