



Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue Mewsletter

Fall 2020

TIME TO PAWS AND REFLECT



When we look back on 2020, it will be difficult to not dwell on the negative impact COVID-19 has had on every aspect of our lives. Fortunately, I will be able to reflect on some positivity, as well.

Forgotten Ones has been in operation for 20 years, and I am happy to say that even a pandemic has not stopped our volunteers from our animal advocacy efforts. To highlight just a few of our accomplishments, some recent rescues are featured on page 5 of this issue.

Our Beginnings

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, it is a fitting time to look back on why and how this charity came to be. The vision for Forgotten Ones originated with founder Debbie Sauve when she started to volunteer with a local cat rescue group in the late '90s. Helping with the humane trapping of feral cats in a colony was her introduction to the plight of homeless cats. It was an eye-opener for Debbie, and disheartening for her to see kittens trying to survive in the dead of winter.

She also became aware of the number of highly adoptable cats—in particular older cats—that were being euthanized in municipal animal-control centres due to overcrowded conditions. Debbie realized that the only way she could make a difference to the many overlooked and forgotten cats was to start her own rescue, which she did.

At that time, Debbie had no idea that her solitary efforts would lead to hundreds of like-minded people joining her cause, and to thousands of animals being spared a life of hardship. The cat-adoption program Debbie initiated has been a huge success, placing more than 3000 felines in loving homes. Debbie is still an integral part of the team, although these days she prefers her contribution to Forgotten Ones to be behind the scenes.

I joined the group in 2005 after adopting a cat from

Debbie. When I met her, I was very impressed and interested in what she was doing—just one person rescuing and adopting out cats through her own rescue. I offered my help to Debbie then and there. Fifteen years later, I am still here and still find animal rescue work very rewarding.

Our 21st Year

To this day, I see Forgotten Ones volunteers continuing to honour Debbie's animal advocacy objectives. We work closely with organizations that oversee cat colonies and frequently take in animals rescued from feral groups. Once a cat or kitten rescued from a colony enters the Forgotten Ones adoption program, we look after all their veterinary care, including spay and neuter surgery. In addition, volunteers donate a lot of time and effort into helping the shy and frightened cats become more social and affectionate, which greatly increases their chances of being adopted.

We also follow Debbie's lead in continuing to take in older cats or cats with treatable medical conditions from municipal animal-control centres. Sadly, there are very few groups that advocate for the older cats that end up in these facilities. I was recently told by an animal-control centre employee that Forgotten Ones was one of the few cat rescue organizations she works with that would even consider taking in cats with minor health issues or senior felines. Thankfully, in the last ten years, the overcrowding in animal-control centres has greatly lessened, due to programs put in place to address this heart-breaking situation.

One last reflection I would like to make is that Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue is definitely the sum of all its parts. Over the last two decades, adoptive families, foster families, volunteers, donors and business partners—all have played a vital role in improving the lives of thousands and thousands of cats and kittens. On behalf of all the forgotten ones that have been helped, I thank each and every one of you.

Laura Wyatt, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

THE CAT'S WHISKERS



Although whiskers are called **tactile hairs**, they don't actually feel anything. Rather, they are sensitive to vibrations and changes in the environment. The follicles are connected to the muscular and nervous systems, and this enables the whiskers to send sensory messages to the **brain about a cat's surroundings**.

A CAT'S FACE IS ACCENTUATED BY WHISKERS, A FEATURE many people find adorable. But whiskers are more than just facial enhancements; they perform important functions that help cats navigate their world.

Whiskers are a multipurpose tool—a guidance and navigation system, a mood indicator, and an aid for hunting. A cat would be hard-pressed to perform many of its formidable feats without them.

How Whiskers Work

Cats have about 24 movable whiskers, twelve on either side of the nose, arranged in four rows in a pattern as individual as a human's fingerprint. Small groups of whiskers are situated on other parts of the body as well: high on the outer edges of the cheeks, above the eyes and on the back of the front legs. The strategic placement of these special hairs, combined with their sensory capabilities, creates a type of communication network that transmits complex information to help guide a cat through its daily functions.

The follicles—the sacs that hold the hairs—are deep, with lots of nerve endings to send messages to the cat's brain.

