

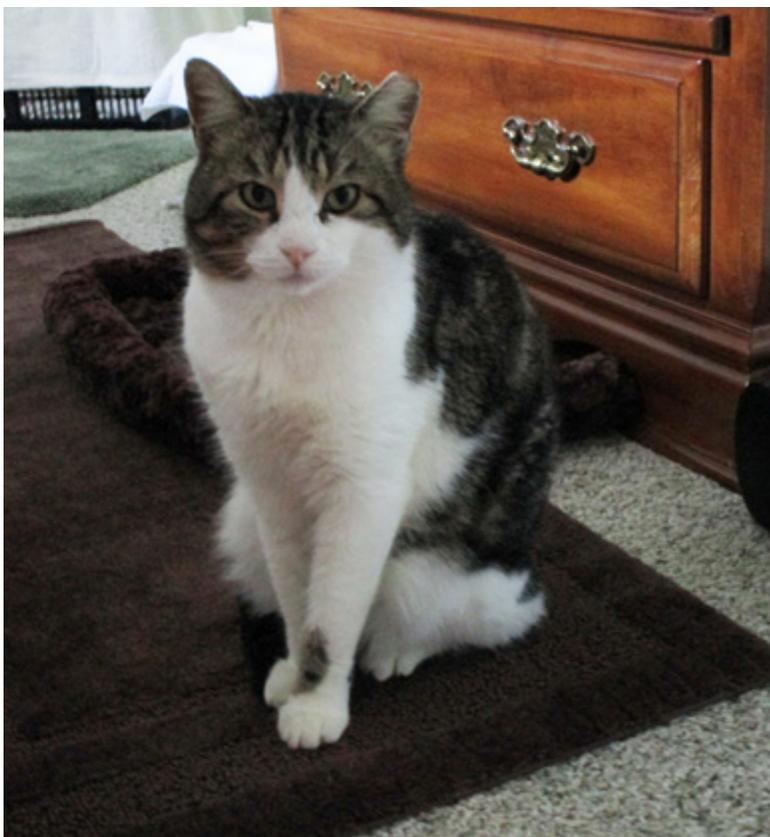
cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Remembered with love

by Barbara Beckett



Bambi after being taken in by Barbara and Warren Beckett

For several years, Bambi was an occasional visitor to our cat colony, always on his own, always hungry. In 2014, his visits became more frequent. At mealtimes, he was always ready to eat, his little tabby-and-white face peeking out from a hidey-hole on the edge of our colony site.

Last fall, FFN trapped and neutered Bambi, treating him for an injured paw and shoulder. Sadly, the vet discovered that he

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Becoming part of the solution

by Cheryl Simpson

Ever since FFN started in 2006, we have run a voucher program to subsidize spay/neuter costs for people on social assistance in Perth County. There has always been a small co-pay for individuals taking part. Last year I had a “lightbulb moment” – so many of the cats we were trapping as “ferals” in our Trap/Neuter/Return program turned out to be friendly, but always unspayed/unneutered. Could this be because, once that “free kitten” grew old enough to go into heat, spray, meow incessantly, etc., and the owner found out the cost of spay/neuter surgery, out the door it went, either “coming home pregnant” or, no longer welcome in the home at all? Could this be a big cause of all the cats abandoned on the streets or country lanes, left to “take care of themselves”? In that moment I knew that, in order to really make a difference, we needed to do more.

While education is certainly key, (ie. did you know a kitten can get pregnant at 4 months?), it alone is not “the answer.” If it was, the “cat overpopulation problem” would have been

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was FeLV positive. The best thing for him was an indoor home with no other cats.

With the hope of preparing him for adoption and a move to a forever home, Bambi came to live in our basement bedroom where he could be kept separate from our FeLV negative cats. From the time of his arrival, he was a wonderful house guest, calm and quiet with excellent litterbox habits and never disruptive or destructive.

Which is not to say that there weren't challenges. It took time for Bambi and I to learn to trust one another. And Bambi had a week of upset (and deteriorating behaviour) until I discovered that he was being visited at night by a raccoon in his window-well. A window blind pulled down each night solved that problem.

