



CAT TALES

November 2011

Published by the Cat Action Team of Prince Edward Island

www.cats-pei.ca

From the President's Corner

by Donald Turner

CAT exists due to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, and at this time I would like to thank all those who have contributed so much to our recent and on-going events and activities.

First off, I thank Mary Gallant for all her hard work organizing the highly successful Kitty Kat Fun Festival in July. Paula Connolly has also donated generously of her time, helping out at the CAT fund raiser at Sharkey's Seafood Restaurant in Summerside in September. As well, Paula organized the Fourth Annual Thanksgiving *MEOW* 50-50 Draw (the lucky winners are announced in this issue of *CAT Tales*).

Diane Minick put much effort into organizing the Cat Action Team Booth at the 2011 Humane Society Pet Expo in September. In late October, Bob Stanley represented CAT at the 2011 Volunteer Expo sponsored by Holland College and the Voluntary Research Centre.

Vicky Smith has promoted our fund-raising efforts in a variety of ways, but she deserves special thanks for the effort she puts into publicizing all of our activities on the Internet. Along with Paula Connolly, Vicky continues to coordinate "Pennies for Paws," a fund dedicated to purchasing food for CAT colonies.

Pat Srebrnik has been working to increase donations of food to CAT, and to organize the distribution of that food. Pat was also instrumental in preparing our successful application for the "Pegasus" grant awarded to us in August by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Francine Labbé and her team continue to design and produce our ever-popular, handmade, CAT-nip mice: We hope that everyone has noticed the special Halloween pattern included in the assortment of mice currently available at veterinary clinics and selected retail outlets throughout the Island.

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A Reminder ---

Time is running out to buy your Raffle Ticket for the

***1950 Hydra-Glide
HARLEY DAVIDSON***

Draw Date, December 11

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From the President's Corner, continued:

As hard as these volunteers worked during the summer and autumn months, they're still going strong, as we move toward the December holidays, and into colder weather.

Our Shelter Coordinators, Krista Adams and Glenda Carver, are putting in many long hours to provide the feral and free-ranging cats of PEI with the warm, snug housing they will need in the months ahead.

We are all eagerly looking forward to December 11, the draw date for the raffle of our vintage 1950 Hydra-Glide Harley-Davidson. Nearly 400 tickets have been sold so far, but our volunteers will be redoubling their efforts to sell as many tickets as possible in the next few weeks (see page 6).

Currently, Diane Minick is organizing our 2011 "Christmas Cheer" raffle, with a draw date of December 18 (see page 6), while Paula Connolly has taken on the responsibility for our "Spring Meow Draw 2012" (see details on this page).

We are of course always eager to welcome new members and volunteers to CAT. We would be particularly happy to hear from anyone with the skills necessary to help out with maintaining our web page, or to assist us in keeping accurate financial records.

As we approach the New Year, I want to take this opportunity to mention that in 2012, we will be electing new members to our Board of Directors; we will also be seeking a new Secretary and a new Treasurer.

Again, I thank all of our wonderful volunteers for the great work they are doing.

SPRING MEOW DRAW 2012

FIRST PRIZE:

Older Edition, Never-Used, 18 Vertical
Raleigh Triumph Mountain Bike,
Donated by Allan and Tillie Macleod



SECOND PRIZE:

Cat Scratching Post+
Made and Donated by Thomas Bradley

*** Proceeds to Help With Emergency
Veterinary Expenses For Stray/Feral/Barn
Cats under the Care of The Cat Action
Team ***

TICKETS:

\$1.00 Each or Book of 6 for \$5.00

DRAW DATE: April 10, 2012

INFORMATION:

Paula Connolly, 902 368-2216,
pmtc.2006@yahoo.ca

Vogue Optical Raises \$5000 for Cat Action Team

In a campaign to help “rescued” animals on Prince Edward Island, employees of Vogue Optical have raised \$5,000 for the Cat Action Team, and another \$5,000 for the Prince Edward Island Humane Society.

The employees raised the money by contributing their favourite recipes to create a cookbook – *Recipes to the Rescue*, Volume 2 – that was sold in Vogue Optical’s 59 locations throughout Canada. All 1000 copies sold out within three months.

Recipes to the Rescue features a special section of recipes for cats and dogs, including baked “Cat Crackers” made from tuna and cornmeal, and “Ham It Up” cat treats.

As the book’s subtitle explains, *Recipes to the Rescue* supports Vogue Optical’s “vision” of rescued pets.



Kathy Bryanton, Director of Purchasing for Vogue Optical; Cory Gray, Vice-President of Vogue Optical; and Donald Turner, President of CAT, with furry friends.

Kathy Bryanton, Director of Purchasing for Vogue Optical, spearheaded the compilation and sale of the cookbook. She is now putting the finishing touches on a new fund raiser: a calendar featuring photos of pets belonging to Vogue Optical employees, which will go on sale in mid-November. Again, proceeds will be divided between the PEI Humane Society and the Cat Action Team.

According to Kathy, “We do many fund raisers for local charities, but the cookbooks and the calendars are particularly special to those of us who are animal lovers.”

Vogue Optical is owned by Wayne Gray and Cory Gray. The chain, which employs over 300 people, has two locations in Charlottetown and one location each in Alberton, Montague, and Summerside.

**** CONGRATULATIONS! **** to the winners of CAT’s Fourth Annual Thanksgiving *Meow* 50-50 Draw:

Janice Parsons, Breadalbane, who won \$525.50.
Jim and Pearl Schurman, Summerside, who won the basket of goodies.

