

We Have Many Pets In Need Of Adoption!

Animalfriends

Winter 2017 OF CONNECTICUT

Adopting a “Special Needs” Friend

In October of 2015, my veterinarian’s office posted pictures of a tiny orphaned newborn kitten on their Facebook page. The kitten clung to life by the thinnest of threads as the veterinarians and technicians fought around the clock to save him. I posted encouragements in the comments with each update, imploring the kitten to pull through. For many weeks, they were not sure if the kitten would survive, so they didn’t name him. Instead, they just called him “Mousey,” since he resembled a little grey mouse.

As the tiny kitten started to grow, I shared his pictures and updates with my “kitten cam chat friends.” They asked if I would try to adopt him if he survived and, in fact, I had already expressed my interest in adopting him to my veterinarian. My veterinarian knows me very well, as I’ve brought my pets there for many years and, at a minimum, they have annual checkups. Currently, this includes four Animal Friends Of Connecticut cats that were long term residents at the AFOC shelter before I adopted them. I am fortunate that I have a large enough house for them and can financially care for them.



When the kitten was two months old, my veterinarian’s office announced they were taking applications, should the kitten survive. Then they announced that the kitten has a severe case of a birth defect called Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH) and that all applicants needed to attend a “meet and greet” with one of the veterinarians, to better understand what the kitten’s special needs actually entailed. CH is also known as “wobbly cat syndrome.”

This was the first time I’d ever heard about this defect, as many of these kittens are euthanized. Fortunately, the internet is an incredibly powerful tool for research and to reach out to others who know about this disorder. My kitten cam chat friends quickly put me in contact with friends of theirs, who cared for, and are guardians of, CH cats. One of them added

me to a Facebook group for people that have CH cats and dogs, so I could post questions and receive advice. I learned as much as I could about Cerebellar Hypoplasia.

I am a volunteer for Animal Friends of Connecticut and mentioned the CH kitten to the former AFOC shelter director, Barbara. She quickly urged me to contact another volunteer, Pat. I knew Pat from the AFOC shelter and events, but never knew she had CH cats. I had a long conversation with Pat, after which I had some soul searching to do. I wondered if I would be the best guardian for the kitten, considering what a commitment this would be. Not only did the kitten have CH, he has a severe case and would most likely never be able to walk. He would need help eating and using his litter box. After great introspection, I made the decision to submit my application for the kitten and was selected to be his guardian. I took all the precautions necessary for a CH cat, which are very similar to “baby proofing” a house for an infant human.



I brought “Mousey” home on January 8th, 2016, and named him “Pepino” after a silly song I would listen to over-and-over as a child, *Pepino the Italian Mouse* by Lou Monte. Many of my friends and people from the veterinarian’s office were interested in updates, so I opened a Facebook page for the kitten (Pepino the CH Kitten). Finally, in a forever home, little Pepino thrived and quickly gained weight. My veterinarian gave me a “walker” she made for him and I’ve made others to fit him as he grew. He learned to use a real litter box, though he falls over in it from time-to-time. This requires me to give him many baths. I hold him as he eats, so he doesn’t fall over. His food dishes are soft silicone so he



doesn’t chip his teeth. At first, my other cats were afraid of him because he didn’t move normally, but they have become accustomed to him and actually play with him.

continued on page 2



UNITED WAY

You can donate while at work by making a contribution to THE UNITED WAY. Just specify that your donation is intended for AFOC. Please use the following letters and numbers on the form: AG 0640.



Sunshine Fund

Sunshine was a dog that came to us many years ago. She was a Shepherd Husky cross and was found in a project in Hartford with one eye poked out by a stick. The owners signed the dog over to AFOC. We had her injuries treated and we found her a wonderful home. She lived to be over 14 years old. What happened to Sunshine was just the beginning of many years involved in rescuing injured and abused animals. This fund is in her memory.



I-GIVE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Register with I-Give on line. Shop on line with major retailers and help AFOC at the same time! All consumer transactions will contain a percentage donated to AFOC.



