



# KATS' TALES

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Kingdom Animal Shelter  
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## BLACK CATS ARE SPECIAL

Many of you have heard the superstition that black cats are bad luck. The same goes for black dogs, except the old wives tale on that is that black dogs are mean. As a result, dogs and cats with a black coat find it much harder to find themselves a home. In shelters that euthanize, these animals are put down at a much higher rate than cats and dogs of different colors. The other problem is that due to their black color, they don't photograph well. They all just look like a black blob with eyes unless photographed really well. I know from doing adoptions that when people come in, they many times don't look at the black cats but are attracted to other colors and patterns.

For hundreds of years in Medieval Europe and later in the early U.S. colonies, black cats were regarded as the companion animals of witches and were known as "familiars." The witch would allegedly use her black cats as a medium through which she would cast spells and administer curses. The person who was accused of being a witch would often have her cats rounded up and executed as well, black or not.

I am a volunteer at Kingdom Animal Shelter in St. Johnsbury Center. My cats that I had for a long time had died of old age disorders. I went to the Shelter to get some new cats and selected Rambler, a black Bombay cat that had been abandoned in front of the Shelter. At the same time there were two black kittens there that needed a home. Cody and Colleen were dumped off in a cardboard box on an elderly couple's lawn. They knew nothing about cats so they were brought in to Kingdom Animal Shelter. I adopted them as well so all the colors would match. These were the first all-black cats that I had ever had.

Later I added Curtis and then Major. He had been brought in to a local vet to be put down as a nuisance, but we took him instead. Recently I added Rameses to my all-black cat family. A collar that was too loose had slipped down to his armpit and embedded itself in his skin, creating a horrific wound. Rameses is now healing well and is happy.

These animals are extremely loving and of course are no different than cats of different colors. They create quite a stir when someone drops by and sees them and asks if they are siblings! The black cats have quite a presence to them that is graceful and mysterious. These guys were lucky to get a home, as many times the black cats stay in the shelter quite a while before being adopted. We are a no kill shelter, so they stay with us until they do find a home. Blade and Biscuit, as well as Mrs. Bean, have been with us for over a year now, partly just due to their black coat color. Won't you stop by the Shelter today and check out our wonderful black cats that need a home? There is a black cat with a heart of gold waiting to grace your life with their sleek, elegant dark fur!

[www.kingdomanimalshelter.com](http://www.kingdomanimalshelter.com) is our website if you would like to check us out. You will find our adoption hours, and you can see pictures of some of these cats for yourself. You can certainly look at the cats with other colors as well, but please give these black beauties an extra glance!

Rod Lauman, Kingdom Animal Shelter Director and Volunteer  
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ZACH

Zach is a playful, loving, neutered male about 6 months old. He loves to run around and play with toys and other cats. His favorite toys include mice and feather toys on string. Zach likes to talk to you, but only in a quiet voice. He likes to be petted and scratched on his head. Zach gets along well with cats and dogs! The perfect day for Zach would include a big breakfast and dinner, playing with his toys and you, being petted, and sleeping next to you.

### \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- March 15 Maple Fest in Cabot, Cabot School Gymnasium
- May 4 Cinco de Meow A new event to be held in St. Johnsbury, an exact location to be announced later. Food, music, & more! Ole!!

### KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Butkovich – Co-President  
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Did you know....Cats' hearing stops at 65 khz (kilohertz); humans' hearing stops at 20 khz.

**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.