



July 13, 2024

*All times listed are Eastern Time.*

10:00–10:15 a.m.

**Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast**

Opening Remarks

10:15–10:45 a.m. (Pre-recorded)

**Dr. Julie Levy, Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida**

### **2024's Research Breakthroughs for FeLV+ Cats**

This session will provide an update from the Lifetime Study of FeLV+ Cats, now in its 7th year. The study has identified that initial FeLV diagnostic tests are highly predictive of long-term outcomes. This session will also share interim results from our ongoing study of the response of FeLV+ cats to treatment for FIP.

### **About Dr. Levy**

Dr. Julie Levy is Director of the Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida where her clinical and research interests center on the health and welfare of animals in shelters, feline infectious diseases, and humane alternatives for cat population control. Since 2017, she has followed a cohort of 130 FeLV+ cats from Austin Pets Alive!, a shelter with a specialized FeLV adoption program. This is the only study to follow FeLV+ cats for their natural lifetime. A related study is evaluating the response of FeLV+ cats to treatment for FIP.

10:45–11:00 a.m.

**Break**

11:00–11:45 p.m.

**Jen Frey, Cat Care & Foster Coordinator, Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society**

### **Improving Outcomes for FeLV+ Shelter Cats**

During the pandemic, all MRFERS shelter cats were sent out to foster homes and adoption meet and greets were done via Zoom meetings between cats and adopters. Post-pandemic, we continued this adoption model for our FeLV+ cats and the difference in successful placement rates has been huge. Coupling this with a change in our testing protocols has allowed us to significantly reduce the stress

experienced by this vulnerable population, resulting in noticeable improvements to their health and a drastic reduction in the number of cats whose disease progresses while in our care awaiting adoption.

### **About Jen Frey**

Jen has worked in animal welfare for the past 16 years and has been the Cat Care & Foster Coordinator at MRFRS for 6 years. She especially enjoys assisting the more vulnerable felines, whether it be neonates or harder to place cats. Jen and her husband share their home with two cats, two dogs, and two horses - all adopted, of course! In her spare time, she enjoys trail riding, hiking with her dogs, reading, and knitting with a cat in her lap.

11:45–12:45 p.m.

**Lunch break**

12:45–1:00 p.m.

**Cat Trivia**

1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Margaret Tompkins, President, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy**

### **How To Stop The Spread of FeLV - Join The Crusade!!**

We've learned a lot about FeLV in the last several years! 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.

2:30–2:45 p.m.

**break**

2:45–3:30 p.m.

**Speaker Panel, Moderated by Stacy LeBaron**

### **Tough Question Panel**

Stacy and the audience will bring their toughest questions to the panel for a conversation around Feline Leukemia. We will also do some intense polling of the audience and real time polling in the online cat conference facebook group to understand our perception and understanding of Feline Leukemia in animal sheltering and the general public.

3:30–3:45 p.m.

**Break**

3:45-4:45 p.m.

**Nathalie Dowgray, Head of ISFM, iCatCare**

**FeLV From the International Society of Feline Medicine**

This talk will cover how the FeLV virus causes disease, what the different outcomes of infection are, how we diagnose FeLV infection and interpret the results and how we use these results to make decisions in the shelter/community cat context.

**About Nathalie Dowgray**

Nathalie graduated from Massey University, New Zealand in 2002. In 2012 she sat the Membership exams for the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in Feline Medicine and is a RCVS advanced Practitioner in Feline Medicine. She received a post graduate diploma in international animal welfare ethics and law from Edinburgh University in 2016 and completed a PhD in the ageing of cats at the University of Liverpool in 2021.

Nathalie's areas of interest are all things feline including feline health screening, musculoskeletal disease and age-related disease. Nathalie joined iCatCare as Head of International Society of Feline Medicine in August 2020.

4:45 p.m.

**Cat trivia and closing remarks**

*A special thanks to our sponsors who made today possible:  
Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy*