

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

Fantastic film fest raises over \$1,600

FFN's first Feline Film Fest, held 7 June 2013, was a resounding success, with approximately ninety people in attendance. There was much laughter and many other sounds of appreciation as the audience watched the screening of thirty-six films.

Audience members voted to select the winning videos in the categories of Original Video and Public Video. In Original Videos, *Angel's Story* by Lilian Szilagy was first and *Hope* by Kristen De Groot second. In Public Videos, first place went to *Henri 2, Paw de Deux*, with *Cowboys Herding Cats* in second place. Links to these videos can be found on the FFN website under 'Events', at felinefriends.ca/events.

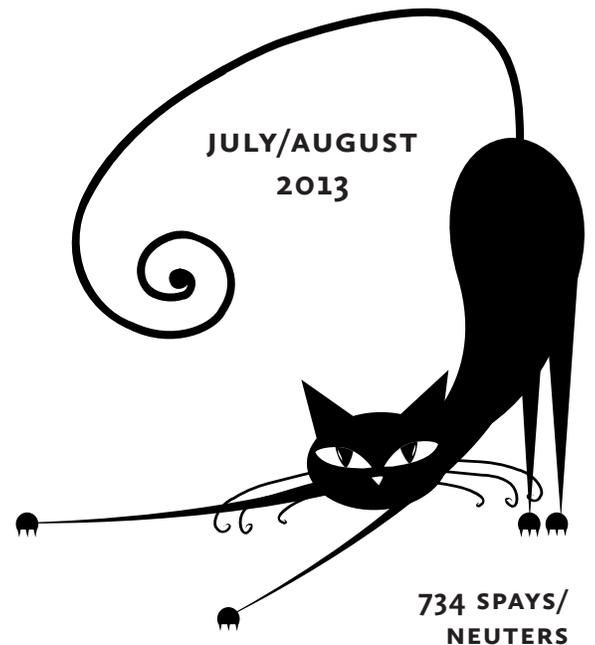
In addition to cat videos, the audience also enjoyed wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres, as well as a silent auction, Pat's Puddy Products, and Tarot readings. After expenses, more than \$1,600 was raised in support of FFN's programs!

FFN is extremely grateful to everyone who attended or volunteered, with special thanks to Dawn Bell of The Wine Rack, Joe Tuer of Stratford Brewing Company, L&M Catering, and Global Pet Foods for their generous donations.

SATURDAY, 24 AUGUST 2013
10 AM-3 PM

Catapawlooza!

UPPER & LOWER OPTIMIST HALLS, 72 WATER STREET



Catapawlooza in new location for 2013

Catapawlooza is going indoors this year – avoiding the winds that play havoc with tents and displays – and will be held from **10 am to 3 pm** on **Saturday, 24 August 2013**, in both **Upper and Lower Optimist Halls** at **72 Water Street**.

The Adopt-a-thon is the main event with spayed/neutered cats and kittens available for adoption. There will also be guest speakers on a number of cat-related issues, educational displays, and vendors giving away freebies, as well as "Tabby's Tatts" temporary tattoos, a barbecue, and free claw-clipping. Admission is free but donations of cat food are always greatly appreciated.

Come on out and meet the FFN crew at a day of feline-themed fun for cat lovers of all ages!

Wine raffle tickets go on sale at the beginning of August

Tickets for the 4th Annual FFN Wine Raffle will go on sale at the beginning of August. This year's prizes are:

- 1st prize – 78 bottles of wine (value \$1,050)
- 2nd prize, PS3/Controller and Games Pkge (value \$600)
- 3rd Prize – 2 CRP chairs and matching table in the winner's choice of available colours (value \$600).

The winning ticket will be drawn at 4:20 pm on National Feral Cat Day, 16 October 2013, by Jim Fewer of FM 1077. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and will be available in Stratford at Boomer's Fries, Chocolate Barrs, and the Wine Rack (at Zehr's), and in St. Marys at the St. Marys Vet Clinic and Carpe Vinum. Other locations are yet to be confirmed. Tickets will also be available from all FFN board members. Anyone wishing to sell tickets, please contact Holly (519-284-2649) or Cheryl (519-273-8067).

