



CAT TALES

Fall 2015

Cat Action Team www.cats-pei.ca

Editor: Jeannette Verleun

jeannette.verleun@dal.ca

Anyone can submit!

From The President's Corner...

Cat Action Team volunteers are continuing to work tirelessly (and I know that some are getting so tired from ALL the work they do. For the love of the cats they just keep doing what they do) to keep the population of feral, stray, and barn cats, all over Prince Edward Island, healthy, safe, and warm, and at reducing numbers, via our Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) operation.

We now manage to spay or neuter several hundred cats per year: this year alone we managed to "fix" approximately 200 cats in the relatively small area of Tyne Valley/Lennox Island with a \$22,500 grant from PetSmart Charities.

I, and our volunteers and participating Vet Clinics, are just now starting to sell tickets on the annual Christmas Cheer Basket Raffle that has "raised the spirits" of a few lucky winners over the past few years. It promises to do the same for some lucky winners this year as well.

If you would like to buy tickets, sell tickets yourself, or volunteer to sell tickets at one of our sales venues, such as The Farmers' Market or Canadian Tire you can contact me at:

prince_edward_island@hotmail.com

Bob Stanley, President C.A.T.



Fundraisers

Many thanks go to PetSmart Charities, which donated a \$22,500 grant to CAT! Another source of income, the Pegasus Grant for 2014 was finished in the spring of 2015. CAT is in the process of applying for a new grant. CAT is also most appreciative of the generosity of Dr. Eric Butler and Mrs Suzanne Rocca-Butler who, via the Silicon Valley Foundation of California, have given us a grant for spaying and neutering cats for many years.



As seen to the left, Blue Ribbon Pet Supply donated over 150 Orijen Cat Treats to CAT in September.

ber.

On August 15, the Donna Hickox Feed the Ferals Program held a food drive at Walmart in Charlottetown. We received a shopping cart full of canned and dry cat food. Thank you to Walmart for allowing us to have the food drive; and many thanks, as well, to the generous donors.



The CAT MEOW 50-50 Thanksgiving Draw took place Friday, October 9. Look to our spring issue to see who won and how much!

The annual Christmas Cheer Basket tickets go on sale October 1st. They are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The draw will be on Saturday, December 19.



Finally, as seen above, the catnip mice continue to be a source of regular income. Thank you to all the Vet clinics and other stores who allow us to place mice in their places of business.

Special Features Lil Farm on the Jib

Denise Pippy-Docherty of Hazelbrook has always loved animals and has helped many animals through the years.

She “officially” became involved in cat rescue 14 years ago. A family member had called to see if Denise and her family could take a mother cat and her kittens and put them in their barn. Denise said yes and that began her love for cats! As the little kittens grew, she realized she was going to have to pay to get them all neutered and spayed! That is when she came across a pamphlet for Cat Action, and the rest of the story is history. Denise has helped more cats than she dares to count, with trapping, releasing, re-homing, taming, and the sad part, removing cats that have been hit by cars from the road.

Denise’s inspiration comes from doing the right thing; she is unable to turn her head and pretend there isn’t a problem. Most difficult is losing an animal. Once, while picking a cat up from a neuter clinic, the door latch wasn’t closed and the cat just



Missy was rescued from a farm when the farmer passed away. In her younger days, she would help Denise with the kittens.

ran off. Other times, she has had to pick up empty carriers after a neuter day; she always finds that difficult.

Denise wishes people understood that although rescue has its hard moments, the rewards are amazing and she gets to fall in love often. She has a big heart and wants to make a difference, and wishes more people would do the same.

Denise and her family live on Lil Farm on the Jib. It’s called that because

their property is shaped like a triangle, similar to the front sail on a sail boat referred to as a jib. Three generations of Pippys have called this triangle-shaped field the Jib, when harvesting the various crops grown here over the years. Now Denise, her husband, and their five sons (that's right, five!) do the same; the boys are the 4th generation to farm, work and play on this land. When Denise and Kendall's two oldest boys began their Young Millionaires project of operating a small veggie patch 5 years ago, they chose this as the name. As the years went on, their small veggie business has grown from one small patch to approximately 2-3 acres of veggies, strawberries and free-range laying hens. Lil Farm on the Jib has generously donated half of the proceeds from the sale of sunflowers to CAT and Keeping Cats Homed!

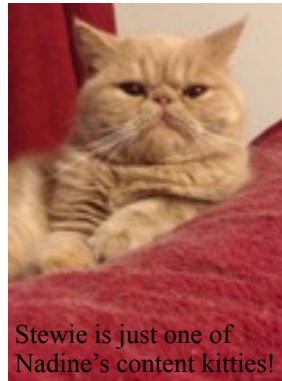
Wedding Donations

If you're reading this newsletter, you're probably familiar with our feline friends, and know that it is NOT easy to teach your cat to be a maid-of-honour. So, how do you include cats in your wedding? By collecting donations for CAT, of course! Just ask Nadine Tibbits of Rustico.