There is a sensory organ at the tip of each whisker, known as a proprioceptor, that picks up vibrations. Together, they make the whiskers very sensitive to changes going on around them.

A cat's ability to move the whiskers in a specific direction augments their data-collecting capabilities. Whiskers can be moved backwards and forwards, and the bottom two rows can move independently of the top two. A cat is able to home in on an object because each whisker has a set of muscles that supports its individual movement.

As a Sensory Instrument

Cats are known for their great senses of smell and hearing, but feline vision has shortcomings. Whiskers help compensate for these sight limitations. Cats have difficulty focusing on objects up close. Whiskers help cats “see” things lying right under their noses by constantly sending information to the brain. As a cat approaches something in its path, air currents are stirred up and bounce back when they hit solid objects. Detecting subtle changes in these air currents, cat whiskers transmit information about the size, shape and speed of nearby objects.

In the wild, whiskers can alert a cat to the presence of prey, potential enemies or the location of its pack, and they work equally well day and night. It's a misconception that cats can see in the dark. Their night vision is better than ours, but it is a cat's whiskers that allow it to get around in the dark. Interestingly, cats that are born blind grow longer and thicker whiskers than sighted cats, and they use them to a greater extent. Kittens in the womb grow their whiskers before any other hair, and at birth whiskers are fully functional, while the ears and eyes are not.

As a Hunting Tool

The whiskers on the back of the front legs are important to cats when it comes to catching and keeping hold of their prey. These carpal whiskers provide sensory feedback to the cat about the location of the prey they are looming over or have caught, and lets the cat know where it needs to grasp or bite the prey animal.

Even once prey has been caught and is in the process of being carried home, leg whiskers let the cat know how much their prey is struggling, or if it is twisting around to try to escape or bite the cat. The cat can make adjustments as needed to keep its prey.

As a Measuring Tool

The muzzle whiskers help a cat determine whether it can fit through a small opening. The principle is simple—any space that is at least as wide as the length of the whiskers from one



▲ The whiskers above the eye will trigger a protective eye blink if something touches them. The hairs are so sensitive that something as small as a speck of dust will prompt a blink to remove the dirt.

▼ A cat bowl that is too narrow can put pressure on the sensitive whiskers and cause whisker stress. If your cat scoops food out of the dish with a paw or knocks food on the floor to eat, consider getting a wider bowl.





OF COURSE HER NAME IS WHISKERS!

When this cat was surrendered to the Cat Protection Society in Britain, it was more than just her sweet personality that caught people's attention. Her whiskers measured 12 inches long!

side to the other is a space where the cat fits. This comes in handy when cats have to go into narrow spaces

As an Emotional Barometer

The position of the whiskers can reveal a great deal about a cat's emotional state.

Neutral, friendly. In a happy, contented or relaxed cat, whiskers are in a neutral position, slightly to the side.

Interested, perked. When a cat's interest is engaged, whiskers pull forward and fan out, and the mouth is closed with loose lips. The muzzle appears slightly plumped up. Whiskers also fan out and move forward when a cat is hunting, whether in the wild or in your living room.

Fearful, anxious or stressed. As fear, anxiety and stress (FAS) increase, whiskers begin to move slightly back. If FAS escalates, whiskers pull back further as ears move further to the side. Whiskers and ears are a dynamic duo in cat body language.

Aggressive. Whiskers pulled back tightly to the face signal aggression. In the case of offensive aggression, whiskers and ears point forward.

Hurt. Cats wear a stoic mask to conceal pain. The facial expression of a cat in pain shows in increased nose, cheek, and muzzle flattening, while whiskers move from sideways to forward. 🐾

Cat Jokes - The Cream of the Crop

Along with the fall harvest, here is our pick of the corniest cat jokes ever!

- Q:** What do you call the cat that is caught by the police? **A:** The purr-petrator.
- Q:** Why don't cats play poker in the jungle? **A:** There are too many cheetahs.
- Q:** What do you call a cat that goes bowling? **A:** An alley cat
- Q:** Why do cats always get their own way? **A:** They are very purr-suasive
- Q:** Why did the cat love to eat lemons? **A:** He was a sour puss.
- Q:** What's the difference between a cat and a comma? **A:** One has claws at the end of its paws, the other is a pause at the end of a clause.
- Q:** What types of cats purr the best? **A:** Purrr-sians.
- Q:** Why don't cats like online shopping? **A:** They prefer a cat-atalogue.
- Q:** How do cats get over a fight? **A:** They hiss and make up.
- Q:** What did the alien say to the cat? **A:** Take me to your litter!



