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The Importance of Vaccinations

It's hard to find yourself fearing something that's so tiny you can't even see it with a microscope. But sometimes small things pack a knock-out punch. That's the case with viruses. These tiny little bugs may be invisible to us, but they can deliver devastating consequences when we or our loved animals are exposed to them. There are several nasty viruses that affect cats, and they can range from making your kitty get a "cold" to being fatal. Some that you may have heard of are Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Herpes Virus which cause what is commonly known as Feline Upper Respiratory Infection. Other viruses that

affect our feline friends are Rabies (vaccination is required by law), Panleukopenia (distemper), Leukemia, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, and Corona Virus. Although some of these viruses are considered much more deadly than others, all can be fatal in certain circumstances.

The good news is that there are vaccines to help prevent all of these diseases. Although no vaccine is 100% effective, the majority of them greatly reduce the risk of your cat getting sick if exposed to the virus and certainly reduce the severity of the infection. Please set up a schedule with your veterinarian to make sure your pet is always

protected. Different veterinarians have different vaccine protocols (vaccination treatments), and they change to match the "lifestyle" of your cat. Yes, it's certainly hard to fear something you can't see. But being around shelter cats every day, I've seen wonderful cats affected by every one of these viruses. It's extremely hard to see an amazing little kitty die from a virus like leukemia or panleukopenia when they are 98% preventable with vaccine. We ask all of you to spread the word to everyone you know that these diseases can be prevented by working with your veterinarian to safeguard your cat's health.



Did you know:

- Three out of four animals who end up in shelters are eventually euthanized. Fort Collins Cat Rescue is trying to reverse that trend by supporting a no-kill zone in Northern Colorado



"Do I look like trash to you? I was thrown away in a dumpster!"

Message from Director Sarah Swanty

Wow! What a busy few months we have had. This being only our second "kitten season" since opening the shelter, we had no idea what we were in for. The flood of kittens began in May, and has not completely wound down yet - well over 200 kittens just in the last 6 months. Some kittens came from owners who couldn't find them homes, others were abandoned; two were

found in dumpsters, two taped shut in a box tossed in an irrigation ditch, and 15 were going to be used for target practice on a farm. It is sad that these babies are born into a place where they are not "wanted".

Hopefully next year's kitten season will be a little calmer. With your support, we have spayed hundreds of female cats through our low-cost spay/neuter clinic. Our goal is for

homeless kittens to not be born in the first place. Because of the large number of kittens born every year, the sick or shy ones, and sometimes even the healthy ones are euthanized in kill shelters. Plus, many adult cats miss out on wonderful homes because of the vast numbers of kittens. Happily, with your support, there is an end in sight. Thank-you.

Keeping Your Kitty Safe at Home



Kittens especially will get into just about anything!

The holidays can be a wonderful time of year. Unfortunately, the holidays also bring an increase in cases of pet sickness and poisoning. Despite what some people think, their creatures rarely know whether the morsel they're putting in their mouths may be harmful. This holiday season, please watch what your kitty may decide to eat. While just a partial list, the following gifts, foods, and other items found often around the holidays may be harmful, or even fatal, to your beloved pet if ingested:

Plants: amaryllis, azaleas, holly, mistletoe, oleander, poinsettia, rhododendron, and tulips

Foods: chocolate, garlic, grapes, human baby foods (especially those with onion in them), macadamia nuts, some mushrooms, onions, raisins, alcohol, caffeine drinks, coffee (drink & grounds), dog food, large amounts of food scraps, milk & dairy products (lactose-free products for cats are available), large amounts of salt, sugar and sugary foods, tea, tobacco, canned tuna, human vitamins

(especially when they contain iron), yeast dough

General holiday items: batteries, Christmas trees, plastic bags, ribbon, string (gift and other kinds), tinsel, water in Christmas tree holders

Some other household dangers: cleaning compounds, hanging electrical cords, hot cooking and drinking liquids, space heaters, insecticides (all pest poisons)

Have a safe and happy holidays!

