

# Fancy Cats Rescue Team

Volume 5, Issue 2

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[www.fancycats.org](http://www.fancycats.org)

*"Our mission is to end needless euthanasia by having our cats spayed and neutered... To find suitable, lifetime homes for our cats with loving adopters... To educate potential adopters on issues such as sterilization, declawing and behavior problems."*

Fancy Cats Rescue Team is a 501 (C) (3) Non Profit Organization founded in August of 1997 and incorporated in February of 1999 in the State of Virginia.

Fancy Cats Rescue Team is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. All volunteers have full time jobs or are students and donate their non-working hours to help save cats from needless euthanasia.

If you can help, please send donations to:

Fancy Cats Rescue Team  
P. O. Box 182  
Herndon, VA 20172-0182  
Phone 703/464-0760

Catherine McCullough-Awad, Founder

## Officers

Cheryle Scheppan, President

Debbe Evans, Vice-President

Maryann Stanners, Secretary

Dave Evans, Treasurer

Carin Parker, Officer at Large

## Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease

Dr. Kim Schiller

Your four-year-old cat, "Barney," starts urinating all the time, scratching in the box, and yowling in pain. We all know that cats are prone to urinary problems... is it just his time to get one? You call your veterinarian to inform her that you suspect your cat has a urinary tract infection. Should your veterinarian agree with you or not? How many say, "Yes!?" Raise your hands.

Put your hands down. You know it can't be that simple, or I wouldn't be writing this article.

Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) has been one of the most misunderstood disorders that has ever afflicted cats. For one reason or other, straining to urinate, urinating frequently, and passing small amounts of urine (often with blood), are all signs that have been associated with infection.

But if we look at ALL cats that exhibit these signs, only 1-3% will have an actual infection. The percentage is sure to go down appreciably for an otherwise normal cat, a cat less than 8 years of age, or a male cat with his plumbing intact.

FLUTD is not a disease in and of itself but a compilation of clinical signs that demonstrate a problem with the *function or structure* of the cat's urinary bladder and/or urethra. The causes are many and include: trauma, cancer, nerve dysfunction, abnormal anatomy, mechanical irritation (stones), and infection (not often). The number one cause is *idiopathic* inflammation; that is, the inflammation has no known cause.

The trick to managing this disorder is to find the cause. Bloodwork, X-rays, urine culture, and sometimes an ultrasound exam can provide an abundance of information. X-rays with special contrast dyes give additional clues. If a definite diagnosis is found, specific treatment can be initiated. The problem is that the majority of cases are not going to yield a specific diagnosis and categorized as idiopathic. Regardless of this fact, however, antibiotics are prescribed more often than not.

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## Urinary Tract Disease (Con't.)

By now, many of you are asking, "Yeah, and your point is...?" You've known many pet owners who have had cats with all the usual urinary signs who responded to antibiotic therapy... or did they? It has been shown time and again -- through urine culture -- that urinary tract infection is exceedingly rare. So why the response to antibiotics?

The only way I can answer that question is to ask you to take a leap of faith. If you have a cat that has had the appropriate tests and a specific diagnosis has not been attained, instead of giving him or her antibiotics, try burning incense and chanting at midnight -- the results are bound to be the same. The majority of cats with idiopathic inflammatory disease are going to improve in a few days with antibiotics; likewise, the same number of cats with idiopathic inflammatory disease are going to improve in a few days when *no medication is used*.

So why not use antibiotics to be on the safe side? Using antibiotics when an infection is NOT present is far from safe. Antibiotics always have the potential to cause toxic or adverse effects such as vomiting or diarrhea. Like people, some cats can develop an allergy to certain types of antibiotics. With inappropriate use of antibiotics, development of severe infection, though rare, is a possibility. Above all, administration of antibiotics can lead to bacterial resistance with organisms that are susceptible only to antibiotics that are expensive and potentially more toxic.

So what are we to do with the idiopathic form of FLUTD? Unfortunately, not much. At this point in time, evidence of beneficial specific or symptomatic therapies is lacking. The tincture of time is probably the most effective approach. Because of the widespread occurrence of FLUTD in the cat community, research is ongoing. As more knowledge becomes available, better treatment strategies will become available. Meanwhile, you may wish to explore (with your veterinarian) ways to quell your cat's discomfort associated with the constant urge to urinate. Sedative effects have been seen with the oral medication, butorphanol.

