

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

## Building a No-Kill Community

A talk by Sean Kelly, past president of NSSPCA



They say it takes a village to raise a child and FFN believes it takes an entire community to achieve a No-Kill approach to animal welfare. A No-Kill approach means that we try to save as many animals as we can and that we help ALL animals that might enter the shelter system – from dogs and cats, to rabbits, guinea pigs, and pet rats. No-Kill means that euthanasia is truly the last resort, used only for animals whose suffering cannot be alleviated by any medical means or those who are so aggressive that there is no chance of rehabilitation.

In the wake of the uproar that followed the tragic killing of 21 cats at the Stratford-Perth Humane Society, the Stratford community has a unique opportunity to change our approach to animal welfare. FFN invites animal lovers of all stripes to “Building a No-Kill Community,” an informative talk by animal advocate Sean Kelly, past president of the Nova Scotia SPCA.

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## Upscale Yardsale raises more than \$1,200

*Pat Burnell*

You came in droves, grabbed your drinks and nibbles, and descended into the “market” area to buy. And buy you did – to the tune of over \$1,200! You walked away with purses, scarves, jewellery, large pieces of art, and bags of books, leaving behind your generosity and caring.

You made it clear that you enjoyed this event and want it to continue and FFN is listening. Cheryl and I are already planning next year’s sale with a new Gourmet section and an Upscale Bake Sale.

While you’re putting aside jewellery that you have “out-grown” and once-read books, we hope you’ll think about any specialty kitchen or cookware that you’ve been “storing” and might like to contribute. We also hope to include a raffle or two, so if you’re on a first-name basis with any one of Stratford’s star chefs or have a line on “gourmet goods” – start networking!

A huge THANK YOU to the generosity of those who donated and those who came to buy.

P.S. All the “leftovers” have gone to another yardsale to be held by Holly Roulston in April in St. Mary’s, with proceeds coming back to FFN.

The NSSPCA is one of Canada's leading No-Kill animal shelters and Sean was instrumental in its successful reorganization. In his talk, Sean will explain the No-Kill concept and give an overview of the No-Kill Equation developed by Nathan Winograd. He will also share his experience implementing a No-Kill policy at the Nova Scotia SPCA, discuss relationship-building among animal welfare organizations, and offer suggestions for how Stratford can initiate its own No-Kill strategy.

Sean's talk will be followed by a Q&A session that will give community members a chance to ask questions.

#### ABOUT SEAN KELLY

Born and raised in Newfoundland, Sean is a 21-year veteran of the Canadian Navy. A life-long animal lover and advocate, he first joined the Nova Scotia SPCA (NSSPCA) as a Volunteer Special Constable. After realizing that the NSSPCA was a high-kill organization and that there could be a better way, Sean helped organize a group of hard-working individuals who rebuilt the NSSPCA into a No-Kill humane society. He joined the board of directors in 2008 and in 2009 was elected president. During his term on the executive, the NSSPCA spear-headed a campaign to build a No-Kill province. Sean left the board of directors in 2011 on excellent terms and still supports the NSSPCA's outstanding work. He now consults with rescue groups and humane societies across Canada and speaks to the public about animal welfare. Sean specializes in non-conventional approaches to achieving No-Kill success and helping organizations to create strategic plans for implementing No-Kill policies.



## Trixie's Journey

In 2008, Trixie was a feral kitten who, along with her two siblings, was trapped, neutered, and returned to her outdoor home in Stratford by FFN. When her two siblings disappeared, the colony caretaker took Trixie into her home.

Fast forward to February 2013 when the Stratford-based rescue group Paws of Perth County took Trixie in after the death of her human companion. Because Trixie appeared to be very frightened and had an "eartip," Paws wondered whether she might be a feral cat and part of a colony. Once they contacted FFN, it didn't take long to put the pieces of the puzzle together. And, as Trixie grew more comfortable in her foster home, it became obvious that, while stressed, she was certainly not feral, but only a shy social cat craving love and attention.

Trixie needs our help to find her a new loving home. FFN will update her vaccines through our Cinderella Fund and she will very soon be ready for adoption.

All of us reading this newsletter know how hard it is to find a home for an adult cat, but we all have cat-loving friends, so please put on your thinking caps and let's get this girl settled in a wonderful new home as soon as possible!

Anyone interested in meeting Trixie can contact Joanne Moeser of Paws of Perth County at [joanne.moeser@sympatico.ca](mailto:joanne.moeser@sympatico.ca) or 519-272-0848.

*To see other Stratford cats and dogs in need of new homes, visit the Paws of Perth County Facebook page.*

## Feline Film Festival Call for Entries

DEADLINE 1 MAY 2013

Cat videos. We know you love to make them. We know you love to watch them. We know you love to email them to your friends. Now we want you to share them with us! We're going to select the finest short feline films and put them together for one fantastic public showing on Friday, 7 June at 7:00 pm at the Stratford City Hall Auditorium.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Send us links to your favourite cat videos. They must be under 3 minutes long and on public video sharing sites like youtube. Or, send us the funny videos you've made of your own cat.

To nominate a video, email the link to [films@felinefriends.ca](mailto:films@felinefriends.ca).

To send us a video you have created, send an email to [sharon@uberdesign.ca](mailto:sharon@uberdesign.ca) and she will send you an upload link. All popular formats like quicktime, avi, mpeg or flv will be accepted.

### SPREAD THE WORD!

Make the first Feline Film Festival into a fabulously furry success by sharing this Call for Entries with all your contacts!



## furry farewells



Boots (right) with his buddy Patches

### AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

*Pat Burnell*

Ten years ago Boots galloped down the street after a leaf, made a hard right onto our front porch, nosed Patches, and stayed. The two strays lived outside for two years, becoming inseparable. When we planned to move to Stratford, the decision to bring them both inside was a no-brainer. Inside cats they became, with Boots occasionally demonstrating his free spirit and sense of adventure by jumping the fence during "supervised play time."

This past September, the indefatigable, blustery black-and-white cat with the indomitable spirit and huge paws began to decline. No amount of vet visits, blood tests, or x-rays could determine the source of his illness. Finally, at the end of February, I agreed to acquiesce to his silent, powerful plea to be released.

If watching your beloved cat slip into a gentle sleep and shed the bonds of life can be called beautiful, Boots' departure was. He is now bounding freely amongst a myriad of leaves, revelling in his ability to eat again.

Patches is coping without his buddy, as are the rest of us. He gave a buoyancy to our home. His energy lives on.

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE  
OF *CAT TALES* – RENEW YOUR  
FFN MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

