

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



## Coming Indoors

by Cheryl Simpson and Marion Day

*In the spring of 2014, FFN was called to TNR a small black mother cat who had given birth to 4 little black kittens in a woodpile. We were also told that there was a large male black-and-white cat in the neighbourhood. All the cats were trapped – the adults spayed, neutered, and returned, and the kittens sent to the Humane Society for adoption. Neighbourhood feeders and alternate shelters were*

*set up, and “Missy” and “Mister” became part of the FFN database of Stratford community cats.*

*But the story doesn’t end there ...*

*This past summer FFN was contacted by the mother of a very wonderful young man named Ben (see our September newsletter) who loves cats and was donating his birthday money to Feline Friends. In speaking with her, we talked about two neighbourhood cats who Ben and his Dad were trying to coax to become inside cats. Realizing their location I asked if the cats were “eartipped” and what they looked like ... low and behold, they were indeed “our” cats! So, here is the story from Marion and Ben’s perspective.*

Three years ago, my son and his father told me about a black-and-white cat with a nice face, who would sit outside in the winter cold looking into their kitchen. They would invite him in, but he would always refuse, so they began to leave food out for him – especially on very cold days. Finally, it appeared that he had started to live under their porch. Eventually, with much encouragement, he made his way into a sub-basement, where he couldn’t get into the rest of the house but he could keep warm.

During the summers, he would appear from time to time, and he was always cordial and polite to our domestic cat, but no one

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could get close enough to him to touch him. Whenever we didn't see him we worried about him. Sometimes, he disappeared for months at a stretch before coming back. My son's father made a point of leaving food out regularly.

This summer, he began to get more and more courageous about coming and sitting on the back porch, and he had a friend, a small female black cat (who has still not let us get close to her, but who hovers around, about 50 feet away, carefully watching what he's doing).

As he became more and more affectionate, we discovered that his fur was quite matted. Over two weeks, he very gradually let us touch him to the point that we could gently remove the tatts in his fur. He discovered that he loved being brushed and began to approach us every time he saw us, asking to be brushed or patted or have his face rubbed.

My son and his father wanted to allow him to come inside the house, but they didn't know if he had ever been to a vet. In the late part of the summer we talked to Feline Friends and discovered that the notch on his left ear indicated that he is an FFN cat. So, we discovered, is his female friend.

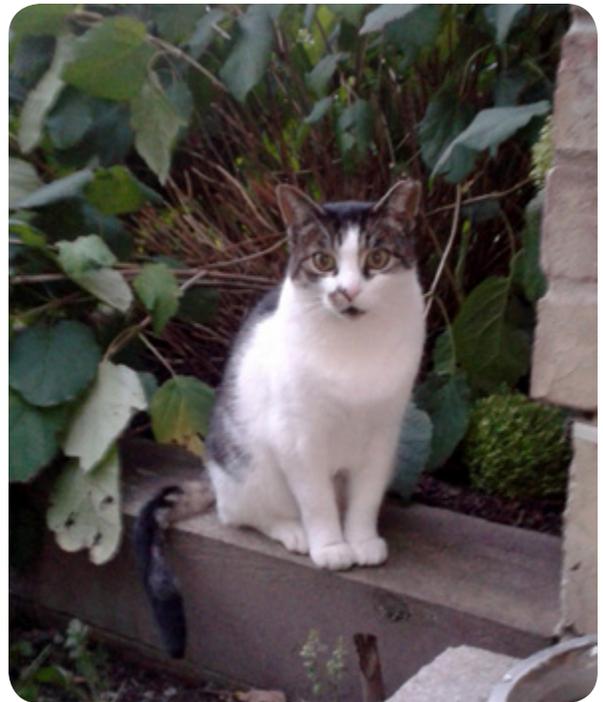
We are very grateful to Feline Friends both for being able to tell us his history and his information, and for offering to help pay for his first vet visit before coming into the house.

Thanks to FFN, "Wha-Whose" now has all his shots up to date; he's had his teeth examined, received some flea medicine, and the vet pronounced him very healthy and strong. He is allowed to come into the house and sleep on the beds of my son and his dad, although he is still at the point where he will only come in for a few minutes before going back out. Our domestic cat is having a bit of trouble adjusting to another cat getting the attention, so we are trying to be extra good to her.

When Wha-Whose is being fed he always leaves a portion of his food for the black female

cat, who comes and eats it later when no one is around. We are hoping that when Wha-Whose cat moves into the upstairs part of the house and becomes a regular house cat, his female companion will gradually follow. Perhaps next summer she will also agree to live in the house.

Many thanks to Feline Friends for their generosity. Wha-Whose is a wonderful cat and we're looking forward to spending the winter with him, and seeing him curled up indoors.



