



CAT TALES

February 2011

Published by the Cat Action Team of Prince Edward Island

www.cats-pei.ca

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Bob Stanley

Dear Cat Action Team Members, Volunteers, and Supporters:

Our Annual General Meeting will convene at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown, from 2 to 5 pm, on April 10th.

At the conclusion of that meeting, my tenure as President will come to an end. Although I will be stepping down from the Board for personal reasons, I will continue to be a highly active volunteer member of CAT.

Speaking of the Board, there will be a number of vacant positions to be filled at the AGM. I urge all active members to consider nominating themselves to the Board, which meets once a month throughout the year.

Yes, as in every cooperative undertaking, "politics" enter into the work of the Board. But a strong and accountable Board is necessary if CAT is to be successful in managing our limited resources; in protecting our assets against inappropriate expenditure; in finding new sources of funding; and, perhaps most important of all, in coordinating and facilitating the essential work of our dedicated volunteers on behalf of the feral cats of Prince Edward Island.

In the coming year, as we struggle to provide food, shelter and medical attention for the cats in both longstanding and newly identified colonies, the Board will be required to make many difficult decisions. If you feel strongly about these decisions, the best way to ensure that your voice will be heard, is to serve on the Board and debate the issues as they arise.



WIN this 1950 HYDRA - GLIDE Harley-Davidson motorcycle!

This vintage machine (VIN #00050f9108) has been fully restored from the frame up, including the engine, by Mark Johnson (J & J Cycle Parts).

Tickets will cost \$50.00 each. The draw date is December 11, 2011.

For further information, please contact Donald Turner at 394-4581 or 963-3179; or email donald@dstenterprises.ca.

CAT is grateful to Dr. Charles Dewar, whose generosity has made this raffle possible.

And . . . Raffle Tickets are **now available** for our **special Mothers' Day Baskets!** See page 5 . . .

The Tale of SEAMUS

I have always loved animals. Some of my earliest memories are of my black cat. I have pictures of myself when I was a year old carrying my cat, who was nearly as long as I was tall.

That love continued into my adulthood. So, long before I became a member of CAT, I was feeding stray and feral cats. My favorite place to go was The Cat's Meow at Malpeque Wharf.

About six years ago, I lost my ten-year-old cat, Zoey, to renal kidney failure. After that, being with other cats made me feel sad, so I stopped going to the colonies. But as time went by, I felt I needed to return, and I found that in fact, being with the cats again helped me feel closer to my beautiful Zoey.

It was during one of these trips to feed the cats at The Cat's Meow, that an extremely friendly grey and white cat began rubbing around my legs. He was so skinny that his ribs were visible, and both of his eyes were badly infected. He appeared to be a young cat and he was exceptionally sweet. There were several older, more experienced cats at the colony and he didn't seem to be able to hold his own against them. After spending some time with him, I had the feeling that he had once been someone's pet.

When I got up to leave, the cat followed me to my car. I opened the car door and then turned away to put the empty food bag into the trunk. When I got back to the car door, I found the cat sitting on the driver's seat.

I took him out of the car and carried him back up the hill to the cat house, all the while explaining that I had a puppy who wouldn't like him and that my heart wasn't yet ready to love another cat. But I had left the car door open, and as I walked back to my car, he ran ahead of me and again jumped inside.

This time, when I took him out of the car, I closed the door before taking him back to the cat house; and this time, instead of walking, I ran back to the



car. But before I could get in and shut the door, he managed to jump in yet again. At this point I decided to take him home, get him healthy, and find him a new home.

Well, as you may have guessed, "Seamus" is still with me. Now, he's approximately six years old, big, happy and healthy. He couldn't meow when he came to my home, but he can now make a squeaking sound. He loves to eat and has enjoyed growing up with my dog.

I never did look for a home for him and he's never tried to leave mine. He knew what my heart needed, even when I didn't.

--Colleen Adams

Are you interested in becoming a member of CAT, or in volunteering to help us in our mission to improve the lives of feral cats on Prince Edward Island?

If so, please send your name, mailing address, phone number, and email address to

Cat Action Team
(Attn: Secretary)
PO Box 2193
Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 8B9

Calling All Fashionistas!

For a limited time only, Vogue Optical will be selling these two different styles of “Kitty” Eyeglass Cases, especially designed to accessorize your every outfit:



Tip: These cases make excellent gifts - many of us will want to own both designs!

CAT in the News:

Long-time CAT members and volunteers Bev and Fred Hillier were interviewed in a lengthy article about the Cat Action Team that appeared in the Charlottetown *Guardian* on Saturday, December 11, 2010 (page C3). The article, “It’s everyone’s problem,” by Mike England, summarized the achievements of CAT since its formation in the fall of 2000. Anne MacPhee, CAT Board Member and webmaster, and Kelly Mullaly, Executive Director of the PEI Humane Society, were also quoted.