The Tale of MIDNIGHT

by Goldie MacArthur

One warm summer evening while my two children were watching television along with our two house cats, I noticed Jewlie (our grey tabby) staring out the front window. I thought she must be watching the wild rabbits who come every evening to play in our yard. But when Lucas, my son, looked out into the twilight, he saw a huge, jet-black cat staring back. “Can we feed him, Mom?” were the first words out of my little one’s mouth, as my daughter ran to get the food. But the creature we glimpsed through our window in the fading light was frightened away by the commotion. Not to be deterred, we did set out food, which disappeared by morning.

Each night it became our ritual to leave food and then watch for our coal-black visitor. At first we caught only glimpses, but as time passed, he began to stay in our yard longer and longer. One night I got up at midnight and there he was, perched on our back patio, looking in through the garden doors. He and I shared a few minutes of animal and human trust before he was gone again. From then on, we referred to him as “Midnight.”

The next morning we decided to build a rudimentary shelter on the back patio, and soon Midnight took possession of his new residence. He knew he was being fed, and we never bothered him except to tell him, through the glass doors of course, how very lovely he was.

At about this time an old high school friend of mine came by for lunch. It was a beautiful day and we decided to eat on the patio. Midnight came to the bottom of the steps and sat there as we ate, staring at us with big, wondering eyes.

My friend said, “Goldie, I know you have saved many cats over the years, but be prepared – I don’t believe you can save this one.” I must admit that in the light of day, Midnight looked rail-thin and battered. His fur was dull and there was a huge notch missing from one ear.



Yet I decided that if there was any way to save this reject from society, I was going to find it. I called Cat Action and they told me that if I could catch Midnight, they would see him at one of their clinics. If he were healthy, he would be neutered and returned to us.

I got a carrier and over the next couple of days we filled it with food and treats. Finally, on the morning we were to leave for the clinic, we had him! And although Midnight was alarmed and distressed, off we went. A few hours later we picked up “Our Boy”: we were told that he did not have feline leukemia, but that he was sedated, and should be kept inside overnight in his carrier. My daughter gave up her bedroom so that we could put him in there. Although we shut the door, we left the window slightly open. We assumed the carrier was securely closed.

At about 5 a.m. I was awakened by noise from the bedroom. But by the time I got to the door all was quiet again, so I didn't go inside. I went back to bed for a few more hours, then got up and went to check on our patient. Imagine my surprise when I found the cage door open, and no cat anywhere in the room!

I went downstairs to get coffee and to figure out what could possibly have happened. And there, in the makeshift shelter on the patio, sat Midnight, awake, hungry and none the worse for jumping through a screen from a second-story window! My kids and I were elated!

Over the next month Midnight gained weight and began to trust us. My son was the first to find the way to Midnight's heart by feeding him cheese. But it was getting cooler and we began to worry that the shelter was not sufficient to keep him warm and dry in harsh winter weather.

Fortunately, Midnight had a plan: around the end of October, I opened the back door and in he walked! This was not the way things were supposed to happen: he was a feral cat, and I already had two cats and two dogs. But Midnight had lived in the wild, he had been beaten up, he had been hungry, and he wasn't going back. Whenever I tried to put him outdoors he would stretch out his front paws to catch the door frame. Then he would hold on and look at me with huge eyes, pleading, "Please don't make me go back out there!"

Seven years later he still doesn't want to go out for more than a few minutes and then only to sun himself on the patio. Midnight taught himself to be an indoor cat. For example, he watched the other cats use the litter box, and then began to use it himself, but in his own very special way: he perches on the sides, like a bird on a perch, never touching the actual litter. When he is finished he attempts to cover his work with a few tentative scratches, but this self-tamed cat does not want to get his paws dirty in any way!

Against all odds this wild creature became a part of our little family and as I am typing this story, who do you think is trying his darndest to get onto my lap? As if to say, "This is my story and I need it to be told just right!" I'll do my best, my little friend, I'll do my best

Tips for Colony Caregivers:

Providing Food and Water in Cold Weather

In cold weather, the cats in our colonies need extra calories to maintain their energy levels, so expect them to eat more.

Wet food will freeze in cold weather, but if you know the cats will eat right away, and you want to supplement their dry food, try warming up a bit of canned food and taking it to the colony in insulated containers. Be sure to remove any leftover wet food before it spoils.

Outdoor cats need clean water daily and during all conditions. Here are some tips to prevent their water from freezing:

If possible, refill the bowls with hot or warm water. Use wider and deeper bowls, and use dark-colored bowls, which absorb and retain the sun's heat better than light-colored bowls.

Place the water bowls in a spot that is sunny yet shielded from the wind. If you notice that the cats are not drinking the water you provide, try moving the bowls a short distance away from their food.



- Important Reminder -

**1950 HYDRA-GLIDE
HARLEY DAVIDSON**

**Value \$17,500 when restoration
was completed in 2001**

VIN #00050f9108

**Only 1000 Tickets Printed;
\$50.00 each**

Draw Date: December 11, 2011



For more information,
including ticket sellers and locations,
visit our website:

<http://cats-pei.ca/HarleyPoster1.html>

Now Available!



**Tickets for the Fifth Annual
Cat Action Team
“Christmas Cheer” Raffle**

First Prize:

A Basket of Assorted Fine Wines and Spirits,
including donations from:

Matos Winery
Prince Edward Distillery
Rossignol Winery
Vincor Canada
and more ...

Second Prize: 750ml sparkling wine

Third Prize: 350 ml Bailey’s Irish Cream

Draw Date: December 18

Tickets: \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00

Information: dianeminick@hotmail.com

