

The PURRFECT News

Cats Anonymous Rescue & Adoption

A Private Cat Sanctuary and Adoption Facility

2017 Spring Issue

This issue is full of all kinds of interesting information.

- 🐾 News at the shelter;
- 🐾 What we did in the community;
- 🐾 Feral Cat Colony Caretakers;
- 🐾 Volunteering With *Cats Anonymous*;
- 🐾 Our wish list items;
- 🐾 Special fundraiser;
- 🐾 Featured Cat and Happy Tails;
- 🐾 Upcoming Events.

The PURRFECT News can be found on our website. If you would like to receive it by email, contact the editor Tilda at cavolunteer@outlook.com.

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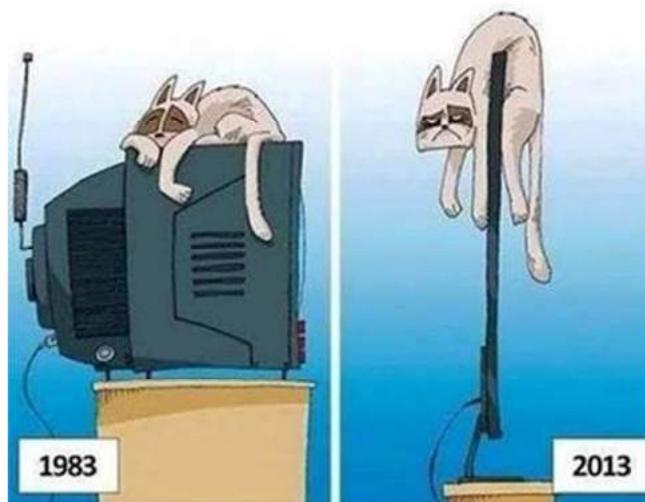
Charity Registration # 865651319RR0001

Visit our website

www.catsanonymous.ca

and

Follow us on Facebook



At the Shelter

Singles Room Cats Get New Condos!

The renovation started at the end of January and was completed in early March. The singles kitties were moved into their temporary home, the empty kitten room, for the duration of the project.

Then it was time to remove the old cages and start the clean-up of the room with a fresh coat of paint, a new baseboard heater, new cabinets, new flooring and bright new baseboards.

The new triple level condo cages arrived and were ready for assembly. Our volunteers worked tirelessly to get the singles room reno completed. We finished off with new beds, and a flat screen TV, complete with wildlife videos to keep the kitties entertained.

Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who helped make this dream come true. Come by on one of our Meet & Greet days and see the final results.



In the Community

Global Pet Foods – Wellington St.

Carrie and the staff from Global Pet Foods at 715 Wellington Street in Guelph donated cat food and dishes to *Cats Anonymous* Feral Cat Program. Thank you for your generous support.



Valentine's Pet Adoption Weekend

Pet Valu in Fergus held a Valentine's Pet Adoption Weekend on February 10 to 12th. We set up an information table and had Jackie & Charlie and Fuller & Early, two fabulous bonded pairs showing off to the customers. Thank you for having *Cats Anonymous* at your event.

Guelph Humane Society - Food Donation

Many thanks to the Guelph Humane Society for sharing this food donation with *Cats Anonymous*. The kitties say yum ... and thank you.

Paulmac's Pets Adoption Day

The folks at Paulmac's Pets in Milton hosted *Cats Anonymous* at their store March 25. Our kitties had a great time schmoozing with the customers. Many thanks for the generous donation of food.



Customer Appreciation Day

Pet Valu in Fergus held a customer appreciation day on Saturday, March 25th. They had free goodies and sold cupcakes made by Sweet Temptations Cupcakery. A portion of the proceeds were donated to *Cats Anonymous*.

Did You Know?

In this issue, we will talk about plants. Did you know that many plants could be toxic and deadly for our furry friends? Lilies are poisonous to cats. Here are a few others: Aloe Vera, Baby's Breath, Begonia, Carnation, Cyclamen, Daffodil and Tulip.

