

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

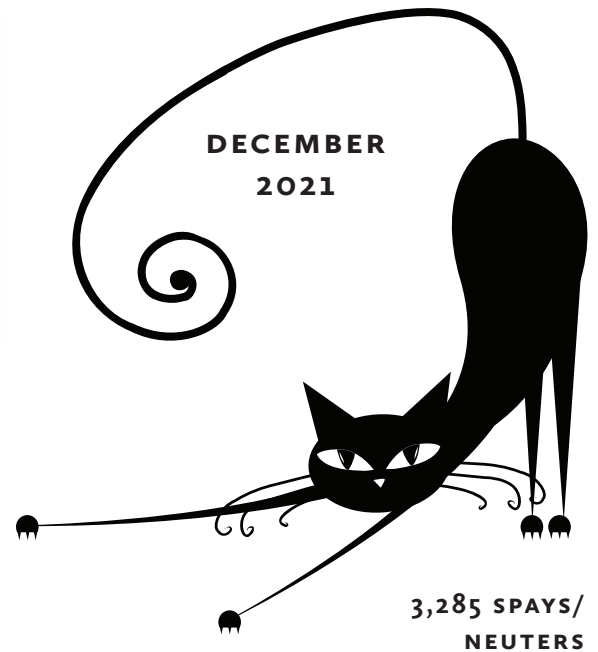
Season's greetings

by Sharon Morrice, FFN President

Greetings, fellow cat lovers! It's hard to believe that Feline Friends has existed for fifteen years, with 3,285+ spays and neuters among our accomplishments! We have come a long way in that time. From our beginnings as a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) organization – trapping, 'fixing', and returning colonies of cats to their outdoor homes – our understanding has evolved. We have come to realize that very few homeless cats are truly feral. The vast majority are in fact lost or abandoned pets, who were once socialized to people but have become scared or traumatized during their time outdoors, with no one to care for them. The proof (and reward) is in the countless foster cats that have learned to trust again, thanks to the many hours, weeks, or even months of time, work and love from our volunteers. We are giving these kitties a second chance at the good life in a new, loving home.

Feline Friends has built a solid foundation of trust and support in the Stratford and Perth County community. We have been extremely fortunate to have incredibly committed and determined volunteers, who give their time and talents to make our programs work, as well as generous donors and supporters who make it all financially possible. To all of you: thank you for caring enough about the welfare of otherwise forgotten felines to keep our spay/neuter and foster/adoption programs going. It's never easy... there is heartbreak in animal welfare and too few volunteers carrying the load. But let's hope that there will always be a community of us who make a difference in the lives of unfortunate felines.

Have a healthy, happy holiday season and may you enjoy the love of at least one cat in your life!



Foster volunteers needed!

As heartbreaking as it is to get more requests to help homeless cats than we can handle, the reality is that it happens on a regular basis. We would love to be able to help every cat and kitten in need, but the fact is that we don't have enough foster space to care for all of them. But you can help!

Consider joining us to help save more lives by volunteering to foster a cat or kittens! FFN depends on foster families to be able to continue to take in more strays. All you need is a spare room – for example, a bedroom, office, or craft room where you can keep a foster cat separate from any resident pets. FFN will cover the cost of vet care and supplies.

Watch our short ['fostering myth'](#) videos to learn more, and if you think you might be interested, please fill out our [foster application](#).

Please don't assume that someone else will help... we need YOU to save more lives!

Claws are for keeps!

Did you know that eight Canadian provinces have banned the elective declawing of cats? British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P.E.I., Newfoundland and Labrador and most recently, Saskatchewan! The following is from an article by Global News (17 September 2021):

Electively declawing a cat is now illegal in Saskatchewan.

According to the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA), the bylaw, which is already in effect, reads, “No member shall perform elective and non-therapeutic partial digital amputation of any felid including domestic cats.”

“The bylaw basically bans non-medically emergent declawing of cats,” said Dr. Lesley Sawa, veterinarian and owner of the Animal Clinic of Regina.

“Many clients would declaw cats for convenience in order to stop cats from scratching furniture and such, but it has always been hard for us as veterinarians to proceed with that procedure.”

Sawa said a declaw is when the third bone and nail of a cat’s paw are removed, which she added is a painful procedure for the animal that can cause a number of side effects down the road.

According to the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), those risks include acute pain, nerve trauma and long-term complications like lameness, chronic neuropathic pain and behavioural problems.



