



Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

Newsletter

Summer 2021

TIME TO PAWS AND REFLECT



The sole purpose of Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue at its inception in 2000 was to help cats and kittens in need; however, our impact on the people of the community has been an unexpected and extremely rewarding added outcome.

The volunteer opportunities Forgotten Ones has provided have been enjoyed by hundreds of dedicated animal-lovers, which isn't surprising, given that Canadians embrace volunteering. According to Statistics Canada, pre-pandemic volunteer numbers were quite impressive. In 2018, more than 12.7 million Canadians engaged in formal volunteering, giving a total of 1.6 billion hours of their time to charities, non-profits and community organizations—that's the equivalent of almost 858,000 full-

time year-round jobs. More than 22.7 million people spent 3.4 billion hours doing informal volunteering—equivalent to more than 1.7 million full-time year-round jobs.

Interestingly, HelpGuide.org, a leading mental health website, lists the number-one benefit of volunteering is connecting to your community and making it a better place. Helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people, animals, and organizations in need. And volunteering is a two-way street: it can benefit you and your family as much as the cause you choose to help.

During the last 15 months, many of our volunteers commented on how much they have missed being able to contribute their time to Forgotten Ones. As COVID restrictions ease, the cats, the kittens, and our community will all benefit from the return of our amazing volunteer team.

~ Laura Wyatt, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

ADOPTION ALUMNI - Coby



Coby was adopted from Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue as a young cat in 2007. Fourteen years and two dental surgeries later, he only has one fang left and he has been diagnosed with IBD. Regardless, he is a very happy cat.

Coby is vocal and chatty. He always greets and communicates with me with lots of chirps and purrs, which is super cute. He's very happy that I've been working from home lately—he's like my shadow, always curled up on, beside, or near me.

I love his routine—in the morning, he wakes me up and we have breakfast and do our stretches. He's always involved in whatever I'm doing. He curls up right under my arm and tucks himself in to sleep at night.

His personality is more doglike than that of most cats—he plays fetch, comes when he is called by name, and is so responsive! He has converted many of my “non-cat” friends into cat lovers, including my partner, who is so allergic to cats that we live separately! My partner had never liked or pet a cat in his life, but he took to Coby's personality and they have even developed a bond. Coby is known for being a social, friendly, and cuddly cat who wins over the hearts of everyone.

Coby is emotionally in tune with how I feel, and he's gotten me through many hard or dark times in my life. He has been there through everything with me—moving homes and ending relationships, he's always been by my side. He's not the stereotypical “solitary” cat. He might be co-dependent and needy, but I love him. I want to make sure he's having the best life because he has made every day better for me, and my life full of unconditional love. ~ Jess

Cat Artists of the 19th Century

From Egyptian tomb paintings to modern graphics, art across the centuries has taken cats as inspiration. Artistic renderings of felines make for a fascinating study, as do the lives of the artists who created timeless feline masterpieces. Louis Wain, Théophile Alexandre Steinlen, and Suzanne Valadon are three artists from the 1800s, all who had a penchant for cats, eclectic artistic styles, and eccentric lives.



▲ Louis Wain helped to popularize the idea of cats as household pets as opposed to pests.

▼ Wain's cats convey human-like and endearing traits, as seen in the postcard below.

Louis Wain (1860 —1939)

British artist Louis Wain was a highly successful illustrator whose reputation was singularly made on his portrayal of cats. Although he was a prolific artist, his life was marred by tragedy, poverty, and mental illness.

Wain was born into a working-class family in 1860 Victorian England. He was often truant from school in his younger years, but in his late teens he successfully trained at the West London School of Art, remaining there as an assistant master for a short period.

Artistic Career

Louis began his artistic career as a freelance artist, specializing in drawing animals and country scenes, and his work was commissioned by periodicals such as the *Illustrated London News* and the *Illustrated Sporting & Dramatic News*. His animal portraits were in demand for several circuses, as well as for agricultural and livestock trade shows taking place around London.

As his professional life flourished, his private life diminished. Wain caused a scandal when he married Emily



Richardson, who was 10 years his senior. Sadly, his personal life was dealt a blow when his wife became terminally ill shortly after their marriage. During his wife's illness, Wain accidentally found the subject that would help define his career as an artist. He noticed Emily was comforted by Peter, a black-and-white cat they had rescued. Wain started drawing light-hearted portraits of the cat to raise his wife's spirits. Emily saw the appeal of the drawings and encouraged Louis to submit them to publishers.

