

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Samson a.k.a. The No Frills Kitty

by Marg Usprech and Shelly Doucette

This poor lost soul was hiding in the cart section of the No Frills Store when he was brought to our attention. Samson was in pretty rough shape and very hungry. We placed him in a recovery foster home, where he was nursed back to health. Once he was feeling better, we transferred him to his second foster home for further one-on-one care.

Samson has had a long road to physical and mental recovery. We don't know where he came from or what his previous life was like but we know he has seen extreme hardship. However, through the love of his fosters Lynn and Shelly and volunteer Kim, Samson has learned to love and trust again. We have all grown fond of Samson but it is time for him to find his forever home. He will need a quiet home where he gets lots of one-on-one time.

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Stratford City Council votes YES to pet sale ban!

by Sharon Morrice

It's official – Stratford will become the 17th Canadian city to enact a bylaw banning the retail sale of unsterilized pets in pet stores.

Stratford City Council made the decision at its April 9 meeting to require pet stores to source cats and dogs from reputable rescues and shelters only. Council also voted to make it obligatory for cats and dogs be spayed or neutered before adoption, along with a long list of other recommendations made by the Animal Control Bylaw Working Group, in which FFN participated.

Thank you to all who supported this effort by attending meetings and contacting Councillors! Special recognition to Jenna and Angela, whose arguments in favour of the bylaw were crucial, and to Councillor Kathy Vassilakos, whose support was a key factor in a "yes" vote. We will keep you posted on an implementation date.

There are people who reshape the world by force or argument, but the cat just lies there, dozing, and the world quietly reshapes itself to suit his comfort and convenience.

– Allen and Ivy Dodd

A warm welcome

The Foster/Adoption Team

FFN is thrilled to welcome Kim Jouwsma to our foster/adoption team.

Many of the cats that come into FFN's care are not truly feral, but rather cats that have either been abandoned or displaced. These cats have been living in fear on the streets for months or sometimes years. They need to feel safe and learn to trust humans again.

This is where Kim – who is a natural at socializing cats – comes in. Kim works with the cat and the foster in a home setting. She spends one-on-one time with the cats, assessing each one and creating an individual program for the foster to follow.

Kim believes that every day is a learning process and being open to new ideas and techniques is the key to success with these cats. Her love for cats extends to all living creatures.



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Samson's current foster mom, Shelly Doucette, writes:

When Samson arrived at my house he was very scared. His fur was in rough shape and he hid from me.

With patience and love he learned to trust me. I tell him I love him every day. I can pet him and even pick him up. He will sit on my knee and eat treats. He has turned into the biggest love bug I have ever met. Samson loves to play and has lots of energy. He is a good eater and a gentleman in the litter box.

His little pink tongue hangs out and he looks so cute. The hardest part of being a foster mom ... I love them all!

As you can see, Samson is truly special! If you are interested in adopting him, please contact holly@felinefriends.ca or marg@felinefriends.ca to arrange a meet & greet.

MEMBER DISCOUNT CHANGE

We are excited to announce that the Stratford-based company, Shuttercraft Window Coverings, is now offering a 10% discount to FFN members on all products – interior shutters, shades, blinds and exterior shades, screens and canopies. Please visit shuttercraft.ca, email dan@shuttercraft.ca, or call 519-271-1207 for more information. Please note that the discount does not apply to installation fees and cannot be combined with other offers.



Just because I'm roaming doesn't mean I'm lost ...

by Holly Roulston

Did you know that, while cats have been around for 10,000 years, litter wasn't invented until 1946! For most of their existence up until that time, cats lived primarily outdoors. With our harsh Canadian winters, many of us struggle with the idea of seeing a cat outdoors but it can be difficult to tell whether the cat needs our help and/or what kind of help it needs.

If you feel a cat in your neighbourhood needs help, before contacting FFN or your local shelter/rescue, ask yourself and your neighbours the following questions:

- Is the cat sick or injured?
- How long has the cat been seen in the neighbourhood?
- Is the cat trying to get into your home?
- If the cat is friendly, has anyone looked for an ear or belly tattoo or had the cat scanned for a microchip?

If the cat appears healthy, don't instantly assume that the best course of action is to take the cat in to a shelter. SHELTERS are only designed to help ADOPTABLE cats ... and many cats do not appear to be adoptable when they are frightened. In many shelters, the percentage of cats who have been brought to the shelter who are returned to their owners (also called the "rate of return") is 2-3%. The odds are not good.

And don't assume that a cat is starving simply because it gobbled up a plate of canned cat food. The cat may not be fed that flavour or type of food at home, eating this special treat as if it hasn't had a meal in a week.

