

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Pretty's motto is "live and let live"



MumCat exhibits her characteristic caution

Our Fabulous Four...

By Warren and Barbara Beckett

The L&M cats live in an industrial area in the south end of Stratford. They've been supported by FFN since 2008.

Dedicated volunteers see to the needs of the four cats remaining of the original clowder ... two meals a day, housing, cleaning services, repairs, and, of course, snow removal. Lots of love (always) and pets (as invited) are provided at no extra charge.

All nattily attired in black and white, the L&M cats are a wonderful, entertaining little fur family.

Gentle Pretty is the resident hostess at L&M, ready to extend a welcoming paw to any "friendlies" who happen by. Kind and inclusive, she'll gladly share her world. "Live and let live" is her motto.

Shy MumCat raised five kittens in the challenging outdoors. She's learned to be cautious, even, at times, elusive. On rare occasions, this quiet, sweet kitty surprises with a swift little paw to smack down misbehaviour. She's a survivor. The L&M boys are her sons.

Fleck is a cat of great reserve ... no begging for pets or dining with others for him. At

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mealtimes, he'll fix you with his solemn gaze, listen intently to your sweet talk and flattery, and then scamper off to show just where he'd like his solitary picnic placed. He values his personal space: "See me; include me; please don't touch me."

Outgoing Trouble always has places to go and things to do. In preparation for his next adventure, he uses mealtimes to recharge with food and loving attention. Never bashful, he used to make regular visits to the nearby bikers' clubhouse for extra pets. Fortunately, the motorcycle gang rolled out of town before Trouble became a permanent recruit. A rascal!

The isolation of the L&M site is of some concern but these cats have keen survival skills. Highly attuned to familiar engine sounds, they know just when to emerge from hiding ... a welcoming committee full of energy and joy. They've learned to accommodate groundhogs, skunks, and raccoons. Weather extremes are handled without complaint. -16°C and you'll find them outdoors together enjoying an afternoon of sunbathing. Amazing!

Over the years, the L&M colony has temporarily sheltered twenty-three needy feline visitors. FFN trapped each newcomer, provided medical attention, and moved each cat through loving foster care and into a forever home.

Uniquely individual, but bonded as a group, our four L&M cats are dearly loved. What a pleasure to share in their care!

The cat of the slums and alleys, starved, outcast, harried, ... still displays the self-reliant watchfulness which man has never taught it to lay aside.

- Saki

To some blind souls all cats are much alike. To a cat lover every cat from the beginning of time has been utterly and amazingly unique.

- Jenny de Vries

I rarely meddled in the cat's personal affairs and she rarely meddled in mine. Neither of us was foolish enough to attribute human emotions to our pets.

- Kinky Friedman



Handsome Fleck prefers to dine in solitary splendour



Trouble loves to be loved up ... pets, chin rubs, tail tugs, etc.

Catio Party

The catio party on Sunday September 11th was great fun. Everyone enjoyed the garden, the nibbles, and the wine from Bell's Winery.

Pat's Puddy products debuted a number of fun new products, some of our talented bakers sold a selection of delicious goodies, Kris from the Home of Habitat Haven showed samples of her cat enclosures to our visitors, and Kashi and Foster Simpson proudly showed off their own catio. Everyone agreed that catios are a great idea, and we may be seeing more popping up in our area! For more info on the Home of Habitat Haven, visit them at <http://habitataven.com/>



Cat people are different to the extent that they generally are not conformists. How could they be with a cat running their lives?
– Louis J. Camuti, D.V.M.

Does the father figure in your cat's life ever clean the litter box? My husband claims that men lack the scooping gene.
– Barbara L. Diamond

You can tell your cat anything and he'll still love you. If you lose your job or your best friend, your cat will think no less of you.
– Helen Powers



6th Annual Wine Raffle

The draw for the 6th Annual FFN Wine Raffle will take place on Monday, October 17 on the radio with Eddie Matthews. The 2016 raffle is bigger than ever!

1st Prize | 65 bottles of wine – including FFN favs

2nd Prize | 8 bottles of wine, as well as 2 sets of theatre tickets to the Stratford Festival, dinner for 2 at Foster's, and dinner for 2 at the Red Rabbit

3rd Prize | 2 CRP Adirondack chairs and a matching table – in your choice of colour – along with a gift basket that will include a VERY nice bottle of wine, glasses, wool blanket and selection of nibbles

We have set our sights on another “sell out” raffle in 2016. If you are a ticket seller and still have unsold tickets, please do your best to have your tickets sold by Monday, October 10 – Thanksgiving Monday.

Please return any **UNSOLD** tickets no later than Tuesday, October 11 so that we can do one final ticket sales “push” that week.

ALL tickets – sold or unsold – can be returned to Paul Simpson at 47 Britannia Street (please email him at simpson.paul@wightman.ca to make arrangements) OR contact holly@felinefriends.ca to arrange for pickup.

ALL tickets must be returned **NO LATER THAN** Friday, October 14 in time for the draw.

Thank you to everyone who has sold or purchased tickets to support FFN's programs and help the cats in Stratford/Perth County. Good luck!



National Feral Cat Day 2016

Join FFN on Saturday, October 15 at the Stratford Farmers' Market from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm for our “For Feral's Sake!” celebration.

We'll have Pat's fabulous Puddy Products, kitty-themed apparel and accessories hand-made with love. Also, this will be your last opportunity to get Wine Raffle Tickets before the October 17 draw.

Volunteers will also be on hand to chat with you about “National Feral Cat Day,” our own “community cats,” and how you can help FFN to help them. See you there!

THANKS

Once again, our sincere thanks to the following who have helped FFN again this past month:

- Bell's Winery for providing wine for the FFN Catio Party
- Pet Valu, Stratford, for collecting food for our community cat colonies and foster cats and kittens and for being so supportive in finding adoptive homes for many of our kittens!
- Reiki teacher and FFN member Michelle Kyle for donating \$143 – a portion of her most recent Animal Reiki Level 1 class.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

