

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

## Cinderellas galore



### PEPSI

Another Stratford stray being fed by a Good Samaritan, Pepsi was supposedly a pregnant feral. Of course, she was anything but – “feral” that is, because she was certainly “pregnant”! The kind woman feeding her was desperate to get this poor cat spayed before she had another litter (the first one having disappeared) and contacted FFN.

Unfortunately, when Pepsi came to FFN to go in for a spay, she also had a very bad upper respiratory infection. The vet did not want to put her through the stress of a spay so she received an antibiotic shot and her first vaccinations. Pepsi’s “Good Samaritan” Rose offered to foster Pepsi until she was well enough to be spayed, which happened two weeks later.

But Pepsi still wasn’t out of the woods with respect to her “cold” and needed to have more antibiotics before being able to go to a new home. In the meantime, Rose’s son and family fell in love with Pepsi, and – yet another happy ending – this very lovely and loving cat found a wonderful new home!



## Don't forget!

Wednesday, October 16th is “*Inter-National Feral Cat Day*” (<http://nationalferalcatday.org/>). This year FFN is celebrating by holding a workshop on building winter shelters for feral cats. The workshop takes place Saturday, October 12th at 10 am at the home of members Larry Baswick and Pat Burnell. Come out and be part of it – NO building skills required! Just let us know you will be there by calling FFN at 519.301.5735. Coffee and muffins provided.

Also, remember that the winners of FFN’s 2013 Wine Raffle will be drawn on *Inter-National Feral Cat Day* on our local radio station. Listen to FM107.7 at 4:20 in the afternoon to see if you’ve won – or sold the winning ticket!



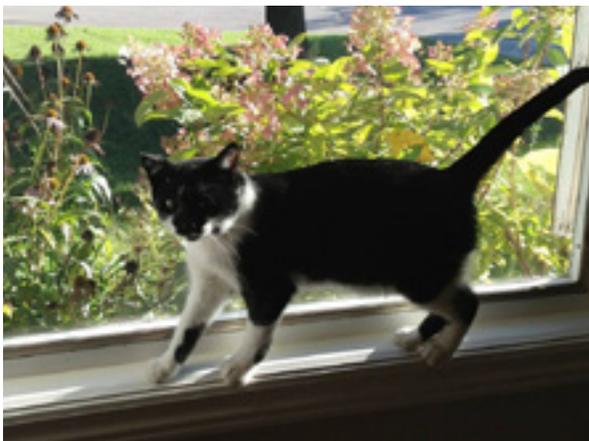
## MOWGLI

Some months ago FFN member Kristen began seeing and feeding another “drop off” cat at her home in Poole. It soon became apparent that he was unneutered, blind in one eye – and super-friendly. Kristen knew she couldn’t have another cat in her household, but worried about him living outside with a vision problem ... so she posted about him on the FFN Facebook page.

Through FFN, “Toby” as she christened him, was checked over by Perth Veterinary Services, neutered, and vaccinated. Soon a visitor to the FFN FB page fell in love with him, and, after giving a donation to FFN, re-named him “Mowgli” and took him to his new home, where he seemed to settle in immediately.

Unfortunately, as time went on, Mowgli appeared to have a problem with diarrhea that would not go away and so, back he went to the vet. Sadly, Mowgli tested positive for feline leukemia. This was not good news, and would have meant immediate euthanasia in a shelter setting. Since this disease is easily transmittable and there was another cat in the house, Mowgli was once again without a home.

Amazingly, at almost the very same moment Cheryl saw a posting on another FB site by a woman named Star offering to life-time foster FeLV cats as she had experience with them and had such a cat in her home already. Cheryl contacted Star and arrangements were made. The “stars” aligned on this one – pun intended! – and Mowgli is now one happy, lucky feline !



## LITTLE BUDDY

Sometime last April, a sweet orange male cat started coming to Tonya Wallace’s patio doors. Tonya gave him food and water, and off he would go till the next time. In the beginning he was stopping by every three or four days and Tonya hoped that he was just being social. Eventually she realized that he was either lost or abandoned.

Tonya brought him in, and she and her daughter made and put up flyers trying to find his owner – with no such luck. A neighbour told Tonya that the cat had been around since last summer, and was quite possibly a stray.

He was growling to get outside all day, so Tonya let him out thinking maybe he was trying to get home ... he wasn’t, he had definitely made her home his. When he wandered back later that evening with a wound on his back side, Tonya was distraught.

“I was so torn,” she said. “I didn’t have the heart to take him to the shelter. But as a single parent of three children, with three cats already, I just simply couldn’t afford to get vet care for a cat who might take off outside and possibly never come back.”

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To donate to the Cinderella Fund, call FFN at 519.301.5735 or visit [www.felinefriends.ca](http://www.felinefriends.ca)



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Tonya kept him in and cleaned his wound and cared for him for a few days while she tried to figure out what she could manage.

