

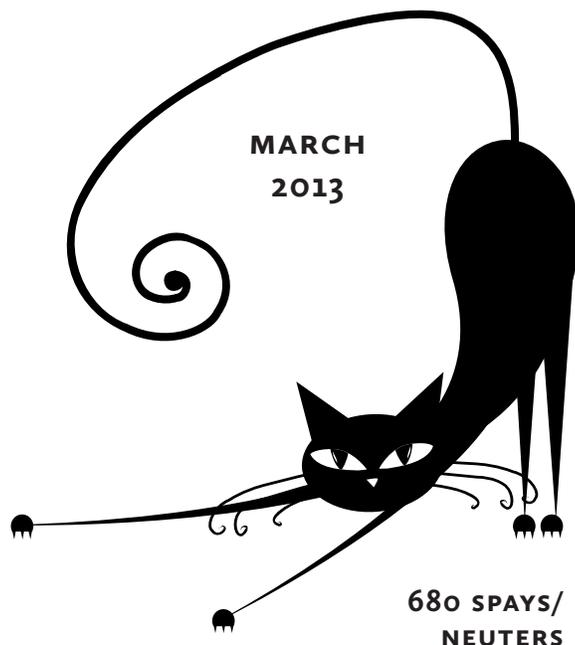
# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

## Upscale Yardsale has bargains galore!

FFN's second annual Upscale Yardsale will take place on Thursday, 7 March 2013 between 6 and 9 pm at 16 Fern Street.

Bring a friend – or two or three! – and snap up some of these amazing bargains. Books, jewellery, home accessories & more! Cheryl and Pat look forward to seeing you.



## Foster family

When Sharon Poelstra offered to foster three kittens for FFN, she had no idea her family was about to get a new *permanent* member. But, as Poelstra found out, sometimes cats decide for themselves.

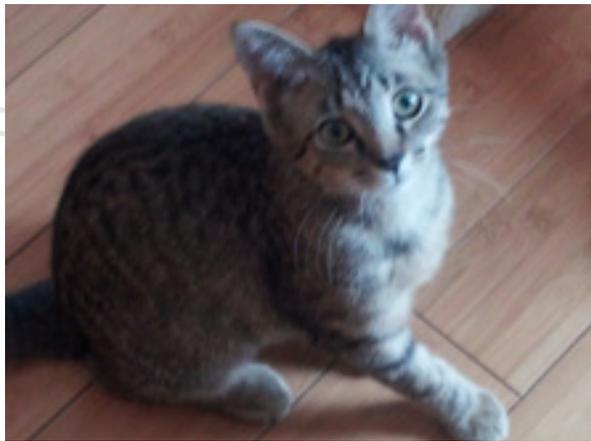
Sharon's nine-year-old son had wanted to do something to help cats ever since he heard the terrible news that 21 cats had been euthanized in a single day at the Stratford-Perth Humane Society. When an FFN colony-caregiver in St. Mary's discovered a mother with three kittens, Sharon and her son offered to foster the babies who – at eight weeks of age – had already learned to be wary of humans..

"We called them Jim, Diva, and Tiger," Poelstra explained, "but we had to rename the last one "TigerLily" after we discovered that she was actually a girl!"

Maybe it was the ferocious name, but TigerLily didn't warm up to her new surroundings quite as quickly as her two siblings. It had taken an extra two days to trap her and whereas Jim and Diva were fascinated by Morris, the family's big orange cat, TigerLily did nothing but hiss at him.

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A recent photo of TigerLily

At first, the three kittens stayed in a large kennel in one of the bedrooms. Sharon brought Morris – who was clearly unimpressed – in to visit. Mulberry Coach, the greyhound, on the other hand, was fascinated, spending hours curled up on the bed watching the kittens.

Weeks 2 and 3 saw the kittens given the run of the room, at first only during the day and then at night as well. Morris still visited under protest but Coach came to see the kitties on a leash.

“Coach kept her distance and watched,” Poelstra said, “And we taught the kittens to keep their distance as well. Greyhound skin is very delicate and we didn’t think kitten claws would be helpful there.”

In week 4, the kittens were gradually given the run of the house and by January, Jim and Diva were ready to be adopted. With the aid of FFN, both found loving forever homes and Diva has been rechristened Maeby. TigerLily, however, still wouldn’t let anyone touch her.

“She clearly wasn’t ready to be adopted,” Sharon explained. “Her personality and intelligence were very apparent but we knew she wasn’t ready for another big change in her life.”

It was at this point that Morris stepped in. Overnight, he and TigerLily became inseparable.

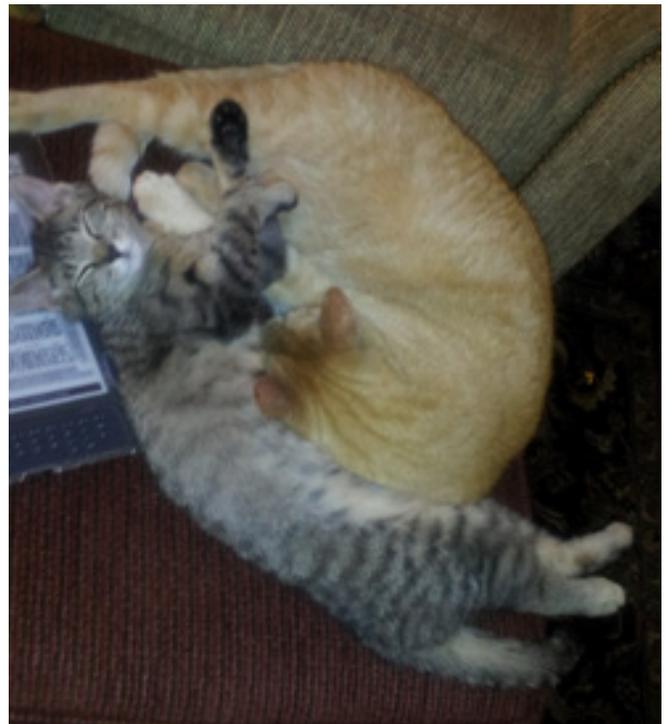
“Once her siblings were gone, she and Morris began to do everything together. Essentially, Morris is socializing her for us.”

