



# Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

## Mewsletter

### Time to “Paws” and Reflect

Spring 2010



I hope this new decade is starting out well for everyone. We had a fantastic year in 2009 and adopted out 25% more cats than in previous years.

This is very gratifying, as we were concerned that our ability to maintain our adoption level would be compromised because we had to give up our shelter location. Our focus in 2010 will be to find a new location, bigger and better than the last! This Mewsletter article is dedicated to sweet Fletcher (featured above), who sadly passed away this January. Many people say they feel they cannot foster because they would get too attached. I can relate to this as far as Fletcher was concerned. I have fostered many cats over the past five years and can honestly say he was the one! While we love them all, there is

always that special one that we connect and bond with, the one we want to keep for ourselves. Unfortunately one of my cats was not too fond of Fletcher, so I could not make him part of my family and he remained on the “adoption” list. That is, until Karah e-mailed one day and said she just wanted to give two hard-to-adopt cats a loving home. She adopted Fletcher and another one of our cats, BB, and these two cats could not have found a better home. Karah continued to keep in touch with me updating me on Fletcher and sending me pictures.

You may think that you will become too attached to a cat that you foster. But you will soon learn there are many loving homes out there and it is extremely rewarding and gratifying to be a part of the fostering process and help save the life of a wonderful cat.

~ Laura Wyatt, Director with Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

### Feature Adoption: *Wilma and Pebbles*

“Wilma and Pebbles are mother and daughter who were rescued from a high-kill shelter by Forgotten Ones and we were asked to foster them. I was reluctant to ask my husband, Doug, as we already had three cats. When I approached Doug about it he said that it would be okay.

“We picked up Wilma and Pebbles in January 2009 and when we got them home, we placed them in a room on their own for about a week. Then we slowly introduced them to the house and the other cats.

“After about five weeks, we went into our bedroom and found all five cats asleep on our bed with their arms wrapped around each other. A few weeks after that, all five cats were running around like a herd of thundering buffalo playing with each other.

“In April, we were asked by FOCR to bring Wilma and Pebbles to PetSmart for an adopt-a-thon. Doug asked me what that was, and I told him the cats would be featured for adoption and would be in a cage from Friday night until Sunday night. (Keep in mind they had actually spent most of their lives in cages.)

“The next thing I know, Doug had made arrange-



ments to sign the adoption papers for Wilma and Pebbles. When that paperwork was complete, these two cats had made their final journey home.

“When we come home and come through the door, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing their beautiful faces waiting for us.

“Doug has given me the most precious gift I could have ever asked for and I thank him. And I thank FOCR from the bottom of my heart for rescuing Wilma and Pebbles.”

~ Darlene

## Feature Volunteer: Shirley Playter

“I’ve always been an animal lover and have had two or three cats for most of my life. In the past I have had hamsters, a canary, budgies, guinea pigs, tropical fish, two Florida Box turtles and I have had a dog for the last 13 years. Working in the Toronto Zoo Animal Health Centre for 20 years gave me access to a great many animal-loving people and their knowledge about many species. When the last of my cats died, I thought I might just keep my dog alone, but two weeks was all I could go without a cat. I adopted Jazz from FOCR and she has become a sweet, loving cat. My retirement showed me that I needed to do something to give back, so I contacted FOCR and joined the other dedicated volunteers.”

With Shirley’s wealth of knowledge and experience with animals she has certainly been a welcome addition to our volunteer group. Not only does she help out at the adoption centre, she also drives cats and kittens to their medical appointments. When urgent veterinary care was needed for three-week-old kittens that were abandoned at the adoption centre, Shirley immediately arranged for transportation for these sick kittens to get the critical medical care they needed.



Piper (left) and Jazz are just two of Shirley’s many pets who have benefited from her love of animals.



