

Kiski Valley Cat & Kitten Rescue

PO Box 19, Apollo, PA 15613
rgazarik@hotmail.com

<http://awos.petfinder.com/shelters/pa159.html>

www.facebook.com/kiskivalleycatkittenrescue

KITTY QUARTERLY

Cat of the Quarter: Tobey

Tobey was rescued from a low income mobile home park where he was born. Along with his two brothers, Rocco and Luigi. He was born in the early spring of 2018 and has already grown into a large cat. Although Tobey is a little shy, we are sure he will come out of his shell in his forever home. He loves to play and his heart can be won with toys and treats. You can find more information on Tobey on our Petfinder page or by emailing Renee Gazarik at rgazarik@hotmail.com.



Inside this issue

Shelter Contact Info	1
Cat of the Quarter.....	1
Adopter Update.....	1
Volunteer Spotlight.....	2
FIV Article	3
Wishlist	4

Beasley: One Year Later

Beasley (formerly known at the shelter as Raymond) was adopted about a year ago. His new family have kept us updated on his progress since they took him home. Like most kitties leaving the shelter, Beasley was a bit timid and took time to get used to his new surroundings. As you can see, he is healthy and happy in his new home!



“Time spent with cats is never wasted.” -Sigmund Freud

Volunteer
Spotlight:
Natalie Henry



How did you start volunteering at KVCKR? How long have you been Volunteering?

I started volunteering in June of 2006 – so almost 13 years! After moving back to this area (where I originally am from) with a more flexible work schedule, I wanted to do some type of work with animals. I didn’t even know KVCKR existed! I did a google search and it popped up. I emailed Renee and that weekend started my volunteer work. Although – I must say – there are plenty of other volunteers who have been with the shelter much longer than I have!!

What do you do when you are at the shelter volunteering (what building)?

I clean building #3, which now houses the cats with FIV, FeLV, and the elderly kitties. A typical day spent cleaning is usually a 3-4 hour window that involves scooping litter, cleaning food and water dishes, wiping down furniture and putting out fresh bedding, sweeping and mopping the floors, wiping down walls and windows, and of course, petting, brushing and playing with the kitties I have also worked booths that the shelter has had set up at craft/vendor fairs (examples: Home Expo at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall

– but it’s been quite a few years that we’ve been there; as well as events like the Fall for Animals Festival in Crooked Creek). Also, I have taken home quite a few very young kittens to foster them for a few weeks – giving them the extra love and attention (and regular) feedings that they need. This gets them out of the shelter, used to being in a home around people, and away from any potential germs/sickness that they could get while at the shelter being so little and fragile.

Have you adopted any kitties from KVCKR?

I have adopted a total of 4 kitties from KVCKR. Oreo “Cookie” was the first. She unfortunately passed away 1.5 years ago. We had her for 10 years – she was an AMAZING cat! We currently have Kandy, Felix and Spotty from this shelter.

Is there any kitty at the shelter that holds a special place in your heart (alive or deceased)?

There are honestly SO MANY that stick out in my mind...it’s hard to be around the kitties and not want to take them all home! Some of my absolute favorites include (mostly from Building #3) Heath – aka “Baby Heath Bar”, Fantasy, Ronnie – aka “RJ”, Ninja, and Miss Sullivan. But the one that I miss the most is “The Godfather”. His real name was Bootsie and lived in Building #2. He was this huge Tuxedo cat (as you know I am a sucker for those Tuxedos) and was a resident at the shelter for quite a few years. If I remember correctly, not much bothered him. He would find a place to sit – usually somewhere high, and just look around and keep watch over everything; like he was in charge, a King of sorts, and the shelter was his kingdom. So, my husband and I started calling him “The Godfather”. I believe there is still a tribute to him hanging up in Building #2.

When you are not volunteering, what do you do? (family, work, etc.)

I have both a full time job, as well as a part time job. I volunteer one day a week at the shelter, which doesn’t leave much space for free time. But, I enjoy hanging out with family and friends; baking and decorating cakes, cupcakes and cookies; shopping; reading; swimming; flower gardening; (really, anything that involves being outside in nice weather!); going to wineries; and vacationing to Seneca Lake, NY and a yearly beach trip to the Outer Banks, NC.

The Truth about FIV

It is important to realize that a positive test for FIV is not a mandatory death sentence. With a high protein diet and aggressive treatment of secondary infections, an FIV-positive cat can lead a reasonably normal life span. Dr. Mike Richards says, "Feline immunodeficiency virus infection does not lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in cats as often as human immunodeficiency virus leads to AIDS in people." The largest threat to FIV-positive cats is secondary infections, such as bladder, skin, and upper respiratory infections. Kidney failure is also frequently seen in cats with FIV. These secondary infections should be treated promptly and aggressively in any cat, but especially with an FIV cat.

Myth #1: The FIV test is reliable

Fact: 20 % of positive results are just test errors. The error rate for kittens is even higher. Thousands of cats are killed daily because of test errors!

Myth #2: The FIV test shows the existence of the FIV virus.

Fact: It measures nothing but antibodies which are microscopic organisms that fight the virus.

Myth #3: Kittens that test positive for FIV will always test positive for FIV.

Fact: Infected mothers rarely, if ever, pass the infection to their kittens. Kittens born to FIV positive mothers are at a low risk for the infection even though they may test positive at first because of the presence of the maternal antibodies.

Myth #4: Cats who have the virus will eventually develop the disease and die from it.

Fact: 90% of cats who actually have the actual FIV virus will lead completely normal lives.

Myth #5: FIV + cats will lead short, miserable lives.

Fact: FIV+ cats can and DO live long, healthy lives, if given a chance. Most live as long as their indoor counterparts and much longer than outdoor cats. Many live well into old age without ever having symptoms.

Myth #6: The FIV virus is a serious threat to other animals because it can be transmitted by casual contact.

Fact: Modern medical research has show that transmission requires serious physical interaction. Deep bite wounds seem to be the primary mode of the virus transmission.

The virus can only live a few seconds outside the body, so sharing food and water bowls is not an issue. Studies show that FIV+ cats living in a multi cat home do not appear to spread the disease as long as all the cats in the household have a stable social structure where housemates do not fight.

If your cat has been diagnosed as FIV-positive, you'll want to work very closely with your veterinarian in designing a management program. For cats with no other symptoms, and otherwise generally good health, this might simply be a matter of ensuring he gets a sound diet, possibly with added vitamins, anti-oxidants, and Omega 3/ Omega 6 fatty acids, as well as prompt, aggressive treatment of infections and other conditions as they crop up. Even flea control is important, as fleas transmit a number of other parasites such as Bartonella. Also, flea bites themselves can become infected, which would be a cause for concern.

Consider opening your heart and home to an FIV positive cat.



Cat & Kitten Rescue

Kiski Valley Cat & Kitten Rescue is always appreciative of any and all donations. As a truly non-profit organization, all resources go only to the care of the cats/kittens. The shelter functions on the dedication of volunteers and the generosity from our donors.

Wishlist

The shelter can always use the following items

- Canned Cat Food
- Dry Food: Preferably Purina Gentle Cat or Kitten Chow
- Toys/treats
- Monetary Donations
- Volunteers to help clean/take care of the cats
- Volunteers to help with "handyman" projects
- Cleaning supplies /Paper Towels
- Help finding loving homes for them!



Cat & Kitten Rescue

PO Box 19
Apollo, PA 15613
E-mail: rgazarik@hotmail.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE