



STREETCATS CHAT

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Spring 2011

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COME SUPPORT STREETCATS AT CRAFT FAIR THIS SUMMER

StreetCats is looking forward to participating in "An Affair of the Heart of Tulsa" again.

We will be in booth numbers 383 & 384 at the QT Center in the Fairgrounds on July 15-17. We enjoy having our regular supporters come by and visit in addition to meeting new people who aren't familiar with StreetCats.

Be sure to check out the latest Laurel Burch purses, tote bags, and smaller bags. We still have the best prices in Tulsa. We will have new items for the show, including new cat earrings, which can be very hard to find.

Don't forget those favorite toys for your kitties – they love it when you bring home something just for them! We will also have a new selection of our volunteer-made themed catnip pillows with the special organic catnip,

We may be looking for volunteers to work at the show. While there is not a schedule yet, please call Linda Holland at 918-492-8887 if you are interested in helping out.

There will be three shifts on Friday and Saturday (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) and two shifts on Sunday (11 a.m.-5 p.m.) It's a fun volunteer event, especially if you are a cat lover in addition to being a good salesperson.

SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEER: KATHY BALSIGER

Kathy Balsiger is StreetCats' president, a position she has most recently held for the last 3 years.

She was a founding member of our organization and has served on the Board in every position. Kathy retired from the City of Tulsa two years ago after working in the Water Department for 20 years.

Her three children — two girls and a boy — are married, and she has three grandchildren: three boys and a girl. Kathy shares her house with Jeff, the super guy in her life.

Jeff also helps out at StreetCats whenever he is asked. They have Licorice, who is now 14 and was the first StreetCat; Meowy, who is 19; and Little E, a dog.

Kathy and Jeff are huge Green Bay Packer fans, and during football season, you'll find them in the parking lot of the Marriott SE, grilling up delicious Wisconsin brats among the other local fans. Kathy also loves outdoor activities such as gardening and going to River Parks and Tulsa Drillers games.

Kathy says she is very proud to be a part of StreetCats.

She notes that all of our volunteers are important, no matter how much or how little time they can give.

She applauds everyone who serves or has served on the Board of Directors, as it isn't easy to serve in these capacities in addition to volunteering in the shop.



StreetCats President Kathy Balsiger was a founding member.

Mission Statement: StreetCats, Inc., believes that all cats deserve a home. StreetCats wishes to reduce the population of unwanted cats by maintaining "A Stitch-in-Time," a spay and neuter program for feral and stray cats, and by sheltering cats who no longer have people to care for them. We seek adoptive families who value animals and will love and protect our StreetCats.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, KATHY BALSIGER

Hi, everyone! I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. "My Furry Valentine" was outstanding, with wonderful donations for both food and auction items. See elsewhere in the newsletter for these special donors. Our attendance was great, and we raised approximately \$10,000 through the beautiful quilt and the silent auction. We are able to save more kitties and find wonderful homes for them because of you and your support.

Please make note of all of our dining and craft show fundraisers planned for the summer months! Remember to visit our Adoption Center and Gift Boutique; we have new and interesting merchandise and great kitties to pet. Hope to see each and every one of you in the near future.

SPOTLIGHT KITTIES

Mikan and **Kabocha** are brothers, both large orange tabbies. Mikan is the larger of the two, weighing in at an impressive 19 pounds.



Kabocha, while smaller, is impressive as well. Every pound of these two cats is pure enjoyment!

If you are looking for an adventurer, **Mikan** will fill this need – his mantra is *carpe diem*, and he follows it to the fullest! Mikan seems to have received special training for escape artistry; despite his lumbering frame, he is able to sneak past even the most attentive volunteers and into our boutique. A gentle soul, he seems to simply want to see the sights and get some special one-on-one time with the volunteers and shoppers. He will gladly go back into the cat room, all while giving you a great big cat hug. We would strongly suggest that Mikan's new home provide extra barriers to prevent escapes to the outside, since he is so adept at sneaking out. It would be a shame to lose such a sweetheart as Mikan!

His brother, **Kabocha**, is an easy-going cat just like his brother, but his primary goal is to get love and attention from the volunteers and visitors in the shop. He is content to stay in the cat room and watch his brother's funny antics; if you like, he will share one of those wonderful cat hugs with you while watching. He and Mikan love to play and hang out with each other, and

they enjoy the other cats in the shop as well.

