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Here They Are!
The Winners of BCR's 2nd Pawsome Critter Photo Contest!

Grand Prize Louie	First Runner-Up Tinky	Second Place Stevie	Third Place Nicky-Kane
			
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Monica	<i>Sponsored by:</i> Ione	<i>Sponsored by:</i> Michael	<i>Sponsored by:</i> Colin

Hot off the presses! PRESENTING - the winners of our second Pawsome Critter Photo Contest! We thank everyone who entered their pets - you helped raise \$7,857 for the BCR cats!

Our Grand Prize winner and the pet with the most votes, [Louie](#), will be featured on the inside cover page of BCR's 2021 calendar and Monica, who nominated him, will receive a prize package that includes five calendars, a collectible 2020 Christmas ornament and a "Number 1 Fan" T-Shirt. Photos of our First Runner-Up, [Tinky](#), and our Second and Third Place finishers, [Stevie](#) and [Nicky-Kane](#), will also be included in the calendar. Tinky's owner, Ione, Stevie's owner, Michael, and Nicky-Kane's owner, Colin, will each receive a 2020 ornament and two calendars. Congratulations to ALL!

Each of the entered pets has a wonderful story and owners who love them.
We thank ALL who entered our photo contest!
All submitted pets photos will be included in a contest collage in the 2021 calendar!

Achooooo! Have Pet Allergies?



Is your beloved pet starting to make you sneeze? Have runny eyes? You could be getting allergic to your cat or dog. Allergies can be present when people are born or develop at any time through life. They can be particularly dangerous for people who suffer from asthma. Until recently, becoming allergic to your pet left few options except giving them away, which no one wants to do. Every case of allergies is different so how to handle it is an individual decision.

An allergic reaction to a cat is triggered by a specific protein (Fel d 1) secreted by cats from glands all over their bodies throughout their fur and also present in their urine and saliva. The situation is similar with dogs. In cats, Fel d 1 moves through their fur

every time they groom and results in dander that then moves into the air. It can stay airborne for hours and also settle on soft surfaces like beds and couches. Animals produce different amounts of dander and it increases with age, which could explain why some people have pets for years before ever developing allergies.

Cats may be more allergy-inducing because they are more often inside pets, have access to the whole house and bathe themselves, versus owners bathing them as happens frequently with dogs. On top of that, cats groom a lot every day, creating more opportunities to spread the saliva on their fur and release dander into the air.

There are lots of ways to combat pet allergies, from over-the-counter antihistamines to allergy shots (called immunotherapy or desensitization therapy). Along with those options, [Verywellhealth.com](#) recommends avoidance and consistent cleaning as steps for keeping your pet if you have allergies. [Excerpted from their list](#) are suggestions that you:

- Ensure the pet is neutered (particularly for dogs and cats). Neutering male dogs and cats reduces their allergen production.
- Bathe the pet at least once or twice a week. A word of caution is in order with this recommendation. Some pets, especially cats, carry a strong dislike to baths, and caution is needed to avoid bites and scratches.
- Wipe down the pet using a wet cloth daily.
- Remove the pet from the bedroom; close the bedroom door and air vents leading to the bedroom.
- Keep the pet outside, in the garage, or in a part of the home with an uncarpeted floor. This can depend on the climate in your area, and it's important to consider whether this is fair to your pet as well.
- Vacuum frequently with a HEPA-equipped vacuum cleaner.
- Purchase a HEPA room air cleaner for use in the bedroom and/or other parts of the home (it is best to keep the HEPA filter off of the floor so as to not stir up more dust).

For cleaning, Verywellhealth.com also recommends that you:

- Steam clean all carpets and upholstered furniture.
- Launder or dry clean all bedding and curtains.
- Vacuum all hard floors.
- Wipe down all hard surfaces and furniture.
- Replace any air conditioner and heater vent filters.
- Consider having your vents cleaned (at the same time make sure to have your dryer vent cleaned. This has nothing to do with pets but is a significant cause of home fires, and dryer vents tend to collect more lint when there is an animal in the home).

In addition to the above medical options, there are natural methods for treating allergies, too. [MotherEarthNews.com has a super list of ideas](#), from neti pots that clear sinuses to tinctures made from specific herbs and allergy-fighting foods.

