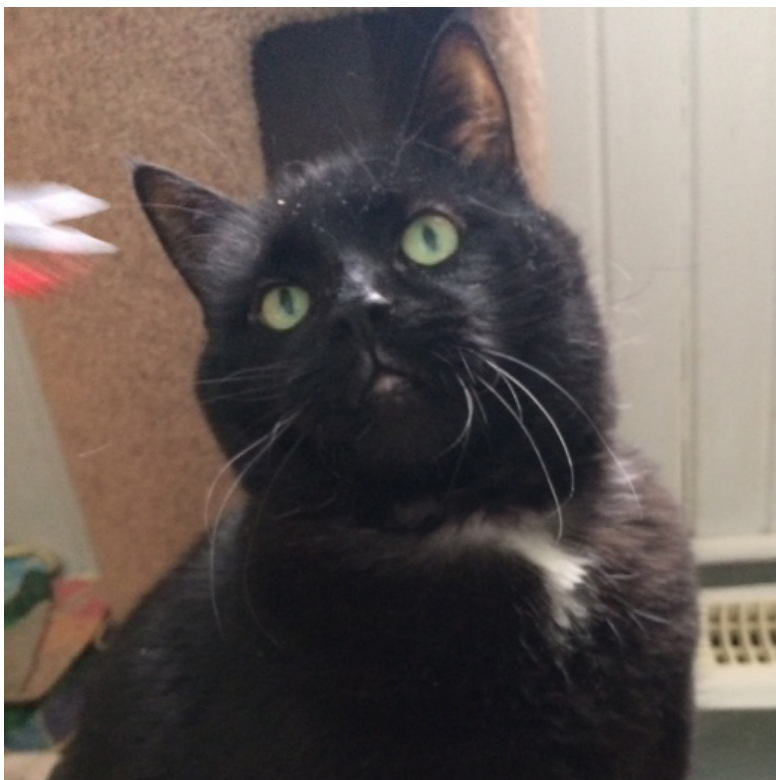


# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



## A cautionary tale and five grieving cats in need of fur-ever homes

by Cheryl Simpson

Imagine that you are a much loved cat, living with your human and your furry brothers and sisters. But, one day, your food bowl is empty. And when you go to let your human know, she doesn't respond, no matter how many face rubs you give her.

Days pass. Finally, there is a banging at the door and policemen arrive. The dog greets them, but you and your four feline companions panic and hide. Your wonderful guardian is taken away and strangers descend on the house. The dog is adopted right away, but no one knows what to do with you and your feline housemates. During the day, as the housecleaning continues, you hide in a crawl space in the basement or inside

an old box-spring. Only at night do you feel safe enough to come out to eat the food left for you.

Your lovely life with your pet parent has ended – just like that. And you wonder, “what is going to happen to us?”

This is an actual situation that FFN discovered several weeks ago. FFN was called by a relative of the deceased who remembered that we had helped her some years ago regarding a Trap, Neuter, Return situation. Not being a rescue, FFN does not generally take in surrenders so I phoned every rescue I could think of to help these cats. All were sympathetic, but no one wanted to take on traumatized cats – particularly older ones. The house was being readied to put on the market and we were told that the cats needed to be “gone.”

I knew what would happen if Animal Control or the OSPCA were called in – and I couldn't just stand by. With the help of a nearby TNR group, Paul and I set about preparing to trap.

After some very tense days, the TNR group, Paul, and I managed to catch all five cats. Three of them are now living in my upstairs bathroom; two more have gone to another foster home. All were completely terrified. And so a group of dedicated volunteers has begun the process of “re-socializing” the cats in order to help them find new homes.

