



Paws Patter

MARCH 20, 2012

VOLUME 11

In this edition of Paws Patter:

- ***President's Message***
- ***Marty – A Very Lucky Feral Cat***
- ***Trapping Feral Cats***
- ***The Vet's Corner***
- ***Four Cats Need Outdoor Home***
- ***Volunteer Spotlight***
- ***Reduced Adoption Fees***
- ***Paws Wish List***
- ***Upcoming Events***
- ***Donations***

Needing Forever Homes:



Marty

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here and kitten and mating season are in full swing, so I want to emphasize the importance of having cats spayed or neutered and vaccinated and keeping pet cats indoors. Not only are there diseases outside, the wildlife in our areas feast on cats—from owls, bobcats, and coyotes to mountain lions. Arizona is not like many other states—we have cat predators everywhere. Feral cats belong outdoors but must also be spayed or neutered and vaccinated to help keep people and cats safe.

In this newsletter, Dr. Jan Nicol provides valuable information on FELV, or feline leukemia. Paws Patrol had a beautiful, very healthy looking male kitty, Buffy, whom we tested when he was trapped last year, and much to my surprise, he was FELV positive. For quite a while, he did not show symptoms so a wonderful couple adopted him hoping he would continue to live for a few years. This month, he had to be euthanized when the disease became aggressive. Had he been kept indoors as a kitten, this situation would not have happened. We miss Buffy but are grateful for the time he was part of our lives.

Now, on to kittens. Our greeting to people this time of year is always "Can you foster kittens and do you know how to bottle feed?" So far (mid March), we have just one very pregnant, tame kitty –Baby Doll--who will have her kittens within a month. She is just 9 months old, and needs a peaceful, quiet home to rest in until delivery and someone to watch over her and the babies when the time comes. We hope she and the kittens will be available for adoption, but before then, we have more blood tests to complete on Baby Doll.

Based on the number of feral female cats whom we have spayed, it is going to be another busy spring. There will be kittens in crisis in backyards, garages, etc. over the next couple of months and they will need a variety of care. Paws Patrol can provide the vet care, formula, kitten food and other supplies, but we need you to help nurture these felines and get them inside to avoid things like FELV.

Can you foster kittens and do you know how to bottle feed?

Patti Hogan
President

MARTY – A VERY LUCKY FERAL

Recently we got a call that Pima Animal Control (PACC) had a feral cat in a trap who had been picked up in Sahuarita in the subdivision behind Walmart. (It wasn't our trap, thank goodness but all rescue groups who trap worry about cruelty some folks do when they have access to traps). One of our board members was near PACC at the time so she went to get the cat who had several superficial wounds on his face indicating he had tried to get out for a while. It seems a construction worker had been working in the area and spotted the trapped cat, now named Marty, in an alley with no cover, food or water. When he arrived at his foster home, he ate two dishes of food and drank three dishes of water. Needless to say, he was NOT happy, but he was safe. Marty is negative for FELV/FIV, has excellent teeth, has some cat bite wounds on his shoulders which were treated, has been neutered, vaccinated and given some long term antibiotics. Our plan is to kennel him for up to two weeks and then relocate him to a barn or similar outdoor area in as safe an area as possible so he can live out his life enjoying the mice. Marty says "thanks" to PACC,



Tomasina



Midge



Everett



Ernie



Walton

TALGV, and volunteers who helped bring him inside.

TRAPPING FERAL CATS

The incident with Marty brings up an important question—do you know how we trap feral cats? We lend our traps only to people we know. Otherwise, we deliver them and pick them up, and the cat must be in the trap. We use humane traps generally with front and back doors. The cat goes into the trap from the front and the food goes in from the back. Each trap is numbered, and covered to keep the cat calm, and has a towel in the bottom. The only way a cat is injured is if he is quite distressed and bangs his head trying to get out. In that case, we use a calming spray or drops in the water to lessen the stress.

If it will be a few days before the cat is spayed or neutered and if the cat is somewhat tame, we often transfer it to a kennel until it is time to go to the vet. If the cat remains in the trap, we set the trap on bricks with a pad underneath which allows for bathroom use. And every cat gets food and water in the trap. All cats are returned to the area they came from with caregivers to provide food and water.

THE VET'S CORNER

Most of us continually have concerns about FELV in cats, so Dr. Nicol answers many of our questions in her informative article. For more information, contact her at Valley Verde Veterinarians in Green Valley, 520-393-7387

Feline Leukemia (FELV) Information—Dr. Jan Nicol

1. How common is the feline leukemia virus in pet cats?

It is estimated that 5% of free roaming cats are positive for this virus. Some surveys show 6% of sick cats presented to a vet clinic are positive for feline leukemia.