Sponsorship Program

We have many cats that are not adoptable or hard to place. We are looking for sponsors willing to sponsor a rescue cat by helping to cover the cost of food, litter, and basic medicine. Our goal is to sponsor every cat.

ANOTHER CONVENIENT WAY OF GIFT GIVING!

You can now use your credit card and make a donation on-line through PayPal. Just go directly to our website for further details (www.afocinc.org).



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1132973>, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice. It does not cost anything to sign up or add to your purchase price. It is totally funded by Amazon. Remember, when you are shopping on line with Amazon, go thru AmazonSmile instead and help Animal Friends of Connecticut at the same time.

Pepino - continued from page 1

Pat, and other CH guardians, told me about the special bond that forms between a guardian and a severe CH cat. They are right. I have strong bonds to all my “cubs,” but Pepino is different. It’s a lot of work, but I hardly notice anymore. Pepino has no idea he’s disabled or even different. He plays, wants to snuggle in the lap, purrs when I pick him up, and reaches out with his little paws when he sees me.

In a way, it was time for me to adopt a special needs pet. Barbara often thanks me for adopting what she calls “hard to place” cats from AFOC. It took some time, but each one “blossomed” once in their forever home. Fiona, once terrified of people, now runs and plays around the house and sleeps next to me. Dottie has socialized and become a member of “The Pride Cubs”. Betsy and Josie are very happy they were adopted and show their gratitude each day.

There are many wonderful companions in shelters that just need a chance, a little understanding, and some time to adjust. The best thing is there are lots of free resources online and amongst our friends to help us all understand how to introduce a new pet to the family or the requirements of a special needs pet. For example, blind cats do just fine so long as you don’t move the furniture and other things around often. Cats with missing legs can adapt and live happy lives, too. Just look up “Lil’ Bunny Sue Roux”, a cat born without front legs that gets around just fine “kangaroo style” and has become an internet sensation. Even mild to moderate CH cats do great with simple accommodations such as a high-sided litter box.

Many “special” pets can live as long a life as a “normal” pet. In many cases, adopting one can be a 20 year commitment. It’s easy to want to adopt a kitten as cute as Pepino was, overlooking his special needs and what that entails. The most important thing was learning as much as I could about his needs and the commitment I was making. For me, the rewards far outweigh his special needs. It is a commitment I was ready to make and I haven’t regretted it for even a second.



Judy Levy, Director
Jo-Ann Regan, Editor

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306
(860) 827-0381
Newsletter e-mail: newsletter@afocinc.org

A SPECIAL DONATION

Each summer, the campers at the Thompson Recreation Adventure Camp in Thompson, CT collect money. On the last day of the camping season, they donate it to a charity with a mission they feel strongly about.

This year, Animal Friends of Connecticut was the recipient of the donation. Some of the students had a connection to AFOC and each camper wanted it to go to a non-kill shelter. On August 17th, Shelter Manager Jean Blackman and George Murtha went to the camp on scenic Quaddick Reservoir to accept the check on behalf of AFOC.

George Murtha



A CONCERNED PARENT

Animal Friends of Connecticut received a phone call from a very upset mother who lives out of state. Her daughter had come home from high school and said that one of her teachers had told the class how to successfully torture a cat. Since they were both animal lovers, she and her daughter were very concerned and wanted the teacher to be held accountable for her actions, but did not know what to do.

Since I am a retired high school teacher, I knew that this is not the type of suggestion you make to 9th grade students. It was inevitable that one or more of them would try it just for fun and the helpless cat would be the victim. Animal abuse is a serious problem. It is unconscionable for an adult to suggest something like this.

I wrote a letter on Animal Friends of Connecticut stationary to both the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of the High School, stating the problem and our suggestions for remediation.

Since this was a personal matter, I did not expect to get a response to my letter. However, I did receive a report from the mother that a school administrator was sitting in the classroom almost daily. I do not know if there was any disciplinary actions taken, but I am sure the teacher is very sorry that she did this.

