

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK

Left out in the cold

by April Wagler

I am sitting in the snow after limping on my injured, now blue, paw all day. My face is bleeding yet again, turning my white fur red. I see a lady watching me from a window and my eyes plead for help as the falling snow covers me completely.

A Facebook post was made for me and I was trapped on 8 May 2019 by Feline Friends. The next day I was neutered and given antibiotics and pain medicine for my many injuries and the puncture wounds on my face and paw.

The lady who trapped me feeds me nice food and speaks softly to me. But I don't trust her ... I have been let down before, far too many times to be fooled again. I hiss and growl at her daily, yet still she is kind. I flinch and duck when she tries to touch me. She uses a wooden dowel to roll on my face and it feels nice so I relax. Over time, still using the dowel, she gets her hand closer to my face, thinking she is tricking me, but I let her because I like it.

There are cats on the other side of this door so we talk. They tell me stories about this lady and how she has helped them too. Could I be wrong about her? The cats and I play under the door daily, but I am still nervous and unsure of this human. She approaches and I hiss at her but am careful not to be aggressive, bite, or scratch ... I quite enjoy my meals, treats, and warm bed – I don't want to go back out!

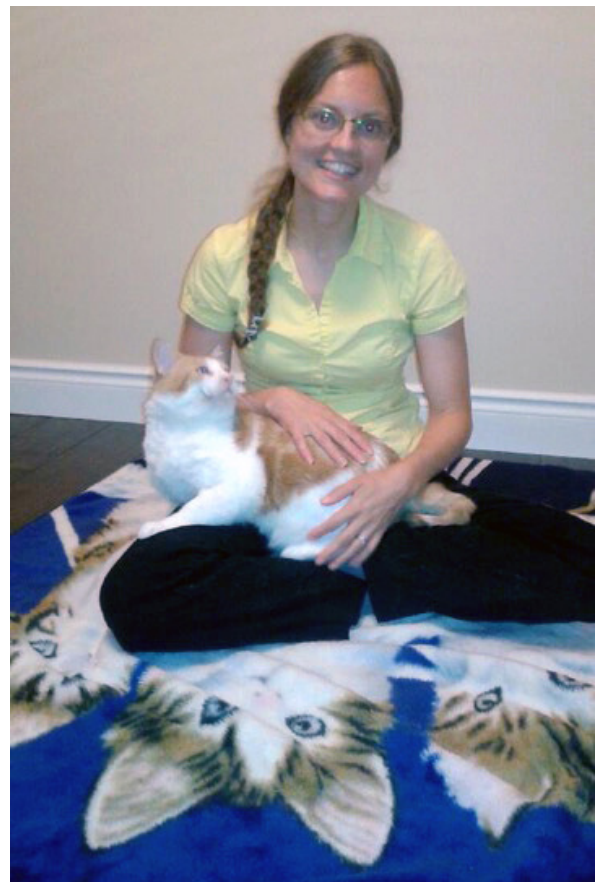
On 31 May, the abscess on my face bursts, spraying blood all over my room. When the lady sees this, she cries and makes a call. I go to the vet again but they say I am fractious and make me fall asleep. When I wake up I get to go home but I have to wear a cone and have ear drops and antibiotics.

I hate the next 10 days of medicine twice daily and I make sure this human knows it. I hiss at her more and stay in the corner of the room – far from her! She is always kind, though, and tells me that on 30 August, I am booked in for entropion surgery. Soon my eyes, ears, face, and body won't hurt anymore.



When she takes the cone off, something strange happens ... I can hear her gentle voice and I'm not in pain anymore. Because everything she said would happen did, I truly begin to trust her.

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April Wagler and a recovered Ira

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She brushes me and in spite of myself I love it! I now feel comfortable enough to lay against her while she reads and after several more brushings (and her being tricky petting me while brushing) I let her pet my whole body – as long as I get butt scratches in the end, that is!

But something is wrong with this human; water pours from her eyes as she feels more of my body, seeing my injuries. I feel embarrassed that she notices the puncture wounds and scabs I seem to be covered in – but it was a hard life out there. I feel sorry for her so I put my paw on her leg, saying “there, there, human.” She stops petting me and cries some more ... huh, I’m confused. The cats tell me that she spoke to their dad human about me finally speaking to her, saying that I sound like a cute chirping bird.

She calls me Ira and I have been with her for 3 months. I like it when she pets me now so I purr. I’ve met the cats on the other side of the door. The kind lady calls me a ‘copy-cat’ because I do what her cats do. They play with my toys (I didn’t know what they were for!), they sit in my window and on my bed – so I do these things now, too. My life is fun, full of love, food, and warmth. I don’t think of the life I once had anymore because this kind lady promises me it will never be like that again. And you know what? I feel safe and I trust her!

