

# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



## Life of Dupont

by Tyler Jouwsma

Just over a year ago, my mother [Kimberley Jouwsma] asked me to be a foster caregiver for a male tabby cat that she and Feline Friends Network had recently captured. While trying to convince me, she told me that she had a feeling that this cat was special – that although he might be shy now, he would – if given time – turn around. She also mentioned that this poor thing had recently undergone surgery for his broken leg/paw. Needless to say, I was feeling more and more compelled to foster this cat. My mother was selling it well!

Before I go any further, I should probably introduce my mother, Kim, a little more fully. She has been working/volunteering with FFN for the past couple of years and is truly an animal whisperer. If you've ever met her, you will know that her support for animals goes the extra mile. The love she has for animals is unconditional – just like their love for us.

Secretly, I knew from the beginning that my mother was hoping I would adopt this cat, even though I'd told her that I

wouldn't be ready to have a pet for at least a few years. Still after a couple of days discussing the situation with her, I said "yes, I'll foster him until he finds a home" – much to my mother's delight.

But she also made sure that I knew that fostering a cat who has been abused and is homeless and fearful would be a more difficult challenge than just introducing an animal to a new home. I accepted this challenge – and Dupont came into my life.

With the acceptance of this new responsibility, I didn't realize how many more visits I would receive from my mother – I mean that in a good way!! Dupont needed to be treated kindly, fed well, kept hydrated – the whole works. Aside from the medical and physical treatments, he also needed to know that he was loved by people who were actually going to take care of him.

So, every day for 3 to 5 days, my mother and I took turns sitting beside his cage with the door open, just letting him know that we were there. Day after day, he slept and ate – nothing more, nothing less. Then, in the middle of the night, as I was reading my book beside him, he ventured out of the cage and started to walk around the room! I was awed and excited and immediately called my mother to tell her the

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great news. By the time she was able to come over the next afternoon, Dupont had explored the whole house! It was safe to say that Dupont finally felt comfortable. This was a new chapter for him and he never stepped foot back into his cage.

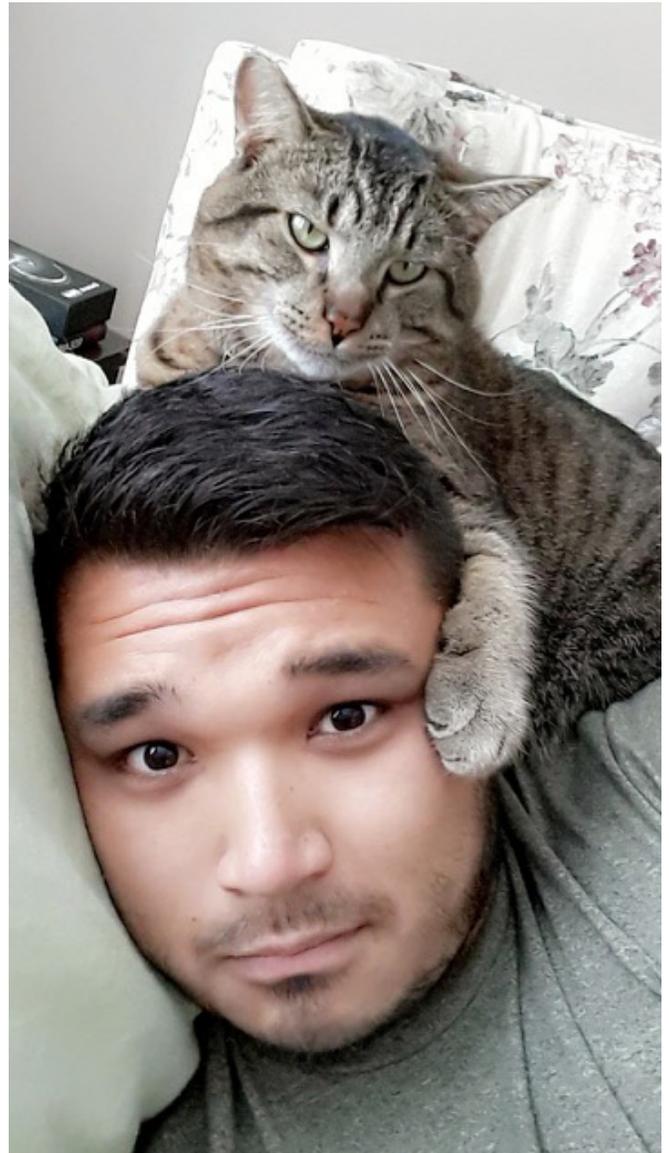
Dupont quickly became cuddly, warm, and social, and just loved attention from everyone! So it wasn't long before I called my mother and said that I wanted to adopt him. Over the past year, Dupont and I have created an unbreakable bond. His favorite hobbies are napping, eating, being visited by literally anyone, playing with strings/mouse toys and lounging by the window. Ever wish you had a fluffy blanket or pillow to cozy up to in the morning when you wake up? Well, I'm lucky – I have Dupont to rely on for snuggles and cuddles.

A few weeks ago, Dupont escaped through my front door and ran off. I know that many of you reading this have had this happen to you and know how terrifying it is! We immediately began to do everything we could think of to get him back home – we left wet and dry food out, along with a bed and a blanket, just in case. We searched a four-block radius, constantly and extensively. Our efforts paid off and after ten hours Dupont was back home where he belongs.

