
Preston County Humane Society Newsletter

Fall, 2015

Volume 11 Issue 3

Inside This Issue

Page 1

Three Fall Fundraisers

Krispy Kremes

Run For It race, Sept 26

Buckwheat Festival Fun

Page 2

PCHS News and Notes:

Feral Cat Program Publicity

July Annual Meeting

Memorial Donation

Contact Information

*October Meeting Date
Change*

Page 3

***Feline Leukemia –
Questions Answered***

Page 4

Lovey Needs a Home

Preston Paws



Fall Means Fundraising!

We've been busy with fundraising efforts this season because we want to make sure we can continue our mission in the coming year. Here's what we've been up to and how you can help (hint – it's delicious).

Spooky Good - Krispy Kremes for Halloween

Time to place your orders for delicious, fresh Krispy Kreme donuts delivered on Thursday, October 29. The seasonal special flavor is pumpkin cake; other favorites are classic glazed, lemon filled, raspberry filled, and chocolate iced. Glazed are \$8 per dozen, all others are \$9.

Every PCHS member can help by ordering a dozen or two to share with family, friends, coworkers, trick-or-treaters, everyone! Please call 304-435-1084 or contact any board member to place your order before Tuesday, October 20. Delivery will be to the Preston County Inn so you can pick up your order there or request delivery right to your door.

Pitching in During the Buckwheat Festival

The Preston County Inn restaurant is a busy place during the Buckwheat Festival, so chef (and PCHS member along with his wife, Debbie) Jean-Manuel Guillot had a win-win idea. PCHS supporters stepped up help seat diners and bus tables with all the money earned going to PCHS. Debbie donated an entire day's labor and let everyone know she was working for the humane society. We really appreciate this opportunity to raise some additional funds!

"We Run To Save Lives"

That was the slogan on this year's team tee shirts at the Tucker Community Foundation "Run For It" race. It was our fifth year fielding a team with entries in both the competitive 5K run and easy 2K walk.



Our PCHS team brought home a total of \$1435 for our spay/neuter programs thanks to sponsor donations, entry fees, a \$400 grant from the Preston County Commission, \$500 grant from the Bernard McDonough Foundation, and a prize in the best tee shirt competition. The RFI runner logo looks great with his new companions ☺.

Your Humane Society - News and Notes

Feral Cat Program Receives Coverage

We're hoping you caught a recent article in *The Dominion Post* by reporter Jeniffer Graham. The story highlighted PCHS collaboration with the Preston County Animal Shelter to address feral cat colonies.

To date, PCHS has spent more than \$4000 providing feral cats with leukemia tests, spay and neuter procedures, and vaccinations. This will continue to be an important part of our mission to improve the lives and health of Preston County animals and communities.

Memorial Donations Received

PCHS would like to extend our sympathy and thanks to the family of Viola Rexroad for their thoughtful donations in her name.

October Meeting Date Changed

Please note that the October monthly meeting of PCHS will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 7 rather than the usual second Thursday.

Members and interested friends are always welcome to attend. Meetings begin at 7 pm in the Dogwood conference room, first floor, in the new Preston Memorial Hospital.

Annual Meeting Notes

Each year in July the PCHS Board of Directors and members meet to review last year, discuss year-to-date progress, and plan for next year. Each Director presents a formal report to the Board.

The 2014 Treasurer's report showed PCHS is in good financial shape with sufficient money in savings. Total expenditures were \$26,048 and income was \$26,640, so assets increased slightly. Most of this income came from grants from the Peterman Foundation and Weldon Foundation. More than \$18,850 in expenses went to Spay/Neuter and Community Cats programs.

Membership in 2014 totaled 47; in 2015 it stands at 48. A summary of calls received on the main PCHS phone line was shared. Many callers are referred to the spay/neuter phone, others sought help with stray animals, feral cats, emergency medical care, and suspected animal abuse or neglect.

The following slate of candidates was elected by unanimous vote to new two-year terms beginning in 2016: President, Helen Nikirk; Treasurer, Debbie DeLauder; Membership Director, Deb Corley; Communications and Education, Dana Rexroad. To those who serve:



Contact Information

Preston County Humane Society

P.O. Box 395
Kingwood, WV 26537
304-435-1084

Spay/neuter Program

Alix Evans 304-435-1808

To report animal abuse/cruelty/neglect call the Preston County Sheriff's Department – ask to speak with a Humane Officer. Call 304-329-1611

Poison Control Hotline available 24 hours/day. A charge may be billed to your credit card. 888-426-4435.

