

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Celebrating the **GOOD NEWS!**

We should be very proud of ourselves!! The Feline Friends Network achieved huge milestones in 2014, reflecting years of hard work. FFN has reached and surpassed the 1,000th cat spayed/neutered mark! AND, Trap, Neuter, Return is now endorsed by the City of Stratford !

Join us for goodies and “cat chat” from 2:30 to 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 26, at the Lower Optimist Hall, 72 Water Street, Stratford. As well as the opportunity to mingle with other cat lovers while enjoying cake and cookies, the afternoon will include demonstrations of the mechanics of Trap/Neuter/Return and how to build a winter shelter for feral cats. There will be a selection of Pat’s cat-themed “Puddy Products,” an FFN display and photo gallery, and our mascot, Will Feral, will make a special appearance.

At 3:00 pm, there will be a very short presentation and video called “Down Through the Years,” featuring many of the cats FFN has helped – from Smudge, the last cat remaining from our very first TNR in 2007 to Grey Boy, the 1,000th cat who was just TNR’d this September.

So, please plan on joining us – and bring a friend!



International Feral Cat Day 2014

FFN’s celebration of our two amazing milestones – our 1,000th spay/neuter and the official endorsement of TNR by the City of Stratford – is also our way of marking International Feral Cat Day in 2014.

And have you ever wondered where “International Feral Cat Day” originated? It is an initiative of Ally Cat Allies, a U.S.–based advocacy organization dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of cats. Their activities include:

- Advocating for pounds and shelters to keep public records of animal intake and kill rates for increased accountability;
- Leading the movement to end the killing of cats and to protect and improve their lives;
- Supporting the efforts of thousands of individuals and groups who provide humane care for stray and feral cats.

Check out their website at www.alleycat.org for more information, and to see what individuals and groups like ourselves throughout North America are doing for Feral Cat Day.

Cinderellas of 2014

As most of our members know, FFN has a “Cinderella fund” (also known as “Evelyn’s Fund” in honour of one of the first people to believe in us and to donate to help us with our work). That fund goes to help colony cats or rescue cats in need of special medical attention.

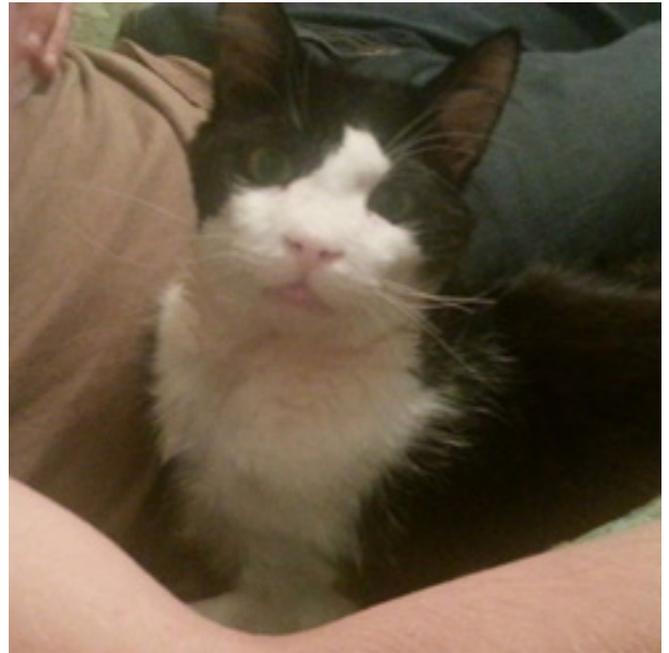
In 2014, the Cinderella Fund has helped three cats from the new volunteer-run rescue Paws of Perth County. Two of those cats’ stories are provided here by Pam Edwards, who runs Paws along with Joanne Moeser.

