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Cats Care...Really, They Do!

We all know how loving cats are and we feel bonded to our cats every day. But, there are a lot of people out there who still think cats are aloof and really only need us as staff. It doesn't help that cat behavior is always compared with dog behavior, which is very different and more open. Dogs are more easily trained and respond to the "alpha" dog or person in their life a specific way. Cats don't go that route - but that doesn't mean they aren't responding to you! So, to help debunk this theory, it's time to share some scientific data!

Scientists at the University of Oregon did a study to test whether or not cats bond with their people. Led by researcher Kristyn Vitale, of Oregon State's Human-Animal Interaction Lab, this study wanted to see how cats in a new or strange environment bonded with people in two ways, with a "secure attachment" or an "insecure attachment." They landed on these two specific types of attachments from dog studies that watched how dogs in a strange environment acted with their people. If they had a "secure attachment" to a human, the dogs relaxed and explored their surroundings. Dogs with an "insecure attachment" to a human kept on being stressed by either being clingy or avoiding the human.

Ms. Vitale's research looked at those two types of attachments in cats, 79 kittens between three and eight months old and 38 adult cats. All the kittens were tested twice, once at the start of the study and again after 39 of them had six weeks of socialization. The adult cats were tested once.

In the study, each kitten or cat spent two minutes in a room with their owner. Then, the owners left the room for two minutes. Ms. Vitale and her team wanted to see exactly how each cat reacted when the owners came back in the room and sat on the floor with them. The whole study was filmed so the researchers could carefully analyze the cats' behavior. We'd sure love to see that!

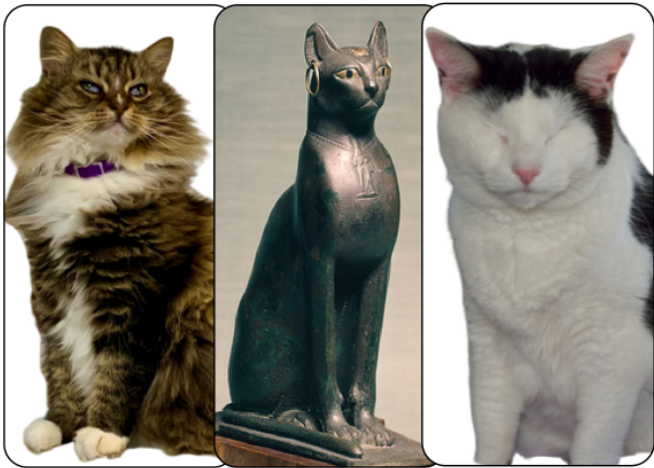
It will come as no surprise to any BCR fan that a majority of the kittens, 64.3 percent, showed themselves to have a "secure attachment" with their human. Because all cats are different, it also won't surprise any BCR fan to know that the other third of the kittens didn't react the same way - 35.7 percent showed an "insecure attachment." Maybe the biggest takeaway from this study is that the six weeks of socialization of the 39 kittens really didn't have an impact on their level of attachment to their humans. So, if you get a kitten early and socialize it right away, it will likely stay bonded to you.

If you're wondering how the adult cats did, their percentages were almost the same as the kittens - 65.8 percent had a "secure attachment" and 34.2 percent had an "insecure attachment." Those percentages are similar to those gathered in a bonding study done with children. The results also show that the cats' "secure attachment" rate is actually a little HIGHER than a similar study done with dogs!

Another interesting aspect of this research is the question of what causes an animal to attach themselves to a human in the first place? Ms. Vitale and her team believe that it has a lot to do with human domestication of animals. Because humans provide a pet animal's food and shelter, that animal won't necessarily "grow up." Adult feral cats have to secure their own food wherever they can get it as well as a find safe and warm shelter - "adulthood" for cats. Pet cats and dogs don't have to do that and can see their human as a parent/provider and form a bond. We truly are their parents.

Cat lovers can rejoice that this study and others like it will help dispel that never-ending myth that cats only need us humans as staff!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about this study.



Cattitude - And Where it Might Have Come From!

Since we're scientifically debunking generally accepted cat myths. Here's another one from ancient Egypt, where cats got their first taste of cattitude!

It's clear the Egyptians truly appreciated cats. DNA evidence points to cats first self-domesticating in the region of Egypt about 10,000 years ago. From that introduction, probably as rodent prevention for their farmers, the relationship between Egyptians and cats evolved to cats becoming divine! There was even an Egyptian goddess, Bastet, who took the form of a cat. There's a great meme going around Facebook that says cats have not forgotten that fact!