Featured Rescues

One of the most common questions we are asked is “Where do your cats come from”? The answer is—everywhere!

VIOLET 13 years old

Violet came to Forgotten Ones from an animal-control centre, so we did not know her history, but she was in extremely poor health when she arrived. She had a very large tumour on her right front paw and her terribly matted fur was causing her pain. Forgotten Ones arranged for all the medical care she needed, including the removal of the growth. Violet is now doing great! Her foster parents report that, when they are watching movies, she enjoys sitting on their laps or legs, and she will nestle up beside or on top of them in bed.



FRUIT SALAD FAMILY Young mother and kittens

Kiwi, Apple, Mango and Plum, along with their mother Cherry, were a homeless family trying to survive outdoors under a bush. Two Forgotten Ones volunteers spent an entire day humanely trapping them and moving them to a safe foster home.

They all received the critical veterinary care they needed and, as the kittens matured, volunteers spent hours playing with, petting and pampering them to ensure they were socialized. The kittens are currently in the process of being adopted and Cherry will be released back to her original environment, the decision that is kindest for her. She is much too feral and fearful to adjust to life indoors. Now that she has been spayed and has received critical vaccinations, she can live a healthier life outdoors.

BOOTS 11 years old

Senior cat Boots, whose owner had died, was taken to a local veterinary clinic to be euthanized. Apparently, there was no family or friend to take over Boots’ care and the owner’s executor had deemed this was to be the cat’s fate. The veterinarian, believing it was an unethical and cruel decision, as Boots was a healthy and affectionate animal, contacted us. We were able to arrange a forever foster family for this sweet cat.



Boots was extremely happy to receive lots of pets and pats as, after her owner died, she had been left alone for a long time with little human companionship. Boots is now enjoying a good life with her new family. 🐾

FRUIT SALAD KITTENS



Kiwi



Apple

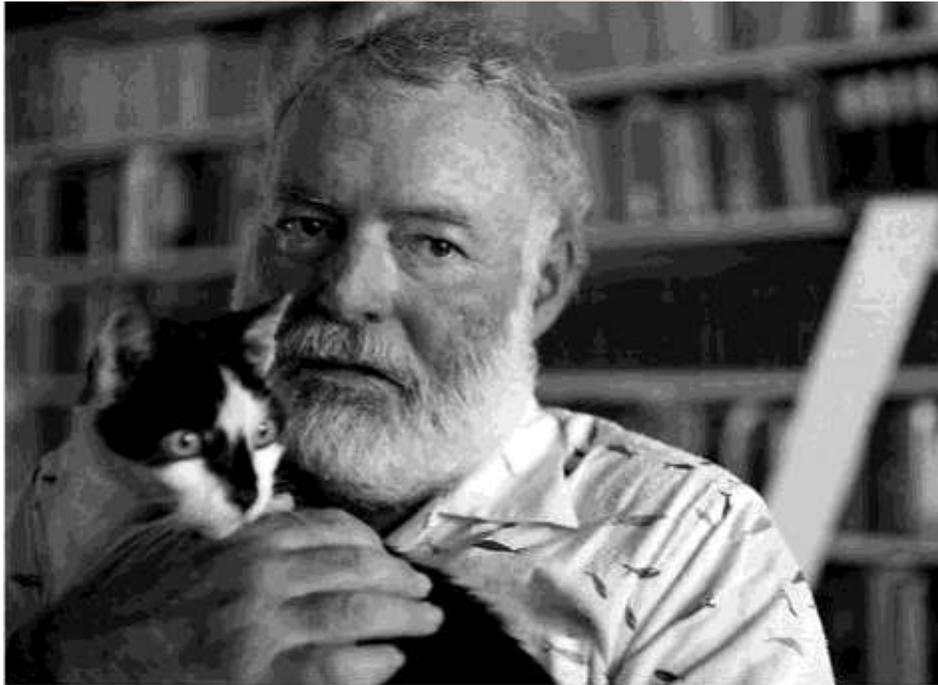


Mango



Plum

Cats and the Rich and Famous



CAT PEOPLE COME FROM ALL WALKS OF life, and include well-known writers, actors, singers and media personalities. Regardless of wealth or fame, everyone's life is enriched by the love of a cat. Here are just a few celebrities whose reputation for greatness is enhanced by their passion for their favourite felines.

