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**Donate Now!**



### Slow Blinking - Is it Really Cat Talk?



Have you heard this statement? "Make sure to slow-blink at your cat. If you do that you'll be communicating something like happiness, calm, and trust." Is it true? Haven't tried it? Well you might want to because there is science that says it actually works!

Cats have always been called aloof, distant and even disdainful in the way they view their human companions. This could be because we aren't speaking the same language. Scientists say we just need to smile at them more! However, the trick is knowing the best way to smile at them. When humans smile, we generally show some teeth, which is not the best way to greet a cat who sees something else in bared teeth besides a greeting!

By watching how cats behave, scientists observed cats' expressions and how they communicate with each other. A psychologist researcher in the UK [conducted some](#)

[experiments](#) based on these observations. In one study, they asked 14 cat owners in different homes to slow-blink at 21 cats over a period of time. This had to be done when the cats were happily settled in their favorite place in the house. When the cat was looking at the owner, he or she would slow-blink back at them. To capture the expressions of both cats and people in these exchanges, the researchers placed cameras in each house. Then they compared those results with what they had observed when cats blink without a human interaction.

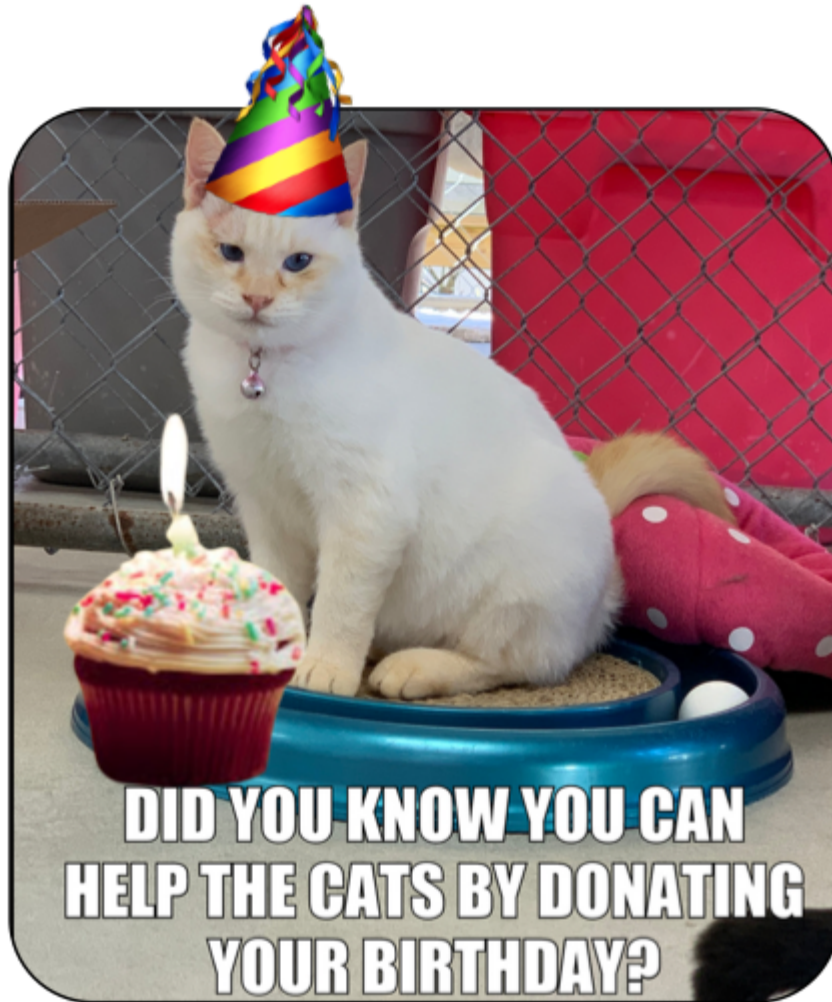
A second similar experiment used researchers as the human side of the experiment rather than the cat owners. People who didn't know any of the cats at all. Cameras were again used to capture the reactions. To make sure they'd get a true response, the researchers first recorded humans staring at the cats without blinking. Then they followed the same process as in the first study, slow blinking at a relaxed cat.

