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Donate Now!



**Announcing BCR's First-Ever
Pawsome Critter Photo Contest**



**Is your pet the cutest, prettiest, handsomest of all?
Enter them in our contest!
The Grand Prize is YOUR PET featured in living color
on the inside cover of BCR's 2020 calendar !**

HOW TO ENTER:
You may enter as many pets as you like by [CLICKING HERE](#).
Each entrance fee is \$25 and includes your very own BCR 2020 calendar just for entering!

Once your pet is entered, share the page with your friends and family so they can vote for your pet!

HOW TO VOTE:
[CLICK HERE](#) to see the BCR contest entries and vote!
Each vote is \$1 and ALL proceeds benefit the BCR cats.

The contest ends at midnight on August 31. At that time, the pet with the most votes will be the Grand Prize Winner!

[Be sure to read all contest rules and instructions!](#)

Cool Cats Beating the Heat

As summer rolls on, so does the hot weather! It's really important to keep your cats cool whether they live indoors or outdoors or a combination of both.

As cats evolved, they were programmed to beat the heat by staying in the shade during the day and doing their hunting at night. This ancient part of a cat's make up is still present - does your cat play at night or get the crazies and run around the house? They're just doing what comes naturally!



Unlike humans, cat's can't sweat from their whole bodies, just from their paw pads. (Have you noticed when your cat is at the vet that his paws sweat?) That means the longer or fluffier a cat's hair, the harder it will be for them to stay cool. It's not just the long-haired cats who have trouble, though. Cats with flatter faces - like Marge - also have trouble with breathing when it's hot. As you'd expect, senior kitties and those with chronic health problem or some extra weight are more likely to suffer when it's really hot. It's best to keep the seniors inside where the temperature is cooler and maintained.

One note about cats and cars when it's hot - if you have to take your cat out in your car, run the air conditioner and do not leave him/her in the car while you run errands. Not even with the car running. There are too many possible disasters that could happen. It

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takes only a few minutes for a dog or cat to be overcome by the heat in a car and to die from it.

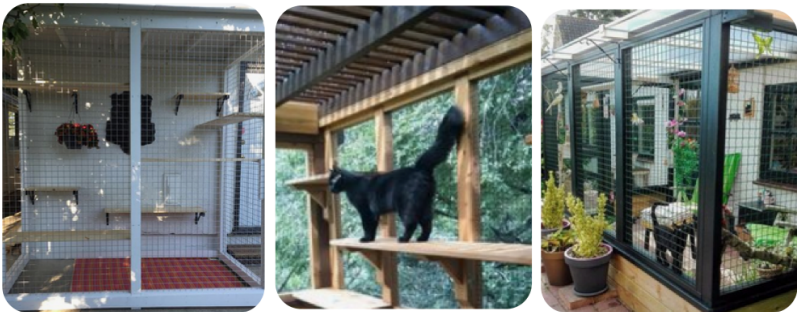


As you know from the BCR cats - like Lisa, Sterling, Bear and Angel, to name a few - a summer hair cut goes a long way to making cats more comfortable in the hot months. You've seen how much the BCR cats enjoy NOT having all that hair to deal with and it keeps them much cooler. Please don't attempt this level of grooming yourself, though. Find a reputable groomer or ask your vet about it! In addition to cooling your cat down, a good haircut can get rid of any unseen hair mats if your cat doesn't enjoy being brushed.

When its hot, inside cats have it a little easier but they still need assistance. They need lots of fresh cool water so keep a few bowls in your house for them. If you have rooms or upstairs spaces in your house that get extra warm, close those doors to keep the kitties out. That way there's no chance they could accidentally be trapped in those rooms. At the same time, if you have a cooler area or room in your house, help make that really attractive to your cat by putting a few favorite treats there. Another trick is to put some floor tiles down in that area. As you've seen on tours, the BCR cats LOVE to lie on the catio concrete floors because they feel cool! Tiles will do the same thing for your cat.

If your cat does have safe outdoor access, they'll need shade and fresh clean water. It's also a good idea to let them out only in the morning or evening when temperatures aren't at their hottest. Mid-day is a good time for some inside time!

