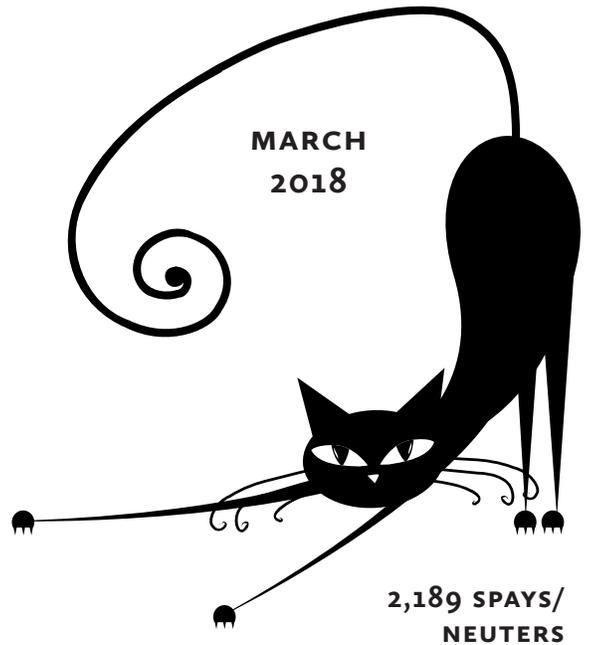


cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Update on Olive

by Holly Roulston

Our blind little girl had her eye surgery done on 20 February 2018. The vet found that one eye was $\frac{1}{8}$ the size it should be and the other $\frac{1}{4}$ of the regular size, indicating that Olive was born with her eyes not properly developed. This discovery may explain her happy-go-lucky attitude – Olive doesn't know life to be any different!

Little Olive is, however, not at all happy about her spay stitches and immediately tries to chew them out whenever her cone is removed, which means that – except when eating – Olive must continue to wear the cone. Luckily the countdown is on and Olive's spay sutures will be removed on Friday, 2 March.

Olive has only gained a single pound since coming into FFN's care on 28 December, although there doesn't appear to be anything wrong with her otherwise. She is a hearty eater and

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AGM Report

by Sharon Morrice

The Feline Friends Network Annual General Meeting was held Sunday, 25 February with forty-eight members in attendance. Treasurer Jamie Lamond reported that FFN is in excellent financial health despite the fact that our vet expenses were up significantly over the past year, due to spaying and neutering more cats though our Trap/Neutre/Return (TNR) and Foster & Adoption programs and providing medical care to them when needed. However, our fundraising and adoption revenue was also up, and we received our first grant of \$2,000 from the Animal Aid Foundation. The 2017 financial statement can be found on our website at www.felinefriends.ca/financial.html.

In 2017, we spayed/neutered 359 cats and kittens (103 for pet owners who qualify as low-income, 122 TNRs, 133 cats and kittens that were fostered and adopted, and 1 cat in our Good Samaritan program). We continue to find fewer actually "feral" cats on the streets and more that are friendly, homeless, and unsterilized.

2017 was a successful fundraising year, in part thanks to local pet supply stores Pet Valu and Global Pet Foods, who ran in-store fundraisers

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the other cats in her foster home know better than to try to muscle in on her food dish!

Olive is looking for a special adoptive home where she can cuddle with the family canine. She loves to attack (feline or canine) back ends – all in fun, of course! Do you have a laidback dog (and cat or cats) that would tolerate her antics? Because of Olive's petite size we cannot adopt her into a home with small children or older children who are high energy as she doesn't know and can't see to get out of harm's way.

You might find the idea of adopting a blind kitten out of the question – we admit, we thought so too – but once you meet this tiny tough nut, you will have a completely different attitude. Olive has no problem with stairs and learns the “lay of the land” quickly. She will be a treasure to the special person who adopts her!

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR VIDEOS?

If not, please visit our website Adoption Page (www.felinefriends.ca/adoptions.html) to see how FFN is getting the word out that ALL cats – regardless of disability – deserve a loving home. We'd like to thank Robyn, who designed this campaign, and local celebrities Brittlestar and Claire Lautier who donated their time to help make it happen. And, of course, kudos to our feline stars, Mowgli and Loverboy!



Loverboy is one of the FFN's less-adoptable-cats.

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for FFN. Our main fundraiser remains the Wine Raffle, while Giving Tuesday, four online auctions, Pat Burnell's increased Puddy Products sales, and the Feline Film Festival, as well as donations from many generous donors (thank you!), were significant sources of revenue.

In its third full year, our Foster & Adoption program, run by Holly Roulston and Marg Usprech, found loving homes for 133 cats by using social media and, occasionally, placement in-store at Pet Valu, Global Pet Foods, and Feed-All Pet Centre. A well-earned thanks to our wonderful foster homes, more of which are much needed so that we can care for more cats.

FFN still offers TNR and a barn cat program but has begun to ask applicants to do more of the work involved in trapping and driving cats to and from vet appointments (traps and training provided).

Two new board members were elected this year: Marg Usprech, who has volunteered with FFN extensively in TNR, Foster & Adoption, fundraising and social media; and Shelley Doucette, a long-time member and foster care volunteer. Four experienced board members will remain: Jamie Lamond, Sharon Morrice, Sue Pasquale, and Holly Roulston.

It's a time of transition for FFN, with Cheryl and Paul Simpson stepping back from their roles as board members and from many of the volunteer duties they have so selflessly taken on since Cheryl founded our organization in 2006. Cheryl and Paul have set a high standard and inspired many to become involved in FFN's mission to reduce cat overpopulation and homelessness in Stratford-Perth County. With well over 2,000 spays and neuters, it's safe to say that the births of many thousands of homeless kittens have been prevented. Much has been accomplished but more remains to be done!

The cat seldom interferes with other people's rights. His intelligence keeps him from doing many of the fool things that complicate life.

– Carl Van Vechten



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY CATS

It has been a difficult winter for our community cat colonies. We can't thank our colony feeders enough for all the work they do – in all weather – to make sure our furry gangs are cared for! Pictured above right, Cecile Munro shovels out an FFN feeding station, while below, two community cats enjoy a meal.

AND MORE THANKS ...

To the employees at Your Neighbourhood Credit Union whose casual Fridays initiative raised \$543.12 to support FFN's programs in 2018.

To Stratford Pet Valu who once again have chosen FFN as their fundraising partner for this year. Kimberley and staff – you rock!!

IN REMEMBRANCE

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of long-time FFN volunteer Charlie Vince. Charlie looked after the Kemp colony for many years. He loved those guys. May Charlie meet other felines to care for on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge.



There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast. – Unknown

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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