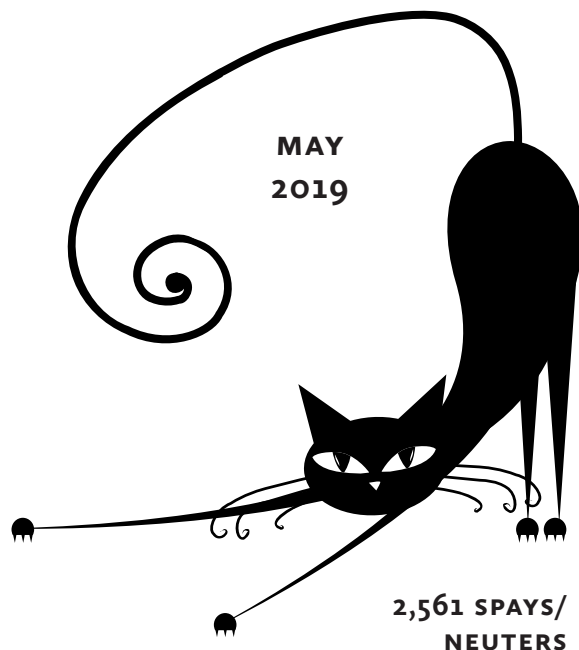


cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Two sisters and one very lucky cat

by Nancy Dauberger and Ginny Dauberger

NANCY: I was never really a cat person – I love all animals but I never had a cat. Then I moved to a small town about 22 years ago. A few years later I noticed a cat outside looking desperately for food. I got a lump in my throat thinking, “that poor thing is starving.” So I started putting dry cat food under my back deck. The cat found it, eventually returning with 3 kittens. One thing led to another and I ended up feeding 9 ferals. Most of them I had TNR’d so no more kittens, BUT every now and then a new face appears and most of them end up being friendly.

This big Tuxedo with a cut-up face appeared looking through my patio door. He wouldn’t let me touch him at first but one day I snuck my hand onto his head and, boy, was he my buddy after that! He’d follow me everywhere, almost tripping me

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FFN felines on film

In the last issue of *cat tales*, we reported that Feline Friends had been fortunate enough to have the chance to work with recent media production graduates Eric Ferreira and Heather McLeod (a Stratford native). We’re excited to say that you can now watch the first in a series of videos they produced to spread the word about the work FFN does to help cats!

Jack and Samson – An Unusual Bond is the tale of two foster cats whose lives were changed when they found love, healing, and each other. Volunteer and Kitty-Mom extraordinaire, Dawn Benson, tells the story of



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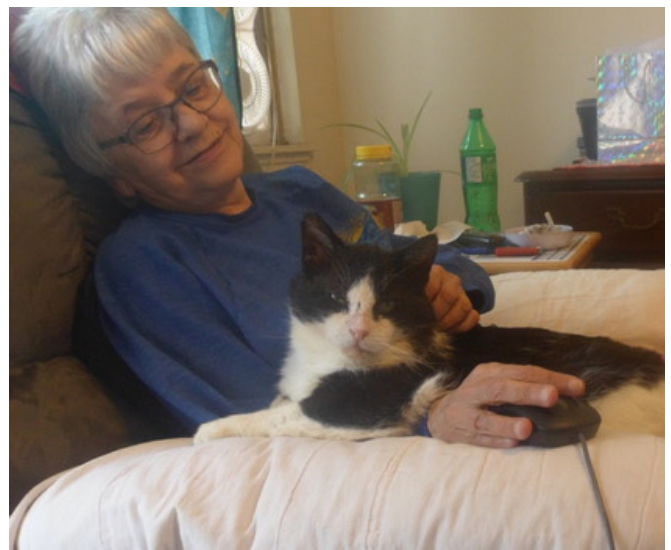
because he wanted to be so close. I had noticed that he was an intact male and called him “Hobo” since he disappeared for days at a time, often returning with more wounds. This continued until he showed up with a bloody face and blood on his neck. I asked Marg, one of FFN’s TNR coordinators, if we could help him.