She sleeps in my room every night. I sleep above her head and we hold hands as we fall asleep, me purring all the while.



Ira will be available for adoption in a little while. If you're interested in meeting him, please complete our adoption inquiry form at https://felinefriends.ca/ffn_adoption_inquiry.php

At left, the abscess on Ira's face when he first came into FFN's care.



Disclaimer: no alcohol was consumed by cats in the production of this photo.

FFN bottle drive

If success can be measured by the response to an appeal, then the Bottle Drive is a GREAT success. Each week, caring people leave cans, wine and spirit bottles, and other alcohol containers at our collection location at 179 Hibernia Street, Stratford, so that an FFN volunteer can pick them up and take them to the Beer Store for a refund.

Since the Bottle Drive was initiated this past June, it has generated over \$500 in refunds on the returns to the Beer Store. If you consume, please consider donating your bottles to keep the momentum going!

We would ask one small favour: before putting bottles and cans into bags or boxes, please ensure that they are completely empty to avoid messy handling by our volunteer and Beer Store employees.

If you would like to provide additional help by either offering another drop off location in Stratford or transporting empties to the Beer Store, please let us know by emailing info@felinefriends.ca.





Wine Raffle

1

Selection of
wine + LCBO
gift cards

VALUE \$1,000

2

4 Stratford Festival Theatre
tickets, 2 dinners for 2
(at AO Pasta + Red Rabbit)
+ \$50 LCBO gift card

VALUE \$750

3

Spa package for 2 at
Illume Wellness Spa
(mani, pedi, salt room),
dinner for 2 at Foster's Inn,
\$200 City Centre gift cards
+ \$50 LCBO gift card

VALUE \$600

4

CRP Classic
Adirondack Chair
+\$100 LCBO gift card

VALUE \$470

BUY TICKETS AT:

STRATFORD

Boomers Gourmet Fries
Coventry Animal Hospital
Nectar
Perth Veterinary Services
Stratford Business Centre
Sutton Group

ST. MARYS

Carpe Vinum
St. Marys Veterinary Clinic

TAVISTOCK

Tavistock Veterinarians

Also available from
many Feline Friends
Network members



FELINEFRIENDS.CA

TICKETS \$5 EA. | 3 FOR \$10 | 15 FOR \$45

DRAW DATE IS OCTOBER 18, 2019! PROCEEDS TO FFN SPAY / NEUTER PROGRAMS.

THANKS TO OUR PRIZE DONORS : AO Pasta | Boomers Gourmet Fries | Brokerlink Insurance | Patricia Burnell & Larry Baswick | The Buzz Stop
Covet - The Community Closet | CR Plastic Products | Edison's Cafe Bar | Foster's Inn | Julie Heitbohmer, Realtor, Sutton Group - First Choice Realty Ltd.
Illume Wellness Spa | Peter Maranger & Associates Inc. - The Cooperators | Mcleods Scottish Shop | Red Rabbit | Rasmus Fahraeus & Brendon Lyones,
RE/MAX A-B Realty Ltd. | Stratford Festival | Stephanie Theodoropoulos, Realtor, Sutton Group - First Choice Realty Ltd. | Warehouse Clearance Outlet



Rachelle and Trixie

100 Feline Friends Who Care

The hard work of an exceptionally caring Feline Friend is paying off. In July, Rachelle Czartorynskyj launched a new fundraising campaign with an ambitious goal – to find 100 people to donate \$100 a year to FFN, in order to raise \$10,000 annually to support our programs. The campaign is called “100 Feline Friends Who Care.” Rachelle built a website (100felinefriends.org), posted on social media, networked, and even took out ads in the newspaper. And she and her husband were the first to sign up!

Because FFN is a small, 100% volunteer-run organization with no paid staff, sustainability is a major challenge. The same volunteers who manage our programs – working with cats, fielding requests, and doing all the things necessary to keep FFN running – must also raise funds to pay the bills. And although FFN works with clinics to get reduced pricing on spay/neuter surgeries and medical care for cats and

kittens, annual veterinary expenses are heavy. More stable funding coming in means that more volunteer time can be devoted to the cats and kittens in our care.

Asked why she started 100 Feline Friends Who Care, Rachelle said, “I have always loved animals since I was a little girl. Over the years, I feel blessed to have rescued many cats, many of whom became cherished family members. The ‘100 Feline Friends Who Care’ campaign was inspired by my love of animals, as a way our community can come together to help even more cats.”