Dr. Kim Schiller is the owner and director of Colvin Run Veterinary Clinic in Vienna, Virginia. He is a 1980 graduate of the veterinary college at Michigan State University. Dr. Schiller has earned Diplomate status in the canine/feline specialty awarded by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. This makes him one of only 400 veterinarians nationwide who attained this distinction.

## Greetings!

Summer is here and we're looking for a few good families who would like to donate some of their time by helping out at the rescue. If your family is discussing adopting a pet or if you have a child (10 or older) who would really like to have a pet or just desperately loves cats, this might be a great summer experience for your whole family.

Not only will it help the rescue, but also it will teach your child the responsibility of owning a pet and the importance of caring for and respecting animals. It also teaches kids the importance of volunteer work and making a difference in their community.

Fancy Cats volunteers have a number of responsibilities. They clean cages, feed the cats, monitor the cats' health, take cats to the vet, write for the newsletter, pick up abandoned animals, foster cats in their homes, wash bedding, help with fundraisers and assist at adoption fairs. Without the help of our volunteers Fancy Cats couldn't exist. We're very grateful and appreciative of all of our helpers. There's nothing quite as rewarding as seeing cats go home to a loving household. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Fancy Cats Rescue Team at 703/464-0760.

Thank you for your time,  
Dana Williams  
Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

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"Animals are such agreeable friends--  
they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms."  
George Eliot

Suprisingly, the Siamese was never the common cat of Siam (Thailand) and may not have originated in that country. Often called "the Chinese cat," this breed was so admired of the Siamese royalty that they had cornered the market by 1830.

Because of their acute sense of hearing, cats saved many lives in Europe during World War II. When people saw the cats dashing for cover, they quickly ran for a shelter before the bombs started to fall.

Cats who have been raised with lots of loving care from the first days of their lives are likely to be friendly with strangers.

# United Way/CFC Approval

Fancy Cats Rescue Team has received approval from the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign. At this year's kick-off, you will now be able to designate Fancy Cats.



#8929

## Addicted to cats!?!? By Dana G. Williams

Great volunteers are hard to come by, but somehow we've managed to find a handful of people who are so addicted to our cats that they manage to take their volunteer work home with them.

There are about a dozen volunteers at Fancy Cats who open the doors to their homes and foster cats. They help abandoned animals who are sick, temporarily unsociable or who just need to stretch their legs in a comfy place.

Opening their homes to cats is sometimes hazardous because as relationships develop between foster parents and cats, foster parents find it hard to put cats up for adoption. This is why foster parents are special volunteers.

"I want to keep them all," Nan Garcia, who has fostered almost 15 cats and around 40 kittens, said. "But I know if I get too many cats in the house, I am stopping the possibility of getting to know other new cats who are in need."

Dave and Debbe Evans have fostered around 40 cats since they started volunteering with Fancy Cats over three years ago, and they'll admit they're pretty much addicted to their feline family. "We try to keep only the sick, the old, and well, the ones we just can't give up," Dave said.

Foster parents take cats for different reasons, but an underlying theme for most foster families is to provide emotional support to the cats.

"I decided to foster cats because so many were either lonely or depressed," Janie Ikuma, mom to around 16 cats since she started fostering in January, said. "Cats need a stable and attentive home, and it helps to really know the kitty on a personal basis, so that we can better match the kitty to a good new home."

Getting dumped at a rescue or a shelter isn't any fun for a cat. Some cats are taken from their nice, warm homes after five or 10 years and are shocked to find themselves in a shelter environment. Other cats are taken from the euthanasia room from local animal shelters only to be transported to yet another cage. And even more heartbreaking are the cats that are adopted and returned. Such changes can make a cat very shy and distant or very hurt and angry, particularly if a cat has been returned multiple times.

"The hardest part of being a foster parent is when you try to adopt the cats out and they keep coming back," Dave said. Dave and Debbe had a cat named Mara who "was returned four times because she sometimes missed the box. I guess at our house, her aim is better," Dave said.

Despite some of the set backs cats face, a lot of animals find abandonment easier to deal with in a foster home and even learn some new manners.

"We rescued Inky and Linky from a feral colony in Woodbridge, Va. Inky was friendly right away, but Linky wouldn't let us touch him for months. Finally he began to trust us, and then he couldn't get enough pets. We adopted them out, and they're living happily in their new home," Dave said.

"When cats trust you after not trusting humans, that is so amazing, but that's when we have trouble giving them up," Debbe said.

