

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

19 adoptions at Catapawlooza 2014

by Valerie Pinder



It took visionaries and organizers, craftspeople and builders, graphic designers and marketers, bakers and chefs, tattoo artists and a furry mime. Then along came generous sponsors, enthusiastic media supporters, and informative veterinarians.



Finally, a small army of planners, posterers, and staffers stepped up and said "I can help!"

Vendors vended, speakers spoke, and educators educated, all about cats.

And the end result? Nineteen cats and kittens found forever homes. Ten came from Paws of Perth County, five from Angel Arms, and four from the Stratford-Perth Humane Society.



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SPHS microchipped, at a special reduced rate, 14 cats (11 owned and 3 newly adopted) who can now be returned to their homes if they stray. And a lot of fun, food, and learning was enjoyed by the wonderful crowd at the Optimist Halls.

The following have asked me to express their joyful appreciation to all of you who contributed so much, to their foster families, and to their new forever parents. They tell me you have changed their lives forever, and they hate to think of what might have happened without you! Lots of love and purrs from: Oreo and Archie Edwards; Cubby O'Connell; Jake (Giacomo) Beirnes; Condore and Camille Vrooman; Callie Carroll; Momma Pettit; Jess Wong; Ashes Danis; Rocky Agar; Sushi and Pickle Ridley-Hayes; Winston Ford; Tuxi Hanna; Tigger; Pearl; Manny; and Boots.



THANK YOU

To everyone involved in making Catapawlooza 2014 such a big success – vendors, speakers, participating shelters/rescues, attendees, and adopters. And most especially to our wonderful volunteers as well as the following sponsors, without whom the event would not have been possible: Boomers Gourmet Fries, Libro Credit Union, Global Pet Foods, Video Plus Books + CDs, Feed-All Pet Centre, Perth Veterinary Services, Avon Pet Hospital, Conventry Animal Hospital, B&B Pet Supplies, Stratford Business Centre, Stephanie Theodoropoulos, and Royal Canin.



The story of Irving Black

by Marg Usprech

Irving was trapped – dirty, frightened and hungry – at one of the feeding stations last fall. As his foster mom, I have watched him turn from a cowering little kitten into a comical happy boy. He still has moments where his fears return but they quickly disappear and he rolls over to have his little belly rubbed.

He's come a long way from his arrival when he promptly hid under the bathtub. After coaxing him out with baby food, I was able to get my first good look at him. He was covered in a black greasy film and smelled horrible. I moistened a cloth and gently rubbed his head with it and he eventually let me wipe his entire body. I tried to do this several times a day and during one of our sessions, I noticed an area on his neck that looked like an abscess, which explained the terrible smell. But it seemed to be draining so I left it alone. The next morning the abscess had sealed over so I applied a warm cloth to it. This was when I realized that Irving had a large maggot in his neck. He had become the host to a large Bot fly maggot also known as cuterebra.

These maggots use cats as a living host, entering via the nose/mouth and migrating through the tissue towards the skin. Incubation can last from 18 to 38 days and can cause blindness, neurological problems, and even death. I was able to remove the maggot with tweezers. The vet prescribed antibiotics and I used an irrigating syringe several times a day to keep the area clean.

I learned later that it is best to have your veterinarian remove these maggots. If the maggot is not pulled out entirely or if it bursts while you are trying to remove it, it can kill its host. Fortunately for Irving and me, this did not happen and he has made a full recovery.

We are printing Irving's story now to warn people who are guardians of outdoor cats as the issue of Bot fly maggots is most prevalent at this time of year.



Tickets now on sale for 5th annual FFN Wine Raffle

The 5th annual FFN Wine Raffle is now underway. Tickets are available from Holly Roulston and Paul Simpson. In Stratford, they can be purchased at Boomers Fries, Ross' Bike Works, Chocolate Barr's Candies, Bell's Winery, Buzz Stop, Stratford Business Centre, Sutton Group, and Carpe Vinum. They are also available at St. Marys Vet Clinic in St. Marys and RoseMarie's Restaurant in Shakespeare.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3/\$10 and the draw will be held on National Feral Cat Day – 16 October 2014. This year, the first prize is 60 bottles of wine and the second and third prizes will also include wine. Buy your tickets early as we are hoping for an early sell out this year.

For those selling tickets, when you have sold your booklets or if you have unsold tickets to return, please contact either Holly Roulston (519-284-2649 or Holly.Roulston@freedom55financial.com) or Paul Simpson (519-273-8067 or simpson.paul@wightman.ca) to arrange to have them picked up.

Two things are aesthetically perfect in the world – the clock and the cat.

– Emile Auguste Chartier



In Memorium



Remembering Princess, a sweet and gentle stray who won our hearts in the few days we knew her, and broke them when she died. She will forever remain a reminder that we cannot waiver in our mission to end cat overpopulation abandonment and homelessness. We loved you, little one.

Cheryl and Marg

Mark your calendars

SATURDAY SEPT. 20TH

Paws of Perth County Adoptathon at Global Pet Foods, 684 Ontario St., Stratford, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The suggested adoption donation fee is \$50.00.

SUNDAY OCT. 26TH

FFN has things to crow about! Not only is Trap/Neuter/Return now legal in Stratford but we've marked our 1,000th spay/neuter surgery! Come help us celebrate with refreshments and "cat chat" at the Optimist Hall, 72 Water St., Stratford from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. More information forthcoming, but put it on your calendar now!

DONATE YOUR SHOPPERS OPTIMUM POINTS TO FFN

FFN has over 83000 Shoppers Optimum points – a value of \$85! We need 95000 points to get the full \$170 value. FFN member Holly Roulston tracks our points and just used a coupon to get 8000 points (a \$10 value!) that she will be donating to FFN. If all FFN members with a Shoppers Optimum card donated the points from a single shopping trip using a similar coupon, we could easily reach the 95000 target.

50/50 DRAW WINNER

The winner of the Catapawlooza 50/50 draw was Carrie Monteith from Stratford who took home \$101 from \$202 dollars raised. The rest of the money will be used by FFN to support our programs.

THANK YOU

To Tim Nicholls and his band "Gin and Tonic with Lime" for their performance at Molly Blooms on August 2 to raise money for FFN.

To Sue Pasquale and Boomers for their "Feline Friendly Friday" on August 8, where \$1 for every order of fries was donated to FFN. Additional thanks to Pat Burnell and Brenda Ford who sat for hours in the sun selling our "wares" on the same day. and to Michael Simpson, our very own busker – and his good pal, Will Feral!

DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to lobbying by the Feline Friends Network, Trap/Neuter/Return is now the accepted method of dealing with feral cats in Stratford. Please help us spread the word so that we can help all our community cats. If you know anyone feeding stray cats, please have them call FFN for help to TNR!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

