

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

## Feline Film Festival a hit!

by Sharon Morrice

Thanks to everyone who made our second annual Feline Film Festival a great success! Friday the 13th (June 13) was a lucky day for cats in Stratford and Perth County, as we were able to raise \$3,800 for our spay/neuter programs. Knox Church banquet hall proved to be an elegant venue for the event, and we increased our audience to 138, which was about 40% higher than last year!

We are very grateful to our special celebrity host, Stratford Festival Company Member, Claire Lautier, who did a lovely job despite microphone troubles, wine sponsor Dawn Bell, beer sponsor Joe Tuer of Stratford Brewing Company, and supporters L&M Catering and Global Pet Foods. Thanks also to our small army of volunteers who organized the films, food, drink, silent auction, raffle, Puddy Products and tarot readings. It was a wonderful evening and we plan to do it again in 2015!

The top three audience-voted favourite films of the festival were: *Cats Stealing Dog Beds* (3rd place); *Little Girl & Her Cat Built This City* (2nd place); and, in first place, *Dansons la Capucine*. To view these winning films, visit our events page at [felinefriends.ca/events.html](http://felinefriends.ca/events.html).



## Catapawlooza!

Don't miss Catapawlooza 2014 on SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the upper and lower Optimist Halls at 72 Water Street, Stratford.

There will be cats and kittens available for adoption from several rescues/shelters, all at special prices of \$50 to \$90 or by donation. SPHS will offer a microchipping clinic and FFN mascot Will Feral will make a special appearance. As always there will be vendors and displays, delicious barbecue, Tabby Tats for the kids, and – new this year – a mini Cat Café where you can grab a coffee and spend some quality in our enclosed Adoption Lounge with the cat/kitten you are considering adopting.

And don't miss our special guest speakers: Dr. Cindy Findlater from New Hamburg will speak on older cats; a representative from Royal Canin will speak on feline nutrition; and FFN president Cheryl will do a presentation on clicker training with the amazing Kashi.

Admission is free but donations of cat and kitten food (especially canned) would be greatly appreciated. See you there!

# Mao learns to trust

by Tricia Dale

I first met Mao in July 2011. I was watering my lawn when I heard a kitten crying. Following the sound, I discovered a small long-haired grey tabby sitting on the wheel of my neighbour's car. I knew she had two house cats so I thought maybe she could help me lure him out. She brought some food and we were able to coax the kitten out. Once he was being held he nuzzled right in under her chin. She said she would keep him instead of dropping him off at the humane society. I was glad the little fluffball would have a home as I am unfortunately allergic and can't have a house cat.

An hour later, I came back outside to find that the kitten was on my neighbour's porch. She told me that she had put him back outside because he hadn't reacted well to her adult cats and had scratched her! What kind of cat owner introduces animals so abruptly and then gives up on a 12-week-old kitten so quickly?

I tried to coax him back, but with a full tummy he had no desire to be picked up by another human so soon. The next day at work, I talked a co-worker into possibly adopting him. That evening we both combed the neighbourhood but found no trace of him. I kept a lookout for the next couple of days but to no avail. I hoped that someone else had taken him in.

About two months later I was outside around dusk when I saw a mangy-looking cat eating out of my neighbour's garbage bag. I had some smelt that was meant for my dogs but I thought the cat could use it so I left it out at the side of my house. The next day, the fish was gone so I began leaving food out each evening. In the meantime, I contacted the Feline Friends Network and Cheryl suggested a trap, neuter, and return. The process went surprisingly smoothly. Mao didn't seem too stressed inside the cage and the very evening after he was released he was back for dinner.



FFN also helped set me up with a feeding station and shelter which I outfitted with a heated pad for him to sleep on. The first winter he stuck pretty close to home, never missing a meal. In spring 2012 he disappeared for 3 days. Of course, I thought the worst. It turned out that he was just off having an adventure as he returned none the worse for wear. Last summer, my father helped me build a new shelter with insulated walls – something Mao and I were grateful for during the harsh winter of 2014.