The article has not been posted on the *Guardian*’s website, but you can read it, and see the accompanying picture of Bev and Fred with Jasper, one of their many cats, at www.cats-pe.ca.

CAT Action Team Awarded \$10,000

The Cat Action Team of Prince Edward Island has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 by PetSmart Charities of Canada.

The grant is to be used to spay and neuter feral cats in West Prince County.

More details will soon be announced.

*** CONGRATULATIONS ***

CONGRATULATIONS to **Glenda Carver**, winner of the second annual Dr. Els Animal Champion Award, sponsored by the PEI Humane Society. Named in honour of Dr. Els Cawthorn, who was Shelter Manager and Veterinarian at the PEI Humane Society from 2004 to 2009, this Award recognizes people or pets that have contributed to animal welfare and have illustrated the human-animal bond.

Glenda has done extensive volunteer work for CAT: recently, for example, she has been arranging for shelters to be built and distributed to CAT colonies.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the CAT Action Christmas Cheer Raffle:

1st prize - Christmas Cheer Basket:
Darryl Adams, O’Leary

2nd prize - 1500 ml bottle of Jackson-Triggs white wine:
Marlene Foote, Montague

3rd prize - 300 ml bottle of Bailey’s Irish Cream: **Tanya Craig, Stratford**



MANY THANKS to CAT volunteers Colleen Pidgeon and Sue Turner, who organized this highly successful raffle.

The Tale of BLACKIE

It was a lovely evening in April. I was working on my flower beds, and as usual, the cats who have made their home in our yard were all keeping me company. All, that is, except Blackie.

In addition to our indoor cat, Muffin, we care for four outdoor cats. Blackie, who was here first, is the boss of the outdoor cats. Then came Goldwyn, a pretty orange and white guy; like Blackie, Goldwyn found his way to our yard from the nearby farm where I originally trapped both cats so that they could be brought to a CAT Saturday neuter day.

Timmy is also orange and white; we believe he came to us after having been dropped off. The fourth outdoor cat, Brownie, is entirely black except for a small white tip on his tail. He showed up over the winter, frightened, but so hungry that he swiped at Goldwyn and Timmy (but not Blackie) to get to the food dish.

Back to my story. My husband and I were remarking that we had not seen Blackie all day, when I noticed something dark, walking along by the apple trees, hitched over to one side. At first I thought it might be a skunk, but then I realized it was Blackie, and that something was terribly wrong. Usually he loves to be petted, but this evening, he hurried away from us, towards a thick woods that borders our property. He went into a hole, and no amount of coaxing could persuade him to come out. We realized he was in shock and in pain, and decided to leave him there for the night.

Early next morning we went back to the hole and to my relief, there he was. We got him out and into a carrier. Then, after a hurried call to notify CAT that emergency care was required, we drove to the Abegweit Animal Hospital.

The vet did x-rays which showed two and possibly three fractures in Blackie's hip, probably as a result of being hit by a car. The vet explained that fortunately, the nerves controlling Blackie's bowel and bladder had not been damaged. He would recover on his own, but he needed to be kept quiet

and confined for 6 to 8 weeks, away from his more rowdy friends.

I thought about it for a minute. We had a homemade puppy pen that would be perfect for Blackie's rehabilitation. The vet gave us pain medication and home we went. We set Blackie up in the basement where it was warm and quiet. The only problem was that the litter box for our indoor cat, Muffin, was down there. No problem, I thought. We'll just move the box upstairs. I was so caught up in caring for Blackie over the next few days that I didn't notice Muffin was NOT using her litter box until one morning when Muffin looked at me and cried piteously in pain, and I realized she was constipated. She was upset that I had moved her litter box and she KNEW there was another cat in the house!

After we phoned the vet to ask for advice, Blackie and his pen were relocated to the garage and I was on my way to the pharmacy to buy a baby enema for Muffin. It took two attempts, but finally the enema went where it was supposed to! Muffin eventually forgave me and got better.

Meanwhile, Blackie loved his wet cat food and purred loudly every time we stroked him. He faithfully used the litter pan I put in the pen for him. As the weeks passed, I began to allow him out of his pen several times a day, just to walk around a bit. He was happy that he could see his friends, if only for a short time.

During this ordeal Blackie never once complained. He seemed to know we were helping him. Week 4 into his recovery I had to leave for Ontario to visit children and grandchildren. My husband got a crash course in caring for Blackie, and he did a good job. When I returned three weeks later, it was 6-1/2 weeks since Blackie had been injured. I let him out of the pen that night and he was happy to be outside once again.

It's now July and Blackie is his old self, prowling the yard or lounging about in the shade of the perennial beds in the heat of the day. And he's STILL the boss!