Meet Smudge – one of the first cats FFN trapped, neutered, and returned to his outdoor home. That was 2007. Today, Smudge is still healthy and handsome, receiving food and water daily from a group of committed FFN volunteers. It's so rewarding to see that ferals can live long, healthy lives. Smudge is almost 10 years old and we hope he'll still be going strong for many years.

*I believe cats to be spirits come to earth.  
A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud  
without coming through.*

– Jules Verne



## Puddy Products on the Road!

by Pat Burnell

On Saturday, October 15th, Puddy Products raised \$150 for FFN programmes at the local market for National Feral Cat Day.

On Sunday, October 16th, Puddy Products travelled to the cat show in London at the Western fairgrounds. The people at the cat show were very willing to buy – especially when they discovered where the money was going – and Puddy Products raised over \$400.

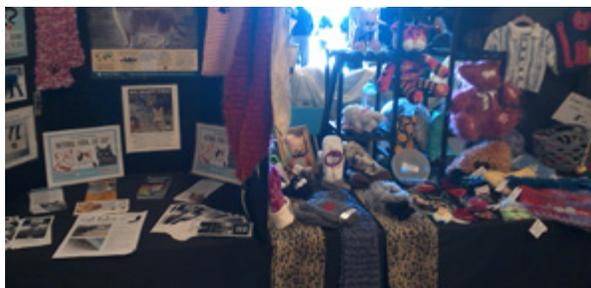
This Saturday, November 5th, you can catch Puddy Products at the St. Mary's Craft Show in the recreation complex. On Sunday, November 6th, Puddy Products returns to Stratford at the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans, at 151 Lorne Avenue East.

If those are not enough “public appearances,” Puddy Products will also be at the Elora Raceway on Sunday, November 13th and Stratford's own local market for the first three Sundays in December. We're branching out!!!

I was also asked to make a dog-sized antler – reminiscent of the one worn by Max in the Grinch story – for a fundraising Christmas photo shoot. I deliver said antler on Thursday and if it serves, it will garner another donation for FFN. Puddy Products is on a snowball roll and gathering funds along the way.

So mark these dates on your calendar and come and see what lovely stuff Puddy Products offers to please your cat, your children/ grandchildren, or yourself.

Puddy Products are a GO!



Harriet is so thankful to be indoors! This girl survived outdoors for well over a year, giving birth to two litters of kittens. By the time she was trapped and spayed, Harriet had long forgotten the warmth and kindness of touch. The plan was to release Harriet to her caregiver, but on meeting her, we couldn't send her back to the outdoors. She was a very frightened girl who needed some TLC to show her true personality. Harriet has been in foster care for almost 4 months and has blossomed into a wonderful girl.

Now, it's time for Harriet to find a permanent home. She will be shy at first but with a little time and patience she will show you what a beautiful girl she is. Harriet gets along well with other cats and would do best in a quiet home. If you would like to meet Harriet, please call or text Marg Usprech at 519-274-9784.

*I put down my book, The Meaning of Zen, and see the cat smiling into her fur as she delicately combs it with her rough pink tongue.*

*“Cat, I would lend you this book to study but it appears you have already read it.”*

*She looks up and gives me her full gaze.*

*“Don't be ridiculous,” she purrs,*

*“I wrote it.”*

– from “Miao” by Dilys Laing



## And the winner is ...

YOU DID IT!! The 2016 FFN Wine Raffle sold out all 2,750 tickets two days before the draw on Monday, October 17th, raising \$8,900 for FFN! We are so proud to be able to say that EVERY CENT will go towards helping cats!!

The winners of the 2016 wine raffle are:

### 1st Prize – Joanne Beaudoin, Kitchener, ON



### 2nd Prize – Joan Maloney, Stratford, ON



### 3rd Prize – Jeremy Wreford, Stratford, ON (not pictured)

The fundraising committee is excited to announce that next year's "Wine Raffle" draw may look a little different ... We're excited about the changes and hope you will be too! Stay tuned for more info next spring.



We would also like to make mention of a special young man, Jakob Krausz, pictured above sporting his new "I Spayed My Cat" T-shirt in the company of one of his BFF's (best feline friends), O'Malley.

Jakob and his dad, Frank, made it their mission to help FFN get those wine raffle tickets sold! This is a cause that is near and dear to their hearts. Frank and Jakob have taken in one of the cats who was trapped, neutered, eartipped, and returned in their area a few years back. It only took a little patience to convince Scruffy that an indoor home was the way to go. Jakob and his dad sold over 100 tickets and along the way have helped to educate people who were not aware of FFN and of the problem of cat overpopulation and homelessness. Way to go, Jakob!



### SO MANY THANKS AGAIN

To our local Pet Valu who have chosen Feline Friends to be their charity partner for their October "Thanks for Giving" campaign.

At the time of writing, Kimberley and her hard-working staff had collected \$800 in food and cash donations for FFN. AND, they are aiming to reach the magic \$1,000 mark by the end of October!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

