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Donate Now!





Dot REALLY wants you to win some cool cat stuff in the BCR Raffle!

In two short weeks it will be drawing time! Have you entered yet? [Enter now](#) and you could win one [of these great prizes and more](#):



Each [raffle entry you purchase](#) helps the BCR cats so please don't wait.

Every entry you buy is a chance to win!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a full list of prizes! For more information on any prize, just click the link next to it. Prizes will be awarded in the order shown on the page and are "luck of the draw."

Winning numbers drawn are selected by a random number generator. [Please read the RULES for details.](#)

Raffle entries are \$10 each and you get a bonus free 5th entry if you purchase 4 for \$40!

(Your free bonus entry will NOT show up in your purchase cart - we'll add it to your numbers and you'll get it when your tickets are mailed to you. [CLICK HERE to enter today!](#))

**Raffle prize drawings will be
LIVE at 2 p.m. during Open House
on
Saturday, November 16, and you can watch on
Facebook or YouTube!**

What is FIV and What Does it Mean for my Cat?



BCR is home to quite a few cats who have tested positive for [feline immunodeficiency virus \(FIV\)](#), like Sargent, Gilligan, Mack, Bear, Seven and Rusty, to name a few. If you've watched any of [BCR's 24-hour cameras](#), live tours or chats & boxes, you know that FIV+ cats live happy lives and play just like other cats do. So why do so many states have laws that condemn these cats and cause them to be euthanized right away in shelters? It's because they are considered unadoptable and too risky to place. Are they really?

Let's first define what it is and how cats get it. FIV attacks a cat's immune system, making it vulnerable to lots of other very common infections. It's most often spread by deep, bloody biting during cat fights involving an infected un-neutered male cat who has to fight for food or resources. Fixed, exclusively indoor cats are much less likely to get FIV.

Statistics say that 1.5 to 3% of cats in the US are infected with FIV, which is carried in a cat's saliva. Knowing that deep bites from infected male cats spreads FIV helps debunk several myths that never seem to go away. It's true that FIV:

- * does not transfer in the air.
- * cannot be spread to humans.
- * can't be spread from cat to cat through human petting.
- * can't be transferred through shared food, water bowls or litter boxes.
- * cannot be transmitted to dogs.

In rare cases, a positive mother cat can give it to her kittens when they nurse but studies have shown that kittens exposed this way tend not to become infected. FIV can also be spread through sex if a male cat deeply bites the female during intercourse.

The happy reality is that FIV+ cats can live long and happy lives. They will, however, be more susceptible to other common viruses and bacteria that could cause severe illness. Some FIV+ cats may get recurring illnesses over their lives and could be prone to cancer or other serious blood diseases.

In addition, studies now prove that [FIV+ cats can live happily with cats who are not positive for the virus](#). While some vets are up to date on this research, sadly, others have not kept up and have limited experience with FIV+ cats, which can lead them to give unrealistic advice. At BCR, we've had positive and negative cats live together for eight years and never had a negative become positive. BCR cats are tested for FIV every year.

As with many things that impact cats, FIV is diagnosed with a blood test your vet can give your cat. The elisa, or snap test, is not always 100% reliable. Some of the BCR cats have had false positive tests using this method. Much more accurate is the Western Blot test. Getting this test done will establish whether or not your cat has FIV and, if so, you'll know to keep a close eye on your cat's condition and health.

If you think your cat might be at risk and you haven't gotten a blood test yet, the signs to look for include

- * slowly progressing weight loss
- * gingivitis
- * stomatitis
- * recurring infections of the skin, eyes, urinary tract and respiratory tract
- * persistent diarrhea
- * seizures
- * behavior changes
- * neurological disorders

Looking at BCR's FIV+ cats, many of whom have reached senior status, it's clear that FIV should not be a death sentence for any cat. We hope that, as more and more people understand how it is spread and its effects on cats, shelters will start to understand, too, and give these very deserving cats a chance.

FIV Myths Debunked

Myth #1

The FIV test is reliable.

Fact: 20% of "positive results" are test errors. The error rate for kittens is even higher. Thousands of cats and kittens are killed daily because of test errors!

Myth #2

The FIV test shows the existence of the FIV virus.

Fact: It measures nothing but antibodies, microscopic organisms that fight the virus.

Myth #3

Kittens that test positive for FIV will *always* test positive for FIV.

Fact: "... infected mothers rarely, if ever, pass the infection to their kittens," according to Dr. Niels C. Peterson, the first to isolate FIV in 1986 and Director, Center for Companion Animal Health, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Fact: "Kittens born to FIV positive mothers are at low risk for infection, although they may initially test positive due to the presence of maternal antibodies."
"Kittens should be re-tested at 6 to 8 months as most will then test negative because the maternal antibodies will have seroreverted."
-Korel Shelter Medicine Program, UC Davis Veterinary Medicine.

