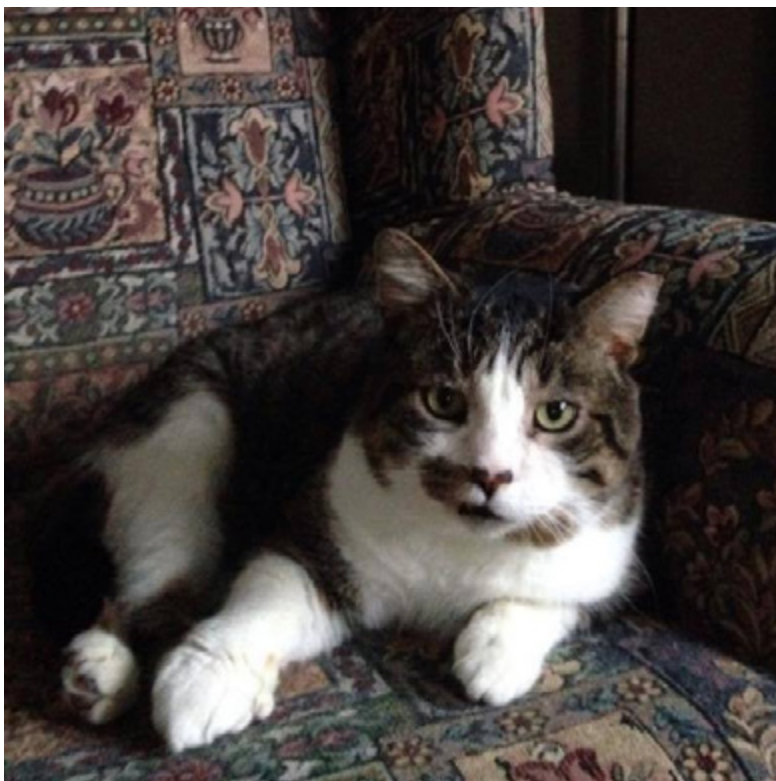


# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

## It took patience and love ...

by Joanne Moeser

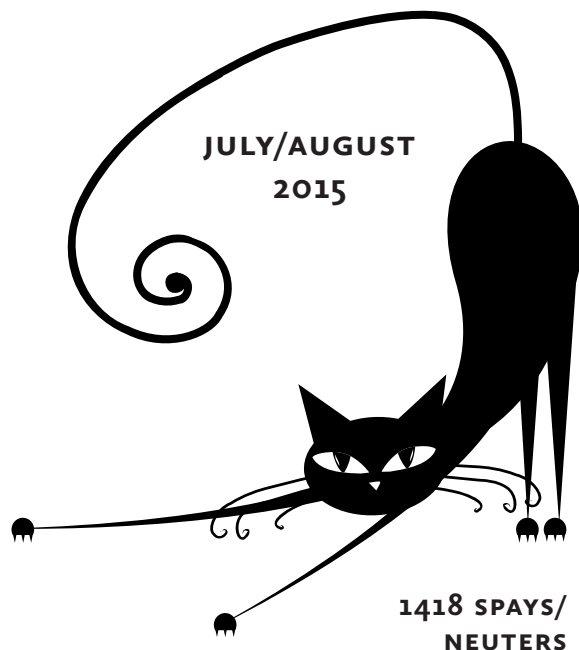


When Viktor and another stray/feral cat arrived at my home during the winter of 2013 – one of the coldest on record – I was concerned for their safety. Could they survive in a feral shelter? Each night, I placed a hot water bottle and a kitten disc inside the shelter, hoping that the warmth would be enough.

In May 2014, Viktor's sidekick was hit by a car. I didn't see Viktor for weeks and worried that perhaps he had met the same fate. Fortunately, by the fall of 2014, Victor was once again a regular. But I was still unable to get close to him.

In January 2015, Viktor appeared with a wound on his lower back close to his tail. The snow was deep, and he was having

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## Catapawlooza 2015!

It's coming up soon! Catapawlooza 2015 takes place **SATURDAY, AUGUST 29** from **11 AM TO 4 PM** in the **OPTIMIST HALL** at 72 Water Street in Stratford.

The downstairs hall will house vendors of cat-related merchandise – for you and your cat – as well as the following presentations:

- 12 pm – “Choosing your Feline Friend,” Erica Merrick, Animal Care Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society
- 1 pm – “EVAH: A Sustainable Model for Provision of Accessible Veterinary Care for At-Risk Cats & Dogs,” Dr. Martha Harding, co-owner and veterinarian, East Village Animal Hospital
- 2 pm – “Our TNR Program: Why I Volunteer and YOU SHOULD TOO,” JoAnn Whitney, FFN TNR captain

Upstairs, in the adoption area, you can meet the cats and kittens from various area rescues who are looking for that special home. The popular “Adoption Lounge” also returns this year – a place to get to know and interact with a possible feline soulmate.

