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Donate Now!



Is Your Pet Entered in BCR's Pawsome Critter Photo Contest?

[Enter now](#) and your pet could win the Grand Prize - a featured page in the BCR 2020 calendar! The contest runs until August 31 and right now, there's a heated battle for first place! Enter today and get your voting started!

HOW TO ENTER:

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!](#)

Who's Adopting Who?



Sometimes it seems like homeless cats have radar for people. Or maybe there's a cat communication network that puts out the word when there's a cat-friendly face and home to be found!

Maybe it's happened to you already - you look out on your porch and there's a furry face looking back at you. Whether you have no cats or a houseful of them, your next thought is "what do I do now?"

You know you don't want this kitty in harm's way so your instinct is probably to find a secure spot for it to be in while you figure out what to do. The big first question is whether this cat is feral or a stray. How do you figure that out? It may seem obvious - if the cat runs away from you and will not allow human contact - it's likely feral. If that's the case, there are ways to coax ferals in.

You can start by feeding them at what they consider to be a safe distance from the door they came to. Feeding on a regular basis over time will keep the kitty coming to you. Then, when you sense that the kitty feels safe, slowly move the bowl closer to the door. The cat will let you know if this is ok or not. This can take lots of time, patience and commitment.

Once the stray kitty has made it inside the door and is comfortable coming inside, you'll need to keep it isolated for a bit - for its own safety and for your own cats. Never mix a new cat with your own until the new cat has been to see the vet for a thorough workup that includes shots and testing for FIV and feline leukemia. If all checks out ok, then you can slowly begin to introduce the new kitty to your own cats.



Just like bringing a stray or feral cat inside, introductions to new cats should be slow and steady! Cats are territorial and it's critical that the cats who actually live in your house feel secure and unthreatened by the new arrival. One tactic that works is keeping the new kitty in one room and letting them all sniff each other under the door. Another is putting the new kitty in a carrier in the same area as the other cats and letting them experience each other that way. As a cat person, you'll know what's working and what isn't. Use your own experience and intuition!

As with most cats we adopt, we can't be sure of all they've experienced in the past - what traumas they endured or their fears. So, be ready for the unexpected. A cat who "comes indoors" from being a stray or feral, may escape back outside after being a happy indoor cat with you. As with this whole process, patience and commitment are critical.

Saving an at-risk kitty who suddenly appears on your doorstep can be a wonderful thing for people and cats if handled correctly and with love. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the best ways to bring a stray or feral cat in from the cold!

A Helping Hand for "Scaredy" Cats



So, lets say you have a new kitty to introduce to your own cats. How do you start that process if you have kitties who are already nervous and scared?

First, it's good to know what kind of anxiety your cat experiences. Just like people, cats have a couple of different broad categories of anxiety. Gumdrops (left), one of our newer cats, is still learning that she is safe so she's still a little shy and fearful. If your cat is sometimes frightened by loud noises or visitors, that's acute fear. If your cat has constant anxiety that causes behavioral changes, that's called chronic fear. You need to know what kind your cat is feeling.

We know cats love their routines - consistent feeding times, location of litter boxes and food bowls, stable environment, daily playtime and etc. The first sign of trouble is detectable if your cat deviates from his/her routine, the one you see every day. There are several signs to look for: aggression or being very clingy to you; avoiding eye contact, excessive grooming, not eating and litter box problems are among them. Signs that are harder to notice are dilated pupils, ears back and a low body stance and even wool sucking.

When a cat starts doing any of the above, it could indicate anxiety or fear. People can talk about their issues and get help but cats can't talk to us that way so we need to be detectives to figure out what is actually going on. Some cats get anxious if they are with too many other cats for their comfort, if the litter box is unappealing (ie, not cleaned frequently enough or used by too many cats), and even not having a really good place to scratch, like a post or corrugated cardboard. If you're away too much from your cat, that can also cause stress and fear.

Some believe it's all in how you raise a kitten. If you're lucky enough to have one from a very young age, you can make sure the kitten is around people, gets petted a lot so it's used to being touched as well as being around other cats and kittens. These early steps will help kitty be more comfortable with people and other cats into adulthood. Since many cats are adopted or rescued as adults, though, that part of their lives is a mystery. There are things you can do to make your cat happy and stress free.

