

FORGOTTEN Cats



SEPTEMBER
News

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2018

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) in Cats A Disease Your Cat Can Live With



**Positively
Purr-fect!**

+

Love is Positive, and so am I.
Being FIV+ doesn't matter,
being loved does.

Adopt Me!

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is relatively common in cats, especially rescued cats, since it is more prevalent in cats that live outdoors. FIV belongs to the same family of viruses as HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). This family of viruses (Lentiviruses) is known for being species-specific, for life-long infection, and for slowly progressive diseases. FIV is not

transmissible from cats to people, and HIV is not transmissible from people to cats. Euthanasia is not normally called for when a cat has tested positive, and if they live indoors, and receive regular veterinary care, they can live normal lifespans. When a cat becomes infected with FIV, there may be no clinical signs for many years.

The virus is extremely fragile and does not survive outside the cat's body. Therefore, the main method of transmission of FIV from one cat to another is through a bite wound during a cat fight, most often between outdoor intact male cats fighting for territory and mates. Many FIV-positive cats and FIV-negative cats live together in the same home for years without spreading the virus to the non-infected cats, and there is no data to suggest that casual contact among FIV plus and negative cats results in infection.

Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine conducted a long-term study of FIV in cat shelters. The study was conducted by Dr. Annette L. Litster of the college's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Lister concluded that mutual grooming, mild aggression, shared food bowls, litter boxes etc. did not transmit FIV over many years of cumulative exposure in a mixed group of FIV-negative and FIV-positive cats kept in a stable multi-cat household.

Cats infected with FIV can be prone to developing other infections, particularly later in life, which can include certain types of cancer, as well as gum and mouth issues, URIs, and diarrhea.

There is a vaccine for FIV, however it is usually not recommended because the vaccine does not have the best efficacy and, after a cat is vaccinated for FIV, the cat will test positive for the virus, and since antibodies are what show up on the test, it would be impossible for someone to know if the cat is infected with FIV, or had simply been vaccinated for it. If your kitty was lost, anyone, shelters included, would have no way of knowing whether it was vaccinated, or was FIV positive. While this is changing, some shelters still will euthanize cats who test positive for FIV.

Forgotten Cats tests all cats and kittens placed for adoption for

FIV and FeLV (feline leukemia, not discussed in this article).

(Note that some Forgotten Cats adoption center stores will not allow FIV cats on premises for adoption. We are grateful to those that do.)

We have an **Immediate** Need for a Foster Coordinator in our Trainer Clinic

This is a Core Volunteer position and requires a time commitment of 12-15 hrs/week, sometimes more. If you are interested, please read the below description carefully.

The time commitment is BIG but the rewards (cats will find homes and not be returned to the streets) are also Big. Training is provided for this position.



The foster coordinator works directly with clinic staff to place cats into

foster homes. Foster coordinator is responsible for guiding fosters from beginning to end. This includes: providing basic foster information, setting pick up time of foster cats, answering questions throughout the fostering process or directing them to medical contact when necessary, ensuring their cats and kittens are up to date on medical treatments, finally placing their foster cats in an adoption center.

- Must have availability in morning & afternoon on Mondays and Thursdays to text/call fosters in order to coordinate pick up of foster cats at our Trainer facility on clinic days.
- Can be done from home! A plus if the volunteer can also make themselves available throughout the week to meet fosters at the facility.
- Must be motivated and comfortable with asking people to foster.
- Texting is required.
- Must have basic computer skills in order to view/update our database.
- Good communication and organization skills a must.

What happens on a Monday and Thursday, is in the morning, the foster coordinator will receive a text from clinic staff with all of the cats/kittens FC will be keeping from that surgery day and placing for adoption. At that point, the foster coordinator will then begin texting and calling fosters to try to place those cats directly into foster homes. It is essential that the foster coordinator understand the Sense of Urgency.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE EMAIL ME AT: info@forgottencats.org AND ALSO INCLUDE A CONTACT PHONE NUMBER.

Thanks!

John Fedele, Vice-President
Forgotten Cats, Inc.
info@forgottencats.org



Fun Fact:

At night, Disneyland is overrun by cats. The theme park feeds them and takes care of them though, because they keep the rodent population in check.



Volunteer Spotlight on Terry Greiner

By Anne Meddings

Terry Greiner began volunteering with Forgotten Cats approximately 10 years ago. She serves as the Foster Coordinator for Willow Grove, making sure as many cats as possible get into a loving temporary home as they await an opening at an adoption center or a direct adoption.

She also works three days a week at the busy Willow Grove clinic doing "feed & clean" tasks. This involves tending to cats in traps awaiting surgery, cats who are in quarantine, and post-surgery cats on medical hold. Terry spends one

evening a week at the clinic to assist foster parents who are unable to bring their fosters in for vaccines and routine medical care during the day.

Terry helps decide which trapped cats will remain at the clinic, and

which need to go back to their colonies. She assists the Jenkintown and Levittown adoption center managers with filling their cages when they have openings. In between everything else, there are always piles and piles of laundry to wash, dry and fold!

She also serves as a foster mom herself. This summer she boarded a momma cat with five newborn kittens. Now that those kitties are on the next step of their journey, she's starting again with another foster crew.

Especially during kitten season, it's a challenge to keep up with all the needy cats that make their way to the clinic. Terry has a high regard for her fellow volunteers - how hardworking and dedicated they are, and how willing they are to go out of their way to help cats in need.