Copyright 2012 FIV Cat Rescue

Don't Believe Everything You Hear!



Harley

Myth #4

Cats who have the virus inevitably develop the disease and die from it.

Fact: 90% of cats who actually have the actual FIV virus "will lead completely normal lives." And die from the same causes that any other cat might die from.

Myth #5

FIV+ cats will lead short, miserable lives.

Fact: FIV+ cats can and DO live long, healthy lives, if given a chance. Most live as long as their indoor counterparts and much longer than outdoor cats. Many live well into old age without symptoms.

Myth #6

The FIV virus is a serious threat to other animals because it can be transmitted by casual contact.

Fact: Modern medical research, as well as mounting empirical evidence, indicates that transmission requires serious physical interaction.

"Deep bite wounds are, by far, the primary mode of the virus' transmission."
-Julie Levy, DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Director, Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program

Fact: The virus can only live a few seconds outside the body, so sharing food and water bowls is not an issue.

FIV+ cats in multiple cat homes do not appear to spread the disease, as long as all parties are not combative. FIV Cat Rescue has had a group of 16 mixed cats (FIV positive and negative) living together for 6 years. No FIV- cat has ever become FIV+.

"The primary mode of transmission is through bite wounds. Casual, non-aggressive contact does not appear to be an efficient route of spreading FIV; as a result, cats in households with stable social structures where housemates do not fight are at little risk for acquiring FIV infections."
-Cornell University

Mating is an unknown, but possible disease vector. But not relevant if you have followed the first "rule": get your cat(s) neutered.

FIV Cat Rescue
P.O. Box 1758
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Tel: 707-964-5100
Fax: 707-964-6100
email: FIVCat@gmail.com
website: FIVCatRescue.org

Contest Updates

Thank you so much to everyone who votes and shares every day!

We have one contest going on now and we need YOU to help the cats win!



All-Star Slots Contest



We're in First Place but just by a whisker so please keep sharing!
The prize is \$5,000!

Help us keep the lead!

[CLICK HERE](#) for a link to the contest or use this link:

<https://www.allstarslots.com/competitions/win-the-jackpot-2019>

Contest ends on November 13.

Thank you to everyone in the BCR Online Army for voting and sharing every day for the cats!



Celebrate your birthday by helping the BCR cats! Each Facebook birthday fundraiser buys the cats' food, medicines, supplies and even gets them vet visits! Your fundraisers make it possible for them to have the healthy and happy life they deserve.

It's easy to set up - [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 donated their birthday to BCR this year!



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 in the Sponsor Spotlight? [Email us and let us know!](#)

How did you first learn about BCR?

I first learned about BCR in the summer of 2016. I was on Facebook and I saw a post that said “come join the kitties at 3 pm for a tour of house 2” so I clicked on it and started watching. I remember that it was Simba Day and I watch the whole tour. After that, I couldn’t wait until the next day at 3pm so I could watch again! When I did, I discovered that there was actually another whole building and also tours at noon! So, I watched again and it was Jamie Day! The more kitties I saw the more I fell in love. After that, I wanted to know everything about Blind Cat Rescue and Sanctuary so I read all the kitties’ stories with a box of tissues handy! Every day I watched and learned more and more.

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

I have been to BCR seven times. The thing that surprised me the most is how clean it is there and that there is no smell at all. When they finish cleaning, you could eat off the floor! I couldn’t wait to meet Alana Miller and shake her hand. She is an amazing lady and the staff is awesome.



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

I sponsor Jamie and Richey. It was very hard to pick a cat because I love all the kitties so much. I had a few soft spots for Jamie. When I wanted to sponsor another cat, I just couldn’t pick one! So, I put all the kitties’ names in a cup and let my husband pick one out - and he picked Richey.



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

I love staying at the guest house because it’s close to the kitties. And I love cleaning and just being with them every minute I can.



The thing I would say about BCR is that it's kitty heaven! Being with the kitties takes away any pain and worries I have. I'm just in heaven.

The SCOOP

Did you know?



BCR #67324



BCR #3859

Fall brings more great ways to help the cats:

NC State Employees Combined Campaign and Federal Combined Campaign

Federal and NC state employees can easily help the BCR cats through annual combined giving campaigns! The NC State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) is open to state, county, municipal and university employees, who can easily participate through a payroll deduction. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the SECC and how it works. If you are participating in the SECC online, you can [select BCR as one of your charities](#). If you're participating using the printed catalog, our charity number is #3859. If you don't see us there, please [email us](#).

All federal employees and military personnel can do the same via the Federal Combined Campaign (CFC), which launches this month. If you're participating online, [visit the CFC website](#), search for BCR and then add us to your charity pledge basket! You'll also find BCR in the printed catalog - our charity number is #67324.

Thank you for helping the cats through this year's combined campaigns!



SO YOU LOVE CATS SO DO WE!

Very Special Holiday Offer From soyoulovecats.com!