There's also something brand new to add to the list of medicinal and practical steps you can take. Pet food company Purina has just begun selling [Pro Plan LiveClear](#), a food specially created to reduce allergens. [According to Purina](#):

“The key ingredient in *Pro Plan* LiveClear is a specific protein sourced from eggs. When cats eat LiveClear, the protein binds to the Fel d 1 and safely neutralizes it in the cat’s mouth. By reducing active Fel d 1 in the cat’s saliva, it reduces the allergen that is transferred to the cat’s hair and dander when they groom, ultimately reducing the allergen in the environment without impacting the physiology of the cat.”

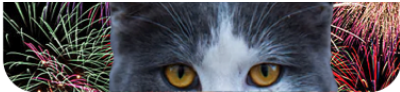
Developing an allergy to your pet doesn’t have to mean saying goodbye to your furry friend. There are lots of things to try before that final and awful step. Having a plan and keeping it going is the answer!

Reminder - Fireworks Are Coming - is Your Pet Ready?



It's nearly July 4 again and there will be noisy fireworks. Pets and fireworks do not always go together and, in fact, many pets run in terror when they hear them, causing them to get lost from their homes.

We published some great tips for getting through "fireworks season" with your cat on our blog. [CLICK HERE](#) to read up and get ready for the celebrations so



that your pet is safe and as stress-free as possible!



*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 first learn about BCR?

I was browsing on eBay Giving Works several years ago, when I saw a sweet kitten face. I was instantly and deeply touched and felt very connected to this sweet little soul, just through that picture. I had to find out more about this little sweetheart and how to help BCR. I was told his name was Casper. I don't recall the details but I eventually decided to sponsor this sweet guy. That little face always stayed with me, he really touched my heart.

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

I have not had the pleasure of visiting, but I would dearly love to, I'm quite sad that I'll never be able to visit with Casper, hearing of his passing was very sad news. I had hoped to be able to make it down there for a visit with him.

If you haven't yet visited, what are you most excited about when you do?

I would be most excited to meet the beautiful cats, especially the new guy I'm sponsoring, Barney. I think it would be wonderful to interact with them, perhaps bring them some toys and some of my knitted snuggles for them.



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

As I mentioned, I was a longtime supporter of Casper, fell in love with his little kitten face, and had to help in some way. I am currently sponsoring Barney, I wanted to continue to help BCR and asked to be provided with a cat who needed my help.

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

I do tell people how BCR provides a home to the kitties who may otherwise be euthanized as many people might feel that they are unadoptable. I would mention that these "disabled" kitties have as much life and love in them as a so-called "normal" kitty, they play, they purr and act like the wonderful kitties that they are. I believe that all animals are so much more evolved than human beings, that they don't let their physical issues hold them back, they adapt, and they live their lives to the fullest. This is so true of your kitties, thank you for providing them with a safe happy place for them to stay.

We Remember...

One of the hardest things about being a loving home for and family to so many cats is saying goodbye. Sometimes, despite all our efforts to keep them healthy, 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'll always be thankful that they found their way to BCR. ❤️



HAVE YOU MOVED?



Professor says PLLLEEEASSE send him your new address. He'll be really sad if you miss out on BCR holiday fun!

Have you moved in the last 12 months and have a new home or email address? **We must have it by August 1.** [Please send it to us](#) as soon as possible!

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



Natasha invites you to create [Facebook birthday donation fundraiser](#) to help her and the BCR cats! She knows how easy it is to do and how much it helps them! Every birthday donation your friends make for your fundraiser helps the cats get the things they need, like:

- food
- medicines
- regular vet checkups
- dental vet visits

YOU can help make it possible for them to have the healthy and happy lives they deserve.

Set up is fun - [use this link to go to Facebook](#) and follow the instructions. 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!

*Have you donated your birthday in 2020?
The cats send a big PURR to those who have this year!*

The SCOOP

Did you know?

More Kitties to ♥!