Three years into their marriage, Emily passed away, and a traumatized Louis threw himself into his work, spending painstaking hours producing hundreds of drawings a year. In 1886, Wain drew a widely acclaimed piece called "A Kitten's Christmas Party" for the *Illustrated London News*. The feature contained images of more than 150 cats preparing for Christmas celebrations: folding envelopes, making speeches, playing with balls, and getting tipsy on punch. His anthropomorphic portrayals became extremely successful in Victorian England.

Over the next thirty years, Wain was prolific and his illustrations were featured in about one hundred children's books, as well as appearing in newspapers, posters, postcards, journals, and magazines, including the *Louis Wain Annual*. His quirky feline pictures were so popular that, at the beginning of the 20th century, almost every household had at least one of his posters.

Later Years

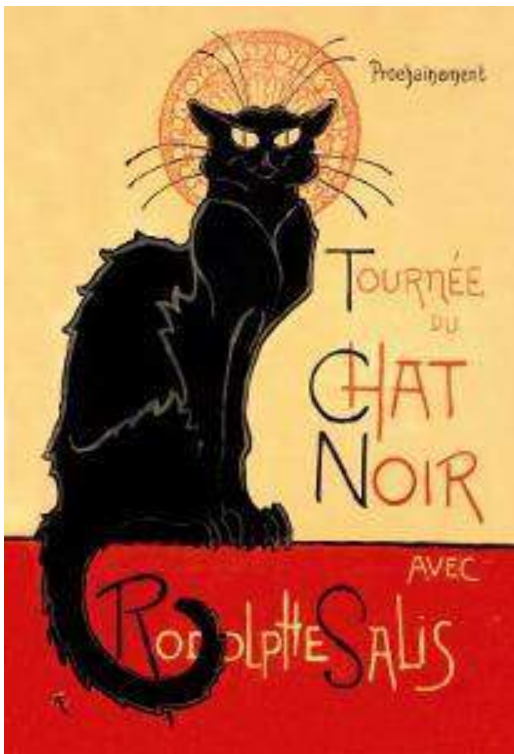
Despite his fame, Wain never made much money, being highly impractical in business matters, and, during the First World War, he began to suffer real poverty. His misfortune worsened when he began to develop signs of a serious mental disorder. Previously a gentle soul, he became increasingly abusive and occasionally even violent towards his sisters, with whom he lived. His family reluctantly had him certified insane in 1924 and he was installed in the pauper ward of Springfield Asylum in Tooting.

Wain's plight came to public attention a year later when a bookseller named Dan Rider, while visiting another patient, happened to see "a quiet little man" drawing cats. Wain's miserable existence became the talk of the town, and some famous and influential figures, including Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister of the day, and author H.G. Wells, paid to have him moved from the poor-man's facility. He was first transferred to Bethlem Royal Hospital in Southwark, and then in 1930 to Napsbury Hospital in Hertfordshire.

The Napsbury facility was relatively pleasant with a garden and a colony of cats, and Louis was able to spend his final years in more peaceful surroundings.



The two Wain illustrations above show vastly different styles and many art historians believe the drastic changes in style reflect the deterioration of his mental state.



Steinlen's iconic artwork (above) advertises, "Coming soon – The tour of The Black Cat show."

The poster (below) promotes the healthiness of pasteurized milk, a new product in 1894, and features cats in the foreground.



Today, Wain's drawings continue to give pleasure to cat lovers worldwide, and millions of fans enjoy his artistic renderings, which adorn beach bags, coffee mugs, pillows, and posters.

Théophile Alexandre Steinlen (1859—1923)

Théophile Alexandre Steinlen was a French-Swiss artist best known for his Art Nouveau poster designs and paintings. Steinlen often depicted animals, specifically cats, as well as the bohemian cabaret culture of turn-of-the-century Paris.

Steinlen was born in Switzerland and studied design at the University of Lausanne before taking a job as a designer trainee at a textile mill in Mulhouse in eastern France. When Steinlen was in his early twenties, he and his wife Emilie were encouraged by the painter François Bacion to move to the artistic community in the Montmartre Quarter of Paris so that Théophile could further develop his skill as an artist.

Social Commentary Art

Upon arriving in Montmartre, the young artist became an active member of the burgeoning artistic and literary circle centred at Le Chat Noir, the Parisian nightclub popular with the avant-garde. Founder of Le Chat Noir Rodolphe Salis invited Steinlen to produce posters for the nightclub, as well as illustrations for a namesake periodical that featured political comics, song lyrics, illustrations to literary works, and other social commentary.