George Murtha

2016 BAKE SALE RESULTS

We did quite well at the annual bake sale at Simsbury Stop N Shop on Saturday, October 15, raising \$684.82. It was another chilly day though, but not as cold as last year. Sales were steady the whole time. Our results were consistent with past years, with the exception of 2015, when we surpassed \$1000.

Thanks to all our bakers, who provided cakes, cookies, muffins, truffles and breads. We wouldn't have been able to hold the sale were it not for the donations of Carmelo Aeresco, Barbara Dennis, Erika Elbert, Barbara Greenleaf, Sue Jansen, Jean Larsen, Liz Neff, Joann O'Connell, Jill Perrault, Sue Riley, and Mary Skinner plus several other people I did not know. Another lady brought some baked goods when we opened and also helped for the first hour. Unfortunately, I don't recall her name.



The sales table was staffed by Carmelo Aresco, Erika Elbert, George Murtha and myself. A terrific team! We wrapped up at 2 o'clock, when we had sold most of the goodies. George took the leftovers to Roaring Brook Veterinary Hospital and Canton Emergency Veterinary Hospital, both of which support Animal Friends.

Thanks also to George for responding to my last minute plea for another table. I had totally forgotten where I placed my table. It wasn't until I was looking for my set of hex wrenches so I could open one of the donation canisters that I found my missing table!!

SANTA'S ELVES

During the second week of December, a fund raiser was held by Animal Friends volunteers Marilyn Beebe, Ruth Woodford and Betsy Eskay. They were manning a gift wrapping station at Barnes and Noble in Canton, CT. Also, Jean Larson and a non-member friend held the same fund raiser at the Barnes and Noble in Farmington, CT.



A SURPRISING MOTHER'S DAY GIFT

On Mother's Day, 2016, Animal Friends of Connecticut received a large Mother's Day present, 15 kittens ranging in age from a few weeks to two months old. We received a phone call from a woman who had been collecting kittens from the streets, taking them away from their mothers and bringing them home to take care of them. The woman quickly realized that taking care of 1 kitten, not to mention 15 kittens, was an impossible task, especially since some needed bottle feeding every few hours.

She called us and, of course, we arrived to rescue the kittens that same day. Now the same problem existed for us. What do we do with 15 very young kittens who needed constant care? We did return to look for their mothers with no success. We felt that the best course of action was to split them into smaller groups and bring some to each of the veterinary clinics that Animal Friends of Connecticut uses. When we did this, a wonderful thing happened. Several of the vet techs decided to bring the kittens home to feed and take care of them. But, as usual with a fostering, when the kittens were old enough to be adopted, some of the techs had become so attached to them that were unable to give them up and decided to permanently adopt them. This was good news, because we knew that these kittens would be in excellent homes for the remainder of their lives, which is our goal for all of our animals.



That left us with the remaining 7 kittens to place in new homes. Luckily, this task went fairly quickly, with the exception of one little gray kitten named Emmie. We had no idea what situation Emmie came from, but she was terrified of everything and everyone. We showed her to potential adopters several times, with no success. She cowered behind things and refused to go near any person, hissing the entire time.

We realized that this was not going to go very well and needed a new plan. I was fostering several very social kittens about the same age at that time, and decided to bring Emmie home to live with this group, to get her used to people and to improve her chances of being adopted. At first, Emmie stayed to herself, but things gradually began to improve. She began to play with the others and then to sleep in the pile

of kittens. When two of the kittens were adopted, Emmie's behavior greatly improved and she totally integrated with the two remaining kittens. But I knew that she still needed a very special home.

That opportunity arose shortly after. One of Animal Friends long time volunteers called to say she just lost her cat and was looking for a new older kitten or cat. When we told her about Emmie, she said she would come meet her. Because it was a new situation for Emmie, it was not an immediate bonding. However, the woman wanted to give Emmie a chance because her previous cat was also named Emmie.

