

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Good Karr-ma

by Holly Roulston and Ron Diehl

If you follow FFN on Facebook, you might remember Karr (pictured above). He originally came to our TNR program looking a little beat up from life outdoors, but co-ordinator Marg Usprech soon realized he had a sweet friendly personality.

Karr was in foster care for some time before being adopted by a loving family. All was well. Unfortunately, before Karr could become familiar with and feel completely safe in his new home, he manage to dart through the open door one day.

Karr was “on the lamb” for THREE months. His family and FFN placed posters and photos around the neighbourhood and on social media to no avail.

In the meantime, another friendly and sweet black cat came through our TNR program but we had no one to foster it.

/continued on page 2



Donations needed for Upscale Book & Bake Sale

FFN’s annual Upscale at Fern Street has morphed into an Upscale Book and Bake Sale and we’re seeking donations of the following:

- books – in EXCELLENT CONDITION (no text books please)
- baked goods – e.g. main course items such as quiche, bisque, chili, lasagna, etc. for purchase (not cakes and cookies)
- AND scarves! (also cowls or shawls)

Please note that we are no longer accepting yardsale items not listed above.

So start putting aside your used books and collecting cowls, scarves, and shawls. And get baking and freezing the food donations.

If you don’t enjoy mixing it up in the kitchen, please consider donating a \$10 gift certificate to your favourite grocery store, bake shop, coffee shop, etc., as a prize for our penny raffle.

The Upscale Book & Bake Sale will take place some time in early March and is always an enjoyable evening.

If you have any questions regarding donations please call Pat Burnell at 519.271.0657 or email her at pmburnell@hotmail.com.

/continued from page 1

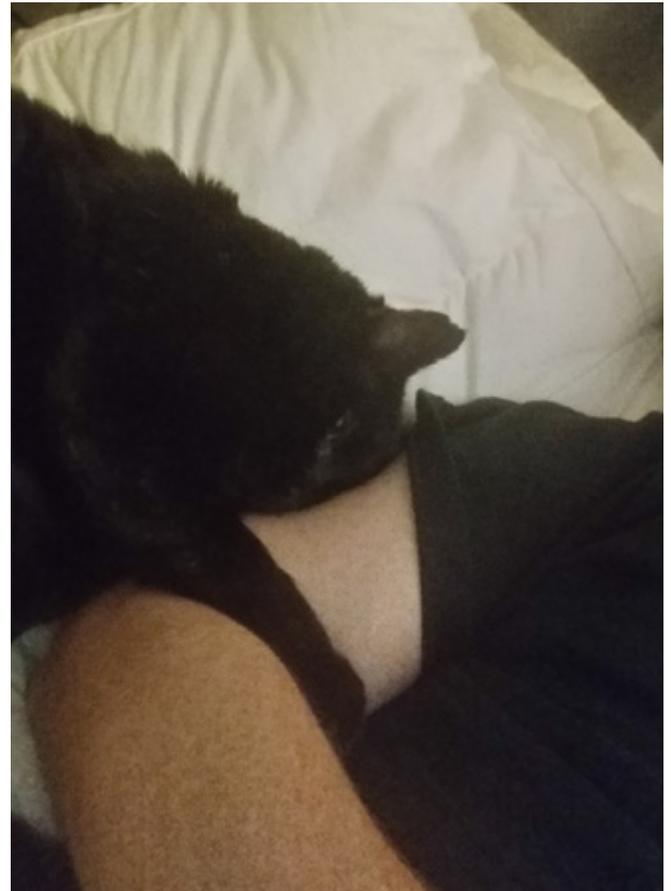
We asked Karr's adoptive family if they would consider fostering-to-adopt the new black kitty. We promised that if we were able to locate Karr, we would let the family decide which cat they'd like to keep. As it turned out, the new black kitty immediately fit in with his foster family – both people and resident cats.

When the message came that Karr had finally been found, we were thrilled to have him back and immediately began looking for a new forever home for him. Karr attended CatCon at the SPHS at the end of August 2016 but sadly (we thought) wasn't adopted.

However, he did meet Global Pet Foods staff member Britany Diehl who in September asked whether Karr was still available for adoption. She felt he would be a perfect fit for her father, Ron. It couldn't have been more true. Here is Ron's story of the bond he shares with Karr.

I became a shut-in very quickly. One day I was going to the gym and, two days later I was in a wheelchair. I'm finding it hard to deal with.

I've always liked cats better than dogs so when my daughter suggested that she get me a cat for my birthday, I accepted. I had no idea what a difference it would make in my life.



Karr giving Ron's arm a hug.

