

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

## The top five reasons to attend the Feline Film Festival on 3 June 2016



FRIDAY, 3 JUNE 2016 | 7:00 PM | KNOX CHURCH,  
STRATFORD BANQUET HALL (DOWNSTAIRS)

Here are the top five reasons you'll want to attend our 4th annual Feline Film Festival:

5. **You can drink beer and wine.** Yup, the Film Fest is licensed. It's Friday night, time to kick back. Enough said, right? We'll have a lovely selection of wines donated by Constellation Brands rep and FFN 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. Just remember, cool cats don't drink and drive so plan accordingly.

4. **Competitive shopping.** Our silent auction features a wide range of items – from feline-themed goods to 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 up your bid at the last minute and take the prize from strangers and friends alike. But, please, no sharp elbows – let's keep it civilized! For the less cutthroat, 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.** Want to gain 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 that doesn't compare to sharing the experience with a room full of people, laughing, ooh-ing, and aww-ing at our curated – no mediocre videos here – selection of cat-crazed cuteness. And no annoying commercials! Just 100% kitty cat goodness.

1. **It's win-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. And, new this year, we're partnering with Port Colborne Feline Initiative, so that cats in that community will benefit too, as they are hosting their own film festival on the same date.

This fun, family-friendly evening comes only once a year, so don't miss it!

## Visit with the Kemp Crescent colony

By C. Munro

The Kemp Crescent colony was founded in 2008 with an old grey cat, a black-and-white cat named Spotty, and three kittens who were living in a hollow oak tree. FFN named the kittens Hairy, Big Guy, and Little One – the latter being the only female feral cat. They were joined a few years ago by Orangey, an abandoned house cat.

Big Guy left the shelter in July 2015 and sadly hasn't been seen since. The grey cat passed on, leaving Spotty as the oldest of this colony – he keeps everyone in check. Stray cats have visited this shelter over the years. Whenever possible, they were returned to their owners after we posted photos in the Lost and Found.

In the fall of 2014, a young intact black-and-white male showed up at the shelter and caused a ruckus! I nicknamed him Romeo because he was as sweet as pie to me, sitting on my foot while I was getting the colony food ready.

Unfortunately, Romeo didn't just inhale his own food – he aggressively stole food from the feral cats as well! To keep the peace, FFN trapped Romeo. After he was neutered and



The aptly monikered Hairy – what a beautiful coat!



Clockwise from left: Little One, Orangey, and Spotty

given his shots, we found him a home in the country where he has worked his magical charm on the “lady of the house” and is able to roam between the house and barn as he pleases, Romeo LOVES being “top cat” and the centre of attention. A truly perfect match!

More recently, the Kemp Crescent colony was home to Cleo – a young mother with two kittens who took shelter under a nearby red dumpster. We managed to gain her trust and she was rescued along with her kittens. The kittens were socialized and adopted out through the Stratford Perth Humane Society. My husband and I cared for Cleo while she recovered from being spayed. She was such a unique cat that we decided to adopt her ourselves.

Other strays have tried to join this colony, but the group has not let them stay. Like the other FFN volunteers who feed colonies, the Kemp Cres feeders are dedicated: no matter how much rain, snow, bugs and – on occasion – other four-legged mammals we encounter, we make sure the Kemp Crescent cats have food, fresh clean water, and enough straw in their shelter. In return for our care, the cats welcome us – even allowing some of us to give them a pet as we remove the burrs from their fur.



# National Animal Welfare Conference

by Holly Roulston

Marg Usprech and I attended the National Animal Welfare Conference in Toronto on 17–18 April. We did some networking and took in a number of great speakers, each enthusiastic about how we can help improve the lives of cats!

We also got a few great ideas about how to make TNR easier and wondered “why we didn’t we think of that!!” One of those ideas was to use an inexpensive sensor in front of a live trap to send an alarm signal or warning to the trapper when an animal is getting close to the entryway of the trap. For those of you who have done any trapping and either sat in a vehicle trying to stay awake half the night or got up every hour or so to check the trap, you will also be wondering “why didn’t I think of that!” Marg has added researching the purchase of a few of these to her “to do” list and we look forward to reporting back on the results in the near future.

Through our networking, we also discovered some ideas for getting more vets to help us. Stayed tuned for future updates about whether any of those ideas bear fruit with our area vets.

We were also particularly excited after hearing Kat Albrecht from Missing Pet Partnership give her presentation – Unclaimed: Nine Perceptions that Kill Cats – and we encourage each of you to Google “Missing Pet Partnerships” and read all the great info yourself. Armed with this information, you will be sure to be able to provide helpful advice to a friend or family member in the event that their feline companion goes missing. Marg and I came away from this seminar feeling more confident that FFN will be able to help more people find their “displaced” cats in Stratford and Perth County.

Attending the National Animal Welfare Conference was definitely worth it and we are already making plans to attend again next year!

## THANK YOU

To **Global Pet Foods** for raising \$754 in their February “Show Us Your Heart” campaign. The money will support FFN’s program to provide free spay/neuter for cats of Perth County residents in financial difficulty.

To our local **Pet Valu** stores who, at the time of writing, had raised over \$2,300 of their \$2,500 goal for FFN during their April Pet Appreciation month ... WOW! We are also grateful for the bake and yard sale and petition-signing that Pet Valu hosted at their west end location 16–17 April. Many thanks ...

