

# Helping YOU help FeLV+ Cats!



## **Step 1: Make sure your FeLV+ cat really has feline leukemia!**

Idexx Snap/Elisa tests have false positives frequently. If you have run a Snap/Elisa test using whole blood, you first need to re-test using serum instead of whole blood. Blood simply needs to be spun down in a centrifuge and the serum used in a new Snap/Elisa test. Whole blood yields frequent false positives, serum does not. If you do not have a centrifuge, a vial of whole blood may be taped to a wall for 20 minutes and the blood will separate on its own in around 20 minutes, allowing you to gather only serum.

If your cat is under six months of age and has serum tested positive, you must re-test again at six months. Kittens have an approximate 30% chance of fighting off the virus, which they were presumably exposed to at birth. No cat should be declared truly FeLV+ until tested at six months of age. These kittens should be isolated from other cats during this time.

If your cat is an adult who has tested FeLV+ on an Elisa/Snap test, you still want to re-test again in 4 weeks. An Elisa/Snap tests measures exposure to the virus. Again, cats can, and many do, fight off the infection after initial exposure. If the Elisa/Snap tests positive on serum four weeks later, you can confirm the FeLV diagnosis.

An IFA Laboratory test is a definitive test, but is more expensive and must be sent to a lab, so it takes longer. The IFA test reveals true FeLV infection in the body, not just exposure to the virus, so it is considered conclusive. You may order an IFA after getting a positive serum Elisa test, if you choose, to be absolutely certain.

*Austin Pets Alive! takes in the lion's share of Feline Leukemia cats in Texas. While we wish we could accommodate every FeLV+ cat in the country, it's important to realize that is not a longterm solution. We encourage other shelters and rescues to develop their own FeLV adoption programs and while we cannot accept every cat, we are happy to help you start a FeLV adoption program!*

*If you are interested in starting a FeLV adoption program, email [cat-adoption-manager@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:cat-adoption-manager@austinpetsalive.org) and we will share our resources with you! Also, check out American Pets Alive, our yearly conference in Austin, where we teach animal welfare advocates how to develop programs like this! [americanpetsalive.org](http://americanpetsalive.org)*

# Getting FeLV Cats Adopted

- Get a few wonderful photos of the cat for your marketing efforts. Try to include one photo of the cat with a person, and one photo of the cat with another pet.
- Write a touching, witty, and unique bio for the cat. Make sure to talk about things that make this cat special and worth adopting! Be honest about the FeLV while being tactful and ending on a positive note about why FeLV cats are worth adopting. See example below.
- Post the cat to every social media account you have. Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram. Ask your friends and family, or your supporters, to share the post. Post the cat a couple of times per week at varying times, to make sure everyone is seeing your message. Make sure your post is uplifting and communicates the special features of the cat. Leave an email address people can contact you for more information about FeLV and the cat.
- Post the cat to “Special Needs” groups on Facebook, like Special Needs In Need, Special Needs Cats who Need Special Adoption, FeLV Advocate, Adopt an FIV or Feline Leukemia Cat, etc. There are many local special needs cat groups on Facebook too. Search for them and post your cat on each, asking supporters to spread the word!
- Post the cat to your local Craigslist, and every nearby Craigslist city. Post there every single day. Include the wonderful photos and a catchy, endearing, but honest bio. (See below for an example).
- Make flyers for the cat and post them everywhere pet lovers go. Ask your friends and family to print flyers and hang them up at work or other places they frequent. Ask your local shelters and rescues if you can hang the flyers up there.
- Contact FeLV-friendly cat rescues and shelters. If they cannot accept the cat into their facility, ask if you can foster the cat through them until she is adopted if they will assist you in marketing the cat. Ask if they can do a “courtesy posting” on Petfinder or their social media sites.
- If you are going to surrender the cat to a “Sanctuary”, you MUST visit the Sanctuary in person to verify the quality of the facility as many sanctuaries are, unfortunately, guised hoarding situations. There are some legitimate FeLV Sanctuaries including Shadow Cats in Round Rock, TX and Best Friends in Utah but you should visit any in person before surrendering your cat there.
- Can you provide medical care to the FeLV cat if someone adopts her? This takes worry of excessive medical care away from potential adopters. Think of it this way, you would be paying the medical cost on the cat if she stays in your home or rescue group anyway, why not send her to a home and pay that cost?
- Have someone wanting a single cat and has no other cats? Introduce them to your FeLV+ cat first! Have an adopter who cannot make a 20 year commitment to a cat, but still wants a cat? Introduce them to your FeLV+ cat first!
- It is very possible to adopt out FeLV cats. There ARE people who adopt these cats regularly! You may need to cast a very wide net to find them and it may take some time, but you CAN succeed and save FeLV cats!

