



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 (conclusion)

FeLV is present in the blood (a condition called viremia) during two different stages of infection: *primary viremia*, an early stage of virus infection. During this stage some cats are able to mount an effective immune response, eliminate the virus from the bloodstream, and halt progression to the secondary viremia stage. *Secondary viremia*, a later stage characterized by persistent infection of the bone marrow and other tissue. If FeLV infection progresses to this stage, it has passed a point of no return; the overwhelming majority of cats with secondary viremia will be infected for the remainder of their lives. Two types of FeLV blood tests are in common use. Both detect a protein component of the virus as it circulates in the bloodstream. *ELISA* (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) and similar tests can be performed in your veterinarian's office. *ELISA*-type tests detect both primary and secondary stages of viremia. *IFA* (indirect immunofluorescent antibody assay) tests must be sent out to a diagnostic laboratory. *IFA* tests detect secondary viremia only, so the majority of positive-testing cats remain infected for life. Each testing method has strengths and weaknesses. Your veterinarian will likely suggest an *ELISA*-type test first, but in some cases, both tests must be performed—and perhaps repeated—to clarify a cat's true infection status. The only sure way to protect cats is to prevent their exposure to FeLV-infected cats. Keep cats indoors, away from potentially infected cats that might bite them. If you do allow your cat outdoor access, provide supervision or place them in a secure enclosure to prevent wandering and fighting. Adopt only infection-free cats into households with uninfected cats. House infection-free cats separately from infected cats, and don't allow infected cats to share food and water bowls or litter boxes with uninfected cats. Consider FeLV vaccination of uninfected cats. (FeLV vaccination of infected cats is not beneficial.) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of vaccination with your veterinarian. FeLV vaccines are widely available, but since not all vaccinated cats will be protected, preventing exposure remains important even for vaccinated pets. FeLV vaccines will not cause cats to receive false positive results on *ELISA*, *IFA*, or any other available FeLV tests. Unfortunately many FeLV-infected cats are not diagnosed until after they have lived with other cats. In such cases, all other cats in the household should be tested for FeLV. Ideally, infected and non-infected cats should then be separated to eliminate the potential for FeLV transmission.

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



PHOTOGRAPH

Nicole is a spayed female about 3-years old. She is very sweet, playful, and loving. She likes to be petted and rubbed, but she may be shy around other cats. Stop in and meet her today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 21 10:00 A.M. Pet Parade, Main St., St. Johnsbury, Bark in the Park Raffle...Big cash prizes!
- June 28 Cats & Roses (date subject to change) 206 Cliff St., St. J., Rose garden tour, raffles, refreshments

6 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU ADOPT A CAT

Adopting a cat without careful consideration can end in heartache; here are tips to avoid that. A cat, just by being a cat, can make a house a home. There is something special about a cat napping by the window or one purring on your lap while you chill out after a stressful day. Cats can be antidotes for rough times, but adopting one (or two) should never be a spur of the moment decision. Before making the decision to share your home with a cat (or cats), do your homework and ask yourself the tough questions. Make sure that you can support the cat and provide a loving, safe environment for her whole life. Here are six questions that will help you decide if you are ready for a cat buddy. **1.** Can you afford a cat? Cats need more than cuddles and warm places to nap. In addition to the costs of high-quality cat food, furniture, and toys, veterinary care can be pricey. Although unexpected health issues, teeth cleanings, and yearly visits can tax the wallet, options are available that help make veterinary expenses manageable. There are many pet health insurance plans on the market that will help pay the bills. Monthly premiums and deductibles vary between plans and are based on the cat's age, medical history, and coverage. When checking the plans, read the fine print. Many have strict limits on what they cover. Another option is the CareCredit healthcare card. Be aware that CareCredit is another flavor of credit card. Interest rates are steep, and the issuer has penalties for late and missed payments. **2.** Do you live in a cat-friendly housing situation? Before deciding to adopt, make sure that you can have feline roommates where you live. If you are renting, have a signed agreement from the manager stating you can have cats and the number you are allowed to have on the premises. Stuff happens; buildings change hands, and the new building owners may not be cat-friendly. The signed agreement will protect you and your cat from eviction. Always consider others. If you have housemates, make sure that they will welcome a kitty. Not all human roommates enjoy the company of cats. Look down the road and think about the future. Is this your permanent home or are you planning to move? Sadly, many people abandon their cats because they relocate into an animal-unfriendly situation. If you plan on moving, make sure that your new home is cat-friendly. One good source for cat- and dog-friendly housing is Rent.com. The site's filters will help you identify cat-friendly housing that is within your budget. (continued next issue). By: Marilyn Krieger, contributor, Catster.com newsletter, retrieved 2/12/2014

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Did you know....if your cat is near you and her tail is quivering, this is the greatest expression of love your cat can give you. If her tail starts thrashing, her mood has changed—time to distance yourself from her.

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.