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difficulty reaching the garage for shelter and food. I began to feed him on the stairs leading to my side door. Every day, I moved the dish closer to the door that opens into a warm mud room. Eventually Vikor took his meals inside in the warmth but the door remained open. Our schedule continued for a couple of weeks and with each feeding he stayed a bit longer. Sometimes Vikor climbed onto my wicker chair for a snooze. But he was adamant that he was not staying and wandered back out each night.

With the passing of days/nights, Vikor's wound worsened, requiring urgent care. I contacted Marg Usprech and together we made plans to trap Vikor to have his wound cared for and at the same time to have him neutered.

On January 26, Vikor was trapped in my porch and showed signs of being a true feral. I reluctantly accepted the fact that this trapping will be a TNR. I called Marg, who arrived within minutes to pick Vikor up for the trip to EVAH in London where they attended to his wound



and neutered him. When Vikor returned to spend his recovery with me, I spoke to him, hoping to comfort him. To my delight, he responded with a little meow and I realized that he recognized my voice. As his recovery progressed, he began to trust more and more, and I decided to move him into the spare bedroom, hoping that I could keep him as part of the family.

It's now been five months with Vikor living indoors and he shows no interest in going back outside. We have had a few hurdles to overcome and we still have our moments. But nothing that can't be worked out. Vikor is probably my most affectionate cat – he loves to snuggle and is a very chatty boy.

I can't thank Marg and Cheryl enough for helping to make this possible.

## THANK YOU!!

To **Brokerlink**, Stratford office, for raising \$274 for FFN, as well as several cases of canned food, in their Spring Fundraiser.

To both **Pet Valu** Stratford stores for raising a total of \$1,267 for us during their Pet Appreciation month – and to all their customers who helped them do it!

To **Bell's Winery** and proprietor **Kirk Dallaire** (FFN supporter, and all-round great guy) for helping us raise approximately \$500 – and gain two new members – at a very rainy Saturday charity barbecue held in conjunction with the winery's 10th anniversary open house. (And to the sopping wet FFN volunteers who helped staff the event!)

To **Marg Usprech** for working so hard to facilitate the re-homing of the Vince cats – and to the wonderful adopters who came forward to make that happen.

To everyone who donated much needed cat carriers.

And finally – to ALL OUR  
WONDERFUL **VOLUNTEERS**  
WHO GO THAT EXTRA MILE.  
Without our volunteers FFN  
would simply cease to exist.



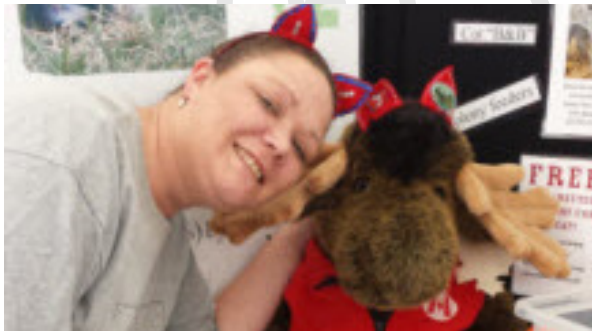
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In addition, the Stratford Perth Humane Society will hold a micro-chip clinic on site from 11 am to 2 pm. The cost is only \$30 per chip.

And of course we can't forget famous barbecue chef Larry with his delicious offerings!

Admission is free, but donations of cat food to help us feed our community cats would be most welcome.

Will Feral says "Please come join us for a fun day – and bring a friend!"



## FFN at Canada Day

by Cathy Russell

FFN's second year at the Stratford Canada Day celebration was a success – great weather, lots of people and, best of all, lots of great conversations about our feline friends!

Thanks to the generosity of FFN members and other cat lovers, we collected 323 cat toys and raised \$161.70 through the sale of Pat's Puddy Products and the "guess the number of cat toys" game. Ruth (last name not provided) guessed 310 to win the game, with Meagan Gloor as the runner-up with a guess of 309. The toys will now be divided between FFN, Paws of Perth County, and SPHS to be given with adopted cats/kittens.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to Holly Roulston and her husband Floyd, Rachelle Dietert and her daughter Peighton, Heather Neill, and Cheryl Simpson for offering the special gift of time to man the booth on this wonderful day. Looking forward to another successful year with Feline Friends at Canada Day 2016!

