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Cats and Lung Cancer



As a rule, cats don't smoke cigarettes. However, that doesn't mean they can't develop lung cancer. Sadly, while it's not too common, they do.

Most feline cancers are associated with aging, just like with humans. In cats it can be a silent killer. This is especially true for lung cancer, which frequently occurs in cats 10 years or older. Lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes) is the most common cancer in cats but others may also develop in younger cats, like oral cancer, in particular in those who test positive for feline leukemia.

While it is rare in cats, lung cancer is malignant in about 80% of the diagnosed cases. Cats experience two main

types of lung cancers: primary tumors, which start in the lungs and stay there, and metastatic, when the cancer begins somewhere else in the body and moves to the lungs. Metastatic lung cancer is more common of the two. Diagnosis of this type of cancer has increased a lot in the past 20 years, maybe because cats are living longer lives, more diagnoses and also because they are exposed to more toxins in their environments.

One very frequent toxin that cats are exposed to is cigarette smoke. According to the [American Veterinary Medical Association \(AMVA\)](#), cats who live with smokers are more than twice as likely develop malignant lymphoma that cats who live in non-smoking homes. Secondhand smoke isn't just in the air. Think about this – if someone says you smell like cigarette smoke, it means the smell and the toxins from the cigarettes are on you and your clothes. If it's in the air and gets on you, it gets on your cat's fur, too. Every time they groom, they ingest those toxins. The AMVA also states that "the risk increased with the duration and amount of exposure, and cats with five or more years of exposure to secondhand smoke were more than three times as likely to develop malignant lymphoma."

We recently lost sweet Crystal (pictured) to lung cancer. She had only been at BCR for a few weeks. Crystal spent her whole life in a household with two smokers and sadly, that left her with lung cancer. Crystal was an older cat (16) and her condition was diagnosed after she arrived at BCR. Due to her age, aggressive treatment really wasn't an option for her. We gave her a comfortable, happy, stress free life full of love while she was with us. We only wish we had longer with this sweet girl.

What should a cat owner look for in their cat's behavior that could indicate lung cancer? Because we know cats are experts at masking pain or illness, cat owners need to be vigilant about their pet's health and, if something seems off or they notice one of these symptoms, get their cat to vet immediately. Signs of lung cancer in cats can include:

- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Lethargy
- Labored breathing
- Rapid breathing
- Coughing (which is rare in cats)

Some cats may also experience vomiting, fever, wheezing and lameness. Cats with primary lung tumors can also experience fluid around their lungs (called pleural effusion). When this happens, a vet will try and draw the fluid off the lungs to ease breathing.

A vet will most likely use X-rays diagnose lung cancer. Ultrasounds are also sometimes used. When a diagnosis is confirmed, there are treatments for both types of feline lung cancer in cats. It's important to know that the survival rate for cats who have lung cancer is not good. How aggressive the vet wants to be with treatment depends his/her assessment of the cat's age, condition and the extent of the cancer. For metastatic lung cancer, the treatment goal is to keep it from spreading. Many cancers are drug-resistant and some vets may opt for chemotherapy or radiation therapy. If a lung tumor is localized, a vet may choose to remove it surgically.

For older cats like Crystal with lung cancer, palliative care is the best option. Just like with people, keeping this senior girl comfortable and pain free so she could enjoy her life was the most important thing we could do for her.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about feline lung cancer.

Have you Entered?



**Your Pet could be The GRAND PRIZE winner in living color
on the inside cover of BCR's 2021 calendar!**

Enter today and get those votes going! Your pet could join the BCR cats on the calendar red carpet!
Don't wait - the contest ends June 30!

ENTER THIS WAY:

You may enter as many pets as you like by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Each entrance fee is \$25 and includes your very own BCR 2021 calendar just for entering!

Once your pet is entered, share the page with your friends and family so they can vote for your pet!

HERE's 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 June 30. At that time, the pet with the most votes will be the Grand Prize Winner!

[Be sure to read all contest rules and instructions!](#)

Dot Asks Federal Employees: Support BCR in June!