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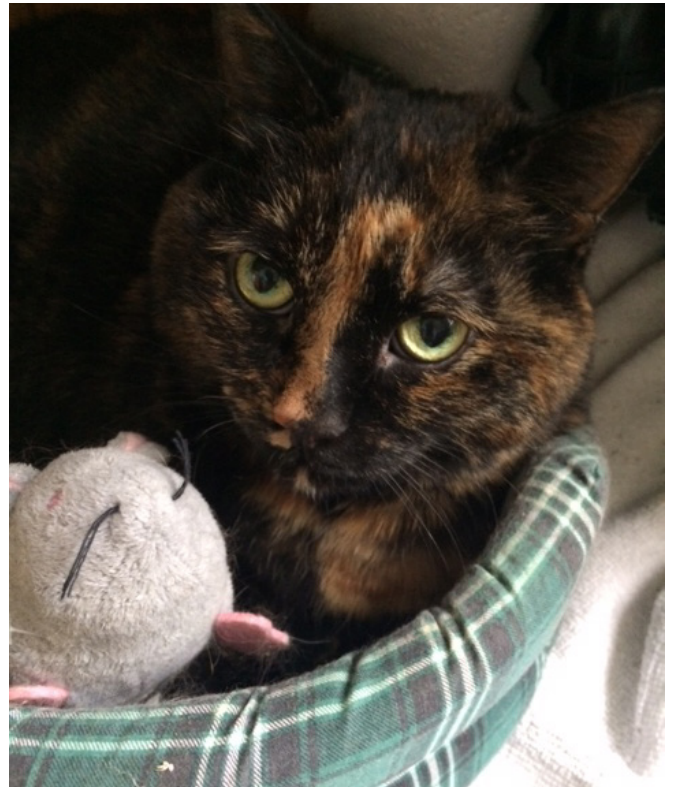
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These are wonderful cats who deserve wonderful people to love them. Someone has stepped forward to take 14-year-old Moby (photo on page 1) and 8-year-old Finn (below). But three are still in need of homes.

Pinky (pictured at right) is “The Introvert” of the group, an 8-year-old tortie – just look at that face! – who is a little overweight. Pinky is declawed. Although timid, she enjoys petting, brushing, and belly rubs when she is in her “safe space” and can be bribed with treats or catnip. Pinky gets braver every day.

The two younger cats, a brother and sister who are approximately 5 years old, are not yet comfortable having their photos taken. As a bonded pair, these beauties – dark grey and white, one short-haired, the other medium-long – would LOVE a new home where they can live out the rest of their lives together.

If you think you or someone you know might be able to give Pinky or the young brother and sister the loving forever home they need, please contact Paul or Cheryl Simpson at 519-273-8067. Between 12 and 22 May, Paul and Cheryl will



be on vacation. During that time, please contact Pat Burnell at 519-271-0657.

And one more *extremely* important thing ...

Stories such as this one happen much more often than we’d like to believe. A 2014 American estimate states that 500,000 orphaned pets wind up in shelters each year. These situations arise because we don’t like to contemplate the possibility that we aren’t always going to be here for our pets. But an accident, a prolonged illness or hospital stay, or yes, even death, could happen to any of us, at any time.

Please listen to this cautionary tale – and then do something to protect the pets you love. Don’t assume your children or friends will automatically take your cats. Be proactive. Make plans. Need help doing this? The website [2ndchance4pets.org](http://2ndchance4pets.org) has excellent advice. Also, the 2010 book *Fat Cats and Lucky Dogs: How to Leave (some of) Your Estate to your Pet* can be purchased from Amazon.

Do this because, to quote the introduction to the 2ndchance website: “Imagine life without your pet. Now imagine your pet’s life without you.”



## 5th Annual Feline Film Festival Friday, 9 June 2017

As long as there are cats and a camera in the same place and at the same time, there's a good chance of recording some unusual (and funny) moments. We learned that years ago and those filmed moments form the core of our annual fundraiser being held in the downstairs area of Knox Presbyterian Church, 142 Ontario Street, Stratford.

**Doors open at 7:00 pm.**

**Showtime at 8:00.**

**BIG silent auction offering, including a major item from ViaRail.**

**Food, drink, tarot card readings, door prizes. Great fun!!**

**Tickets \$15 adult, \$7.50 kids with an adult.**



### **A WARM WELCOME ...**

A round of cheers for FFN treasurer Jamie (Lamond) and husband Matt Murray on the birth of their first child, Malcolm. Baby doing just fine and new mum and dad adjusting to LWK (Life With Kids).

### **AND MANY THANKS ...**

To our local Pet Valu who collected donations of money and food for FFN throughout the month of April for their Pet Appreciation month, raising just over \$3,200. Thank you to manager Kimberley, the Pet Valu staff, and Pet Valu's generous customers!!

For the kindness of Global Pet Foods and Feed-All Pet Centre, both of Stratford, who continue to provide us with cat food – often without us even needing to ask!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