Writer Ernest Hemingway

Often considered the greatest living American novelist and short-story writer, Ernest Hemingway is remembered for more than just his literary works. He was a complex man who lived life to the extreme and his macho antics—hunting, fishing, heavy drinking—are legendary. But Hemingway also had a gentle side; he adored the many cats in his life, who he called “purr factories” and “love sponges.”

Hemingway's great fondness for cats, in particular six-toed (polydactyl) felines, is well-documented. According to historians, Ernest became an aficionado of polydactyl cats when he was given a kitten while living in Key West, Florida, during the 1930s. The six-toed kitten was gifted to Ernest by Captain Stanley Dexter, a mariner he met at a local bar.

The kitten, named Snow White by Hemingway's son, was allowed to run wild, and very soon a small colony of felines populated the property. Although the cat residents constantly increased in numbers, Hemingway valued the individuality of his pets. He sought to give each a unique and suitable name; examples are Princess Six-Toes, Feather Puss, Zane Grey, Clark Gable, Uncle Wolfer, Furhouse, Christobal, Good Will, Friendless, and Friendless's Brother.

To this day, descendants of Snow White still reside on the Hemingway property, and many are polydactyl. The author's residence is now a national historic landmark and museum, and is a very popular tourist site. Museum staff are responsible for the care of the cats, overseeing all their needs and veterinary care, including spay and neutering. Although many people visit the museum to learn more about the great author, at least 30 percent of visitors make a point to say, “I'm just here for the cats.”

Singer Freddie Mercury

The British singer, songwriter and record producer, also the lead vocalist of the rock band Queen, is regarded as one of the greatest singers in the history of rock music. He was also known for his flamboyant stage persona, his four-octave vocal range—and his love of cats.

Freddie's affection for felines began in the 1970s when his girlfriend Mary Austin bought them a pair of cute cats named

OTHER CELEBRITY CAT LOVERS

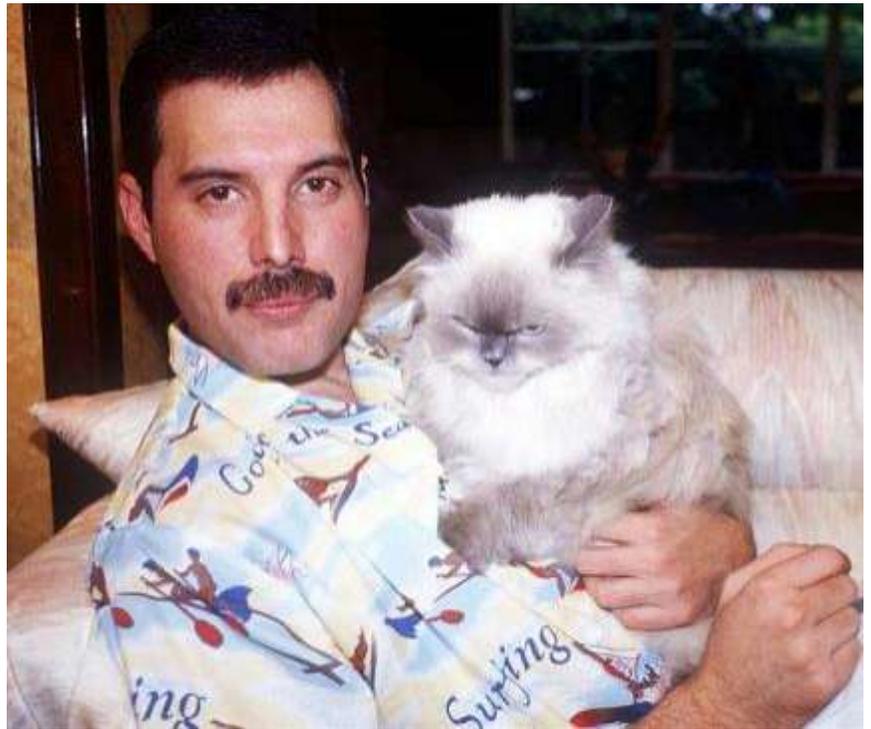
Brigitte Bardot
Clark Gable
David Bowie
Drew Barrymore
Ed Sheeran
Elizabeth Taylor
John Lennon
Katy Perry
Kurt Cobain
Marilyn Monroe
Meryl Streep
Morgan Freeman
Raymond Chandler
Ricky Gervais
Sean Connery