From one website, I found the following:

"The entire lily plant (leaf, pollen, and flower) is considered to be toxic for cats. If you have lilies in your home this Easter, make sure your cat doesn't eat any part of the plants. Symptoms of lily toxicity in cats include lethargy (decreased activity), vomiting, and loss of appetite."

A friend once got some lilies as a gift and had a cat. I told her she shouldn't keep them in the house, not even high up, as every part of a lily is poisonous and may fall to the floor. Cats could die of kidney failure if they even get a small amount of lily pollen on them, so I always opt for caution and do not allow any lilies or lily like plants in my home.

My sister gave me a small houseplant. Before I bring any plant into my home, I would always check it out on the internet to see if it is harmful to my cats. It turned out that this plant would kill a full-grown horse in a matter of hours! I took it to work and enjoy it there. I now do not have any plants in my home just to be safe. Always do your research before bring a plant into your home!

Cats do like to nibble on grasses. You can get Cat Grass that you can grow yourself or buy already grown. Do not use regular grass seed as it has chemicals. If you grow your own, use organic potting soil and avoid potting soils with fertilizer. Cat grass is typically made of oat or wheat seed. You can get it at your local pet store.

Here are Oakley and Sugar enjoying their cat grass ... *Deb*



Feral Cat Colony Caretakers

When asked to write this article about *Cats Anonymous* feral cat Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program my first thoughts were not about the many, many cats in colonies. It wasn't about the volunteers like myself who spend days and nights setting up and patiently monitoring live traps; or the terrific shelter volunteers, foster families, and of course the vets whose encounters with these ferals are very meaningful, however brief. No, my thoughts and total admiration go to the caretakers of these colonies.

Cats have the reputation of being very aloof solitary creatures, but it's heartwarming to watch them out in the elements, come around in their own way to the people who love them and make their existence out there a little more comfortable. I have met some very wonderful and dedicated people who discovered these cats and ultimately they form unique bonds with them. These colony caretakers have built homes and shelters, named each cat in their care and feed them 365 days a year ... holidays included, mostly from money out of their own pockets. The connection is amazing.

I'm not up on the statistics of how many ferals there are or will be out there in all kinds of extreme conditions, but I do hope at the very least they are lucky enough to encounter caretakers like Terry, Selena, Tony, Vera, Ed and Laura to name a few. The real story here is about them! They do it for the cats; but they deserve the recognition and thanks from all of us.

It's because they care that they start noticing these cats in the first place, fleeting by while on their work breaks or find them shivering under a skid or injured in the yard that they start leaving out food that draws them back. Ultimately, to contact *Cats Anonymous* so we are able to trap, neuter, return, and do our part to help slow the growth of these colonies and improve the health of the ones we can.

The GAP colony is one that comes to mind. It's behind a business here in Guelph. Terry and Selena have been feeding cats here for about 6 years. When Tish and I first checked out this colony in July 2016, there were four cats that were hanging around consistently and one or two coming by occasionally. Callie, Leo, Mickey and Rusty (little Terry Orange) were the regulars; Rickey and a big ole orange tom (who has eluded us) were the occasionals.

We TNR'd the first four and they are still around to this day, enjoying the plentiful food source, little houses that were built for them by the shop classes at Centennial High School and the occasional leg rub up against their favourite human feeder. A few weeks after we returned the four, I got a frantic call from Selena that Rickey had been spotted and seemed to be injured with a swollen cheek and was very unsteady and falling down.

I managed to trap Rickey and got him to the shelter where we discovered he was a very sweet boy. There was no apparent injury, but Rickey was suffering from vestibular disease, confirmed by our vet. Rickey was not a true feral, was not neutered and had been coming to feed for many years. We suspect he was an abandoned stray. We tried to locate his owners but no one came forward. He stayed at the shelter for adoption and became affectionately known as Cheeky Tom! He was adopted and is now a shop cat for... of all things, a dog grooming business!

You can't imagine a happier home for such a sweet boy. Just look at this picture with his best friend Rhonda.



