

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



## Caring for Calico

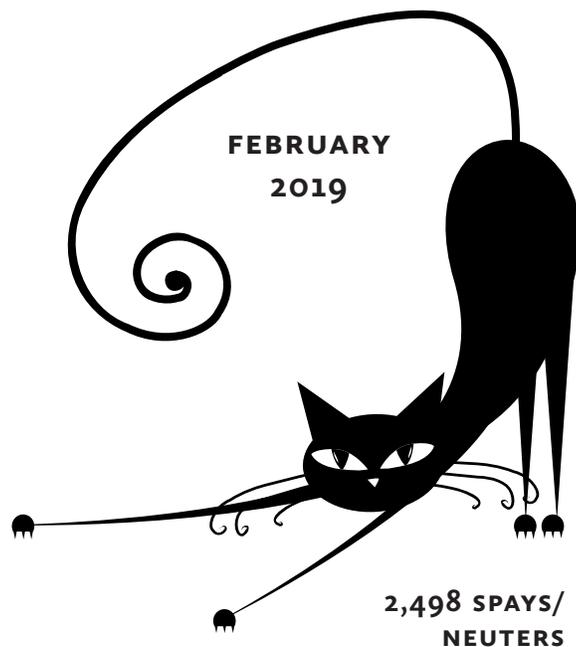
by Barb Conrad

*In early 2018, FFN received a call from Barb and Jon Conrad about a little calico cat that was coming to their home for meals. Calico entered our TNR program on 22 February 2018 and, with the help and patience of Barb and Jon, she has made her way into their hearts and home. This is a beautiful story of two people who never gave up on a little calico cat. Thank you Barb and Jon Conrad.*

### 5 NOVEMBER 2018 | UPDATE ON OUR CALICO

It's been a long process but in the last little while, Calico has finally begun to warm up to us! We see her now in the mornings for dry food and then again at dinner time for wet and dry. Instead of running off at the slightest sound, she actually runs to us when we open the door and I can barely get the wet food out of the can before her head is right in the dish! :-)

She has also started weaving in and out of our legs and we communicate with meows and loving greetings. Just lately, I



have been able to touch her tail and today I was able to pet her! But only for a quick moment and with gloves on as she tends to want to bite when someone touches her body.

On one of the recent cold nights, I attempted to lure her into the house – enticing her in the door with her food. She curiously made her way into the living room but then freaked out, crying that painful sound and hiding under the couch until escaping through a wide open door. Clearly she is not ready to come inside our house – preferring the old barn next door. We still try to tempt her indoors but she only peeks in at the door before backing away.

Should the colder weather eventually make her more eager to come inside, we stocked up with a litter pan, etc., and are fully prepared!

Both Jon and I have become quite fond of her and look forward to seeing her every day!

### 26 DECEMBER 2018

Calico has started to let me touch her!! Although I've kept the gloves on because I wasn't sure about biting.

I've been spending almost an hour outside with her after each meal, talking soothingly to her. She has slowly become accustomed to me hanging around and even began to use the tote

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and straw shelter on the porch at night instead of going to the barn next door.

I didn't want her to spend a winter staying outside, cold, while she ate, so when the really cold nights started in November, we began to coax her just inside the back door for her meals.

At first she was still very skittish of us, coming just inside the door to gobble the food down and wanting out right away! But one night, I started to play with her (gloves on) and she played for a good hour on the kitchen rug before wanting out again. Then, after about a week, she didn't want out! I brought up a cat bed that Cedes (our last stray) never liked from the basement and Calico took to it!

So we let her spend the night in the kitchen – wondering, gee is she going to trash the place when we're sleeping? Jon got up next morning and she wanted OUT! But after spending the entire day at the barn, she returned here for dinner and began spending her nights in the kitchen. Gradually she spent more and more time hanging out closer to our property until now she is indoors most of the time!!!! And, when she is at the door, she doesn't want out!!!!!! Haaaaa.

