

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

Feline Film Festival this Friday

It's finally here! FFN's Feline Film Festival is back! We're putting the finishing touches on our fifth annual, hour-long compilation of the most entertaining, touching, surprising and adorable cat video moments that you won't want to miss.

Doors open at 7 pm for nibbles with wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. Bid on our many silent auction items (including a special travel offering from ViaRail). Have some fingernail fun with a feline-inspired nail wrap. Visit our tarot-

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FRIDAY, 9 JUNE 2017
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
142 Ontario Street, Stratford
(lower banquet hall)
Doors open at 7 pm, screening 8-9 pm



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card reader for an insightful session. Peruse our always-popular Puddy Product table. And last but not least, enjoy the family-friendly feature Feline Film screening from 8–9 pm.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for kids under 13 (accompanied by an adult). Tickets will be available at the door or get yours in advance at these Stratford locations:

- Avon Pet Hospital (345 Douro Street)
- Boomers Gourmet Fries (26 Erie Street)
- The Buzz Stop (17 York Street)
- Coventry Animal Hospital (535 Huron Street)
- Divine Esthetics Day Spa (315 Front Street, unit 1)
- Pet Valu (581 Huron Street)
- Split Rail Country Store (4304 Road 119, Mornington Street North)

As always, all proceeds support Feline Friends Network's spay & neuter programs to humanely reduce cat overpopulation in our community.

WELCOME DONATION CHEQUES

From Global Pet Foods, just over \$1,000 from their February "Show Us Your Heart" campaign.

From Manulife, \$500 from their "Helping Hands" program, a program that encourages employees to nominate a charity for which they volunteer to receive a donation ... and Cathy Russell, a valued member of FFN did just that!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to Global Pet Foods, Manulife, and Cathy Russell!!!

FFN AT CANADA DAY 2017

Come find our booth and join in the festivities on 1 July (noon- 3:00 pm) at Stratford City Hall on the newly-opened Market Square. Pat's Puddy Products will be on display with some great Canada Day items to help celebrate our country's 150th birthday. See you there!



Harriet's Happy Ending (finally!)

by Cheryl Simpson

Harriet spent most of her young life outdoors. She had several litters of kittens and never had a real home, other than a caregiver to feed and provide some shelter for her. Because she and the other strays trapped along with her were no longer welcome to return to the only neighbourhood they had known, they were welcomed into FFN's foster program. We knew that they were not feral, just frightened cats.

In a relatively short period of time, Harriett's feline friends got adopted – but not Harriett. Months passed and her foster parent wondered if she would ever find a true home. Poor Harriett was timid and she wasn't a great beauty. Would someone come along for her?

And then – someone did! Angie Leamen Mohr saw what others had not in this sweet girl and welcomed Harriett into her home. Some months later, Angie reports that Harriett has fit right in, making special friends with Oliver, the one misfit in her former gang of five. Oliver now has someone to snuggle with – he is pictured at left above with Harriett on the right – and now they are a happy gang of six!



Not just another survey! Add your voice to the call to change Stratford's Animal Control by-laws

by Sharon Morrice

The City of Stratford is currently undertaking a survey to measure public opinion on how our animal control bylaws should be updated. Animal lovers, Feline Friends needs YOU – please take a few minutes to add your voice to ours.

In the last two years, FFN has been working to stop the sale of cats and dogs in local pet stores. Why? Because stores that sell un-spayed and un-neutered kittens undermine our efforts to get the local cat population under control.

If you're reading this, you likely already know about the astounding rate at which cats reproduce. This is why kittens being sold without being 'fixed' are a big concern ... many will go on to have generations of unwanted litters that end up homeless or in animal rescues and shelters. FFN sees the suffering that results from too many homeless animals.

In addition, FFN frequently receives calls from people who have bought pet store kittens only to find that they can't afford to have them spayed or neutered. We help cat owners with the cost of surgery if they qualify for our low-income spay/neuter program. The sad reality is that FFN may never hear from many more people who may abandon unfixed kittens and cats when they go on to become pregnant or develop unwanted behaviours, like heat cycles, spraying, and fighting.

Help us show Council that we want Stratford's animal bylaws to keep up with other progressive cities that already prohibit the for-profit sale of unaltered kittens and puppies.

Complete the survey **before 23 June**, and say **YES** to question **number 1**, which asks if you agree with the recommendation to council to restrict the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores



so that only spayed/neutered cats and dogs from registered Humane Societies and/or reputable animal rescue organizations will be available for adoption in local pet stores.

The survey is available at the City's website:
<http://stratford.survey.esolutionsgroup.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=86LKn68>

Your participation is SO important. Please complete the survey and share this link and information with family and friends who also care about animal welfare.

P.S. The Feline Friends Network recognizes that the majority of pet stores in Stratford do NOT sell unspayed/unneutered cats or kittens. They have been wonderfully supportive of our programs, for which we are extremely grateful. Many rescue and shelter cats and kittens continue to find homes by being featured in their in-store adoption programs. Please buy your pet supplies at these exemplary stores!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

