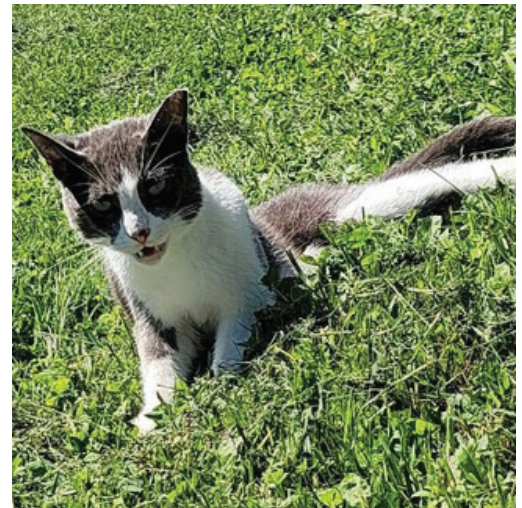


cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

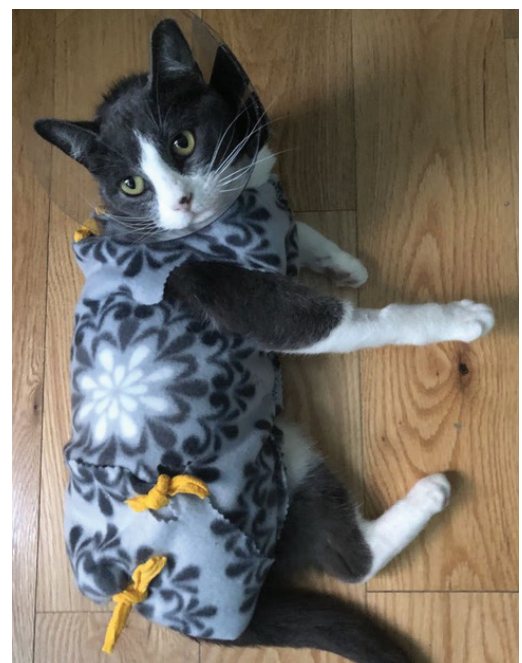


Kazoo's story



Kaz, or Kazoo, is a pretty amazing girl. She was found in the country hobbling around on a severely injured leg. We were alerted to her by one of our TLC volunteers, Jes K., and she was quickly brought into our care. Kaz had multiple vet visits and it was hoped she would recover enough to save the leg, but that wasn't in the cards. Kaz had a severe bone infection and after numerous rounds of antibiotics and no improvement, the difficult decision to have the leg amputated had to be made. The surgery was a success thanks to the skill of our partnering vets. Her recovery was smooth except for a few small bumps along the way including an emergency visit. The foster fit her into a surgical suit of sorts and that seemed to do trick. We can't imagine the pain and suffering she endured when alone, but thanks to our donors, volunteers and supporters, she is now living a pain-free, happy life.

Photos clockwise from top left: Kaz recovered from surgery; when found with injured leg, and in her fancy surgical suit.





Time to Renew!

Membership reminder

To our beloved members, it's time to renew! Memberships expire at the end of February, so please renew now and don't miss out on the benefits of being a Feline Friends Member! For \$15/year, in addition to helping FFN help more cats, you can get discounts at a variety of pet stores and other businesses. **NEW:** the lovely Jen Fowler of [PAWS Pet Sitting](#) is offering a 10% discount to our members on pet sitting in Stratford and surrounding area!

Membership fees may be paid by e-transfer to info@felinefriends.ca, through Paypal or by cheque. New members are always welcome – please provide us with your name, mailing address, email address and phone number. Renewing members need to provide contact info only if anything has changed. All details about how to renew plus member benefits at <https://www.felinefriends.ca/membership>.

Stratford bottle & can collection has a new home

Effective immediately, please take your rinsed, empty beer, wine & liquor bottles and cans to our new drop-off location at 178 Frederick St., Stratford. We're tremendously grateful to volunteers Pauline Williams and Wilf Sukowski for having collected and returned empties for FFN until the recent sale of their home. Fortunately for us, Charles Riley has taken on the job! Please note that our drop-off location at 276 Huron Rd., Sebringville is still available, thanks to Shannon Palmer & family. We greatly appreciate all of you who have contributed your empties to help the cats & kittens in our programs – approximately \$2,500 was raised in 2021! Please continue to drink, rinse and drop-off responsibly.



Spring on-line auction Our next on-line auction fundraiser is just around the corner! There is always a great selection of items that can be yours for the bidding on our auction page on facebook: **Feline Friends Network On-line Auction**. Photos and descriptions will be posted closer to the start date. The spring auction will run from April 7 to 12.