Aaaaand, she follows me everywhere!!!! Between my feet all the time!!!! Right now she is behind my knees while I type this. She even let me cut her nails! She doesn't sleep with us (yet!) but with time she may.

11 JANUARY 2019

Gosh kitty sure is lucky she is inside – the temperatures last night and today are brrrrr COLD!!!

She still goes to the door, wanting out. But when we open the door – nope! She backs away, wanting nothing to do with the outdoors and the cold.



*(above)* An outdoor kitty no more, Calico enjoys a nap; *(below)* Jon and Barb Conrad with their calico kitty.

There's a short stool next to the dining room window where we have a finch feeder hanging outside. This entertains her for quite a while.

It's funny now, when we leave the house and Calico is inside! We tell her to watch the house! ;-)

*Cats have intercepted my footsteps at the ankle for so long that my gait, both at home and on tour, has been compared to that of a man wading through low surf.*

– Roy Blount, Jr.



# Sip and Shop Night Market

THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2019

Mark your calendars for the Sip and Shop Night Market at the Stratford Country Club (53 Romeo Street North) on Thursday, 7 March 2019!

Beat the winter blues by spending a night out shopping with friends. Thirty-five local businesses will showcase their goods and services, and FFN's Pat Burnell will be there with all of her newest Puddy Product creations. Enjoy drinks, canapés and fun galore! Although admission is FREE, donations (\$2 suggested) at the door will benefit Feline Friends Network!

## KEYSTONE ALLEY COMMUNITY HOURS

Feline Friends enjoys terrific community support, and when that support is offered without us even having asked for it, it's extra special!

We are excited to announce that the Keystone Alley (ranked the #1 restaurant in Stratford by TripAdvisor) has selected FFN to be the recipient of their next **Community Hours** donation!

From 5 to 6 pm every Saturday during the month of February, 50% of the sales of selected items – such as the Keystone's house-made beers, \$5 seccos (bubbly), Caesar salads, and delicious hippie bowls – will be donated to FFN!

Grateful thanks to owners Anthony Jordaan and Kimberly Hurley for their extraordinary generosity. We hope *cat tales* readers will stop in this month during one or more Community Hours at Keystone Alley, 34 Brunswick Street, Stratford. To reserve, call 519.271.5645 or visit their website at [www.keystonealley.com](http://www.keystonealley.com).



## World Spay Day

In our mission to get more cats and kittens spayed or neutered, FFN is once again challenging Stratford and Perth County veterinary clinics to participate in **World Spay Day** (26 February 2019) by offering discounted spay/neuter prices for cats and dogs.

Please watch FFN's facebook page, where we will post the list of clinics who accept the challenge. If you or anyone you know has pets that need to be "fixed," this opportunity is not to be missed!

## SHOW US YOUR HEART

Global Pet Foods' annual **Show Us Your Heart** campaign runs from 8 to 22 February 2019.

For every donation made by a customer, Global will donate another \$1 to a charity benefiting animals – up to \$75,000 in total among all 200 of their stores.

Feline Friends Network is thrilled that we have again been chosen by Global Pet Foods Stratford as the recipient of the proceeds of this year's campaign!

Anyone who makes a donation to the "Show Us Your Heart" campaign will receive a free Merrick dog dental treat or a free can of Merrick wet cat food while supplies last.

*Are cats lazy? Well, more power to them if they are. Which one of us has not entertained the dream of doing just as he likes, when and how he likes, and as much as he likes?*

– Fernand Mery



## Parkview West cat colony

by Maggie Laprade

In the spring of 2017, when we moved to the Rotary Apartment complex, we became aware of a small feral cat population that co-existed with the raccoons, foxes, deer, squirrels, and a myriad of birds, ducks, and geese. The spring of 2018 presented a preview of overpopulation, when several of the previous year's kittens became the parents of new litters. While nature (likely in the form of foxes) thinned the numbers, we could still envision an overpopulation issue and began looking for solutions.

The Feline Friends Network – in the form of Holly Roulston – came to the rescue. Last summer, with Holly's help, we set traps and lured the cats in, trapping six over the course of a number of weeks.

