



# Cat Tales

September/October 2019



## A Special Kind of Cat



As a cage-free cat shelter and a foster based rescue, Focus on Ferals helps countless cats find homes. You'll find white cats, tabby cats, black cats, big cats, and kittens at Focus on Ferals, but we also have a different kind of cat population waiting to be adopted

Focus on Ferals is one of only a few rescue groups that takes in and cares for cats with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). Cats that test positive for this virus are often euthanized if they are in a shelter. It's an extremely misunderstood condition.

Many consider FIV to be a death sentence, but in reality, it's nothing more than a diagnosis for a weakened immune system. There is no physical difference between a cat with FIV and one without, and they can live long, happy, and healthy lives.

Currently 20 FIV+ cats call Focus on Ferals home, and they receive the same care and attention as the cats without FIV. Most are found as strays, and a few have come from other shelters that do not keep FIV+ cats.

FIV+ cats are as curious, playful, and loving as any other cat. Most of our volunteers say that our FIV+ cats are some of the friendliest in our shelter. When we have visitors at the shelter, many are drawn to the FIV Room because the cats are so friendly and love attention.

Another misconception is that FIV+ kitties can not live in a home with a cat with out FIV. **Wrong!** Cats in households with stable social structures where housemates do not fight are at little risk for acquiring FIV infections. FIV is passed from cat to cat through deep bite wounds, the kind that usually occur outdoors during aggressive fights and territorial disputes-the perfect reason to keep your cat inside.

We recently had one of our FIV+ cats, named Carter, adopted into a wonderful household with two non-FIV cats. The family, who adopted Carter, spent weeks researching FIV. They feel in love with Carter! He went home with them in May 2019. He is doing great. He is healthy, he goes on walks with them on a leash, gets along with the other felines in the home, and he is loved very much by his family, and we know Carter is happy and loves them.

Adopting a FIV+ kitty is basically the same as adopting any other cat. They each have their own unique personality, and are cute, playful, cuddly, and all want a home!

Contact us to visit our FIV+ Cats. We know you will love them.

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savinglives@focusferalstoday.com

Thank You to All the Participants, Sponsors and Volunteers who made our 5K Run/Walk, which was held September 7, a huge success! See you next Year!



**PET SMART**  
**Focus on Ferals**  
NATIONAL ADOPTION EVENT  
**November 8 to 10**  
67 Consumer Square Plattsburgh, NY



## A Family for Carter



August & September Program	
Spay/Neuter	92
Kittens	141
Adopted/Transfer	68
In Foster Care	316
Intakes	48

