

KATS' TALES

Volume 6, Issue 9



Kingdom Animal Shelter
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September
2015

Should I Keep My Feline Indoors Only? By Rod Lauman, KAS Board Member

There is a debate that has been ongoing for years about whether or not cats should be kept indoors. Those that feel they should be outside part of the time feel their cat would be deprived of the outdoor experience. Much of this is based on how your parents handled this issue and that you grew up with that as a basis of how a cat's life should be lived, indoor only or indoor/outdoor. Please consider these facts that greatly affect your cat's quality of life and life span. The average outdoor only cat lives 2-3 years. The average indoor/outdoor cat lives 5-7 years. The average indoor only lives a normal life span of 15-20 years. The decision to keep a cat indoors only adds many quality years to his/her life.

Here at Kingdom Animal Shelter, we recommend that cats be kept indoors. There are many dangers outdoors, some of which are:

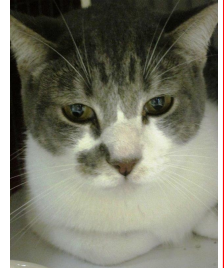
- Fleas and cost of flea treatment monthly
 - Ticks (carry Lyme disease) and cost of tick treatment monthly
 - FIV (Feline version of HIV which can develop into full blown Aids)
 - Feline Leukemia transmitted by fighting with other outdoor cats
 - Feline Herpes from exposure to other cats
 - FIP (A particularly nasty deadly disease picked up from other outdoor cats)
 - Toxicidia from your cat digging in the dirt and picking up the parasite and bringing it in
 - Picking up intestinal worms
 - Infected wounds/abscesses and eye damage from cat bites/scratches incurred during cat fights that need expensive vet attention
 - Hit in traffic/run over
 - Lost
 - Stolen
 - Taken/eaten by predators: coy dogs, coyotes, fishers
 - Attacked by other neighborhood cats (possible injury and very stressful for your cat)
 - Attacked and possibly killed by neighborhood dogs
 - Attacked by mean people
 - Taunted/teased/abused by neighborhood children
- And finally, if you keep your cat indoors you will be able to spend more time with your cat since he/she will be around more.

If you hopefully decide to keep your cat indoors only, the key is to provide stimulation for him/her. Lots of toys to play with, scratching posts, and extra play time interacting with them are a big help. You might consider adding another cat if you have one cat only for more interaction and avoiding boredom while you are **AWAY**.

I have lots of window perches for my cats to lie in the sun and watch the birds at my feeder. They love the fresh air and outdoor scents during the summer months. We have lots of great cats available for adoption currently. You can see them and get information about us at KAS, 1664 Memorial Drive in St. Johnsbury.

FRECKLES

Freckles is a neutered male about 2 to 3 years old. He is a total sweetie, somewhat shy, but loves to be petted. He will need some tender loving care in a quiet home, probably as an only pet. He likes to play, gently. He doesn't like to venture outside his condo, as that is where he feels safe. He is currently on a special food for crystals in his urine, but that is not expected to be permanent. If you can provide a home for this beautiful feline, please stop by soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 23 Vermont author Grannie Snow reads her newest 'cat' book in the Silas series at Cabot Public Library 6:00—8:00 P.M. Picnic style dinner, readings. KAS volunteers will be there to talk about the shelter.
- October 4 Autumn on the Green, Danville 10:00 to 4:00 2016 KAS Calendars available for sale

KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Helen Morrison – Co-President
Heidi Sessions – Co-President
Klari Emmons – Secretary
David Gile – Treasurer
Rod Lauman – Board member
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****KITTENS AND CAKES AND PIES, OH MY!****

You are invited to our POT LUCK Dinner and Pie/Cake Auction, Saturday, October 17, from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the South Congregational Church, Main St (next to the Academy), in St. Johnsbury. Old fashioned dime-a-dip dinner, followed by the pie and cake auction with auctioneer David Book. Music will be provided by Bill Tobin, harpist extraordinaire. Bring your favorite dinner dish to share and enjoy an evening of purr-fect entertainment, while supporting Kingdom Animal Shelter. See you there!



Did you know....A cat has the ability to jump up to six times its length.

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.