Steinlen began selling his work to other satirical publications, including *Gil Blas Illustré*, for whom he made more than 700 illustrations. Steinlen used his artistic talent to depict all manner of Parisian society, and his art demonstrated his concern for social justice for the poor and the working class. He wanted to chronicle the plight of the working class and viewed his works as a tool of resistance against oppression.

Although Steinlen became one of the most well-known Art Nouveau artists and one of the first to depict the darker, realistic side of Montmartre, his name today is strongly associated with his studies of cats.

Cat-centric Art

Steinlen's fondness for cats is documented as far back as his early school days, when he would draw them in the margins of his school books. During his first years in Paris, it is said that he would sell cat illustrations in return for food.

As a working artist, his affection for felines was evident in his commissioned work. The famous poster he illustrated in 1984 to promote a new product, pasteurized milk, featured cats prominently. The lithograph, entitled "Lait pur stérilisé de la Vingeanne," presents a wholesome image of a young girl, thought to be the artist's daughter, drinking from a bowl of milk with three cats gazing at her wistfully.

During the first decade of the 20th century Steinlen began sculpting, again featuring cats as his subject. He created many small bronze statues of cats that are considered some of his best work. In 1909, the Salon d'Automne, the art exhibit held annually in Paris, featured his work in a separate room that was devoted solely to his accomplishments, and an exhibition of his works was held at the Salon Biedermann in Lausanne in 1913.

Théophile Steinlen continued to work and exhibit until he died in 1923 in Paris, and he was laid to rest in the Cimetière Saint-Vincent in Montmartre. Today, his works can be found at many important museums around the world, including at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., United States.

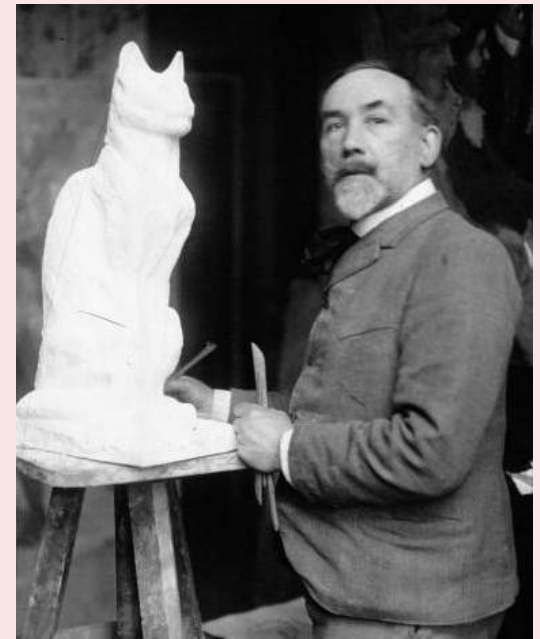
Marie-Clémentine Valadon (1865–1938)

Suzanne Valadon is famous for being an artist, as well for acting as the muse for many other artists' important works. Valadon was one of the most notable female artists of her time and a pioneer for women painters.

Suzanne Valadon was born Marie-Clémentine Valadon in 1865 in Bessines, France, to an unwed washerwoman, Madeleine. Her childhood was marked by poverty and neglect and, as a youngster, Marie-Clémentine was unruly, independent, and resourceful.

Valadon had demonstrated an avid interest in art from a very young age and could draw relatively well by around the age of eight. She would draw on any scrap of paper she could find, on the walls at home, and even on the pavement, often with only the stub of a pencil or a lump of coal. Her subjects varied widely, but were often those that she observed and found interesting in her immediate environment: flowers, trees, cats and dogs, and, of course, people.

In 1870, Madeleine moved her family to Paris, and Marie-Clémentine started attending a convent school when she was five years old. She attended classes only until the age of 11, when she started



▲ Théophile Steinlen's life-long fondness for cats inspired him to produce popular paintings and sculptures featuring felines.

He became friends with Suzanne Valadon (below), who also chose cats as an inspiration for her artistic renderings, in particular her cat Raminou. In addition, Valadon loved to paint portraits, nudes, landscapes and still lifes.





▲ The most recognizable image of Suzanne Valadon, the model, would be in Renoir's *Dance at Bougival* from 1883.

