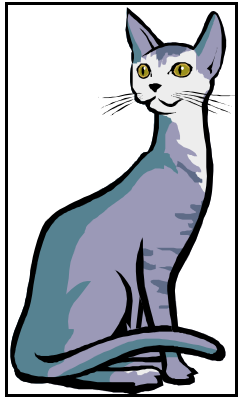




Fall Newsletter Volume 12, Issue 3, 2008



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are greatly needed at SCAT. Some of the areas that we need help with are foster homes, help at the shelter, help at the Petsmart Adoption Center. While at the shelter, you would help with some cleaning, talking to the public, time with the kitties.

- Points of Interest**
- ◆ *Volunteers Needed.*
 - ◆ *Kitty Quotes*
 - ◆ *Tamarind's Adventure*
 - ◆ *Thank-you's*
 - ◆ *Cat Enclosure Info*
 - ◆ *Upcoming Events*
 - ◆ *FeLV Information*
 - ◆ *FIV Information*
 - ◆ *SCAT FeLV and FIV Cats*
 - ◆ *Hi From Athena*
 - ◆ *Funny Cat Pictures*
 - ◆ *Kittens, Kittens, Kittens*
 - ◆ *The Tripods!*

"You can tell your cat anything and he will still love you. If you lose your job or your best friend, your cat will think no less of you."



Hi! My name is Athena. I am a very loving, friendly, and affectionate cat. My best buddy at my foster home is the dog. I am not a fan of other cats. I like to be the only kitty of the house. I am looking to be in a foster home where I am the only kitty or in my forever home. Right now, I do take medication every-day for an allergy problem. But, I feel good and I am so great to have around and love attention, cuddles. Special Note: If fostering Athena, the medical is paid for by SCAT.

Thank-you's

- All the members of the Saskatoon veterinary community and the animal health care professionals who are committed to helping SCAT cats.
- The Concorde Group of Companies who provide shelter space, utilities, and lots of generous support.
- All those who donate crafts, funds, supplies and their time to support SCAT cats.
- Abacus Signs
- Art Expressions
- Cat Hospital of Saskatoon
- Central Animal Hospital
- Clean Litter
- Concorde Group of Companies
- D&S Apiaries
- David Dube` and Heather Ryan Foundation
- Early's
- Family Pet Cremation Services
- Global Television
- It's A Dog's Life
- Len's Hauling
- Magic 98 and CJWW
- Market Mall
- Mid-west Sportswear
- Petcetera
- Petfinder
- PetLynx
- PetPoint
- Petsmart
- Prairieland Vet Clinic
- Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition
- ShelterCare Pet Insurance
- The Neighbourhood Express
- United Way
- Value Village
- Walmart - Preston Crossing
- White Buffalo Youth Lodge
- Yarrow Youth Farm



“ If a homeless cat could talk, it would probably say, Give me shelter, food, companionship and love, and I'll be yours for life.”



Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) causes an infectious disease in cats similar to the human HIV. It attacks and weakens the body's immune system, making the cat susceptible to infections and diseases that don't usually affect healthy cats.

Some risk factors of FIV are age, gender, illness, and time spent outdoors. Older cats are more likely to be infected. The average age of cats with FIV is 5 years at the time of diagnosis. Aggressive male cats that roam and fight with other cats are more likely to be infected than females and non-aggressive male cats. Sick cats are much more likely to have FIV. Free-roaming cats are more likely to be infected than indoor cats.

Signs and symptoms of FIV are swollen lymph nodes, high temperature, diarrhea, gum inflammation, sneezing, snuffling, discharge from nose or eyes, or kidney failure. The brain can also be affected in a very small number of cases, resulting behavior changes.

The commonest infection to occur in FIV+ cats is inflammation of the gums and other mouth parts. However, FIV is not the commonest cause of this inflammation. FIV is transmitted through deep, penetrating bite wounds. Although rare, a mother cat may transmit FIV to her newborn kittens during gestation, passage through the birth canal, or nursing. FIV can also be transmitted through the transfusion of contaminated blood. Humans cannot get FIV from cats, nor can dogs. A blood test done is the most definitive way in diagnosing FIV.