These two boys are incredibly loving and will make any home a happier place to be. Because these boys have never been apart in their two years of life, we really want to find a home that can adopt them both so they don't lose this important bond. Come in to see them and hear how they got their names!



Trinny is a beautiful and gentle tortoiseshell who is looking for a quieter home with someone who will offer her the

love and attention she deserves.

She lost some of her fur on her hind legs after arriving at StreetCats, probably due to the stress of losing her home and the uncertainty this situation brings with it.

She has settled into the shop, and her fur has grown back nicely, but she would truly blossom in a loving home where she is able to feel at ease.

She will quietly but persistently follow volunteers throughout the shop, hoping for the person followed to notice and devote a few minutes to a gentle rubdown or offer a lap in which she can snuggle. Trinny is very calm and would do fine in a home with another cat or all by herself.

Vanna is a darling 2-year-old white female with eye-catching black markings on her head and tail.



She was rescued by one of our kind veterinarians. Early on, Vanna established a reputation as an aggressive cat, as she was unhappy to make acquaintances with the other cats. It took us a little time to realize she was simply very frightened and didn't know a better way to react to such a large number of roommates!

Since then, she has come to understand her living arrangement a little better and has developed a much calmer approach. While she is still scared of the other cats in the shop, she is much happier now, although a nice, loving home would be her first choice.

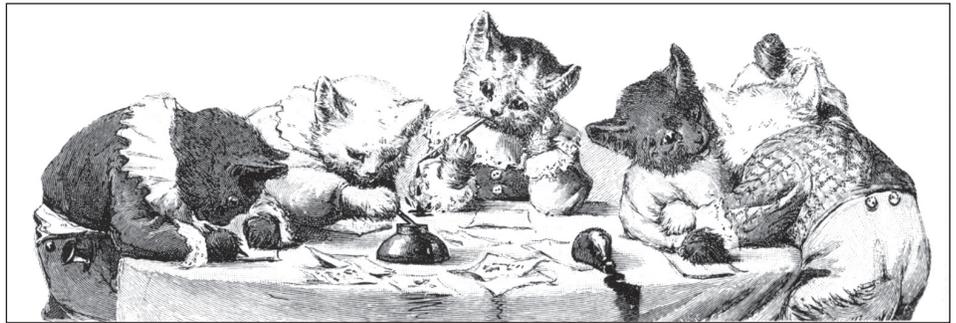
When she has the opportunity to be in a quiet space with humans, she is incredibly interactive, loving and relaxed. She enjoys sitting in a lap, and a good home will be all she needs to thrive. She will likely be happiest in a home with no other pets, but she would be okay with another cat.

For more information about these and other adoptable cats, please visit www.streetcatstulsa.org, stop by our Adoption Center at 6520 E. 60th St., or call (918) 298-0104. A new friend may be waiting for you!

THANKS TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

As noted in the President's Letter, My Furry Valentine was a great success, thanks to the StreetCats volunteers and these special donors who helped us have this important fundraiser.

We'd love for you to thank the retail businesses listed below by patronizing them. When you do, please be sure to thank them for supporting StreetCats.



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 David Ann Davis
 Delinda, Stan, & Beverly Hill
 Delta Café
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 Evelyn Gaser
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 Feline Specialties
 Felini's Cookies & Deli
 Fitness Together
 Flemings Prime Steakhouse

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 J's Hallmark Store – The Farm
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 Kathy Balsiger
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 Margo's Gift Shop – Utica Square
 Marie Callender's
 Mathis Brothers Furniture
 Miki Swenson
 Mud & Metal
 Myrna Kurle
 Nails by Christie
 Nancy Cline
 Nancy Walker
 Old School Bagel Café
 Olive Garden – Utica Square
 Panera Bread
 Pei Wei Asian Diner – Brookside
 Petroleum Club of Tulsa
 Queenie's Café & Bakery – Utica Square

Reasor's – 18th & Yale
 Red Rock Canyon Grill
 Rickey Ray
 Rosie Tetzloff
 Samantha Polen
 Sara Alexander
 Savoy Restaurant
 Scuttlepots
 Secret Gardens Candle Co. – The Farm & B.A.
 Sheezkrafty
 Sheila Chenoweth
 Sherri & Bill Griggs
 Southern Agriculture – 71st & Sheridan
 Starbucks Coffee Co. – Riverside Dr.
 Stone Bluff Cellars
 Superior Linen Service
 Susan Stowe
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 The Cheesecake Factory
 The French Hen
 The Path to Wellness
 The Perfect Touch
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MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