▼ "Raminou sitting on a cloth," Suzanne Valadon, 1920



working in a hat-maker's workshop. While still a child, Valadon also worked as a funeral wreath maker, a vegetable seller, and a waitress.

An Artist's Muse

During her teenage years, Marie-Clémentine befriended some artists living in Montmartre. The artists helped Valadon get a job as an acrobat at the Mollier Circus but, in March of 1880, she fell from a trapeze while practicing her act and suffered a serious injury to her back.

After Valadon recovered from her injury, she became an artist's model, posing for such artists as Pierre Puvis de Chavannes, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Théophile Alexandre Steinlen. It was not until she was nineteen years of age that Marie-Clémentine started calling herself Suzanne, apparently at the suggestion of Toulouse-Lautrec.

Although she could not afford formal art classes, Valadon learned from the painters around her. In the early 1890s, she befriended Edgar Degas, who was impressed with her bold line drawings and fine paintings and who, as her career developed, became her most influential artistic mentor.

Valadon was friends with fellow cat-lover Theophile Steinlen, who drew a portrait of her. Just like Steinlen, she found cats a great subject for her paintings, especially her cat Raminou.

An Artist with Attitude

Although Valadon's talent was embraced by fellow artists, bourgeois society found her works shocking. She painted lively nude portraits of sensual and self-assured women, with full, curvy bodies. Even more scandalous was the fact that she occasionally painted nude men as well.

Valadon rebelled against convention in all aspects of her life. Like her mother, she had a child out of wedlock when she was 18. She had a series of paramours throughout her life and, at age 50, she had a lover 21 years younger than herself.

Eccentric in so many ways, Valadon would wear a corsage of carrots, kept a goat at her studio to "eat up her bad drawings," and fed caviar (rather than fish) to her "good Catholic cats" on Friday.

Valadon had produced around 300 drawings and more than 450 oil paintings by the time she died from a stroke at age 72. She is now known to have been an important modern artist who, like many other talented female artists, has been under-recognized.

Her other legacy was being the mother of Maurice Utrillo, born Maurice Valadon, who became an artist in his own right and produced thousands of oil paintings, mainly of street scenes in the Montmartre. 🐾

All Things Purr-culiar – Pets in Politics

Mayors are engaging, inspire others, and know how to attract tourists—all qualities found in pet paw-liticians!

Stubbs

Talkeetna, a small town in Alaska with a population of 900, is known to be a quirky and eccentric community. The Moose Dropping Festival held in July involves moose dung being flung from a helicopter while onlookers guess where the droppings will land. The town also holds a Wilderness Woman Contest, where local women prove their physical prowess with games of strength, like tossing firewood and hauling full, five-gallon water buckets up and down Main Street. But perhaps the town's most outlandish "claim to fame" is having a cat as its honorary mayor for almost 20 years.