Furthermore, the AAFP states that declawing is not only an unneeded medical procedure for felines, but scratching is a normal behaviour which is both learned and inherent.

“The bylaw for us can be used as a tool to support our refusal to do the procedure,” Sawa noted. “When the public comes in asking for this to be done, as a veterinarian it’s our job to educate them on alternatives to declawing and why we feel the declawing procedure is unnecessary.”

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Ontario would also ban this unnecessary, painful and often harmful procedure? As cat fans, there are things we can do to lobby on behalf of a declawing ban:

- Visit [The Paw Project's](#) website to learn more.
- Write to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, 2106 Gordon St., Guelph, ON N1L 1G6 or email inquiries@cvo.org to let them know you support a ban on the elective declawing of cats.
- [Click here](#) to sign The Paw Project's petition.

Annual General Meeting

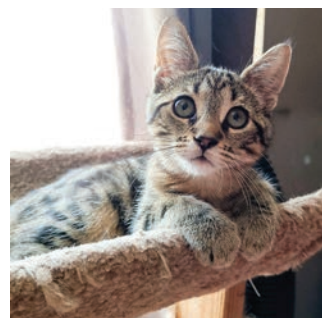
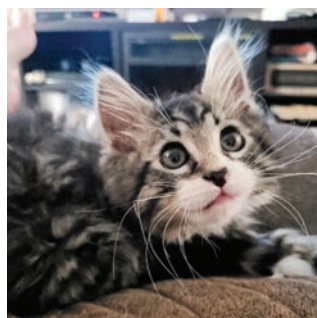
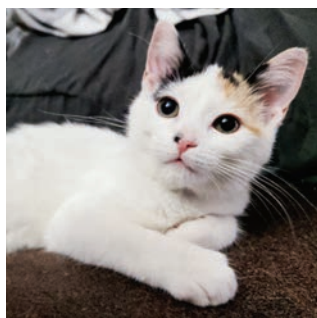
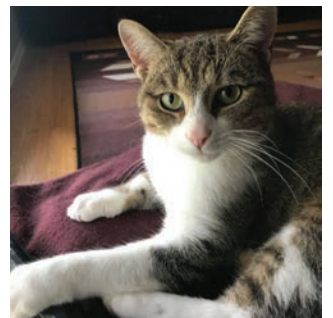
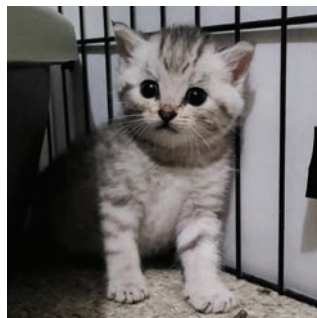
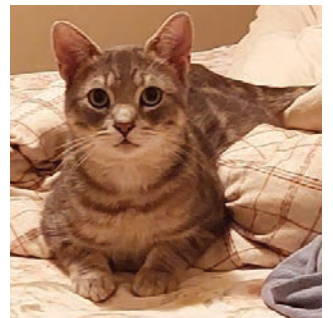
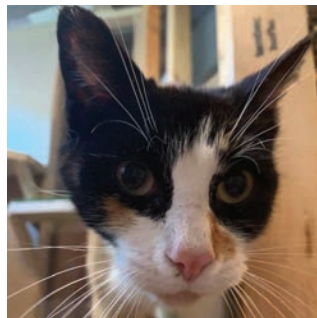
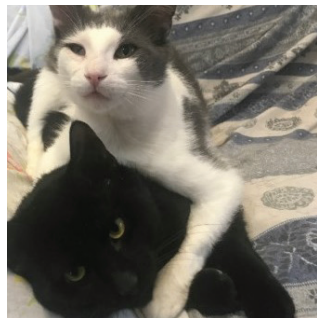
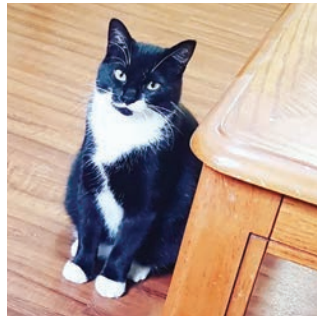
Please plan to join us on Sunday, 27 February, 2022 for our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Out of an abundance of caution, it will once again be held online. Please stay tuned... members will be contacted by email, and details will be posted on our facebook page.

