



PICTURED: Archibald (orange medium hair) and Kazo (buff short hair) cuddled together every day after meeting at the SPCA. At the Pet Adoption Center, many of our adoption-ready cats live in communal, or shared, rooms.

A FELINE LOVE STORY



An unintended perk of housing cats together: sometimes they fall in love

Archibald and Kazo came into the care of SPCA Wake around the same time after they were rescued from separate situations—Archibald from a crowded county shelter, and Kazo from living outside with a badly injured leg.

In fact, Kazo's leg was not only injured but had been broken some time ago and healed poorly. One of the first things we were able to do to help relieve his chronic pain was to amputate his right hind leg.

Despite their different origins, Archibald and Kazo had something in common. They both were positive for feline leukemia (FeLV). FeLV is a contagious viral disease that weakens a cat's immune system, making them more vulnerable to infections and other illnesses over time. **But at SPCA Wake, there is new hope for cats living with this disease.** (See info box at right.)

Because FeLV is contagious to other cats, felines with this disease often end up on their own. But with Archibald and Kazo arriving around the same time, we housed the two together, unaware of the love story that would unfold as a result.

Soon, our team noticed a bond forming between the two—they stuck to each other like glue,

often cuddling in various corners of the room and grooming one other. As a few weeks passed, the two cats continued to grow closer. **We saw how much comfort they took in each other's presence.** Seeing their friendship blossom and knowing how often FeLV+ cats are isolated from other cats, we decided the only thing to do was adopt them into a new home together. It was risky to do this since FeLV+ cats already face challenges at finding homes.

But in early March, Kazo and Archibald found their new family and went home together. Thank you for giving these two best friends the second chance to stay side-by-side for years to come.

There's new hope for FeLV+ cats. Help us spread the word!

FeLV+ cats make great companions, but they're often overlooked for adoption. Scan this QR code or visit [spcawake.org/felv](https://www.spcawake.org/felv) to watch SPCA Veterinarian Dr. Zurlinden's short video explaining FeLV.

