

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



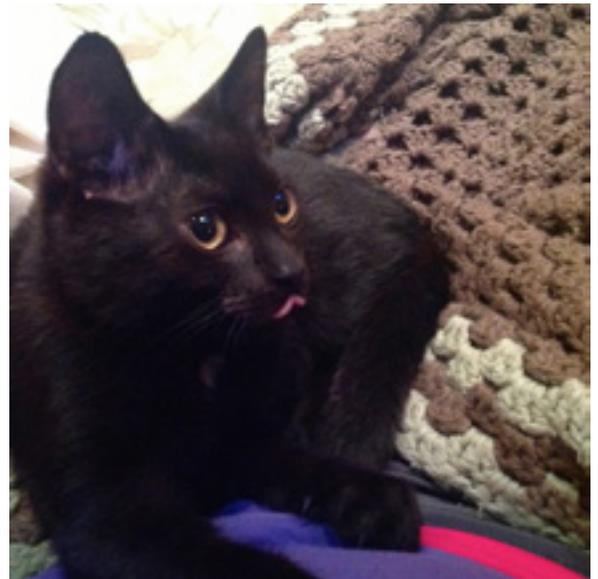
Making the dream a reality

As you all know, FFN's mission is to end the constant stream of homeless cats to make our vision of "each life respected and protected" a reality. To achieve that goal, we work hard to stop unwanted litters of kittens being born through our spay/neuter programs, to assist rescues with medical care for those cats still looking for homes, and to open the public's eyes to the wonders of cat ownership, as well as the responsibilities owed to both pet cats and the feral or "community" cats living in our midst.

Our success depends on many volunteer man-hours and, of course, money. November's newsletter is filled with articles on how others have – and you can – help us to reach our dream of "each life respected and protected." Please read on.

VOLUNTEERING

There are so many ways you can volunteer! Specific needs and opportunities are published in each newsletter – like last month's workshop on building winter shelters for feral cats. Pictured here is the team who worked hard all morning, standing proudly behind the fruits of their labour – nine beautiful 1–2 cat winter shelters, which FFN will make available for \$25 (below material cost!) to people who are feeding community cats living in managed colonies.



FOSTERING

Foster homes save lives, and are constantly needed by all animal welfare groups. Three-month-old Irving Black showed up – starving and terrified – at one of Stratford's feral cat colonies in September. Colony caretakers trapped the little guy and FFN member Marg Usprech stepped forward, offering to foster and socialize him as he returned to health from an infected neck wound. There is much more to this story, which will be profiled in an upcoming newsletter dedicated to fostering, but suffice to say here that, without Marg's loving care, little Irving Black would most likely have died.





Giving from the heart

Regan O'Leary may only be twelve, but already she's an animal lover EXTRAORDINAIRE. The Woodstock resident has two cats, two dogs, and several fish of her own, and also runs a pet care business, Regan's Pet Services. She heard about FFN through her mother, who works in Stratford, and decided to raise money to donate to our efforts. We're INCREDIBLY inspired by Regan's fund-raising efforts and her philosophy and hope that you will be too! Here is her story in her own words.

I wanted to donate to the cats because they have no one else to give them love, food, shelter, or water. The [Feline Friends Network] doesn't only help this generation's cats, but future generations by fixing and spaying cats so there will be less stray cats in the future. Also I help out at a place

where there are cats hit by cars or mistreated so I realize how dependent and thankful they are for donations. And I can't keep any more animals because I have two cats, Cole and Chance, and many other pets. To raise my donation of \$100 to give to the feline fund, I helped people with errands from three-thirty to five and in the summer I looked after people's pets. Also I held back on buying useless toys and games because animals are more fun and cats need the money more than stores! So if you have any spare change, this organization and these cats could use it.

Regan's mother, Arlene Wright, generously matched her \$100 donation and sent FFN a cheque for \$200. Thank you Regan and Arlene!



Regan O'Leary with two of the cats she cares for through her business, Regan's Pet Services.

FFN has the Christmas spirit!

Come out and cheer on FFN mascot Will Feral as he rides in the FFN convertible at this year's Santa Claus parade. The parade is on Sunday, 24 November, and departs the Allman Arena at approximately 4:45 pm. More information on the parade route can be found in the calendar of events at the Stratford city web site at <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca>



Corporate matching donations to FFN

by Cathy Russell

Do you work for a mid- to large size corporation? Are you aware that most of these corporations will match employee donations anywhere between \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year? Not to worry, I didn't really know either!

In 2011, when my company did its annual United Way drive, I decided to explore my options for the 2012 calendar year. From the drive I knew that I could donate to the United Way by having money directly taken and remitted from each paycheck throughout the year. What I didn't know was that this payroll deduction didn't have to be to the United Way, it could be sent to *any* registered charity. I also discovered that my company would match my donations up to \$1,000 per year – which meant that I could help out a fabulous cause twice as much as I'd hoped!

While this was great news, I kept digging and found out that my corporation will donate \$500 to a registered charity if I volunteer 25 hours of my time to that charity in a 12-month period. I just about fell out of my chair! \$500 just for logging and reporting the time I was already planning to volunteer with FFN.

If you work for a mid- to large sized corporation, I highly recommend that you check into the charitable donation programs your company offers to see if you could do something similar. You can find this information by either accessing the employee services section of your company website, searching your company website for charitable donation/activity options, or by talking to your peers/managers/HR department.