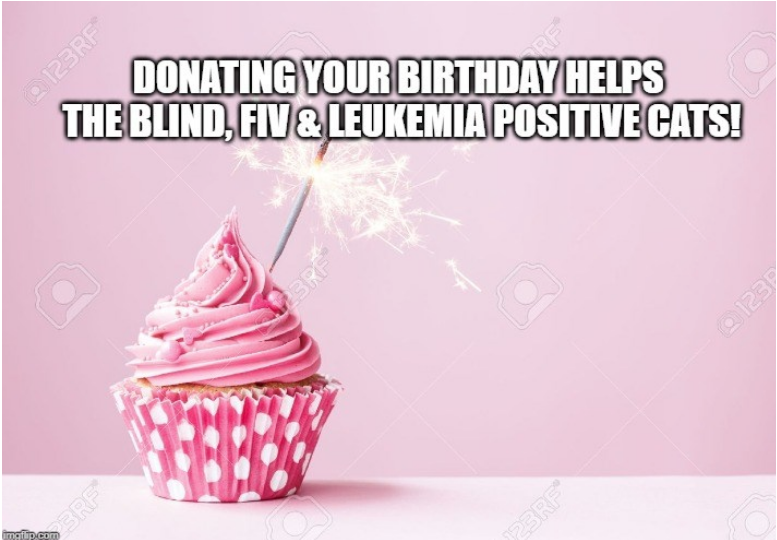
One method is to replace one behavior with a better one and to desensitize the cat to whatever it is that makes it anxious. A great example is loud noises. Desensitizing is a slow, gradual process that helps a cat trust that the loud noise won't hurt them. Getting a cat used to and comfortable with the thing that scares them is another gradual process. A third idea is to reward a cat's good behavior, which also strengthens the bond with the cat's owner. If behavioral changes don't work, there is medication that can help fear and anxiety. For any such medication, call your vet and discuss the specific situation and what you've tried so far to fix it.

As we all know, cats have their own personalities, agendas and ways of communicating with us. Knowing your cat well, being aware of its normal behaviors and reactions and catching problems quickly are the best ways of keeping your cat stress free! [CLICK HERE](#) to read a more detailed look at cat stress and how to handle it.



Nervous Cat Spraying Inside?

Some nervous boy cats may spray in the house. That can be a huge and smelly problem and can stress YOU out. There's a product out that seems to take care of this problem that often sees cats returned to shelters when they won't stop. [CLICK HERE](#) to read all about it - if you order, BCR gets a donation from the sale!



Birthday Fun(ds) for the Cats!

Your special day should be totally fun for you. By hosting a Facebook birthday fundraiser, you're making it fun - and helpful - for the BCR cats, too! 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!



Sponsor Spotlight:

Nancy Schodowski



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 adopted Bear and Dakota from Sammy's Hope at the Edison Animal Shelter in New Jersey. After adopting my two boys I became a volunteer and helped with the cats. When I moved to North Carolina, a friend from Sammy's Hope had a post on her page from Blind Cat Rescue & Sanctuary and I noticed that it was in North Carolina and not that far from me, so I became very interested. I was looking to volunteer at a shelter with cats again and continued to read up about BCR. I decided that BCR would be my shelter of choice. Since I didn't have internet I decided to go there and see what it was like and have been going ever since.

Have you visited and, if so, what did you enjoy most? What surprised you most?
 September 3, 2014, was my first of many, many visits to volunteer, I tried to go two or three times a week (I was unemployed at the time). My first time there I got lost but now could find it in my sleep. I walked into House 1 and there in the lobby was Mickey, who immediately ran over to me, reached up for me to pick him up and he hugged me! I was hooked right away and in love. I can tell you from experience that the staff and volunteers work very hard to keep it clean for all the fur babies, but the reward you get when done is to spend the rest of the day with all the love from the kitty's. I really enjoyed meeting Alana and the staff and admire the hard work they all do so that the fur babies can live like kings and queens. I am amazed every time I go how sweet, loving, and friendly all the cats are. I've also learned a lot about blind, FeLv and FIV cats through BCR. The biggest surprise was the July 2015 Open House and first Tattoo fundraiser reveal that I was a part of. Alana pulled me aside and asked if I would like to be on the Board of Directors. Of course, I was extremely honored and said YES jumping up & down. Alana's comment to me was "Anyone willing to tattoo BCR's logo on their body deserves a place on the board."

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

I get very excited every time I go. I am emotionally attached to every single cat. Let me just tell you that they know I love them. Each one has their own personality - some people just don't understand cats. My sweet therapist Carrot, who passed away June 27, 2019, knew how to comfort me when I was sad and he did it for me many times, I really miss him as I miss so many that have gone to the Rainbow Bridge. I love all cats, but black cats have a special spot in my heart so I created "My Black Cat Gang." Stevie was the leader of the gang until he passed away and Jamie, the vampurr, became the new leader.