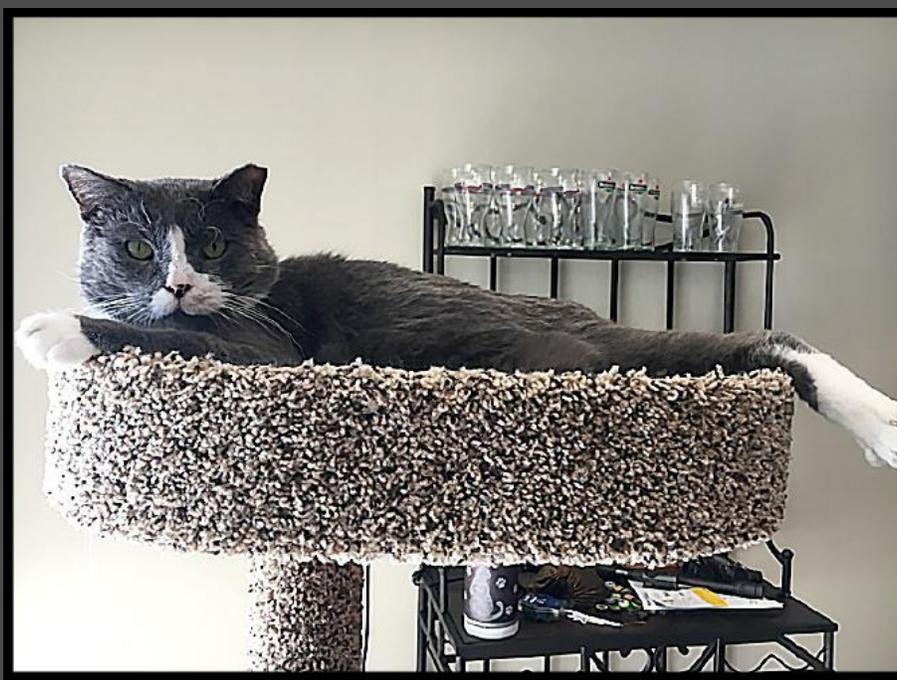
Terry spent most of her life in Minnesota before moving to Pennsylvania in 2005. Now retired, she was a junior high science teacher for 34 years. She and her husband Jerry have two adult children, four grandchildren, and six former Forgotten Cats, two of whom are FIV+.

In her spare time Terry enjoys gardening and traveling. She and Jerry enjoyed a vacation in Italy this summer, and Terry has a "girls only" trip to the Finger Lakes planned for this autumn. Terry also likes to go on regular medical missions trips to Guatemala with Hearts in Motion. She sponsors needy children through this organization, and has had the pleasure of visiting her sponsored children while in the country.

Terry finds it very rewarding to see rescued cats progress through the Forgotten Cats system from intake inside a trap to the happy day of adoption into a forever home. It makes all the hard work and countless unpaid hours at the clinic worthwhile.

**Thank you for being a great volunteer, Terry!
We appreciate your service to Forgotten Cats!**

Adoption Update:



We would like to share an adoption story of a cat with many names. Ernest started his journey at our Willow Grove facility. He came in with a decent sized colony and one by one, they all were adopted. Of that colony, Ernie was the only one with FIV which meant he couldn't go to PetSmart or Petco like his other friends could. So sadly, he spent months at our shelter waiting for an adopter to see him online or for a foster to take a chance on him. Luckily, that day came right after the holidays. Ernest, now nicknamed Ernie, went to his foster home in late December.

Ernie was an independent cat that seemed to enjoy his own company by sunning in the window, sitting in his cat tower, playing with his paper bag, and doing random laps around the basement chasing nothing. Ernie was the kind of cat that you could pet for about 30 seconds and then he would gently nip to tell you to "please stop". Though he wasn't very affectionate, his foster mom could tell that he enjoyed her company. Not everyone would love a cat like Ernie, but his foster mom found him to be funny, quirky, and she too enjoyed his company.

After about four months in a foster home, his foster mom was beginning to think Ernie might never find a home; that no one would see the special side of Ernie that she sees. Until March 28th, 2018 when an online application came through for a cat named Ernie. We couldn't believe it. Meg put in an application to adopt Ernie because she was looking for a "harder to adopt"

cat. She has a personal mission to not rescue cats for herself but rather to do it for the cats. She has adopted cats with terminal illnesses, senior cats, blind cats, FIV+ cats, you name it. The foster was honest about Ernie's personality and Meg wasn't fazed at all.

When Meg came to meet Ernie, his foster mom held her breath. She couldn't believe her eyes. They just "clicked". Meg loved Ernie and we could tell the feelings were mutual. So, off Ernie went to his forever home and with that home he received his new and final name, Ernesto. Meg reports that Ernesto is doing well and gets along with their resident cat.

**Thank you, Meg, for taking a chance
on Ernest, Ernie, Muscles, the Ern Man, Ernesto!**



STATUS UPDATE:

**In August, we sterilized 1021 cats and
placed 210 cats into loving forever homes!**

Visit our website at www.forgottencats.org

Lets Keep in Touch!

**302-429-0124 (DE)
215-219-8148 (PA)**

**4023 Kennett Pike, Suite 422
Greenville, DE 19807**

Donate Today!

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