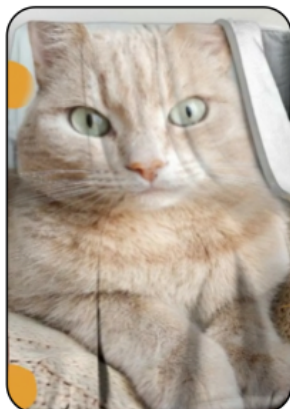
We love BCR and so does soyoulovecats.com! This company offers very special gifts for true cat lovers! Not only that, soyoulovecats wants to raise \$10,000 to support the BCR cats through purchases made with a [special offer just for the BCR family](#).

Two very special items regularly priced at \$125 are offered to **YOU** right now for just \$99 - and, for each purchase of this special sale, soyoulovecats.com will give \$20 back to BCR!



BCR's special duo of items includes:

- your very own pair of cat-covered canvass deck shoes with BCR's familiar logo, and
- a toasty warm blanket personalized by you with a photo of your own cat or your favorite BCR cat!



Imagine your favorite kitty keeping you warm all winter long!

[CLICK HERE](#) to take advantage of this amazing offer now before the holiday rush! Whether you get a package for yourself, a family member or a good friend, this gift set is absolutely purrrrr-fect for cat lovers!

We thank soyoulovecats.com for supporting BCR!



Heard about ResQwalk?

Are you a regular runner, walker or biker? You can get your daily exercise, track your route and help the BCR cats at the same time!

Sponsored by [Best Friends](#), ResQwalk is a free app you can put on any phone.



When you download it from your app store, choose BCR as your charity of choice, and when you're ready to go, just click Start! You'll help raise funds for BCR while you stay healthy.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about ResQwalk!

Friends of BCR Facebook Group



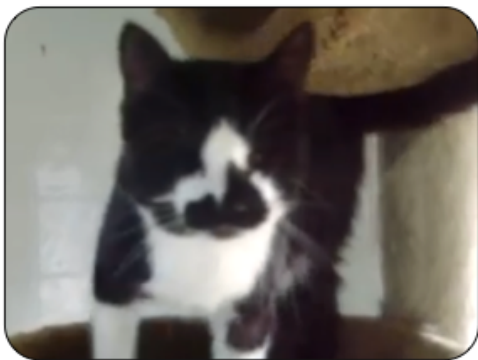
Sweet Gina hopes you've joined the Friends of BCR Facebook group! Gina's there, as are the other beautiful BCR cats! You can connect with your fellow cat fans, share stories and photos and lots of useful cat info! [Join our Friends of Blind Cat Rescue Facebook page today!](#)

BONUS FACEBOOK HINT!

Ever wonder why you don't see BCR in your Facebook feed? 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!

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!*



Oreo is a loving boy who dearly loves to spend time in his favorite banana bed. He's been super cute since he got to BCR! [CLICK HERE](#) to see this throwback video of Oreo when he first arrived!



While we're in throwback mode, nothing is cuter than baby **Poppy**! [CLICK HERE](#) to see this spunky little girl take over!



We have to share one of our favorite videos of all time - blind cats birdwatching. That's right, birdwatching! Just another way that blind cats act like seeing cats! [CLICK HERE](#) to see **Pixie, Lisa, Sandy, Smudge, Mickey** and **Richey** "keep an eye" on a bird flying overhead!



Gallie loves lots of boxes!

Please help re-stock the BCR pantry so she has more to climb on!

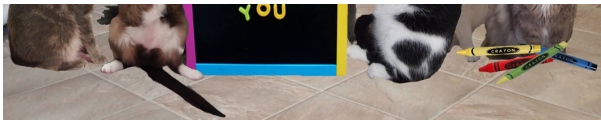
BCR always needs food and supplies and Gallie thanks everyone
who has generously donated from [the BCR wish list](#)!

Helping the cats is EZ!



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! Have a wedding or a baby shower coming up? [Try eBay!](#)


Are You an ebay Seller who supports BCR?




[email us](#) and we'll be in touch with you!

Please let us know so we can thank you and shine some light on your specialebay auction page! [Just](#)

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION



Will Your Company
Match Your Donation?

Find out instantly! 

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

You can **Donate** just by **Shopping!**



It doesn't cost anything extra.

Want!

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

amazonsmile
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.



Wonder what to do with your old car? Donate it



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



Check out our very own cat-tastic dedicated site, [BCR on YouTube](#) - the home channel for the latest kitty videos, helpful cat-care hints, shelter tours and boxes sessions and even the history of BCR and its resident cats.



For all things cats - [follow BCR on Pinterest](#)! From DIY cat projects to articles and stories on cat health to cat tattoos and just fun photos, you'll find it all here!



The BCR cats are waiting for smiles and snuggles from YOU!

Join them all at the next Gina **Open House**

Saturday, November 16

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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