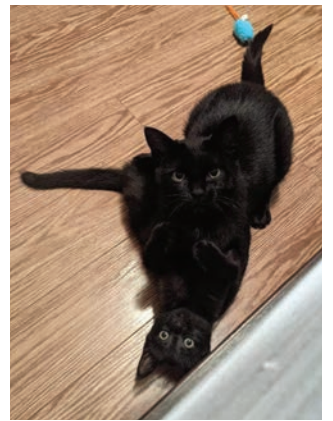
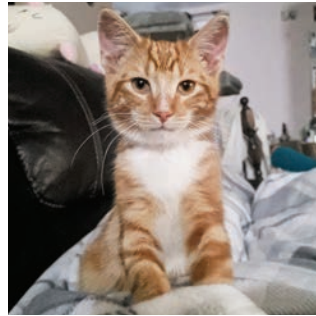
IN MEMORY OF...

Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt thanks for the donations FFN has received in memory of loved ones. Since our last newsletter, donations have been made in memory of Barbara Ann Colley, Hunter Montgomery, Evelyn Hicks, Ollie, Meekah and Mudpie. We are greatly honoured that you have chosen to remember these friends and family members by helping FFN carry on our spay/neuter and foster/adoption programs.

The cats and kittens of 2021

SOME OF THE BEAUTIFUL FURRY ONES HELPED BY FFN THIS YEAR.





OVC students –smart, caring and creative!



Students of the Community Outreach Club at the Ontario Veterinary College have been busy! For the third year, club members have built insulated shelters and used their creative skills to decorate them as a donation to FFN. Thanks to the club members for all of their work that will keep some lucky kitties warm this winter!

“There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.”

– Unknown

Thank you...

... for being THE BEST donors, supporters and volunteers! Many thanks to our generous matching donors: Mike Vancea of Vancea Financial Group (\$1,500), Nancy Hotson of Buzz Stop (\$500) plus two others who wish to remain anonymous (\$656). Every dollar donated was matched, so that our Giving Tuesday fundraiser totaled \$5,312!! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We're also grateful to The Red Rabbit restaurant and El Cactus Taco Shop for donating gift cards to incentivise / reward lucky donors. Well done to volunteer Holly for organizing it all – it couldn't have happened without you.

... to the talented Pat Burnell and to all who purchased Puddy Products at her pop-up sale in early October! \$480 was raised in sales and \$80 was donated for a total of \$560 for Feline Friends! What a day! **Reminder: PUDDY PRODUCTS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!** Check out the wonderful array of items for cats and kids [on our website](#). Call Pat at 519.271.0657 for more info or to place an order. Proceeds support kitties in Feline Friends programs.

... to Valerie Lariviere for her generosity! Val has been making and selling masks since the start of the pandemic and has donated 100% of the proceeds to FFN. Her masks are available at Feed-All Pet Centre, Stratford, and if you're lucky you will see her smiling face when you go in.

...to Feed-All Pet Centre, Stratford for providing foster care for our cats waiting to find their forever home. Also a special thank you to all of their generous customers for donating to our Wish List.

...to Ruffins Pet Centre Stratford and everyone who purchased kitty litter. We received 25 bags of litter through their special event – for each purchase of two bags of litter, Ruffins donated one to us! That's going to keep a lot of foster cats happy.

... to Pet Valu Stratford for their donations of great goodies, including litter, litter box, dry and canned food, treats and a soft-sided carrier. A bit shout out also for hosting an adoption weekend on Oct 23 & 24. Thanks also to our volunteers who gave part of their weekend to represent FFN and take care of the guest-stars, our foster kittens!



... to Claire Schyff (pictured above) who held a bakesale in October at her workplace (Chris Produce, Shakespeare)! She made homemade cookies, cupcakes, and served hot chocolate and apple cider. With the proceeds of her hard work, Claire purchased items from [FFN's wish list](#). Her Mom, Ange, confirmed Claire absolutely loves animals and that this is not the first time she's raised money for an animal charity in our area!

... to The Red Rabbit for donating another cellar-full of empties to Feline Friends, and to our tireless volunteers for their hard work carrying, loading and returning all those bottles in October! \$98.80 was raised for the kitties in our programs.

... to everyone who donated, bid and bought to make our Autumn and Christmas auctions a success... it's clear that people love to shop and help cats at the same time! Over both auctions, a combined total of \$4,500 was raised. Special thanks also to fantastic auction organizers, Marg & Holly!