One unusual tip for keeping kitties cool is a frozen water bottle! Wrapped in a towel or light blanket and put near their favorite sleeping areas, it offers your cat a cool spot to lie on. [CLICK HERE](#) to find some more info and ideas on kitty cooling during the hot months!



Need a Cool Outdoor Spot for Your Cat?
Check out these [great ideas from our Pinterest page!](#)

Indoor cats can enjoy outside time safely in a wide variety of shelters. There are about as many designs for these as there are types of cats in the world! The good news is that all are designed to keep your kitty safe and cool while spending some quality time in nature.

On [this page](#), you'll find everything from easy-to-do shelters and houses to complex kit packages that might take a few people to put together. Whether you want a shaded house for your cat or a large screened-in porch you can share with your cat on a sunny afternoon, there are lots of options! Click on the one that's your dream space and see how it's done!



The View from the Top - Why Cats Like Being Up High

It's a known scientific fact that heat rises. So, in summer when it's hot, why in the world do cats like being up high? They'll perch on anything from a top curtain rod to a multi-level climber or a shelf and be as happy as they can be. Have they gone crazy from the heat?

We need to once more go back to the evolution of the cat to explain this. As upright walking human beings, we pretty much live in the horizontal - we move forwards, backwards and sideways just fine. When it comes to going vertical, though, we need help from stairs, elevators and etc. Cats, on the other hand, live horizontally and vertically. Cats in the wild need to be able to climb up trees quickly to stay safe. Being way up there let's them keep an eye on their surroundings, watching for predators and looking for any prey that might step out into view. It's also harder to be the victim of a surprise attack when you have the best vantage point!



Today's pet cats aren't that much different. Being up high on anything in your house offers them the same safety and big view as their wild ancestors enjoyed. For BCR's blind cats, being up high lets them hear all that's going on around them with their super-sensitive hearing - same perspective, different methodology! As it turns out, being up high also establishes a sort of pecking order for the cat's community.

Finally, they like to jump and climb. That's part of their wild heritage that's never left them. The BCR cats have shelves, climbers, curandas, and even people to climb on! It may be hotter up high where the heat rises but, for cats, there's much more to it. If your cat is a climber in hot weather, make sure you're heat savvy and provide them the relief they need!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about why cats enjoy being up high!

We Won!



We send a HUGE BCR thank you and Bear Hug to everyone who voted for us in [Stella & Chewy's](#) Facebook contest to help feed adult and senior shelter animals! Thanks to you, we won \$1,000 worth of their cat food!

And it's cat food we really need. [CLICK HERE](#) to hear directly from Alana how Stella & Chewy food has already helped one special BCR resident!



Birthday Fundraisers Mean Funds for the Cats!

Facebook's birthday fundraisers give YOU the chance to directly help the cats. Every dollar you raise during your birthday fundraiser buys them food, medicines, litter and even vet visits! Your fundraisers make it possible for them to have the healthy and happy life they deserve.

It's easy - [use this link to go to Facebook](#) and follow the instructions! You can personalize your message, ask your friends and family to donate to your special cause, set a target, and even monitor how it's going!

Thank you to everyone who has skipped the gifts this year and donated their birthday to BCR!



Welcome to our 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. Are you interested in being a Sponsor Spotlight? [Just email us and let us know!](#)

How did you first learn about BCR?

I discovered BCR on Facebook in late 2014 and fell in love immediately! First and foremost, I fell in love with the amazing cats! Then, I couldn't help but love the staff. They genuinely love these cats and give them the best care possible. I appreciate the transparency of BCR's operations. They hide nothing because they have nothing to hide. Visitors are welcome and encouraged. Volunteers are welcome and appreciated. The daily tours are how I eventually learned all the cat's names. That was a task! Learning around 90 cats' names was a bit daunting, but I wanted to know each and every one of them! Now there are over 100 cats and I know each of them by name. I have donated a couple of my birthdays to the cats and met my goal each time. I tell everyone I can about BCR!

Have you visited and, if so, what did you enjoy most? What surprised you most?