Shirley puts her body and soul into supporting all forms animal life—as seen here with a barred owl named Charlotte who takes part in outreach programs at Toronto Zoo

But the extent of Shirley’s dedication truly came to the test when she was asked to volunteer for a FOCR fundraising event. Would she mind transforming herself into a man....a flamboyant fellow ....in a flaming red suit?! With her good-natured attitude, Shirley quickly agreed to take on a St Nick persona and pose as “Shirley Claus” for Christmas pet photos, all in aid of receiving proceeds for Forgotten Ones. Even on her birthday Shirley donated her time to parade around in public as this jolly gentleman—she might not have looked *exactly* like Santa, but she certainly embodied his generous spirit.

We are very grateful that Shirley’s passion for animals led her to Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue.

### Did you know?

Playing with cats is a very important part of caring for their wellbeing for many reasons:

**Exercise:** Exercise is vital for keeping your cat healthy and sane. Playing with your cat and having your cat romp around with others is a perfect way for your cat to get exercise, both physically and mentally.

**Release of Anxiety:** Anxiety and stress are as harmful to cats as they are to us. Cats under stress are more apt to develop behavioural problems such as aggression, urine marking, or obsessive-compulsive disorders.

**Relief of Boredom:** Cats are naturally curious and can get depressed and lethargic if they are bored. Cats need some sort of challenge every day. Whether your cat is looking out the window at birds or chasing a toy, he loves and needs to play.

**Bonding with You and other Pets:** Cats love to chase other cats or even dogs in some households! This type of behaviour provides much-needed bonding. Playing with your cat even bonds her to you.



## Caring for Cat Colonies in Our Community

All of the FOCR volunteers work incredibly hard to maintain and run FOCR, so it is amazing that two of the directors have undertaken even more volunteer challenges. Over the last few months, Debbie Sauve (founder of FOCR) and Edith Hansen (director) have taken on a lead role in caring for three cat colonies in the Richmond Hill area. The key to helping these colonies in a caring, humane and non-lethal response is to Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR), which is exactly what Debbie and Edith set out to do.

### What the heck are cat colonies?

Feral cats are descended from domestic cats but are born and live without human contact and are usually found in groups called feral colonies. Colonies need a food source and a good hiding place, so it is no surprise that these three colonies are located close to restaurants and that the cats are currently living in a dumpster, a shed and a garage. Cats reproduce at a rapid rate and without human intervention these colonies will produce hundreds of unwanted kittens and many cats will suffer from malnutrition and disease.

### What has FOCR done for these colonies?

Two of the colonies had been supported by private citizens, but when it became too much for them they asked FOCR for assistance and Debbie and Edith immediately agreed to help them. The third colony was discovered by Edith when she noticed some homeless cats at the back of her local mall, huddled in a cardboard box to get some protection from the wind.

The first order of business to help these colonies was to catch the cats, so Debbie has been out in often



Toki and Nora, two of the sweet kittens that have already been rescued from the cat colonies by FOCR.

miserable weather setting up traps. She has successfully caught and neutered several cats already.

The next order of business was funding. Edith has been busy sending out letters to local businesses trying to raise money to continue the TNR program. With such a mild winter, it is likely some of the cats are already pregnant so trapping and neutering quickly is a primary concern.

The third order of business was to find more suitable homes for these cats. Requests for barn homes were posted on Craigslist and Kijiji and over 50 stables in the area were contacted. Initial response resulted in 11 cats being successfully relocated to these safe locations. As the cats are caught they will be assessed and any cats that can be socialized will be taken into the FOCR adoption program. Kittens will stay in FOCR foster homes in the hope that they can be adopted and, if not, they will have to be released. What an incredible amount of work Debbie and Edith have done in such a short time!

### What still needs to be done?

The biggest hurdle is fundraising in order to continue the trapping. It costs \$100.00 per cat for neutering and vaccinations. If you can assist us with a donation or by supplying shelters or help with trapping, please contact us at [www.forgottenones.ca](http://www.forgottenones.ca)

To many people, stray cats or feral cats don't even register on their consciousness. Debbie and Edith, on the other hand, know what a harsh and cruel life these creatures live and have done something to improve their existence. There is still a lot of work to be done but so much has been accomplished already to make this yet another amazing FOCR success story!



