



KATS' TALES

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

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FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is retrovirus which produces an enzyme, reverse transcriptase, which permits it to insert a copy of its own genetic material into that of the cell it has infected. FeLV cats are found worldwide, but the prevalence of infection varies greatly depending on their age, health, environment, and lifestyle. In the U.S., approximately 2 to 3% of all cats are infected with FeLV. Rates rise significantly-13% or more-in cats that are ill, very young, or otherwise at high risk of infection. Cats persistently infected with FeLV serve as sources of infection. Virus is shed in very high quantities in saliva and nasal secretions, but also in urine, feces, and milk from infected cats. Cat-to-cat transfer of virus may occur from a bite wound, during mutual grooming, and (though rarely) through the shared use of litter boxes and feeding dishes. Transmission can also take place from an infected mother cat to her kittens, either before they are born or while they are nursing. FeLV doesn't survive long outside a cat's body—probably less than a few hours under normal household conditions. Cats at greatest risk of infection are those that may be exposed to infected cats, either via prolonged close contact or through bite wounds. Such cats include: cats living with infected cats or with cats of unknown infection status; cats allowed outdoors unsupervised, where they may be bitten by an infected cat; kittens born to infected mothers. Kittens are much more susceptible to infection than are adult cats, and therefore are at the greatest risk of infection if exposed. But accompanying their progression to maturity is an increasing resistance to FeLV infection. For example, the degree of virus exposure sufficient to infect 100% of young kittens will infect only 30% or fewer adults. Nevertheless, even healthy adult cats can become infected if sufficiently exposed. (to be continued) *Source: Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Feline Health Ctr.*



Duchess is an approximately one-year-old spayed female with a playful personality. She loves to be petted and rubbed, play with her toys, and she gets along well with other cats. Won't you stop by soon and let her give you the royal treatment. You'll be glad you did!

HOW TO SAFELY BATHE YOUR CAT

For as much grooming as they do, cats seem to be the cleanest felines out there. But, surprisingly, giving them a hand at maintenance with a thorough scrub is not a bad way to pamper them a little. Even with the help of their built-in grooming tools (tongue and teeth), cats can all use an occasional bath. But each feline is different. From their hair (short vs. long) to how they live (indoor vs. outdoor) to what sticky messes they may get into, the frequency of how often you bathe your cat will vary. Regardless of what kind of cat you have, though, a bath will be great for a kitty's health in the long run. Veterinarian Dr. Jean Quaintance says, "Cat baths are tricky—they must be performed very carefully for the safety of both the cat and the owner! Cats typically do not need baths since their own bathing apparatuses are built in, but in the cases of certain long haired (or no-haired) purebreds or cats that don't do the jobs themselves, baths can be very necessary." Here are five tips the ASPCA (<http://www.aspc.org/>) would like you to keep in mind when you're making your feline especially fancy: **1. All In The Timing:** Make sure not to surprise your cat with a bath when they're already in a grumpy mood. Getting your cat when they're chilled out or in a good mood after a play session may be the best time for a clean-up. **2. Quick Trim:** If you plan on trimming your cat's claws, make sure to do this before they bathe. It will be a good way to prevent any unnecessary scratches to you while you give them a dip. **3 Prep Work:** Make sure to brush and remove any loose or matted hair, especially if your pretty kitty has longer hair. It's advised to gently place cotton in their ears to keep water out. **4. Execution:** Now that your pretty kitty is ready to go, use a hand-held spray hose to get things started. Make sure to avoid spraying directly in their ears, eyes, and nose. Do not use human shampoo as it can dry up their skin. When lathering up, it's best to use one part cat shampoo to five parts water. Work you way from head to tail and in the direction of how their hair grows. **5. Wrapping It Up:** Rinse your cat gently with lukewarm water, making sure to rinse off all residue to prevent skin irritation. Wrap your now clean cat in a towel and place them in a warm area. Some choose to use a blow dryer to help the drying process, but make sure it is at the lowest heat setting. For cats with long hair you will want to brush it out with a wide-toothed comb.

(http://love.theanimalrescuesite.com/how-to-safely-bathe-your-cat/?origin=FK_Trivia) (retrieved: 2/4/2014)

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!!

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Did you know....25% of cat owners blow dry their cat's hair after a bath.

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.