

cat tales

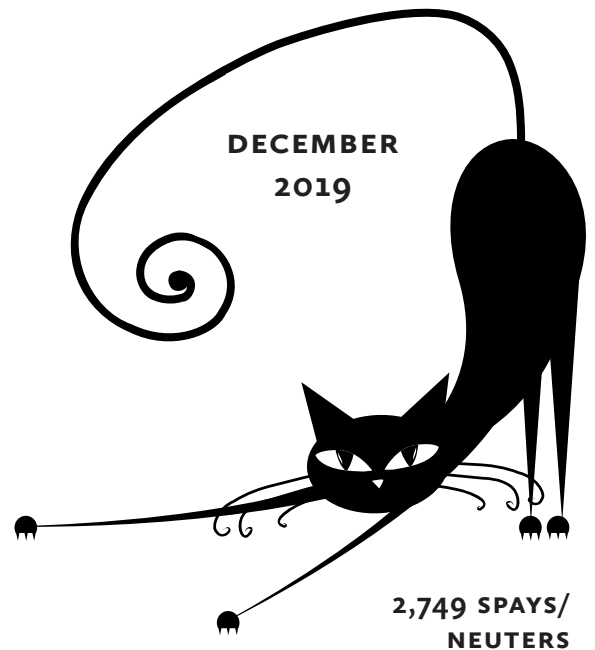
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Season's Greetings

by Sharon Morrice, President

We want to wish everyone in our caring, cat-loving community a very happy and healthy holiday season! FFN is very fortunate to continue to enjoy strong support and partnerships in our fourteenth year of existence. In 2019, we received our first-ever grant from the City of Stratford. Donations were also up substantially, thanks in large part to the new '100 Feline Friends Who Care,' which was a huge success, having reached our goal of 100 people donating \$100 each (thanks to Rachele, who dreamed up and executed it from start to finish). A sincere thank you to every single donor – individuals and members of our local business community – who gave generously in 2019, and to our partners at House of Blessing and Salvation Army (Stratford, St. Marys, Mitchell and Listowel), who conduct assessments of people in financial need for our Low-Income Spay/Neuter Program.



And especially, thank you a thousand times over to our volunteers! Your importance to Feline Friends cannot be overstated. FFN has no paid staff, so everything that is done to help cats and kittens runs on 100% volunteer power. A recent estimate of combined annual hours put in by our volunteers is 12,000 hours! That, most certainly, is a conservative estimate. Our Trap-Neuter-Return/Foster/Adoption coordinators, Holly and Marg, put in an unreal amount of time and make many personal sacrifices to respond to the avalanche of requests we receive to help homeless cats, while at the same time managing our social media and raising funds. Our treasurer, Jamie, takes care of all bookkeeping and bill paying, issuing tax receipts, preparing financial reports and tax returns, and writing grant applications while being Mom to two small humans. Our board members, fosters (who are spread throughout Perth County & Tavistock – we couldn't help so many cats without you), feral colony caregivers, cat flat volunteers, cat flat scheduler and TLC cat caregiver, Kim, wine raffle prize-getter and ticket-selling machine, Sue, and our newsletter editor, Gareth, are people we count on to sustain the activities of FFN. Shout out to April Wagler, who has taken on some foster/

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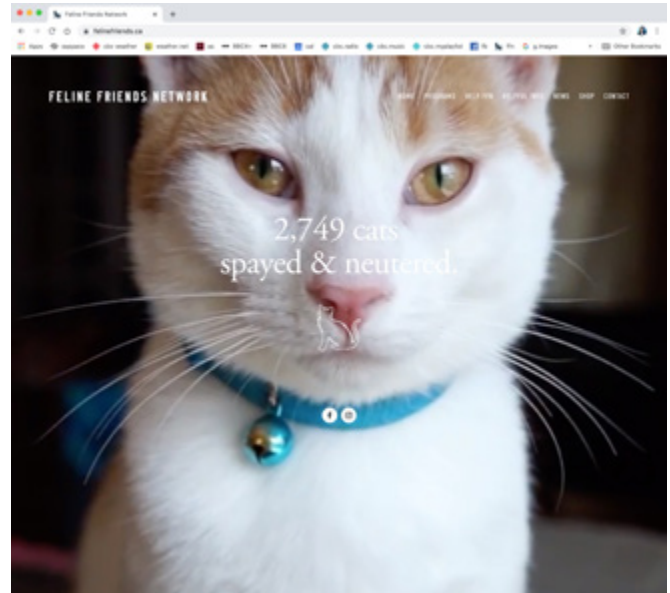
adoption coordination duties. Special thanks to Pat, who gives generously of her time and talent to create and sell Puddy Products – a major contribution to fundraising, and to Larry and Charles, who have built many insulated cat shelters to keep our outdoor friends warm. In addition, we are grateful for our partnerships with numerous veterinary clinics, who provide discounts on spay/neuter surgeries and medical treatment required by our cats & kittens. Last, but definitely not least, appreciation to our local pet supply stores, who exceed expectations with donations of money, food, litter, and auction items. Shout out to Feed-All Pet Supplies and Alley Cat Café, who regularly foster cats and kittens, helping to find loving forever homes. To everyone else who assisted FFN in the past year, thank you! We couldn't do it without you.