FIV+ cats most often live long, healthy and relatively normal lives with no symptoms at all. FIV is not easily passed between cats. It cannot be spread casually - like in litter boxes, water and food bowls, or when snuggling and playing. A neutered/spayed cat in a home is extremely unlikely to infect other cats if properly introduced. Some recent research indicates that the chances of FIV being passed from one cat to another in the same household is 1-2%. FIV+ cats should be kept as healthy as possible. Keep them indoors unless they can have access to a secure outdoor enclosure. Have a stress-free environment for them. Feed the cats a high quality diet. Have regular vet visits. Give them lots of love and affection. FIV+ cats can live many years with very little or no problems, in an ideal environment.

Feline Leukemia Virus

FeLV infected cats are found everywhere. Prevalence of infection varies greatly depending on age, health, environment, and lifestyle.

Cats persistently infected with FeLV serve as sources of infection. The virus is shed in very high quantities in saliva and nasal secretions, but also in urine, feces, and milk from infected cats. Cat-to-Cat Transfer of the virus may occur from a bite wound, during mutual grooming, and rarely through shared litter boxes and dishes. Transmission can also take place from an infected mother cat to her kittens, either before birth or while nursing. FeLV does not survive long outside a cat's body; probably less than a few hours under normal household conditions.

Cats at the greatest risk of infection are those that may be exposed to infected cats, either via prolonged close contact or through bite wounds.

Some signs of FeLV are : loss of appetite, slow but progressive weight loss, poor coat condition, persistent fever, enlarged lymph nodes, pale gums and other mucous membranes, inflammation of gums and mouth, infections of skin, bladder, upper respiratory tract, persistent diarrhea, seizures, behavior changes, and eye conditions. FeLV is detected via blood tests.

To keep cats from becoming infected: Keep cats indoors. Keep cats away from potentially infected cats that may bite. If they're outside, supervise or keep them in a secured enclosure such as The Cat's Den. Adopt only infection free cats into the home with uninfected cats. House infected and infection free cats separately. Consider FeLV vaccination of un-infected cats.

Closely monitor the cat's health. Spay or neuter. Feed nutritionally complete and balanced diets. See the vet about every six months for a thorough exam, weight check, etc.

FeLV infected cats can live for quite some time with the appropriate care and under ideal conditions.

This is only a very small amount of information on FeLV. There is much more available either online or by speaking to your vet.



Hi ! Keno here. My foster auntie wrote this nice story about me. " Keno is a total charmer who will make a family very happy. Though looking like a dude with a weird goatee, Keno actually has a black blaze under his chin where most black cats have a white blaze. He's like a negative of a picture! In addition to being a pretty face, Keno has extra toes and extra love to give. Keno loves to play with toys and balls, is well mannered, likes to lap sit, and chats but does not meow! Seems very content. And those paws are so cute and mitten-like. He doesn't like loud noises or fast movements. Keno has tested FIV+. He should be kept in a one cat household unless it is certain that he and his housemate cat (s) will not bite each other."

Unegwa is the friendliest cat ever. He loves attention and better yet, food! He acts as if he has never eaten before every time he is fed, and is always hungry. He would get along well with children. He has tested FIV+ and FeLV+ which may have come from the cat who bit him on the tail not long before he was scooped up. As you can see, Unegwa is one of those one in a million tuxedo cat faces, and he needs a one in a million home; one without other cats unless they are also infected, friendly too.



Turbo Pop is a playful young kittie who is very fond of her foster companion, Keno (also FIV+). Turbo Pop is timid on first approach but warms when patience and time are given; and you can tell she wants to by looking into her lotus eyes. She love, love, loves to play with the turbo ball toy! Because of her FIV+ status, she needs to be an only cat or to be introduced slowly to other friendly cats, or go to a new home along with her pal, the adorable Keno, who is also FIV+.



Hi! My name is Betty. I have FeLV. I am quite a lovely girl and love spending time playing outside and hunting insects. I am a lover of food. I also act as a personal alarm clock in my foster home and love to snuggle and purr. I love my foster home but would love to have a forever home.

Hi! My name is Hogan. My story is wrote by my foster mum. "Hogan was abandoned in Holiday Park. It was obvious that he was not a feral kitty as he visited at the windows of my basement with Gabrielle and Manhattan, my other foster kitties. Once he was inside, Hogan quickly showed that he is really a lap cat and a massage his belly and he loves cuddles. He has the cutest croaky meow. Hogan does love his food . He insists that I hover over him, pet him, and rub his belly while he eats. Hogan is FIV+ but with good food and lots of love, I am sure he will have a happy life."



