

# THE TRUTH ABOUT FIV

*Despite what many people think, cats with this condition can live perfectly long, happy, healthy lives.*



MAUMELLE FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# Tails of Maumelle

That stigma surrounding FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) comes from lack of knowledge. Some common FIV myths: It's highly contagious. (It's not.) Cats can't live long with FIV. (Yes, they can.) And the most devastating myth of all: Testing positive for FIV is an automatic death sentence.

It isn't, but lots of cats still lose their lives because of it. The virus itself isn't the killer; it's the misguided belief of shelter officials and even some veterinarians that the way to fight FIV is to euthanize infected cats. The result is that hundreds of thousands of cats are killed every year simply because they've been diagnosed with FIV.

FIV is a lentivirus, meaning that it progresses very slowly, gradually affecting a cat's immune system. It is passed through blood transfusions and through serious, penetrating bite wounds - mainly by stray, intact tom cats. The most well-known lentivirus in humans is HIV. But the two are not at all the same, and you can't get FIV from a cat. In fact, the only thing about FIV that you can catch is a bad case of the rumors.



As long as cats with FIV are not exposed to diseases that their immune system can't handle, they can live perfectly normal lives. And they can only pass the virus on to other cats through a serious, penetrating bite wound. So unless your cats at home routinely tear each other to pieces, it's not a problem. (And if your cats are tearing each other up, that's probably a bigger problem!)

### Dissolving old fears

Dr. Susan Cotter, professor of hematology and oncology at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, is one of those who have helped dissolve these old fears. "I wouldn't advise getting rid of a cat that tests positive for FIV," she says. "If the cat is young and healthy, it could be years before anything changes."

Best Friends veterinarian Dr. Virginia Clemans says the one important thing is to keep your FIV cat healthy. (That, of course, is good advice for all your cats!)

"The virus affects the immune system," she explains. "So keep FIV cats indoors. Make sure they get regular vaccinations. And give them a high-quality diet. Keep an eye on them, and take them to the veterinarian at the first sign of illness."

MFOA Foster cats Sarge, Orange Dude and Pumpkin are our current FIV kitties. For more information or to learn how you can help, contact Lisa Snow at (501) 240-6316.

Material for this article provided by [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org).

### FIV Fast Facts

1. The Feline Immunodeficiency Virus is a slow virus that affects a cat's immune system over a period of years.
2. FIV is a cat-only disease and cannot be spread to humans or other non-felines.
3. FIV cats most often live long, healthy, and relatively normal lives with no symptoms.
4. FIV is not easily passed between cats. It can't be spread casually - like in litter boxes, water and food bowls, or when snuggling and playing. It is rarely spread from a mother to kittens.
5. The virus can be spread through blood transfusions, badly infected gums, or serious, penetrating bite wounds which are extremely rare.
6. A neutered cat, in a home, is extremely unlikely to infect other cats, if properly introduced.
7. Many vets are not educated about FIV since the virus was only discovered 15 years ago.
8. FIV-positive cats should be kept as healthy as possible. Keep them indoors and free from stress, feed them a high-quality diet, keep and treat any health problems as soon as they arise.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To:  
Our Fans &  
Supporters

From:  
All of us at  
MFOA



# FEATURED FRIENDS



## Oscar

'Oscar' is a beautiful Siamese/Tabby mix who is friendly and sweet. He loves to make biscuits on his plush cat bed! For more information, contact Lisa at 501-240-6316 or email [maumelle-foa@aol.com](mailto:maumelle-foa@aol.com). Oscar even has his own online YouTube biscuit-



## Maru

Maru is a sweet, even-tempered kitty who wants a home for the holidays! Although, unlike his internet namesake, he does not like to get into small boxes, he would like to get on your lap and keep you warm this winter! There's a lot of this guy to love, so if you are interested, contact Maumelle Animal Services at 501-851-6219.

## Miss Piggy

'Miss Piggy' is a young adult small white terrier mix who has a face like a Pharaoh Hound! Obviously, we do not know her parentage, but we do know that she is a sweetie! She would make a lively addition to your home this Christmas! She is heartworm positive, so will need treatment. But she is worth it because she has so much love to give! For more information, contact Maumelle Animal Services at 501-851-6219.



*All of our animals have been Vet checked, wormed, up to date on shots and sterilized before they are allowed to be adopted. Normal adoption fee is \$75.*

*To see more adoptable pets or apply online, visit: [maumellefoa.org](http://maumellefoa.org)*

## PAWS & STORIES

## Sadie

We have only had Sadie 2 days and we are already absolutely in love with her. She is the perfect dog. She is very intelligent. Her previous owners must have spent some time training her because she knows all the basic commands (none in German though LOL!) is totally house broken and crate trained.

I cannot say it enough - she is perfect.

We are looking to get to an Aussie puppy within 2011 and I know she will make a perfect big sister.

It is a shame that the previous owners didn't take the time to investigate the breed before getting her - Aussies are notorious for herding small children and should not be placed in a home with small children unless the owners are willing to work on the herding instinct.



## Thank; for another great Wish Tree!

MFOA meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the party room at Beef 'O' Brady's. Join us!



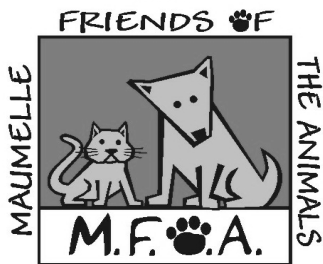
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Thank you for printing the Cinderella Cyndal story to create awareness for needy animals in your Mau-Mag publication!



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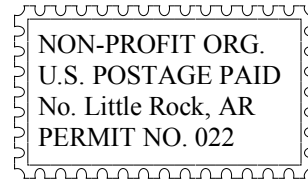
**MAUMELLE FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS**

P.O.Box 13061  
Maumelle, AR 72113

MFOA Phone: 501-851-7114  
Maumelle Shelter: 501-851-6219  
E-mail: maumellefoa@aol.com

***Adopt a pet –  
Make a friend; save a life!***

We're on the Web!  
[www.maumellefoa.org](http://www.maumellefoa.org)



**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**MFOA Welcomes  
Bow Wow & Meow Bakery & Boutique**

Thanks to Owner April Mayfield for offering donations & adoption location to help save lives.  
Find tasty treats for your pet at her shop in Riverpointe Plaza!  
(501) 753-BONE (2663)

**Schedule of Activities & Events**

- **Saturdays** — Dog and cat adoptions at PETSMART in North Little Rock. Open hearts and homes wanted; volunteers welcome!
- **2nd Tuesdays of each month** — MFOA open meeting at Beef 'O' Brady's at 6:30 p.m. Bring friends and ideas to make a difference in the lives of needy animals in your neighborhood.
- **February 9** — Silent Auction that benefits MFOA. Look for Happy Hearts for \$1, \$2, or \$5 to celebrate Valentine's Day supporting your favorite wet nose!
- **March 2012** — Luncheon at Victoria Gardens. A wonderful meal with a portion of proceeds benefiting MFOA.
- **Spring 2012** — Open House at the Maumelle Animal Shelter. Learn more about your city services, MFOA as a support function and sign up to help out!

Yes! I would like to help MFOA save homeless pets from euthanasia! I have included a check or money order in the amount of:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Newsletter Sponsor
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Flagship Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Animal Advocate Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Fellowship Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a receipt for my tax-deductible gift to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Make checks payable to : MFOA  
P.O. Box 13061  
Maumelle, AR 72113

**Donate Today!**