Let's all continue to do our best to make sure that all the ferals and strays braving the elements have every chance possible for their own version of home and measure of comfort even if it is a straw hut, regular food, and a compassionate human to name them and tell their story ...**Jo**

The Real Facts

Feral Program – Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR)

In 2007 *Cats Anonymous* started a trap/neuter/return program to help control the feral cat population. As many of you know, one pair of cats quickly becomes an entire colony in no time at all. Whenever possible these cats are returned to their ‘outdoor homes’ after they are sterilized, with a caretaker in place to look after them for the rest of their natural lives.

The cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated, and neutered, so no more kittens will be born. Not only is TNR the humane option for feral cats, it also improves cats lives by relieving them of the stresses of mating and pregnancy, and improves their relationships with people who live near them, and decreases the size of colonies over time.

In 2016, eighty-three (83) adult cats went through our TNR program. Fifty-one (51) were males and thirty-two (32) were females. If you do the math these female cats would have given birth to at least 135 kittens in just one year. From these colonies, forty-three (43) kittens stayed with *Cats Anonymous* and went through our foster family program before they were all adopted.

Kitten season is here once again! So what is kitten season? It is the time of year when cats give birth, flooding animal shelters and rescue groups with homeless litters. Kitten season is really three seasons in one, starting in spring, peaking in late spring or early summer, and ending in fall.

There are too many kittens born when cats that are not spayed and neutered mate. Their hormones drive unaltered cats. Mating just once can start a domino effect that can result in dozens, even hundreds or thousands of unwanted animals.

Cats are “polyoestrous species” in veterinary language. They have several heats during the year, and therefore several periods when they have access to reproduction. A queen (an unaltered female cat) could produce up to 3 litters a year. A female cat can go into heat and become pregnant as early as 5 months of age.

Cats are said to be “photosensitive” in terms of reproduction, meaning they respond to the amount of light they are exposed to on a daily basis. Typically, in the northern hemisphere, cats’ breeding season is from late January - early February until late September - early October, when the daylight period is longer.

What does this all have to do with the “Kitten Season”? Queens go into heat and are bred in late January – early February... then gestation lasts just over two months... and, then between April and June, we usually see a peak in kittens’ births. Here is our “kitten season”, and that’s why during these periods, the capacity of care of the shelters is heavily impacted.



We don't always get a cat !



Help control the cat population and get your cat spayed or neutered.

Celebrating the “Anonymous” of “Cats Anonymous”

In February 2007, I walked through the doors of *Cats Anonymous* for the very first time. I came as a potential adopter. I knew from the moment I entered that there was something extraordinary about this place, but could not pinpoint what it was at first. Of course, the cats have a lot to do with it... (How could they not?!) I was pleasantly surprised to see they were free to roam in a home-like atmosphere, they were in good shape, (some might say, a little chunky!;) and they were clearly loved and well cared for, but there was still something else, something exceptional about this shelter... Even after being accepted as Treacle’s new human “Mom” I could not stop thinking about CA and wanting, more than anything, to be a part of this very special sanctuary for Misunderstood Cats, so I became a volunteer. It did not take me long to realize what made *Cats Anonymous* so alluring (and still does!) ... It is the hearts, compassion and dedication of the volunteers – The “Anonymous” of “*Cats Anonymous*.”

The number of volunteers has grown from 13 to over 70 in the last 10 years, with each volunteer offering their own unique talents and abilities to benefit and enhance the lives of our cherished residents. Of course, we have shelter cleaners, foster families, feral cat trappers and colony caretakers, but did you know that we also have volunteers who grow organic catnip for our “Famous Catnip Mats” and knitted mice? And then there are the folks who sew the mats and knit the mice... We have volunteers who create calendars, tote bags, bookmarks and have written and published books to raise funds for our kitties. We have people who spend months every year planning, organizing and collecting items for our annual “Paws In The Garden” event (and believe me that is no small task!!!). We have Meeters and Greeters, bookkeepers, drivers, gardeners, handymen and ma’ams, office assistances, even a “Keeper of the Composting Toilet!” All of these volunteer opportunities (and so many more that I haven’t listed) are performed with one single purpose – to benefit the lives of our cats.