Get ready to blink a lot at your cat because it turns out that it is an effective way to "talk" to your cat! The results of both studies showed that cats are more likely to slow-blink at their humans when the human has slow-blinked at them first, which means we actually are communicating. Not only that, cats are also more inclined to approach an outstretched hand for pets after this process. So, if you meet a standoffish cat, the problem may be the way you're communicating!

Why do cats slow-blink at all? No one knows for sure. Scientists have noted that, like some other animals, cats can interpret staring eyes as a threat so narrowed eyes that slow-blink at them seem to send the opposite message. If you have cats, you've probably seen that expression on their faces - partially closed eyes - when they're happy and relaxed.

So, if you truly want a cat - your own or a friend's or even a stray you meet - to relax and see you as a friend, narrow your eyes and blink slowly at them with a closed smile. This small gesture can go the extra mile to create a positive bond with the cats you encounter!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the story.



April hopes you'll share your birthday with the BCR cats in 2021!

It's super easy and a great way to start off the new year.

Just create a [Facebook birthday donation fundraiser!](#)

Each one helps the cats so much - here's how:

**If your birthday raises even \$100, that pays for:**

**A vet office visit \*\* A big bag of food \*\* A box of Fresh Step litter**

YOUR fundraisers help make it possible for the cats 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!

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# Sponsor Spotlight:

**Dora  
Pingel**



*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 first learned of BCR on Facebook.

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

No, we haven't had the chance to visit yet.

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

We would love to visit BCR! It's my dream trip to take in the future even though it's now very difficult to stand up straight because of back injuries. I would sit, play and hug them all!

**What cat or cats do you sponsor?**

**Why did you choose them?**

When I came across BCR site I wanted to see what they were all about and the type of care they give to their residents. After I observed them I had to help however I can. Many give great care, but to find someone that gives all is very rare! I have never seen such dedication, sacrifice and deep love as Alana has for the kitties! So we sponsored BCR's handsome Garfield in honor of our orange kitty Garfield who had passed. When Garfield crossed the Rainbow Bridge, we moved our sponsorship to another handsome boy, Buddy, in honor of our dog Buddy that passed. The beautiful girl cat in



the photo with me and our sponsor cat Buddy's photo is Luna. Another reason BCR is special to our family is because Luna is leukemia positive. The whole family cared for her around the clock during

her long months of recovery to the beautiful girl that she has now become! All cats like Luna and the BCR cats deserve forever caring homes.

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

My husband and I have been cross country semi-truck drivers for twenty one years and we help animals wherever we find them in our travels. We carry food in our truck, we've rescued many, reported abuse and then followed up and even arranged for some feral colonies to become official rodent catchers of specific truck stops, giving them food, shelter, medical care, and spays/neuters as needed. We've seen it all and know great care when we see it! BCR gives all the cats a safe loving forever home! They are blessed to have guardian angels watching over them through Alana, her staff and friends. We are thankful for that and we are honored to sponsor Buddy or help BCR in any way possible! Every little bit helps in many ways. Even though I'm off work due to severe back injuries, we will continue to carry on this tradition to help the angels of BCR!

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# The SCOOP

*Did you know?*



**THIS MONTH,  
BE SURE TO  
CELEBRATE ...**



**January 22:** [National Answer Your Cat's Question Day](#) How many times have you said to your cat, "If you could only talk and tell me what you need!" Well, it seems there's a special day for answering those questions, whether they're spoken or not!

**January 24:** [Change a Pet's Life Day](#) We know



there are so many wonderful ways to change a cat's life! Foster, adopt, spay/neuter, volunteer, donate and even tell your cat a story. This is the perfect day to BE the difference in a cat's life!