Puddy Products will be at Feed-All Pet Centre on March 26 & 27 between 12 noon and 4pm. Please stop in to check out the beautiful selection of hand-made items for kitties, kids and adults. All proceeds are donated to Feline Friends.



Shelter builders needed

Do you have time for a project? Volunteers are needed to build insulated shelters for homeless/ outdoor cats. If you're handy and are willing to donate your time and skills, FFN will reimburse the cost of materials (storage bins, foam insulation, O-pipe or foam for opening). How-to video and instructions available on our website at <https://www.felinefriends.ca/winter-shelters>.



Return-a-shelter

If you have an insulated shelter that is in good condition but is no longer being used, we would appreciate it if you would donate it back to FFN so that it may be used to keep another cat warm and dry! Please message us on facebook or email info@felinefriends.ca.

Lots of Knots

Thanks to Stratford Public Library's Crafting for a Cause volunteers, our foster kitties are enjoying handmade catnip knots! Teens in the group utilize their crafting skills to make things for local nonprofit organizations. It's not the first time they have made something special for Feline Friends – in 2021, we were the recipients of their corrugated cardboard cat scratchers. Shout out to Brooke Windsor, Teen Services Librarian, and the local clever, crafting teens!

Kittens' wish list: Please consider donating Purina Kitten Chow and non-clumping litter (paper litter preferred; non-clumping clay litter also accepted) for our foster kittens. Email info@felinefriends.ca if you are able to donate.

Annual General Meeting – a summary

Our second virtual AGM was held on Sunday, 27 February. 2021 was our second year operating during a pandemic, and some of the same challenges continued, such as delayed and postponed vet appointments. The widespread shortage of veterinarians and continued Covid complications have resulted in a backlog of appointments for some of the clinics we work with. For Feline Friends, difficulty getting spay & neuter appointments means that we cannot move cats through our programs as quickly as usual. Given that we have limited foster spaces, it reduces the number of cats we are able to take in.

2021 FINANCIALS

- Total revenue: \$102,485
- Total expenditures: \$77,052
- Excess of revenue over expenditures: \$25,433

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR)

AND FOSTER & ADOPTION

- 120 cats in adoption program
- 19 cats in TNR program
- total of 139 cats (decrease of 54 from 2020)
- 56 of those cats were strays/abandoned cats found in Stratford (increase of 1 from 2020)
- increase in senior cats
- increase of cats requiring emergency medical care

LOW-INCOME SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Low-Income Spay/Neuter Assistance numbers rebounded last year as compared to 2020, but are still below pre-pandemic levels as follows: 99 vouchers issued for the spay or neuter of 117 cats in 2021 (20 more vouchers issued than in 2020, but still 26 fewer than in 2019)

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FUNDRAISERS

- Online Auctions: \$9,000
- Giving Tuesday: \$5,312
- 100 Feline Friends Who Care: \$12,250
- Bottle Drive: \$2,500
- Pat Burnell's Puddy Products: \$1,460
- Mask Sales by Val Lariviere, Feed-All Pet Centre: \$1,255
- Total: \$31,777

Enormous thanks go to our members, volunteers, donors, and supporters! Without every one of your individual contributions, we wouldn't be able to help the vulnerable cats of our community. We salute you!

Thank you...

... to everyone who made Feline Friends Network their choice of charities on 17 January, with donations in memory of the legendary **Betty White** on what would have been her 100th birthday. We were absolutely

overwhelmed with the support – \$2,600 was raised to help with our food & supply costs, and vet bills!

... to **Rachel Berkers** for choosing Feline Friends Network as her birthday fundraiser in February!

... last but certainly not least, thank you to **Feed-All Pet Supply**, **Pet Valu** and **Ruffins** – these three Stratford businesses are always there for FFN, consistently offering support and donations. Your generosity is amazing!



Snow in the Suburbs

by Thomas Hardy

Every branch big with it,
Bent every twig with it;
Every fork like a white web-foot;
Every street and pavement mute:
Some flakes have lost their way, and grope back
upward, when
Meeting those meandering down they turn and
descend again.
The palings are glued together like a wall,
And there is no waft of wind with the fleecy fall.

A sparrow enters the tree,
Whereon immediately
A snow-lump thrice his own slight size
Descends on him and showers his head and eyes,
And overturns him,
And near inurns him,
And lights on a nether twig, when its brush
Starts off a volley of other lodging lumps with a rush.

The steps are a blanched slope,
Up which, with feeble hope,
A black cat comes, wide-eyed and thin;
And we take him in.



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 **Bernie Vollmer, David Glass, Danielle Lynn, Pretty, Frankie, and Silken**. 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. We are also very grateful for the monthly donations from **Coventry Veterinary Clinic** in memory of their clients' kitties who have passed away.