After Hobo had been fixed, he went into the foster/adopt program because he had obviously been someone’s pet at one time and was not going to survive outside. He also had an ear infection because his ears were full of mites. Everyone just loved the handsome boy. I took my sister with me to see him and she decided to foster to adopt him.

GINNY: My sister Nancy volunteers for FFN, helping with neo-natal kittens and other foster cats. I had decided it was time to get another cat after losing my previous one. When I went with Nancy to visit a cat she rescued and called Hobo – he was it! I decided to foster to adopt him and have renamed him Link.

For the first week I had to give Link ear drops which he didn’t seem to mind too much. Then I noticed blood on the couch where he had been sitting. FFN took him back to the vet who found an abscess from a previous cat fight wound on his groin area. When the vet said I’d have to give him pills twice a day for two weeks, I kind of panicked! But Holly showed me a really cool way of giving him pills. I’ve been giving him antibiotics twice a day and the wound is healing nicely. And Kim is coming every couple of days to check the wound and give me tips.

Link is such a sweetheart. He loves his cuddles and never a peep out of him. He is slowly coming around and starting to investigate rooms. He isn’t playing much yet, but I’m sure that will come in time. We have bonded very well and he likes to lie with me on the couch where he usually falls asleep. I’m anxious to see how active he gets once his meds are done!



Above, sisters Nancy (left) and Ginny Dauberger (right) with Hobo-aka-Link, the cat Nancy rescued and Ginny adopted.

Below, Link stakes a claim to his person, making himself comfortable on Ginny’s arm. Ginny reports that he is settling right into his forever home.

Since each of us is blessed with only one life, why not live it with a cat?

- Robert Stearns

A dog is a dog, a bird is a bird, and a cat is a person.

- Mugsy Peabody



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Jack, an injured kitten found near a dump, and Samson, who was rescued from a grocery store parking lot. The amazing resilience of these special boys is very moving in this beautifully-filmed and produced, five-minute long video, available online at <https://www.facebook.com/felinefriendsnetwork2006/videos/417792505432918/>.

Feline Friends would like to thank Dawn Benson for her many volunteer efforts and for enthusiastically taking part in this project. We are also very grateful to Find Focus Productions videographers Eric and Heather, who donated their time and talents. Visit their website at <https://www.findfocusproductions.com/>.

The other videos by Eric and Heather are *What is Feline Friends Network?*, and *Myths vs. Facts about Fostering Cats*, parts one and two, with the multi-talented Claire Lautier. We plan to post these over the next three weeks, so please stay tuned to our Facebook page. Many thanks to Claire for doing such an excellent job of once again being our spokesperson!

A BIDDER-SWEET AUCTION

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who donated items for the Spring Online Auction Fundraiser and all our regular bidders. And thanks and welcome to our new bidders! Without you, the FFN spring online auction would not have raised just over \$1,750 – money that will help us to continue to help homeless cats, provide better lives for our Trap-Neuter>Returns/barn cats and, help subsidize the Low-Income Spay/Neuter Assistance Program! For those who missed out, hope you can join in the fun next time!



Bless their little pointed faces and their big, loyal, loving hearts. If a cat did not put a firm paw down now and then, how could his human remain possessed?

– Winifred Carriere

Tips for determining if a cat needs your help

People frequently contact FFN because an unknown cat has appeared in their yard or neighbourhood. Their usual questions are “How can I tell if this cat has a home? Should I feed it? Can you do something to help?” It can be difficult to tell whether or not a cat is homeless. The following tips are based on a 2015 article by Cheryl Simpson.

- If a cat or kitten is in distress (ie. obviously sick or injured) and needs immediate attention, please call Stratford-Perth Humane Society at 519.273.6600.
- Take a photo of the cat/kitten and knock on doors in your neighbourhood to see if anyone recognizes it. Someone new may have moved into the area or recently adopted a cat that has escaped or travelled a little further from its own backyard than usual.
- If the cat is friendly, has no collar, and is desperate for food, it may be a lost or abandoned cat. Check with Stratford-Perth Humane Society (519.273.6600) or email a photo to them at info@sphumane.com to see if anyone is looking for the cat.
- Check the “Lost and Found Pets of Stratford Ontario” FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/lostpetstratfordperthcanada>) to see if the cat has been posted as lost or missing. If not, post a photo and description along with your contact info and general location, saying that you have found it. Share it to your personal facebook page and/or other social media sites you use.
- If the cat is friendly enough for you to pet and put him/her into a carrier, a local vet clinic or the Stratford-Perth Humane Society can scan for a

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micro-chip. Finding a micro-chip can help you to discover who the owner is, as long as their contact information has been kept up-to-date.