In cold weather, shelter is more important for feral cats than food as they can get frostbite and hypothermia. These shelters were built by FOCR volunteers.

## Cat Care

by Dr Tara Sermer, Veterinarian, Green Lane Animal Hospital  
(featured here with Ruby)



### THE TOOTH OF THE MATTER

Your cat's dental care is as important to its wellbeing as good oral hygiene is to you and me. Cats can develop serious health problems if their oral health is ignored. But the good news is, that by watching out for any dental problems and treating them quickly, we can keep those feline fangs fabulous!

I will be the first to admit that brushing cats' teeth is no easy task for the majority of feline caregivers. As many of you know, once a cat has made up his mind about something, there is no changing it, and tooth-brushing isn't always well received. However, like all other mammals, cats are at risk for dental and periodontal disease. Cats suffer from tartar accumulation, loose teeth and Feline Neck Lesions, a type of cavity that can be very painful.

If tooth-brushing is out of the question for your kitty, there are some alternatives. If your veterinarian notices tartar build-up on the teeth, he or she may recommend some very effective diets that have been clinically proven to reduce plaque and tartar build-up. If possible, cat owners should routinely check their cats' mouths to look for discoloured teeth, red gums or any other changes.

Once a year during the annual physical examination, the veterinarian will check the cat's mouth to ensure that all the teeth are healthy and clean. I have diagnosed many dental issues just on a routine annual check-up.

If you notice a change in your cat's breath, that may be an indication that something is wrong in the mouth. If your cat changes her eating habits, that can also be a sign that something is not quite right. Dental diseases such as tartar accumulation can cause bacteria to get into the bloodstream and they are then carried to all the organs in the body. This can lead to stress on the kidneys and liver over time.

Routine oral examinations are essential to your cat's good health, especially when he or she becomes a senior. Dental disease can be easily corrected and healthy teeth will contribute to a long healthy life for your cat.

*"The Cheshire Cat only grinned when it saw Alice. It looked good-natured, she thought: still it had very long claws and a great many teeth, so she felt it ought to be treated with respect." ~ Lewis Carroll*



## Stellar Statistics

- 2008: 200 cats and kittens adopted
- 2009: 258 cats and kittens adopted
- 2010: 34 cats and kittens have been adopted to date

## Forgotten Ones Community

**Spring Fundraising:** As well as featuring our cats in many local pet stores, we have a number of fundraising events planned for this spring. Please visit our website at [www.forgottenones.ca](http://www.forgottenones.ca) for event times and locations.

**Tips from our Readers:** Some of our readers have sent in the following suggestions and recommendations:

- **Cheaper cat medication online:** “My cat was diagnosed with kidney disease and I was shocked at the price of the medication that she would have to be on for the rest of her life. I looked online and found a Toronto-based pharmacy which offers the same medication at substantially discounted prices: [www.petpharm.org](http://www.petpharm.org) I pay a small fee for the vet to write the prescription and I saved \$1200 in one year!” ~ Joye
- **Pilling a cat:** “Trying to give my cats pills was really stressful until I found two great ways to pill both my cats. Tabby loves the Pill Pockets that I get from the pet store. They are moist smelly treats into which I tuck the pill and she gobbles it up. Taffy doesn’t like the treats but if I grind the pills up really, really fine with a mortar and pestle and simply sprinkle on the wet food he doesn’t even notice.” ~ Lori

**Foster Homes:** If you are interested in providing a temporary home for one of our rescue cats, please contact us at [info@forgottenones.ca](mailto:info@forgottenones.ca) We ask that you provide a loving, safe environment and FOCR supplies the food and veterinarian care.