Cats Anonymous would not be what it is today without the quiet commitment, talents and love of our volunteers. They are content to remain anonymous, allowing our cats to shine in their best light. At the risk of sounding like Bette Midler, I would like to say “**THANK YOU**” to all of CA’s Volunteers, both past and present, for all you have unselfishly given. You are all true heroes!!!!!!

Tina

Volunteer Coordinator

Cats Anonymous Rescue and Adoption

tina@catsanonymous.ca

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK – APRIL 23-29 2017

Did you know that *Cats Anonymous* is a 100% volunteer driven organization? Every single one of the people who help run our shelter come here out of the goodness of their hearts. They don’t go home with a big fat paycheck, but they do go home with a very happy heart, knowing that the time they have given to our shelter has helped to save cats lives and to keep our resident kitties happy and feeling like they are important and loved. They go home knowing that their time here has been well spent ... whether they were entering medical records into the computer, cleaning a litterbox, or cuddling a scared kitten ... they know that they have made a difference. And that is payment enough.

I like to think of our volunteer community here as an extended family. We have all come together with the same goal in mind ... to help make cats lives better. We are all here for the right reasons. Our love and compassion for these little souls unites us and although we may have differences of opinions on other matters, we all agree on one thing ... that our cats come first and that we will do everything in our power to keep them comfortable and to help them find their way to a new life.

I can’t thank our volunteers enough for everything they do for our cats, and for loving each and every one of them while they are here. You make them feel like they matter, and they repay you with purrs and kisses. They also make you feel like you matter ... and you do.

Tish Walshe - Founder

My Volunteer Experience

I was asked to write about my experience as a student volunteer for Cats Anonymous. Such a broad question, where do I begin ... **Erika**

I was introduced to *Cats Anonymous* through a very good family friend, Belinda. She has been volunteering at *Cats Anonymous* for several years. One day I mentioned that I needed to get started on my community hours to graduate, which is when she gave me the idea of volunteering at *Cats Anonymous*. She knew I had a passion for animals, especially cats, so she put me in touch with the shelter and I started doing night rounds on Thursday's.

When I started volunteering, it was mainly to finish my 40 hours of community work for high school. When I was finished my hours I continued to volunteer doing my Thursday night rounds. Thursday was my favourite day because I got to be surrounded by many cats and give them all some loving! And not only did I help them, they helped me. I felt as if I was in cat therapy.

I have now been volunteering at *Cats Anonymous* for almost 2 years and have recently gotten my mom and sister to volunteer too! All these cats made me so happy! Tish always says "There are no bad cats. They are just misunderstood." Volunteering at *Cats Anonymous* made me realize that cats don't always act the same way at the shelter as they do at home. They don't act the same because when you bring them home, they realized you've saved them. Ever since I started volunteering at the shelter, I've been very fond of 2 cats in the main room, Jackie and Charlie. My sister, mom and I wished to have been able to adopt them, but dad said no.

Summer came along and I wanted to foster the feral kittens to help them adapt from a feral environment to a cozy loving home and teach them how to trust and love people and because who doesn't love cute fluffy kittens? So I asked my dad and he said no, again. I then took things into my own hands and just brought a foster kitten home and a few days later I found my dad sitting in the cage playing with the kitten! About a month later the kitten went back and got adopted instantly thanks to the social skills he learned in our home.

One day last summer, my sister found 2 kittens who were very ill. They were both less than a pound, pot-bellied and had eye infections. They weighed as much as a kitten would at 3 weeks but they were 6 weeks old. My sister brought them home and we took them every single day to *Cats Anonymous* for fluids and medications. Tish was very worried that they wouldn't survive because they were in such bad shape but with lots of TLC they flourished. We fostered them for 3 months and then officially adopted them after they were cleared for adoption.

If I didn't volunteer at *Cats Anonymous* I may have never gotten the chance to have saved those kittens and make such an impact on all the cats living in the shelter. I have to say my most favourite thing about volunteering at *Cats Anonymous* is seeing how far cats have come when they first arrive to the day they get adopted. I love seeing the emails people send us showing how well the cats are doing and how much more they have opened up to trusting people after being adopted.