CHUDO

Chudo, whose name means “miracle,” came into the care of Paws of Perth County with problems with his mouth. Our veterinarian, Dr Jack, determined that his whole upper palate was split, causing him to drool constantly and have great difficulty eating. A split upper palate is rare; it is much more common for the lower palate to



Chudo upon his arrival at the vet clinic



Chudo, now, following his first surgery to repair his palate

be split. In addition, Chudo was in rough shape, with lesions on the side of his face and sores on his body.

Dr Jack had a plan but also offered the option of having Chudo seen by a specialist, which Paws was unfortunately not able to pursue for financial reasons. Instead, Chudo had surgery to repair his palate, spending nearly two months in the vet clinic. Through it all, Chudo was a brave boy – and a total love bug, always wanting his cheek to be petted. Those months were made easier by his human parents, who chose him almost instantly after reading his story and who made many visits to spend time with him during his recovery. His homecoming was delayed when the lesion on the side of his face erupted. He also underwent radiographs to see if there was any brain injury but fortunately they proved negative.

Chudo is now thriving in his new home and in approximately six weeks, he will have a second surgery to finish the repair of his upper palate.

*How we behave toward cats here
below determines our status in heaven.*

– Robert A. Heinlein





Trooper following surgery to amputate his shattered leg

TROOPER

For several months, people living just outside of Shakespeare noticed a little tabby cat coming around and suspected that he was taking shelter in an abandoned barn. In July, they noticed that his left hind leg was dangling and that he was unable to put any weight on it and they called Paws of Perth County.

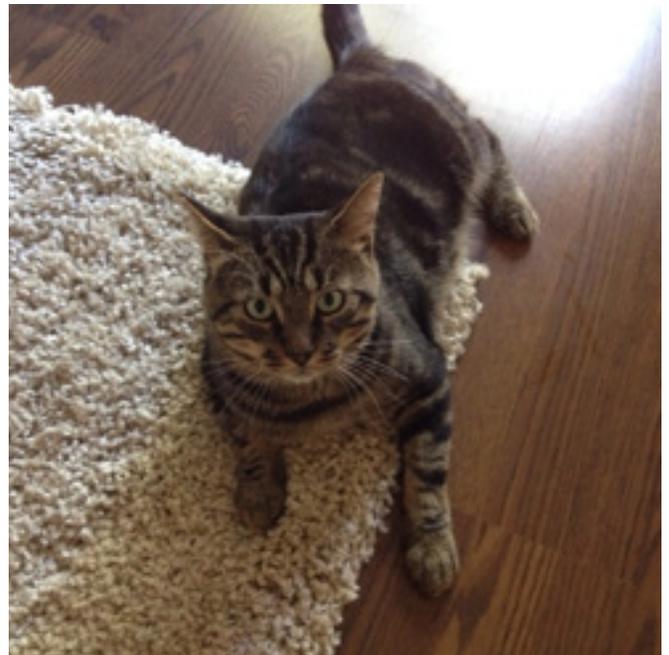
We went out to Shakespeare that day and, after several attempts, managed to get the cat – who we named Trooper – into a carrier so we could take him to the Close Veterinary Clinic. The vet found that his leg was broken and recommended surgery to pin it back together.

Unfortunately, after three hours of surgery, the vet was unable to pin Trooper's leg – the pin always broke free, no matter where it was placed. The only option was to amputate the leg at the hip. Trooper underwent a second surgery the following day and was then taken to Tail Wags Inn to recover, where it soon became evident that he was not feral but a lost or abandoned pet.

Throughout it all, Trooper more than lived up to his name – brave and persistent in the face

of much suffering. And, very happily, a woman who already has a tripod senior cat read about Trooper in the *Stratford Gazette* and decided to give him a new home. After a period of adjustment, Trooper and his older brother, Arthur, now share a very peaceful existence, exploring the wonders of the outdoors in an enclosed back yard under the supervision of their human mom.

And Trooper has adapted so well – even climbing onto the couch for cuddles – that you would never know he has lost a limb. Paws is grateful that this four-year-old survivor has found the perfect home with someone who will love him into and during his senior years.



