

[View this email in your browser](#)

**Donate Now!**



**Can a Cat be a Vegetarian?**



???

If you are a vegan or vegetarian and have wondered if your cat could be too - the answer is No. Cats must have meat in their diets in order to stay healthy.

Cats are "obligate carnivores," the very word carnivore means meat eater. In other words, a cat's complex nutritional needs simply can not be met by a diet that is devoid of animal products.

Plant-based diets are high in carbohydrates.

Cats do not need high amounts of carbs, they use what they need for their immediate energy needs and the remainder of the carbohydrates in their food are quickly and efficiently stored as fat.

Cats have higher protein requirements than other animals. Cats' metabolism preferentially uses protein for energy as well as for structuring tissues and producing hormones and other vital molecules. That is why their protein needs are higher.

Cats need 11 amino acids (humans need 9, dogs need 10). These are primarily found in meat. A cat's natural diet of raw prey animals contains these nutrients in abundance. Not getting the amount they need becomes a problem when they don't get meat. Amino acids are consumed in the diet, your body does not make them.

The amino acid Arginine is so important to cats that a single meal not containing arginine is fatal to kittens.

Additional issues with vegetarian and vegan diets for cats are:

- \* B vitamins are deficient for a cat's requirements, especially B2 and B 12
- \* Vitamin A is only found in animal tissues and is also deficient. Other animals can make vitamin A from beta-carotene, cats cannot.
- \* Vitamin D3 is deficient. The plant based substitute, vitamin D2 is only 30% as potent and has a much shorter duration of action.
- \* Arachidonic acid is not found in vascular plants but is essential for the feline immune system.
- \* Omega 3s EPA and DHA are essential for kittens and highly beneficial to all cats but currently available vegan cat foods do not contain either.
- \* Commercial vegetarian and vegan cat foods use highly-processed, fractional, chemically-extracted and synthesized ingredients to provide enough protein and other nutrients. Whole foods containing all the trace miners, co-factors and nutrient groups are far healthier than refined or synthetic versions.

Cats consuming meat based diets have a naturally low acidic urinary PH of about 5 to 6. Vegetables cause urine PH to become alkaline which may allow urinary crystals and stones to form. This can cause life threatening urinary blockages in male cats.

Bottom line, your cats need meat to let their bodies process nutrients correctly.

From [BCR's BlogSpot](#)

It's time to work in the yard and do some planting, so remember that there are lots of plants that are poisonous to pets! Keep the Animal Poison Control Number on your refrigerator: (USA) 888-426-4435





# Sponsor Spotlight:




## Charmaine Black

*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 cannot exactly recall how I came across BCR but I believe it was shortly after I read Gwen Cooper's book "Homer's Odyssey." This little book touched my heart. I had no idea how amazingly skilled blind cats could be, nor did I realize how many cats had vision impairment, or what caused it. After reading her book and coming across BCR, I knew that this rescue organization was very special. Even though I had been donating to many cat shelters over the years, I never knew that one existed to rescue and save these special needs cats.

**If you haven't yet visited, what are you most excited about when you do?**  
I live in Illinois and unfortunately have never been able to visit, but I love to see all of the "Live" visits that BCR conducts and Snicker is such a fabulous BCR ambassador! My husband and I have BCR as a destination road trip! I'm afraid, though, if I visit I won't want to leave!

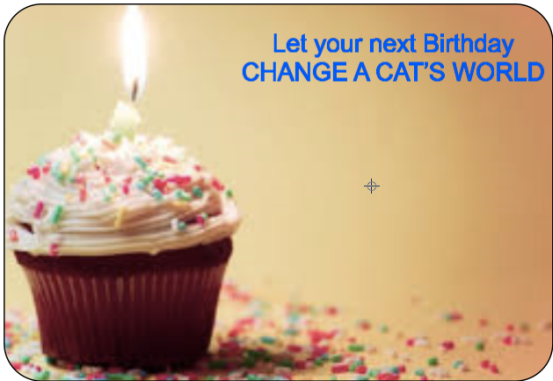


### What cat or cats do you sponsor? Why did you choose them?

I sponsor Oreo and I chose him because my kitty at the time was Oreo (also a tuxedo cat). My Oreo lost one eye due to melanoma when he was nine years old. We had him for 19 wonderful years. I'm so thankful that Oreo at BCR knows the same love and care that our Oreo knew. It's a testament as to what love can do!