Spay/Neuter Clinic Update

From March 6th, 2007 to Nov 12, 2007 the Spay/Neuter Clinic performed 2,130 surgeries, 139 of which were for feral cats.

As of Monday November 12th, 2007 we have spayed and neutered 2,130 dogs and cats. Of those 2,130 animals, 139 have been feral cats. All this just since March!

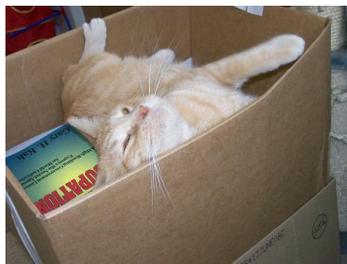
Starting January 8th, 2008 we are adding Tuesdays to our surgery days each week. Tuesdays will be cat only days a necessity since we do 2-1/2 times more cats than dogs. Currently we average 33 sur-

geries a day, 3 days a week - 99 surgeries a week. This new day will allow us to average 132 surgeries a week. Lately we have been performing about 125 surgeries a week trying to catch up on all the cats.

We provide surgery for animals from as far north as Hawk Springs, WY to as far south as Longmont, CO and reaching east to all of Weld County and west to Estes Park. We have an

amazing group of people working with us at the clinic every day. Thank you, all of our wonderful volunteers and supporters, for all of your hard work and dedication. PETS emergency clinic opened Greeley's first spay/neuter clinic very recently. It's wonderful to see so many people working toward eliminating the pet over population problem in Northern Colorado!

Bobbi—A Frisky Lady Who Loves to Play



Bobbi is a very unusual kitty! She's got a short tail. She's an orange tiger girl, when most orange tigers are boys. She's also got a name that's usually associated with a boy. Does any of this bother her? Of course not!

Bobbi is a playful, frisky kitty

that loves to be the center of attention. She came to the rescue from Nunn, Colorado with her four babies. Of course the kittens got adopted right away, but Bobbi has been with us well over a year!

Bobbi is about 8 years old and is as playful as a kitten. She is

the ultimate lap cat, sitting and purring on any available lap. She loves to help with the paperwork at the rescue, laying on the desk right on the papers being read.

Please come visit her and see what a great kitty she is!

FCCR Memberships Available

Are you smitten with kittens... and cats too?? Then be one of the first to join our new membership program! We have started our Smitten With Kittens Membership Program as a way to raise funds for the shelter AND show our gratitude to those who are an integral part of our success.

Members pledge a specified amount for the year and receive a few goodies in return. There are different member-

ship levels available and each level is named after a type of cat: Tiger, Tabby, Tortie, and Tuxedo. All members receive the quarterly newsletter and an FCCR bumper sticker. In addition, Tabby members receive a T-shirt; Tortie members get an FCCR hoodie and a handmade cat toy; Tuxedo members receive a hoodie, a handmade cat bed, and free admittance to our Winter Fundraiser.

Remember: All of these types of cats are important to us and so are all of our members so please join at whatever level works for you. We can only save as many lives as funding allows. That is why our membership program, and people like you, are so important.

Thanks for supporting us in our mission to make every cat a wanted cat.



Did you know there's a leash law for cats?

Do you know the laws concerning pet ownership in your area? You should. It can make the difference between being a responsible pet owner and being in trouble with the law!

Most people expect that their dogs are required to have rabies vaccinations and a license at the minimum. Almost every

municipality also has a leash law. But what about cats? If you automatically assume that cats are exempt, think again.

Larimer County requires that all cats be vaccinated against rabies and licensed. Proof of rabies vaccination is required before a license can be obtained.

In addition to this, the City of Fort Collins requires that all cats be under restraint when outdoors. In other words, there's a leash law for cats too.

FCCR requires that all cats adopted from us be indoor only cats. Not only is this a way to increase their life span and keep them safe, but it's also the law!

The City of Fort Collins has a law which states that all cats must be under restraint when outdoors.

Volunteers in the Spotlight—The Mabrys

It's amazing how a little feral kitty can change your life. When Kevin and Kathy and their daughters, Callie and Cortney decided to try to help a feral kitty, they never dreamed it would lead to fostering six litters of kittens in a single summer and helping out at the rescue every Friday night

for over a year!