When Holly brought Karr to my home around 1:00 pm, he was shy. But by 7:00 pm, he was sitting on my knee and letting me pet him. It felt right. I enjoyed it as much as he did – even though my shoulder was killing me the next day. Guess I overdid it!

It has been five months now and I can't believe my cat. When I've been sleeping in my chair, he has jumped into my lap and woken me up to take my pills – right on the minute that I should be taking them. He's done that four times.

He sleeps between my legs while I watch TV, staying with me for hours. Just when I think I'm going to have to disturb him so that I can go to the washroom, he wakes up and jumps off the chair.

It's like Karr can read my mind. I could write a book. I won't let him go for any amount of money. He really is my companion and I would be lost without him.



Help FFN support Stratford's community care agencies

The House of Blessing and the Salvation Army are well respected institutions in the Stratford area that provide assistance to so many. Unfortunately, neither organization receives many donations of cat food, even though it is something that their clientele needs.

FFN is investigating the possibility of supplying some of their needs. We're in process of gathering information and will share it with our members.

In the meanwhile – if you're so inclined – please consider making a cat food donation and add it to the "food bank" receptacles you see in the grocery stores around town. It would be a great help.

Make your dollar do more with corporate donations and matching programs

by Cathy Russell

Annually many corporations (typically medium- to large-sized companies) run United Way campaigns. What most employees don't know is that donations through these campaigns do not have to be directed to the United Way. In most cases, the employee can select a registered charity of their choice to make a one-time donation or to sign up for regular payroll deductions. In both cases, the employer then matches the employee donation(s) up to a certain amount.

In addition, many of these companies have other programs to support community volunteering by their employees. These programs may include "Community Spirit Days" where the employee can take a paid workday to volunteer for the charity they support or annual programs where the employee can apply for a grant based on volunteering a certain number of hours in a twelve-month period.

I encourage you to take a little time to explore what your company has to offer. Every dollar counts and if you can raise additional funds through activities you already do, then, why not?!



felinefriends.ca

feline film festival

IT'S BACK! JUNE 9, 2017

Mark your calendar now! Our 5th annual @ Knox Church, Stratford. Contribute videos now by posting them on our facebook page (facebook.com/felinefriendsnetwork).

Remember to include **#felinefilmfest** in your post. Or, email links to films@felinefriends.ca

Do you see that kitten chasing so prettily her own tail? If you could look with her eyes, you might see her surrounded with hundreds of figures performing complex dramas, with tragic and comic issues, long conversations, many characters, many ups and downs of fate.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Nothing's more playful than a young cat, nor more grave than an old one.

– Thomas Fuller



Report on the Animal Control By-law Review Working Group

by Sharon Morrice

The advisory group working on making recommendations to City Council on Stratford's animal control by-laws met on January 17. Topics discussed included the pros and cons of banning or regulating the sale of pets in Stratford pet stores, and limiting the number of pets allowed per household.

The Feline Friends Network advocates that the sale of un-spayed and un-neutered cats (and dogs) should no longer be allowed in Stratford because of the pet overpopulation problem in our area. Given that FFN exists to humanely address cat overpopulation and homelessness through our spay/neuter programs, we feel that the for-profit sale of kittens that have not been 'fixed' is a source of additional generations of unwanted and uncared-for cats.

FFN sees the results of cat overpopulation on a daily basis – and it's often heartbreaking. If pet stores were allowed only to showcase spayed and neutered pets from reputable shelters and rescues – which Feed-All Pet Centre, Pet Valu, and Global Pet Foods already do voluntarily – it could boost the adoption of more homeless animals.

FFN feels that limiting the number of pets per household is problematic for a number of reasons. Firstly, it acts as a deterrent to those who want to save the lives of more homeless cats by adopting them from shelters or rescues or by taking in a stray to save it from life on the streets.

Secondly, pet limits are arbitrary. There is no magic number of animals that guarantees humane conditions. Limiting



numbers doesn't take into account the fact that one person can provide excellent care for a half dozen animals or more, while another person cannot care properly for one. In addition, limiting the number of pets does not address animal abuse or neglect, noise, smell, or safety issues. Such issues are already covered by existing by-laws for disturbing the peace, nuisance, and public health, as well as leash laws. And, finally, limiting the number of pets does not prevent people from hoarding animals because hoarding is a mental health issue that requires treatment.

City staff are currently drafting a survey intended to measure public opinion on animal control issues. When the survey is available, FFN will notify our members in our newsletter and on Facebook. We strongly encourage you to participate. It's very important that all of us who care about animal welfare make our voices heard and influence our law-makers.

FFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Don't forget! FFN's annual general meeting takes place Sunday, 26 February at 2:00 pm in the Lower Optimist Hall, 72 Water Street, Stratford. We hope to see you there.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