I feel amazed and blessed by the support I received from everyone. Since Dupont is so friendly with everyone he meets, he had a search party of eight people looking for him and the members of Stratford Life on Facebook offered help and tips. Dupont and I feel very very loved.

Adopting Dupont has changed my life. Not just because I always have someone at home, but because he constantly brings a smile to my face. Every time I come home – from work or anywhere else – I can rely on him to be at the door waiting for me. Every time I watch Netflix, I can rely on him to be watching TV beside me. Every time I take a shower, I can rely on him to be eagerly waiting for me to be done. Every time I do something at home, I can rely on him.

Not only is Dupont my cat, he is my son and family.



*The FFN newsletter would like to say a special thank you to Tyler Jouwsma for providing us with such a great article. You made us cry – and we mean that in a good way!! We wish you and Dupont the very best.*

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Please save the date in your calendar and plan to join FFN at our Annual General Meeting on 24 February 2019! Only you can make it **A Great Meeting**. Location to be announced.



**GIVING TUESDAY MAKES US PROUD!**

On Giving Tuesday, 27 November 2018, thirty individual donors made donations to FFN through Canada Helps and by e-transfer to raise a total of \$1,510. Mike Vancea of Vancea Financial and an anonymous donor matched \$1,000 of that amount, while another individual contacted us that day and offered to match another \$500 for a grand total of \$3,010! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of those you were able to contribute this Giving Tuesday!

In addition, Sabrina Rudy-Mills, owner of Stacey’s Pizza in St Marys, donated the proceeds from Giving Tuesday sales of chili/cheese fries and wraps to FFN and another favourite animal charity. FFN received \$140! Thank you Sabrina!!

Last but not least, Sabrina drew our WINNER of the wireless headphones – NANCY HUTT! Congrats, Nancy, and thanks for your donation!

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**SPECIAL SOMETHING FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE**

Calling all Christmas shoppers! The fabulous creations of Pat’s Puddy Products will be available at the Stratford Farmers Market on Saturday, the 8th, 15th, and 22nd of December! Located at the Stratford Agriplex in the Stratford Rotary Complex (353 McCarthy Road, behind the arena), the market is open 7 am to noon.

FFN’s Pat Burnell knits and sews an amazing variety of items from the classic Catoque (and other hat styles), Bandi-cats (headbands), sweaters and slippers, to cat toys, children’s toys, and much more! Come out and find unique gifts for the special people and cats in your life! Proceeds from Pat’s sales are donated to FFN.

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**TAX RECEIPT REMINDER**

To our volunteers who would like a donation tax receipt or reimbursement for cat food/related expenses. Please submit the original receipts and an itemized expense report by 15 January 2019.



*photo by Shauna King*

**IT’S A WRAP**

A big thank-you to everyone who made FFN’s 6th annual Feline Film Festival purrfectly successful!

The event raised \$2,378, which will help to sustain our TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), Low Income Spay/Neuter Assistance, and Foster/Adoption Programs.

Sincere gratitude to our many hard-working volunteers, the local businesses and individuals who donated silent auction items, our generous event sponsors – Stratford Brewing Company, L&M Catering, Romeo Pet Hospital, Avon Pet Hospital, and Coventry Animal Hospital – as well as the very helpful folks at Knox Presbyterian Church.

To everyone who attended – your laughter made it a fun night! And your generous support is what makes all that FFN does for cats pawisible!

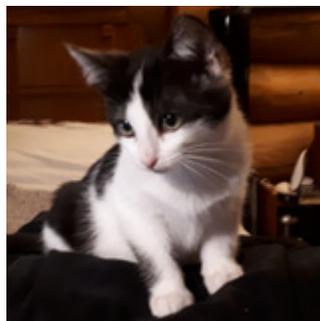
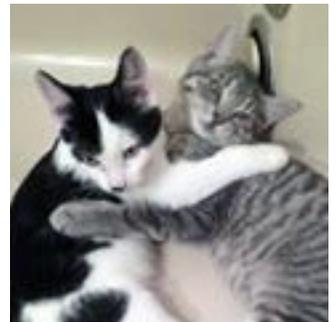
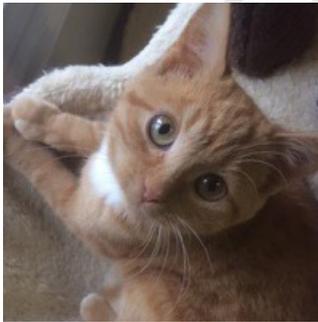
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**MANY HAPPY RETURNS**

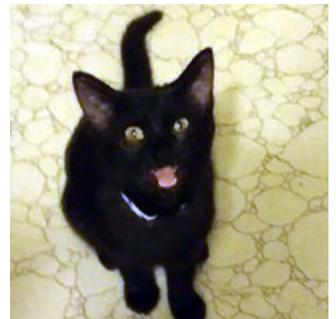
Do you have an insulated FFN cat shelter in GOOD CONDITION that is no longer being used? If so, we are asking that you please return it to FFN so that we can redistribute the shelters to where they are needed. To make arrangements for to return a shelter, please email Pat Burnell at pmburnell@hotmail.com. Thanks for helping FFN keep more kitties warm & dry!



# The cats and kittens of 2018

A few of the furry faces FFN helped in 2018. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at FFN.





NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
garet markvoort

