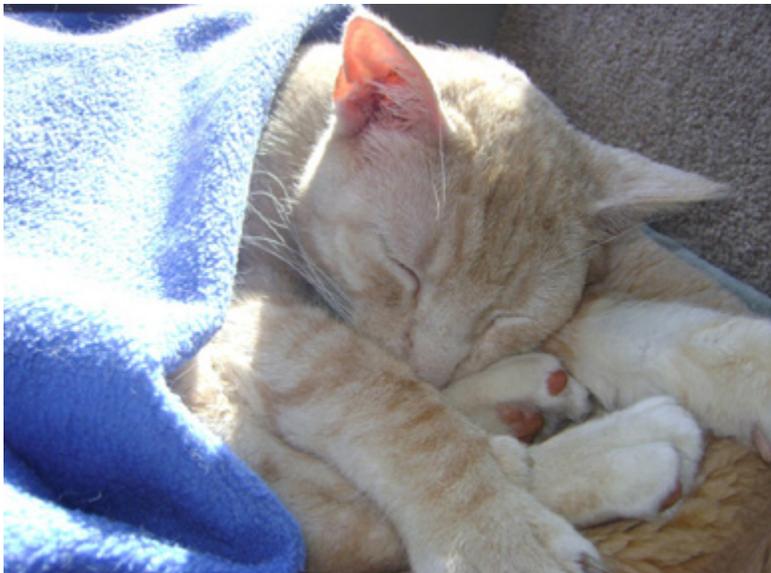


cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



On the road to recovery

by Brenda Ford

Before a caring person took pity on him and brought him into her home, Popsicle had been surviving for months outdoors in terrible weather. His caregiver noticed that he had a swelling on his neck and, after visits to different vets, he had a number of teeth extracted and was also treated for ear mites.

This brought a brief improvement but Popsicle then started to have difficulty eating and was drooling. At another visit to a vet, Popsicle was diagnosed with Feline Chronic Gingivostomatitis, the symptoms of which are severe inflammation of the gums and ulcerations under the tongue, in the throat, and on other parts of the mouth.

On 25 February, Popsicle went to Guelph to have ALL his teeth extracted – the only option left to alleviate the obvious pain he was experiencing – by Dr Fraser Hale, a veterinary dental specialist. Following the surgery, the prognosis is good, but it will be a while before the inflammation is completely

/continued on page 2



Don't miss the Upscale Yardsale this Thursday!

10 MARCH, 6–8 PM AT 16 FERN ST

Note the date and don't be late.
Stuff goes fast so don't be last
To come!

Pre-orders for food – Moroccan beef stew, shrimp bisque, minestrone soup, mushroom Provençal, chili (vegetarian or meat), quiche (salmon, shrimp, mushroom, or ham and cheese), and lasagna (meat or seafood) – are still being taken and now include various breads by FFN baker Paul Simpson. AND, if you are holding onto gold jewellery that is broken or of no further use to you, consider donating it – Holly Roulston, our fundraising chair, is extremely enterprising!



/continued from page 1

resolved. Popsicle is only able to eat soft food for the next couple of weeks, but it is already clear that he is feeling much better – he is becoming more affectionate and more playful.

Popsicle's surgery cost \$2,703.46, and FFN is extremely grateful to those generous people who made donations or raised funds to cover this cost. To date, over \$2,000 has been donated to the fund for Popsicle's treatment.

Popsicle has been at his current foster home for over three months and he is ready to be adopted. If you, or someone you know, would like to open their heart and their home to Popsicle, perhaps on a "foster-to-adopt" basis, please contact Marg Usprech at 519.274.9784 so that we can arrange for you to visit with this affectionate, delightful little boy.



More cat videos wanted!

Spring is just around the corner and, with it, the 4th annual Feline Film Festival on Friday, June 3rd! Some great videos have already been submitted, but we still need a lot more. So while you're guffawing at the latest silly cat video, or filming your own crazy kitty, don't forget to take a minute and make sure we see it too!

1. To submit your favourite videos, please post them to our Facebook events page. Just copy the URL (the web address found at the top of your browser window) of the video and paste it in a new post on this page: https://www.facebook.com/events/1664844057107257/?active_tab=posts
2. If you're not on Facebook, you can submit videos by emailing the links to films@felinefriends.ca. Note that all videos must be downloadable (videos posted on Facebook or Youtube.com are generally downloadable). If we can't download them, we can't use them!
3. There is a limit of 5 video submissions per person, so please make sure your top 5 are really special!

And finally, a reminder that the Film Festival includes a silent auction! If you have something you would like to donate – whether it's an item or a gift certificate that you think people might like to bid on – please email Holly Roulston at holly@felinefriends.ca. Proceeds from the Film Festival and silent auction will, of course, benefit cats through FFN's programs, and you will have our undying gratitude.

Cats do not have to be shown how to have a good time, for they are unfailing ingenious in that respect.

