

The CatChannel Newswire

Top stories: Vaccines to help your cat have nine lives; group looks out for feline families.

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Vaccines to Help Your Cat Have Nine Lives

Should you? Shouldn't you? Vaccinating your companion animal is an intensely personal decision that should be made in concert with your veterinarian. But it sure helps to have a little guidance along the way. For cats, the American Association of Feline Practitioners' 2006 Feline Vaccination guidelines are a well-regarded road map, *Newsday* (N.Y.) reports.

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Group Looks Out for Feline Families

A local organization has discovered a new homeless group in downtown Regina, but it isn't what you think. People for Animals of Saskatchewan is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization that works to help animals that are living on the street. Recently it discovered a new cat colony in the downtown area near a group of buildings that will soon be demolished, *The Leader-Post* (Canada) reports.

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Terrorism in the Name of Animal Rights

Animal-rights activists know how important words can be. The Northern California-based organization In Defense of Animals and its founder, Elliot Katz, advocate substituting "companion animal" for "pet" and "animal guardian" for "pet owner" in local ordinances and everyday parlance. The idea is "to elicit responsible treatment of companion animals and end abuse, neglect and abandonment of pets." Well, OK, it's never right to abuse or neglect animals, but U.S. law already contains vigorously enforced animal welfare statutes that require animals to be fed, sheltered and treated as more than just property. It is legal to toss an old coat in a dumpster, but it is not legal to toss an old dog into one. So if we already distinguish animals from property, why do we need word changes in public ordinances? Probably because many animal-rights activists want more, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

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