

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

Peavey finds a happy home

by Jessica Spaetzel

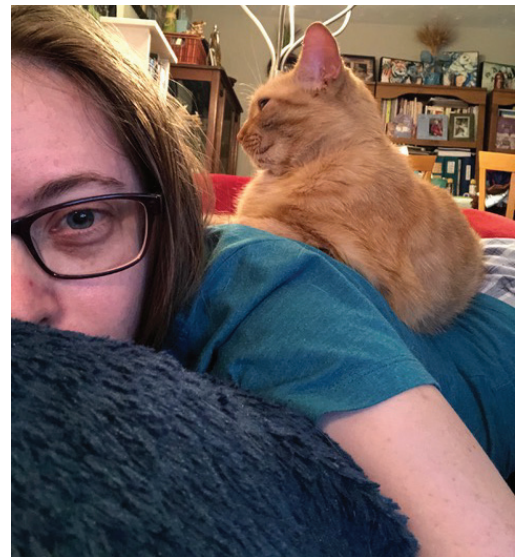
Peavey (formerly known as Charlie) has been a great addition to my family. He has found his voice and it is a big one for a small kitty. He purrs loudly and he even snores. His favourite nap spots are on the back of the couch with a full view outside as he falls asleep, and on my lap (I get the butt end usually).

Peavey has been a good comfort to one of my other kitties, Rudy, who has surprised everyone and has shown improvement. Sophie and Rudy have whipped him into shape getting him to learn their ground rules – he is a slow learner. Sophie taught him how to open the sliding closet doors and he happily practiced for a few weeks.

He goes to the other side of the apartment to test-drive his voice and see how loud he can get. He has been playing tag with the others and has been gentle with Rudy when Rudy feels up to wrestling. He loves the laser pointer and catnip, too. He enjoys snuggling at night and after almost every nap he wakes and happily greets me as though he just remembered he has a home. He is a very happy kitty!

He has a lot of self confidence and while that makes him stubborn and a slow learner, it has also helped him settle in quickly. He knew exactly how to appease the other cats during his introductions – he was very submissive and did whatever they told him. He got comfortable with Rudy first and they were soon enough sharing the couch at bedtime. Sophie was slower because she wanted to protect her spot as alpha, but did come around and teaches Peavey some of the things she knows. She is more relaxed now. Sophie taught Peavey to wait patiently when I am serving canned food, instead of crowding in. He now lays waiting until the dishes have been filled.

I am glad that I adopted him! Peavey is great, and Sophie and Rudy seem to think so too.



Jessica & Peavey



Peavey and his newfound friend

Beautiful, resilient Miller

Spaying and neutering has always been our mandate to reduce the overpopulation of cats and kittens in Perth County, but it sometimes feels like we are spinning our wheels when all of the requests for help come in. It's been a tough summer for some of the cats in our care. We have received more and more calls about injured cats and kittens, some of them needing immediate attention at an emergency clinic in London or Cambridge.

One case was a little kitten named Miller, who was found crying in a field. His leg was severely injured and his mother had abandoned him. After a midnight visit to the emergency clinic, he was sent home with pain medication and an appointment was set up with one of our partnering veterinarians.



Miller bandaged and healing after surgery



Unfortunately, Miller needed to have the leg amputated. He has done wonderfully in his foster home and can often be seen posted on Britty's Kitties instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/brittys.kitties/>).

This guy is so fortunate to have been found when he was and even better, he has an adoption pending. A big thank you to everyone involved in getting Miller the help he needed.

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 Colley, Ted Keller, and Gerhard Wiedmann. 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.

100 Feline Friends Who Care closing in on goal



It takes a caring community to allow our volunteers to continue the work we do. Our spay/neuter and foster/adoption programs not only take countless volunteer hours, but a considerable amount of money to cover veterinary costs. Well, our community has shown us once again that you do care about homeless cats in need! At time of writing, 93 people have generously contributed \$100 or more to our fundraising effort to find 100 Feline Friends Who Care! That means we are just seven donors away from meeting our 2021 goal! Please consider making this commitment, and know that every single cat and

kitten you enable us to help is worth it. You can sign up now at <https://www.felinefriends.ca/join-100-feline-friends>, donate by e-transfer, online or by cheque and receive a tax receipt.

As a token of appreciation, one donor will receive a \$25 gift card kindly provided by MacLeods Scottish Shop – name to be drawn when we reach 100 Feline Friends!

Teens crafting for a cause

The work of local teens is going to make some kitties very happy! Thanks to Brooke Windsor, Teen Services Librarian at the Stratford Public Library, and her teen volunteers, Feline Friends has received handmade corrugated cardboard cat scratchers. The teens put their crafting skills to good use in their group, Crafting for a Cause, in which they make useful things for local nonprofit organizations. We really appreciate the effort put into these clever and stylish scratchers – keep up the good works!