It worked out very well and I recently received a report that Emmie had become a very loving, trusting kitten in her new forever home.

George Murtha

Emmie Followup

At the end of August, I had to make the difficult decision to have Emma, my 16 year old tortie, put down. For several years, she had done very well on thyroid medication. Over the past several months her appetite waned and she was getting thinner and thinner and less and less active. She was being treated for irritable bowel and I had to put a litter box in the living room and cover the chairs with waterproof mattress covers. Emma had always been energetic and active and I was so sad to see her waste away. I made the difficult decision to let her go. I had two other female cats at home which eased things, but I missed Emma terribly.



Since all of my cats have been rescues, I was thinking perhaps I should adopt another female adult from Animal Friends of Connecticut. I called George Murtha to ask him if there were any AFOC adult cats at Avon Veterinary Clinic, which is near me. He told me there were at least two, but he had another idea. He and Liz were fostering a 3 1/2 month old female kitten named Emmie who was among 15 kittens rescued around Mother's Day. He told me the kitten was a bit shy, but had been doing much better at his home, where she was getting more individual attention and could play with the two other kittens he had. Even though I was still thinking I should adopt an adult, I agreed to come out to see Emmie on a Sunday morning. Well, George was right. He had three kittens in the kitchen, two of which were very playful and you could easily pick up and pet. Then there was the grey kitten, Emmie, who pretty much tried to hide under or behind the furniture. She did come out once she got used to a stranger being in the room. I decided to bring her home on a trial basis.

I put her in the master bedroom with a litter box in the bathroom and some food in a dish and closed the door. I checked a few times during the day and could not find her anywhere. That didn't bother me, but I was concerned when I checked again before I went to bed and still could not find her. The food had not been touched and the litter box was empty.

The next morning there was good news. She had pooped in the litter box (I thought I should rename her Stinky) and had eaten the food. She also peed on the chair which had several towels on it. This was not too surprising because Emma, my tortie, had used that chair as a litter box a few times. My guess is despite my attempts to clean it, it still smelled of cat urine. I sprayed it again with an odor remover and put a waterproof mattress cover on it. I added a second litter box in the bathroom, in case the kitten was fastidious and preferred different boxes for different functions. I got down on my knees, looked under the bed and there she was. She came over to me, a little cautious at first, but it did not take long for her to let me pet her. She didn't seem to like being picked up and held, but she was quite friendly. Within a few more days, Emmie had the run of the house to the surprise of Tubbers and the consternation of Callie. Tubbers adjusted very quickly to the newcomer, but Callie is still not happy about the interloper.

Emmie was a typical teenager. She ate everything in sight, not only her food but Tubbers' and Callie's food as well. She loves to play with kibble, batting it about the kitchen floor and then eating it. Of course I discover some she's lost when I step on it.

When I got her she was all legs and tail. I toyed with the idea of changing her name to Stewie, but decided she had had enough change in her short life. She has since grown into her legs, but she still has one of the longest tails on a cat that I've ever seen. She is just as affectionate as can be. She loves being petted, especially when curled up in my lap. If my lap is already occupied when I sit in an arm chair, she lies on her back in the space between the chair arm and me with her legs up in the air. At night, she follows me to bed. She is also fascinated by water. When I water my plants, she is right there to stick her paw into the pot. She is positively fascinated watching the water when a toilet is flushed. At least she is now big enough that I no longer worry about her falling in.

I could not be happier that George talked me into adopting her.

Ruth



Blondie

Isn't it ironic that we call shelters for homeless animals "rescues" when, ultimately, we humans are the ones being rescued? A buff colored and self-possessed cat, Blondie came into my life about two months after my beloved cat Tigi was put to sleep. Two weeks after being diagnosed with an aggressive lymphoma, Tigi stopped eating. The vet found a large tumor blocking her digestive system. It was all so sudden and over so fast. Tigi was an AFOC rescue, and we had 9 1/2 beautiful years together. After losing Tigi, I was grieving and inconsolable. One day, my chiropractor, whom I use as a sympathetic ear, told me bluntly, "Get a cat." I looked on some websites and saw that, on the AFOC website, foster mothers were needed. I thought that being a foster mom would be a perfect interim situation for me. I called Judy and she suggested that Blondie be my foster child. I could not wait for Saturday to arrive, so I could pick her up.