—Judy Rayner

Do you have a story to share about feral or barn cats assisted by CAT of PEI? If so, email the Editor of Cat Tales: srebrnik@ucalgary.ca.

CAT Mothers' Day Raffle

Draw date: May 6, 2011

First Prize: 50-50 draw

Second Prize: Basket A

Third Prize: Basket B

To purchase tickets (\$1 each), contact Paula Connolly at 902 268-2216, or email pmconnolly@pei.sympatico.ca

Proceeds will be used to help with emergency veterinary expenses for feral cats on PEI

Basket A - Value \$250.00



Tia Maria Coffee Liqueur (1 litre)

BEANZ 10 oz coffee (10 cups)

Tim Horton Gift Card (\$10)

AVON PRODUCTS :

Antibacterial Vanilla Hand Gel (75 ml)

Romantic Strawberries Bubble Bath (700 ml)

Shower Gels (four bottles/four scents; 150 ml each)

Moisture Therapy Body Lotion (400 ml)

Skin So Soft Body Lotion (250 ml)

Imari Seduction Body Powder (40 gr)

Imari Seduction Eau de Toilette Spray (50 ml)

Moisture Slick Hair Care

Mini Digital Photo Viewer



Handmade dish cloths

Mother's Day Tea Towel Set

Painted porcelain flower from Toy Factory

Lava Stone Pendant from Nessya's Gems & Jewels

Red "pocket shawl"

Green necklace

Two pairs pierced earrings

Cotton Cushion Cover

and more....

Basket B - Value \$250.00



BEANZ 10 oz coffee (10 cups)

Tim Horton Gift Card (\$10)

AVON PRODUCTS :

Antibacterial Cucumber-Melon Hand Gel (75 ml)

Romantic Strawberries Bubble Bath (700 ml)

Shower Gels (four bottles/four scents; 150 ml each)

Vanilla Body Lotion (250 ml)

Skin So Soft Gelled Baby Oil (200 ml)

Healthy Makeup (helps prevent sunburn)

Green Tea & Mint Cooling Moisture Lotion for Feet (100 ml)

Deluxe Bathroom Organizer

Botanicals Bamboo Shower Set



Handmade dish cloths

Tea Towel

Oven Mitts

Painted porcelain flower from Toy Factory

Waterford Crystal clock

Grey "pocket shawl"

Gold-colour locket and chain

Earrings & pendant set

and more.....

CAT is grateful, as always, to our generous donors and sponsors, including: Avon, The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Clarence Farm Services, ColourBlind of Charlottetown, Home Depot of Charlottetown, IAMS, Island Pet Supply, Midland Transport, The Pegasus Foundation, Pfizer Animal Health, Phillips Feed Service Ltd of Charlottetown, Sunnybrook Farms Pet Supply, and the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College of UPEI.

Are You Feeding Outdoor Cats?

Feeding hungry stray and feral cats is the humane thing to do -- IF you are also prepared to arrange for the cats you feed to be spayed and neutered.

By establishing a daily feeding routine (*not* free-feeding), you can identify all the cats living on your property, train them to come at the same time each day, and know that they will be hungry when they arrive. It then becomes much easier to trap the cats humanely for surgery and other medical procedures.

Here are a few tips to avoid waste and make your food go as far as possible:

Feed at the same time every day, and, to deter skunks, racoons and other unwelcome guests, feed only in daylight.

Feed in an area that both you and the cats can access even during the winter months.

Feed only the amount the cats can eat in 20-30 minutes, and promptly remove any excess.

Don't let food become damp. Most cats find soggy food to be unappetizing, but if they do eat it, they can become ill from the mold that grows on damp food.

Insofar as possible, feeding stations should be placed so that the open side faces away from the prevailing winds. Avoid locations prone to flooding, or to excessive water pouring off buildings. It may take some observation and experimentation, particularly during or immediately after heavy rain, to determine which areas remains driest.

Do you have tips to share concerning the care and feeding of feral, stray, or barn cats? If so, email the Editor of Cat Tales: srebrnik@ucalgary.ca.

The Cat Action Team (Charitable Registration No. 886301712RR0001) gratefully accepts donations to help us carry out our work. Donations are used to spay and neuter, to test for disease, and to provide emergency medical care for feral, stray, and barn cats. Donations also enable us to purchase food, humane traps, and supplies for outdoor cat shelters.

Donations can be made online, through PayPal or Canada Help, at www.cats-pe.ca; or, fill out the form below and mail it to **CAT, P.O. Box 2193, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 8B9.**

Yes, I WANT TO HELP FERAL, STRAY AND BARN CATS ON PEI!

Enclosed is my cheque or money order for (check one): ☐ \$10, ☐ \$25, ☐ \$50, ☐ \$75, ☐ Other \$_____

(please verify): ☐ My cheque or money order is enclosed

(All gifts of \$10 or more will receive an official tax receipt.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____