Hello! My name is Valentine. Though life has been tough for him, he has maintained a very sweet disposition. Since he loves to e. My friends at SCAT wrote this bit about me. Enjoy! "Valentine Has had a tough life on be he must not be with other kitties until it is certain that they also like him. He may also be a good companion for a nice dog."

Paprika very much needs his own home. In spite of the excellent care received, he is the sole survivor of four orphaned kittens and has tested FeLV+. He is incredibly adorable and plays well on his own. He is doing very well. He would do well in a home on his own or with other cats, but only after knowing that they will be nice and friendly to each other. Paprika can also be around other FeLV+ cats, but being friendly to each other still important.



Upcoming Events

October 4th - St. Francis Blessing of The Animals
National Feral Cat Day

October 5th - SCAT Fundraiser Dinner. The dinner is the Hose and Hydrant. Is located at 612 11th St E. This is a wonderful and fun evening with great company and food. There will be a silent auction and raffle prizes. Tickets are 15\$ each. Call the shelter at 955-7228 for more information and/or tickets. SCAT thanks you and the cats thank you too!

October 5th-18th - Petsmart Adoption Centre.

November 2nd-15th - Petsmart Adoption Centre

November - Home 4 The Holidays
Xmas Mailout Fundraiser and Membership Drive

Mailing Address

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Phone and Fax

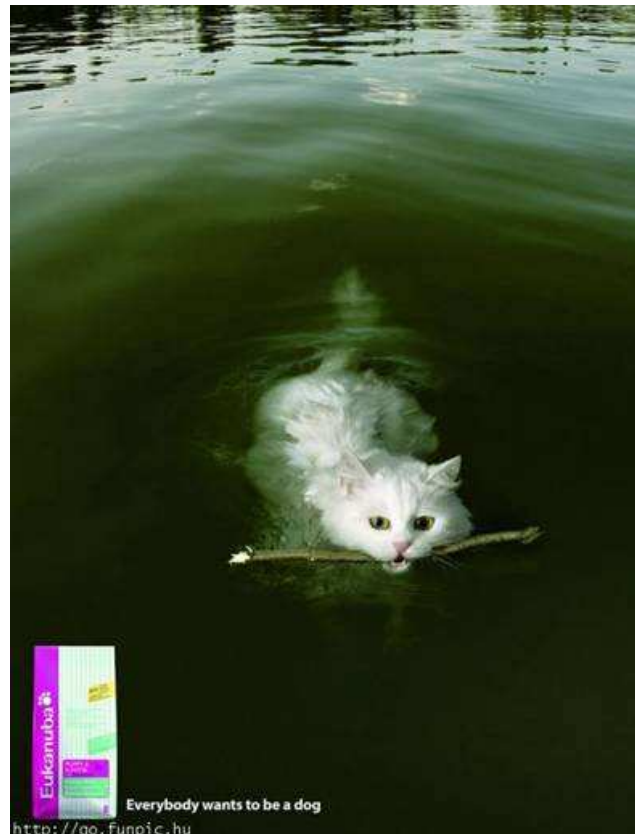
955-7228
955-1037 (fax)

Email

street.cat@sasktel.net

Website

www.streetcat.ca



Tamarind's Adventure

This is a wonderful and heart-warming story about Tamarind. She is a kitty whose owner is a volunteer with SCAT. Special thanks to Liz, Tam's owner for submitting this. Enjoy!

Having a cat go missing is a stressful and uncertain experience. And, too often, the whereabouts of lost cats are never determined, despite the best efforts of their owners to search their neighbourhoods, distribute postings and inform local animal control and humane organizations.

I recently experienced a lost cat while moving to a new place within Saskatoon. Although recovering my lost cat was a challenging and nerve-wracking experience, it acquainted me with some commonly used strategies and exposed me to some approaches that are less common but proved invaluable for reuniting me with my missing household member. Tamarind is a 3 year old grey tabby who was rescued with 2 young kittens from the streets in Calgary. She comes from a feral background. This doesn't mean that she's aggressive at all. Feral cats are quite timid around humans due to a lack of previous contact with them. However, they're excellent companions for lonely or single cat households as they usually enjoy the company of other cats. So, my other 2 cats and I were shattered when Tam became scared and ran away with all of the noise and strangers moving things out of my old place.