Besides the regular crew of cats, foster parents often take care of new moms and kittens. This is a lot of fun, but it also is a lot of work.

"Kittens are cute, active and very high maintenance," Janie said. "They have special needs as far as room to play and nutritional needs. I worry about the 'novelty' of kittens; so many people want kittens because they're cute and cuddly, but they don't realize that they require twice as much care as adult cats.

Nan agrees kittens are a lot of work but finds it rewarding to shape young animals' future behavior. "I love kittens, because if they are brought up in their first eight weeks with good manners and to be well-adjusted, I know these will be cats we won't ever see at the shelter again."

It's a die hard kind of commitment. Our fosters see everything from cat birth to death and manage to endure it all to try and improve the lives of mistreated and abandoned animals. It's heartbreaking and inspiring. Fancy Cats has a continual need for good foster families.

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# Elizabeth Antoinette “Lizzy” Stanners

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Dear Fancy Cats Rescue Team,

This donation is made in honor of our precious and beloved Lizzie who lost her life on March 21, 2001. Elizabeth Antoinette “Lizzie” Stanners was a FCRT kitty who was determined to survive and live as the proud and beautiful cat she was and will always be to us.

Thank you,  
Mike Borrer and Maryann Stanners

## *Blackbird*

(Lennon/McCartney)

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.

Blackbird fly Blackbird fly  
Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.

## *No Time To Hate*

(Emily Dickinson)

I had no time to hate, because  
The grave would hinder me,  
And life was no so ample I  
Could finish enmity.

Nor had I time to love, but since  
Some industry must be,  
The little toil of love, I thought,  
Was large enough for me.

## Foster homes needed

We are looking at a very busy season ahead. We already have mother cats in homes waiting to deliver. We have two that have already had their kittens. Then we have the shelters that experience at this time of the year all the people giving up older cats to get kittens or puppies. People moving, getting ready to sell their homes, they are too busy for the animals or they are just abandoned. We also help the other area rescue organizations as we have space. While we try to help everyone, we have to have a place for these animals. We simply do not have enough foster homes to go around. We still have the every day problems of people leaving an average of 20 give up calls a day. We need your help. If you are in a position to foster a cat or mother and kittens we need to hear from you. Fostering can be a joy. A lot of people hesitate because they worry that they will become attached. I can tell you from personal experience that you do. Fancy Cats Rescue Team will let you be part of the application process. We would never adopt to someone you are not comfortable with. You will find that the satisfaction of helping this cat into a loving permanent home will out way any anxiety you will experience. A lot of the people who adopted from me when I was just starting still keep in touch and send donations regularly.

I remember two of the cats I really had a problem parting with. I cried every time I had to put them in a carrier and take them to an adoption. Their names were Maggie and Meka. I took them out of a barn in West Virginia when they were about twelve weeks old along with their siblings Foxy and Goldie. I am happy to report to you that they all have loving homes where they are spoiled and happy by wonderful parents. All these people still keep in touch. If not for the fact that I knew they would be better off in a home that could devote more time and love than I could I probably would have kept them. You do want to keep all of them; but if I had let that stop me this group would not exist today. Please put your fears aside and help us. There is nothing that bothers us more than when we have to turn the shelter away knowing the cats will be destroyed. This is something that we have to do every spring and summer.

This is what we will do:

All the medical work to include Felv /Fiv testing, Distemper, Rabies Vaccines, deworming , Spay/Neuter at the appropriate time. Also any treatment of illness, grooming or fleas.

You will provide:

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A copy of the latest financial report and registration filed by Fancy Cats Rescue Team may be obtained by contacting the

State Division of Consumer Affairs  
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 1163  
Richmond, VA 23209

Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SATURDAY, JULY 7 & 21 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SUNDAY, JULY 8 & 22, 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4 & 18, 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 & 26, 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 15 & 29, 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 & 23, 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 & 20, 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

### ADOPTION

FAIR LAKES PETS<sup>SMART</sup>  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 & 21, 2001  
11:00 A.M. To 3:00 P.M.