When Blondie first arrived at her new home, she had three open sores on her back, allergies and a somewhat difficult temperament. Most noticeably, she had no upper lip, which she lost due to an indolent or rodent ulcer. Blondie was incredibly needy and followed me everywhere. She sat in my lap and became my shadow. At times Blondie's temper would flash. Blondie is a nipper, nips being her primary mode of self-protection, of communicating her boundaries, and of educating humans about when she would accept their physical gestures of affection. Blondie was terribly frightened of loud noises. On two occasions, once when I was using the garbage disposal and another time, when I was shuffling frozen foods in my freezer and creating a racket, Blondie became very upset, jumped up and grabbed my leg and bit me. Since then I have become kinder and gentler when using my kitchen appliances!

In the four months we have been together, Blondie has become more relaxed, happy, affectionate and significantly less needy. She feels safe and is becoming more trusting every day. She would not let me pick her up or clean her eyes and now she allows me to do so. Her nips are mostly gentle. Blondie is the official greeter in our home. When someone is at the door, Blondie is the first one to greet them. She loves company. When the plumber was installing a new toilet, Blondie was crawling on his back, supervising the job. When the maintenance men came to repair my HVAC system, Blondie was right there, watching them work. One of them gently asked me to relieve Blondie of her post, as he is allergic to cats. When guests visit, Blondie comes right up to them, sits on the armrest of the recliner right next to

them and allows herself to be petted.

Blondie has established routines. In the morning, she naps under the bed. I think she did this because she couldn't bear listening to CNN with all the election coverage. In the afternoon, Blondie naps on the windowsill and bakes in the sunlight. When the sunlight is too hot, she lays on the carpet for a little while, and then returns to the windowsill for more heat. Blondie likes to look out the windows at the trees, the street with cars, pedestrians and the squirrels. In the evening before bedtime, Blondie and I play chase the mouse, chase the balls, or find the mice hidden under the newspaper pages. When I take a nap or read in bed, Blondie sleeps on top of me. I love to hear her snore!

I love Blondie dearly. And I would pretty much bet the farm that she loves me dearly too. Blondie has her forever home and her forever human. We are a happy family and each day is a new adventure in learning to open up to unconditional love and trust.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Jill: A donation was given in memory of Jill Lukesh.
- Joanne Wacht-Delphia

Jordan: A donation was given in memory of Jordan Louis Perlroth.
- Anna Stevens

Beverly: A donation was given in memory of Beverly Gurrieri.
- Marilyn Szemanczky

Harriet: A donation was given in memory of Harriet Tuchman.
- Barbara Gorman

Mary: A donation was given in memory of Mary Hampton.
- Alice Longstreet

John, Edna, Judie, & Erice: A donation was given in memory of John Shea, Edna Shea, Judie Shea and Erice Roraback.
- George & Jacqueline Roraback

Robert: A donation was given in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Emling.
- Vivienne Dawn Maddox

Bridget: A donation was given in memory of Bridget Sylvester.
- George & Jacqueline Roraback

Ellen: A donation was given in memory of Ellen, from AFOC.

