



July 19, 2025

All times listed are Eastern Time.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Opening Remarks

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

10:15 – 11:15 AM

Feline Infectious Peritonitis Explained for 2025: No Longer a Death Sentence

Sam Taylor, Feline Specialist, International Cat Care

FIP is a severe disease of cats, caused by feline coronavirus. Affected cats can have many different clinical signs and diagnosis can be challenging. It was once a fatal diagnosis but since 2020 we have been able to legally treat the condition and see response rates of 90% or more. This talk will discuss how this complex disease develops and how antivirals are now used to cure the majority of cats.

About Sam Taylor

Sam is a veterinarian working in referral practice in the UK. She is a feline and internal medicine specialist and also works for International Care Care where she co-authors international guidelines on various feline topics. She is particularly interested in FIP and has been involved with the launch of legal antiviral medications, publishing a research paper on the treatment of over 300 affected cats. Sam also teaches at Surrey Vet School and lectures around the world on all things cat.

11:15 – 11:30 AM

Break

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

FeLV – Just Where Do We Stand, and How Can You Help?

Margaret Tompkins, President, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy

20 years ago, we were euthanizing FeLV+ cats. 10 years ago, we were sending felvies to sanctuaries! We've learned a lot about FeLV in the last several years! Just where do we stand now? It's time to make sure that everyone knows about the latest research, science, and expert guidance. No cat should die just because it tests positive for a virus! It's time to dispel the myths of the 1970s with solid science and data!! We now know how to virtually stop the spread of FeLV!! We'll review what we've learned and how we can best apply that knowledge to the benefit of feleuk cats and their owners. Join us in this crusade to let knowledge guide our way!

About Margaret Tompkins

Margaret Tompkins is President of the Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy. She is a tireless advocate for FeLV education and FeLV+ cats. She actively networks FeLV+ cats all over the country. She is active on social media, especially Facebook, in promoting adoptions and education. She is a huge proponent of TNR and supports shelter and rescue programs that provide positive outcomes for FeLV+ cats. Her email is Margaret.Tompkins@comcast.net. She is an admin of several FeLV+ cat groups on Facebook including Owners of FeLV+/FIV+ Cats.

12:45 – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

1:15 – 2:15 PM

Misunderstood Meows: Advocating for the Midwest's Most Vulnerable Felines

Kaycee Chance, Operations Director, Free to Live Animal Sanctuary Free To Live, Oklahoma Sanctuary

It is no secret to many who call the Midwest home that animal welfare still has a long way to go, especially in regards to cats. During this talk, we will discuss the important role of advocacy and education for cats who test positive for FIV, FeLV, and cats affected by FIP. Once deemed an immediate death sentence for these cats, we now know better. However, we are seeing a slower arrival to positive outcomes in the Midwestern region, and have seen firsthand how educating cat owners, cat rescuers, and cat lovers can be lifesaving for cats impacted by these conditions. As the largest no-kill Animal Sanctuary in our state and the only one to house FIV+ and FeLV+ cats, we take our role very seriously in regards to educating the public and doing everything in our power to change the outcome for as many kitties as we can.

About Kaycee Chance

Kaycee Chance is the Operations Director for Free to Live Animal Sanctuary in Guthrie, Oklahoma, the largest no-kill Sanctuary in the entire state. Free to Live is the only facility in the region to provide long-term Sanctuary housing for FIV+ and FeLV+ cats, while also working tirelessly to promote them for adoption and dispel long standing myths about both diseases in a state that is already less than cat friendly. Kaycee also has experience treating multiple cats with FIP and is an advocate for educating as many folks as possible and supporting them through their treatment journeys. Kaycee was born and raised in Oklahoma and has always seen the need for animal advocacy in the state. Once a college professor, she uses her love of education and her love of cats to try to make the world a safer, kinder place for animals. When she is not working at the Sanctuary, she and her partner are tending to their own crew of four pitbulls, four chickens, and 12 special needs cats. Kaycee has a Master's Degree in Creative Writing and can often be found writing about animal care, animal hospice care, and the many stages of grief on her instagram and substack page, @kayceeiscrying.