FFN volunteers took the cats to local veterinary clinics where they were examined, vaccinated, and spayed or neutered before being returned to our location. Several Rotary Apartment residents made donations to Feline Friends to help defray costs.

Our "mousers" – who help keep the rodent population in check – are back. We also feel that our colony deters other feral cats from St Marys from moving in and, since we have hopefully introduced "birth control," we should not have an overwhelming population in the near future ...

As winter approached, Holly located two ready-made insulated cat shelters and brought them to us, along with straw for the bedding. We tucked the shelters into a wooded area for "privacy" and mounted them on a picnic table to prevent skunks, etc., from entering.

For feeding over the winter months, we have a devoted lady who "treats" the cats with chicken wieners, another who offers treats out front, and a dedicated feeding area where we serve cat kibble each supper time. Again, several residents helped us create a feeding shelter using a donated table-top, suspended over four



large plastic flower pots. We shove the dishes under this shelter to keep the rain and snow from filling them.

Many of the residents have also donated money towards the kibble – which I keep in my trunk, simply because my parking spot is closest!

The cats have become very accustomed to the routine and now start gathering as soon as they hear my trunk open! Some evenings, they venture very close, "circling" me within a three-foot radius as I fill the bowls. As soon as I turn back to my car, they are at the dishes.

The pictures above are not terribly clear (partly because it is still getting dark at the cats' dinnertime), but there are three cats under the "roof"... two, however, are mostly black, so hard to see!!

All in all, we are very grateful to FFN – and particularly to Holly for her many hours of dedicated service and help. Our little colony of cats seems very healthy. They all have become a bit chubby this winter, which is likely good insulation for the frigid weather!



## 2018 SPAY/NEUTER DETAILS

In 2018, FFN spayed or neutered 374 cats and kittens. Of that total, 111 were spayed/neutered through FFN's Low Income Spay/Neuter Assistance Program. The other 263 were enrolled in our TNR program. 145 of those cats and kittens then entered FFN's foster and adoption program, while 118 were returned to caregivers – many to make their homes in barns. In a number of cases, caregivers were eventually able to gain the trust of these cats and have taken the cats into their homes.

## In memory of a wonderful man and a valued volunteer

by Cheryl Simpson

Warren Beckett was one of those rarest of creatures – an honest-to-goodness “Cat Man” who truly loved cats. During the winter of 2012, Warren and his wife, Barbara, began volunteering for FFN, feeding our colony cats. The cats had never had it so good!

One of Warren's hobbies was woodworking and he became FFN's go-to guy when feral shelters needed repair. He and Barbara even fashioned a little heated house for one lucky group, adding a colourful wooden sign announcing that the home belonged to “Pretty and her friends.”

Warren, you will be greatly missed.

*Editor's note: FFN is very grateful to have received donations in Warren's memory so that we may help more cats. Thank you to Barbara and family for doing us the honour of naming FFN as a charity of choice.*



“I just wonder if there aren't some team members who could be a bit more focused in meetings.”

## FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on SUNDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2019 at 2:00 pm. Please plan to join us!

The meeting will be held at the Community Room on the main floor of the Falstaff Family Centre, 35 Waterloo Street North, Stratford.

Note that the venue is accessible to those using wheelchairs and some scooters depending on size and weight. If you wish to attend and you use a scooter that is over 225 kg (500 lbs), or is a large size, please contact us at [info@felinefriends.ca](mailto:info@felinefriends.ca) and we will do our best to make arrangements accommodate you.

The meeting agenda, the minutes from the 2018 AGM, and FFN's 2018 financial statements will be sent by email to all eligible voting members. If you need to refer to them, please print and bring them to the AGM.

Please remember to bring cash for the raffle fundraiser. T-shirts, memberships, and Pat's Puddy Products may be paid for by cash or credit card.

If you cannot attend the AGM and would like to vote by proxy, please contact us at [info@felinefriends.ca](mailto:info@felinefriends.ca) to make arrangements.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

