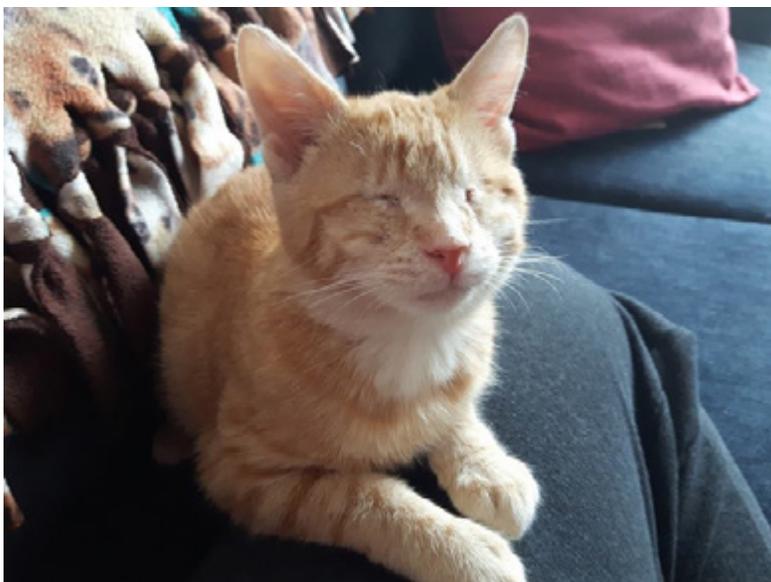


cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



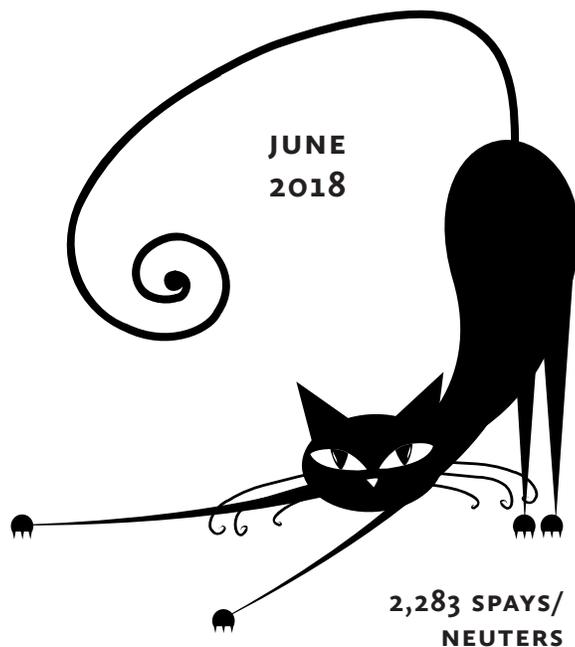
Love Olive

By Sandra Seine

Picture a kitten, full of energy and spunk, bounding up and down the stairs, chasing feet or a toy or just running for the fun of it. Because she's just that eager to explore, the bannisters are entwined with ribbons and sheets of newspaper to prevent her from squeezing through. Several plants are bare of low-hanging leaves, from being batted away in play. The flies buzzing at the window screen don't have a chance; she hunts them relentlessly. When the day is done and she's finally tired herself out, she snuggles with her humans and goes to sleep curled up under a chin or against an armpit, purring and content. This is a wonderful kitten – playful, snuggly, curious, and friendly. There's just one small problem. She can't see.

Olive was special from day one. When she came into the care of Feline Friends Network, it appeared she had no eyes or maybe an infection that damaged them and she could not see. We assumed that an eye infection was the source of her

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Leaving a legacy

A SPECIAL GIFT CAN HELP FFN TO HELP MORE CATS IN OUR COMMUNITY!!

Did you know that by leaving a bequest to Feline Friends Network of Stratford in your will, you can perpetuate your support for the animal welfare work in which you believe so strongly. And because FFN is 100% volunteer-run, every dollar donated goes directly to helping us strive to make the lives of cats in our community healthier and happier.

A bequest could help FFN continue to provide the same quality of care while expanding our programs to remove the financial roadblocks that many people face and ensuring that MORE cats in our community are spayed/neutered. In addition, FFN's goal is to be able to educate and inform as many people as possible about the need to spay or neuter their cats BEFORE they are fully matured and able to produce unwanted litters. When you include a bequest in your will or in a codicil, you are helping to ensure care, compassion and concern for cats in the future.

Should you decide to make a bequest to FFN in your will, it is important to use the correct legal name and address for the organization:

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blindness. After consulting with the vets, it was agreed the only solution was to remove the eyes. During surgery, the vets found that Olive's eyes were never formed properly and her blindness was not related to any type of infection. She had probably never been able to see. The surgery will prevent further injury/infections.

Despite being a poor patient who was frustrated that her cone prevented her from playing and snuggling as much as she wanted to, Olive recovered quickly. Marg and I were both incredibly lucky to be able to foster Olive during this time. Lack of sight never slowed her down. She quickly adapted to any new environment, and had no problems making friends with other dogs, cats, or people. Despite shifting from Marg's home to mine a couple of times (due to the surgeries), Olive was never confused by her surroundings. She went from sniffing around the edges of a space to racing boldly down the middle. She snuggled with Marg's dogs, and played with my cats, managing to hold her own. She charmed everyone who came over to visit.