Bambi quickly learned the timing of my visits throughout a day. He met me at his door for breakfast and dinner but, at other times, he would be resting on the carpet, paws tucked, ready for our play. He enjoyed wands, balls, songs, stories, bubbles, and searching out hidden treats. Most of all, Bambi liked music. We started with harp and moved on to piano. He would lie facing the CD player and close his eyes with pleasure as he listened. Delightful to watch! He was also very fond of velour and feathers ... and, yes, food. So easy to please!

Bambi was still working on his meow and the rare occasions when he spoke to me were thrilling. He had other ways to communicate, too. As he lay facing me on the carpet, if he wasn't interested in the activity that I was setting up, he would stand, do a 180-degree turn, and sit down with his back to me. Message received!

Although Bambi let me touch and tease him with his wands, crawl around the floor with him, and moved right in beside me whenever we listened to our music, he never wanted me to touch him with my hands. He wasn't ready for hugs and pets. Sadly, he never would be. This past January, Bambi suddenly became unwell

and declined rapidly over several days. Exactly ten weeks after he came to stay, the vet had to end his suffering.

My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed our time with "the little guy downstairs." Bambi was totally loveable and he is missed.

CALLING ALL ANGELS

FFN is still searching for some very special angels willing to permanently foster Feline Leukemia positive cats. If you currently have no other cats and want to "earn your wings" in a wonderful loving way, we want to hear from you. Please email FFN at info@felinefriends.ca, or call us at 519.301.5735. The cats need you!

Final push for donations to 2015 FFN wine raffle

This year, FFN is appealing to YOU, our members, to donate your favourite bottle(s) of red or white store-bought wine for our annual raffle. We're only two-thirds of the way there so please donate!

Donations can be picked up upon request by Holly Roulston or Paul Simpson. Or arrange in advance with Paul to drop your donation off at 47 Britannia Street, Stratford. This is our last chance to make the 6th annual FFN Wine Raffle the best yet as all wine donations must be collected by May 2015. If you have any questions, contact Holly at 519.284.2649 or holly.roulston@f55f.com. To arrange for pick-up or drop-off, contact Paul at 519.273.8067 or simpson.paul@wightman.ca.

Each one of our cats is a distinct, four-footed little person with an individual personality.

- Ira B. Rubin

One must love a cat on its own terms.

- Paul Gray





(above) Avon Pet Hospital staff; (middle) Perth Veterinary Services staff; (below) the East Village Animal Hospital van

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solved years ago. What we need to do is to make the spay/neuter solution accessible and affordable to *everyone*. So, in 2015 our vouchers are free to those in need, and our goal is to spay/neuter at least 200 cats through this program this year.

Our sincere thanks go out to partnering veterinarians – Avon Pet Hospital, East Village Animal Hospital, Heartland Animal Hospital, Milverton-Wellesley Veterinary Clinic, Perth Veterinary Services, and St. Marys Veterinary Clinic (summer months).

Last word to those who tell me “Well, if they can’t afford them, they shouldn’t have them.” Let me quote satisfied customer Cindy Murch (pictured below with Cinders, one of her four rescue cats), “I don’t think that’s at all fair. I was afraid I would have to find other homes for my cats, but now I don’t have to because of this wonderful wonderful program. I’m so grateful!”

Everyone, no matter what their income, can be part of the solution. And FFN can help.



Of all God’s creatures, there is only one that cannot be made slave of the lash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve the man, but it would deteriorate the cat.

– Mark Twain



Five great things about the Feline Film Festival

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015 | 7:00 PM |
KNOX CHURCH, STRATFORD BANQUET
HALL (DOWNSTAIRS)

Here are the top five reasons you'll want to attend our 3rd annual Feline Film Festival.