**If you could tell people one thing about BCR, what would it be?**  
I would tell people that BCR is truly a sanctuary. If you look up the definition, sanctuary means “refuge, haven, harbor, port in a storm, oasis, a place of safekeeping.” How blessed are the kitties that call BCR home. Not only are these cats living, but they are thriving! They are loved. They are not forgotten, left behind or discarded because they have special needs. The time and devotion that the BCR staff puts forth shows us all how incredible these cats truly are. I'm so proud to be a supporter of BCR. God willing, I will be a supporter for many years to come. God bless BCR!



**Looking for a free and fun way to help the cats? It's here! Donate your birthday!**

Every birthday fundraiser makes a HUGE impact on the cats' lives! Creating one is so easy with the [Facebook birthday donation tool](#). Give it your own personal touch - it's easy and free to you!

Every birthday donation your friends make helps the cats get the food they need, the medicines they take and even the regular checkups and dental vet visits that keep them healthy. You make it possible for them to continue to have the healthy and happy lives 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!  
The cats give a big HEAD BONK to those who have donated birthdays so far this year!*

---

# The SCOOP

*Did you know?*



**Send an Angel!**

Need to let someone know you're thinking of them? Want them to know they're in your heart? One of our amazing ebay sellers, Becky Affinito, has just the thing to help you do that! She has a special line of angel cards and ceramic heart name pins you can share with those you love. [Find the entire line of Becky's cards and hearts here!](#) As a BCR ebay supporter, Becky will donate 50% percent of the sales back to BCR. Thank you, Becky! Share the love!

Becky's ebay site is [luckytime4leaf](#).



**BCR uses 85 boxes of litter every month!** Bunny asks you to help her and the other BCR cats get **Fresh Step** litter by donating your [Fresh Step Litter](#) paw points! With so many cats at BCR, there are a lot of litter boxes that get scooped several times a day. That's a lot of litter and a big expense.

With Fresh Step's paw-some donation program, you

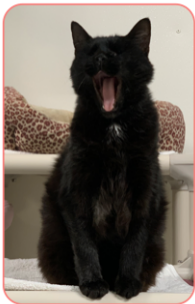
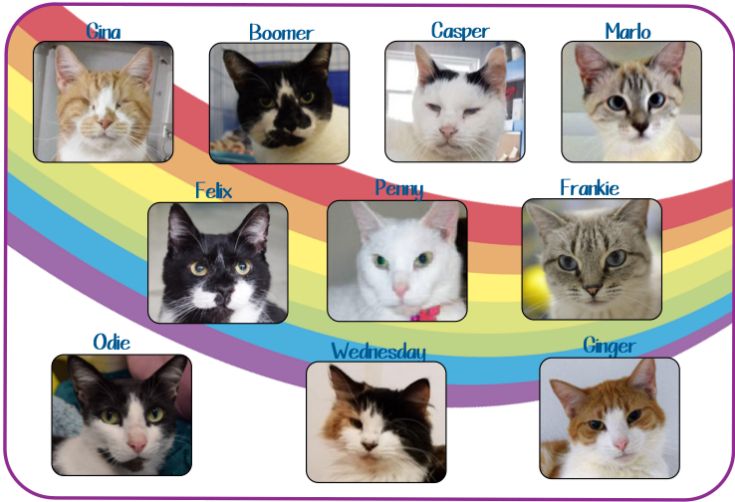


can donate your points to give BCR free cat litter.  
[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

**We Remember...**

One of the hardest things about loving so many wonderful cats is saying goodbye.  
Sometimes, despite all our efforts to maintain their health, they cross the Rainbow Bridge.  
This is especially true of our leukemia-positive cats.