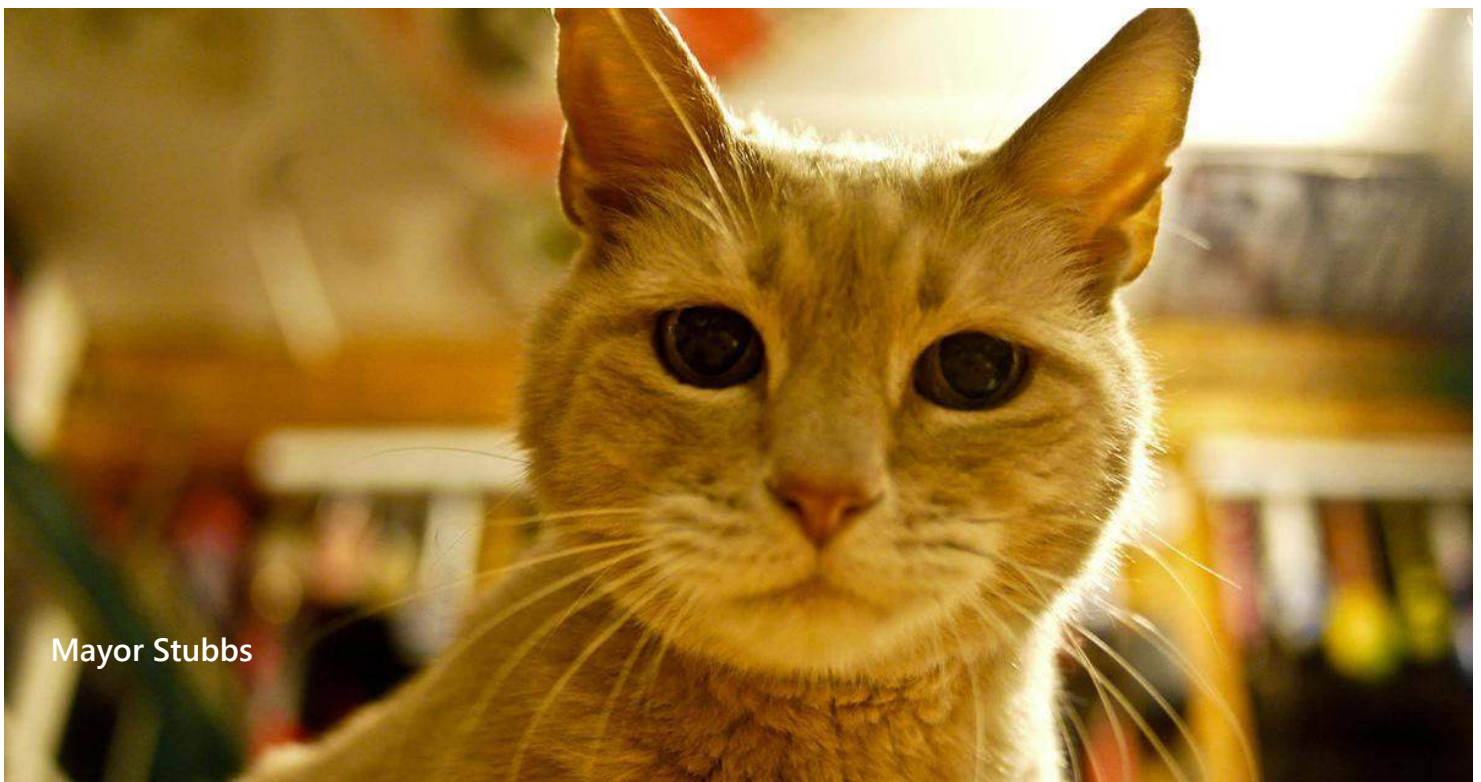
Many mainstream media outlets, including CNN, CBC and Global News, reported that an orange tabby named Stubbs won an election in 1998 after a write-in campaign nominated him for mayor. The authenticity of the story of the nomination has been challenged but, duly elected or not, Stubbs was definitely considered unofficial mayor and became a tourist attraction, as well as a media celebrity with his own Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Despite lacking the legitimate legislative and rhetorical prowess of a typical politician, Stubbs was praised by a local resident for his non-policies: "He doesn't raise our taxes. We have no sales tax. He doesn't interfere with business. He's honest!"

Stubbs was also very popular with tourists. According to residents, more than 75% of visitors would ask, "Where's the mayor?" or state, "I have an appointment with the mayor." Tourists would get their pictures taken with Stubbs,



Regardless of the legitimacy of Stubbs' political position, he was not averse to receiving a little payola. He would frequent a local restaurant and enjoy a gratis cocktail of catnip and water from a wine glass. Stubbs also spent much of his time at Nagley's General Store, holding meet-and-greets with tourists.



Mayor Stubbs

and fan mail from around the world was hung in the general store, his unofficial mayoral headquarters.

When Stubbs strolled into the local pub, he was immediately the centre of attention. One waiter reported that his arrival was like “Elvis had entered the building.”

Talkeetna’s love for its unofficial mayor was very evident when Stubbs needed funding to cover expensive veterinary bills. He was attacked by a dog in 2013 in an alleged assassination attempt and suffered terrible injuries. The townsfolk chipped in to raise money to pay for the medical costs from a veterinary hospital more than 70 miles away. The attack only fueled his popularity, with his Facebook page receiving more than 23,000 well-wishes from fans.

Stubbs passed away in 2017 at the grand old age of 20, but the legacy of his political life lives on.

Sweet Tart

In 2018, a cat named Sweet Tart was elected mayor of Omena, a small rural town in northwest Michigan. The electoral race had a variety of candidates—13 dogs, a peacock, another cat, and a goat—but it was Sweet Tart who received the most votes.

The town has a population of less than 300 people and has been electing ceremonial mayors of the nonhuman sort for more than a decade. As an unincorporated village, Omena does not have its own government, and the elections are run by the Omena Historical Society. For each vote cast, \$1 is collected and proceeds go towards the society’s endowment fund.