Some concessions had to be made. Olive follows sounds and smells, so she loves feet and gets under foot a lot. She has a hard time jumping – up or down – because she doesn't know where she's going, although her new family tells me she's starting to get more confident with that. She sometimes bumps into things, or misses a step or a toy, and doesn't like having her face touched. Olive lives in a world of scent and sound and touch; she needed to go to a home where she would be loved and her peculiarities understood.

Luckily Olive has found a fur-ever home with Janine and Matt, and is being spoiled in the best possible way. I miss her still, because Olive was a very special foster. She proves that the worth of a cat is not determined by their 'problems' but by their personalities – and we all know how personable cats are! Thank you to FFN for taking a chance on this special girl.



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AN FFN WISH LIST

FFN is currently in need of:

- cat food (canned and dry)
- litter (clumping and non-clumping – needed for very young kittens at this time of year)
- cat toys
- scratching posts (tall)
- kitten milk replacement (KMR) (canned, premixed)
- Whiskas cat milk
- dog crates (extra large)
- poop bags

FFN is interested in finding a retail location that would allow our supporters to drop off their donations in a "donation bin." If you know a centrally-located business that has a lobby where donations could be dropped off during business hours (without interrupting the flow of business) and with easy access to parking, please let us know.

To donate now, email marg@felinefriends.ca or holly@felinefriends.ca. Or call the FFN phone at 519-301-5753 and leave a message that you have a wish-list donation. You can also message us through Facebook.

The cat has been described as the most perfect animal, the acme of muscular perfection and the supreme example in the animal kingdom of the coordination of mind and muscle.

– Roseanne Ambrose Brown





CATS + FEED-ALL PET CENTRE CATIO = ADOPTIONS

FFN is feeling very grateful to the owner and amazing staff of Feed-All Pet Centre for giving our cats a very special opportunity by inviting us to showcase our adoptable cats in their store. Having our adoptables move in to the Feed-All “catio” not only gives them more exposure – and more exposure = more adoptions! – it also frees up space in FFN foster homes so we can help other cats in need.

In the past year, FFN has adopted out 127 homeless cats. All of these cats were living outdoors and many were thought to be feral. Once trapped, spay/neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped, the cats were placed in our foster care program. None of this would be possible without the support of local pet stores, the community, and FFN volunteers and donors.

If you haven't been to Feed-All Pet Centre on Ontario Street, Stratford (next to the Shoppers Drug Mart), we hope you'll drop by and visit one of our cats or a cat from the SPHS. Check out the catio – who knows, you may want to build one for yourself – or get an FFN membership and receive a 10% discount on many items in the store. Support a great cause and please let the staff know they are doing an awesome job.

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Feline Friends Network of Stratford
c/o 134 Brunswick Street
Stratford, ON
N5A 3M1

The sample wordings below can be used in your will for different types of bequests.

TO GIVE A FIXED AMOUNT:

I will give to Feline Friends Network of Stratford, of c/o 134 Brunswick Street, Stratford, ON N5A 3M1, the sum of \$___ to be used in such a manner as the Board of Directors of FFN shall, at its discretion, determine.

TO GIVE A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR ESTATE:

I will give to Feline Friends Network of Stratford, of c/o 134 Brunswick Street, Stratford, ON N5A 3M1, ___% of my estate to be used in such a manner as the Board of Directors of FFN shall, at its discretion, determine.

TO GIVE THE RESIDUE OF YOUR ESTATE:

I will give to Feline Friends Network of Stratford, of c/o 134 Brunswick Street, Stratford, ON N5A 3M1, the rest and residue of my estate to be used in such a manner as the Board of Directors of FFN shall, at its discretion, determine.

If you need to have a will prepared or need to update your current will, please consider making a bequest to FFN. Future cats will thank you!

Places to look [when your cat is hiding]: behind the books in the bookshelf, any cupboard with a gap too small for any cat to squeeze through, the top of anything sheer, under anything too low for a cat to squash under and inside the piano.

– Roseanne Ambrose-Brown

Even if you have just destroyed a Ming Vase, purr. Usually all will be forgiven.

– Lenny Rubenstein



Friends who fundraise

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to manager Kimberley and the staff of Pet Valu for working hard during the month of April to raise funds for Feline Friends Network programs. The final total was \$2,663 – hip hip hurrah! – and 100% of the proceeds will go directly to helping cats through FFN programs such as Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR); Foster/Adoption and Low-Income Spay/Neuter. We'd also like to thank everyone who attended events at Pet Valu during the month of April, as well as those who opened their wallets and hearts to make a donation!

And that's not all, the FFN bake sale held at Pet Valu over the weekend of 21 April brought in an additional \$257, while the Yard Sale on 28 April made \$160, bringing the grand total of funds raised to \$3,080!! MEOW!!



Fundraising superstars! Pet Valu manager Kimberley and her staff raised \$2,663 for FFN during their Pet Appreciation Month in April.



10,000 reasons to give in June!

It's June, and the **Great Canadian Giving Challenge** is on. This annual contest awards a registered Canadian charity with a donation of **\$10,000!** Every dollar you donate to Feline Friends Network through **Canada Helps** during the **month of June** is a chance to win.* What would FFN do with an extra \$10,000? We could help SO MANY more cats and kittens through our Trap/Neuter/Return and Foster & Adopt programs, where felines are 'fixed', vaccinated, cared for, and given additional medical care, which homeless cats frequently need. And we could assist more cat owners in financial difficulty with the cost of spay/neuter surgery. There are 10,000 good reasons to make a donation in June! Please go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/gcgc/100242> and give a little or a lot this month.

** minimum \$3 donation required*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