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

I was part of Team Nancy that helped bring sweet baby girl Emma to BCR. I knew her as a tiny kitten at the Edison Animal Shelter and when I moved to NC she had been adopted I was so happy for her. Then she tested positive for FeLv and was returned. There was new management in charge of the shelter and she was kept in the back. My friend from the shelter, Nancy, spent lots of time with her and was afraid that she would be put down so she contacted me knowing about BCR through me. I told her to contact Alana and mention my name. Alana let her know there was room for Emma to become a BCR resident, the other Nancy drove from NJ to VA and I drove from NC to VA to pick her up and bring her to BCR. So, with all that being said I sponsored her. Sweet Emma passed 12-23-15 from Felv but Team Nancy knew she had a great life. Emma's best friend was my brat Pepper, who was blind and Felv+ so I then sponsored him. Unfortunately, FeLv got him, too, and sadly he passed away 10-23-16. I was going to sponsor a blind cat knowing how attached I get - and cancer sucks - but when I went into Emma and Pepper's room (House 2, Room 2) and sat on the patio crying, all the cats in that room came to comfort me. Believe it or not - if you know her this is amazing - Liza even came to me and let me pet her, so don't let anyone tell you cats don't have feelings. Stitch (pictured with me) jumped in my lap, gave me head bonks and starting making biscuits, so guess what - he picked me and I now sponsor Stitch, which, by the way is my all-time favorite Disney character.

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

I can't just pick just one thing to tell people about BCR because there are so many great things to tell. Disney World used to be my "Happy Place" but now BCR has taken its place. Every time I meet someone new and find out they are cat people, I just can't stop talking about BCR - It's so clean you can eat off the floors! The cats are sweet. Of course, I also use BCR's words "Blind cats don't know they're blind, they know they're cats." I hand out magnets and ask people to like the Facebook page, to go to the website to learn more about how they can donate, sponsor, do the daily clicks for free, etc. I also tell them that the fur babies are safe and very well cared for. Everyone I speak to tells me they can tell I am very passionate about BCR.

The SCOOP

Did you know?



Yes, we do love them! **Are you one of our eBay sellers?** Those wonderful amazing folks who donate a portion of their sales proceeds to support the cats?

If you are please let us know! We want to say thank you by showcasing your ebay site and you! If you're a seller, [please contact us](#) so we can formally and visibly thank you for all you do for the BCR cats.



Can Cats Brush Themselves? You bet!

You don't have to buy a cat brush for your baby - you can make one! Attach a brush to a piece of wood (like in the photo) and your cat will go to town rubbing against it - and getting rid of loose fur at the same time! You'll find lots of DIY cat projects like this one [on our Pinterest page](#).



I Want That!

Looking for some BCR-wear? Ready for that *Snickers for President* shirt? How about a cool phone cover that tells everyone you're a BCR fan? You can get them any time at our Teespring shop! [CLICK HERE](#) to see all what's available! Hint: Christmas is coming!

Andrew and Bear you've joined our

Friends of BCR Facebook Group



You can be best buddies with Andrew and Bear, too, by joining the Friends of BCR Facebook group! You'll see plenty of BCR cats, cat care info and tip and fun. Oh, and we want to see YOUR cats, too! [Join our Friends of Blind Cat Rescue Facebook page today!](#)

BONUS FACEBOOK HINT!
We get asked all the time why people aren't seeing BCR in their Facebook feeds. Well, there's a reason! Facebook's algorithm changes have made it harder and harder for you to see our posts! [CLICK HERE](#) for some great instructions to make sure you see the BCR cats!



Emily is resting now because the holidays are coming and she wants to be ready!!
Does Emily have your latest address? If not, please email it to her ASAP!
[Send your new address to us](#) because fall is just around the corner.

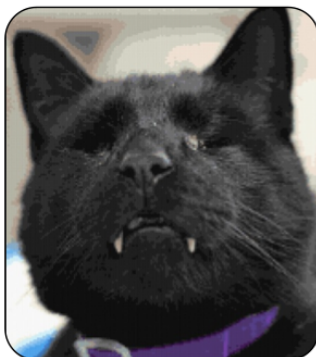
We do not share personal information with other organizations or individuals.

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 Mickey Mystery! What spooks a playful and brave guy like Mickey? [CLICK HERE](#) to find out!



Jamie learns to climb! This vintage video of our sweet Vampurr as a little guy shows just how he learned to climb! [CLICK HERE](#) to see young Jamie!




Charity is the queen of the upper body workout! She'll work out those front legs for a loooong time. [CLICK HERE](#) to check out her moves.



Snicker wants everyone to know that this is one month's worth of food for him and his fellow BCR cats! The need for food and supplies is constant and he thanks everyone who has generously donated from [the BCR wish list](#)!


Helping the cats is EZ!




	
NEW 2 Tins (6) YEOWWWW USA Organic Catnip Sardine \$30.00	NEW 4 Tins (12) YEOWWWW USA Organic Catnip Sardine \$60.00
	
New HOT NEON PINK Fleece Dog Cat Pet Carrier Crate \$25.00	New Pink Camo #2 Fleece Dog Cat Pet Carrier Crate Bed \$25.00

We LOVE our ebay sellers! 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!](#)

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION



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

You can **Donate**
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It doesn't cost
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Want!

Support Blind Cat Rescue when you shop
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3410498>



You shop. Amazon gives.

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.

Don't let your car ruin your next beach day, instead...**DONATE IT!**

Donate your vehicle today

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.](#)



Honey says: Lean in really close! I have something to share with you!
Come see me at our Open House this weekend!

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!

