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Regular Blood Tests Solve Hidden Mysteries

When cats arrive at BCR they are mostly blank slates in terms of their health, their demeanor and personalities. Eye injuries or swelling like we saw when Misty, Peanut, Jellybean and Emily arrived are visible and usually the result untreated upper respiratory infections, high blood pressure or glaucoma. We can also see right away if they are very thin, have injuries, matted fur or fleas.

Other conditions, however, are not so obvious. That's why every single cat that comes to BCR gets a full blood workup from our veterinarian right away. Blood tests are invaluable ways to find out if there are any systemic problems or cancer.

It's not just the BCR cats who should have regular blood work to make sure they are healthy. Your pets at home need the same. Senior cats in particular can develop liver and kidney issues that may not be obvious to you until it's too late to help them.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read a very helpful article written by a vet about blood work test results and what they mean. If it's been a while since your cat had a blood workup, this is a good time to schedule one with your vet.



Detecting Heart Disease in Cats

We all think our cats look healthy and happy and we hope they're both! Making sure your pet's heart is in good shape is another great reason to get your pet yearly physical exams. As it is for people, heart disease can also be a "silent killer" in cats. All cats are at risk for heart disease - some breeds more than others - and if they have it, it can be hidden for years until there is a drastic health crisis or death.

Heart disease in most cats develops during their lives but in rare cases it can be congenital. Your veterinarian should keep an eye on your cat's blood pressure and how the heart sounds to detect any irregularity. Care and treatment of a heart ailment might involve a specialist like a veterinary cardiologist in addition to your regular vet. Cats with some forms of heart disease can live good lives for years if it is caught and treated right away.

Our most recent arrival, Dusty, suffers from serious heart disease. She is a senior cat and her condition probably results from years of untreated hypertension. She has congestive heart failure with [hypertrophic cardiomyopathy](#) and some pulmonary edema. She's on medication now but we really don't know how long we have with her. Had her owner started her on high blood pressure medication two years ago she would be in much better health. Another reason it is critical to have your vet monitor your pet's blood pressure!

[CLICK HERE](#) to get an overview of feline heart disease from Cornell University's Veterinary school.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see what signs of heart disease to look for in your cat.

A Cat's Common Cold - Feline Herpes



Blind Cat Rescue: The Cats Wish You a Happy S-purrr-ing!



Just like their human companions, cats can catch colds, too. Not from humans, though. Cat colds - or upper respiratory infections (URIs) are the result of the viral feline herpes virus. When a cat is exposed to this virus, cold-like symptoms can develop in two to five days - things like runny eyes and nose, congested breathing and loss of appetite.

As you probably know from our tours, Thurston, Ophelia and Samantha have been in a room together since they developed colds that resulted from the feline herpes virus. As it is contagious, they can't be around the other cats right now. They could have had it when they arrived or it could be a genetic condition - there's no way to know.

Right now, our focus is treating their symptoms as best we can. For a time, Ophelia had a feeding tube to help her with all the medicines she's on as well as to get food in her stomach. She's now eating on her own. Thurston is doing better. Samantha's mouth has not healed and we recently asked for a biopsy of the sores in her mouth. We're waiting on the results but do not expect a good outcome. As with all the BCR cats, we'll do our very best for them as long as we can. We won't let them suffer.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a full list common symptoms of the herpes virus in cats.

My cat's getting fat! Or is she?



Ever heard of the primordial pouch? It's a real thing that Cici and other cats develop during their lives. It doesn't mean your cat is getting fat. [CLICK HERE](#) for a very helpful article that explains the primordial pouch and how to tell if your cat is really getting fat!

Have a birthday coming up?

Tell your friends to skip the gifts instead make a donation to [your BCR birthday fundraiser!](#)

It's easy and is a huge help to the cats.



Things We Know That We Wish Others Did, Too!



We've all wondered if our cats really know their names or not. Well, a recent study seems to have answered this question - at least partially! [CLICK HERE](#) to read more!

After reading this story, the next question is - if cats do know their names, are they just ignoring us when we call them and they don't move?

It's kitten season again. Here are some things to know if you should find one or more kittens.

HELP, I FOUND A KITTEN!

Found kittens outside and don't know what to do?
This flowchart will help you take steps to make the best decisions for their care!

ARE THE KITTENS 8 WEEKS OR OLDER?
Visit alleycat.org/KittenProgression to help determine how old the kittens are.

NO → **ARE THE KITTENS WITH MOM?**

YES → **ARE THE KITTENS FRIENDLY?**

ARE THE KITTENS WITH MOM?

NO → **DID MOM COME BACK A FEW HOURS LATER?**

YES → **FAMILY CARE**

TIP:
Newborn, or "neonatal," kittens have closed eyes, folded ears, and can't walk. Be extra careful with these fragile babies.

ARE THE KITTENS FRIENDLY?