Of course, her escape during the move vividly reminded me of the first rule for avoiding these situations; avoid giving your cats the opportunities. Moves are difficult for a cat as they present the cats various chances to make a break for freedom outside. So, during previous moves, the cats were always closed in a separate room or at another place anytime people were moving things in and out of old or new homes; and important strategy I forgot in the pressure of my most recent move.

Once I realized Tam was missing, I did all the things usually recommended in these situations. I didn't see her escape, so I was unable to follow her and try to lure her back with treats or catnip. But, as soon as I realized that she was missing, I looked under many cars and looked in the nooks and crannies around the apartment block where we lived. Because she's very smart and skittish, I didn't expect to find her this way, and I was right. So, as soon as I could, I notified the city's animal control and animal shelter offices that she was missing and them her license and microchip number. I didn't think that Tam would end up at the shelter, due to her nervousness and not likely to approach a stranger. But, I not only called to check for cats meeting her description, but I also went to the shelter to check to be sure. This is very important, because sometimes how you describe your cat doesn't match how they describe it. And, surprisingly, when visiting the shelter, sometimes even the most skittish or unapproachable cats turn up there. I also informed the company that issued her microchip. These are wonderful devices as they enable humane organizations a way to a found cat back to the owner. The companies will also contact local shelters and vet clinics with the lost cat's personal I.D number; each cat has their own number issued.

I also filed a lost cat report at www.petlynx.net, which offers automated searches of admissions at shelters, vet clinics/hospitals.

With that in mind, I also plastered my old neighbourhood with posters and asked the staff at my old building's office to watch for her and to let me know if they or any tenants saw her. But, because she's small, shy and smart, I remained extremely concerned that I'd never see her again. So, knowing that cat traps are sometimes useful in capturing wily or shy stray cats, I contacted some of the SCAT volunteers who had experience with this approach. They very kindly lent me 3 cat traps to station around my old apartment building, and they put me in touch with someone in the neighbourhood who keeps an eye on and cares for its stray population. With their encouragement, great advice, and the permission of the apartment building's management and the nearby plant nursery, I distributed the traps in quiet areas that looked like they might be well stocked with tasty mice. I made sure that these areas were no more than a block or two from my old place, since everyone providing me with advice agreed that lost cats generally have a good sense of where home is and don't stray too far from it.

con't on next page

"If a cat spoke, it would say things like, Hey I don't see the problem here."



(Tamarind's Adventure con't)

Everyone also agreed that Tam's nocturnal instincts, coupled with the hot weather, would have her holed up during the day and hunting at night. Thus began many late evenings spent loading the traps up with the smelliest tuna I could find and many early mornings checking the traps to see who had been lured in by the delicious tuna smell. Incredibly I caught quite a few cats, who enjoyed my offering of tuna, while waiting to be released in the morning. On one Sunday morning, I was quite surprised to look into one of my traps and see Tam! She had enjoyed the tuna but looked quite annoyed. She's been gone almost 2 weeks at this point, and despite her previous experience as a self-sufficient street cat, the tuna smelled too good to resist. Interestingly, at this point, I hadn't received a single phone call or email in response to the many posters that I had put up throughout the neighbourhood. But, that afternoon, while collecting the posters, a number of people asked me if that meant that I'd found my cat. So, although I'd assumed that the posters weren't effective, it became clear that lots of people had taken the time to read them and were keeping an eye out for Tam.

Tam wasn't too impressed when I took her to my new place and released her into a horrible scary new apartment that she's never laid eyes on. But she quickly realized that her cat buddies were there, and, although her shy nature often makes it hard to tell what she's thinking, it's become quite clear that she's extremely happy to be home, where she can cuddle with her feline friends and enjoy regular square meals. Personally, I've been reacquainted with the fact that it's hugely important to avoid situations that enable or encourage cats to run away. However, if it happens, following the standard advice is an excellent start. And, if there are special circumstances, consulting with knowledgeable people about unusual approaches is also well worth doing. Most importantly, I learned that patience and persistence are absolutely essential; after a few days of trapping everyone's cat but my own, I might have given up, but, with the encouragement of many helpful, knowledgeable people, I hung in there and was able to get Tam home.