## *Fancy Cats Rescue Team* Board of Directors

Cheryle Scheppan	Debbe Evans
Dave Evans	Richard Morris
Laura Morris	Loretta Paruti
Nan Garcia	Neil Santerre
Elana Santerre	Carin Parker
Mary Ann Stanners	

## Foster homes needed (Con't. from page 5)

Food, litter and love. Some of the cats you will deal with will be absolutely friendly. Others will need help in learning to trust humans. We have to remember that it is not their fault they are afraid of humans. It is humans fault. A lot of these cats have been born outside to family pets that were not sterilized and then left to fend for themselves. Unfortunately in this day and age cats and dogs are still regarded as personal property and therefore disposable. We also deal with special circumstances, Cats with medical problems. People tend to drop a lot of sick cats at the shelter and not tell them. Some of these cats we can help. Some just need a place to live out their remaining days. We have been fortunate to find permanent homes for a lot of these cats with wonderful caring people.

If you think you may be able to help us with fostering or volunteering please contact us. Or if you know someone who may be interested please pass this on. We already have lots of cats waiting to come in. Please remember that you can't save all of them; but the ones you can it will definitely be worth it. Thank you.

You may reach the foster home coordinator; Carin Parker by email at [cpmeowz@aol.com](mailto:cpmeowz@aol.com) or leave her a message at 703-464-0760.

You may reach the volunteer coordinator; Dave Evans by email at [ddevansva@aol.com](mailto:ddevansva@aol.com) or leave a message at 703-464-0760.

Volunteer things we need:

Adoption volunteers, taking care of the cats at PETsMART, people to call back on adoptions, vet appointments ( transport back and forth), people to call the free home ads and educate these people on screening procedures, people to just visit and play with the cats at PETsMART. If you think you can help with any of these please let Dave know.

## Addicted to Cats (Con't. from page 3)

Fosters can be short-term or long-term and often a cat may just need a spare room in your house to cozy up in. If you'd like to consider being a foster parent, please visit our Web site at [www.fancycats.org](http://www.fancycats.org) or call 703/464-0760 to learn more about foster care and what you can do to help out.

## Alley Cat Allies Sterile Feral Cat Walk 2001

Mark your calendar! On Saturday, October 13, Alley Cat Allies will coordinate the first annual ***Sterile Feral Cat Walk 2001*** for feline rescue organizations in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Fancy Cats Rescue Team will be participating as a co-sponsoring organization.

This walk-a-thon will be part of a series of local events around the country to mark the first annual **National Feral Cat Day**, celebrated on or around October 16, 2001. The hope is that it will grow each year and become a permanent fixture in the autumn landscape. But we need your help to make it a success.

This is a chance for all of us to raise awareness about feral cat overpopulation and humane methods of control – something we all care about and can collectively work to solve. The plight of feral cats affects ***all*** rescue groups in our area.

Call or E-mail us for more information.

8:00 A.M. Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Belle Haven Park on the Mount Vernon Trail  
Alexandria, VA

Our Sustaining Member  
list will be published in  
the next issue.

# Yes - I want to contribute to Fancy Cats Rescue Team!

Donations are tax deductible  
and will be used to provide crucial  
medical care to cats and kittens.

Our financial resources are critically low!  
We have already placed 354 cats this year!  
**Your support helps us save lives -**

**Thank you!**

A copy of the latest financial report and registration filed by Fancy Cats Rescue Team may be obtained by contacting the  
State Division of Consumer Affairs  
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 1163  
Richmond, VA 23209

Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

100% of donations go toward the care and well being of rescued animals.

Friend \$25-50       Patron \$51-100       Sponsor \$101-200

Benefactor \$201-999       Guardian \$1000+       Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer. Please let me know how I can help.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2001)

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**Fancy Cats Rescue Team, P.O. Box 182, Herndon, VA 20172-0182**

**Fancy Cats is a 501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization.**

**See Our Cats Available For Adoption At**

**[www.fancycats.org](http://www.fancycats.org)**

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# Do You Have Room?

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Maggie & Chi-Chi's owner was institutionalized on May 5, 2001. At 10 years old, they would have been euthanized at the shelter. We believe that they deserve a second chance. Maggie is 56 pounds and food aggressive. She needs to be fed by herself. Chi-Chi is 44 pounds and very affectionate. Both are spayed females. All medical work has been brought up to date. Maggie & Chi-Chi miss their owner and will require patience, love and affection. They currently sleep at night with a light and radio on.



To inquire about Maggie & Chi-Chi, please contact Debbie Sharpe with Homeless Animals Rescue Team  
Permanent placement or foster home desperately needed!

[Deb\\_Sharpe@aol.com](mailto:Deb_Sharpe@aol.com)

*Fancy Cats Rescue Team*

P. O. Box 182  
Herndon, VA 20172-0182



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