LOGAN NESER: Hello! Today we’re talking with Dr. Alyssa Comroe about adoption policies for FeLV and FIV cats. Dr. Comroe was a veterinarian at Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services and Hillsborough County Pet Rescue Center before joining Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League in West Palm Beach as the Director of Veterinary Services. Thank you so much for joining us today!

ALYSSA COMROE: Thanks so much for having me.

LOGAN: Yeah, it’s our pleasure. We just have a few questions. The first one is: What is your shelter’s policy for adoption of cats with FeLV or FIV infection?

ALYSSA: Our policy is the same as our policy for adoption of any cats. We have no specific restrictions. We don’t really do anything differently. Here at Peggy, we do not automatically test them all for FIV so there are some that we’re probably adopting out that we don’t know if they’re FIV positive. But we do test all of our cats for feline leukemia because we do so much group housing, but we don’t do anything different for our adoptions.

LOGAN: Have you experienced any challenges with this policy, either internally with shelter management or shelter staff, or externally with potential adopters or community vets?

ALYSSA: We have been adopting out feline leukemia positive cats for as long as I was able to find out. I haven’t been here that long, but I was asking around. We’ve been doing it for so many years that we haven’t had any recent issues with anyone in the community, like veterinary-wise. The only issues we have had are some newer staff members who maybe don’t educate the public in the correct way. They might have some misinformation about feline leukemia that they brought with them when they came here, so that just requires some education. Our experienced staff all know that feline leukemia is not a big deal to adopt out, and they always help if there’s a newer person that’s getting out the wrong information.

LOGAN: And what are some of the successes you have experienced with this policy?

ALYSSA: One of the things I think is the coolest about our staff is one of our experienced adoption coordinators, she only adopts feline leukemia positive cats. She has adopted quite a few of them from us over the years. She’s been here for a long time. She’ll foster feline leukemia positive kittens for us, and she ends up adopting a lot of cats herself. But having her be an adoption coordinator has been really, really helpful because if there’s someone that’s potentially interested in adopting one of these cats, we have someone right there who can talk about how great of an experience it is to have these cats. So the public, even though we can give them the medical information, they often like that anecdotal experience. So having someone that works in that department all day every day be able to talk about her experience has been really helpful.

LOGAN: Yeah, that sounds amazing. It’s really a great position to have. And so, that is all three of our questions for you today. Thank you so much for joining us. It’s been a pleasure having you.

ALYSSA: Thank you.