- Maria Anne Wilcox

Sophie: A donation was given on behalf of Sophie.
- Janet & William Spargo

Lucy: A donation was given in memory of our dog friend, Lucy Schlegel.
- Jill Roskin

Oliver: A donation was given in memory of Oliver, beloved companion of the Magnans.
- Mathew Pasternak

Katy & Sammy: A donation was given in memory of Katy & Sammy – beloved pets of a friend.
- Judith Gascoigne

Jacob: A donation was given in memory of Jacob, a loving pet.
- Elizabeth DeGroat

Pumpy: A donation was given in memory of Pumpy.
- Dr. Robert Hamm

Kayla: A donation was given in memory of Kayla.
- Marciay Metcalf

Ave': A donation was given in memory of Ave'.
- Zelena Sandler

Thomas: A donation was given in memory of Thomas, pet of Beth & Richard Pachkovsky.
- William Kerrigan

Sheba & Onyx: A donation was given in memory of Sheba & Onyx from AFOC.
- Vivienne Dawn Maddox

Babe: A donation was given in memory of Babe, pet of Mr. & Mrs. Brent Rice.
- Joyce & Robert Berger

T.J. Eliot: A donation was given in memory of T. J. Eliot, sweet kitty.
- Dolph & Marjorie Becker

Ozzy: A donation was given in memory of our beloved Peltingese, Ozzy.
- Belinda Lavoie

Logan: A donation was given in memory of Logan Wilkes, pet of Beverly Lake Wilkes.
- Nicola Rubinow

FROM THE KITCHEN

Pamper your pet with homemade treats.
You can find these and other treats on
healthyrecipesforpets.com.

BOW WOW BISCUITS

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup wheat germ
- 1/2 cup powdered milk
- 8 tablespoons bacon grease -- or margarine
- 1 egg -- beaten
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons beef broth -- or chicken
- 1/2 cup ice water
- 6 slices Bacon -- crumbled, optional
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded -- optional

Preparation & Cooking

In a big mixing bowl, mix all the ingredients thoroughly to form a dough. Roll the dough out with a rolling pin and use a cookie cutter to make shapes for cookies, Bake cookies at 350 degrees for 20 - 25 min.

BACON BITES FOR DOGS

Ingredients:

- 6 slices cooked bacon -- crumbled
- 4 eggs -- well beaten
- 1/8 cup bacon grease
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup powdered milk -- non-fat
- 2 cups graham flour
- 2 cups wheat germ
- 1/2 cup cornmeal

Preparation & Cooking

Mix ingredients with a strong spoon; drop heaping table-spoonful onto a greased baking sheet. Bake in a 350° oven for 15 minutes. Turn off oven and leave cookies on baking sheet in the oven overnight to dry out.

KITTIES FAVORITE TREATS

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 cups cooked chicken or turkey
- 1 large egg
- 2 T. chicken broth
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour

Preparation & Cooking

In a blender or processor whirl chicken, egg and broth until smooth. Scrape into bowl. Add cornmeal and 1/2 cup flour, stir until moistened. Cover dough and refrigerate at least 2 hrs. Then roll out 1/4 in thick on lightly floured board. Cut into 1/2 in squares or triangles. Scatter on 3 greased 12 x 15 baking sheets. Bake at 350° until golden (about 15 min.) Remove from oven, stir in pans and let cool. Refrigerate airtight up to 2 weeks, freeze for longer storage. Makes about 3 cups.

KITTY BISCUITS

Ingredients:

- 1 pound liver, organs, or other meat
- 2 cups old-fashioned oatmeal
- 2 cups bran
- 1/4 cup cooking oil

Preparation & Cooking

Preheat oven to 250 degrees F. Cover meat with cold water and bring to a boil. Immediately lower heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove meat from water and let cool; retain water.

When meat is completely cool, chop into 1-inch pieces and grind in food processor, chop in a blender, or process through a meat grinder until it is finely ground. Mix ground meat, bran, oatmeal, and oil, adding the cooking water from the meat as necessary to make a thick dough. Avoid using any more liquid than needed to make a dough that is coarse and just wet enough to work with. Shape the dough into flattened balls or little bone shapes and arrange on an oiled baking sheet. Bake for 3 hours. Then, turn off the heat and let the biscuits cool in the oven to ensure they are hard and crunchy.

Let the biscuits air dry for 24 hours and store in an airtight container on the shelf for up to 4 weeks. NOTE: When making this recipe for cats, shape the biscuits into tiny bits for easy chewing.