Fully recovered and happy in his forever home

As mentioned, Chudo and Trooper's surgeries were made possible by FFN's Cinderella fund. Donations to this fund can be made online at www.felinefriends.ca or by sending a cheque to Feline Friends Network, 74 Britannia Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 5Y8. Be sure to note "Cinderella fund" on your donation so that the money can be properly allocated.



THANKS SO MUCH !

- To Mackenzie and the staff of Pet Valu in Stratford who raised \$240.00 for FFN through their nail clipping clinics.
- To supporter and volunteer colony caretaker “extraordinaire” Jean Tidman, for asking friends and family not to celebrate her special birthday by giving her a gift, but by donating to Feline Friends instead! Jean’s birthday “loot” will be going to support FFN’s Cinderella fund.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ...

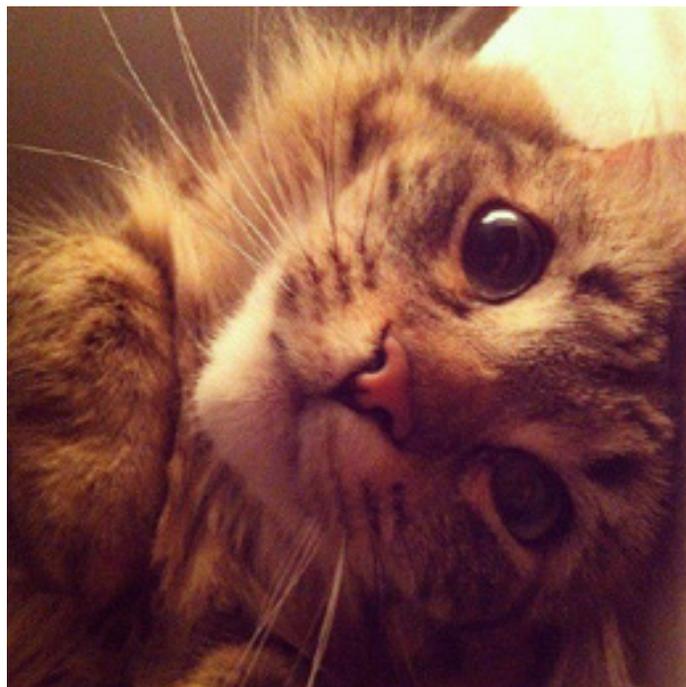
- Get to know a feral colony by feeding one or more times a week? If so, we’d love to hear from you. All that’s needed is a car and a love of cats. For more information, please call Cheryl at 519-273-8067.
- Understand more about what FFN does? Become an FFN telephone “first responder”! The “first responder” holds the FFN cell phone for 1–2 months/year, takes calls (averages 1 call/day), and directs questions to the appropriate volunteer. Training is provided. Call Brenda Ford at 519-272-1706 for more information.

CAT FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

Winter will soon be upon us and we want to make sure our colony cats are well stocked up. If you would like to donate food – anything but “No Name” or “Barn Cat” brands – we would be happy to receive it! Food can be delivered to Wayne and Dianne Yundt at 2 Morison Street, Stratford. Please call them at 519-273-0744 to arrange a time. And, if you would like to receive a tax receipt for your donation, please hold onto your sales receipts and contact Cheryl at 519-273-8067.

ARE WE FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK?

Don’t miss any of our posts! Make sure that the box called “Notifications” at the top right of the FFN page has a check mark beside it.



Paws of Perth County Adoptathon

Saturday, October 4th, 2014
10 am to 3 pm
Global Pet Foods
684 Ontario Street, Stratford
suggested Adoption Fee: \$50

Please support this wonderful all-volunteer group! All cats and kittens have been vaccinated, de-fleaed, de-wormed, and spayed or neutered. FFN is currently paying the cost of spaying and neutering each of these cats and kittens so that Paws can keep adoption costs down and save more cats ... Another example of the great collaboration between our organizations!

There are few things in life more heart-warming than to be welcomed by a cat.

– Tay Hohoff

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