# Craigslist Post

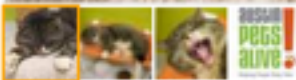
reply prohibited  Posted: 7 days ago [prev](#) [next](#)

## ★ Meet Behemoth! This Big Cat Has a Dainty Purr And A Happy Heart! (Austin Pets Alive!)



1156 West Cesar Chavez Street

[\(google map\)](#) [\(yahoo map\)](#)



Calm, Happy, Friendly 5 year, 2 month old Domestic Shorthair

Behemoth is a wonderful gentle giant of a cat! Every morning after breakfast, he will shyly wander over to you, sit expectantly, and then tap you politely with his paw to request lap time. Grant his wish, and he will leap up and settle in for as long as you allow him. He will tell you how content he is by his sweet, tiny, and joyous purr! Mr. Behemoth definitely loves his lap naps.

Behemoth is positive for FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus), which means he can only cohabitate with other FeLV+ kitties, and with dogs or other non-cat animals. FeLV is species-specific and only contagious to other cats; it is not contagious to humans, dogs, or other non-cat animals. Behemoth is good with other cats; we haven't seen him around children or dogs. He must always remain an indoor kitty, and needs to be fed a nutritionally complete and balanced diet.

There may be sleeker, slimmer, and fancier felines, but none have a heart bigger or fuller of love than our esteemed Mr. Behemoth. Cats can live 2-4 years beyond when they are first diagnosed with FeLV - or even longer - so we'd love for him to spend that with his own family. Don't delay - make an appointment today to meet this wonderful feline soul!

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Behemoth was taken off of the euthanasia list, so if you adopt him, you are saving not only his but also the next cat Austin Pets Alive! can save in his place!

To find out how you can take Behemoth home with you, reply to this ad and an APA! volunteer will be happy to help you! To meet Behemoth today, click here to see where he'll be: <http://www.austinpetsalive.org/events/daily-cat-locations/>

And check out APA!'s other available cats: <http://www.austinpetsalive.org/adopt/cats/>

All APA! foster kittens/cats are litter box trained, tested for FeLV/FIV, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, treated for worms/ fleas, microchipped and come with a 30-day health insurance plan.


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# Online Bio

## Maddie

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Sex:	Female
Breed:	Domestic Shorthair Mix
Current Weight:	8 pounds
Adult Size:	Medium
Date of Birth:	06/23/2013
Age:	1 year, 8 months
Colors:	Blue White
Spayed/Neutered:	Yes
Declawed:	No
Adoption Donation:	\$0.00
Location:	<a href="#">Visit Maddie at Site</a>

Inquisitive - Delightful - Endearing They say that cats are curious creatures, and Maddie is one feline who lives up to the stereotype! An inquisitive kitty, she can often be found perched on a windowsill observing the outside world or waiting to greet visitors at the door. Once you've walked through that door, it won't take long for Maddie to win you over like she's charmed our staff and volunteers! She can be a bit reserved with strangers, but warms up quickly and lets her affectionate nature show. Before you know it, her little white paws will jump into your lap and she'll curl up to be cuddled. Maddie is a friendly cat who gets along well with her playmates in the Feline Leukemia Sanctuary. She would love living in a home with kitty companions. Since she is positive for FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus), she can only cohabitate with FeLV+ cats, dogs, or other non-feline animals, though. FeLV is species-specific and only contagious to cats; it is not contagious to humans, dogs, or other non-cat animals. Maddie must always remain an indoor kitty, and needs to be fed a nutritionally complete and balanced diet. Cats can live 2-4 years beyond when they are first diagnosed with FeLV - or even longer - so we'd love nothing more than for her to spend that time with a family of her own. A kitty this sweet truly deserves a wonderful home! All APA! foster kittens/cats are litter box trained, tested for FeLV/FIV, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, treated for worms/fleas, microchipped and come with a 30-day health insurance plan. If you have additional questions about Maddie or would like more information about FeLV, please send an email to [adopt@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:adopt@austinpetsalive.org).