



# CAT TALES

## Summer 2016

Cat Action Team [www.cats-pei.ca](http://www.cats-pei.ca)

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Anyone with stories about feral, stray, or barn cats (caretakers, volunteers) is invited to submit an article.

### From The President's Corner...

Hello everyone.

My name is Kathy Costain and I am CAT's President for this year. At the AGM in the spring our new Board was formed. We have a great mixture of people, some with much experience, some with some experience, and some just starting out. We all bring something to the table and blend together well. I am looking forward to being a part of this group of talented ladies.

We hit the ground running. We set up an on line yard sale page (donations welcome) on Facebook, then expanded it to include our first ever on line auction. It was very exciting and extremely successful. So much so that our second one will soon be held. To be able to be a part of it visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1135493733146091/> and ask to join.

Another new addition coming soon will be cat grass. It will join our catnip mice.

Fundraising is going full force. For CAT to be able to continue to help the feral cat population we need everyone's help. Our next two projects will be our Thanksgiving Hamper O'Plenty raffle which will contain a complete Thanksgiving meal and our Christmas Cheer Basket which will be expanded this year to include bringing cheer to cat lovers of all ages. We are in need of people to help us sell tickets so if you can

donate any time at all please visit CAT's website and go to how you can help then scroll to the bottom to our volunteer section.



Jeannette's daughter visiting a Cat Cafe on St Denis Blvd, Montreal, this summer.

TNR continues to be going strong. Our coordinators and helpers put in many hours to help make the quality of the lives of these cats a lot better. Spaying and neutering makes such a difference in the dynamics of a colony, just ask any caregiver. This program needs our fundraising to be a success. Even with the generosity of our participating Island Veterinary Clinics and the AVC this is a very costly program.

Now that I have introduced myself and filled you in on what has been going on I would like to invite you to keep on following us and to join in when you can. Visit (and join) our Facebook page and our website to see where we are and what we have on the go. We will be planning some information sessions/get togethers that everyone will be welcome to attend. I hope to see you there. Until then, Kathy Costain.

## Meet the rest of the Board!

CAT's annual general meeting was held in March 2016. The current CAT Board was elected at that first Board meeting following the AGM:

President: Kathy Costain

Vice-president: Krista Adams

Secretary: Gayle Adams

Treasurer: Vicky Smith

5th Executive: Debbie Reid

Members at Large: Julianna Chaulk and Paula Connolly

Thank you for all your hard work, ladies!

## Fundraisers

In March of this year, Merie Surkan (AKA Bloomin' Momma) donated a portion of proceeds from sales of her Pop family to CAT for the Donna Hickox Feed the Ferals Program.



<https://www.facebook.com/mybloominmomma/?fref=ts>

Norma Miller generously donated two sets of lovely hand-crafted note cards to the project.

Merie's view of the project says it all: *"THANK YOU! Because of your support, and with help from Norma Millar, 100 lbs of cat food has been purchased and delivered for distribution by the Cat Action Team. Our fundraiser was a success and I'm sure some of these 'homeless cats' are very appreciative. The Bloomin' Momma is searching out ideas for next year's fundraiser. Feel free to send suggestions along. Thanks again!"*

Yard Sales: CAT held a yard sale in O'Leary at the end of May, and a yard-and-perennial-sale in Summerside on June 4.

Thanks to all those who donated items and helped support these sales.

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On June 18, Carol Ann Desjardins held a wonderful fundraising evening featuring Men of the Harvest (a four part harmony men's choir) and a silent auction and bake sale. Lots of thanks to Carol, all the volunteers, the bake sale and auction donors, and, of course, the Men of the Harvest!

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From July until October, tickets for the Thanksgiving Hamper O'Plenty will be available for an October 7 draw date. Donations to the hamper (crafts or fall themed articles) are appreciated.