For the month of June, all federal employees and military personnel have the chance to help BCR through a re-opened Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)!

Because of the pandemic, the CFC has reopened the site AND waived all fees for any donations made during June - which means **100% of your donations will go to the cats!**

Dot hopes you'll take this chance to support her and the BCR cats by visiting [the CFC website](#), searching for BCR and making a donation! Our CFC number is 67324. Rather have a paper form? You can download one from the site and send it in to your local CFC office.

If you chose BCR in the regular 2019 CFC campaign, you can still be part of this special drive!

Have other questions? [Get answers here!](#)

*The cats thank all federal employees and military folks
who support them through the CFC!*



*The BCR family is full of wonderful people who truly love the cats and we want you to meet them!
Each BCR cat sponsor gets a set of questions to answer and asked to send along
a photo of themselves or with their cat(s).*

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

How did you find out about BCR?

I first heard about BCR from Facebook. I don't remember if one of my friends had posted so I like the site after I had visited. It kept me up with following what was going on and that's when I decided to sponsor a kitty.

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

I have not made a personal visit but it is on my bucket list. I would like to come and spend a week and just visit with the cats and the people and clean cages and whatever else needs to be done! I've been looking into transportation and then this happened with COVID-19 so if I don't drive, I'll have to find an alternate transportation mode to get there.



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

As far as the kitty I chose, I look for the ones that need sponsors and it just so happened that Penny came up. Penny was a beautiful blind and deaf white kitty, so that was who I picked. I was heartbroken when I found out she had passed – I cried all day long. I currently have a white cat but the first cat I ever had on my own was a white cat named Casper, so I guess white kitties are pretty special to me and Penny was, too. It was very sad when I found out she had passed but I knew she was in good hands living at BCR.

Since Penny has passed, my sponsorship has now transferred over to Merlin, a black kitty who is blind and deaf. I would love to meet her and see Snicker and Honey and all the other little sweethearts that are at BCR, and the human angels. I make small donations to two other animal rights groups, but my heart really lies with BCR. From seeing the way the cats are cared for and treated and all the wonderful amenities they have – like their climbing poles – plus the love of the staff and the dedication of Alana. That's why I chose to sponsor a kitty at BCR.

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

Every promotion that BCR does I click on and I tell all my friends to click, too. I've told them what a wonderful and caring sanctuary BCR is and that I'm hoping to get down there at some point!

Will You Help Restock Our Pantry?



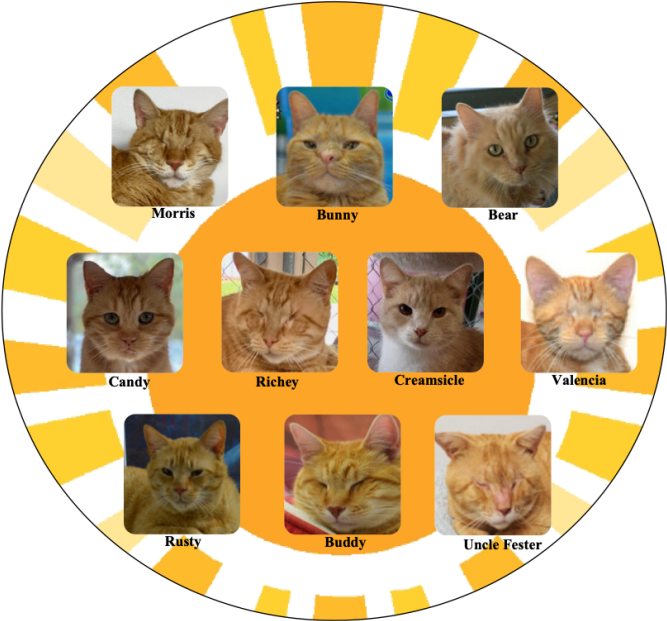
The BCR cats are hard at work spring cleaning and they need supplies to complete the job!

Would you help them by [visiting the BCR Wish List](#) and sending them bleach - always in short supply - cleaning supplies and also syringes, which get used every day?