The Mabry animal clan includes three kitties who were offspring from that feral—Grayson, Baroness and Princess. They have also adopted a rescue dog named Zeek, a black lab and border collie mix.

Animals aren't the only Mabry

interest. All of the family is musically inclined with Mom on the piano, Dad playing banjo, Callie on cello and Cortney playing viola. All the ladies enjoy knitting, sewing and crafts and Kevin is an avid road cyclist, completing the Ride the Rockies and other treks this summer.



The Mabry ladies: Cortney with Ginny, Kathy with Stallone, Callie with Bentley. Dad, Kevin missed the photo op!



"Where every cat is a wanted cat."

2321 E. Mulberry Ave #12A

Fort Collins, Co 80525

Phone: 970-484-8516

E-mail: fortcollinscatrescue@yahoo.org

www.fortcollinscatrescue.org

Fort Collins Cat Rescue is a 501©3 non-profit, no-kill cat rescue and shelter. FCCR's shelter provides a temporary home for up to 40 homeless adult cats at a time. We also have an extensive foster program for kittens and special needs cats. In addition, FCCR is the only facility in Northern Colorado that provides low-cost spay/neuter procedures. Our spay/neuter program is a proactive way of dealing with the pet overpopulation problem. Since our inception June of 2006 we have taken over 750 cats into our program, and performed over 2000 spay/neuter procedures.

Chat Amour—Winter Fundraiser January 19th

*Fort Collins Cat Rescue
presents*



Don't miss the Fort Collins Cat Rescue & Spay/Neuter Clinic "Chat Amour" Winter Fundraiser/Silent Auction on January 19, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. It's a great way to start out the new year, show your support for our furry friends, and bid on some really outstanding items and services from our generous corporate sponsors and friends like you.

This gala event will be held at the Fort Collins Senior Center. In addition to sponsor donations you can bid on, we will feature some delicious hors d'oeuvres, scrumptious dessert

delicacies, and unusual specialty drinks. We might even bring along a few of the cutest little kitties in the world for you to meet.

If you'd like to donate an item for the auction (with an estimated value of \$25 or more) please contact "Chat Amour" Committee Chair Jan Thydean at 970-493-3412. Please remember that the Fort Collins Cat Rescue & Spay/Neuter Clinic is a non-profit organization, so any goods, services and, of course, monetary donations are tax-deductible.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support. Without you and many other friends like you, we could never have saved over 800 kittens and cats since June 2006 and medically treated over 3,400 cats and dogs since March 2007. We look forward to seeing you on January 19, 2008 for "Chat Amour" (A Cat to Love), an evening of food, fun, felines, friends, and fantastic items for you to bid on.



SMITTEN WITH KITTENS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

--Please indicate membership level and T-Shirt/Hoodie size and design if appropriate--
(T-Shirt Designs can be viewed by clicking on the Green Kitty link at <http://www.fortcollinscatrescue.org/shop.html>)

___ **Tiger Members (\$60 or \$5/month):**

Quarterly Newsletter, Bumper Sticker

___ **Tabby Members (\$120 or \$10/month):**

Quarterly Newsletter, Bumper Sticker, T-Shirt (Size: S M L XL)

(Design: I Love Cats FCCR Logo Rally to Rescue Get 'em Fixed Litter Control)

___ **Tortie Members (\$240 or \$20/month):**

Quarterly Newsletter, Bumper Sticker, Handmade Cat Toy, Hoodie (Size: S M L XL)

___ **Tuxedo Members (\$480 or \$40/month):**

*Quarterly Newsletter, Bumper Sticker, Handmade Cat Bed, Free Admittance to Winter Fundraiser,
Hoodie (Size: S M L XL)*

Payments to Fort Collins Cat Rescue may be made monthly or annually, and dropped off at shelter or mailed to FCCR Membership address below.

Return form by postal mail or email:

FCCR Membership

2828 Silverplume Drive Unit U2

Fort Collins, CO 80526

membership@fortcollinscatrescue.org