Instead, try to discover whether the cat has a home by producing and distributing a "Found" poster of the cat and posting its picture and description to the local "Lost and Found Pets" page on social media. For Stratford, the page is "Lost and Found Pets of Stratford

on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/lostpetstratfordperthcanada/>. Make sure your poster and your social media posts express your concern for the cat (no judgement if the cat is an indoor/outdoor cat) and that you are giving an accurate description of the cat. You can refer to this guide for help: <https://www.alleycat.org/resources/quick-guide-for-identifying-cats/>. And contact the vet clinics and shelters in your area in the event that someone has reported their pet missing.

Check the cat for a tattoo – usually found in the ear or on the belly. If there are no visible signs, ask your local vet if they would scan the cat for a microchip. Be sure to ask that they check the entire body of the cat – microchips have been known to migrate, moving from the place they were initially inserted).

If the cat is friendly enough to pet, you can also purchase a breakaway collar and put it on the cat with a note asking the owner to contact you and providing your name and phone number (plus a smiley face). Roll the note up tightly and tape it to the collar asking that the owner of the cat contact you if it has a home.

And lastly, if you live in Perth County/Town of Tavistock and you have followed these steps and still need help with a homeless cat please contact us to find out more about our TNR/Foster/Adoption programs and how you might be able to help that cat through one of those programs!

MEMBER DISCOUNT CHANGE

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, Pet Valu Stratford is no longer able to offer a discount to FFN members. Member discounts are provided as a courtesy, and may change at the discretion of the business owner.

Pet Valu Stratford is still a major supporter of FFN, and we thank them for once again choosing us as their charity of the month for April. Pet Valu also continues to partner with FFN for in-store kitten adoptions. We appreciate Pet Valu's ongoing support and we hope our members will continue to support them.





WITH SYMPATHY

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Erika Grace Mohr, who passed away on 10 April 2018. Passionate about animal biology, Erika would have studied Zoology at the University of Guelph in the fall. FFN is honoured to have been named a recipient of charitable donations in her memory. The generous contributions made in her name will help us care for cats and kittens through our spay and neuter and foster and adoption programs.

Successful spring online auction raises \$1,300

Having raised \$1,300, we are very pleased with the results of FFN's spring online auction and hope to hold online auctions on a regular basis (provided items are available).

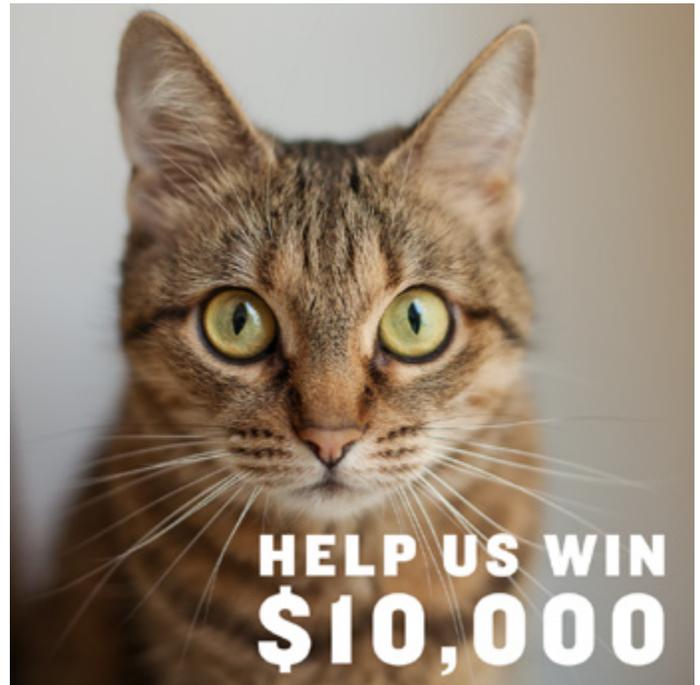
If you're looking for a way to help, you could use up some of your Canadian Tire or Optimum points by picking up an item (it doesn't have to be pet related) to donate to the auction. Popular items include books, gift sets, outdoor patio décor (lanterns/citronella candles/pretty pillows) etc. And if you've received a gift certificate to a store you never patronize or a gift that isn't to

your taste, we would love to have them for an upcoming auction. Gently used items are also accepted.

If you have something to donate, contact Holly@felinefriends.ca or call 519 284 2649 and leave a message.

If we had \$10,000...

We would spay and neuter more cats, of course! The Great Canadian Giving Challenge is coming June 1st! It's a national public contest to benefit a registered Canadian charity. You can help Feline Friends Network win a \$10,000 donation with every donation (min. \$3) that you make during the month of June. Every dollar donated to FFN at either CanadaHelps.org or givingchallenge.ca automatically enters us to win. Please watch our Facebook page and website for details!



*If you are worthy of its affection,
a cat will be your friend, but
never your slave.*

– Theophile Gautier

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