Nadine has always loved cats, so much so that when they called her the crazy cat lady, she dressed up as one for Hallowe'en! Ever since she was little, she has been taking stray cats home. As an adult, she has a cat at home and a few barn cats at her parents, all of which are fixed. You could say she's a little obsessed, considering the number of cat-themed shirts, ornaments, and you-name-its she owns.

With her wedding date approaching, Nadine wasn't sure what she was going to do as a kissing game at the reception. Then a brilliant idea came to her—ask for

donations to CAT! Each donation meant a kiss between the bride and groom. It was definitely a “Nadine-thing,” and something she and her new husband were so pleased to do; it was wonderful knowing that some cats were being helped. Now, she plans on regularly volunteering with CAT, with her love of cats in general at an all-time high.



Stewie is just one of Nadine's content kitties!

Miss Kitty Gets Sick

By Stella Shepard, Morell

Joshua, my son, came into the house holding a puny, sickly kitten in the palm of his hands that he found in the barn-loft. It was the runt of the litter and too sick to run and hide with its siblings.

“Can we keep her in the house Mom, please? I will take good care of her, promise.”

I reluctantly said yes knowing I would be the one taking care of the scrawny little thing that hissed and swiped me with a teensy-weensy paw. Hmm, at least it had spirit, but not much else, I thought. Joshua named her Miss Kitty.

Miss Kitty wouldn't eat and was inactive. I brought her to the vet who gave her medication and recommended a special diet. According to the vet, Miss Kitty would have more than likely died in the barn.

The expensive cat food, the meds, and loads of special attention worked. Her health slowly improved with time. I continued to spoil Miss Kitty with special

treats and kitty presents. With time, she became a plump, spoiled cat who hated the outdoors. She only ventured outdoors while I was around.

I said good-bye to my family, Miss Kitty, the farm and spent the winter working in Central America in 1996. I became deathly ill while visiting a remote Mayan community in a rainforest. I was semiconscious, delirious with fever and completely dehydrated, which can be dangerous in a Third World country. A friend took me to Guatemala City for treatment. It took weeks before I was well enough to resume working with NGO groups.

About four winters later the foreign dormant parasites in my body became active. I began slipping in-and-out of consciousness and my body burned with fever. An Island ER doctor didn't recognize the tropical parasite that had invaded my body. She treated me for a flu virus that was making the rounds around the Island. The meds didn't work. I continued to decline.

Miss Kitty kept me company while I was bedridden. There were days I would fall asleep softly stroking her fur which gave me comfort. One morning my fever broke, and I began feeling well enough to get out of bed.

The next day, I noticed a new bump on Miss Kitty's head. I took her to the animal hospital thinking the vet would drain the lump of fluid that was getting larger with each passing day.

It wasn't a lump of fluid. Miss Kitty had cancer and had to be euthanized. It made no sense to me how a nine-year-old pampered cat that seldom ventured outdoors, ate the best food with feline vitamins could have developed a rare type of fatal cancer.

I attended a workshop about animal communication later in the year. The facilitator lectured about animals, especially

cats are known to take a sickness out of the house by taking on the illness, even to die.

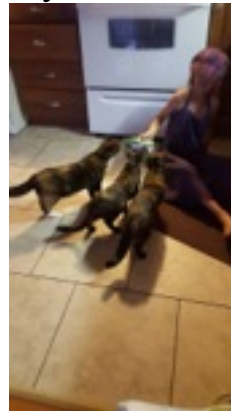
Joshua tried to convince me that I was not being practical in believing Miss Kitty took on my illness and died so I could get better. He suggested I was grieving over the loss of my pet that I loved dearly.

I argued since I had saved Miss Kitty's life, she in turn had saved mine. Who are we to question the unknown?

Caring for Cats in Winter

- Provide shelters to keep cats safe, warm, and dry (check out [www.neighborhoodcats.org/ HOW_TO_FERAL_CAT_WINTER_SHELTER](http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/HOW_TO_FERAL_CAT_WINTER_SHELTER) for ideas)
- Avoid chemical ice melt/salt products
- Watch for anti-freeze leaks or spills, know the signs of poisoning and act fast!
- Knock the bonnet of your car before starting the engine.

My Favourite Ferals



Cheryl Gillman of Charlottetown would like to show off her three calico beauties patiently awaiting her daughter to drop them some treats. All three cats are gorgeous and much loved by Cheryl's three daughters.

Thank you for reading the fall edition of CAT TALES ☺ Look out for the next edition to be published next spring!

To submit, please send anything you think might be interesting to our readers to me, your editor, at jeannette.verleun@dal.ca