After discovering BCR in late 2014, I was there for my first visit in June 2015. I drove from Oklahoma and Alana thought I was crazy because I was only there for two days! It was so worth the trip! Without a doubt, I enjoyed the cats the most! I was amazed and more than surprised by how clean the staff keep the rooms. They have a full-page list of everything they clean, EVERY SINGLE DAY.

If you haven’t yet visited, what are you most excited about when you do?

I am actually coming to visit for the fifth time this September. I fly rather than drive now because it gives me more time to spend with the cats. I am always most excited to love on the cats and get lots of love from them in return!

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

I sponsor my sweet Willow. I fell in love with her and her brother Stevie (RIP) during my first visit. At that time, I was not able to sponsor. In 2017, I got to a place financially that I could. There was a new cat and his name was Nacho. I fell in love with his picture and his name and decided to sponsor him. Sadly, he passed before I could come visit again and I was devastated. I felt like I'd lost my own cat. It was then I decided to sponsor Willow in Nacho's memory. I love how she sings for her food and she's such a love bug!

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

One thing??? That's tough. I think it would have to be what a worthwhile sanctuary BCR is to support; whether it's financially, sending gifts from their wish lists, volunteering or just doing the daily clicks and quizzes. These cats receive top-notch care. They deserve it too, because a lot of them have come from some devastating situations. The cats get all the vet care they need regardless of the cost. If they can be helped and still have a quality life, they get the help they need. I love that they do not adopt the cats out. These cats are promised a forever home when they come to BCR and that's exactly what they get. Once they cross the rainbow bridge their ashes are placed in the memorial garden on site. Lots of these cats have been passed around from place to place, never really knowing what home is. Some are dumped off by their so-called families after years, and they get depressed because everything they've ever known is gone. Once they learn they are loved at BCR, they come around, and learn to trust people again. We could all learn something about forgiveness from these cats.

The SCOOP

Did you know?



Hi, everyone!

Snicker here! I’ve been taking a little break from my journalistic efforts but now I’m back to do some more interviews.

If you remember, over the past few years I've interviewed some of my feline BCR friends. Now, I’m turning my focus on the staff who takes such good care of all of us. I think the best place to start is at the top with the person who started BCR. We call her mom but you know her best as Alana Miller.

Snicker: Thank you, Alana for doing this interview and for giving us a home and so much love.

Alana: Thank you, Snicker, I do love your interviews and I am so honored.

Snicker: So, let’s start at the beginning.

Alana: Well, Snicker, it’s not a very happy start, but we were volunteering in a local shelter and a blind cat came in, Louie. This poor six-week-old kitten was going to be dumped in the Petsmart parking lot if the shelter wouldn’t take him in. I didn’t want that to happen to Louie and I heard myself saying, “I’ll take him.”

Louie showed us just how normal blind cats are. He climbed, ran, played and loved like a “normal” cat. He didn’t know he was blind, he knew he was a cat and he behaved like a “normal” cat. Pretty soon we got our second, third and fourth blind cat. We also discovered that there were no resources for blind cats. In fact, they were regularly killed at shelters because they were considered not adoptable. In North Carolina, it’s in the law. If an animal is sick, injured or blind it may be killed immediately in animal control facilities. We don’t kill humans because they’re blind, so why on earth would anyone kill an animal for the same thing? We knew from living with blind cats that they’re just normal cats. They have no clue they are blind, they know they’re cats - they act like cats. We decided it was time to do it right, applied to become a non-profit and BCR was born.

Snicker: That’s amazing! Speaking for me and the other 107 of us here, we feel really lucky and thank you and your daughter for saving so many cats.

Alana: Thanks, Snicker. I’m happy to say that we’ve now expanded to save even more cats - those that have tested positive for FIV and feline leukemia. It’s sad because so many people won’t have a cat with those diagnoses as part of their pet family.

Snicker: WOW… how did that start?