Before and after pictures of Eli (Gray & White) and Hallow (Black) the sick kittens we fostered.

They are enjoying the good life!



Our Wish List

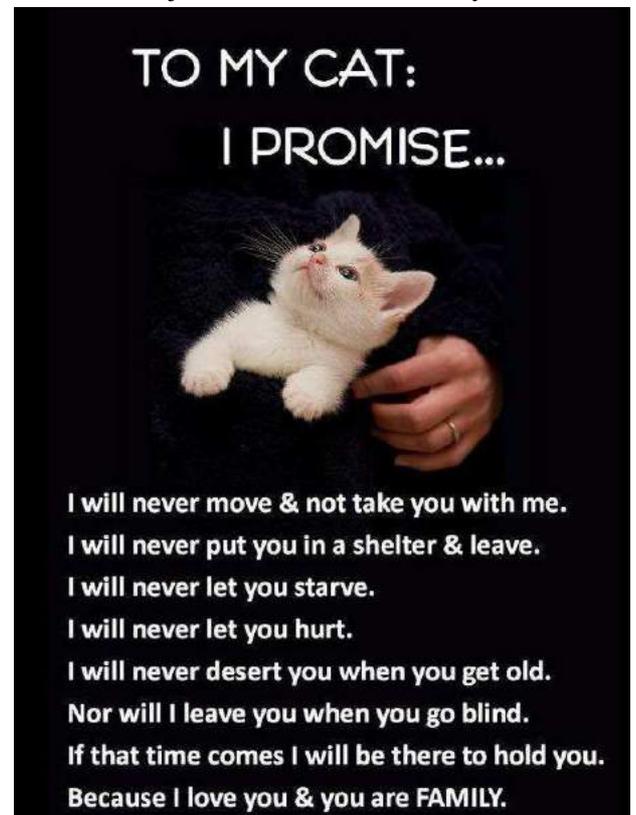
In order to run *Cats Anonymous* effectively, the shelter requires daily cleaning which uses a lot of supplies. All funds and donations come from adoptions, surrender fees, fundraising events and private donations from individuals and businesses.

We can always use the following items:

- ✿ High Quality Dry and Canned Food
- ✿ Liquid HE Laundry Detergent
- ✿ Dish Soap
- ✿ Bleach and Ammonia
- ✿ Paper and Shop Towels
- ✿ Cleaning Supplies such as Mops, Brooms and Scouring Pads
- ✿ Postage Stamps
- ✿ Printer Paper and Office Supplies
- ✿ Clean Wood Pellets (to use as litter)
- ✿ Canadian Tire Money, Gas Cards and Coupons
- ✿ Gift Cards

Just a Moment

We just had to share this with you.



Sponsorship and Supporters Board

We rely on the community for donations and support to run the shelter. If you can help, please make a donation.

You can:

1. Use the form on Page 8 and mail it, along with your cheque, to the address shown on the form.
2. Donate through our website www.catsanonymous.ca - click on the link "Donate Now through CanadaHelps.org"
3. Send an Email Money Transfer to tish@catsanonymous.ca

We are looking for corporate sponsors to help with various projects and events during the year and would welcome the opportunity to partner with your company. Please contact Tilda at cavolunteer@outlook.com or the shelter to discuss how your company can become a corporate sponsor of *Cats Anonymous*.

We appreciate any and all help you can offer and we thank you for your support.



Sponsorship and Special Funds

Our funding comes from adoptions, surrender fees, volunteer fundraising events and private donations from individuals and businesses. We have no government or township assistance.

To accomplish extra things around the shelter, we need extra help! There are a number of special projects that we need to get completed and we could really use your help! The Project Fund is directed towards facility maintenance, upkeep and improvements to our shelter. We have an ongoing wish list that cannot be completed without some financial assistance.

In January thanks to generous donations to our project fund, we started work in the singles room replacing the cat cages with brand new tower/condo units. It is now complete and we are so pleased to take one item off the list of special projects. Come by and see the new room!

