

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

The Christmas spirit

Traditionally, Christmas is a time to talk about “Peace”. In the spirit of the season, the theme of this newsletter is “collaboration” – how FFN is working with organizations both inside and outside of Perth County to bring peace to the animal welfare community, a place where emotions often run high and disagreements among organizations are common.

For example, on 17 November 2013, FFN hosted the first meeting of the new Animal Welfare Coalition, with representatives from the Stratford-Perth Humane Society, as well as the rescues PAWS of Perth County and Angel Arms. This fledgling group, which we hope will grow over time, has agreed to meet bi-monthly to discuss animal issues – and ways to address them – that are important to us all. You’ll hear more about our plans in the months to come.

FFN collaborates in other ways as well: locally, we sponsor spay/neuter costs for cats up for adoption through PAWS of Perth County and – through Evelyn’s Fund (aka the FFN Cinderella Fund) – provide financial assistance for extra medical treatment to any Perth County rescue with a cat in need. In addition, we are partnering with the new non-profit East Village Animal Hospital (E.V.A.H.) in London to help solve the cat overpopulation problem in our area. Both PAWS and E.V.A.H. are profiled in the pages of this newsletter.

So, good things are happening! The road ahead may still be bumpy, but it’s encouraging to know that many hands are willing and able to change the inevitable flat tires. Our collective goal, after all, is the same – to reach that magical place where “homeless” cats are a thing of the past.



'Tis the season to be jolly ...

December’s calendar is full of ways to celebrate the season with FFN!

Saturday, 14 December 2013

Two very special feline festivities:

The PAWS of Perth County adoptathon at Global Pet Foods (684 Ontario Street in Stratford) from 10 am to 6 pm, featuring 15 kittens and several cats up for adoption. The suggested \$50 donation for each adoption includes s/n, de-flea, de-worm, and vaccination.

“Pat’s Puddy Products Christmas Sale” from 11 am to 2 pm at 16 Fern Street. Cat-themed gifts and stocking stuffers – including catoques, catotes, and pussy pants – for the whole family and Christmas treats for shoppers. Best of all, ALL the money raised goes to FFN. Come by! Come browse! Come buy!

Saturday, 21 December 2013

Can’t make it to Pat’s Puddy Products Christmas Sale? Not to worry. Many of the same feline-tastic items will be on sale at the FFN booth at the Stratford Farmer’s Market, 7 am to noon at the Rotary Complex.

Collaborating for the cats

PAWS OF PERTH COUNTY

PAWS of Perth County is a small, non-profit, volunteer-run organization that aims to rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home neglected, abused, abandoned, and surrendered domestic animals from Stratford and surrounding areas in Perth County. PAWS provides medical care for these animals when needed and makes sure that they are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, de-wormed, and de-fleaed when they are adopted or fostered-to-adopt. Whenever possible, PAWS also tries to educate the public on the ethical and humane treatment of animals, and the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

For more information on PAWS, you can email them at pawsofperthcounty@gmail.com or contact Pam Edwards (left, 519.949.1695) or Joanne Moeser (right, 519.272.0848).



E.V.A.H.

The East Village Animal Hospital, scheduled to open in early 2014 at 1777 Dundas Street in London, will run a 'High Volume Spay/Neuter (HVSN) Clinic' and also offer general medicine and surgery services for pets in the care of non-profit foster home and shelter-based rescue groups, as well as low-income individuals and persons on social assistance. The hospital is associated with Humane Alliance, a US-based leader in HVSN clinic development, through a partnership with Animal Outreach, a London-based registered charity. E.V.A.H. will service London and twelve surrounding counties.

To access the hospital's services, pet guardians will submit an application and provide documentation to verify their non-profit rescue, low-income, or social assistance status. E.V.A.H. is also collaborating with Progressive Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) in London to care for the pets of vulnerable individuals during times of crisis.

Feline Friends Network wholly supports this much-needed hospital, and applauds doctors Martha Harding and Tracy Satchell (pictured above with the keys to the 1777 Dundas Street location) as well as London's Animal Outreach and PAWS (London) for daring to make this dream a reality.



Merry merry!



FFN would like to wish all our members a very merry holiday season and all the best in 2014. We'd also like to thank all of you who gave so generously on

GivingTuesday. And, last but most definitely not least, a very heartfelt "THANK YOU!!" to all our volunteers and supporters, without whom there wouldn't be a Feline Friends Network ...

Looking for love

by Kristen de Groot and Monty

Hello, my name is Monty – at least, that’s what the humans call me. They guess I am between 5 and 7 years old, but really, don’t you know it is bad manners to ask a cat his age?! Once upon a time, I had some humans who looked after me. But then they just stopped. I don’t know why. I don’t claw the furniture. I use my litter box. I like giving cuddles. I do talk a lot, maybe that was the problem. At any rate, I found myself alone, which isn’t exactly an easy thing for a house cat – there were no more bowls of kibble and I didn’t know how to hunt. Before I knew it I was starving. Other cats chased me away and I lost part of my ear in one of the tussles.

Then, one day, exhausted, starving, and freezing, I found a white door. I cried and cried at the door and a nice lady and her family let me in and gave me food, water, a bed, and a litter box. But then something went terribly wrong. Suddenly, I couldn’t see! And I couldn’t make my legs do what I wanted them to anymore. I was scared. But I went to the vet, who gave me fluids and a bunch of tests, and – most importantly – a lot of love! After about a week, I woke up in my kennel, opened my eyes, and I could see again!!!



At this point, the story is picked up by Kristen, the kind lady from behind the white door ...

As some of you may know from following the FFN page on FB, Monty has had quite an adventure. At the moment we are still working at putting some weight back on him. He is a very vocal, attention-starved fella. This may change once he learns to trust that food will come every day, but I think his cuddle-bug tendencies are a permanent aspect of his personality. Monty needs a furr-ever home – most probably one with no other cats – and I hope that the miraculous return of his sight, his tenacity to survive when, quite honestly, I feared we had found him too late, show that this little boy is meant to have all the love in the world. If you have a place in your heart and your home for little Monty, adopt this little sweetheart ! Your lap will always be warm, you will always know how much he loves and appreciates you, and with how much he talks, you can never be accused of talking to yourself !

If you are interested in giving this wonderful guy a home for the holidays, please email PAWS of Perth County at pawsofperthcounty@gmail.com, phone them at 519.949.1695, or come visit Monty in person at this Saturday’s adoptathon, 10 am to 6 pm at Global Pet Foods (684 Ontario Street in Stratford).





where are they now?

Remember orphaned Georgie (above left), the sweet 6-week-old kitten found all by his lonesome this summer outside an FFN member's condo building? And poor Beethoven (above right) who came to FFN with two infected bite wounds on his face?

Life is definitely a whole lot brighter for both these rescues. Georgie was fostered by FFN member Jean Tidman and adopted by Maggie Newcombe. As you can see from the photo below left, Maggie and Georgie have become the best of friends.

Beethoven's bite wounds were treated through FFN's Cinderella/Evelyn's fund and he was fostered by Brenda and Dave White. The Whites rapidly grew so fond of Mr "Roll Over Beethoven" that they adopted him! He's the handsome fellow at right below.

Huzzah for happy endings!



FFN's Annual General Meeting takes place Sunday, 23 February 2014, at 2pm at the Optimist Hall (downstairs), 72 Water Street.

FFN on parade!

A few photos of FFN's appearance at the 2013 Santa Claus Parade. Thanks to everyone who participated or came out to cheer us on.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