- Joanne Alderman in honor of Daniel and Linda Brown
 Bob Anderson in honor of Murray and Bailey
 Dee Anne Ayles in honor of Odie and Baxter
 Howard Barnett in honor of Heidi Kiser at Christmas
 Daniel and Linda Brown in honor of their cats, Daniela, Lily and Balusha
 Kathy Bryan in honor of the StreetCats Volunteers
 Martha Carothers in honor of Judy Loyd
 Chesapeake Helpers, Society For Beauty & The Beast, in honor of Judy Loyd
 Alma Churchill in honor of all pets
 Denny Crane in honor of the wonderful family that adopted him as a young cat a while back
 Gary and Pat Crocker in honor of Rita Rowe at the Holiday Season
 Michelle Curtis in honor of Don Verba for always being the weekend cat feeder
 Brian and Heather Donovan in honor of Estella Franken
 Cheree Fisher, DO, in honor of Tigger
 Patrick and Estella Franken in honor of Luc and Jeaninne Tomasino's kitty, Poncho
 Linda Freeman in honor of Winston's 8th birthday
 Renee Fuhrman in honor of her mom, Kathy Balsiger's birthday
 Patricia Hanna in honor of Mary Smith's birthday
 John Harper in honor of Jolie Kalbfleisch at Christmas
 Clayton and Janis Jennings in honor of Margaret Thayer
 Shaun Jones in honor of his StreetCat, Bob
 Peter and Sally Leininger in honor of Star
 Mamie Lester in honor of Gigi
 Rebecca Marcus in honor of Judy Loyd
 Eva Lee Mauck in honor of Sheila Chenoweth
 Dr. Thomas McCoy in honor of Judy Loyd
 Susan Morris and Iris Kitty in honor of Holly Hope and Priscilla
 Barbara Munn in honor of Buddy (a StreetCat formerly known as Diego)
 Connie Payne in honor of Boots for the holidays
 Janet Persson in honor of Kay Lorenzen's birthday
 Harry Poarch in honor of his StreetCat Sapphire
 Robyn Porter in honor of Delinda Hill's birthday
 Sherry Price in honor of Catarina
 Dr. Linda Reis in honor of Helen MacKay and her work with StreetCats, Inc.
 Vicki Sanders in appreciation of Quigley and all the previous cats that have owned her
 JoAnn Schaub in honor of Neiman Marcus Schaub for being the world's best cat!
 Janet Thomas in honor of John Thomas and his StreetCats, Lyle and Roxie
 Brad Turner in honor of Judy Loyd
 Gene and Sally Turner in honor of Judy Loyd
 Teresa Wilkinson in appreciation of John and Gerry Wilkinson
 Scott Williams in honor of his mother, Maurine Williams' birthday
 Leslie Zieren in honor of Sissy, now "Lily the Cat," the best kitty on the planet!
 Melanie Abczynski in memory of Sebastian, loved by the Polen Family
 Marva Bear in memory of Squeak, Jo and Callie
 Don and Carol Beard in memory of Buddy, Casey, and Winston
 Levi Bridges in memory of StreetCat Penny
 Cindy Byrd, John Kossakoski and the Cats in memory of Bubba
 Terry Carey in memory of Joanie Frizzell's beloved Mattie
 Terry Carey in memory of Michelle Schuebel's Kauai
 Bill and Linda Cassetty in memory of L.G. and Judy Huitt's, Squeak
 A.M. Chickering in memory of Sparkle, a StreetCat
 A.M. Chickering in memory of the "Whites" – Ace, Deuce and Dorrito
 Nancy Cline in memory of Samantha Polen's Sebastian
 Dr. Rick and Barbara Cohen in memory of Tora
 Karen and Bill Copeland in memory of Hilda Roark
 Susan Davis in memory of Sarah Bastet, a lovely dilute calico
 Jana Gildon in memory of Kathy Holcomb's very sweet Gracie
 Frederick Graves in memory of Ms. Blanche
 Dorothy Greek in memory of Marina Greek's Georgia
 Nancy Honn in memory of Edgar
 Judy and L.G. Huitt in memory of Squeaker
 Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Jones in memory of Twila Deane Richard
 The Kattein Kitties in memory of our fur brother, Toffee
 The Kattein Kitties in memory of our fur sister, Mittens
 Ardythe Krans in memory of Elliot who lived with Pat Younger
 Frank Lindner in memory of Jerry
 Helen and Andy MacKay in memory of Sebastian Polen
 Carl and Kathryn Melnick in memory of our special kitty girl, Mollie
 David Morse in memory of Patricia Morse
 In Memory of Judy Loyd's Lightning, from Linda Holland, Barbara Roberts, Connie Hutchinson, Norma Ransom, Joyce DeBoard, Kathy Balsiger and Sheila Chenoweth
 David and Linda Nesbitt in memory of Andy
 Samantha Polen in memory of Lowell and Shirley Jones' kitty, Skeeze
 David and Samantha Polen in memory of L.G. and Judy Huitt's kitty, Squeak
 Samantha Polen in memory of Donald and Terry Carey's kitty, Maggie
 The Polens in memory of Jim and Patti Seller's handsome boy, Julio
 J. A. Polkinghorne in memory of Wrigley
 Bill and Kathy Potts in memory of Cricket
 Julie Pringle in memory of Twila Richard
 Amanda Ramsey in memory of Molly
 Suzanne Reeble in memory of Elizabeth Ham's beloved pet, Andrea
 Carlton Rowton in memory of Dusty
 Roger Smith in memory of Kenny Cat
 Susan Stowe in memory of Bandit and Cisco
 Barbara Swiggart in memory of Jasmine
 Peggy Thompson, Bob and Joanne Flake, Tina Rogers and Janie Perkins in memory of Mr. Jones, beloved cat of Jerry and Kathy Adams
 Veterinary Associates in memory of Jeanne Smith's Lucy
 Lisa Ann Wall in memory of the Wicker's Baby Doll
 Linda Wexler in memory of Jane Comfort
 Kristi Wittlich in memory of Nancy, Leroy and Kathy Kattein's Toffee
 Kathy Balsiger in memory of Hannah, Shirley Welch's old girl

