

# KATS' TALES

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## FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT by Helen Morrison

It wasn't long ago, maybe only ten years ago or fewer, that a cat found in our area either as a stray or given up as a surrender and who tested positive for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) was euthanized. A cat with FIV had some of the same unfounded stigma as people who were HIV positive in the early 1980's. Thankfully, attitudes have changed for HIV. We know that HIV is rather difficult to get and happens only in very specific circumstances. FIV is rather like that for cats. It has very specific routes of transmission. That happens either by mating or with very intense, deep puncture wounds, the kind that male cats outside are prone to, especially if they aren't neutered. Luckily, attitudes are changing and our approach to FIV+ cats is much more positive and hopeful. Over the past four years, Kingdom Animal Shelter has been asked to take a number of cats who have turned out to be FIV positive. At present, we don't bring them into the Shelter. But one of our vets will house them while we figure out what options we have for those kitties. If they are in good health and are otherwise adoptable in terms of personality, we have been able to implement one of several plans for these cats. Two years ago we made a connection with a Shelter in Massachusetts, a shelter that takes in "regular" cats and finds them homes, but also takes in FeLV and FIV cats and finds them homes. We have taken seven cats down to this Shelter and they have all found homes...Othello, Cecil, Cicero, Marmalade, Fluffernutter, Cashew, and Frisbee. They are now in loving and safe and understanding homes. More recently, we have been able to adopt out in Vermont three feline FIV fellas: Chase, Jack, and Lincoln. And just within the past month, there is now a Shelter in Brattleboro, Windham County Humane Society, who will take FIV+ cats and adopt them out. Seth and Midnight have gone there. Midnight found a home within a week. Seth is a total sweetheart and will find a home soon. Here's the thing. More and more people are understanding that FIV is not the death sentence it used to be, that FIV cats can be adopted. All of those mentioned above are wonderful cats, deserving of a good and loving home. Because their immune systems are compromised, the owner needs to be a bit more tuned in to any sickness that might arise and act quickly. And these kitties need to be indoor only cats, not only to prevent exposure to disease, but also so as not to pass the disease on if they were to get into a fight with a strange cat. So, an FIV cat can be a wonderful addition to your home. They can even be in your home with other kitties that are negative. As long as they don't get into really nasty fights with puncture wounds, they won't pass the disease on to your other cats. Several of the cats mentioned above are in homes with other cats that are negative, and the negative cats have remained negative. As with bringing any new cat into your home, it takes time and monitoring to introduce a new kitty to the feline residents already there. Jack has a feline friend, Silver, who is negative and has remained so. Lincoln has a feline friend who is negative and has remained so. And no worries about FIV going to other non-feline animals. It is specific to cats. It is heartening to watch attitudes change, to watch unfounded fears fade away. An FIV+ cat might be just the kitty to brighten your home. Your vet can help you with introductions, good advice, and suggestions. For a nice article on FIV+ cats, check out: <http://www.care2.com/causes/as-it-turns-out-fiv-positive-and-negative-cats-can-happily-live-together.html>



Victor (the grey tabby on the left) and his sister, Nadia (on the right), are currently in a foster home. Victor is still shy of humans but with patience and good treats, such as chicken, he will warm up to you. Victor enjoys other pets and will be much happier in a home with a playful dog or cat or both! If you want a buddy for your dog or cat, Victor's the cat for you! Nadia is known as "Princess Nadia" because she wants to be number one! Nadia has been living with dogs and cats, but would be fine in a home without them. She loves to be combed and petted roughly, once she gets to know you. If you are interested in Victor or Nadia, please contact Kingdom Animal Shelter at [info@kingdomanimalshelter.com](mailto:info@kingdomanimalshelter.com) or call us at 802-741-7387

### \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- **April 15 Yard Sale at Butler's Bus Service—Lyndonville 9:00—2:00**
- **April 30 Dinner at the Danville Inn and Restaurant time: t/b/d**
- **Pet Parade/Bark in the Park June 17 ...tennis ball sales start soon!**

## MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO GET YOUR CAT TO THE VET by JaneA Kelley (cont.)

*To get to know your vet* It's crucial to develop a relationship with a veterinarian. If your vet sees your cat regularly, she will have records of what's normal for your cat, so if you bring your kitty in because she "ain't doin' right," there will be a baseline of what happens when she "is doin' right." Getting to know your vet will also build a relationship of mutual trust, which you'll need if your cat becomes ill or gets injured. The biggest barrier to getting your cat to the vet can be just trying to get her there. A lot of cats hate the carrier, and it can be a fight to the death to get your kitty in there. Then you have to put up with the wails of despair all the way to the vet's office, and possibly a bunch of vomiting and peeing, too. The good news? You can train your cat to like the carrier and enjoy going to the vet. Cat behaviorist Pam Johnson-Bennett has written a six-step process to get your cat adjusted to being in a carrier. If you follow her advice, you can get your cat accustomed to being transported. (Source: *Catster.com; 2016 Lumina Media LLC; January 4, 2017; retrieved 1/10/2017*)

**\*\*NEW MONTHLY FEATURE\*\* JANUARY ADOPTIONS- - "FUR-EVER HOMES" found for: Pepper, Cali, Licorice, Karl, Dove, Rufio, Butterscotch, Bert, Maggie, Bellamy, Penny, Melody, Jasper, Tangee, Ammon, Nile, Nefertiti, Octavia, and Nick. HOORAY!!**

## KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marilyn Kreiger's LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THE SUBTLE EFFECTS OF AGGRESSION AMONG CATS article concludes next month.

Did you know....Ailurophile is the word cat lovers are officially called.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT** The purpose of the Kingdom Animal Shelter is to facilitate the placement of stray and unwanted animals and pets in desirable homes; to establish and maintain an animal shelter and associated procedures that promote health, care and handling; and to prevent overpopulation and the prevention of cruelty to animals. The animals in our care, our guests, are never euthanized merely because we lack space or because the animal's stay with us has exceeded a predefined amount of time.

Please forward this to your friends, family, co-workers, or anyone interested in supporting our shelter. If you no longer wish to receive emails from Kingdom Animal Shelter, please hit "Reply" and change the subject line to UNSUBSCRIBE. Kingdom Animal Shelter respects your privacy and will never share or sell your email address or other information.