HINT: A good idea for getting the meat for this recipe is to save organs from chickens, turkeys, etc. in a plastic bag in the freezer until you have enough to make this yummy treat.

We would be happy to accept a donation of a car, van, truck, RV or boat in any condition, running or not. They are a charitable tax deduction and help us continue our daily work. We could also really use a motor home or trailer to keep behind the shelter as an isolation ward.



VETERINARY NEWS

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

By Joshua Malouin, D.V.M. Roaring Brook Veterinary Hospital

FeLV and FIV are two feline diseases that can be quite confusing to many people. Both of these diseases have a lot in common. However, there are many differences between the two and important concepts to understand when considering adopting an affected cat.

FeLV and FIV are both caused by viruses that target the immune system, and can lead to increase susceptibility to other disease. These viruses are transmitted from cat to cat, mainly through the saliva, via bite wounds. However, FeLV, in particular, may also be transmitted between cats with close contact such as sharing food bowls, litter boxes, and grooming. Both viruses may also be passed to other cats in utero or from the milk of an infected mother cat.

There are no specific signs of infection with FeLV or FIV. Since both viruses alter the immune system function, infected cats are more prone to developing secondary infections. FIV positive cats can live a normal life with a normal lifespan, but are prone to common infections, including upper respiratory infections, urinary tract infections, dental disease, etc. Most FeLV positive cats tend to live normal lives, but do have a significantly shorter lifespan. Kittens that are infected with FeLV at an early age have an increased likelihood of developing life-threatening diseases including bone marrow disease, cancer, or feline infectious peritonitis.

Unfortunately, there are no current treatment options for FeLV or FIV positive cats. Due to their increased susceptibility to secondary infections, treatment is focused on supportive care and treating the secondary infections they develop. This may include frequent antibiotic courses, frequent dental cleanings, etc. Without treatment options, it is important to prevent transmission and exposure of negative cats to positive cats. Keeping your cats indoors to prevent exposure to outdoor cats, and testing all cats that are introduced into a new household will help prevent the spread of these diseases. Outdoor cats should be vaccinated for FeLV, which may help reduce infection upon exposure. An FIV vaccine is available, but it's use is controversial.

Your veterinarian commonly performs testing for the FeLV and FIV virus during the first kitten exams, after possible exposures, in times of sickness, and prior to introducing a new cat to others in the household. Cats may test positive for FIV at an early age due to exposure of antibodies from their mothers. Therefore, it is important to retest kittens that test positive at a later time. It may also take up to 8 weeks after exposure for a cat to test positive. Your veterinarian will help guide the interpretation of test results depending on age and time of exposure.

Overall, it is important to remember that even though FeLV positive cats have a shorter lifespan, they, along with FIV positive cats, can live happy lives with the proper care and support. Both will require special care to monitor for secondary infections and frequent veterinary visits to ensure they are healthy and minimize further issues. Since it is rare for FIV positive cats to pass infection through contact alone, these cats may be housed with FIV negative cats as long as there are no concerns for fighting or biting. Like FIV positive cats, FeLV cats should be housed indoors only to prevent exposing non-infected cats. FeLV positive cats should be housed separately from other cats to prevent infection. As with all feline disease, speaking with your veterinarian prior to bringing a new cat into the household is important to prevent the spread of disease to otherwise healthy animals.



Please reach into your heart and give what you can afford to help these animals get a second chance in life.

Your gift is tax deductible.

We would be happy to talk with you about endowments, grants, gifts-in-kind, corporate sponsorship or other long-term support. Please call us at (860)827-0381

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc
P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Helping | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

- Please send information on automatic transfer donation
 Name/address changes: (please print clearly)

Name _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

- I'd like to help. Volunteers please call (860) 827-0381.
 I am interested in becoming a member. Please add me to your mailing list to receive the newsletter (new members only).

Animalfriends
OF CONNECTICUT