Young kittens are the most susceptible to infection with this virus. Cats may acquire a progressive resistance to infection so that only 50% of susceptible adults may become infected when exposed to the virus.

2. How is the feline leukemia virus transmitted?

The most effective route of transmission is saliva, but blood, nasal secretions, feces, and milk may be an avenue for infection also. Risk factors for spread in a colony/household are shared food and water dishes, mutual grooming or fighting and common litter boxes. A queen may transmit the virus in utero or by licking/nursing kittens. Infected unspayed females may experience reproductive failure, fetal resorption, abortion, neonatal death or birth of infected kittens.

3. How does the virus survive in the environment?

The virus does not survive in a dry environment for more than a few hours. The virus is susceptible to disinfectants, soaps, heating, and drying. In moist conditions at room temperature, the virus may survive for several days to weeks.

4. How does the virus get from the environment to a susceptible cat?

The virus enters by the mouth or nasal cavity. It reproduces in the mouth/pharyngeal area.

Immune cats are able to stop infection here without showing any signs of illness. Cats unable to mount an immune response in the first one to three days after infection will show signs of infection such as enlarged lymph nodes. Cats may mount an effective immune response against the virus over the next three to sixteen weeks. However, they will shed the virus in their saliva, feces, and milk, potentially spreading the infection to other susceptible cats. If cats cannot mount an effective immune response by approximately three weeks after infection, the virus will infect the bone marrow. After the bone marrow is infected, these cats are unable to fight off the virus and it gets incorporated into the cells of the bone marrow. Persistently infected cats like this develop feline leukemia associated diseases and are infectious to other cats for life.

5. What does a feline leukemia infected cat look like?

An infected cat may appear clinically normal or show signs of lethargy, weight loss, fever, anemia, oral lesions, non-healing abscesses, abdominal masses, enlarged lymph nodes or other organs (liver, spleen, kidneys) or



Holmes



Captain & Tennille



Rhonda



Handsome



Goldie

have difficulty breathing due to fluid or tumors in the chest. New cats entering a cat owning household should be tested for feline leukemia prior to entry.

6. When should cats be tested for feline leukemia?

Any seriously or chronically ill cat should be tested for feline leukemia, even if it has tested negative previously. Any unsupervised outdoor exposures represent possible infection. Kittens may be tested as early as 30 days of age. Testing at 6-8 weeks at first vet visit is recommended.

7. How do you treat a feline leukemia positive cat?

Once the cat has been infected at the level of the bone marrow, there is no cure; infection is for life. The goal of living with a feline leukemia infected cat is to try to maintain good health, identify any signs of illness as soon as possible, and immediately and aggressively treat any signs of sickness (diarrhea, vomiting, gum disease, weight-loss, skin lesions, etc).

8. How long do feline leukemia infected cats live?

Most references state an average lifespan of approximately 3 years after infection with the virus. I personally lived with a feline leukemia positive cat for seven years after she tested positive. She had virtually no health issues and was euthanized following discovery of an intestinal mass associated with feline leukemia virus infection that caused a blockage in her large intestine. One other leukemia positive cat I adopted from a dairy farm only lived to be 3 years of age and had many health issues that finally left her anemic and debilitated with chronic vomiting and diarrhea.

9. Once a healthy cat has been exposed to an infected cat, how long before we can be assured that the healthy cat has NOT become infected?

The exposed cat must have TWO feline leukemia tests at least 60 days apart to be sure that the healthy cat has not become infected.

10. Why isn't one test sufficient to determine whether a cat is infected?

Because a cat may be tested when the infection is still early and the virus has not yet infected the bone marrow, the first test may be negative. Just to confuse things, some cats may become infected despite mounting a strong immune response to viral infection. These cats have a "latent" infection whereby the virus has incorporated some of its genetic material into bone marrow cells but the virus is not circulating freely in the cat. These latent infections may result in bone marrow suppression or tumors...or the virus can become reactivated with stress (steroid treatments, pregnancy, or lactation). With time, most latent infections become less likely to reactivate.

Now you know why your vet may still want to run a feline leukemia test on your sick cat despite the fact that your cat tested negative previously. Many vets have been unpleasantly surprised to find a cat tests positive for feline leukemia virus after starting extensive and expensive therapies.

FOUR CATS NEED OUTDOOR HOME

One of the hardest decisions we sometimes have to make is deciding if a young feral kitten can be tamed and adopted as an indoor cat or if it needs to remain in the cat colony. This process is not a perfect science and we sometimes miscalculate, as we did in the case of Sissy, Gretel, Blue Belle and Licorice.