STREETCATS SPONSORS

Thank you to everyone who attended My Furry Valentine, to those of you who were successful with your auction bids, to those of you who bought raffle tickets for the wonderful cat quilt won by Barbara Topper-Cohen, and to those of you who sent a donation but were not able to attend. This is a special event for us, and we wish we could list everyone who contributed in this way, but we didn't have enough space in this newsletter. All of you are sponsors of StreetCats, and our success is with your help.

Other sponsors include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Melanie Abczynski | Sharon Finnerty | Mr & Mrs. C. P. Leininger | Debbie & Robert Reddig |
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| Kathy Balsiger | Barb Hauxwell | Ted McClure | Mr. & Mrs. David Stone |
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| John & Emmy Eager | Victor & Merry Lahti | Art Rasher | Sydney Winn |
| Terry Fenner | Margaret Lane | | Leslie Zieren |

LUCKY KITTIES!

(StreetCats adopted 10/1/10 through 4/30/11)

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Betsy | Hilda | Nala | Simon |
| Brie | Jazzy | Oakley | Storm |
| Caleb | Joye | Onyx | Stormie |
| Charlie | Libby | Oreo | Sweet 'Ems |
| Chelsey | Lucie | Polly | Theodora |
| Chester | Margo | Priscilla | Tinkerbell |
| Corky | Matie | Purrl | Tommy |
| Diane | Miles Standish | Queenie | Velvet |
| Gage | Miss Fuzzy | Russdee | Victoria |
| George | Pants | Rylee | Willie |
| Grady | Mitzi | Shandy | ZsaZsa |
| Henry | Molly | Simba | |

OUR WISH LIST

- | | |
|---|---|
| Wal-Mart/Sam's gift cards in any denomination | black and colors |
| Tall kitchen trash bags | Liquid Plum'r |
| Liquid laundry detergent | Dryer sheets |
| Clorox liquid bleach | Paper towels |
| Clorox Clean-Up | Don't forget the wish list for Meals on Wheels: |
| Postage stamps | Scoopable Litter |
| Cat food – canned & dry | Unopened bags of dry cat food |
| Bottled water | food |
| Toilet paper | Canned cat food |
| HP 02ink Cartridges – | |

WARM AND FUZZY STORIES FROM ADOPTED KITTIES



Joye likes to drink out of the sink faucet.

