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Cats and the Common Cold?



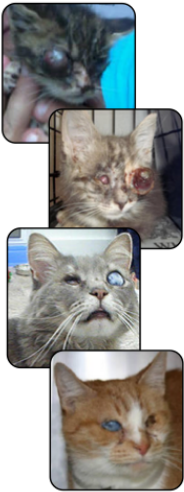
It's THAT time of year again - the one that brings coughs, colds and runny noses! This is true for us humans but what does a runny nose mean for your cat? Are they seasonal for them, too? Is it normal? Do they have allergies?

Vets will tell you that runny noses in cats is NOT normal. They can be caused by lots of different things, including allergies or, more likely, infections. The top two causes of upper respiratory infections (URI) in cats are the rhinotracheitis virus and calicivirus. Feline viral rhinotracheitis is an upper respiratory or pulmonary infection of cats caused by Felid alphaherpesvirus 1, of the family Herpesviridae.

Other causes of a runny nose might be a nasal tumor or even a abscessed tooth. For these conditions you might notice swelling or see discharge only coming from one side of the cat's nose.

So, if a URI is the usual cause for runny noses, how do you watch out for it? If you observe any of these things in your cat, please get to your vet

immediately: clear discharge coming from your cat's nose; yellow or green looking nasal discharge; sneezing; lethargy; appetite loss; inflamed eyes; fever; or a hoarse or quiet meow.



The most dangerous development of a URI is a corneal ulcer, which is related to the herpesvirus. From the BCR cats, you know that an untreated URI can damage a cat's eyes to the point where they have to be removed (like Peanut, Charity, Misty and Gina, who arrived at BCR in this condition and we were able to treat them.) If a cat has the calicivirus infection, they may also get mouth and tongue ulcers, which are very painful and can cause a cat to drool and to stop eating.

When you get your cat to the vet and a URI as been diagnosed, your cat may be treated with antibiotics and, just like humans, he'll probably recover in anywhere from five to 14 days. Really severe cases might require additional treatments like eye drops or ointments for corneal ulcers or an appetite stimulant to encourage your cat to eat.

There is a vaccine for cats that impacts several viruses: the FVRCP (for feline viral rhinotracheitis, calici virus and panleukopenia). The panleukopenia virus causes a severe viral diarrhea. As with all regular vaccines, it's very important to keep them up to date.

Once a cat gets a URI, they carry the virus the rest of their lives. Usually it stays dormant but can flare up if a cat goes through some stress that weakens his immune system. Some cats never get another one and some get one every year. Every cat is different.

Bottom line - and you've heard this before - keep a close eye on your cat's health and if you see any signs or are the slightest bit concerned that your cat may be getting a URI, go to the vet immediately. That's the best way to beat a URI before it does long-term harm to your cat. Be proactive!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more on URIs.
[CLICK HERE](#) for specifics on kitty colds.

What's Maggie Really Saying?
Your cat's body language tells a story.



You're great at keeping an eye on your cat for any health changes, but are you missing some other important messages your cat is sending you?

We look at them and see a calm exterior but there are many other subtle ways they're sending you a message!

Cats are masters at body language and everything from purring to blinking eyes carries a message from your cat to you. Here is an excerpt from a great article by petcoach.co to help you get the message!

"Purring - your cat is telling you - "please don't stop what you're doing" or "please don't go away." Sometimes, purring can also indicate that your cat is scared, sick, or injured, and he wants you to stick around to provide care. In this way, purring is a comfort-seeking behavior.

Meowing - Believe it or not, cats use meowing as a method of communicating only with humans. Among cats there is no universal cat language that uses a variety of meows to chat. Cats only meow because they have learned that it is the best way to communicate with their humans. That said, meows are all-purpose sounds, and various meows mean different things coming from individual cats as they have learned what works best to communicate with their owners. So when it comes to meowing, you're on your own to determine exactly what your cat is trying to tell you.

Tail Posture - In addition to sounds, cats also communicate fluently through body language. Like dogs, cats frequently use their tails to tell us how they feel. An erect tail with relaxed fur indicates a happy cat, whereas the same posture with upright fur is feeling angry or scared. A low, tucked tail means your cat is feeling anxious or insecure, and a thrashing tail means your cat is agitated. Be on the lookout for these signals to determine how your cat is feeling.

Blinking - Look for long, slow blinks when you're with your cat. If you notice your cat doing this, it means he is totally comfortable around you! Cats do this with other cats because in the feline world, closing one's eyes in front of another is a sign of trust. Similarly, cats use slow blinking as a gesture of acceptance toward their owners. To return the compliment, try blinking slowly back at your cat!

The "Halloween Pose" - We all know the classic cat Halloween pose: arched back, high tail, and upright hairs. This is your cat's way of saying "BACK OFF" when it feels threatened by you or anything else. Even if you're attempting to comfort your kitty, it's best to follow his wishes and leave him alone when he asks you to.

Rubbing Against You - Rubbing against your legs is your cat's way of marking you as his territory, but it can also be interpreted as your cat showing you he loves you. When you come home from a long day at work, rubbing against you is your cat's way of saying "I'm so glad to see you!" or "I've missed you!" Studies of feral cats show that cats do this within their own species as well, rubbing up against each other, specifically after being separated for a period of time. In addition to claiming you as his own, rubbing is the equivalent of your cat trying to give you a hug."

Now you have a dictionary of body language cat-speak! Let the conversations begin!