I hope that, like me, you will feel that this is such a small action to take for such a large benefit to our feline friends.

furry farewells

Remembering Casanova, one very unique cat who greeted everyone like a long-lost friend and could often be seen “walking the river” on a leash with human companion Brenda. Pictured here is “Cas” at this year's Catapawlooza, thoroughly enjoying Julia Penistan's special cat massage technique. Wherever Casanova is now, may he continue to spread the love he gave so freely while on this earth.



Answer the call!

Achieving FFN's goal of “each life respected and protected” means keeping in contact with those who need our help. By volunteering to answer the FFN cell phone for a month, you can make this happen, while learning more about FFN and the myriad ways in which we help our feline friends.

Most calls will be for general information – or possibly explaining that “feline” does not include the new puppy! For those people seeking help, you will contact the person looking after the applicable program and they in turn will contact the caller.

The cell phone “package” includes a binder with all the necessary information, and, of course, you can call the contact people for help any time.

If you would like to join the phone committee, please contact Carole Huband at hubandca@rogers.com.



And the winner is ...

Thanks to local financial services and insurance representatives, first prize in FFN's 2013 wine raffle was bigger than ever! This year, 78 bottles of wine were awarded to winner Laura Leyser. Second prize, a PS3 controller and games package (donated by the Fahraeus family), was won by Theresa McCall, and third prize was won by Allan Paul, who is now the proud owner of a table and 2 chairs made of 100% recycled plastics (donated by CRP Products). The draw was held on Inter-National Feral Cat Day (October 18) on FM 107.7 with Jim Fewer. Congratulations to all of our winners!

To the many other folks who purchased tickets but who did not win a prize this time, there's always next year! Thank you so much for making our raffle a success. All 2,250 tickets were



First prize winner Laura Leyser showing off some of her 78 bottles of wine

sold out, raising \$7,785.00 to spay and neuter kitties and provide vet care in the year to come.

To thank our ticket sellers, FFN decided to give a prize to the ticket seller who sold the most tickets. In addition, for every full book of tickets sold, we put the seller's name on a ballot for a draw. Sue Pasquale, who sold over 20 books of tickets, was the individual winner for most tickets sold. The retail winner – who received a Tim Horton's card and a package of Paul's to "Die For Truffles" – was St. Marys Vet Clinic, selling 6 books of tickets. The winners of our three draw prizes were Vicki Johnson, Cathy Russell, and Laura Skells, who won the choice of an FFN t-shirt or a cat travel mug/truffles package.

And a big thank-you to Holly Roulston for running such a successful FFN raffle!

FFN is always looking for people to help run our fund-raising events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cheryl Simpson at simpson.cheryl@wightman.ca.



Second prize winner Theresa McCall with her new PS3 controller and games package

Cats are kindly masters, just so long as you remember your place.

– Paul Gray



GIVINGTUESDAY™

Can you spare a *little* or a *latte*?

by Sharon Morrice

You've heard of Black Friday and Cyber Monday? Well, here's a new day in the holiday season – GivingTuesday – a day to give back!

December 3, 2013, is GivingTuesday, a new Canadian day of giving and volunteering. Launched in the US, GivingTuesday is growing into a global movement with campaigns in many countries, including Canada.

To celebrate GivingTuesday, FFN is launching a campaign to attract monthly donors. Did you know that for about the price of one latte per month – or \$5 each month for a year – you could spay or neuter a cat? Or cover the cost of two insulated winter cat shelters? Or help pay for vaccinations or vet care for a homeless sick or injured kitty? FFN depends on our cat-loving donors for expenses like these.

Becoming a monthly donor is a great way to provide ongoing support to an organization you care about and to spread out a donation over time so that it's more affordable. Many of us are fortunate enough to be able to spare \$5 or \$10 per month, and that means a lot to a small charity like FFN.

Setting up a monthly donation online is a very easy, one-screen process. Here's how you do it :

1. Go to www.felinefriends.ca
2. Click on any of our "Donate Now through CanadaHelps.org" buttons. FFN uses Canada Helps to securely process our online donations.
3. You'll be asked if you wish to become a member or make a donation. Select 'donation'.

4. On the donation page, you'll see two options under Donation Amount : Immediate or Monthly. If you wish to make a one-time donation, select Immediate. Or select Monthly to set a start and end date for your contributions, and to select an amount.
5. You can select your method of payment. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, PayPal, and Interac are all accepted.
6. Enter your name and contact information for tax receipt purposes.
7. Tell us if you want to make your donation in memory of or in honour of someone else, and whether you want us to know your identity or remain anonymous.
8. Click Complete Donation Now, and you're done!

And at the end of the year, you can login to the Canada Helps website and get a single tax receipt for your entire year's donation.

If you want to be a monthly donor, but you don't wish to donate online, we would be happy to accept post-dated cheques for any amount.

We hope that you'll give some consideration to becoming a monthly donor on GivingTuesday. Whether you can give a little or a latte, we can't help homeless cats and reduce the overpopulation problem in our area without you!

Of all domestic animals the cat is the most expressive. His face is capable of showing a wide range of expressions. His tail is a mirror of his mind. His gracefulness is surpassed only by his agility. And, along with all these, he has a sense of humour.

– Walter Chandoha

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