During the first year Mao insisted on keeping a good 10 feet between us – except when I put the food in the shelter of course! Over time, that distance has lessened. This year I started sitting on the back steps beside him while he ate. I could tell he was considering rubbing his face against my legs, and finally one evening he made the leap. I still don't reach my hand out to pet him as that seems to cross his line – which he lets me know with a quick swat! He has even become quite the purr machine and, much to my surprise, cats really do come running when you shake a bag of "Temptations"!

People have asked how I got Mao to trust me. The truth is that I don't feel I've done anything less than he deserves. I am happy to give him a warm, safe place to sleep and healthy meals to eat. Cats are not wild animals; they shouldn't be left to fend for themselves. I wish everyone felt the same way.



# Cat-friendly Canada Day

by Cathy Russell

FFN's first year at the Stratford Canada Day celebration was a success! The weather held up and there were tons of people and, best of all, great conversations about our feline friends.

Members and other cat lovers were extremely generous leading up to the event. We received 243 cat toys – as well as three other larger items that wouldn't fit in the fish bowl! – for a grand total of 246. The "Guess the number of cat toys" game was also a success, raising \$100.45 in donations, and was won by Lesley Albrecht with a guess of 226 – congratulations Lesley!

The toys will be divided into three sets of 82 to be donated to Paws of Perth County, Angel Arms Rescue, and the Stratford-Perth Humane Society. All three groups are over the moon about the donations and would also like to thank each and every one of you who donated!



The fish tank of cat toys and two of the day's game participants.



Cheryl Simpson and popular feline guest, Kashi

Finally, a HUGE thank you to JoAnn Goodwin, Val Pinder, Dorothy Beddows, Cheryl Simpson, Pat Burnell, and Claire Bowers for offering the special gift of time to staff the booth – it wouldn't have been possible without you. In addition, thanks to Adam at Global Pet Foods Stratford for ordering a special fish bowl/tank for us to put the cat toys in and to our very popular feline guest of the day, Kashi.

FFN is looking forward to an even better Feline Friends presence at Canada Day 2015!

*Cats are the ultimate narcissists. You can tell this by all the time they spend on personal grooming. Dogs aren't like this. A dog's idea of personal grooming is to roll in a dead fish. – James Gorman*

*Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow. – Jeff Valdez*





### BEST OF STRATFORD

The winning ticket was drawn at the Feline Film Festival and belonged to our very own Patricia Burnell, creator of all those wonderful “ca-toques”, “ca-totes”, catnip toys, and so much more. Everyone was delighted – especially as Pat shared some of her bounty with other volunteers ... so we had many winners!

### PAWS ADOPTATHON ON JULY 26

Paws of Perth County is holding an adoptathon featuring rescued cats and kittens on July 26, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Global Pet Foods, 684 Ontario Street, Stratford. The adoption fee is a suggested donation of \$50 (minimum), which includes vaccinations, de-worm, de-flea, and spay/neuter. That’s a lot of value for you and your new forever furry friend! For more information, contact Paws at 519-949.1695, 519-272-0848, or message them through Facebook.

### A BIG THANK YOU

To our local Pet Valu manager Mackenzie and her staff for choosing FFN as their donation partner for their Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, July 5th. They raised \$125 for FFN and are continuing to hold monthly free nail clipping clinics, the donations from which will go to FFN’s Evelyn’s Fund to help rescue cats in need of extra medical care. Hooray!

Get your Cat-ears on!  
 Just a Buck-an-ear!  
 A toonnie gets you a pair!  
 Buy Puddy Products.



FFN vice-president Sharon Morrice and president Cheryl Simpson modelling Puddy Products cat-ears at the Feline Film Festival



FFN volunteer extraordinaire Val Pinder, president Cheryl Simpson, and Film Festival host and Stratford Festival company member Claire Lautier

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
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