Every Facebook birthday fundraiser helps keep the cats fed, on the medicines they need and even gets them vet visits! Your fundraisers make it possible for them to have the healthy and happy life they deserve.

Set up is 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!

*Make 2020 the year you donate your birthday
to help the cats!*



Sponsor Spotlight:

Jen Keppers



The BCR family is full of wonderful people who truly love the cats and we want you to meet them!


Each BCR cat sponsor is given a set of questions to answer and asked to send along their favorite photos of their sponsor cat.

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

How did you first learn about BCR?
I believe I simply stumbled across their page on Facebook. After visiting the website, reading the kitties' individual rescue stories, and seeing their adorable photos, I became hooked!

Have you visited and, if so, what did you enjoy most? What surprised you most?
No, I have not yet visited.

If you haven't yet visited, what are you most excited about when you do?
Of course, I am most excited to meet sweet Gina! I also look forward to visiting all the kitties as well as meeting the BCR staff.

What cat or cats do you sponsor? Why did you choose them?
I sponsor Gina because I fell in love with her at first sight. I read her horror story of how she was dumped at a kill shelter in NYC with painful eyes, rotten teeth, and not even spayed - no living creature should ever have to endure neglect like she did. The photo of her before her surgery made me cry. Her after surgery photos revealed a happy little Gina! What a difference some TLC and medical attention can make. Now I love watching her play and nap without a care in the world, just as life should be for all kitties.

If you could tell people one thing about BCR, what would it be?
I would tell people that the BCR kitties are extremely fortunate to have been rescued, but what a sad world we live in where rescues like BCR must exist to step in and save little innocent lives when people fail to do so. I routinely inform people that pet ownership is a privilege, not a right, and pets are for life - not just until they are no longer convenient. Also, if you love your pets, spay or neuter them!

The SCOOP

Did you know?

More Kitties to ❤️!



[Polly](#) is about 11 years old and came to BCR from a shelter in S.C. They adopted Polly out to what they hoped was her forever home. Sadly, more than a decade later Polly came back as a stray cat. The original microchip worked and they reached out to Polly's adopting family who claimed they had given her away seven years earlier to people they didn't know. A kind person found her as a stray and tried to care for her since Polly was sick. She ended up taking her back to the shelter, though, where they did all they could for Polly, treating her and placing her in a loving foster home where she stayed for 10 months. The foster was ending and suggested the shelter reach out to BCR because poor Polly had been passed around enough in her 11 years of life. These caring people are also her sponsors. Stories like Polly's are why BCR is a sanctuary. She is finally in her forever home. [CLICK HERE](#) if you'd like to sponsor Polly.

These mew-comers are still looking for sponsors, too!
[Marshmallow](#), [Maria](#), [Sadie](#), [Helen](#)



Find your pals on the Friends of BCR Page!



Kindred spirits, pals, cat lovers - all can be found in the Friends of BCR Facebook group! It's not just the BCR cats - it's YOU, too! Chat with fellow cat fans, share stories and photos and find 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!



Meet the cat who has been at BCR the longest:
Sweet Angel - who lives up to her name every day!
This girl is about 17 now and loves her life at BCR.

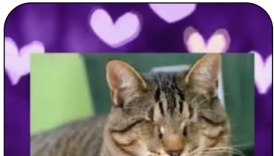


BCR Cats in Action!

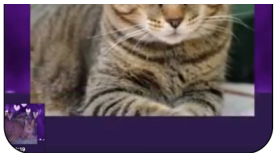
*The dedicated BCR staffers spend every day with our very wonderful resident cats, seeing them play, learning about their personalities and finding out what they love! We want you to see what they see so we hope you enjoy these video clips of the BCR cats in action - doing what they do best! To view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



Some of the BCR cats are champion wheel runners. But can two be on the wheel at the same time? [CLICK HERE](#) to see Charity and Pixie test this theory!



He's such a sweet boy - and we should celebrate him! [CLICK HERE](#) to experience Yoshi the Love Bug and see why everyone loves him back!



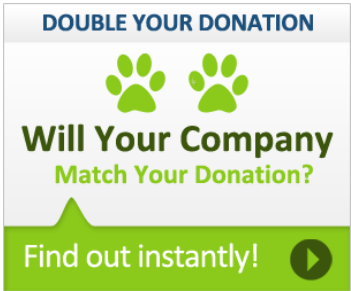
This boy has a reputation as a troublemaker! He's super lovable, though, and everyone enjoys Jellybean's mischief. [CLICK HERE](#) to see him take on the ball pit!

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?
Please let us know so we can thank you and shine some light on your special ebay auction page! [Just email us](#) and we'll be in touch with you!



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

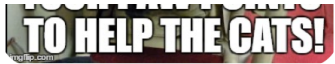


When you shop online, please [use Amazon Smile](#) and pick Blind Cat Rescue as your charity. With every purchase, their foundation donates to BCR. There is no charge to you!

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.



Are you an Alexa user? Did you know that you can **make charitable donations using Alexa**? It's true. It's very easy and secure! All you have to say is: Alexa, make a donation to Blind Cat Rescue! She'll take it from there. Need more information on how this works? [CLICK HERE](#).



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](#).



Are you a runner, walker or biker? You can get your daily exercise, track your route and help the BCR cats at the same time! Sponsored by [BestFriends](#), ResQwalk is a free app you can put on any phone.



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!



Mickey will greet you with open arms at the next BCR Open House!

Plan a visit to Mickey and all the cats on
Saturday, February 15
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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