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Cats and Congestive Heart Failure



We recently lost sweet Dusty to congestive heart failure, a condition that can be common in senior cats. She arrived with a pretty advanced case of it so we knew her time with us would be short.

Like humans, congestive heart failure in cats is a thickening of the heart walls so that it can't pump enough blood throughout the body, causing fluid to build up in the lungs. The most common cause of this kind of congestive heart failure is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, when the walls of the heart thicken.

As with most life-threatening conditions in cats, regular vet visits and monitoring are key in catching this early. There are signs you can watch for, too, among them difficult or rapid breathing, loss of appetite and weakness or lethargy.

There is a lot to know about congestive heart failure including ways to treat it. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about this disease in cats.

What is Cerebellar Hypoplasia?



Two of BCR's cats show symptoms of having Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH): Bunny and Merlin. CH develops in kittens before they're born if their mother is exposed to the panleukopenia virus or is vaccinated for it while she's pregnant. This exposure can cause her kittens' brains not to develop completely, meaning their motor skills are not fully developed. CH can also be caused by malnutrition or some kind of trauma to the mother cat. It's also true that CH won't happen to all kittens who experience any of the above situations. It's not a contagious condition either, so other cats aren't at risk.

For cats who have a severe case of CH it can look like they are disoriented, staggering and even falling over. Bunny and Merlin have much milder CH. In Bunny, you see it in her walk and Merlin has a slight head bob. The main thing to know is that they are NOT in pain and their condition doesn't negatively impact their lives. You've all seen Bunny playing with her toys, stalking ants and zipping through the lobby with her special gait. For Merlin, her head bob doesn't stop her from being a normal cat either! Again, not causing her pain. CH cats can be adopted and have wonderful happy lives like Bunny and now Merlin!

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about CH and cats who have this condition.

T-Shirt Fundraiser!



Let's make this a summer of love with a special "Peace-Love-Cats" T-shirt!

Summer is the perfect time to show yourself and the world some extra love!

What better way do that than with our special Peace-Love-Cats t-shirts ? They come in six different colors and go up to size 4XL so you can choose the one that suits you best. These shirts make great gifts, too!



All net proceeds from t-shirts sales will go directly to help the blind, FIV- and leukemia-positive cats that call BCR their forever home!

The cats hope you'll [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase yours today!



Lurch wants to know:



He won't stop shouting until he knows we have your correct mailing address!
He thinks summer is the perfect time to get these changes in before the next holiday season rolls around again.

Please help Lurch out! If you've moved and have a new address or email, [please send it to us!](#)

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

Have a Birthday Coming Up?

For your best birthday ever, tell your friends to skip the gift and instead ask them to donate to [your BCR birthday fundraiser!](#)
It's so easy and is a great way help to the cats!





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. Are you interested in being a Sponsor Spotlight?

[Just email us and let us know!](#)

How did you first learn about BCR?

I was on Ustream looking at videos and I came across Alana doing chat and boxes. I started chatting with all the friendly people on there and have been addicted ever since! I have learned so much about cats from listening to Alana during chat and from the BCR Facebook page and website. I had much to learn about FIV and FELV cats as I knew next to nothing about them before discovering BCR.

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

A few years ago, Jane and I decided to take a trip down to North Carolina to see BCR. I couldn't wait to see all the cats in person after watching them for almost 2 years online. We stayed at the guest house which is surprisingly big. The staff was very friendly and we saw first-hand all the hard work they did everyday cleaning the shelter and taking care of all the cats. We really enjoyed spending time with Alana and staff and admire all the hard work they do each day to keep BCR running. What surprised me the most about BCR was how friendly the cats are. Most love attention and run right up to you when you walk in the room.

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

I can't wait to visit again, we try to make at least one trip a year to visit BCR. We are planning a trip this June.



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

All the cats are very special, I wish I could sponsor them all so it is hard to only have just one favorite. It was very hard to narrow down which cat to sponsor but I picked Izzy because not only is she a fantastic tour guide, she is very sweet. She is a beautiful cat with amazing marbled eyes and I love her personality.

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

If you haven't visited BCR, you should! It is an amazing place, Alana and staff work very hard to keep the shelter clean, take great care of the cats, and to get the word out. Please help them by taking just a few seconds to share the videos, click on the daily click/quizzes, contests, or sustain/sponsor if you are able. They are a wonderful group of people trying to save the lives of cats who would probably be euthanized anywhere else.

Tour Time Changes

Willow wants to make sure you got the news about adjustments to our live Facebook tour and Q&A/boxes schedule.

Tours are:

12 PM: Monday-Saturday
3 PM: Monday-Sunday

Boxes and Q&A will happen either during the noon or 3 p.m. tour Monday and Thursday. We will also do them on Friday and Saturday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

We know how much you love seeing the cats on the tours and opening boxes and this plan is the result of our trying to meet your needs while making sure we're able to do the work we need to do for the cats.

