

Friends of Felines



“An association of people who care”

Feline Leukemia Virus

The incidence of FeLV is low both in feral cats and pet cats—estimated as low as 1% in healthy feral cats, and as high as 15% in sick feral cats. This virus is spread by blood and body fluids and surprisingly, the most common means of transmission is by mutual grooming. The saliva of an infected cat gets on the fur and an (Mary Beth W.) uninfected cat grooms, picking up the virus and becoming infected.

There is controversy when talking about FeLV and feral cats. Some TNR programs do not test for FeLV. Others, like Friends of Felines, test and euthanize cats who test positive. The

American Association of Feline Practitioners has recommended testing all cats but recognizes that many TNR programs consider testing optional. I assume that this is a cost issue and not an issue of the welfare of the cats. One study reports that for pet cats not euthanized when diagnosed, the median survival was 2.4 years, compared to 6.0 years for non-infected cats. Knowing that FeLV is 100% fatal and that cats are masters at hiding illness, I don't know why anyone would allow a feral cat to suffer with mouth ulcers, opportunistic infections, cancers, and multiple disorders of any of

the body's systems rather than euthanizing them. The AAFP recommends retesting positive results, frequent wellness visits, and eventually hands-on treatment for symptom control, all of which are not feasible for feral cats. So, we have a choice. Do we euthanize at diagnosis, knowing that there could be some cats who had false positive test results, or do we not test their FeLV status so that all who are positive can-1) continue to pass the infection on to others, and 2) suffer themselves for 2.4 more years until they die a slow, painful death? I would like to hear from you on this issue.

Win a Prize By Reading!!

We are kicking off a fun program for our readers. Each issue of our newsletter will contain five names chosen from our mailing list. These will include a first name and last initial and will be hidden some-

where in the body of the various articles.

If you see your name, contact Sue by email, or at the address on the back of the newsletter(Preston M.) and she will send you your Friends of Felines prize.

Thank you for reading about us and supporting Friends of Felines!!



Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 2

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Trap/Neuter/Return

Friends of Felines is committed to an ongoing program to rescue as many cats as possible

“Give and Let Live Campaign”

Check out our new fundraising campaign attached. Help us care for those who can't help themselves.

Thank You!!

Message From Our President-Summer Dangers

We all know that winter has its dangers for our feline friends, including the extreme cold, snow, and ice. But summer in Kansas has its own set of dangers. Our feral cats still need shelter from the extreme temperatures although their winter shelters, if in the sun, can be like ovens in the summer.

You've seen stories about frying an egg on the sidewalk—maybe even tried it when you were a kid. While a cat certainly enjoys basking in the sun on mild days, having to stay in that same sun in dangerous heat can be deadly. If you can't provide indoor shelter, then make

sure there are areas of shade either from canopies or umbrellas, or shrubs and trees. Wet down surfaces so they stay cooler for those tender little paws.

Cats are opportunistic when looking for shelter. Don't leave shed doors open while you are working in the yard. A cat can sneak in and get trapped and die a horrible death from the heat.

Dehydration is a real threat for outdoor cats because they don't have the sense of thirst that most animals do. In the wild they rely on their fresh kills for the moisture in their diet and don't require

water as much as our ferals who eat mostly dry food. It is vitally important that you provide clean, fresh water at all times. Consider feeding more canned food in the summer to help prevent dehydration.

Fleas and other parasites thrive in the summer heat. If you can apply Revolution to your colony, then do that. But their environment also needs to be clean and treated for pests. Check the garden center for cat-safe chemicals to cut down on those parasites in your yard. Never use products with Permethrin as it is toxic to cats.

Meet Sonny—aka Mericat Kansas Sonnet

KansasKatz hosted its first TICA cat show in Wichita on May 23-24. One of our friends, Phil Yust is owned by Sonny—a red classic tabby American Shorthair. In his short 13 mos, Sonny has already been to a dozen or so cat shows, both CFA and TICA. In this latest show, Sonny, who is an Alter, did very well. He made it to the finals in 4 out of 6 rings, and was Best in Breed in 4 out of 6 rings. Phil was very pleased

to report that Sonny beat a much more experienced competitor



Don't forget to visit
kansaskatz.org

who had been the AFCA Cat of the Year three years ago. That means he was judged better than a cat who was the Number One cat in the Nation over all breeds for that organization!!

Phil states that Sonny tends to hiss at the judges, which probably doesn't win him any points. We hope he grows out of that little behavior. Congratulations to Phil, his wife Sally and to Sonny.

A Month of Horror for a Cat

Mike and his family were about to set out on a new adventure. They were moving to a new state. They rented a storage unit for their belongings while making all the necessary arrangements for the move. They loaded everything in there and shut the door, knowing their items would stay safe and dry.

Fast-forward about a month. Now with a new home, they had come back to the

storage unit to happily move their belongings. Upon opening the door, they discovered a very weak, dangerously thin cat who had sneaked into their storage unit a month earlier. Luckily it was springtime, not summer. Maybe water had seeped under the door when it rained to prevent dehydration. Maybe she was able to catch a mouse or two. Somehow, she cheated death.

Othelia went from near starvation to being a healthy, happy kitty and is now in her forever home. She is a wonderful addition to Mike's family.

This also can serve as a reminder to check closely when you have a door open to a shed, storage unit or other outbuilding that you don't access daily, as tragedies like this are not uncommon.