We welcome our newest arrival, [Felix 2.0](#), named that because the first Felix was a much loved long-time resident who just left us a few months ago. Since this senior boy arrived knowing his name, Felix 2.0 is is! Felix is 16 years old, blind, and was about to lose the only home he'd ever known. A young boy found him as a kitten and took him home. He got to stay even though mom wasn't fond of animals. Years later, the boy grows up, moves away and starts his own family. Felix stayed with mom and when she asked the son to take him, his wife said no because they have a toddler! Poor Felix was stuck in the middle of this situation through no fault of his own and on the verge of being taken to a shelter and certainly euthanized. Because the son still loves Felix, he couldn't let that happen and that's how he came to BCR. Poor Felix is sad, scared and

wondering what happened to his life and his people. It's hard to imagine experiencing that kind of loss and confusion after 16 years. Given all that, Felix is doing ok. He loves people and is getting lots of love and attention from the staff. He has moved into House 1 Room 3 and is learning about his roommates now. We will love and care for Felix the rest of his life and he won't ever have to be afraid again. You can [watch Felix on our Zmodo cameras](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) if you'd like to sponsor Felix 2.0

Thank you!! You Did it!



Your wonderful stories have once again this year put BCR over the top and helped us be designated a Top Rated Non-Profit with [Great NonProfits!](#)

This rating helps potential donors and grant-making foundations know that BCR is a legitimate and trusted non-profit that does great work helping cats.

Lisa, Catherine and Gomez thank everyone whoshared their stories about BCR!



Hermes Hopes You'll Help Restock Our Pantry!



Would you help the BCR cats with spring cleaning by [visiting the BCR Wish List](#)?

We need cleaning help - Clorox Clean-Up, bleach tablets, paper towels - AND things we use every day to help the cats stay healthy - gas drops and syringes!

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

We thank everyone for helping the cats!!



Marshmallow and Wifi hope you'll join the Friends of BCR Facebook group because they know there's nothing in the world better than having friends! They also know that in the Friends group you'll find lots of fellow BCR fans along with photos, videos, and, we hope, stories and photos about your own kitties! [Join our Friends of Blind Cat Rescue Facebook page today!](#)

#BCRCatsAfterDark?



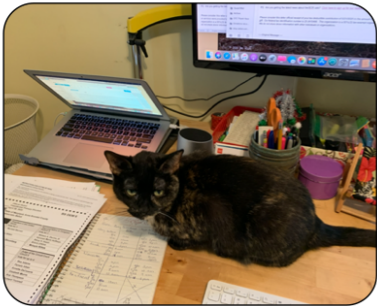
Are you catching the BCR cats in action after dark? Then please share your photos and videos!

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!

Pandemic Pet Therapy!



Has your pet helped you get through the pandemic? Kept you sane and calm while at home? Helped you sleep?

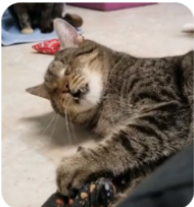
Our beloved pets get us through so many of life's situations - good and bad! They're often our best friends. If your pet has really come through for you during the quarantine, let us know!

Share your pet's shining moment
with the BCR family!

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!

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!*



[Chester](#) is such a character! Believe it or not, he gets even sillier when there's catnip to be had. [CLICK HERE](#) to see Chester and some of his former roommates (including sweet Skittle who crossed the Rainbow Bridge) have some catnip fun!





[Snicker](#) is the president of BCR and one amazing cat. He cannot see a thing but has some serious superpowers that allow him to find the chase ball every time! [CLICK HERE](#) to see Snicker's superpower in action!

Helping the cats is EZ!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US!



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!](#)

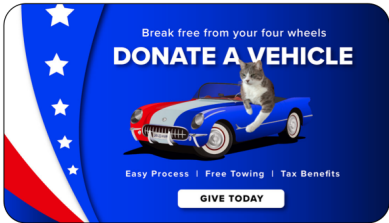
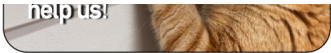


When you shop online, please [use Amazon Smile](#) and pick Blind Cat Rescue as your charity. With every purchase, their foundation donates to BCR. There is no charge to you!

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.



Liberate your space! Get rid of that old vehicle! 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.](#)



We're all walking and being outside a lot these days. As you 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 may 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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