VOLUNTEER WITH FFN

Did you know that FFN is staffed entirely by volunteers? We're currently on the hunt for cool cat lovers who would like to

- work with our Trap/Neuter/Return program
- answer the FFN cell phone
- sell wine raffle tickets
- put up posters for Catapawlooza
- help out at Catapawlooza
- foster a cat or kittens

To sign up or for more information, contact Cheryl Simpson at 519-273-8067.



Handsome & loving guy seeks single-cat forever home

This sweet 1½-year-old long-haired neutered black male cat is looking for a home where he will be the centre of attention and only cat. He showed up at the door of FFN member Holly Roulston's home last October, starving and unneutered but obviously not feral. Thanks to FFN, he was neutered, dewormed, vaccinated, and given his rabies shot.

Holly initially hoped to integrate him with her five cats but, unfortunately, he is very dominant with other cats and efforts failed. With people, however, it's a different story. He was excellent for the vet (has been there once since October for an ear infection) and easy to work with, letting Holly and her husband put drops in his ears twice daily. He is a total lap cat, loves to be brushed, and is very clean. He also enjoys playing with toys and being outside but never strays from Holly's yard.

If you or someone you know is looking for an only cat, this handsome guy would be a wonderful loving addition to your household. For more information, call Holly at 519-284-2649.

Dehydration is a real risk for cats in the summer heat, so constant access to water is essential. Keep that water bowl topped up!



Beethoven's ode to joy

Earlier this spring, an orange and white male cat was identified as a candidate for FFN's Trap/Neuter/Return program. When he was trapped for his surgery, he was in terrible condition, with two large infected bite wounds on his face. The vet asked Cheryl to keep him for a couple of days so that he could heal before he was released. Thinking he was feral, Cheryl put him in a dog crate. But on the second day, when she went into the crate to feed him and clean it, he bumped against her hand. She opened the crate door wider and he came out and threw himself down beside her leg for a pet and a brush. It was obvious that this cat had been loved once, perhaps a long time ago, and Cheryl was determined that he would get the chance to be loved again. She asked FFN member Brenda White if she would be willing to foster the cat until FFN could find a home for him.

"For the first few days," Brenda said, "we only saw the fur in the cat carrier – and what a lot of fur!" Soon, though, the orange and white bundle moved under the bed, coming out sometimes for food and water and to use the litterbox.

"One day the fur ball moved closer and I was able to pet him," Brenda recalls, "Oh, what a beautiful boy he was – and becoming better looking and cleaner as time went by."

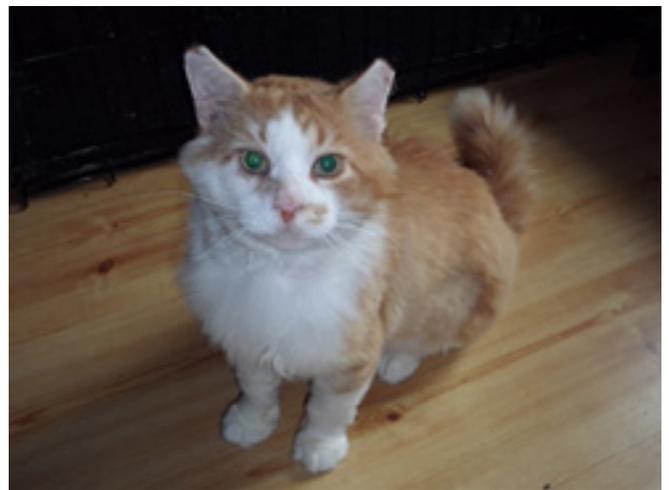
This was Brenda and her husband's first experience of fostering. "We learned that trust takes quite a while. I think Beethoven was listening and waiting to hear my voice."

Over a month later, Beethoven has settled right in. He comes downstairs every night around 8:30 pm and Brenda gently lifts him up and holds him. "He cuddles his head under my arm and closes his eyes and waits for a brushing. Under all that fur was a gentle loving guy."