## Drumrolls please ...

### BEST OF STRATFORD RAFFLE

**Ken Wood** will be going shopping with 67 gift certificates from some of Stratford's finest establishments. Thanks to everyone who sold and/or bought raffle tickets or donated a gift certificate. The raffle raised just over \$1,600 which all helps to allow us to continue running the FFN programs!

### BELL'S WINERY

The winery's 10th anniversary open house was also a fundraiser for FFN. For every \$5 spent or donated, names were entered in a draw for prizes arranged by owner Kirk Dallaire. The winners were:

**Wine kits:** Rachelle Czartorynskyj, Sherri Strutton, Joyce Michel, and Tracey Bell

**Wine encyclopedias:** Randy Huitema, Esther Dallaire, Janice Murray, and Holly Roulston

**Pro Oil Change gift certificate:** Bill Arthur.

**T-shirt and Bell's Winery cap:** Rita Agar, Brenda Ford, Mark Williams, Linda Stringer, Rachelle Czartorynskyj, and Floyd Williams.

Congrats everyone and thanks for coming out!! All prizes can be picked up from Kirk Dallaire at Bell's during business hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday, 9 am to 12 noon.



FFN mascot Will Feral and Bell's Winery owner Kirk Dallaire celebrate the winery's 10th anniversary





## Love at first sight

by Jamie Lamond

One look and I was in love.

The story of this formerly feral began last Thanksgiving when she appeared at the Russeldale home of a kind woman who named her “Gravy” for her beautiful grey coat and the holiday season. The caregiver fed Gravy through the winter, reporting that she was a stubborn little girl who refused to use her shelter – she much preferred sleeping under the deck!

When the time came to TNR Gravy, it was discovered that – as is all too common – she may not have been a feral cat after all, but instead a stray who just happened upon the right place.

Marg Usprech took Gravy in, began socializing her, and very quickly realized that Gravy was much better suited to being an indoor cat.

I wasn't really in the market for another cat, but I couldn't stop watching the videos and looking at the pictures that Marg posted of

Gravy. Her personality seemed like it would mesh perfectly with our three cats. She appeared to be very even-tempered and accepting, a cat who wanted to be everybody's friend – even if they didn't want to be hers. I thought there was a good chance that she could become part of the clan.

In April, I formally adopted Gravy and took her home. Within a few short weeks Gravy became fully integrated with her new brother, Razer, and new sisters, Lulu and Muffin. She can now be heard galloping around the place like a racehorse chasing Razer. Lately, I've been getting a good laugh out of her stalking and pouncing on the other cats' tails.

Gravy has been such a wonderful addition to our life that I can't now imagine what it would be like without her. I urge anyone to consider bringing a rescued cat into your life, or even volunteering or fostering. Without the resources and teamwork of FFN, this little girl may not have found her home with me – or any home at all. However, since they existed, she did, and I can't thank everyone involved enough. You know she will have a forever home with me.



Nap time.  
Gravy and her  
orange tabby  
“brother” Razer



## 3rd annual Feline Film Festival red-carpet worthy!

A good time was had by all at our third Feline Film Fest on June 5! The highest-ever number of silent auction items and videos combined with food, wine, beer, Puddy Products, Tarot readings, meeting and mingling to make one very enjoyable evening. In case you missed it, here is a brief snapshot of what happened:

72 minute film screening | 56 cat videos | 140 guests | 63 silent auction items | countless laughs | \$3,400 raised to fund Feline Friends Network spay & neuter programs | 1 million thanks to our volunteers, sponsors, hosts at Knox Church, and all who attended!

## Help us sell tickets for 6th annual FFN Wine Raffle

Our raffle license has been approved and tickets have been ordered! As many of you know, this FFN's biggest annual fundraiser, netting us approximately \$7,000 if all tickets are sold. If you would be willing to sell a book (or 2 or 3!) of tickets, please email Holly Roulston at [holly@felinefriends.ca](mailto:holly@felinefriends.ca). Holly will get the tickets to you as soon as they are printed. Draw date is National Feral Cat Day – October 16, 2015!



## The FFN Hoodies are here!

Show your support for FFN with these stylish hoodies, available in grey or black. Purchase is by donation:

With zipper: \$25 (member); \$30 (non-member)

Without zipper: \$23 (member); \$28 (non-member)

Supply is limited, so email us at [info@felinefriends.ca](mailto:info@felinefriends.ca) or call 519.301.5735 to place an order.

### STILL NEEDED

**Trap/Neuter/Return volunteers**, particularly in North and West Perth. (training provided)

**Foster homes** for “friendly ferals” who deserve a chance to be adopted

**Dry catfood:** our preferred brand is Purina Cat Chow (in the blue bag)

To help with any of the above, please contact FFN at [info@felinefriends.ca](mailto:info@felinefriends.ca) or call 519.301.5735.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