– James Mason

SUPPORT THE MODERNIZATION OF CANADA'S ANIMAL PROTECTIONS ACT

Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith (Beaches–North York) has introduced a private members' bill, Bill C-246, to bring Canada's animal welfare laws into the 21st century. FFN hopes its members will write to their MPs to support this initiative. More information on the specifics of the bill is available at: <https://openparliament.ca/bills/42-1/C-246/>



THANKS AS ALWAYS to our wonderful pet store supporters ... Pet Valu, Huron Street, for their constant collection of donated food for the ferals and foster cats. And Global Pet Foods for supplying food when we are in need and for choosing FFN as their partner for February's "Show Us Your Heart" campaign. We don't yet know the amount raised, but based on the number of hearts on the windows, many shoppers supported us. Thank you all!

UPDATE: SELLING PETS IN PET STORES

Since our last newsletter, FFN is very pleased that *Beacon Herald* reporter, Laura Cudworth, has published an article featuring our efforts to have the sale of un-spayed & un-neutered pets in Stratford pet sales banned by City Council. To read the article, follow this link: <http://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/2016/02/29/feline-friends-network-advocates-for-pet-store-regulations-in-stratford>

Also, we encourage you to add your name to our online petition and share it with your friends, so that we can show councillors that people in our community care about animal welfare! To sign the petition, visit https://www.change.org/p/stratford-city-council-stop-the-sale-of-pets-in-stratford-s-pet-stores?recruiter=9709610&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

We will keep you posted on the progress of this important subject!



Looking for ... a few good cats!

Inspired by our visit to McCarthy Place last month, FFN has decided to partner with one or more retirement residences/long-term care homes for "Cat Therapy." Starting in April, on the invitation of FFN member and Greenwood Court activity director Caitlin Sebben, FFN will make weekly visits, every Friday at 2:30 pm, to Greenwood Court. The visits will last about an hour or less.

We would like to involve both friendly adoptable cats and kittens from FFN when that is possible, as well as the cats of FFN members. All that is required is a confident people-friendly cat. He or she should be up to date on vaccines and be brought to Greenwood Court in a carrier. A harness and leash is also handy if you have one.

If you and your cat fit this description, please call Cheryl Simpson at 519.273.8067 or email her at simpson.cheryl@wightman.ca. FFN is hoping to get enough volunteers and kitties that we can expand this program to other residences and long-term care facilities that would like similar visits, times and days to be decided at a future date.



Summary of the AGM from board chair Doug Fyfe

On a bright sunny day, February 28, 2016, fifty-four members of the Feline Friends Network participated in our annual general meeting – an impressive turnout that reflects the value that our organization continues to bring to our feline community and their human partners.

Reports from Jamie Lamond (treasurer), committee chairs Holly Roulston (fundraising and fosters and adoptions), Cheryl Simpson (spay/neuter), Doug Fyfe (education and outreach), and from our retiring president (Cheryl Simpson) were well received and elicited some questions, all of which were answered.

There were several comments from the floor congratulating the organization. Not to sound cliché, but we have many incredible volunteers in FFN without whom we would not function. Many are unsung heroes, and all volunteers' actions are the heartbeat of our organization.

At the end of December 2015, FFN had 188 members. Our membership has steadily increased since 2010 (39), 2011 (87), 2012 (112), 2013 (134), 2014 (154).

The cats and kittens of Perth County, and their owners, are the great benefactors of the work to which we all contribute. Over the years, as our experience has increased, the board has adjusted our operational processes and offerings to reflect community needs and to ensure efficiency. This includes free spay/neuter for cats owned by those on social assistance, and financial support for the heartbreaking decision to euthanize a beloved cat to end its suffering.

We can all be proud of what we do as Feline Friends Network members, and we continue on a solid footing for 2016 and beyond.

At the AGM, we paid tribute to the board members who are resigning after years of service to FFN: Val Pinder, Cathy Russell, Pat Burnell, and Cheryl Simpson. I am glad to report that they will stay on as FFN members. As board

chair, I extend my personal thanks for their service. Jamie Lamond, Sharon Morrice, Holly Roulston, Paul Simpson, and myself remain on the board and we also welcome returning board member Sue Pasquale.

I now take on the mantle of president of Feline Friends Network – big shoes to fill. I'll need the support of my fellow board members and others to perform at least satisfactorily.

Thank you again to all members of FFN, but especially to our volunteers. If anyone who is not currently a volunteer can spare some time, please contact us at info@felinefriends.ca; we acknowledge that not everyone can volunteer and with those who do we have to be flexible with their availability.

Doug Fyfe,
Chair, FFN Board of Directors

A NEW WAY TO DONATE

FFN is excited to announce a new fundraising partnership with Donate A Car Canada that allows anyone to donate a vehicle (cars, trucks, vans, SUVs, trailers, RVs, – even boats!) to FFN.

Whether you have a vehicle that is no longer running (towed away for FREE and sold for scrap metal) or a vehicle that is still in good shape (sold at auction, with a donation tax receipt from FFN), Donate a Car makes the process easy and hassle free. Call them toll free at 1.877.250.4904 or fill out their simple online form at <http://donatecar.ca>. Follow the instructions and choose FFN from the drop down menu of charities. Please share this information with your family and friends and help us to help more cats in Stratford and Perth County! =^..^=

The playful kitten with its pretty little tigerish gambol is infinitely more amusing than half the people one is obliged to live with in the world. – Lady Sydney Morgan, 1783–1859

There is no more intrepid explorer than a kitten. – Jules Champfleury

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