Our next project is the Outdoor Enclosures. They are 20 years old and are well worn. They are in need of complete replacement. Help us build a brand new outdoor paradise for our kitties!

You can donate directly through our website. Go to www.catsanonymous.ca and click on the link "Donate Now through CanadaHelps.org" on our main page.

Or, send an Email Money Transfer to tish@catsanonymous.ca

Or, even mail us a cheque.



YES I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION!

If you would like to help us with a donation to one of our Wish List items, please fill out the information below.
Mail your donation to: Cats Anonymous, #063055 Dufferin County Road #3, East Garafraxa, ON L9W 7J1

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Please Indicate Which Wish List Item You Would Like To Support: _____

Thank you. All donations \$20 and over are eligible for a tax receipt. Please include your email address to send your receipt to.

Featured Cat

Adopt Me!



Sassy

This sweet little girl had me from hello. The first day I saw her in the singles room when I went in to do my shift, my heart melted. Her fetching little mustache made me smile. If you were to look up the definition of a cat in the dictionary, Sassy's picture would be there. She is the perfect combination of independence and cuddle bug. She likes things her way, but can be persuaded that change isn't so bad.

She was surrendered to us when her previous owners allowed their two new dogs to chase her. She did not see the sport in that, and began to hide. Then a baby was on the horizon and they decided she didn't fit into their life anymore. Their loss, as she is a very sweet and affectionate girl. She needs a quiet home that will allow lots of sunbathing. Her beautiful green eyes will be sure to captivate you.

Sassy, very appropriately named. She is a fun girl.

Belinda (one of Sassy's fans!)



Happy Tails

January

Eleven (11) Adoptions



Martha

February

The shelter was closed for the month because of the Singles Room Renovation.

One (1) Very Special Adoption



Bibben

March

Three (3) Adoptions



Bill

Upcoming Events

We hold **Meet & Greet** events each month at our shelter, where you have the chance to not only meet the great cats that we have for adoption, but also some of our special volunteers. So why not make plans to drop by for a visit if you get the chance!

🐾 Saturday, April 1	1:00 – 4:00 pm	🐾 Monday, June 19	6:30 – 8:30 pm
🐾 Monday, April 17	6:30 – 8:30 pm	🐾 Saturday, July 1	1:00 – 4:00 pm
🐾 Saturday, April 22	1:00 – 4:00 pm	🐾 Saturday, July 15	1:00 – 4:00 pm
🐾 Saturday, May 6	1:00 – 4:00 pm	🐾 Monday, July 17	6:30 – 8:30 pm
🐾 Monday, May 15	6:30 – 8:30 pm	🐾 Saturday, August 5	1:00 – 4:00 pm
🐾 Saturday, May 20	1:00 – 4:00 pm	🐾 Saturday, August 19	1:00 – 4:00 pm
🐾 Saturday, June 3	1:00 – 4:00 pm	🐾 Monday, August 21	6:30 – 8:30 pm
🐾 Saturday, June 17	1:00 – 4:00 pm	🐾 Saturday, September 2	1:00 – 4:00 pm

- 🐾 Pet Valu Adoption Weekend – Fergus Sat. April 22 & Sun. April 23
- 🐾 Pet Valu Adoption Weekend – Acton Sat. April 22 & Sun. Apr. 23

“Join Us”
Cats Anonymous Rescue & Adoption
5TH ANNUAL

PAWS IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, June 4, 2017
12:00-4:00pm

Italian Canadian Club
 135 Ferguson Street, Guelph

All money raised will support our 2017 Kitten Spay/Neuter Fund

SILENT AUCTION

LIVE AUCTION



\$35 PER PERSON
 (includes a hot buffet lunch)
Advance Ticket Sales Only

GAMES

RAFFLE

Corporate Sponsorships Available

To purchase tickets, please contact Leslie Wedgewood at
lawedgewood@hotmail.com or call the shelter at (519) 855-6850

www.catsanonymous.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

See more upcoming events on our website
www.catsanonymous.ca

Keep up to date with shelter news by visiting us on

facebook