“I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It’s not. Mine had me trained in two days.”

– Bill Dana

Spay & neuter assistance

One of our lesser-known programs is Low-Income Spay/Neuter Assistance – helping people in our community get their cats spayed and neutered. Getting cats and kittens ‘fixed’ is not always within the reach of those in financial difficulty, but it’s so important. It helps reduce the number of ‘oops’ litters – kittens born that may be adopted out, unaltered, to contribute to the overpopulation and homelessness of cats in Stratford and Perth County. It also means fewer unwanted behaviour issues, such as spraying and heat cycles.

In the first six months of this year, Feline Friends had granted 58 vouchers for the spay/neuter of 67 cats and kittens. If you know someone who may be in need of this program, here is how it works:

- The pet owner contacts either House of Blessing (Stratford) or Salvation Army (Stratford, St. Marys, Mitchell, or Listowel) for a financial assessment. Applicants must meet financial criteria, be residents of Perth County, and agree that they will not have cat(s) or kitten(s) declawed.
- Qualifying pet owners are given a voucher for a free spay/neuter for up to 2 cats per household per year. FFN covers the cost of the surgery. Owners may be responsible for the cost of required vaccinations depending on which of the participating vet clinics they choose.

Complete details are available at:

<https://www.felinefriends.ca/low-income-spay-neuter-assistance>.

We continue to provide the only free spay/neuter assistance program in our area because we believe that helping cat owners spay and neuter their pets helps people, cats and our community!



“Cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask for what you want.”

– Joseph Wood Krutch

Raise a glass

Are those empties piling up? Please remember that you can donate your wine, liquor and beer empties to Feline Friends. In July and August alone, donations of bottles and cans have raised over \$480 to support our programs! We have two drop-off locations: 365 West Gore Street in Stratford and 276 Huron Road in Sebringville. Just drink, rinse and drop; our volunteers will do the rest. Cheers!



Thank you...

... to Kimberley & staff at Pet Valu, and all of the customers who contributed to their Paws Event fundraiser! FFN is so grateful for their amazing donation of over \$1,600 – it means so much to a small organization like ours, and many deserving kitties will benefit. Thank you!

... to everyone who bid, won, paid for and picked up their winning items in our **Summer Online Auction Fundraiser!** And to those of you who added a bit extra to your winning bids, we appreciate you! After all was said and done, our Summer Auction raised just under \$2,000 with every penny (after a few expenses) going towards helping the cats in our care! Keep an eye on our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/felinefriendsnetwork2006>) for our upcoming Fall-themed auction with a lot more interesting items for your bidding pleasure!

...to Corinne and the wonderful staff at Feed-All Pet Centre for showcasing some of our foster kitties at their in-store catio! Many cats have enjoyed the attention

of staff and customers alike over the years, and have found forever homes when a potential adopter came in to shop and fell in love.

... to Sirkel Foods and MacLeods Scottish Shop, for donating gift cards in aid of our 100 Feline Friends Who Care fundraiser. The gift cards are drawn from all of the names of 100 Feline Friends donors when we hit milestones in the campaign. Karen & Earl Filsinger were the winners of the Sirkel Foods gift card when we reached 75 donors, and the MacLeods Scottish Shop gift card has yet to be drawn when we receive our 100th donation! Thanks for always being there to support the kitties when we come to you with yet another ask!

... to Elsa Mundy of Knot Too Shabby Bridal. FFN was gifted a beautiful black dress, new with tags still on from a supporter. We really wanted to try and raise as much from the donation as possible, which meant people being able to try the dress on! We approached Elsa, (who is a big animal lover) about showcasing the

dress in her store. The result: \$200 was raised from the sale of that dress! Thank you, thank you!

... to Pat Burnell, whose weekend pop-up sale of her hand-made Puddy Products in July raised \$650 to support our programs, including \$150 in donations! WOW! Thanks ever so much to Pat, Larry, all of the shoppers and donors!

... to Colin Burrowes, award-winning reporter with the Listowel Banner, who reached out to us in June to write a story about Feline Friends Network and our 100 Feline Friends fundraiser. He did a great job and the article resulted in a significant uptick in donations!

... to all of our volunteers, who give generously of their time, talents and love to help as many homeless cats and kittens as possible while working toward our goal of humanely reducing overpopulation through our spay/neuter programs. For a small organization, Feline Friends has a large impact and it's all thanks to volunteer power!

“Cats choose us; we don’t own them.”

– Kristin Cast

