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Things We Know That We Wish Others Did, Too!

Keeping your Pets Healthy!



In our last newsletter, we talked about estate planning to safeguard your pets' future. This month, we have some suggestions that we hope will help you keep your pets healthy this year!

There are lots of things you can do at home to have healthy and happy pets, like cleaning their ears, trimming nails and, if your cat is diabetic, monitoring his/her blood sugar. All these things can be done by you!

The first rule of thumb is to watch your pet's behavior. You know your pets better than anyone else so you'll be the first to notice any changes that might be due to a health problem. Cats will more often than not let you know if something is wrong. Has he/she stopped eating? Suddenly sneezing a lot, have runny eyes, losing weight, being unresponsive? Weighing your cat on a baby scale every week and keeping a chart is also a great way to quickly detect a change in your pet's health before it becomes a bigger problem.

If you notice something, get your pet to the vet as soon as you can. As you know from the BCR cats and their histories, many untreated conditions result in permanent damage. For instance, an untreated upper respiratory infection will cause a cat to lose its eyes - as was the case for many BCR cats like Peanut and Jellybean.

Regular vet visits are also critical because there are some health problems that won't show up in your cat's behavior. Through regular testing and blood work, your vet may catch something that could be potentially fatal to your cat. One example of this is high blood pressure. Undetected and untreated, it can result in blindness, as it did for Jewell and Manxi.

Bottom line - keep an eye on your pet's health!

To help you take care of those things you can do yourself at home, here are some videos from the BCR YouTube library!



How to [trim your cat's nails](#).



How to [clean your cat's ears](#).



How to [test your cat's blood sugar](#).



We're Celebrating our Seniors!

BCR is very happy to be home to many senior cats - those 10 years and older. Some, like Abbey, have aged with us, and others have come to us as seniors, like Felix, Jewell and Lovey. As you've seen on tours and the room cameras, age doesn't stop our seniors!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see our chirpy hunter **Mack** in action.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see just how sweet **Jewell** is.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see **Felix** at play!

As cats age, they can develop a whole range of age-related problems, the same as humans do - kidney failure, thyroid problems, eye and dental degeneration, even arthritis, just to name a few.

Part of our promise to our cats as their forever home is that we will do all we can to give them the best quality of life possible, whatever their condition. Those who need them get daily meds to stay in optimal condition despite their age and health problems. For instance, many of our cats are hypertensive, which we monitor closely and each of them gets doses of amalodapine each day.

Managing the needs of a senior cat can be a challenge. One thing to keep in mind is that cats can take some of the same drugs we do and sometimes they are much cheaper to purchase at a drug store rather than through the vet's office. To get more information on how this works, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit GoodRX and compare drug prices with your vet's. If you find the drugstore is the less expensive route, ask your vet for a prescription for your pet.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about caring for your senior cats!



Senior Cats Are Wonderful Pets and Companions!

They are often overlooked in shelters, which is a shame. There are lots of great reasons to welcome a senior cat or two into your home. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about why senior kitties are super pets.

Already have a senior pet? [CLICK HERE](#) to find out how to make his/her golden years as easy as possible.



What is Hypothyroidism in Cats

Some senior cats may develop hypothyroidism and that has happened with several BCR cats, including Pearl, Mack and Jewell. They all received radiation therapy and were cured of this condition

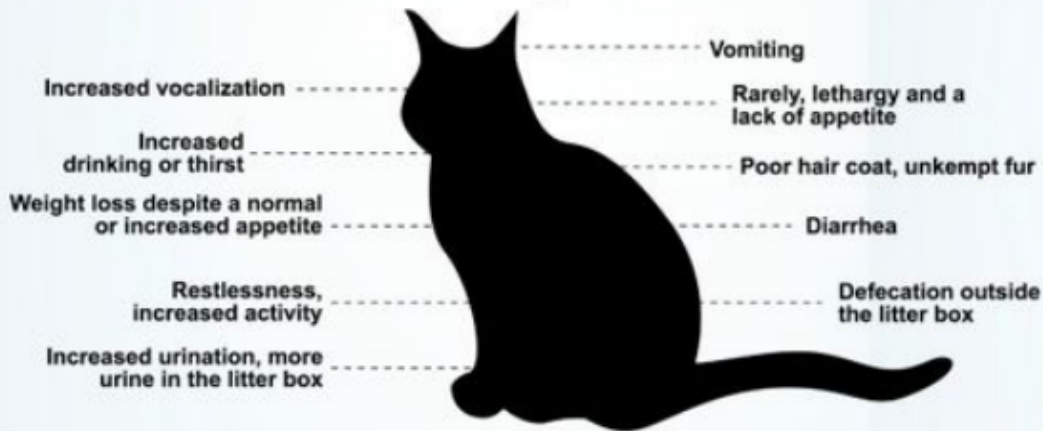
One of our great friends and sponsors, Mandy Cooper, wrote a very informative blog about thyroid conditions and what to watch for in your cat. [CLICK HERE](#) to read it!

Signs of a thyroid problem to look for in your cat:

Could your cat have a thyroid problem?

Feline hyperthyroidism (FHT) occurs in about 10% of feline patients over 10 years of age in the US. FHT is a disease caused by an overactive thyroid gland that secretes excess thyroid hormone. Early diagnosis is key to treatment being successful, so bringing your cat to the veterinarian for routine wellness exams is highly important.

