

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

A grateful soul

by Jodie Mitchell



It was a cold spring morning in St. Pauls, when my sister Julie spotted a small ginger-coloured face peering out from underneath her back porch. A frightened, curious, little face.

It isn't unusual for cats to come and go at Julie's house in the country, but there was just something different about this one. Julie began talking to him daily and trying to earn his trust.

After a week, he was finally comfortable enough to emerge from his safe place and, for the first time, Julie saw how horrifyingly skinny he was. He was filthy and beat up from "life on the streets." He gobbled up his food as if it was a meal delicious enough for a king. Since he enjoyed his meals so thoroughly, Julie nicknamed him "Nummy."

When winter arrived, with its cold and snow, Julie set up a shelter for Nummy in her garage so he could come and go as he wished. He was just as curious about her as she was about him.

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New FFN committee finds homes for friendly ferals

by Holly Roulston

Early this year, FFN formed a Foster/Adoption committee to address the needs of all the friendly strays who have shown up at an FFN colony or been dumped out in Perth County and found their way to us through caring members/friends.

We want to stress that FFN is **NOT** a rescue, and does **NOT** take in surrendered cats. However, there have been times when, while doing a TNR, we have realized that the cats we were handling were not ferals but dumped or lost pets. These abandoned kitties have been forced to spend several years alone, frightened, and hungry. As lovers of cats, we felt strongly that it was wrong to return these "friendly ferals" to the outdoors to fend for themselves.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all of the people who have fostered the 21 cats who have come to FFN so far this year. We have found homes for 15, while 6 are still in foster care or in foster-to-adopt homes. Your support has made this possible.

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THANK YOU !

A heartfelt thanks to Adam and all at Global Pet Foods for choosing FFN as this year's "Show Us Your Heart" campaign. And thanks of course to all customers who donated! The campaign raised \$1,106.95 and, as always, every penny will be used to help the cats.

GET TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY CATS! COLONY CAT FEEDERS NEEDED

FFN urgently needs volunteers to feed our colony cats one or more days a week. It only takes 10 to 20 minutes to take food and fresh water to the feral feeding station. Choose morning or afternoon, any day of the week. Food can be provided. Caretakers who don't live in the colony area will need a car. For more information, call 519.301.5735.

Paws of Perth County Adoptathon

Saturday, June 27 | 10 am to 3 pm
Global Pet Foods (684 Ontario Street)

Adoption by donation (cash/cheque only)
Suggested: \$65 | includes vaccinations,
de-flea, de-worm, spay/neuter, microchip

For further info, contact Paws of Perth County
519.949.1695 | 519.272.0848 |
pawsofperthcounty@gmail.com

Stratford-Perth Humane Society

SPHS challenges you to bring home the cat at the Stanley Cat Playoffs from Friday, June 5 to Sunday, June 7! Star players include Corey Purry, Wayne Catzky, and Mario Lemeow. Adoption fees for all cats have been reduced to \$50.00.

SPHS is located at 345 Douro Street. Hours are Friday 12:00 to 8:00 pm, Saturday 12:00 to 4:00 pm, and Sunday 12:00 to 3:00 pm.

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If she was out working in the garage, he would watch her from afar, fascinated by whatever she happened to be doing.

Then Nummy went missing during a bitter cold snap. He was gone for days. A week later, Julie was outside when she saw a familiar sight coming towards her. It was Nummy, trudging through the snow. He came right over to her and she saw that he'd been in a fight and was very badly beaten up. Upset and unsure what to do, she called me.

With the help of FFN and Marg Usprech, Nummy was trapped and went off to the vets to be neutered and examined. When I picked him up from Marg's after his vet visit, something rather amazing happened. Alone in his trap in the back seat of my car, Nummy suddenly began to purr like an engine. I was amazed by how loudly he was purring. Nummy was one very grateful, contented boy. I will never forget it.

A few weeks later, I was so very lucky to find the most perfect home for Nummy with a true cat lover. He constantly updates me on what a special boy Nummy is. But, of course, I already knew that. No one can ever tell me that animals aren't grateful. I can't possibly thank Feline Friends enough for all they do.

Catapawlooza 2015

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
OPTIMIST HALL, STRATFORD

Will Feral says "Put it on your calendar NOW!" A fun day to shop, adopt and learn all about cats!

A cat has absolute emotional honesty: human beings, for one reason or another, may hide their feelings, but a cat does not.

– Ernest Hemingway



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We'd also like to explain how the FFN adoption program works. We promote our cats (using photos and videos and highlighting each cat's personality traits) on the FFN Facebook page, on social media such as Twitter, and on Kijiji. A PetFinder application is in the works which, once approved, will hopefully give us another successful avenue.

Once someone contacts us with an interest in adopting, we set up a meet and greet with our sneuterred, vaccinated/de-flea'd/de-wormed cats in the home of their fosters. If everyone feels that the prospective adopter and cat are a good fit, there is an adoption application and we provide instructions on how to properly introduce the cat

to other family pets. We ask everyone adopting to give the cat a minimum of 2 weeks to adjust to its new home. FFN follows up with the adopter at 1 and 3 weeks to make sure everything is going well for both the cat and the family.

We have had some cases in which an adoption wasn't a match and the kitty has come back into our care. In those cases, we start the process again to try to find that perfect home.