YES → **FIND NEW HOME**





NO → **TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN**


DID MOM COME BACK A FEW HOURS LATER?

NO → **KITTEN CARE**

YES → **FAMILY CARE**

TIP:
Eight-week-old kittens play, behave, and look like adult cats. They should weigh at least 2 pounds and can be spayed or neutered!

KITTEN CARE	FAMILY CARE	FIND NEW HOME	TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN
			
Without mom to care for them, these kittens need your help! Neonatal kittens especially require round-the-clock care including bottle-feedings.	Foster kittens with mom until they are 8 weeks old. Neuter and find homes for them. If mom is not friendly, she can be returned to her colony.	Ask a veterinarian to examine and spay or neuter the kittens. Then find homes where the kittens can be socialized to people.	Kittens over 4 months old cannot be socialized, but will live long, healthy outdoor lives. Neuter and vaccinate before returning them to their colony.
Go here for more help: alleycat.org/Neonatal	Go here for more help: alleycat.org/MomAndKittens	Go here for more help: alleycat.org/Socialization	Go here for more help: alleycat.org/TNR

 This chart is just the quick version of what you need to know!
Get detailed information on how to care for kittens at alleycat.org/Kittens.



Sponsor Spotlight:

Seth Jason



Welcome to our second Sponsor Spotlight! The BCR family is full of wonderful people who truly love the cats and we want you to meet them! Each sponsor is given a set of questions to answer and asked to send along their favorite photos of their sponsor cats.

How did you first learn about BCR?

After we lost two of our cats in 2010, I was looking on PetFinder one day and spotted this sweet face of a kitty who was blind. I couldn't resist her face and decided to see what we needed to know about having a blind cat before we went any further. I searched around and found BCR online. I got in touch with Alana and asked my question. Her response was "Blind cats are cats, they don't know they're blind. They do everything other

Blind Cat Rescue: The Cats Wish You a Happy S-purrr-ing!

cats do, except see." She was totally right! We adopted Marla and love her to death - she is a force of nature! Shortly after that, on a trip to NC for a college reunion, we decided to drop in on BCR to see what it was all about. We've been hooked ever since!

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

We've been fortunate enough to visit often over the past seven years. The thing I love most is seeing all these beautiful happy cats who are safe and so well cared for and loved. For me, some highlights are getting to take a nap with a cat or two, getting to know the staff and help them out, and doing the online tours. The thing that surprised me most is that, even with so many cats, none of the buildings or rooms have that "shelter smell."

There's no smell at all - the buildings are that clean! I'm also in awe of how well the staff knows each of the cats and their personalities and what they need.



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

Our sponsor history is to go with a new cat when it comes in. We now sponsor Smudge, who we picked up when he still actually had a smudge on his head, and Misty, who we sponsor in honor of Mary Ann, our previous sponsor until she crossed the Rainbow Bridge. In addition, Marla, our blind, cat is a sustainer who does a monthly donation. (Being blind herself, she couldn't decide on a kitty to sponsor - she loves them all!)



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

I hope everyone gets a chance to visit BCR sometime. For me it's the most relaxing and calm place I know. No matter what's going on in my world or the larger world, when we get to BCR it's an instant oasis of calm.

Kitties in Action!



How many times have you been asked this question: "Can blind cats play?"

Our answer is, of course they can! But most people don't believe that. If anyone needs further proof that blind cats can and DO play a lot, check out these videos of our cats doing that very thing! The next time someone asks you about this, send them a link!

[Bunny loves her crinkle ball!](#)

[Casper's toy chase!](#)

[Gallie discovers the catnip banana!](#)

[Greta's best toy EVER!](#)

Willow and the cats want to be in touch with you!

But they can't if they don't have your latest address!
If you have moved and have a new address or email, please send it to us!

Just [email us your information at this address!](#)

We do not share any information with other organizations.



Pearl purrs THANK YOU to everyone who has added to the pantry shelves!

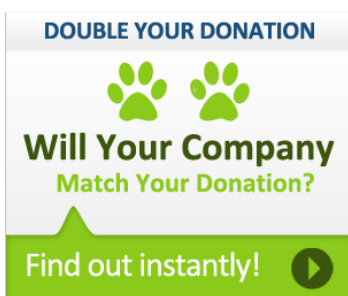
If you'd like to help Pearl and the BCR cats, please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the things they need most!



Helping the cats is EZ!



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



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>





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.](#)



The Cats want to Make the Top 10!

BCR will really make a splash if we're in the Top 10 GreatNonProfits! We can get there with your help!

Just share why you love BCR! Use [THIS LINK](#) to visit our GreatNonProfits web page and click on the "Share Your Story" button. Once you press "Submit," they'll send you a confirmation email.

For those who have already shared their stories, thank you!!!



Best buddies Andrew and Bear are hoping you'll visit them at our next Open House!

**Come on
Saturday, May 11
noon - 4 p.m.**

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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