

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

## New vision and direction for Stratford-Perth Humane Society

If you've been following local news, you'll know that the Community Council of the Stratford-Perth Humane Society recently announced a new vision that will see the shelter commit to achieving a 90% "live-release rate" – which means that 90% of the animals coming into the shelter will be reunited with their original owners or adopted by new ones.

Achieving this goal will effectively make the Stratford-Perth Humane Society a "No-Kill" shelter.

"No-Kill" is a concept that is frequently misunderstood so FFN would like to take this opportunity to explain our use of the term and dispell some common misconceptions. The following information is distilled from the Paws4Change web site ([paws4change.org](http://paws4change.org)) and a No-Kill primer published by the No Kill Advocacy Center ([nokilladvocacycenter.org](http://nokilladvocacycenter.org)).

### WHAT NO-KILL IS *NOT*

Unfortunately, for many people in Ontario, the term "No-Kill" has become linked to the horrible situation at the Toronto Humane Society where a nominal "no-kill" policy led to animals being overcrowded and neglected. Institutionalized hoarding is *not* the true meaning of the No-Kill concept.

### WHAT NO-KILL IS

The "No-Kill" concept defines a culture in which the ultimate goal is to save as many lives as possible. Under the No-Kill philosophy, euthanasia is only used in cases where the animal is truly suffering and it is not possible to alleviate that suffering by medical means OR where the animal is so aggressive that it cannot be rehabilitated even by an expert and thus poses a danger to public safety.

*/continued on page 2*



## Changing for the better

New measures that will ensure a better environment for animals in the care of the Stratford-Perth Humane Society include:

- expanding the foster home network;
- holding more "adoptathons";
- high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter services;
- collaboration with FFN's TNR program;
- transparency of financial status;
- and publication of operating statistics with respect to shelter intake, adoption rates, and the extent of and reasons for incidences of euthanasia.

## REMINDER

**FFN Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday, 10 February 2013**  
**2:30 pm**  
**Optimist Hall**  
**(lower meeting room)**  
**72 Water Street**

*/continued from page 1*

### NO-KILL IS COST EFFECTIVE

Many of the programs identified as key components of a No-Kill policy that saves lives are also more cost-effective than impounding, warehousing, and then killing animals.

### NO-KILL IS ACHIEVABLE

Successfully implementing the “No-Kill” paradigm takes commitment and hard work. Many of the key components for success will be familiar from the new measures being put in place by the Stratford-Perth Humane Society:

- TNR programs mean fewer feral cats being euthanized and fewer kittens being born
- high-volume, low-cost, spay/neuter programs also help reduce overpopulation
- involving rescue groups can free up kennel space and reduce costs
- volunteer foster care for very young, sick, injured, or behaviourally-challenged animals is cost-effective and helps save more lives
- comprehensive adoption programs lead to more animals finding forever homes
- helping people solve the problems they are having with their pets can reduce the number of animals surrendered to the shelter
- comprehensive policies for vaccination, handling, cleaning, socialization, care, and rehabilitation increase the shelter’s efficiency
- a proactive approach means more lost animals returned to their families
- shelters need to publicize their activities and earn the trust of their communities so that the public will support their efforts through donations of time and money
- committed volunteers make the difference between success and failure and, for the animals, life and death.
- a compassionate shelter director is essential

For more information on implementing No-Kill, visit [www.nokilladvocacycenter.org](http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org).

## Seeking donations for the FFN Upscale Yardsale

FFN is asking members for donations for its second annual Upscale Yardsale. Last year’s event raised \$1,000 to help local cats. Hosts Pat Burnell and Cheryl Simpson hope to beat that tally and to that end, they are seeking donations of:

- Books in excellent condition  
(NO TEXT BOOKS PLEASE)
- Jewellery
- DVDs and CDs in excellent condition
- Accessories, both fashion and home

Donations can be dropped off between 25 February and 4 March at 16 Fern Street.

If you want any unsold items returned to you please indicate this by providing your address and phone number on the item.

If you want a minimum price for your donation, please indicate this as well and it will be returned if it doesn’t sell at that price.

The Upscale Yardsale will take place on Thursday, 7 March 2013 at 16 Fern Street between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. Sales are CASH only.

Wine will be served and nibbles will be provided courtesy of Chefs Larry and Paul.

If you came last year, you know this event is not to be missed. So mark your calendar and bring a friend or two. Pat and Cheryl look forward to seeing you!



NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