To **Corinne Jordan and the staff at Feed-all Pet Centre**, Stratford, for giving FFN the opportunity to collect signatures in-store for our petition to stop the sale of pets in Stratford pet stores on Saturday, 2 April. We received support from many customers and your hospitality was much appreciated!

## Cat toys for Canada Day! Please donate

What do cat toys and Canada Day have in common? Feline Friends Network!!

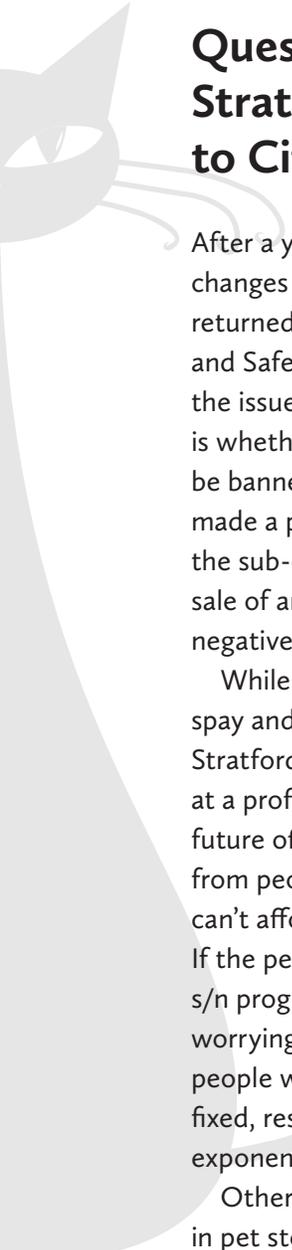
For the third year in a row, FFN will be setting up a booth for the Canada Day event in downtown Stratford, featuring our “cat toy” version of the “Guess the number of jelly beans” game. We are asking FFN members to donate **new** small cat toys for use in the game between now and the end of June.

The winner of the game will receive a prize (yet to be determined) and the cat toys will then be donated to local rescues to be provided with the foster/adoptions of cats/kittens.

Donations can be dropped off on the front porch of 35 Church Street, Stratford (across from the library’s back parking lot). Thank you in advance for your donations! This is sure to be a great day of education and fun!

*The ideal of calm exists in a sitting cat.*  
– Jules Reynard





## Question of sale of pets in Stratford pet stores returns to City Council

After a year of study by city staff, proposed changes to Stratford's Animal Control by-law returned to the Infrastructure Transportation and Safety Sub-committee on 27 April. One of the issues under consideration within the by-law is whether the sale of pets in pet stores should be banned. FFN board member, Sharon Morrice, made a presentation to the five councillors on the sub-committee arguing that the for-profit sale of animals should end because it has a negative impact on animals and our community.

While FFN volunteers continue to work to spay and neuter cats to reduce overpopulation in Stratford-Perth, pet stores sell unaltered kittens at a profit, but taking no responsibility for their future offspring. FFN regularly receives calls from people who purchase pet-store kittens but can't afford to have them spayed or neutered. If the pet owners qualify for our low-income s/n program, FFN pays for the surgeries. More worrying are the calls that FFN doesn't get, from people who don't have their pet-store kittens fixed, resulting in many more litters and an exponential number of homeless cats.

Other cities have also banned the sale of pets in pet stores because they often contribute to the profits of puppy and kitten mills.

FFN member Ken Wood also spoke to council, chiding the councillors for inaction on animal issues over many years. He stressed the urgency of acting now, to prevent the unnecessary suffering of more animals.

Steve Lambert, owner of Superior Pet Store, gave his opposing perspective on the issue.

When discussion ended, the sub-committee voted unanimously to accept the staff recommendation to create a Round Table composed of city staff, representatives of local animal organizations, and experts in the field of animal care and control. The first Round

Table meeting is to take place in July 2016, followed by research, public surveys, and opportunities for feedback. The new by-law is to be presented by staff to the sub-committee in March 2017.

Although it's discouraging that the animal by-law issue has been relegated to further study instead of getting a pro-active decision at this time, the battle to win the hearts and minds of councillors and staff alike continues. If you wish to express your opinion to City Council, see the City's contact page at: <https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/insidecityhall/citycouncilcontact.asp>

All members of council, including the mayor, may be emailed as a group using the online form found here: <http://stratford.survey.esolutionsgroup.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=82KMmlz>

### FFN IS IN NEED OF ...

- Two or three hard-sided, medium-sized cat carriers. They don't have to be beautiful, just serviceable! Carriers are used for friendly colony cats as well as loaned out to clients of our free spay/neuter program.
- Foster homes – for those at risk abandoned “friendlies” we find when doing Trap/Neuter/Return. Help us expand our foster home base to save more cats.
- Volunteer drivers – to transport cats to and/or from spay/neuter appointments in London or Kitchener. Clinic drop-off times are approximately 9:00 am with a pick-up time of approximately 5:00 pm. Tax receipts are provided for mileage expenses.

Please consider helping out! Call FFN at 519-301-5735 or email us at [info@felinefriends.ca](mailto:info@felinefriends.ca) for more information.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Be sure to attend FeedAll Pet Centre's customer appreciation weekend on 25 and 26 June. FeedAll has generously offered to host a fundraiser throughout that weekend with FFN as the recipient of the proceeds! Stayed tuned for all the details in the June newsletter and on Facebook!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