Alana: We slowly rescued more blind cats, and then, in 2011, we built a second building to provide forever homes for the leukemia- and FIV-positive cats. Like blind cats, these cats are killed every day at vets’ offices and shelters because they test positive for these conditions. The really sad thing is that some of these tests aren’t 100% accurate and a cat may actually NOT have FIV or leukemia. We constantly tell people to get the “snap” test, but also to be sure and get the full test that is more accurate. Like I said before, we don’t kill people because they have an immune system illness or leukemia so why would we kill a healthy animal for the same

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reason?

Snickers: That's just amazing. We thank you so much for what you've done for us. I know that it's not just us cats who have benefited from BCR being here. You've helped animals out in the community, too, right? I remember something about oxygen masks on fire trucks for us cats and dogs. Can you tell us more?

Alana: When I had heard that the fire trucks that first responders use here in Robeson County didn't have oxygen masks for cats and dogs, I felt like we needed to do something to fix that. If there's a house fire there's no way to help pets who might have inhaled smoke and need oxygen right away. So, we held a fundraiser and - thanks to so many people who contributed - now every fire truck here has one.

Snickers: That's really cool. I for one don't mind sharing an oxygen mask with a dog. I know we also have a program called Spay and Neuter....what's that about?

Alana: Yes, this program helps reduce the number of kittens born in stray and feral cat colonies. In the past three years or so our program has spayed or neutered nearly 1,500 cats! Our goal this year is 2,000 cats.

Snickers: That's a lot of kittens saved, too! One of my favorite things is that because you gave us a home and because people can see us all the time and get to know us, that maybe they've been inspired to adopt a blind cat or dog. That's how people learn about how we really are. So, you see, BCR's hard work goes way beyond the shelter here. I know from all the times people see me and the others on tours and when they visit us at open house and by ALL the boxes I keep finding in the lobby I share with Bunny, BCR's friends are very generous to us. We can't thank you, your daughter and all our friends enough.

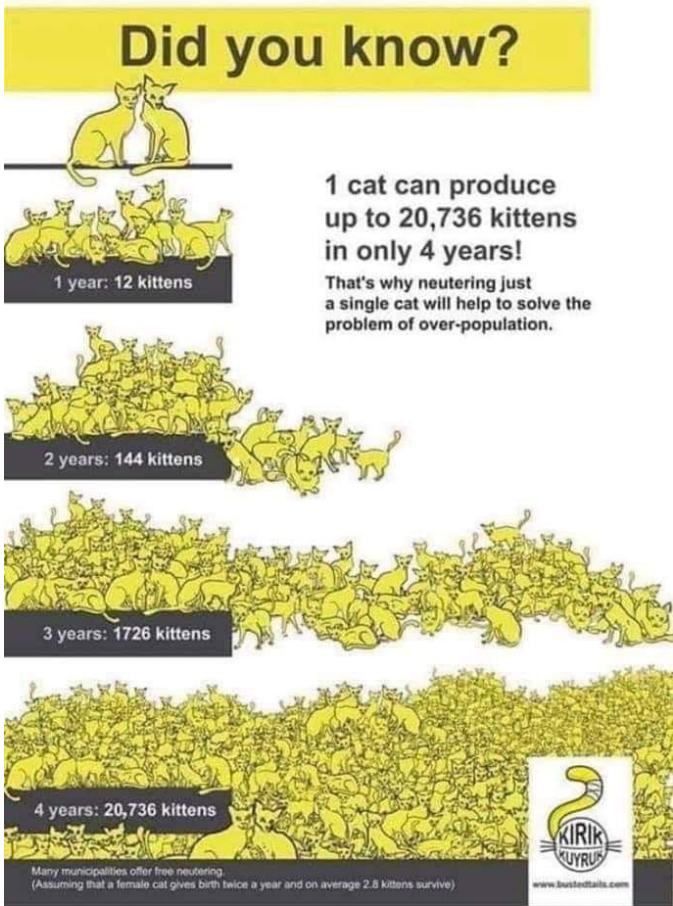
Alana: Snickers, BCR and all the cats are my passion but I couldn't do it without the support of so many - from my staff, the volunteers, our board members and especially those who support the cats as a sponsor or sustainer. Every dollar goes to the care of you and your BCRs friends.