FFN is amazed and thrilled with the response to Rachelle’s campaign – 88 members have already joined! A hundred thanks to all who are part of that number. An extra boost of momentum was achieved courtesy of an anonymous matching donor, who contributed \$2,000 to match the donations of 20 people! Thank you Anonymous for your overwhelming generosity! The full \$2,000 was indeed matched.

If you wish to join and/or learn more about 100 Feline Friends, please visit <https://www.100felinefriends.org>.

Thanks ...

We’ve had SO MANY contributions from members of our generous community, we should call this issue of the newsletter the gratitude issue!

HURRAY for Pet Valu Stratford for raising an amazing \$2,170 for Feline Friends! Manager Kimberley, staff, and Pet Valu customers – Feline Friends Network is so grateful for your continued support of our spay/neuter and foster/adoption programs!

Thanks to Crunch Fitness Stratford for raising \$290 for FFN at their open house on 11 June! In addition, FFN volunteer Pat Burnell sold \$120 worth of her Puddy Products at the event.

Also, Crunch pre-sold 100 ‘Gymmy the Gym Cat’ 2020 calendars. A portion of calendar sales will go to support FFN programs. Once printed, the calendars will be available at Crunch Fitness, Watson’s Chelsea Bazaar, Boomers Gourmet Fries, and Buzz Stop.



... and more thanks ...

Global Pet Foods' 'Show Us Your Heart' fundraising campaign generated a donation of \$398 in August! Thank you for once again selecting FFN as your charity of choice.

A huge thank you to manager Corinne and staff at Feed-All Pet Centre for collecting donations towards foster cat Bruce's dental surgery costs. Our deep appreciation to all of the customers who contributed. A whopping \$437 was raised!

We would also like to thank Paws Up Rescue Resource, for their \$300 donation for Bruce. Paws Up Rescue Resource (PURR) raises funds to help with unexpected vet costs for abandoned and stray cats in rescues around Ontario. You can learn more and see photos of the cats PURR has helped at <https://www.facebook.com/PawsUpRescueResource/>

And to the many people who have responded to our appeals for help covering Bruce's vet bills, a million thanks! Bruce had surgery at the end of July. Everything went well and he is recovering.

Watch for more on Bruce in an upcoming issue of *cat tales*!



We're very grateful to Carter Fewkes (*above left*) and Lucas Billings (*above right*) for the \$50 donation they made to FFN – money that they earned the old-fashioned way, pulling weeds!



Thank you to Lisa Laughton and her family – hubby Dennis, daughter Haley (*pictured above*), and son Ethan – for hosting a yard sale fundraiser for FFN on a beautiful summer day this past July. Haley and Ethan also had a lemonade and cookie stand! The Laughtons raised \$215 to help FFN continue to help more cats!

People who love cats have some of the biggest hearts around.

– Susan Easterly



... and even more thanks!



Many thanks to Michelle Kyle of Purr Healing (*above, centre*), who donated \$300 to FFN from proceeds of her level 1 animal reiki class held the weekend of 13–14 July 2019. The youngest member of this class is studying to be a veterinarian in Guelph.

If you are interested in learning animal reiki, the next level 1 class is 14–15 September 2019. Details at www.purrhealing.ca.

A shout-out to Karel Jennings (*below, right*) and his employer Execulink Telecom for a \$200 donation! Execulink gives its employees the opportunity to donate \$200 a year to a charity of their choice, and this year Karel chose FFN!! Thank you, Karel, for thinking of us ... the cats and kittens currently in our care thank you too!



Market tales

by Pat Burnell

Judy Burns (*right*) is the longest-standing vendor at the Stratford Saturday Market and an even longer-standing cat lover.



I first got to know Judy during a brief Christmas stint at the market selling Puddy Products for FFN. My table was adjacent to Judy's and she was very helpful – especially in pointing out the regular who made a habit of stealing from tables! As we were both knitters and crafters – Judy having won awards for her exemplary work – we exchanged ideas and tips. I saw, and still see, people stopping at her table from time to time with a knitting question or problem and she never fails to “sort things out.”

After my sojourn was done, Judy offered to carry some cat-themed items, making space on her already complete table. Judy has now been carrying Puddy Products for many years and regularly raises between \$200 and \$500 for FFN by doing so. She is well-known and respected – a word from her about Puddy Products has gone, and continues to go, a long way towards successful sales.

Eighteen months ago, while downsizing in preparation for a move, Judy gave me bags of yarn, some of which I am still using, and first choice of her pattern books.

In her quiet, unassuming way Judy has done much for the homeless and abandoned and feral cats of Perth County and has become a valued friend. She gets great joy out of telling me what she has sold for FFN each week and I already anticipate my annual Christmas table at the market this December. If I am lucky I will be beside her.

Thank you, Judy Burns and – on behalf of all the cats you help – a resounding meow!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