As FFN's reputation grows, so do the number of requests we receive to help homeless felines. We cannot continue to increase the number of cats we handle without also growing our base of active, involved volunteers. If you care about the lives of cats and kittens and FFN's mission to humanely reduce overpopulation, homelessness, and suffering, and you are able to share some time fostering, trapping, driving to and from vet appointments, organizing a fundraiser, or helping in any other way, we need you! Please contact us at info@felinefriends.ca to tell us how you might like to become involved..

FFN AGM DATE

The Feline Friends Network AGM is set for Sunday, 23 February 2020. Please mark the date in your calendar and plan to join us for a short meeting during which we will review events and achievements of the past year.

You can also renew your FFN membership, buy FFN merch, shop Puddy Products, and more! The location will once again be the Falstaff Family Centre, 35 Waterloo St. N., Stratford. There are parking lots to the north and south of the building. Hope to see you there!



New website for Feline Friends

Food and fashion are not the only things that become stale. Our old website had passed its best-before date, and we're happy to announce that a new site was launched in November! Please visit felinefriends.ca and check it out! We hope you'll find that not only is it more interesting to look at but, more importantly, it's mobile-friendly, so that it's easy to use on any device – phone, tablet, or desktop.

The new felinefriends.ca also features more video and is simpler to navigate to help users sift through information about our programs, ways to help FFN, news, and references on everything from emergency contacts or what to do if your cat is lost to how to build an insulated cat shelter (and much more). Online forms allow people to make adoption inquiries, apply for Trap-Neuter-Return, and volunteer to foster cats and kittens in our Foster/Adoption program.

Creation of the new site was donated by a cat-loving web-developer. We hope you will enjoy it and we invite you to send us your feedback by contacting us at info@felinefriends.ca.

*We cannot, without becoming cats,
perfectly understand the cat mind.*

– St. George Mivart



Feral food drive!

Many thanks to Carl and Silke, owners of the Alley Cat Café for holding a food drive for the month of November. As you can see, food for our ferals was piled high in their window! We are truly grateful to Carl, Silke, and everyone who contributed cat food!



Willow and Big Jake

Just when you think no one cares, someone comes along and shows you how important you are. Willow (the tabby pictured above) was found in a garden here in Stratford with five kittens. She was thin and struggling to survive. Home-owner Nancy stumbled upon this family and brought them all indoors where they thrived with her care.

So often the mom cats are left behind to have more kittens, so we were thrilled that Nancy brought the entire family in and even more thrilled when she decided to adopt Willow. Not only does Willow feel safe with her human family but – as you can see from the photo – her cat brother Big Jake has taken her under his wing. Such a happy ending!