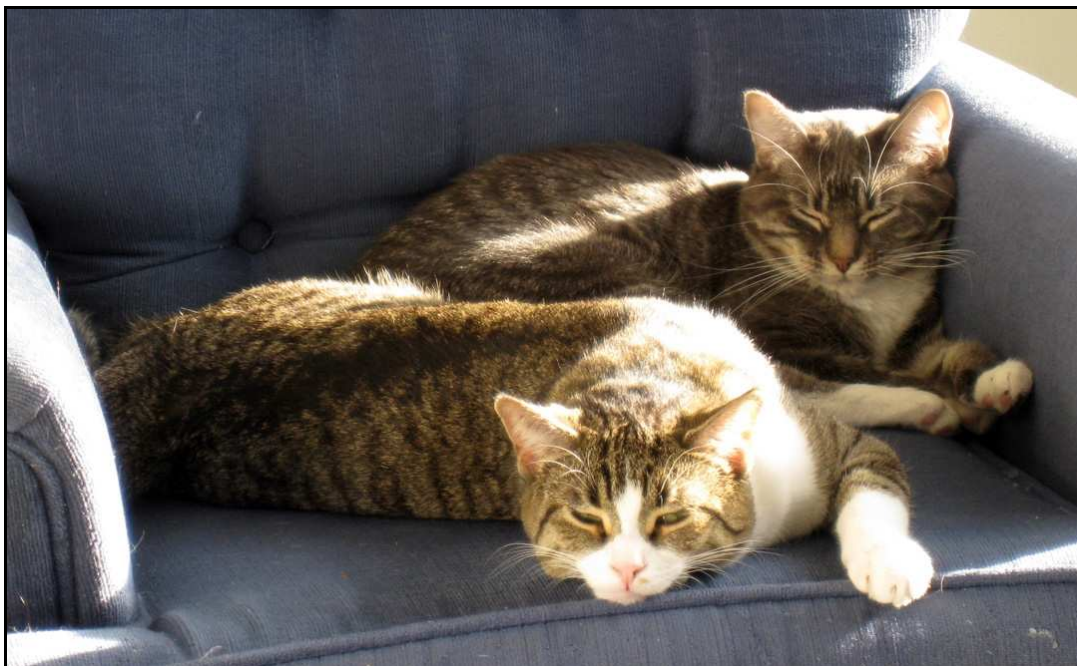
For more information on what to do if your cat goes missing, visit:

http://www.meowfoundation.com/bins/content_page.asp?cid=105-140&lang=1

For more information on shy cats like Tam (and what great buddies they can be for your other cats!), visit:

<http://www.azmccr.org/Shycat.htm>

Tam (in the back) and her
buddy Ulli



Our Tripod Kitties

What's happening out there? Never before has SCAT received any "tripod" cats and now we have 3 of the three-legged cats. We are also still receiving calls from all areas of the city about more being out there, fending for themselves. Chibree had 2 female protectors. Pheadora and Santana Timbit did not and each had some kittens. We would really like to find forever homes for these 3 lovely girls and as well, bring in the other three-legged cats out there, especially before it gets really cold out. However, we just don't have enough room for the others out there right now. Please consider fostering or adopting one of these unique cats. They are truly wonderful and would bring love, happiness, and fun times to your home. See our website for more information and pictures or call our shelter.

Santana Timbit



Chibree



Pheadora



Cat Enclosures



This cat enclosure is called "Just 4 Cats." It is a safe outdoor enclosure for cats. It's very easy to set up and easy to do it yourself so you can save a bit of money. There are many more pictures and information available on their website at www.just4cats.com



This is the first complete, free-standing, backyard fence enclosure for cats. It provides peace of mind for you and happy cats. It's also cost saving. No pre-existing fence is needed. It's made with flexible material. Most cats don't like to climb that type of material. For those "acrobatic" cats that somehow get near the top, the "Houdini-Proof" arch along the top of the enclosure safely turns them back towards the ground. There are many more pictures and information available on their website located at www.purrfectfence.com