Please [visit the Wish List](#) today!

We thank everyone for helping the cats!!

**They're BCR's rays of sunshine!
They can't help it - they're orange!**





Sargent and Andrew are practicing for the holidays!
They want to be sure BCR has YOUR address!

Have you moved in the last 12 months and have a new home or email address?
[Please send it to us](#) as soon as possible!

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

You can help the cats
by donating your birthday!



Socks and Bear really hope you'll be their pal and donate your birthday to the BCR cats this year! Have some cake for sure, but create [Facebook birthday donation fundraiser](#), too! It's free and so easy! 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. Your birthday fundraiser helps make it possible for them to continue to have the healthy and happy lives they deserve.

Set up is fun - [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 and say thanks when your friends contribute!

*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!*

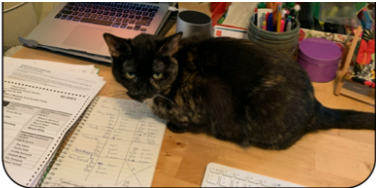
The SCOOP

Did you know?

Pandemic Pet Therapy!



Our beloved pets get us through so many of life's situations - good and bad! They're sometimes our best friends. Has your pet really come through for you during the quarantine? Cheered you up? Helped you get some



work done? Been your constant companion? Helped purr you to sleep at night?

Then share that with the BCR family!
We want to hear about it!

Tell us something your pet has done during this tough stretch of time to make you laugh or just get you through the day. [Send us the story and a photo of your pet](#) and we'll include it in our newsletter and post it on our Facebook and Friends pages!

We're Soooooo Close!

Please share your story!



We're just a couple of stories away from getting our Top Rated Non-Profit status for 2020! **Will yours be the story that gets us there?**

Popcorn hopes you'll visit [Great NonProfits](#) and tell them why you love BCR!

Use [THIS LINK](#) to get to our Great NonProfits web page. Just scroll down to "Share Your Story" and click. When you finish, press "Submit" and they'll send you a confirmation email.

Popcorn thanks everyone who has already shared their stories!



Do You See the #BCRCatsAfterDark?



Are you catching the BCR cats in action after dark? Then please share your photos and videos!

It's clear our furry pals don't always sleep! There seems to be plenty of time for wheel running, bug hunting, crinkle ball soccer and so much more.

What have you seen? Share it on our [Friends of BCR Facebook page](#). **Be sure to use the hashtag #BCRCatsAfterDark.**

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

Join the Friends of BCR !



Cassie wants you to join the Friends of BCR Facebook group because she's there and so are the other BCR cats! You can see photos, videos, and share your own kitty stories and photos! [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!*



[Rusty](#) is usually like this - relaxed and sleeping on his catio. BUT, Rusty is also a Tummy Trap King! [CLICK HERE](#) to see Rusty trapping another hand!



BCR has quite a few wheel walkers. Did you know [Jamie](#) (The Vampurr) is one of them? [CLICK HERE](#) and take a stroll with Jamie!

Helping the cats is EZ!



**WE LOVE OUR ebay SELLERS!
THANK YOU!**

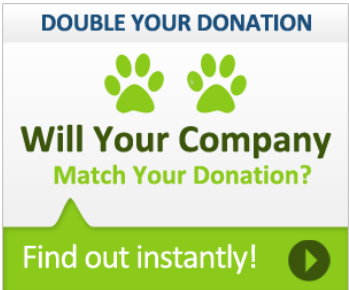


We LOVE our ebay sellers! When you purchase from one of our great sellers on ebay, they donate a portion of the sale back to us! Have a wedding or a baby shower coming up? [Try ebay!](#)

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!



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.



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!



With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, BCR will begin a soft reopening beginning July 1.

To keep the staff and cats safe, BCR will use the following guidelines:

- Only a limited number of people will be able to visit to maintain safe social distancing.
- Masks must be worn by all visitors at all times.
- Guests' temperatures will be taken when they arrive.

Pre-registration is required to visit BCR. [If you want to visit, please email us.](#)

There will be no official Open House in July.

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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