5. You can drink beer and wine in a church.

Yes, the Film Fest is licensed. Now, we're not advocating irresponsible consumption, but don't you think it would be a bit cheeky to have a drink or two in church? It can be fun to be a tiny bit naughty once in a while. We'll have a lovely selection of wines donated by supporter Dawn Bell, and cold beer on tap thanks to Stratford Brewing Company. And there'll be some delicious nibbles and non-alcoholic beverages too.

4. Competitive shopping.

Our silent auction will feature a wide range of items. Not just feline-themed goods, although there will be some of those, but offerings that will surprise and delight. Things you didn't even know you wanted or needed until you saw them and **HAD TO HAVE THEM!** The competitive part happens when you swoop in at the last minute and outbid strangers and friends alike, to take home your coveted prize. But, please, no sharp elbows – let's keep it civilized! For the less competitive, Pat's Puddy Products – fun, inventive, handmade items knit and sewn with love by our creative and talented volunteer, Pat Burnell – will be available for sale throughout the evening.

3. Tarot readings.

Interested in gaining insight into your past, present or future? Our experienced and skillful tarot reader will interpret what the cards have to say. Readings are private and not at all scary or intimidating, so why not? Something everyone should try at least



once. Only a limited number of readings can be done in one evening, so make sure you sign up early.

2. Films starring cats.

Sure, you can sit in front of your computer at home, all alone, and watch most of the videos you'll see here. But it's not the same experience as you'll have in a room full of people, laughing and ooh-ing and aww-ing out loud to our curated selection of cat craziness and cuteness. You can sit back and relax, knowing that someone else has weeded out all the mediocre videos. And no annoying commercials! Just 100% kitty cat goodness.

1. It's win-win.

You win for all of the reasons stated above. The cats win because all the proceeds of the Feline Film Festival go to FFN programs to reduce cat overpopulation and homelessness in our community. It's a fun, family-friendly evening that comes only once a year, so don't miss it!

Save the date for Catapawlooza 2015

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

Speakers, vendors, Larry's
barbecue, the "Adoption Lounge"
and much more ...



May adoptathons

Paws of Perth County

Saturday, May 23 | 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

Give a homeless pet the gift of love this
Mother's Day. A special price of only \$90 will be
in effect over Mother's Day weekend – Friday,
May 8 to Monday, May 11.

SPHS is located at 345 Douro Street. Hours are
Friday 12:00 to 8:00 pm, Saturday 12:00 to 4:00
pm, Sunday 12:00 to 3:00 pm, and Monday 10:00
am to 5:00 pm.

For more information call 519.273.6600.

Cat toys for Canada Day

Thank you to those who have already donated
cat toys. We will continue to collect cat toys
until the middle of June and all toys collected
will be donated to local rescues after Canada
Day (where we will again have our 'Guess the
Number of Cat Toys' game). Donations of new
small cat toys can be dropped off at 35 Church
St, Stratford (across from the parking lot of the
public library) in the container marked 'Feline
Friends Network Cat Toys' on the front porch.
Thanks for your support!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort



Flip for the Catnip Carnival

Kitchener-Waterloo cat rescue organization Pet Patrol
(www.petpatrol.ca) is holding a "Catnip Carnival" this
Saturday, May 9th, at the Lion's Hall in St Jacob's.
Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the fundraising event will
continue until 3:00 pm.

There will be a Cat Café with food, felines, and fun,
crafters and great gift-giving ideas, a Q&A with animal
professionals, and lots of interesting things to share.

It's a purr-fect way to treat mom on the day before
Mother's Day.

Still seeking ...

CAT CARRIERS | Hard-sided if possible ... They don't
have to be beautiful, just secure!

SPONSORS | For special events such as the Feline Film
Festival or Catapawlooza. Sponsoring businesses have
their logos appear on all promotional materials.

VOLUNTEERS | Opportunities available in the Trap/
Neuter/Return and Low Cost for Low Income programs.
The only necessities are a car and a willingness to help.
FFN works with people and cats all over Perth County –
wherever you live, we would love to have you join our
exciting team. And, of course, we provide training!

If you can help with any of these
requests, please email FFN at info@
felinefriends.ca or call us at 519.301.5735.
Thanks so much in advance!