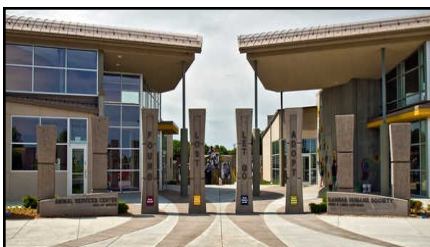
New Murfin Animal Care Campus in Wichita

Congratulations to the Kansas Humane Society and the Wichita Animal Shelter on their new home!! They have recently entered into a relationship to provide the best care for stray and homeless pets. Instead of having miles between them, they share a beautiful new campus just (Sue M.) south of the intersection of K-96 and Hillside.

All lost and stray animals will be taken to the Wichita Animal Shelter where they can be claimed by their owners. After 3 days, they will transfer next door to the Kansas Humane Society for evaluation and preparation for adop-

tion if feasible.

All relinquished pets will start out at the KHS and also go through the same pre-adoption process. This allows each entity to showcase their strengths in providing the best care for these homeless pets. They will be able to utilize



their resources without duplicating services as in the past. And, anyone who has lost a pet will only have to go to one place in search of their beloved companion.

One of our members, Shirley, also volunteers for the KHS. On June 17th, she assisted in the transfer of animals from the old building to the brand new facility. Have you ever had 14 anxious, meowing kitties in your car??? I am sure they all (including Shirley) were glad to make it to their new home safely. Visit them at kshumane.org to find a new member for your family.

Good Reading

OK, it is officially summer, and the weather we have been having in Kansas leaves no doubt. So, kick back in the hammock, get a tall cold glass of tea and read something just for fun.

Thanks to Shirley for loaning me some of Rita Mae Brown's books from the [Mrs. Murphy Mystery series](#). Of course since the series stars cats, Sneaky Pie Brown helps out on occasion.

The books have human characters, but the stars are 2 cats, Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, and a Corgi named Tucker. In this series, all the animals communicate with each other and can also under-



stand humans. But of course, they have to use their brains to make themselves understood by humans. After all, humans are slow (Lisa P.) and they have very poor senses compared to cats.

They live in Crozet, Virginia in the heart of horse country. Their human, Harry, has a curiosity as bad as any cat and that often gets her in trouble. Leave it to Mrs. Murphy to save her!!

Ticks

Growing up, I was under the impression that dogs got ticks, but the fur on cats was too thick for a tick to get through. Strike that thought (Ted B.) from my memory!!! Cats certainly can be host to ticks and may contract any of ten illnesses from them. Many of these illnesses can also be transmitted to dogs and even humans. Two deadly tick diseases, tularemia and Q Fever are listed by our government as bioterror-

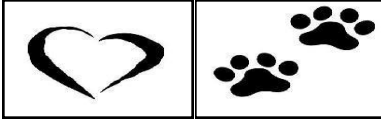
ism risks. Most ticks are about the size of a pinhead prior to feeding so they can be difficult to spot until they bury their head in the cat and become engorged with your cat's blood. Any tick that is attached may already have transmitted infection. Simply pulling the tick off may leave the head or other body parts imbedded in your cat. Check with your vet for the proper method of removing a tick. Your vet

will also know which species of ticks are most common in your area. Many of the topical flea products also control ticks. But remember, NEVER use a product containing Permethrin on cats. This ingredient is often found in products for use on dogs and can be fatal if used on cats. For your feral cats, keep the area free of organic matter and use a pet-safe insecticide spray for control of many harmful parasites.

Friends of Felines

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We're on the web!
www.felinefriendsks.com

Mission Statement

Friends of Felines mission, in the interest of feral and stray cats everywhere, is to support cat caretakers, gain recognition of the beneficial role that caretakers perform, implement the trap, neuter and return (TNR) method of population control, and promote the adoption of long-term, caretaker-based solutions regarding feral and stray cats.

Specifically, our purpose and commitment are to:

- Facilitate the work of caretakers in caring for feral and stray cats and controlling their population growth by trap, neuter and return.
- Provide a communication network and support resources for caretakers.
- Project a strong unifying voice for feral/stray cat caretakers and their colonies
- Work with and educate property decision makers and governmental agencies in appropriate and humane solutions for feral and stray cats

Board of Directors

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Vet Consultant-Sarah Pratt DVM

Ways You Can Help

Thank you Sherry H. and Janice R. for the recent donations of pickup toppers. These will make wonderful shelters for some lucky feral cat colonies this winter.

Do you have room for a feral cat colony to live their lives out with you? Or can you take in a few feral cats to add to your colony? Right now we don't have a need to relocate any feral cats, but we often get calls where cats have to be moved quickly or face an uncertain future. If you would like to be placed on our list for feral cat relocations, **please let Sue know.** When the need arises, it is great to know that someone out there has a heart large

enough to include a few more feral kitties.

We still need more volunteers to take the FEMA courses so we can get to work on our Feline Rescue Unit. Check out our website or **contact Sue** to see how you can take those free courses online. Think how satisfying it would feel to help.

For membership information, or to mail donations

Friends of Felines
1910 N. Cranbrook
Wichita, KS 67206

Or go to our website
felinefriendsks.com

You'll be glad you did!!!



Thank You!!!