The Egyptian goddess Bastet represented fertility and domesticity, along with music, dance and pleasure. Pretty clear why the Egyptians made the connection between Bastet and their cats. They believed cats carried a bit of Bastet in them so they were protected and even venerated. Hundreds of thousands of cat mummies have been found in Egypt, which points to their value to that culture. Many household pet cats were mummified and buried with their owners. Anyone who killed a cat, even by accident, could be executed.

So when your cat sits regally in the sunshine for you to admire him - know there's a history for that! Your cat remembers!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Egyptians and cats.



This is your year! Birthdays are fun but did you know they can also do something really good for the BCR cats? You can have a big impact on their lives for free. Creating a Facebook birthday fundraiser is easy and costs you nothing.

Everyone who does a Facebook birthday fundraiser for the cats helps get them the food they need, the medicines they take and even gets them regular health and dental vet visits! You 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:

Stacy Smith



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?

In 2015, while recovering from surgery, I got a Roku and discovered the (now discontinued) BCR channel. Watching the cats was great therapy! [Note: You can watch the cats 24 hours a day now with our Zmodo MeShare cameras! [CLICK HERE](#) to get started!]

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

I've visited twice. Even when you know a lot about certain cats' personalities from watching them on tour, they still manage to surprise you. You know how Sandy meows to announce he's "caught" a toy? The last time I was there, Angel did it too, very loudly! I'd never heard a peep out of her before, and it was surprising

what a big voice she has. I also loved how peaceful it was sitting out on the catios with the cats in nice weather, listening to the birds. Finally, seeing just how hard the staff work to make sure the cats get their wonderful BCR care was very impressive.



What cat or cats do you sponsor? Why did you choose them?
I currently sponsor Wednesday. I love fluffy cats! In the past I sponsored Andy, Tommy, and Carley, who have all crossed the Rainbow Bridge. It's so hard when they leave, but it helps to know that BCR gave them their best possible lives during the time they were there.

If you could tell people one thing about BCR, what would it be?
Support BCR! It's one of the most transparent nonprofits I've seen, and you can be confident that your support is helping their blind, FIV, and FeLV cats to have the security, love, and care they need.

Sponsoring, sustaining, donating Fresh Step Paw Points, doing the free daily clicks and quizzes, volunteering, sharing on social media, and just getting the word out all help to support BCR. The kitties will thank you!

The SCOOP

Did you know?

It's college basketball season and hoops are in full swing.
Did you know BCR has its own ACC - Atlantic Coast Cats!
These furry faces all hail from the great states of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia!



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!



BCR has two cats who are both blind and deaf. It's all there in black and white - [Merlin](#) and [Penny](#)! Two sweeter cats you won't find anywhere.



Is this the year you're finally going to get rid of your old clunker car?

If so, don't send it to the junk yard - it can STILL be useful. Donate it to help the cats! BCR partners with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Service), a trusted charity that works with many non-profits to sell old cars and return the proceeds to the non-profits.

They make it very easy - for you it's a quick online donation form and they do the rest. They even come get the car and take it away. It couldn't be easier.

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.](#)

BCR Cats in Action!

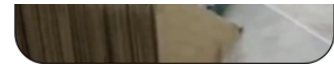
*The dedicated BCR staffers spend every day with our very wonderful resident cats, seeing them play, learning about their personalities and finding out what they love! We want you to see what they see so we hope you enjoy these video clips of the BCR cats in action - doing what they do best! To view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



Sweet [Lily](#) has had some serious heath problems recently and spent some time at the specialist vet being treated. She's home now and very happy to be back with her family. To celebrate, enjoy this video of baby Lily showing the world that blind cats play just like all other cats! [CLICK HERE](#) to see Lily go!



While we're on the subject of kittens and playing - how cute is baby



hours! [CLICK HERE](#) to see Emily at play!

[Emily](#)? This tiny girl is now one of the fastest kitties in House 1, Room 4, and if you watch our [24-hour cameras](#), you might see her zipping up and down the climbers at all



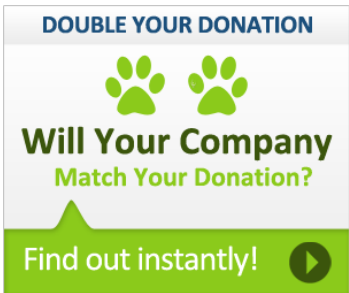
Let's celebrate [Mack](#) - one of BCR's sweetest and most loving cats AND the only one who chirps when he purrs. He loves laps and being held like a baby. [CLICK HERE](#) to share some love with this gentle giant.

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>





Felix wonders: 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](#).



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!



Barney hopes you'll be his Valentine at the next BCR Open House!

You can share some love with Barney 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!



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).