

We Care Animal Rescue

From: "Tamara Fleck" <tamaraf@bestfriends.org>
To: "We Care Animal Rescue" <wecarear@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2007 9:47 AM
Subject: FW: Feral cat question

Hi Anne,

I have some information regarding the Sammy, FeLV feral cat. Below is the response I received from our feral cat expert:

"This is a difficult question. Neither Best Friends, nor Alley Cat Allies, tests for FIV or FeLV when trapping. There are several reasons. One is funding, meaning a TNR program is just that; Trap, Neuter, Return and that process is where the money goes. Along with that reason is the fact that, philosophically, a TNR program is nothing else; it is a program that exists to stop the birth of kittens with no home and, to improve the lives of existing adults by stopping the reproduction cycle and seeing that they are fed and sheltered.

There are many feral cat programs out there that do not agree with this philosophy; they test and then kill the cats testing positive. [A former mgr of Cats] always said that there was no point in expensive testing when we are not going to do anything with the results; he felt the transmission of any disease like that is already started in the colony, if one member tests positive, so nothing is really gained by testing and killing. Yes, an FeLV+ cat will die, but he will go off by himself when it is time for him to die and be more comfortable with that solution than he would be with being killed in order to avoid his future death.

The best thing for Sammy, from our point of view, is to be returned to his colony. If he is positive, the disease is already there and killing him will not stop its spread. If that is not an option in this situation, perhaps a feral FeLV+ colony could be started; if this is a group that tests, maybe they would be open to the idea of relocation of the FeLV cats to a special area set up just for them?"

I hope this helps you make an informed decision regarding Sammy's future. If Sammy is not a true feral and seems to be adjusting to the bathroom he's living in and the people around him, then you may need to take another approach to his future and find a place where he can live out the rest of his life indoors.

Thank you for caring about Sammy and for everything else you do for the animals in your area!

Kind Regards,

Tamara Fleck
 Animal Help Specialist
 Best Friends Animal Society
 5001 Angel Canyon Rd
 Kanab, UT 84741
 (435) 644-2001 x4843
tamaraf@bestfriends.org
network.bestfriends.org
www.bestfriends.org

A better world through kindness to animals.

From: We Care Animal Rescue [mailto:wecarear@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2007 6:16 PM
To: Tamara Fleck
Subject: Re: Help Shelby's Adoption

Sammy has been quarantined in these people's bathroom while they waited to retest him and he did retest positive after a month. They are hanging in there with me while we try to see if we can find something for this poor precious soul. Thank you for all your help.

Anne
We Care Animal Rescue

----- Original Message -----

From: [Tamara Fleck](#)
To: [We Care Animal Rescue](#)
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2007 4:11 PM
Subject: RE: Help Shelby's Adoption

Poor Shelby. I sure hope she finds a home soon!

Let me check with our feral cat staff and see what they recommend. Where is Sammy now? Is he being contained since his diagnosis or is he back with his colony?

Tamara Fleck
Animal Help Specialist
Best Friends Animal Society
5001 Angel Canyon Rd
Kanab, UT 84741
(435) 644-2001 x4843
tamaraf@bestfriends.org
network.bestfriends.org
www.bestfriends.org

A better world through kindness to animals.

From: We Care Animal Rescue [mailto:wecarear@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2007 6:06 PM
To: Tamara Fleck
Subject: Re: Help Shelby's Adoption

She is moving across the county to live with her father who is allergic to cats...she is bringing her 3 dogs but not Shelby because of the allergy issue. Very sad and unfortunate. I will definitely keep you posted.

On another note do you do any advocacy work for FELV+ ferals??? I am trying to help a precious leukemia positive feral named Sammy. I know his resources are very slim but I am trying hard to find someone sensitive to his predicament.

Many Thanks,

Anne
We Care Animal Rescue