2:15 – 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Yes You Can! Treating FIP in FeLV Positive Cats

Nicole Jacque, Co-founder FIP Global CATS

For a long time, FIP and FeLV were a deadly duo -- neither one had an effective treatment, and often they went hand in hand -- one-third to one-half of cats with FIP during the 1970's and 1980s's were found to be FeLV infected. Today however we have a better understanding of both viruses -- and finally an effective curative treatment for FIP. We'll discuss the links between FIP and FeLV, advances in FIP treatment, and the encouraging results of emerging studies of FeLV positive cats being treated for FIP.

About Nicole Jacque

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Nicole is a longstanding advocate for feline welfare, with over a decade of experience working in various capacities with rescues and rescue clinics. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of SNAPCats, a special needs cat rescue and sanctuary located in Santa Rosa, California. Serving FeLV+ cats is a major part of SNAPCats's mission, and they are currently in the development process for Lukie House, a facility dedicated specifically to FeLV+ cats and kittens.

After losing her cat Theodore to FIP in 2018, Nicole became passionate about advocating for research funding and development of new treatment options for cats with FIP. This advocacy led to co-authoring white papers on FIP treatment with Dr. Niels Pedersen and ongoing research collaboration with Dr. Samantha Evans' FIP research group. She is a co-founder of FIP Global CATS, a not-for-profit advocacy group which provides resources and advice to cat owners whose cats have been diagnosed with FIP, advocates for legal treatment options and expanding access to care, and raises money for FIP research. She is also on the board of directors of Lucy's Legends, the 501(c)3 nonprofit which helps to support this mission.

In addition to her efforts in the animal advocacy space, Nicole is a software engineering manager and cat mom, as well as an amateur race car driver.

3:30 – 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 – 4:45 PM

Panel On All Things FeLV, FIP & FIV

In this session we are bringing in several experts (behavior/adoption) to share their experiences in large shelters around the topic of FeLV, FIP and FIV.

About Hillary Harris

Hillary began cat rescue work in 1991. After doing the full gamut of rescue work, she co-founded Aslan's Cats Inc with Sabrina Hansen in 2010. This mission is to give Felv+ cats the best possible lives they could have, given their short life spans. There were almost no places for these wonderful cats to go, so they were usually routinely euthanized by veterinarians as soon as the diagnosis was given. A year later, they began to take in fiv+ cats as well, once they got a second separate building for them. They also take in senior cats, feral cats and cats with different disabilities, such as 3 legs, one eye and so on.

About Stephen Quandt

Stephen Quandt is a writer, author and certified feline behavior consultant and the founder of Stephen Quandt Feline Behavior Associates. He has over 20 years experience working with cats and dogs in the field and in shelters including the ASPCA and currently with the Animal Care Centers of NYC. Stephen is the author of a new children's book, Happy Comes Home and two webinars, Decoding the Mysteries of Cats, and The Dogs of Chernobyl: a Story of Hope and Resilience which he gives to the public through libraries as well as to NGOs, shelters, rescues, vet practices and companies. He is widely quoted in national publications like Newsweek, Reader's Digest, Chewys, Forbes, PetMD.com, Kinship and Rover.com. He is a columnist and the official cat behavior expert for Pet Lifestyles Magazine, the resident feline behavior expert for The Shelter Cats Podcast and an expert for Kinship.

About Margaret Tompkins

Margaret Tompkins is President of the Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy. She is a tireless advocate for FeLV education and FeLV+ cats. She actively networks FeLV+ cats all over the country. She is active on social media, especially Facebook, in promoting adoptions and education. She is a huge proponent of TNR and supports shelter and rescue programs that provide positive outcomes for FeLV+ cats. Her email is Margaret.Tompkins@comcast.net. She is an admin of several FeLV+ cat groups on Facebook including Owners of FeLV+/FIV+ Cats.

4:45 – 5:00 PM

Cat Trivia

Stacy LeBaron, Host, The Community Cats Podcast

5:00 PM

Close

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