Tom and Jerry. Freddie developed such a strong bond with his pets that, even while on tour, he would frequently call Austin to check up on the little critters.

Mercury's long-time personal assistant Peter Freestone described Freddie's feline phone calls in his memoir *Freddie Mercury*: "He'd get to a hotel, we'd dial through, and he really would talk to his cats. Mary would hold Tom and Jerry in turn up to the receiver to listen to Freddie talking. This continued throughout the years with succeeding feline occupants of his houses."

Freestone also wrote that cats were Mercury's family and that he made sure each cat had his or her own Christmas stocking filled with treats and toys.

Over the years, the famous singer brought a total of 10 cats into his home, most of them adopted from animal shelters to save them from euthanasia.



Radio Personality Howard Stern

Howard Stern is the world's highest-paid radio host, thanks to an eight-figure annual contract with SiriusXM. With 45 years of on-air experience, Stern is known for shocking his radio show listeners, battling with guests and giving his bold opinions.

Due to Stern's bad-boy persona, people are often surprised to learn that Howard has a kinder, gentler side and that he is a passionate animal advocate. He and his wife Beth have been ardent supporters and foster parents for the North Shore Animal League, the world's largest no-kill rescue and adoption organization

The Sterns, who married in 2008, have fostered cats and kittens in their Long Island home for many years. In a 2019 article in *Rolling Stone* magazine, Beth spoke about her passion for cats: "It's really my purpose in life," she said, noting that almost a thousand cats have come and gone through their house—roughly 200 a year.

Beth says that Howard becomes very attached to the foster cats and kittens. "The only problem with Howard is that he ends up wanting to keep every one," Beth explained. "I have to be the strong one and say 'No, we have our resident cats, these we've found great homes for.' But every time I bring one in and he spends time with them, he goes, 'Let's keep this one! I want this one!'"

Actress Penelope Cruz

Spanish actress Penelope Cruz has been acclaimed for her roles in such films as *Vanilla Sky*, *Blow* and *Nine*, and for her Oscar-winning performance in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. In

Freddie Mercury (above) and Howard Stern (below) achieved great fame and fortune, and both were humbled by the love of cats.

Stern's net worth is an estimated \$650 million, yet his daily chores include cleaning out the litter boxes of his foster cats.





Media savvy Penelope Cruz (above) is known to take her pets along to interviews.

Taylor Swift (below) is considered the most influential person on Twitter, and her social media posts are a testimony to her love of cats.



In addition to her acting accomplishments, Cruz has been celebrated for her philanthropy. She has travelled to countries around the world to help ill and poverty-stricken people. Her compassion and social consciousness extends to animals, as well, and she has been a long-time supporter of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).

Cruz's fondness for felines goes back to her early days as a struggling actress. When she first moved to Los Angeles, she lived in a tiny hotel room and spent much of her time alone. She started caring for homeless cats out of kindness and for the companionship and love they provided her. In a *Vogue* magazine interview, Cruz said, "I was very lonely. I would find cats in the street and take them with me. I raised a lot of cats in that period." Cruz was happy to relate, "The cats all found nice homes."

Her passion for cats continues to this day. Cruz and her husband Javier Bardem have come to the aid of many homeless animals. The pair share their home with so many cats and dogs that Cruz's mother refers to the couple's house as an animal shelter.

Singer Taylor Swift

One of the most recognized and acclaimed names in music today is Taylor Swift. She is a Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter who rose to fame in 2006 with her self-titled debut album. Her album *Fearless* is the most awarded country and pop album in history. The singer has always been open and honest about her passion for felines, and she frequently features her pets on social media platforms. Swift shares updates and photos about her much-loved cats—Meredith Grey, Olivia Benson and Benjamin Bottoms—with her 83.2 million Twitter and 110 million Instagram followers.