- If the cat is friendly enough to handle, you could put a breakaway collar on him/her with a note that says **“Please contact me if this is your kitty – I am worried he/she may be homeless.** [with a smiley face to show it’s a friendly message of concern] **Please call** [your phone number] **if he/she is yours.”** Wrap the note around the collar and attach it securely with a piece of tape before you put the collar on the cat. Please make sure it’s a breakaway collar designed to release if it gets caught on something. And yes, we have received phone calls from cats’ owners using this method!
- If the hungry cat visiting you looks thin and in bad shape but runs away when you approach, it might be a very frightened lost or abandoned cat who has been on the street for a while and is not capable of fending for itself. Continue to provide food and water, and provide a warm shelter if possible. Contact Feline Friends (if you live in Perth County/

Tavistock) or your local rescue if outside the area to discuss what your next step should be.

- If the cat is definitely not friendly, but looks in good shape and has been seen around the neighbourhood for a while, it may be a feral cat. Look for an “eartip” (3/8 of an inch off the top of left ear) which identifies it as a spayed or neutered “community cat”. Ferals in our colonies are fed and cared-for. No eartip? If you live in Perth County/Tavistock, contact Feline Friends to determine what needs to be done.
- A true feral cat will not likely meow at you. Even if it is frightened or seems unfriendly, a cat that meows at you has been socialized and probably had a home at one time.
- Never try to catch an unfriendly cat or kitten with your hands as you could be badly injured by a scratch or bite. Trapping is the only safe and sure way to catch a very frightened feline. FFN can loan live traps and advise you on how to use them.

Keep in mind that if you are able to continue to provide food and shelter or (if friendly) foster the cat/kitten, FFN will be in a better position to help you in a timely manner.



New Brunswick latest province to ban declawing

The New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association (NBVMA) has voted to ban cat declawing in the province. The ban will go into effect 1 July 2019, and follows bans already in place in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia, and Alberta. Worldwide, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Brazil, the UK, parts of Europe, and some cities in California have banned the practice as well.

The NBVMA said that the pain a declawed cat feels is like an “amputation times 10.” Dr. Mary-ellen Themens, the chair of the association’s animal welfare committee, said “It’s not just cutting a claw. You are actually doing an amputation of the first digit.”

Dr. Hugh Chisholm, a retired veterinarian and Atlantic Canada director of the animal advocacy group Paw Project, said that declawing is one of the more painful surgeries in veterinary medicine, and it can lead to health and behavioural changes for the cat. “[S]ometimes people don’t notice changes because cats are experts at hiding pain,” he said. “A cat might be curled up sleeping and people think that’s a

contented cat, whereas the cat is sleeping because that’s the way it escapes the pain.”

While the routine surgery of declawing will be prohibited in New Brunswick, it may be allowed if a claw needs to be removed because of a medical necessity.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) announced its opposition to declawing cats in 2017, saying the practice causes unnecessary and avoidable pain. They view the surgery as unacceptable as it offers no advantage to the feline. Although the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association endorses the CVMA’s position, it is still currently legal to declaw cats in Ontario.

If you believe declawing is a cruel practice that should be banned in this province, please sign and share a petition such as this:
<http://chnq.it/XMTmtXcwjP>.

Also, write, call, or email your MPP to express your opinion. In Perth County, contact Randy Pettapeice, MPP, 55 Lorne Ave. E., Unit 2, Stratford, ON N5A 6S4. Call 519.272.0660 or toll free 1.800.461.9701, or e-mail randy.pettapiececo@pc.ola.org.

Based on an article written by Angela Bosse, CBC News, 7 April 2019. To read the full article, visit <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/new-brunswick-cat-declawing-banned-1.5088130>



Civilization is defined by the presence of cats.

– Unknown

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