Tickets will be found at most veterinary clinics, as well as the following locations, times, and dates:

- Confederation Court Mall (all Wednesdays), 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, August 10 and 24; September 14 and 28, and October 5.
- Canadian Tire, Charlottetown, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, Saturday, September 3.

If you have some time and would like to help out, Paula would enjoy your company.

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From September until December 15th, tickets for the annual Christmas Cheer raffle

will be available. Dates for ticket sales will be announced on Facebook (they will be in October and November). Again, donations of non-alcoholic treats as well as the usual popular items would be most appreciated. The draw will be held December 17.

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Cat food drive! Some of our colony caregivers rely on donations to feed their colonies. We collected donations at the Charlottetown Walmart in early August and it was a resounding success. Thank you to Walmart and our generous donors! In case you missed it, you can always get in touch with CAT and make a donation at your convenience.

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Veseys Bulbs Fundraising with Flowers, Fall 2016. Order deadline is September 30th: <http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/assets/images/veseys2016/FallCatalogue.pdf>



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If you would like to buy or sell tickets, donate to either basket, order flower bulbs, or donate cat food, please contact Paula Connolly at 902-368-2216 or send an email to [paulamconnolly@eastlink.ca](mailto:paulamconnolly@eastlink.ca)

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As mentioned in Kathy Costain's President's letter, there will be an on-line auction sale at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1135493733146091/> Dates to be announced on the page!

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Finally, 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. Remember to check out the new cat grass that will also be available for sale alongside the mice.

## Special Features

### Keeping our cats safe

Ever wonder what plants out there are unsafe for cats? Ashley Balderston, Veseys Seeds & Bulbs horticulturist, answered just that question for CAT: In PEI, plants that are poisonous for cats include: a) Daffodils. The flowers contain an alkaloid called Lycrone. This can cause diarrhea as well as heart and respiratory issues. b) Tomatoes and potatoes: the stems, leaves, and green fruit are deadly. c) All parts of rhododendrons and azaleas. d) Poppies, gladiolas, lilies, and morning glories can irritate the mouth, upset the stomach, and

even cause liver failure.



Beautiful spring daffodils are poisonous to cats.

If you have these plants in your yard, consider using scent to keep the cats away; [davidsuzuki.org](http://davidsuzuki.org) gives the following tips: rue, lavender, pennyroyal, and lemon thyme

planted throughout the garden may deter cats from the garden.



Cats also dislike strong citrus scents—so orange and lemon peels placed around the plants make a natural compost and cat deterrent. Also, a spray made of 1 tsp black pepper, dry mustard, and cinnamon, a few drops of citrus essential oil, and a crushed garlic clove in a spray bottle along with enough water to fill the bottle is excellent for keeping cats out of garden beds.

## Feral Cats and Birds

Dr Peter Foley, a veterinarian with the Atlantic Veterinary College, says that spaying and neutering isn't just the right thing to do for the cat population, it may be good for the wildlife population as well.

While free-roaming cats are known for helpfully catching nuisance rodents, we would want to be careful around a nesting area for piping plovers, for example.

So how does the Trap-Neuter-Release program make a difference? Dr Foley says he doesn't know the full numbers, but what he's seen has given him hope. The number of cats surrendered to the PEI Humane Society's shelter has steadily decreased since the TNR program began in



2001. As well, the Humane Society spays and neuters cats before they are adopted, while there is also support for those with limited financial means

who want to spay/neuter their feline friends.

With this work, we are helping both free-roaming cats live happier and healthier lives AND bird populations.

As a review from last year, because cold winter will be here sooner than we realize:

## 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



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Thank you for reading the summer edition of CAT TALES ☺ Look out for the next edition to be published in the coming months!

If you love cats and would like to contribute to CAT Tales, consider becoming editor! I am looking for a replacement editor, as I start into the third busy year of my medical degree. I would appreciate any help you could give.

To submit a story idea or your interest in becoming editor, please email me at [jeannette.verleun@dal.ca](mailto:jeannette.verleun@dal.ca)