“Then it dawned on me,” she said, “FELINE FRIENDS! I contacted Cheryl right away, and she made an appointment for “Little Buddy” (I called him this because he followed me everywhere) to have his wound treated, and his neuter.”

On July 16th, Tonya picked Little Buddy up from the vet.

“He was a little groggy, but good as new,” she said. “I knew I had to keep him in the house for a few days and watch his wound, and surprisingly as each day passed, he growled at the door less and less. When the time came when he could go back outside (I had agreed to care for and keep him fed and etc) he no longer wanted to go!”

Little Buddy has found a home with Tonya.

“He made our home, his home, he loves my kids, as do they love him, and he has fit in with the other cats since day one. He was happy, and so were we. I am sure the time will come when he wants to be outside again, but for now, we are all enjoying all the love he gives us.”

Little Buddy has become Tonya’s constant shadow.

“Wherever I go, he goes, whether he was sound asleep or not ... if I move, he moves. I can’t imagine us not having him as part of our family now,” Tonya said, adding “We all owe a great big thanks to Feline Friends, and all of those who contribute to them. Without all of you, Little Buddy would probably not be where he is today. From the bottom of our hearts,

Little Buddy and I thank you!!!”

## PHANTOM



On Christmas Day 2012, Cathy and Ryan Rhodes noticed a starving stray black cat hanging around their country home and began to feed her. It took months for Phantom – so-named because she would disappear so quickly after eating – to trust Cathy enough to pet her. To their surprise, they discovered that Phantom had not only been starved of food but also of affection and she quickly wormed herself into Cathy and Ryan’s hearts.

Afraid that Phantom might become pregnant and present them with kittens, the Rhodes contacted FFN for help in having her spayed. Another surprise awaited them at the vet’s – “she” turned out to be a neutered male, indicating that Phantom had once had a home before being dumped in the country.

Initially, because of their pet parrot, Cathy and Ryan planned to keep Phantom as an outdoor cat. That plan was shattered when Phantom was attacked by a neighbourhood tom and ended up with a serious abscess from a bite wound to his back. After another trip to the vet – subsidized by the FFN Cinderella Fund – the Rhodes welcomed Phantom into their home where cat and parrot happily share the space and Phantom is safe at last.

### POSTERING REQUEST

As well as our yearly events, FFN often needs to post flyers for rescued cats or kittens. If you have a bulletin board at your work, church, or club where you could post some, we’d *love* to know about it ... Please contact Cheryl at [simpson.cheryl@wightman.ca](mailto:simpson.cheryl@wightman.ca) or Val at [valerie.pinder@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.pinder@gmail.com) and share!



## DOLAN

It took a while for this Cinderella but, in the end, he too got his happy ending. The 1–2-year-old cat was first spotted last spring, near starvation and searching for food in the garbage bins at Stratford's TJ Dolan wildlife area. Trapped by FFN, he was taken in by foster Julia Vryheid to determine just how "feral" he was. The answer? Not feral at all – just another terrified, abandoned domestic cat.

Dolan also had a very bad upper respiratory infection. And he was a polydactyl with an extra toe on each front paw that constantly invited ingrown nails, causing pain and making it difficult for him to walk. Thanks to the FFN Cinderella Fund, Dolan's extra toes were surgically removed to enable him to walk normally and under Julia's care, he turned into a loving, social lapcat.

At the end of September, Dolan was adopted by FFN member Jean Tidman. Apparently he is fully recovered from his surgery and his infection and has been having the time of his life. Jean told FFN that one day she heard a "clinking noise" and came downstairs in time to see Dolan jumping from the chandelier onto the dining room table!!! The removal of his extra toes is definitely not slowing down this acro-cat.



## And the list goes on ...

In addition to the individual stories highlighted in the September and October issues of *cat tales*, this year Evelyn's Fund has also saved a barn colony cat suffering from a debilitating infection, arranged euthanasia for a second barn cat critically injured in a combine accident, and been used to treat low-income spay/neuter client cats suffering from everything from a BB gunshot wound to pyometra (a potentially fatal uterine infection).

So, while finding a solution to the cat over-population problem through spay/neuter is FFN's main focus, it is truly wonderful to know we have the Cinderella fund to step in when extra care is needed. A huge THANK YOU to everyone whose donations are making this possible !

### GOT A FRIENDLY CAT?

If you have a gregarious guy or girl who is up to date on vaccinations, Elspeth Macdonald, who runs the Humane Society Pet Therapy program, would love to hear from you. Most weekday afternoons in the month she and another volunteer visit area nursing homes with both a dog and cat, going room-to-room to visit residents who miss the love of an animal. Total visit time is about an hour. If you think you and your kitty might like to help one day a week, please contact Elspeth directly at 519.271.8763 or call the FFN phone at 519.301.5735.

**FFN NEEDS CAT-LOVING  
VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF  
THE FFN CELL PHONE.  
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!  
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
CAROLE HUBAND AT  
HUBANDCA@ROGERS.COM**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
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