### **NEWS FLASH!**

#### **There's no Such Thing as a Crazy Cat Lady (or Man)**

Never let anyone make fun of you for being a crazy cat lady (or man!) again. The typical stereotype of a crazy cat person is that they are lonely, depressed and only have their pets as friends. **WRONG!**

A group of researchers at UCLA did a study of 500 pet owners to see how they would react to different animal distress calls and a related study that looked at pet ownership and mental health issues. While people who own pets did react more strongly to animal distress sounds, which seems natural, they did not experience more depression, anxiety or have more difficulties with relationships than people without pets. Backing up this data is a similar study done in the UK in 2017 that found no link between cat ownership and mental problems.

Wear your Crazy Cat Person label with pride!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full story.





April, Nugget and Catherine hope you'll [join them in BCR's Friends group!](#) It's always fun to hang around with people who love cats like you do! You can find photos, videos, and info about cats and hopefully share your own cats, too! [Join our Friends of Blind Cat Rescue Facebook page today!](#)

## BCR's Famous Couples and Best Buddies!

### **Voldo and Yoshi**

Two sweeter guys you will not find anywhere. They love cuddling with each other and people, too!



# 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!*



[Catherine](#) can have a very serious look on her face sometimes. But this girl knows how to play! Happily, her wonderful life at BCR gives her LOTS of opportunities to do that! [CLICK HERE](#) to see Catherine goofing around!



He is one of BCR's biggest boys and does like a good nap from time to time, but [Creamsicle](#) knows how to chase a feather toy, too! [CLICK HERE](#) to see Creamsicle play!

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# Helping the cats is EZ!



**Thank you!**

You can **Donate** just by **Shopping!**  
It doesn't cost anything extra.

An orange cat is sitting next to a laptop. The laptop screen shows the Amazon website. A speech bubble from the cat says "Want!".

**Want!**

**Support Blind Cat Rescue when you shop**  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3410498>

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

When shopping 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>

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



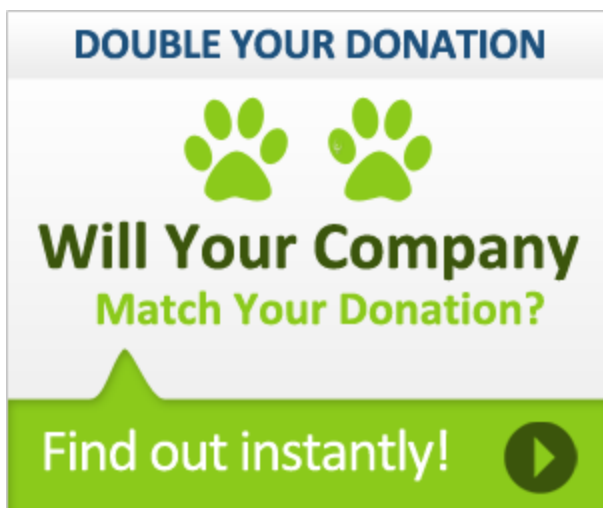
**We LOVE our ebay sellers!** The cats thank them for donating a portion of every sale back to them! Holiday shopping? [Give ebay a try!](#)

**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! They really do add up!



More and more companies are launching Matching Gift programs! Is your company one of them? Check here to see if you can [double your BCR donation!](#)



Do you use Fresh Step Litter? Need your Paw Points? If not, please donate them to the BCR cats! They go through more than 2,000 pounds of litter every month so the free litter your donated points give us helps a lot! [CLICK HERE](#) for details.



LT takes the wheel to let you know that you can help them by donating your old car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or even an airplane to BCR! We'll even arrange pickup! [Find out how here.](#)

*We thank those who donated a vehicle in 2020!*





Hey Alexa fans! Did you know that you can **make charitable donations on 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.](#)



## Tik Tok

Like seeing videos of the BCR cats?  
[Check them out on TikTok!](#)



Are you a regular walker, runner or biker? 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!

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*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there are no open houses scheduled yet for 2021.*

**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!



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