This is a work in progress and, as we move forward with this plan, we appreciate your understanding, patience and cooperation. If there are any changes later on, we'll let you know. Thanks!



**More Kitties to Love -
Meet our Newest Arrival**



Coco is a senior blind kitty from a small animal facility in Florida. One of his angels (who is also one of our supporters) alerted us about him and then drove more than 10 hours to get him here! He's a handsome, friendly fellow who looks a little bit like Charles - but with a floofier tail! He arrived very thin and covered with fleas. His blood work shows that he is very anemic, has kidney disease and a very angry liver. He's also



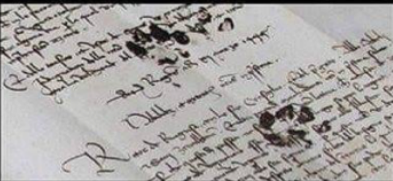
hypertensive, which could be how he lost his sight. The good news is that he has a great appetite and he's now on several medications that will hopefully improve his overall condition. We hope to get him into a room in a few weeks. [CLICK HERE](#) to sponsor Coco.

Things We Know That We Wish Others Did, Too!

Cats: Walking All Over us for Thousands of Years!

CATS: HISTORY HUSTLE

walking all over our stuff for 4,000 years.

	Paw prints on brick from Harappan period in India c. 3300 – 1300 BCE
	Ancient Roman brick from England with cat paw prints.
	15th-century manuscript with inky cat paw marks across the text.

The Weather is heating up.

Read these hot-weather tips for keeping your pets safe and cool!

Hot Weather Tips for Your Pets

As summer temperatures rise, our animal friends need help to stay healthy and safe.

Here are a few things you can do to ensure the safety of your pets.

Beware Hot Cars

NEVER leave pets OR family in a parked car without air conditioning.

- When it's 72° outside, it can be 116° inside the car.
- At 85°, your car can reach 120°.
- Living beings left in hot cars can suffer illness, organ damage, brain damage or even death.

**Not only is it dangerous and deadly, in Alexandria it's illegal to leave your pet in a car if the outside temperature is more than 70° or the ambient temperature inside the car exceeds 80°.*

Change Your Hours

Adapt your exercise schedule.

- Exercise your pet in the early morning or late evening, and adjust the intensity and duration of all exercise.
- When outside, avoid hot asphalt, which can burn paws.
- Dogs with short snouts and/or thick coats are more sensitive to the effects of heat and can overheat at milder temperatures.
- Don't forget that pets can get sunburned, and pet sunblock is recommended for pets with white fur, pink noses or exposed skin.

Cooling Down

On a dog-day afternoon, provide plenty of shade and water.

- On a hot day, remember that your pet may not want to be outside.
- Make sure cool, fresh water and a shaded area are accessible whenever pets are outside.

Monitor the Moisture

It's the heat AND the humidity!

For an animal with a built-in fur coat, humidity can be just as harmful as the heat, causing body temperatures to skyrocket.

Beat the Heat

OTHER COOLING TIPS

- Fans are less effective on animals than humans.
- Help your pet cool off from the inside with an icy treat.
- Don't forget to stay well-hydrated!

Danger Signs

Know the signs of overheating:

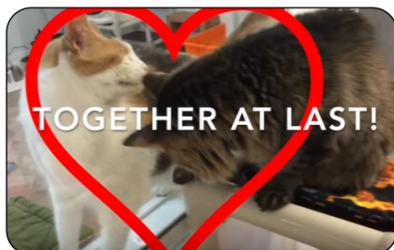
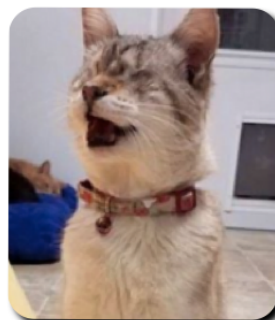
- Excessive panting or difficulty breathing
- Increased heart and respiratory rates
- Drooling
- Weakness or collapse

! *If your pet is overheating or shows signs of heat stroke, contact your veterinarian immediately.*

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
 4101 Eisenhower Avenue
 Alexandria, Virginia 22304
 703-746-4774
 AlexandriaAnimals.org

Kitties in Action!

Lily is quite a conversationalist! [CLICK HERE](#) to see her chat with Alana!



Did you know about the romance between Snicker and Lily? [CLICK HERE](#) to see our feline Romeo and Juliet!



Sterling and Gina love the food you have generously sent to restock the cats' pantry! They Head-Bonk a big THANK YOU to all who have sent supplies!

If you'd like to help the cats keep licking their lips with happiness, please [CLICK HERE](#) 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? [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>



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.



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



**Odie is resting up because
Open House is coming!**

**Join him and all the BCR cats on
Saturday, June 15
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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