24/7 Veterinary Emergency Care

Fairmont exit off I 79 304-363-2227
Cheat Lake, off Rt. 43 304-594-1124

PCHS Board of Directors

President: Helen Nikirk

Vice President: Sheila Williams

Treasurer: Debbie DeLauder

Secretary: Ginger Larew

Membership: Deb Corley

Spay Neuter Program: Alix Evans

Education/Communications:

Dana Rexroad

Newsletter: Dana Rexroad

304-379-9821

danarex@frontiernet.net

Regular Monthly Meeting

Second Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at Preston Memorial Hospital in the first floor conference room near the cafeteria. Please call to confirm the meeting date.

All are welcome to attend.

Feline Leukemia Questions Answered

Dana Rexroad

What exactly is feline leukemia?

Feline leukemia results from infection with the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), but it is not a single disease. FeLV suppresses the immune system, causing a complex syndrome with varied symptoms and co-infections. FeLV is a retrovirus, as is similarly named feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). In advanced cases FeLV causes blood disorders, lowers immune defenses that protect your cat against common infections, and is the leading cause of cancer in cats. The prevalence of FeLV has actually decreased in the last 25 years because of vaccines and reliable testing.

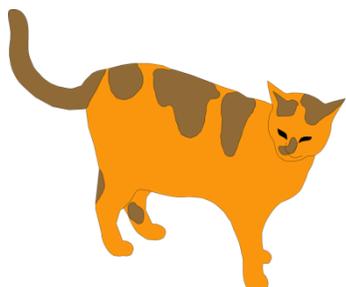
How is it diagnosed?

Blood tests performed by your veterinarian can detect two stages of FeLV infection. In the primary or early stage of infection most cats – about 70% - have a robust immune response, eliminate the virus from the bloodstream, and have no lingering infection. A secondary, later stage is more serious and is considered incurable. Cats with secondary viremia (presence of virus in the blood) will be infected for the remainder of their lives; 85% will die within 3 years.

How does this disease spread?

FeLV only infects cats; it is not a danger for people, dogs or other animals. The virus is passed from one cat to another through saliva, nasal secretions, and blood, rarely through urine or feces. Grooming and fighting are the most common causes of spread; sharing water and food dishes increases risk. Because symptoms develop late and are not always obvious, even a cat that appears healthy may be infected and spread the virus.

Resistance to the virus seems to increase with age; most vulnerable are kittens and young adult cats. Kittens may be born infected or may contract the disease from infected mother's milk.



What are common signs and symptoms?

Some cats show no signs of disease for months or even years, but long term infection eventually causes these signs: weight loss due to loss of appetite, poor coat condition, pale gums, yellow color in mouth or eyes, enlarged lymph nodes, weakness and lethargy. More serious symptoms include fever, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, and neurological disorders. Cats become susceptible to other viral, bacterial, and fungal infections of the bladder, skin, and respiratory system.

How can I best protect my cat?

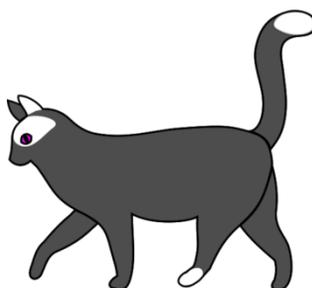
Cats kept indoors with no exposure to potentially infected cats are completely protected. FeLV vaccination is recommended for non-infected cats, although it does not guarantee prevention.

In a multi-cat household, non-infected cats should be separated from infected ones and not share bowls or litter boxes. Cleaning with common disinfectant cleansers is adequate to kill the virus. Know the status of any new cat entering a household before exposing others in the home. If one cat in the home is diagnosed with FeLV, all cats should be tested.

How should I care for my cat with leukemia?

For cats with long term and advanced infections, care is supportive. Secondary infections that arise may be treated, but there is no cure for this disease. A balanced, nutritious diet without raw meat, raw milk, or raw eggs is important. Your cat should have calm, quiet places indoors to rest. Vet checkups at least every six months are recommended.

References: pets.webmd.com; aspca.org; vet.cornell.edu/fhc (The Feline Health Center)





Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another.

Pope Francis

Help a Sweet Dog Find a Forever Home

Lovey is a beautiful small beagle presently being fostered by Alix Evans; she would like to find a new, forever home before winter. Lovey was found in Rowlesburg abandoned and living on the street. She is a most gentle and loving dog – like her name – and just look at those big brown eyes. She gets along great with other dogs and with cats. She is very calm and quiet. Lovey is spayed and up-to-date on all care. She would make a perfect companion for an older person. She mostly likes to cuddle. Please call Alix at 304-435-1808 (the spay/neuter hotline) if you can help. If a trial adoption doesn't work out for any reason, Alix will gladly accept Lovey back.



Preston County Humane Society
P.O. Box 395
Kingwood, WV 26537