Know the signs of FHT



Common statements made by owners whose cat may have hyperthyroidism



To read more about the causes, signs, treatment, and management of FHT, visit: www.catvets.com/fht

More Kitties to Love - Meet our Newest Arrivals!



As hard as it is when we lose a beloved BCR cat, we're always joyful when we can welcome new cats into the family. Three lucky kitties have recently come to BCR and they've already stolen our hearts. They'll steal yours, too!

Little orange kitten [Valencia](#) was just six weeks old when she arrived courtesy of a young couple who found her at a truck stop.

Since they were coming through our area, they called us. At first, we didn't think she'd make it due to her very bad upper respiratory infection, but Valencia responded well to medicine, is super playful and is eating like a champ. She will soon have her eyes taken care of and be spayed. After that you'll find her in House 1 and we'll all watch her grow up! [CLICK HERE](#) to sponsor **Valencia**.

Sweet gray girl [Misty](#) came from a horrible hoarding situation that had more than 90 cats! A very difficult situation with the hoarder left the rescues trying to help the cats frustrated and giving up - except one valiant and determined person! Her biggest worry was Misty. The good news is that, despite her eyes, Misty is in pretty good shape. She's very sweet, loves attention and will soon have her eyes taken care of and a much needed dental cleaning. We're glad we can offer Misty a home with unlimited love and care! [CLICK HERE](#) to sponsor **Misty**.

[Daisy Mae](#) is our second tripod kitty. We think she may have gotten her leg caught in a trap, which damaged her leg so much it had to be amputated. Her owners signed her over to the vet, who is also a hero for not euthanizing Daisy Mae when she tested positive for feline leukemia. Instead, the vet worked hard to find her a place and, after months of living in a cage, Daisy Mae is home for good at BCR. She's still getting used to things her room in House 2 but has found a fast friend in Journey! [CLICK HERE](#) to sponsor sweet **Daisy Mae**!

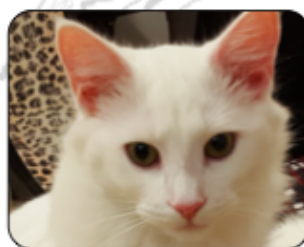
Winter means **static electricity**.
For some of our cats, that can pose a
furr-o-cious problem!



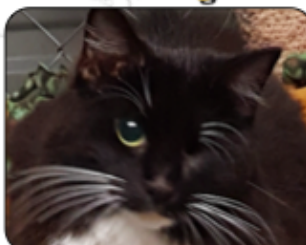
Sterling



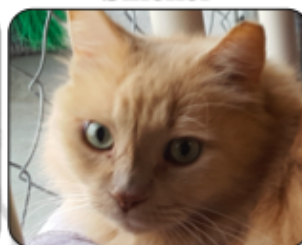
Snicker



Coconut



Lurch



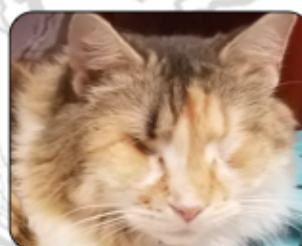
Bear



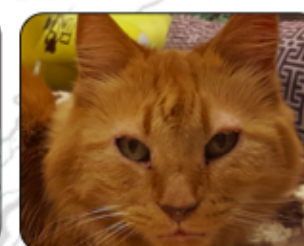
Lisa



Angel



Cici



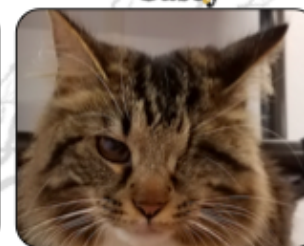
Casey



Wednesday



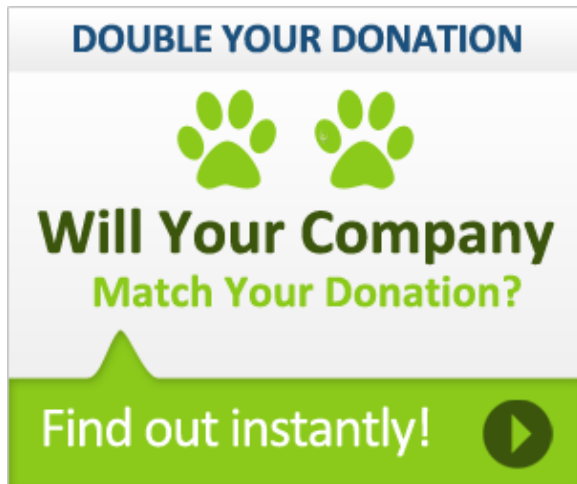
Misty



Morticia



There are lots easy of ways to help the cats all year long!



Matching gifts are a great way to [double your BCR donation!](#)



Have a birthday coming up? Tell your friends to skip the sweater and instead donate to [your BCR birthday fundraiser!](#) It's easy and is a huge help to the cats.



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>



Have an old car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or even an airplane? Donate it BCR! [Find out how to do it here.](#)



You can help the cats every single day - for free!

A fast click each day from all BCR's friends really ad up!

Each daily click here donate 2 cents to BCR! Take a daily quiz and it's even more!

Use these links and in a few seconds, you'll have made a difference!

Daily click link <http://ow.ly/a9CC30kiSur>

Daily Quiz link: <https://goo.gl/tC1Nak>



Mark your calendars for our next open house:

Saturday, February 9, noon - 4 p.m.!

The cats hope to see you here!



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