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#### **Cats and Hypertension**

We can't repeat this mantra enough - have your cat's blood pressure checked! Why is this so critical? Ask Precious, one of our newer senior kitties here.

We were alerted about Precious when his owners wanted him euthanized because he was living on their front porch and his loud meow woke them up at night! Our guess is that he was meowing because he was scared, blind, cold (it was winter) and being attacked by other cats.

We were very happy we had a place for him. Imagine this poor boy being an outdoor cat!



One look at his eyes told us an important part of his story: Precious was hypertensive! The first thing our vet did was check his blood pressure, which was over 300! The norm for cats is around 100, just like humans. Of course, he went blind. If his people had bothered to check his blood pressure earlier, they might have prevented this from happening at all.

Here's the good news - the VERY good news - Precious' sight has come back! He was very lucky that his retinas had not already detached and that two weeks of hypertension medication worked. He is one in 10,000!

Precious is a lucky boy. Yes, he's still hard of hearing and a senior, but he has recovered from his wounds and regained this really important sense. We couldn't be happier for him. His life has completely turned around and he is healthy, safe, happy, loved and will never be abandoned again.



Life is good! Just ask Precious!

**CLICK HERE** to read more about feline hypertension.

CLICK HERE to see how your vet monitors your cat's blood pressure.

#### Your Cat's Kidneys



medicines and treatment they need to have normal, comfortable lives.

BCR is home to lots of senior kitties and it's common for them to arrive with or develop kidney disease, which is often found in kitties of advanced years. Our own Casper, Charles and Dixie all suffer from kidney disease. As we talked about in an earlier newsletter, regular blood work by your vet is key to diagnosing kidney problems and monitoring them.

Since the kidneys have so many functions in the cat's body, there are lots of different signs when they stop functioning as they should. One to watch for is weight loss, along with changes in appetite and poor fur quality.

There are many different treatments for kidney problems from special diets to supplements to the IV delivery of fluids.

We do the absolute best we can for Casper, Charles and Dixie, who are all regularly monitored for their kidney function and get all the

Understanding what the kidneys do for your cat and how they function, along with keeping an eye on your cat's bloodwork and monitoring for signs of kidney disease are hugely important.

**CLICK HERE** for an excellent overview of kidney disease in cats.

#### Have a birthday coming up?

Tell your friends to skip the gift and instead ask them to donate to <u>your BCR birthday fundraiser</u>! It's easy and is a super way help to the cats.





BCR in the News! The Fayetteville Observer recently did a super story on



#### The Cats Need YOU!

They really want BCR to stand out and shine on the GreatNonprofits website and that's where you come in!

It's easy to do - just share why you love BCR! Use THIS LINK to visit our GreatNonProfits web page and click on the "Share Your Story" button. One you press "Submit," they'll send you a confirmation email.

You can Help BCR once again be named a Top-Rated non-profit for the coming year!

BCR's blind, FIV- and feline leukemia-positive cats thank you!



Welcome to our 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?

I truly can't remember how I first learned of BCR but I believe I saw a posting on Facebook. After that I was 'hooked' and fell in love with all the precious babies.

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

No, I haven't had the pleasure of visiting BCR yet, but it's at the top of my 'bucket list'. I love the 'live tours' on Facebook and to see those angels in their homes makes me want to be there for sure! I'm the most excited about being able to hold and cuddle and snuggle each and every one of those blessed babies!



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

I now sponsor three babies: Elvira, Maggie and Daisy Mae. To be honest, each one had their own story that touched my heart, and I wanted to 'be there' for each one.

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

To tell people about BCR is so very simple: For just a few pennies a day a loving innocent cat – due to no fault of its own, deserted/abandoned because of blindness or illness or just not wanted any longer – can be provided the safety of a home, food, medical treatment, security, and not a 'death sentence.' Most importantly, the dear pet is loved and made to feel wanted as part of a 'family.' I will always be a loving sponsor of BCR and have shared the website with co-workers here at the office, as well as with my family. Prayerfully, one day I'll be able to contribute more.



#### Singing Cats?

Is your cat quite the opera star? Does he/she sing to you? What does it mean when they sing - or trill - when they greet you? CLICK HERE to find out!



### More Kitties to Love -Meet our Newest Arrivals

Both our newest arrivals prove once again that it often "takes a village" to save the lives of precious cats! Our thanks to this village: Davica Touchard, Maribell, Suzanne, Nicole, Wendy, Randy, Dr. Kristi, Elizabeth and Thorn!



<u>Merlin</u> and <u>Pipsqueak</u> were both about to be euthanized in an animal control facility in Florida. We put a call out to Davica, the angel who has helped transport several kitties to us, and she went to work. Within a few days, Merlin and Pipsqueak were landing in Raleigh and on their way to BCR. Both have made their first visits to our vet and are settling in to their new - and much improved - lives! Merlin, who is blind, deaf and has some neurological problems, loves people but isn't so sure yet about other cats. Pipsqueak, who is also blind, is a very sweet old lady to is settling in quite well! Both of these sweet cats need sponsors!



<u>CLICK HERE</u> to sponsor Merlin. <u>CLICK HERE</u> to sponsor Pipsqueak!

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 restore their health, they cross the Rainbow Bridge.

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 over the Rainbow Bridge. While we miss them, we'll always be thankful that we had time with them at BCR and will remember them with love.





#### Gardens of Love

A forever home at BCR means just that - forever. As we do every spring, we have added to our memorial gardens the ashes of all the sweet cats who've crossed the rainbow bridge in the last year.

Each one is placed in our gardens surrounded by beautiful rose bushes. We thank all of you who donated memorial stones and markers for the memorial gardens. Now, whenever people walk around in the gardens, they'll remember these remarkable cats who shared their lives with us.

To see the whole Facebook album of photos from this special day, CLICK HERE.



# Things We Know That We Wish Others Did, Too!



As the birds chirp away in the trees outside your window, does your cat go into hunting mode? Ever wonder why they butt wiggle before pouncing? <u>CLICK</u> <u>HERE</u> to find out what scientists think is the answer to this great mystery!

Observations you can use from our friend, Jackson Galaxy!



#### Lurch is calling you!

He wants to be sure we have your latest address! If you've 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.



Lisa, Emily and Charity are having a group discussion about how MUCH they love to snack! They purr THANK YOUs to all who have helped stock them with goodies this spring! If you'd like to make these girls happy, please <u>CLICK HERE</u> to see the things we 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? <u>Try eBay!</u>



Matching gifts are a great way to double your BCR donation!



When you shop online, please <u>use Amazon Smile</u> 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 FreshStep litter user? If you don't use your <u>Fresh Step litter</u> 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!! <u>CLICK HERE</u> for details.



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.

## 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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Want to change how you receive these emails? You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>.