

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Young philanthropists

by Paul Simpson

Recently, FFN became the beneficiary of a fundraising project that took shape in a rural setting outside of Stratford. Jane and Tim Barton live on a big spread with their brood, and it's a large one: 3 energetic kids, 2 dogs, 6 cats, 2 pigs, 1 horse, 2 miniature horses, a donkey, a rabbit, and a hen. A wonderful riot of constant activity! The animals come from adoptions, shelters, and "drop-offs" – the Bartons obviously have big hearts.

On two Saturdays in early September, the Barton kids and two of their pals staffed a lemonade stand at a well-travelled corner near their home. The budding entrepreneurs pulled in an amazing \$230 which they donated to FFN.

DID YOU KNOW?

There's no reliable scientific way to calculate the relationship between human and cat years, but it's generally agreed that after the first year, your kitten is the equivalent of a fifteen-year-old teenager. Explains a lot, doesn't it? The first two years of a cat's life are roughly equal to the first 25 of a human's. After this, each additional "human" year is approximately four "cat" years.

This wasn't the first time the young Bartons have turned their energies towards fundraising to help animals. There's something particularly engaging about kids becoming involved with projects like this, knowing that their young lives are being influenced by supportive parents.

The Barton threesome are Lily (far left), Mark (top), and Elliott (far right), and their pals Olivia (centre rung) and Levi (bottom rung), who held the sign for the lemonade stand.

An extra large THANK YOU to the Barton crew. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Have you heard of GivingTuesday?

Most people know about Black Friday and Cyber Monday – two days that are good for the economy. GivingTuesday, on the other hand, is good for the community.

This national day of giving takes place each year after Cyber Monday to mark the opening of the giving season. It's a day where charities, companies, and individuals join together to share commitments, rally for favourite causes, and think about others. Whether it's making a donation, volunteering time, helping a neighbour, or spreading the word, GivingTuesday is a movement for everyone who wants to give something back.

In 2017, GivingTuesday will take place on 28 November. As in previous years, FFN will mark the day with an online matching partnership

program and some special perks – details to come – to encourage donations.

But this year, we'd also like to challenge our supporters to partner/get involved with Feline Friends Network. Are you a baker? Could you sell your treats at your workplace with the proceeds going to FFN? Are you a crafter who could create a wreath or handmade jewellery or a knitter who could donate a blanket or scarf for our next online auction? Or could you commit to fostering a cat for FFN? The sky is truly the limit for ways to use your time and talents to support FFN. We hope you'll let us know what you did to help FFN by sharing your original contribution on our Facebook page. We can't wait to hear from you on 28 November 2017.

Discover more ways to get involved in GivingTuesday at the GivingTuesday website at:
<http://givingtuesday.ca/get-involved/individuals-and-families>.

AND AGAIN ...

Once again we need to give a big round of applause to our favourite Stratford pet stores:

To Feed-All Pet Centre, for providing space to help beautiful Simone get adopted so quickly ... and now handsome Cash awaits his chance in the same glamorous space !

To Global Pet Foods, for showcasing two FFN kittens in their store for adoption and for including Pat's Puddy Products in their September Customer Appreciation weekend where she made \$400 for FFN!

To Pet Valu, for making FFN the recipient of this month's "Thanks for Giving" campaign. Be sure to drop in any time to donate or join the gang at the store each weekend for fun events.

AND, if you are needing to buy some last minute wine raffle tickets, they will be available for sale – while they last! – at the FFN booth in the store from 10am to noon on the following days:

Sunday, 1 October,
Saturday, 7 October
Sunday, 8 October
Saturday, 14 October



GLOBAL CAT DAY

For the past several years, FFN has celebrated Alley Cat Allies' "National Feral Cat Day" on 16 October by drawing the winners of our wine raffle. This year, we're excited to report that since the inception of "National Feral Cat Day" in 2001, more and more organizations in more and more countries have become involved in education about community cats and the promotion of Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR).

In recognition, "National Feral Cat Day" has now officially become "Global Cat Day" and FFN will celebrate community cats by giving away a clowder* of eartipped* chocolate community cats to three lucky winners.

To enter the draw, shop at Feed-All, Global Pet Food, or the Pet Valu stores in Stratford during the week before Global Cat Day. The winners will be drawn on 16 October 2017, Global Cat Day itself.

*Wondering what "clowder" and "eartip" mean? A clowder is actually the correct name for a group of cats, while an eartip is the universal sign of an altered feral cat – a quarter of an inch is removed from the tip of the left ear during spay/neuter surgery. This does not hurt the cat and makes it possible to see that the cat in question has been cared for through TNR. The chocolate cat prizes in FFN's Global Cat Day draw will all be eartipped!



FFN at the Purrennial Paw Show

by Pat Burnell

Take a ride out to the Western Fair Grounds in London on Sunday, 22 October for PAWSitive PAWS Cat Club's 20th Annual Cat show from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

There will be cats galore as well as an opportunity to complete some early Christmas shopping for the important felines and humans in your life.

Puddy Products will be on hand with an excellent selection of cat related/themed merchandise for your perusal and maybe even purchase.

It will be a cat fancier's paradise. Meowzer!

So buckle up and take a ride

All the way to the other side

Of London Town.

For a discount on the entry fee visit the website at:
<http://www.catshow.ca/visitors.html>

EVAH in Kitchener

EVAH (East Village Animal Hospital) opened its second location in Kitchener in July. Modelled after their very successful clinic in London, EVAH continues with its non-profit business model and offers low-cost spay/neuter surgeries plus medical care to rescues, people with modest incomes, and indigenous groups.

FFN has used their services in London extensively and is already a regular customer in Kitchener. To show our support for the clinic, the Board recently authorized a donation of \$3000 which was delivered to Francine Morrison, the executive director of Animal Outreach, EVAH's charity partner for both locations.



Did you know ...

That there are some very dedicated volunteers who keep the community cats at our feral colonies fed, watered, and sheltered 365 days a year? Pictured at right are two groups of colony volunteers winterizing the feeding stations and shelters in Stratford a few weeks ago. Thank you so much for your dedication & commitment.

Puddy Products a hit at Global Pet Foods

by Pat Burnell

Global Pet Foods invited FFN/Puddy Products to set up shop in their parking lot on Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th of September.

So we did.

A tent was pitched, tables assembled, and products displayed.

And it was a piece of cake from there!

After four hours on Friday, I was elated to have accrued over \$100 in sales for FFN.

Buoyed by this success I brought more cat-themed puddy stuff with me on Saturday, setting up an hour earlier than originally planned and staying an hour later.

By 4:00 pm, the \$100 had grown to \$400! I. Was. Gobsmaeked!

Shoppers were generous with their purchases and their praise.

All that is left to add to an amazing weekend are multitudinous “THANK YOUS” to Adam, manager of Global Pet Foods.

Thank you, thank you. thank you, thank you, thank you ... ad infinitum.

Everything a cat is and does physically is to me beautiful, lovely, stimulating, soothing, attractive and an enchantment.

– Paul Gallico, from “An Honourable Cat”