Sissy is a lynx point Siamese and Gretel is a torti. In both cases, their brothers were tamed and are loving cats. The girls have been living in a foster home for some time and we have decided they need to go back outside. For various reasons, they cannot go back to their original yards.

BlueBelle is a short hair blue grey kitty and Licorice is all black. They can sometimes be petted but since they have been fostered with Sissy and Gretel, we would like them to go together. We can provide a secure 4'x4' kennel all setup with food, water and litter and beds to help them adjust to a new environment. As with all our barn kitties, they will need to be confined for 3-4 weeks in an area where they will be released. If you have room for outdoor cats to keep your packrats and snakes away, please contact us. There is no charge for cats adopted through this program to an approved caregiver and environment.



Noell



Sheba

The mission of Paws Patrol is to reduce the feral cat overpopulation through Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) in order to create a healthier environment for our communities.

Paws Patrol is a private 501(c)3 nonprofit organization not affiliated with any local or national organization. We rely on donations and grants and do not receive local or county funds.

How to Make a Donation

Paws Patrol always welcomes donations. Credit card donations can be made securely through PayPal on our website.

www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org

Alternately, checks can be mailed to Paws Patrol, P.O. Box 1642, Green Valley, AZ 85622.

In addition to monetary donations, we gladly accept any type of dry cat food for our feral colonies, and bags of Innova, Evo, Chicken Soup for the Soul Cat Food and Taste of the Wild for our foster kitties.

Paws Patrol

P.O. Box 1642

Green Valley, AZ 85622

520-207-4024

pawspatrol@cox.net

www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org



BlueBelle



Licorice



Gretel



Sissy

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – DEBORAH BOSMA

Deborah is a multi-talented volunteer with Paws Patrol, from technical abilities to hands on cat care. She learned about Paws Patrol in 2007 when feral cats near her husband's work place had kittens. They added 4 week old fluff-ball Ollie to their family while Paws trapped the other cats and kittens. Since then, she fostered a set of kittens and has adopted 2 cats through Paws. She also has former vet tech skills which come in handy for extra hands to give shots. Deborah's key responsibilities these days is managing our website, producing our email newsletter, and getting our event information to KGVY and various newspapers. Somehow she does all this while she and her husband keep busy raising two kids, and of course, a variety of cats and dogs and working at the library. When you have a chance to meet Deborah, tell her thanks for being part of the feral cat program in our area.

REDUCED ADOPTION FEES FOR TAME COMPANION CATS

Remember that when we trap ferals, we get many cats who at one time belonged to someone and make excellent pets. These cats are kept in foster homes as part of the family until they can be permanently adopted.

We all know that times are financially tough and that might mean that more than ever, you need a friend to comfort you, so Paws Patrol wants to help by making it easier for you to have a wonderful four-legged friend to listen to your problems and love you in return. All he or she will ask from you is a warm inside place to live, food, water and petting and play time.

From March 1 through May 31, our regular adoption fees have been reduced as follows:

\$50 for 1 kitty

\$75 for 2 kitties

Prices include spay/neuter/vaccines

In addition, we will continue to offer 1 cat at no adoption fee to seniors who are physically and mentally capable of providing for its needs. Active military personnel may adopt 1 cat at 50% off the current price (\$25 in this case). We will take our cats back if you are re-deployed.

PAWS WISH LIST

- Card tables
- Small hand towels to use inside traps
- Bath towels
- Scoopable cat litter for foster homes
- Any dry and canned cat food for feral colonies
- Volunteers for these positions: transporting cats to and from vet, help in trapping ferals, coordinators needed for trapping, scheduling, follow-up with adoptees, follow-up with foster families and working with our barn cat program

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please make plans to see us at one of our upcoming events. And let us know if you can volunteer your time!

Every Wednesday at the Farmer's Market at the Green Valley Marketplace; currently 10:00am-2:00pm

April 15 - Cat Adoption Fair, 1pm-4pm, Green Valley Canine in Green Valley

May 13 - Cat Adoption Fair, 1pm-4pm, Green Valley Canine in Green Valley
June 10 - Cat Adoption Fair, 1pm-4pm, Green Valley Canine in Green Valley

DONATIONS

Your donation will help us care for the animals! It's easy to send a safe and secure contribution using PayPal, and you don't have to have a PayPal account. Just click here: [Donate to Paws Patrol](#)

If you prefer to mail in a donation, please fill out this form below:

Name	
Address	
City/State/ Zip	
Telephone	
Email	
Send To:	Please print this form and mail it with your check pa PAWS PATROL P.O. Box 1642 Green Valley, AZ 85622