When Beethoven is really happy, Brenda explains, "he rolls over and waits for belly rubs – hence his name, 'Roll Over Beethoven!'"



Beethoven after the vet treated the infected bites on his face



Now handsome and healthy, Beethoven has found a forever home with Brenda White and her husband

Beethoven has crept into the hearts of Brenda and her husband and they have decided to keep him. "He just needed a chance to show that he was a large bundle of LOVE waiting for a home. Fostering Beethoven has given myself and my husband an understanding of just how much cats can love and be loved. They give as much love as they get and we certainly receive more love than we ever imagined from Beethoven."

WANT TO GIVE A CAT A
HAPPY ENDING? READ ABOUT
DOLAN ON PAGE 4 ...



Sweet boy looking for that special someone

In May of this year, FFN received a call about an injured and frightened stray that appeared to be living in Stratford's T.J. Dolan nature area. Because FFN's mandate is not rescue, we would normally direct a stray cat call to the Humane Society. However, we knew that if the cat was unsocialized – as seemed to be the case – his chances of adoption would be slim. So, once assured that he wasn't lost, FFN members Susan Montgomery and Margery Leggott humanely trapped the aptly named "Dolan" and foster parent Julia Vryheid took him in.

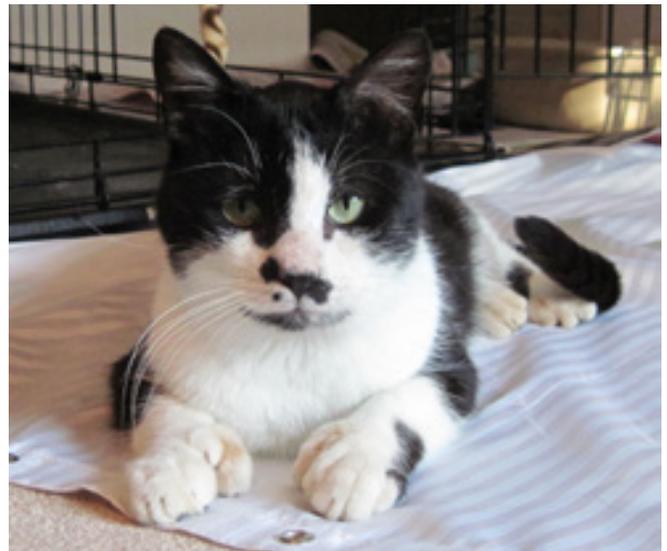
Julia recalls that his arrival was not propitious. "He was hissing, dirty, and terrified. He had lacerations on his ear and front legs and was so thin there was no flesh and scant fur on the back of his hind legs." At first, Dolan cowered in the cat carrier, coming out to eat only when the bedroom door was closed. "He ate ferociously every day: two tins of cat food, a cup of dry food, a cup of cat milk, and gallons of water," Julia said, "I've never seen such a thirsty cat."

After just a few days, Dolan started to purr and let Julia stroke his cheek. But a case of the sniffles led to a trip to the vet, where he was diagnosed with a fever and an upper respiratory infection and had an ingrown toe-nail removed. The latter proved to be a pivotal event.

"Four hours after we arrived home," Julia explained, "Dolan strolled into the kitchen for the first time and gave me a piercing come-hither look. I followed him to the bedroom where he happily jumped onto the desk, over my laptop, and into the window ledge. It was as if he was saying, 'Look! I can walk again.'"

Julia says fostering Dolan has been a positive experience, "I learned one thing – don't use a small litterbox if the cat is eating like a lion!"

Once Dolan is well enough to be neutered and have his shots, he will need to find a home. He is approximately 1–2 years old and should



fit nicely into any home. As you can see from the photos, he also has extra toes on his front feet – he is a "polydactyl" – just like Hemingway's cats!

If you or anyone you know is interested in seeing him with an eye to adoption, please call Cheryl Simpson at 519-273-8067. He will have had his distemper and rabies vaccines, be neutered, de-fleaed, and de-wormed before adoption. The adoption fee will be by donation to FFN. (The suggested donation is \$50, but the most important thing to all of us is that Dolan find a lasting, loving home.)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