Under Morris’s expert tutelage, Poelstra said, “TigerLily has become a very vocal little thing, letting us know when it’s dinner time, waking us up together with Morris in the morning and climbing on us to play.

“We are now allowed to pet her on occasion and I have even been able to pick her up a few times! She watches in the front window while we come and go in the car and is delighted to lounge in front of the fireplace.”

Sharon wasn’t planning to adopt a new cat when she agreed to become a foster parent, but there was no gainsaying the combined forces of Morris and TigerLily.

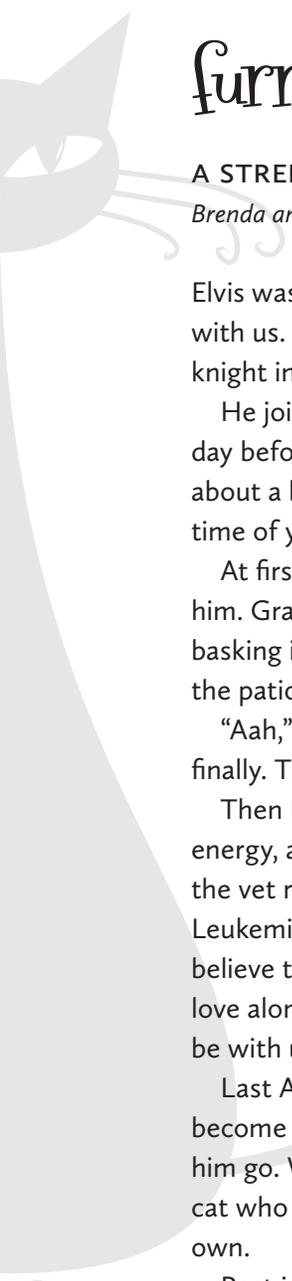
“Morris chose her and she has now chosen us,” she explained, adding “with one child, one greyhound and two cats, I’m not sure whether we’re a pack or a pride – but the cats are definitely running the show!”



Best buds: Morris (right) and TigerLily

If you’re interested in becoming an FFN foster parent, contact Valerie Pinder ([valerie.pinder@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.pinder@gmail.com)) or Cheryl Simpson ([simpson.cheryl@weightman.ca](mailto:simpson.cheryl@weightman.ca)).





# furry farewells

## A STREET CAT NAMED ELVIS

*Brenda and David White*

Elvis was a street cat who found a good home with us. He was so special – our defender, our knight in Black Fur.

He joined our family three years ago on the day before Hallowe'en. We were concerned about a black cat living on the streets at that time of year and decided to take him in.

At first, we left gifts on the doorstep to entice him. Gradually Elvis spent more time indoors, basking in the sun (on his own fuzzy, soft bed) by the patio door (where he could watch the birds).

"Aah," he must have thought, "A good life finally. This is great."

Then Elvis became ill, losing weight and energy, and suffering a broken tooth. A trip to the vet resulted in the sad diagnosis of Feline Leukemia. We were devastated, unable to believe this was happening to our dear Elvis. If love alone could have saved him, he would still be with us.

Last August, we decided Elvis's life had become too painful and made the decision to let him go. We think of him often – our dear street cat who became *Our Cat* with a home of his own.

Rest in peace, dear Elvis. Miss you. We were so blessed to take you into our home and hearts.

## SUBMIT YOUR STORY

"furry farewells" and "hello kitty!" are *cat tales* features that let members share stories of special cats with FFN. If you have a story you'd like to share with us, please email your 250-word submission (photos are welcome!) to editor Garet Markvoort at [ffnnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ffnnewsletter@gmail.com). Please note that submissions will be edited and, in the event of space constraints, may be held for a later issue of *cat tales*.

## Save these dates!

SATURDAY, 20 APRIL 2013

FFN has organized a talk titled "Building a No-Kill Community" to be given by Sean Kelly, past president of the Nova Scotia SPCA Board of Directors and a dedicated "No-Kill" advocate. Find out more about how the Nova Scotia SPCA became one of the first successful No-Kill shelters in Canada on Saturday, 20 April at 2:00 pm in the Stratford City Hall Auditorium.

FRIDAY, 7 JUNE 2013

The Feline Film Festival will be held at City Hall on the evening of Friday, 7 June 2013. Look for more details in the April issue of *cat tales*!

## Don't forget to renew your FFN membership!

FFN memberships expire at the end of February. We hope you'll continue to support FFN's efforts to end cat homelessness in Perth County. Membership benefits include a 10% discount at local area pet stores (Feed-All, Pet Valu, and Global), and, of course, more issues of *cat tales*!

You can renew online at PayPal by clicking on [this link](#). Or send a cheque for \$15 to:

Feline Friends Network  
c/o Cheryl Simpson  
47 Britannia Street  
Stratford, ON  
N5A 5Y8

Your support is greatly appreciated.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