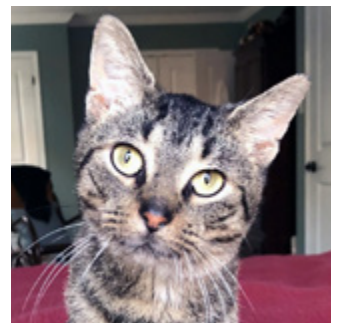
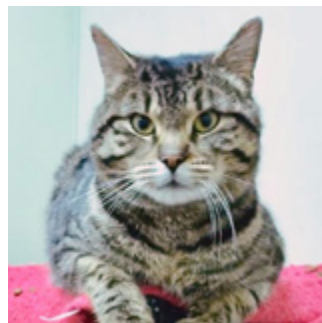
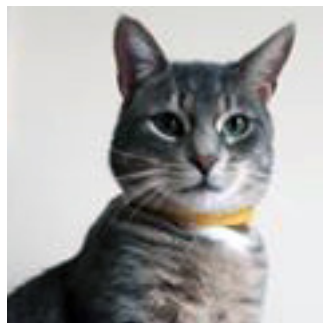
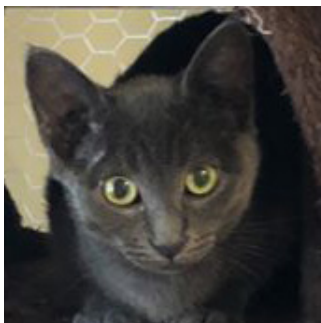
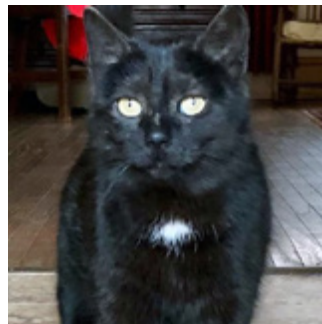
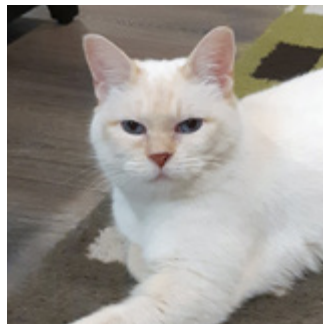
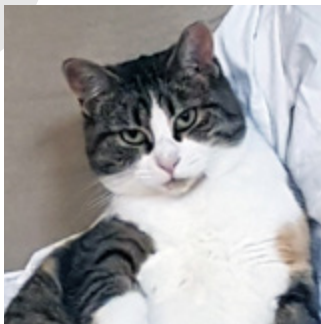
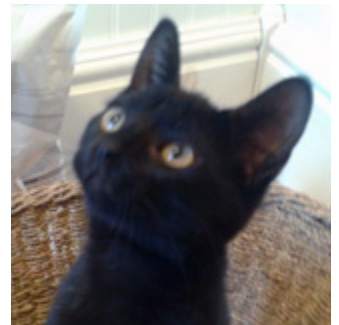
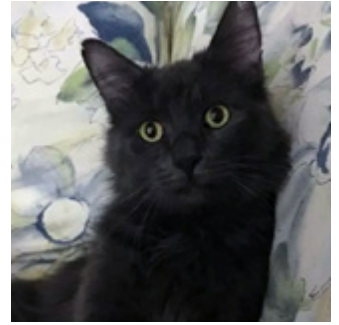
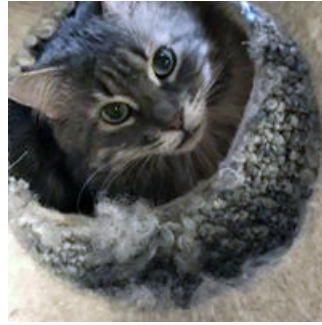
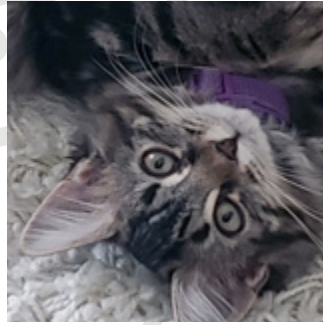
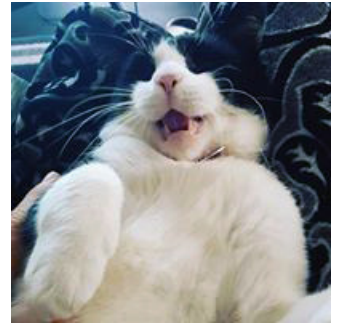
TAX RECEIPT REMINDER