It never gets easier to let them go and we do everything possible for them until they tell us that it's time.  
We've recently said goodbye to several cats who have joined their fellow BCR kitties across the Rainbow Bridge. We miss them and remember them with great love, and we're thankful they found their way to BCR.



**Willow is looking for you  
on the Friends of BCR Page!**

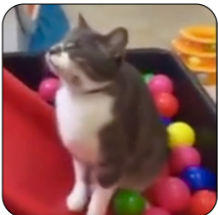
Willow will sing if you join her in the Friends of BCR Facebook group! She's there along with all the BCR kitties and kindred spirits, pals and cat lovers. It's not just about BCR - it's about YOU, too! Chat with fellow cat fans, share stories and photos and find lots of useful cat info! [Join our Friends 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 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!*

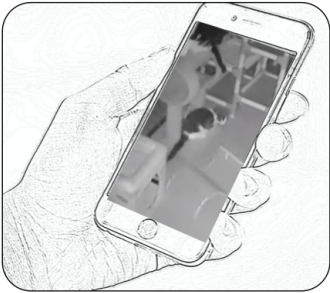


We all know Jellybean is an amazing wheel runner. Did you know he's also the slide king? It's true! [CLICK HERE](#) to see Jellybean in action!



Kittens just wanna have fun and the BCR cats are all over it!  
[CLICK HERE](#) to see the babies - when they were babies - at play!













**BCR Kitties - After Dark!**

Are you catching the cats' overnight antics - Peanut taking a midnight stroll? Gumdrop and Gomez having playtime? Eggroll investigating the patio? Grab a shot or video and post them on the [Friends of BCR Facebook page!](#) We'd all love to know what they're up to "after hours!" When you post one, use the hashtag #BCRCatsAfterDark.

Get started on our 24-hour Zmodo Cameras! [CLICK HERE](#) to find them!

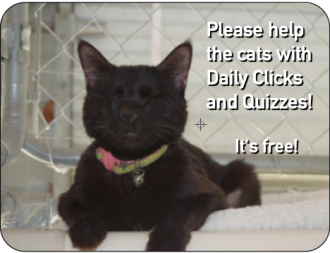
**Helping the cats is EZ!**



 Vintage Cat Searings \$4.95	 Vintage Stealing Silver Cat Paw-Printer - Silver \$24.95	 Vintage Petting Goat Baby Gray Playful Kitten \$9.00	 Vintage Kitten Cat Brooklyn Sterling \$60.00
 Vintage Cat Searings \$4.95	 Vintage Stealing Silver Cat Paw-Printer - Silver \$24.95	 Vintage Petting Goat Baby Gray Playful Kitten \$9.00	 Vintage Kitten Cat Brooklyn Sterling \$60.00


**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! 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!




A few free clicks each day can help the BCR cats! [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the ShopforYourCause website and start with the daily click, that gives 2 cents to BCR! Then take a quiz or two to add to that donation!

**DOUBLE YOUR DONATION**



**Will Your Company Match Your Donation?**

**Find out instantly!** 

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>



No need to hang on to 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.](#)

*We thank those who have already donated a car this year!*



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!



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure the health of the staff,  
BCR is not open to visitors at this time.  
The April and May Open Houses have been cancelled.

Eight really hopes to greet you at BCR's June Open House on

Saturday, June 13  
noon - 4 p.m.

**Important Reminder!**  
Please remember to add [blindcat@blindcatrescue.com](mailto:blindcat@blindcatrescue.com) to your email "safe" list so we don't wind up in your Junk Mail box!



Blind Cat Rescue: The Blind Cats Hope You'll Sink Your Teeth Into the News!



Copyright © 2020 Blind Cat Rescue, All rights reserved.

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