**Your Comments, Stories and Photos** We love to hear from you, so please send your stories, comments and photos to us at [info@forgottenones.ca](mailto:info@forgottenones.ca)



## SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR

**Eva’s Global Pet Store** Year Round - Visit our FOCR adoption centre.

1070 Major Mackenzie Drive East, Richmond Hill  
Tel 905 508-8895

**Rick’s Global Pet Store** Year Round - Visit our FOCR adoption centre

126 Tower Hill Road, Unit 9, Richmond Hill  
Tel 905 883-4729

**PetSmart Elgin Mills** Visit our FOCR adoption centre during the months of April, June and August.  
1700 Elgin Mills Road East, Unit 1, Richmond Hill  
Tel 905 787-8740

**Pet Valu** 9325 Yonge Street, Unit 16  
Richmond Hill Tel 905 884-3911

**PJ’s Pets** (Check FOCR website for dates)

3291 Yonge Street, Toronto Tel 416 544-9799

**The Sportsmen’s Show** March 17-21

Helping Homeless Pets Booth, Booth 2719

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto

**All About Pets Show:** April 2- 4

Helping Homeless Pets Booth,

International Centre, Toronto

**PetSmart Spring Adoptathon:** April 30-May 2

PetSmart Elgin Mills 1700 Elgin Mills Road East, Unit 1, Richmond Hill Tel 905 787-8740

**Barkham:** Saturday, June 20

Helping Homeless Pets Booth

Main Street, Markham



## Cativating Photos - They're simply the best!



*Yuri & Sasha*



"We adopted Buddy and Elvis (now Yuri and Sasha) five years ago. I found them on Petfinder.com and we drove four and a half hours from Detroit to Toronto to meet them. We fell in love at first sight (it was mutual) and they have been our constant companions ever since. Yuri adopted me and Sasha belongs to my husband.

"The main reason we wanted Russian Blues was because we were new grandparents and wanted a good fit with our new baby grandson. I had researched and read about that breed. When we brought them home, I looked at their paperwork and realized they had been born on the exact same day as our grandson!

"They have been a total blessing. Thank you so much for rescuing them so we could enjoy them now." ~ Georg and Margaret



*Sparky*



"Sparky's story started out as a sad one. After being rescued from Animal Control, he had trouble adjusting to the other cats in the shelter and had to be caged. He became extremely depressed and lost interest in everything. As well, he seemed to have some litter issues. But the people at Forgotten Ones knew that he just needed the right home. With the run of my apartment (and a really big litter box), Sparky turned out to be the sweetest, best behaved, most loving and lovable cat I've ever met! He completely charms everyone who meets him.

"Thank you all for making one cat and one Kat extremely happy!" ~ Kat



*Mia*



Mia was discovered by twelve-year-old Ashleigh when she saw a stray mother cat trying to find a home for her kittens under a garbage bin at a local hardware store. When Ashleigh investigated the situation she saw one sick kitten had been left behind, so Ashleigh's family took it to the vets to be treated. Ashleigh then took over fostering the kitten while FOCR and her mom rescued the rest of the cat family. Mother cat and kittens were all cared for by FOCR and eventually all the kittens were adopted.

And who adopted the mother cat, Mia? Happily, Mia is now a permanent member of Ashleigh's family!

"We couldn't have asked for a better puss. I love her to death. Mia, Bella!" ~ Ashleigh and family



*Honey & Callie*



"I remember struggling with adopting two as I've never had two cats before—but it was the best decision ever! They are such completely different personalities. Callie is still a cuddlebug and purrs the second she settles in on your lap. She loves to be carried and still nuzzles into my neck. Her passion is playing fetch with her toy spring, which she very proudly brings back to be thrown again. Honey is the gentle soul with a look that melts hearts. She is a total flirt though, and will befriend any man that she meets, instantly rubbing up against him and nestling into his lap. Unlike her sister, she prefers not to be stroked, just to sit contently on a lap without being disturbed. She loves to catch snowflakes as they flutter against the glass but her true passion is curling up in front of the fireplace and napping the afternoon away!

"Thanks for all the great work you do." ~ Rania



**Donations to FOCR are greatly appreciated. See the "You Can Help" tab on our website [www.forgottenones.ca](http://www.forgottenones.ca) and go to the link "Donate Now through CanadaHelps.org" Or mail cheque to: FORGOTTEN ONES CAT RESCUE, P.O. Box 32203, Harding Postal Station, 250 Harding Blvd West, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 9S3. Tax receipts will be issued.**