

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Jake, an active tabby available for adoption from SPHS, makes a new friend

## Catapawlooza 2013

FFN's fifth annual celebration of all things cat found a new home this year at the Stratford Optimist Hall. The event, held on a purr-fect Saturday in August, was very well attended. Organizer Valerie Pinder reports that donations and new FFN memberships both increased from previous years.

Also new in Catapawlooza 2013 – a guest speakers series. It was standing room only for the three sessions which featured Julia Penistan on pet massage, Dr Jocelyn Maggs, DVM, on solutions for common cat behavioural problems, and Reiki master Christine Smith on pet communication. Vendor sales were also up and the Stratford-Perth Humane Society (SPHS) gained several new foster volunteers.

In addition to its longstanding partnership with the SPHS, this year FFN welcomed Progressive Animal Welfare Services (PAWS London), the organization that is planning to set up a low-cost, high-volume, spay/neuter clinic in the London area.

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## FFN Cinderella Fund 2013

The FFN “Cinderella Fund” – also known as “Evelyn’s Fund” and named in memory of Evelyn Saley, our very first sponsor – is money that is set aside yearly to help feral, stray, and rescue cats who need extra medical care. To show our members how that money has been spent over the past year, we will feature some of the cats who benefitted from the Cinderella Fund in the September and October issues of *cat tales*.

In almost every case, the Cinderella Fund was used to help an apparently once-owned cat who had been abandoned and left to fend for itself. Each story is a reminder that a domesticated cat is simply not equipped to live as a feral. Only the very lucky survive. We're hopeful that with better education, the urban myth that “cats can take care of themselves” will soon disappear from the public consciousness.

*See page 3 for the Cinderella stories of Beethoven and Colonel Muffins.*

FFN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF  
THE FFN CELL PHONE. FOR MORE  
INFO CONTACT CAROLE HUBAND AT  
HUBANDCA@ROGERS.COM

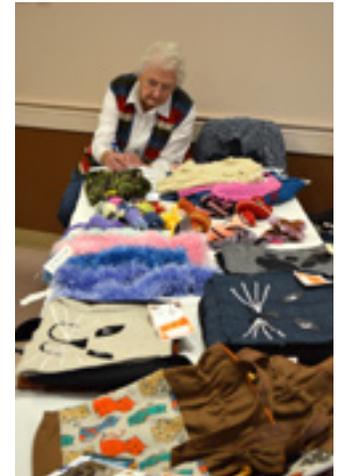
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Valerie said Catapawlooza offers a unique opportunity to educate the general public about the importance of spay/neuter. This year, she was struck by how much more knowledgeable people have become.

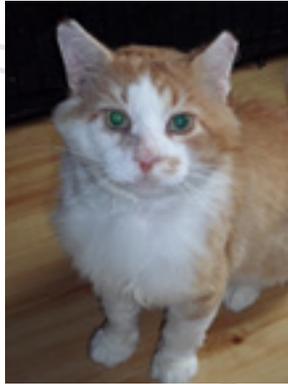
“The public seemed to me to be more informed than ever about the importance of spay/neuter,” Valerie said. “It’s very encouraging because it means that FFN’s efforts are paying off and we are reaching people.”

Valerie was also both thrilled by and grateful for the positive collaboration between FFN, SPHS, and PAWS, noting that “our ability to work together and to expand our partnerships is really integral to the success of Catapaw and to the success of our efforts to help the cats.”

She would also like to thank all the volunteers whose hard work made Catapawlooza possible and all the FFN members who showed their support by attending.



## Cinderella success stories



### BEETHOVEN

Trapped with a feral colony in the spring, Beethoven was in bad shape. He became the first “patient” of 2013 when the Cinderella Fund paid for the treatment of two infected bite wounds on his face. As he recovered

in the care of foster “parents” Brenda and Dave White, it became obvious that Beethoven wasn’t “feral” at all but rather a very frightened domestic cat abandoned months or even years before. The Whites quickly fell in love with Mr “Roll Over Beethoven” and adopted him a couple of months later. Oh happily-ever-after!

### COLONEL MUFFINS

Not long ago, FFN received a call from the staff of Rosemarie’s restaurant in Shakespeare who were worried about a friendly “drop-off” cat that they had been feeding. Buddy, as they called him, was sneezing and sniffing and had flies buzzing all around his back end. Although it was the beginning of a weekend, FFN called Perth Veterinary Services – thank you PVS! – who gave Buddy a thorough examination. Diagnosed with a severe upper respiratory infection, Buddy also had a terrible bite wound on his hindquarters that was crawling with maggots. Throughout the subsequent surgery and treatment, the sweet tuxedo cat made not a single complaint. Steph, a baker and Buddy’s second foster caregiver, fell in love with Buddy and decided to adopt him, renaming him “Colonel Muffins” – another hurrah!



### IN MEMORIUM

Gayle Vanderwiel, Feline Friend member, volunteer, talented craftswoman, and rescuer of many cats, passed away on 24 August 2013. She will be remembered for her passionate love of and advocacy for Stratford’s homeless cats.

## Feral Cat Shelter Workshop

NO TOOLS REQUIRED !

Every year, FFN celebrates International Feral Cat Day on 16 October by doing something to help the cats. This year, we’re inviting FFN members and friends to join us at a workshop that will teach you how to build a shelter for feral cats. The workshop will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 12 October 2013, at the home of Larry Baswick and Pat Burnell, 16 Fern Street, Stratford. Under the direction of our jolly foremen – Charles Riley and Larry Baswick – even the most “handyman-challenged” among us will be able to work together to easily construct ten Rubbermaid structures to help our feral friends make it through the cold winter months. Coffee and muffins provided!

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the FFN cell phone number, 519.301.5735.



To donate to the Cinderella Fund, call FFN at 519.301.5735

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
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