

# KATS' TALES

Volume 6, Issue 5



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May  
2015

## CHASE by Helen Morrison, KAS President

Chase has a face to win over hearts. Sweet, sweet eyes, and those diminished ears (probably from frostbite). He looks so healthy. And he is healthy, except for the fact that Chase is an FIV positive cat. He was found hanging around the home of a vet tech. She fed him, cared for him, took him in on cold nights. Because she works at Littleton Emergency Vet Clinic, she took him in to get him checked. And to her dismay, he tested positive for the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. But all is not lost for sweet and friendly Chase. Cats who are positive for FIV but who are not symptomatic (i.e., they do not have feline AIDS) can be wonderful, healthy, and long-lived pets. The key to adopting an FIV+ cat is to not let him outside, so he doesn't pass it on. And one can have him inside with other cats who are also FIV+ or with whom he gets along. FIV is not easy to pass on. It is a bit like HIV. There has to be body fluid exchange. For a cat that means serious fighting that includes deep puncture wounds, or mating. Because the cats that come into the Shelter don't know each other at first, we do not bring FIV+ cats into the Shelter; they are kept elsewhere, safe and sound. KAS has previously found good and loving homes for 3 FIV+ cats. One of those was with his FIV negative brother. They were together for years and the brother never became positive. They were two gorgeous, orange and white long-haired tabby book-ends, Marmalade and Fluffernutter. And they were adopted into a home that understands that there are no risks to other cats as long as they don't go outside and don't fight seriously with one another.



So, take a good look at Chase. Isn't he precious? He has found a wonderful and understanding home. There will be more FIV+ cats who are healthy and friendly and sweet, just looking for the right home. Perhaps you would consider giving an FIV+ cat a home? Let us know.

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## ACT YOUR AGE

Many decisions related to veterinary care are determined, in part, by an animal's age—particularly in terms of timing vaccinations—so it's important to be as precise as possible. Accurately aging Kittens can seem like a daunting job, yet a few simple guidelines can make the task a breeze. This article will focus on tips for assessing their teeth. *What do their teeth look like?* Deciduous (baby) teeth start to come in around three weeks of age in Kittens, and their permanent adult teeth start to come in between three and four months of age. The middle incisors are the first to come in around 14 weeks of age, with the second and third incisors following shortly after, at approximately 15 weeks and 16 weeks respectively. This is a particularly helpful guideline, as you can use body weight and the presence of these adult teeth to know that a kitten is old enough to receive his or her rabies vaccination! Kitten teeth are tiny, and it can be tricky to tell if the incisors are baby teeth or the permanent adult teeth. It's easiest when you have some of both to serve as a comparison. Remember that baby teeth are a little smaller with pointed tips (think of how sharp puppy teeth can be!), while the permanent teeth are a little wider with flat edges. *How much do they weigh?* A kitten's weight in pounds roughly corresponds to her age in months, and she will gain weight at a relatively predictable rate until about five months of age. As long as a kitten is in good body condition, you can safely guess that a 1-pound kitten is about 4 weeks old and a 3-pound kitten is about 12 weeks old. *Are their eyes open?* Kittens are born with their eyes closed, and they don't open until about 10 days of age. *Are they walking and playing?* Most kittens start walking around three weeks of age, but take a little longer to gain their coordination. You can be comfortable saying that a kitten who is walking pretty well and playing is at least four weeks of age.

Source: <http://aspcapro.org/tip-of-the-week> ; Professional blog, Monday June 24, 2013; retrieved 7/9/13



Nick is a neutered male about 2-years old. He was found living as a stray. He is very friendly, talkative at times, and full of personality. He is affectionate and likes to sit on laps. Nick is an awesome cat looking for an awesome home. Come meet him soon!

## \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- June 13 Bark in the Park after the Pet Parade at 10:00 A.M., Main Street, St. Johnsbury



## KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Did you know....Tufts of hair that grow inside and around a cat's ear are called "ear furnishings." They insulate the ear, keep out dirt, and direct sound.

**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.