Joye, a little bobtail, is doing very well in her new home. Connie, her new adoptive mom, says she chose Joye for herself, but as everyone knows, cats make their own decisions, and Joye has decided she really likes Connie's husband, Gary, who never before liked cats. Well, he does now! Joye still likes to get up in high places like the bookshelves and still wants to drink out of the sink faucet – she apparently likes her water really fresh! She is very well loved in her forever home.



Zsa Zsa hates being brushed.

Ripple and **Zsa Zsa** live together, and although they are not really friends yet, their new adoptive mom, Lin, has high hopes. She says Ripple, who is 14, gets around just fine and even “forgets” to limp sometimes, so her arthritis meds are helping. Ripple, who already seems partial to men, especially likes Lin's husband. She enjoys sleeping at the foot of the bed (as long as Zsa Zsa is not in attendance).

Zsa Zsa follows Lin around and likes to snuggle down between the pillows in the bed, and according to gossip, is quite the cuddler. This does not extend to her brushing sessions, however, as those who have witnessed them say that she behaves terribly and makes noises that no cat should ever make.



Ripple enjoys sleeping at the foot of the bed.

Other than grooming, both girls have a happy life, as each cat has chosen a different “staff” member for herself. There are benefits to getting a cat for each member of the family! Hopefully the two cats will become friends, as they now have a wonderful home together.

TOP THAT! PIZZA TO RAISE FUNDS FOR STREETCATS

We will be having three Wednesday night fundraising events with Top That! Pizza this summer: June 15, July 20, and August 17. If you haven't been there yet, it is at 8393 S. Memorial Drive, on the east side of the street, and you are in for a treat!

Everyone loves pizza, but often, someone else wants something on the pizza that we might not want. Top That! Pizza has the perfect solution. For \$6.99, you get a 10-inch pizza with three choices of crust, nine choices of sauce, 20 selections of veggies, 12 kinds of meats, and eight choices of cheese, in addition to their five-cheese blend. (Makes me hungry just writing about it!)

Since the toppings are unlimited, you can have exactly what and as much as you want. If you can't make up your mind, they have eight signature pizzas to choose from, too. Once you've created your pizza, it takes less than three minutes for it to bake in the hot oven! Delicious!

StreetCats will get 20 percent of the proceeds on all three nights from 5 until 9 p.m. You don't have to take anything with you; just ask them to put your receipt in the donation box as you check out, and we'll be the lucky ones. They will even ask you if you'd like to include your receipt in the donation box in case you forget. They are open daily from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m., but when you mark your calendars for these three nights, please be sure to remember the fundraiser is from 5 to 9 p.m. only. See you there. You will love it!

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ASK THE VET: FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS (FIP)

By Suzanne Hurst, DVM

I usually get one of two responses from cat lovers when the topic of FIP comes up — either a look of confusion because they are not familiar with the disease, or a look of fear because they are. Personally, I despise and dread this disease not only because it can be extremely difficult to diagnose, is very hard to prevent, impossible to cure and invariably fatal, but also because I lost my own very special little rescued kitten, Rudy, to this disease a little over a year ago at 6 months of age. I have positively diagnosed half a dozen or so FIP cases during 15 years in practice, but I would not doubt that there were cases that went undiagnosed or were misdiagnosed due to the extreme difficulty in accurately diagnosing this horrible disease. This may be especially true for the geriatric cat population. When an older cat presents for kidney or liver failure or neurologic issues, it is natural to assume that its condition is attributable to the aging process, but it is also possible that a resurfacing of a latent coronavirus infection is to blame.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to space constraints, we were unable to print this article in its entirety. You can find the full article and links to additional information online at www.StreetCatsTulsa.org, but below are some key points:

What is this poorly understood and extensively researched disease? FIP is a systemic and fatal disease caused by a type of coronavirus that infects cats, but it is more complicated than that. Infection with the feline enteric coronavirus (FECV) is very common, but the development of FIP is very uncommon.

How does a cat contract the virus (FECV) that can mutate to the disease, FIP? FECV is highly contagious; it is estimated that between 30 and 40 percent of all household cats are infected. The infection occurs primarily through a fecal-oral route. Infected cats shed the virus in their feces, and cats that share the litterbox invariably pick up some of these virus particles and ingest them while grooming themselves.