Making the *TIME* 100 list of most influential people, Swift was asked about influential factors in her own life. Topping the list was... cats!

"Number one for me, most influential factor in my life, is cats. I have cats. I'm obsessed with them. They're just a real joy to live with. I love my cats so much that when a role came up in a movie called *Cats*, I just thought, *I've got to do this.*"

Swift also shared: "Cats are just really cool. They're really great. They're very dignified. They're independent. They're very capable of dealing with their own life and if you fit into that on that day, they'll make some time for you—maybe. 🐾"

FORGOTTEN ONES' BULLETIN BOARD

PICTURES? STORIES? TIPS?

We would love to hear from you so we can include your photo and story in our Mewsletter. Please contact us at contact@forgottenones.ca and include the word *Mewsletter* in the subject line.

PUSSY CAT POETRY— The following poem was submitted by Sam in honour of Janis, who adopted him from Forgotten Ones in October 2017. Just wondering if *purrr*-haps Sam had a ghost writer....

Happy Anniversary

Dear Janis

One Thanksgiving weekend you gave me a home,
And each of us was no longer alone.

So with changing leaves and changing weather,
Let's celebrate our third year together.

Without a doubt, I really surprised you,
There was so much about me you just never knew!

My age was in question and my teeth were soon gone,
I was as noisy as heck, especially at dawn.

Apparently, I'm positive for that weird FIV,
Hey, just one more thing that's unique about me!

When it comes to food, what's yours is mine,
That's just how I like to dine.

I know you love me just as I am,
Your one-and-only odd little Sam.

I'm really so glad we're a family,
It's a wonderful life you've given to me!

Love, Sampson 2



Forgotten Ones
Cat Rescue



We rely on financial contributions to continue our mission of finding loving homes for abandoned cats and kittens. Every dollar received is used for the needs of the animals in our care.

Donations can be made through our website, or mail a cheque to: Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue, P.O. Box 32203, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 4H0. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. Please include your email address.

www.forgottenones.ca



Poppie



Opie

Poppie and Opie - Idyllic Isolation Company

After our beautiful Himalayan cat passed on at 19 years old, we spent several weeks looking for two kittens to adopt. One day, we were walking by Tru Pet and saw Opie looking out the window at us. We went into the store to meet him and, at the same time, met his best friend Peach, now called Poppie. We learned how bonded the two cats were and that it was important for them to be adopted together. It was evident that Forgotten Ones makes great efforts to nurture cats and to match people and pets to form just the right family. In actuality, I don't think we decided that Opie and Poppie were the right cats for our family; I think they decided that we were the right family for them!

We love that they have such different personalities. Opie is more cuddly and does not like to be alone. Poppie is busier and more independent, but she is a sweet girl who likes affection on her terms. Opie is Mommy's boy and Poppie is Daddy's girl, though we have learned that we are very interchangeable!

Poppie and Opie are great company for us and we have particularly enjoyed spending more time at home with them during pandemic time. ~ Elizabeth & Fabrizio



Burton



Mufasa

Burton and Mufasa – Positively Perfect!

I met both cats at Tru Pet, first Mufasa and later Burton. As soon as I met Mufasa, I knew I wanted to give him a good home. Burton also stole my heart the second I met him. Both cats were so friendly and sweet, despite the fact that they had obviously been through a lot, including being FIV+.

Mufasa, nicknamed Moofy, manages to make himself at home quickly and wherever he is. From his first night with me, he was sleeping right next to me on the bed. Burton was a bit slower in adapting to the house, but he settled in within a couple days.

These boys are hilarious in so many ways. They chase each other all over the house, take over all the comfy chairs, sleep on our pillows at night and generally rule the house. We love Burton's toothy, cheeky smile, his vibrant personality, and that his favourite spot is always wherever we are. Mufasa is also very affectionate; he really is like my shadow, always following me around. He constantly wants to snuggle and he loves to play, popping out from behind chairs and chasing feet.

I couldn't have asked for better cats to add to our family.

I'm really glad Forgotten Ones has such an amazing, positive attitude towards FIV+ cats. I wouldn't trade mine for the world! ~ Kiana & Family