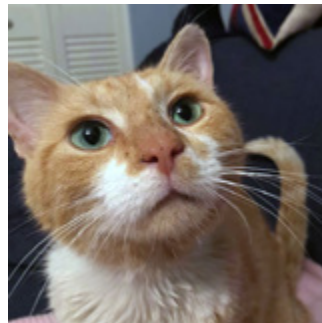
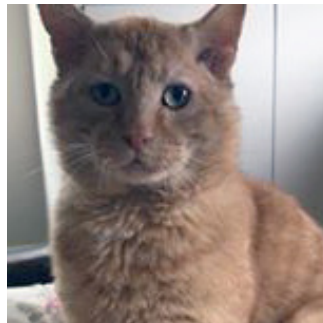
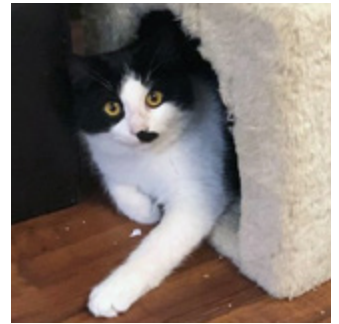
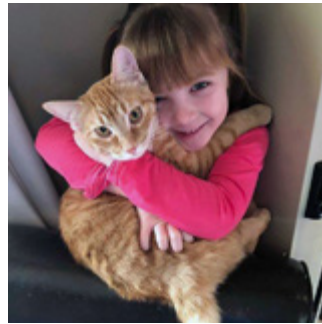
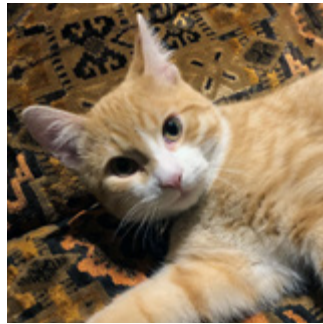
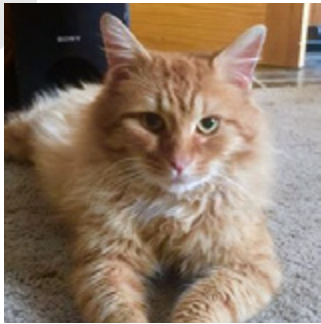
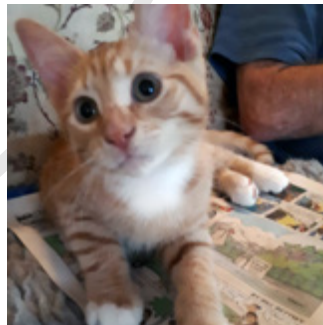
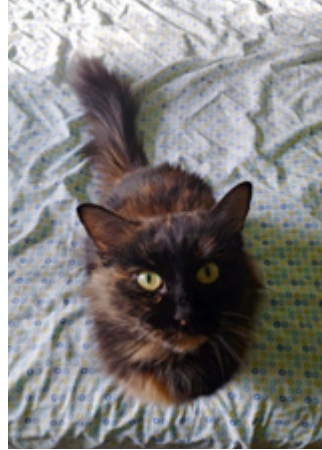
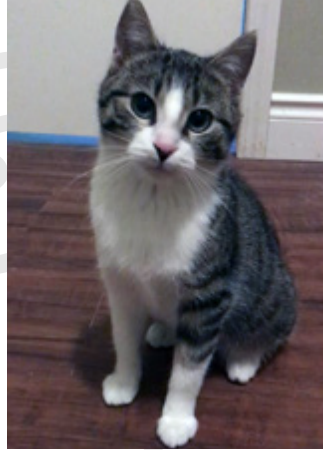
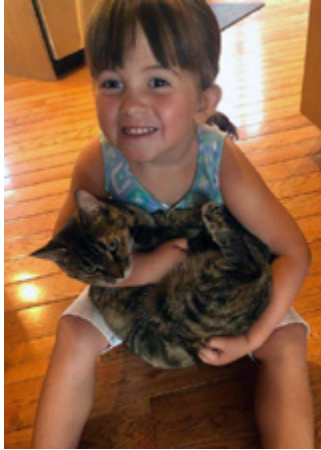
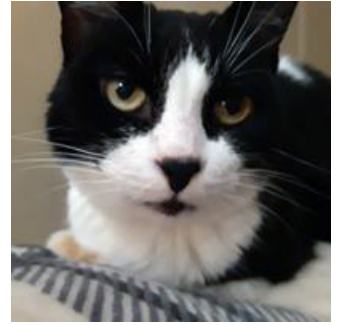
To our volunteers who would like a donation tax receipt or reimbursement for cat food/related expenses. Please submit the original receipts and an itemized expense report by 15 January 2020 to 134 Brunswick St., Stratford, ON, N5A 3M1. Don't forget to include your complete mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address (if you have one) so that we are able to contact you if we have questions.



The cats and kittens of 2019

A few of the furry faces FFN helped in 2019. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at FFN.





DEAR SANTA,

Our foster cats and kittens have been *exceptionally* good this year. They have been nice at all times, never naughty, and have done very little crying or pouting. So, we really feel that they deserve some gifts this Christmas! Here is their wish list:

- clumping unscented litter
- bleach
- paper towel
- Purina Kitten Chow
- Forti Flora
- cardboard cat scratching posts
- puppy pee pads
- Lickables

If you would like to help Santa by donating any of these items, please email Feline Friends at info@felinefriends.ca.



A NOTICE ABOUT CAT TALES

Due to volunteer workload, FFN will be moving to publishing our newsletter, *cat tales*, quarterly, starting in 2020. We will offer interesting and informative issues in March, June, September, and December. We hope you will stay tuned – and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more frequent updates!



Purrfect presents

Christmas shoppers, read on! Pat's Puddy Products will be available at the Stratford Farmers Market on Saturday, the 7th and 21st of December!

Skilled and dedicated FFN volunteer, Pat Burnell, knits and sews a lovely selection of items, including Catoques, headbands, cat toys and mats, children's toys, sweaters, and much more! Find unique gifts for the special people and cats in your life. Located at the Stratford Agriplex in the Stratford Rotary Complex (353 McCarthy Road, behind the arena), the Farmers Market is open 7:00 am to noon. Proceeds from Pat's sales are donated to FFN. To see photos of additional Puddy Products visit <https://www.felinefriends.ca/puddy-products>.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS RUSSEL

FFN would like to express our deep sympathy to the family and friends of Thomas 'Tom' Russel, as well as our gratitude to the Russel family for suggesting FFN as a recipient of donations and to the donors who gave generously in Thomas's memory. We're very sorry for your loss.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