How does this coronavirus (FECV) become FIP? Once infection with FECV occurs, the virus infects cells in the lining of the cat's intestines. Because of the physical structure of the virus it is prone to mutations during replication. One of the mutations that can occur to the coronavirus is termed feline infectious peritonitis (FIP). This name is not quite accurate, because after the virus mutates into the FIP form, it does not appear to be "infectious" anymore. Cats do not "catch" FIP. They catch the coronavirus, and then, if it mutates into the FIP virus form, their immune system reacts and causes the illness FIP. Fortunately, this only happens in about 5 percent of infected cats. The development of FIP often follows a stressful event such as surgery or being re-homed and is primarily a disease of kittens and very young cats; the peak age for diagnosis is 10 months.

What are the symptoms of FIP? Symptoms are dependent on whether the cat suffers from the wet form or the dry form. All cats with FIP will have varying degrees of lethargy, inappetance, and a fluctuating fever that is unresponsive to antibiotics. The wet form is more severe and causes death more rapidly, often within a few weeks of the appearance of symptoms. Fluid accumulation can cause a distended abdomen and in the chest cavity causes breathing difficulty. The dry form can result in vague symptoms, but may include neurological difficulties, eye lesions, or symptoms related to liver or kidney inflammation. Tentative diagnosis can often be made by collecting and examining the fluid. By contrast, the dry form can result in vague symptoms, but may include neurological difficulties, eye lesions or symptoms related to liver or kidney inflammation. Cats suffering from the dry form have survived for several years, but most die within a few months.

Can a test be done to determine whether a cat has FIP? There is no reliable test for FIP except biopsy of an affected organ. Many diagnoses are made after death via a necropsy (veterinary term for autopsy). Tentative diagnosis is based on symptoms and certain abnormalities on standard blood tests. Doing a corona titer for antibodies in the blood merely indicates exposure to the enteric coronavirus and does not correlate with an active or imminent FIP infection. There is a newer test that detects active coronavirus in the feces, but again, this does not mean a cat has FIP — only that it is shedding FECV.

What is the treatment? Treatment is difficult because it is the immune system's response to the virus that causes lesions and symptoms, not the virus itself. Steroids and the use of feline interferon have limited success in treating some cats, but the disease will ultimately progress. For now, we are only able to provide supportive care, though some studies are being done with immune system modulation drugs.

Is there a vaccine to prevent FIP? The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) does not recommend routinely vaccinating against FIP. While a vaccine came out in 1991, some researchers feared it might actually make the disease worse if a cat had already been exposed to the FECV, but agreed that it would not protect cats if they had been exposed to the coronavirus. Even most kittens have been exposed by the time they can receive the vaccine at 16 weeks.

How can I best protect my cats? Scrupulous and frequent cleaning of the litter pans and prompt clean-up of spilled or tracked litter are important. The virus is easily killed by common household cleaners such as dilute bleach (1 part bleach to 32 parts water). Clumping litter is best and needs to be scooped often. Clean the scooper and the litter boxes with dilute bleach weekly. If you allow your cats to go outdoors, there is always a risk of exposure. Cats with FIP are not a risk to other cats and do not need to be isolated. Any cats in the household have already been exposed to the coronavirus. Again, it all depends on whether any individual cat is unfortunate enough to develop the mutated form of the FECV in its body. More research is being done to try to demystify this unusual and dreaded disease. Fortunately, while FECV is widespread, FIP is uncommon.

Dr. Suzanne Hurst

Kindness Animal Hospital • 11035 S. Memorial • (918) 970-4300 • drhurst@kindnessoftulsa.com



STREETCATS, INC.

6520 E. 60TH ST.
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SPRING 2011

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E-mail: Cats@StreetCatsTulsa.org

**GIFT BOUTIQUE AND ADOPTION CENTER
LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF SOUTH
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Hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday.

StreetCats, Inc. is a 501(c)(3)
tax-deductible nonprofit organization.

CHOSEN

*Her kitten days were far behind
When she came to my door*

*A small grey striped tabby
Tired and hungry, nothing more*

*But somehow from that bitter night
We were rarely apart*

*For with tiny paws, demanding yowl
She captured all my heart*

*And in the years that followed
She wanted just the best*

*My chair, my pillow, all my love
And I was truly blest*

*Perhaps one day you'll hear a cry
You'll know just what to do*

*And there will be that special cat
The one that's chosen you!*

— Judy Loyd