To celebrate the success of our program – which we like to think is due to a lot of good karma! – we wanted to share this gallery of the special souls who are now enjoying their fur-ever homes.

Even more importantly we're sharing the pictures of those cats who are still in need of a home or in a foster-to-adopt situation.

WE'VE BEEN ADOPTED – THANKS FFN!



WE'RE STILL HOPING TO FIND OUR FUR-EVER HOMES ...

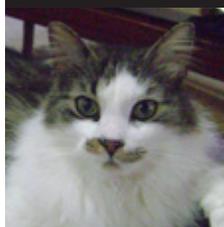


Amelia

Churchill

Ginny

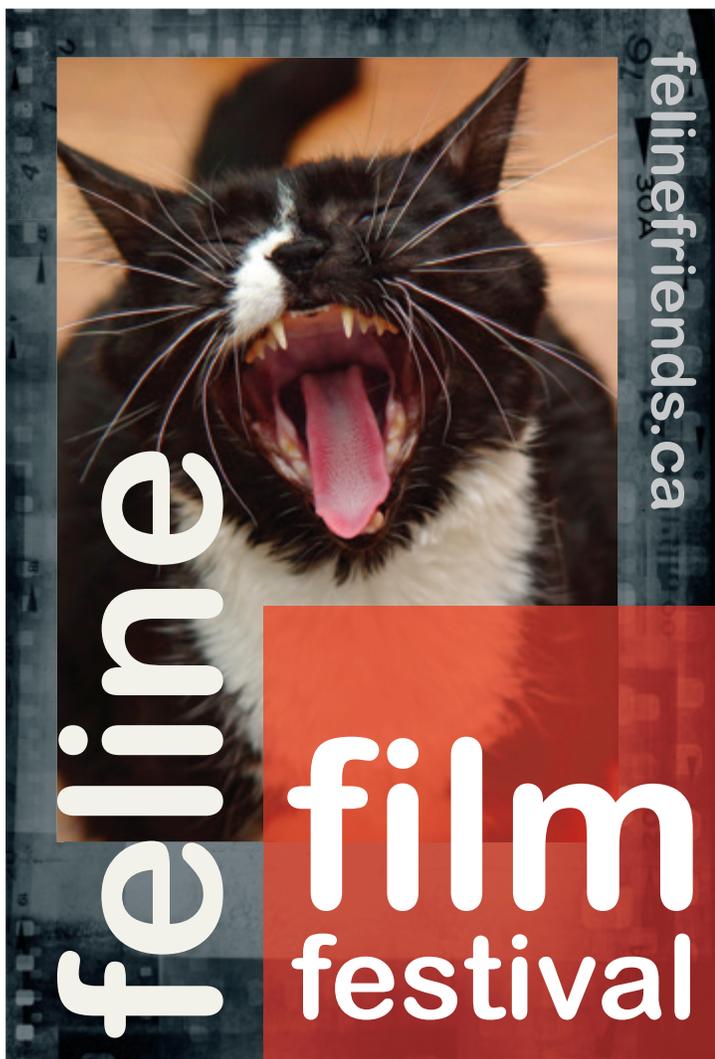
Sammy Sad Eyes



Smudge

Share your newsletter with friends and family! Anyone interested in meeting any of the cats still in foster care can contact Holly Roulston at holly@felinefriends.ca or Marg Usprech at usprech@cyg.net.





**LOL
alert!**

Friday, June 5, 2015 Knox Presbyterian Church

142 Ontario Street, Stratford | 7pm [film screening 8-9pm]

HOSTED BY STRATFORD FESTIVAL COMPANY MEMBER, CLAIRE LAUTIER

It's movie night! Enjoy a selection of the finest short cat videos – the cute, the funny, the poignant, and the amazing – different every year! Come eat, drink, and L.O.L. with us at Stratford's third annual Feline Film Festival!

**Hors d'oeuvres | Wine | Beer | Nonalcoholic options | Silent auction
Pat's Puddy Products | Tarot readings | Best of Stratford Raffle**

Adults \$15 | Children under 13 with an adult, \$7.50 | Tickets @ door only. Admission includes hors d'oeuvres + one glass of wine, beer, or nonalcoholic beverage. Additional beverages available for sale. For more info, contact Sharon at 519.271.3401 or films@felinefriends.ca



WINE
DONATED BY
**Dawn Bell
& family**



VIDEO PLUS
BOOKS + CDs

**L & M
Catering**



**FELINE
Friends
NETWORK**

FFN at Canada Day

Please join FFN on Canada Day, Wednesday July 1st. We'll be in Market Square behind City Hall from noon until 4:00 pm. Don't miss your chance to win the "Guess the Number of Cat Toys" game. Best of Stratford raffle tickets will also be sold and the draw for the raffle will be held at 3:30 pm. Fun for the whole family!

Cat toys can still be donated up to the last week of June. Drop them off at 35 Church St (across from the back parking lot of the Stratford Public library). Looking forward to seeing everyone out there!

FFN wish list

FFN still needs:

- **Cat carriers** – need not be beautiful, just serviceable
- **Volunteers** – For TNR (various positions) and fostering cats/kittens for adoption
- **Angels** – to save a life by permanently fostering a feline leukemia positive cat

Need more info? Please contact us at 519.301.5735.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

