



# KATS' TALES

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## FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS (part 2)

Feline leukemia virus adversely affects the cat's body in many ways. It is the most common cause of cancer in cats, it may cause various blood disorders, and it may lead to a state of immune deficiency that hinders the cat's ability to protect itself against other infections. The same bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and fungi that may be found in the everyday environment—where they usually do not affect healthy animals—can cause severe illness in those with weakened immune systems. These secondary infections are responsible for many of the diseases associated with FeLV. During the early stages of infection, it is common for cats to exhibit no signs of disease at all. However, over time—weeks, months, or even years—the cat's health may progressively deteriorate or be characterized by recurrent illness interspersed with periods of relative health. Signs can include: loss of appetite, slow but progressive weight loss, followed by severe wasting late in the disease process, poor coat condition, enlarged lymph nodes, persistent fever, pale gums and other mucus membranes, inflammation of the gums (gingivitis) and mouth (stomatitis), infections of the skin, urinary bladder, and upper respiratory tract, persistent diarrhea, seizures, behavior changes, and other neurological disorders, a variety of eye conditions, and in unsprayed female cats, abortion of kittens or other reproductive failures. (continued next month)

Source: Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Feline Health Center



Pandora is a sweet, loving, girl. She loves attention and loves to be petted. She is calm, lovable, confident, and fun loving. Pandora is an outgoing and playful cat.

## FOSTERING CATS FOR KINGDOM ANIMAL SHELTER

**What does fostering a cat involve?** When you foster, you agree to take a homeless cat into your home and give him or her love, care and attention for an undetermined period of time until the cat is adopted or returned to the shelter. You provide a secure and safe environment, learn the cats' personalities in order to seek permanent placements, and provide physical as well as psychological portraits of cats for the shelter to aid in the placement of the cat into the proper home setting. The shelter will be responsible for providing veterinary care, food and medicine for cats, plus plenty of support to foster parent volunteers.

**Why should I foster a cat?** Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family. By taking an animal in need temporarily into your home, you can feel good knowing you have helped save a cat's life. Even better, you've created space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless cats. Foster cats provide companionship and purpose. Your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words. Fostering a cat is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have (other than adopting, of course). You will be giving your foster cat the time he needs to be ready for adoption. You will also be helping the shelter learn more about the cat so he can end up in the best home possible. Additionally you are socializing the cat to a home environment, possibly getting him used to being around other pets and different types of people. **Why does the shelter need foster homes?** There are many reasons a cat might need foster care. Some of the most common include:

- the shelter or a rescue group has insufficient physical shelter and depends on foster homes to care for cats until suitable homes are found
- a kitten is too young to be adopted and needs a safe place to stay until he or she is old enough to go to a permanent home
- kittens and young cats that require more socialization than available at the shelter
- a cat is recovering from surgery, illness or injury and needs a safe and quiet place to recuperate
- older or senior cats that will be more comfortable in a home environment
- a cat that is showing signs of stress
- a cat that may not have lived in a home before or has not had much contact with people and needs to be socialized.
- neglected or abused cats that need tender loving care, more than what is available at the shelter
- cats with special medical needs
- abandoned mothers with litters of kittens.

**How do I sign up to foster a cat?** Contact The Kingdom Animal Shelter. We will have you fill out a volunteer application and, if you are approved, we will work with you to figure out the right foster cat for your household. **How long does a foster care placement last ?** It completely depends on the cat and the situation. **What supplies are needed to foster?** **What will it cost?** Foster parents provide space, care and love for the cat. The shelter will provide you with all the supplies, meds and equipment needed throughout your foster experience. **Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?** No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster cat so you will have to be comfortable following veterinarian's instructions if fostering a sick or injured cat. **If I have my own animals can I foster cats?** Yes, but keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young. If you or someone in your household is immune-compromised, consult your doctor before fostering.

**What if I have children?** Fostering is a wonderful family experience and can build a foundation of philanthropy in your children. It's important to select a cat that is "age" appropriate with your children. You must also be diligent about providing guidance, instructions and rules to your children about caring for your own animals or a foster cat.

**What if I go on vacation or a business trip?** If given enough notice, we can usually find volunteers that can foster sit for short durations. We ask that foster parents always keep shelter staff aware of any need for temporary foster sitting situations.

Submitted by Nancy Rivet, KAS Director

## \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- May 4 1:00 to 5:00 Cinco de Meow  
A new event to be held at the North Congregational Church, Main Street, in St. Johnsbury.  
Food, music, games & more! Ole!!



## KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Butkovich – Co-President  
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**Did you know....many medications are toxic for cats, especially acetaminaphen (Tylenol), one of the worst!**

**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.