



Kingdom Animal Shelter  
1664 Memorial Drive  
P.O. Box 462, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802) 741-7387  
www.kingdomanimalshelter.com

December  
2013



## KAS 2014 Calendars—Going Fast!

Calendars may be purchased at the following locations: in St. J: Locally Social Coffee/Caramel's Tanning, AquaRealm, and Morrison's Feed Bag; in Lyndonville: Mountain View Auto, North Country Veterinary Clinic, Lyndonville Hardware, and Lyndonville Agway; in Danville: Diamond Hill Store and Danville Animal Hospital; Copies & More in Wells River; East Haven Vet Services, and the Cabot Library in Cabot. Even if you didn't submit a picture of your favorite feline, we know you'll enjoy this purr-fect way to show your support for KAS. The cost is \$15, and the winning photos of these glamorous felines are proudly displayed month by month. Get yours today, before they're gone.



**F  
R  
I  
D  
A  
Y**

Meet Friday. She is a spayed female about 2 years old. Friday is very friendly and loves to rub up against you. A perfect day for Friday includes sleeping in the sun, being petted and snuggling for a long time, and rubbing up against multiple objects around the house. If you want a cat that will come running to you when you get home, snuggle with you, and play with you, Friday is the cat for you!

## 5 TIPS FOR TEACHING YOUR KIDS HOW TO PROPERLY HANDLE A CAT

Like humans, each cat has a unique personality. Some crave lots of affection and love to be held and cuddled, while others are more independent and don't enjoy much handling. Kids love pets and, of course, are usually eager to shower them with love and cuddles. It's essential that we educate children of all ages on proper cat-handling techniques. This will help the bonding process, as well as ensure safety for both the cat and child. 1) Set the mood Cats are excellent mood readers and pick up a lot about us by our voices, actions, and general vibes. When we are stressed, they sense it. If a child wishes to connect with a cat, it's important that she approach him in a relaxed manner, using a calm voice tone. Younger kids can be energetic and loud, which scares cats. On that same note, teach children they should never chase kitty. This "game" only teaches the cat to fear the child. 2) Take time to become acquainted Cats feel more comfortable when we greet them on their level. Encourage the child to lie on the floor and slowly offer the cat her hand so he can smell her. Kitty may positively respond by rubbing his face on her hand or pressing his head against her hand, encouraging her to pet him. This is a good sign! If he acts apprehensively, be patient. Forcing affection on a cat who doesn't want it will only push the bonding process in the wrong direction. 3) Gently pet kitty's back, shoulder to tail If the cat is responsive to the child's touch, it's usually safe to pet him gently from the shoulder to the tail. This is not the time to try and rub the cat's belly. Some cats enjoy tummy rubs, but many do not, and it's definitely not a great way to make initial contact with a cat. Over time, if you discover the cat enjoys pets to the belly, go for it. Honor a cat's individual personality and preferences. 4) Use caution with picking up kitty If the cat shows signs of warming up to the child—and you know kitty likes to be held—you may choose to take cat-handling to the next level. Also remember that, along with respecting the cat's personality, make choices based on the child's personality, age, and demeanor. You know what you can probably expect from your child, and if you believe the cat may not be safe in your child's arms, don't place him there. Cats like to feel stable and secure, so it's imperative to pick them up correctly. Make sure that kitty is relaxed. Always use both hands. Press one hand flat against kitty's chest and use the other to support the hindquarters. Hold the cat securely, - but not too lightly—against your chest so he feels safe and comfortable. Do not cradle a cat like a human baby. A few cats enjoy being held that way but most do not. The cat feels unstable and his paws and face are perfectly positioned for scratches and bites. Don't try this position until the child and cat feel completely comfortable together and you are absolutely certain kitty enjoys this position. 5) Sit or stand Especially at first, children should sit or stand while holding a cat. Motion may spook a cat who is just becoming accustomed to this up close and personal relationship with a small human. Younger children may also have the tendency to take off running, which will definitely make kitty feel scared and unsafe. By Angie Bailey

Posted in *CATS AND KIDS* (/topic/cats-and-kids/), *CATSTER TIPS* (/topic/catster-tips/), *LIFESTYLE* (/topic/lifestyle/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- No specific events as of this date. If you or your workplace would like to hold a fundraiser, we'd be glad to help. Call the shelter number above, or email: [info@kingdomanimalshelter.com](mailto:info@kingdomanimalshelter.com)

## KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Butkovich – Co-President  
Helen Morrison – Co-President  
Klari Emmons – Secretary  
David Gile – Treasurer  
Heidi Sessions  
Rod Lauman  
Nancy Rivet



Did you know....Humans have 5 million scent receptors in their nose, compared to over 500 million for cats! Amazing!

**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.