Snickers: We all love the humans who care for us and those who help them by donating to BCR. For anyone reading this interview, we (the cats) thank you and want you to know that there are lots of ways to help us. You can find out about all of them on our website - and I'm told I'm a star of it - www.blindcatrescue.com.

I hope you enjoyed this interview with Alana! I'll be back next month with another interview. If you'd like me to interview someone in particular, please [email me](#) and let me know!

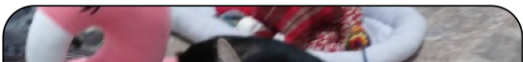
Exactly why Spaying Your Cat is VERY Important

This image shows in pretty amazing detail exactly what NOT spaying and neutering your cat can mean. That's why BCR sponsors a spay/neuter program with a goal of fixing 2,000 cats in 2019! Already this year, the program has spayed or neutered more than 1,000 cats - preventubg more than 10,000 homeless kittens from being born.



Chester and Peanut want to know if you've joined our

***Friends of BCR
Facebook Group***



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Chester and Peanut want you to join them! You'll find them in the Friends of BCR Facebook group. Besides the BCR cats, you'll find lots of cat-info and photo sharing - including your cats, too! You'll be among friends so [join our Friends of Blind Cat Rescue Facebook page today!](#)

BONUS FACEBOOK HINT!

Not seeing BCR as much as you used to on Facebook? Not a surprise since Facebook's ever-changing algorithms have made it harder and harder for you to see our posts! [CLICK HERE](#) for some great instructions to make sure you see BCR!



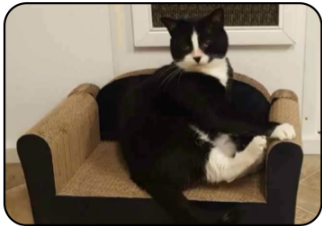
Piper's ready to pounce on holiday planning!

But she can't until she knows she has the right address for you!
Make sure Piper has your latest address ASAP!
[Send your new address to us](#) before summer is over.

We do not share personal information with other organizations or individuals.

BCR Cats
in Action!

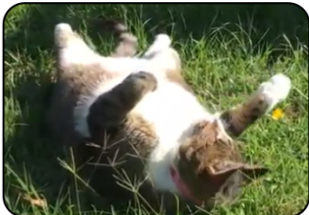
The dedicated BCR staffers spend every day with our very wonderful resident cats, seeing them play, learning about their personalities and finding out what they love! We want you to see what they see so we hope you enjoy these video clips of the BCR cats in action - doing what they do best! To view a video, just click where it says [CLICK HERE](#) or in the photos and sample life with the BCR cats!



The BCR cats LOVE the cardboard couches you send them. How much? Well, [CLICK HERE](#) and take a look!



Escape artist Morris can actually be distracted from watching the door to the lobby. All it takes is a fun new toy. [CLICK HERE](#) to see what has Morris' full attention!



Did you know BCR has an office manager? Sweet Gallie has been helping the staff keep things going in House 2 for several years. Do you know Gallie's story? [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about one of BCR's sweetest residents!

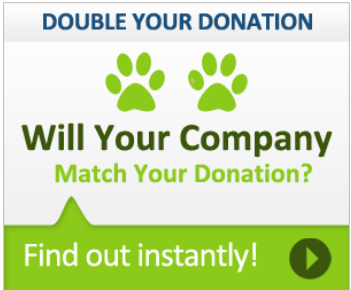


He thanks everyone who has helped by sending food and supplies!

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!](#)



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>



Are you a Fresh Step Litter user? If you don't use your [Fresh Step Litter](#) paw points, please donate them to the cats! You'll help provide shelters with free litter in

exchange for paw points!! We use more than 90 boxes of litter every month! Your points help us get free litter for the cats!! [CLICK HERE](#) for details.



Your old car can help the cats! If you have an old car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or even an airplane? Donate it BCR and help the cats! [Find out how here.](#)



Licorice (and his tummy) are looking everywhere for you!
He hopes to find you at the next Open House on

Saturday, August 17
noon - 4 p.m.

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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Want to change how you receive these emails?
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