In her election profile, Sweet Tart argued that she should be elected because she had experience governing/supervising her household, and her name pays homage to Michigan’s prized specialty crop of cherries, which are sweet and tart.

The qualifications of some of the other candidates were so impressive that Penny the chicken was given the position of Special Assistant for Fowl Affairs and Harley the goat was made press secretary.

Mayor Maximus Mueller II

Dogs can also be paw-some politicians. Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller II is the second and current Mayor of Idyllwild, California, and his Deputy Mayors are his cousins, Mitzi and Mikey.

The town is known for being one of the first to elect a dog as mayor. Upon Maximus’ election, his chief of staff and human companion Phyllis Mueller released an inspirational statement on behalf of the mayor: “In his heart, he would like to see peace on Earth in his lifetime.” 🐾



As part of her “mayoral duties”, Sweet Tart (above) is expected to appear at certain events and meet with neighboring mayors.

Mayor Max II (below), makes appearances at city events, festivals, local hospitals and schools and house calls to those in need.



Forgotten Ones Volunteers – Past, Pandemic and Present!

For most people, the motivation to volunteer is to make a difference and give something back to society.

These are genuinely worthy and important reasons, but the benefits are reciprocal—volunteering is good for the volunteer as well as for their community. The benefits of volunteering are almost endless and are as varied as the volunteers. Many people say that volunteering has changed them in ways they never expected: they've made new friends; learned new skills; expanded their hearts, minds and souls; and even been influenced in career choices.

Lily, Huei and Frank, and Kevin and Cindy have been Forgotten Ones volunteers who have affected and been influenced by their experiences with the organization.

Lily—A Past Volunteer

Volunteering can help you find a mentor and can guide and encourage you in your career—that's what Lily discovered.

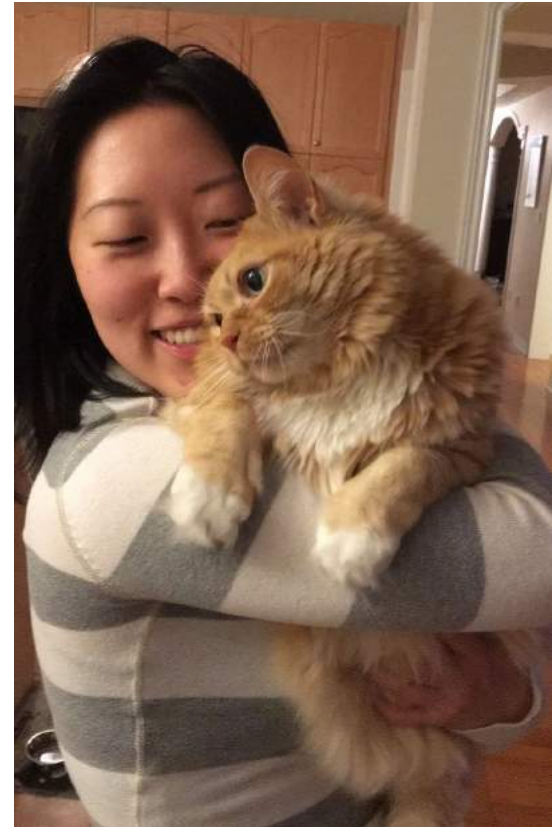
Lily learned about Forgotten Ones in 2007, when she adopted Beau, a cute orange tabby. Over the years, her volunteer contributions have included creating Cat♥Buttons, which have raised thousands of dollars for Forgotten Ones.

In June 2014, Lily sent a note to Forgotten Ones director Laura about her decision to choose veterinary medicine as a career, and to share that she had recently been accepted at the University of Guelph. At that time, Lily wrote: *I want to thank you for inspiring me to become a veterinarian through the adoption of Beau and my volunteer experiences with Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue. That was my first introduction to pet ownership and animal welfare, which I have been learning more and more about over the years.*

Lily graduated from Guelph in 2018 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Last year, she again sent a note, this time with well wishes for the rescue's 20th Anniversary and Laura's 15h Anniversary as director. In part, her message read:

You and Debbie (founder of Forgotten Ones) helped me take my first steps towards my career in veterinary medicine and I will forever be grateful. Thank you for giving me the chance to adopt Beau, who's been my best friend for 13 years and counting. Thank you for being so supportive of my efforts as a young volunteer at fundraising and adoption events. Thank you for introducing me to the wonderful thing that is the human–animal bond.

Congratulations on many years of changing human and animal lives for the better through Forgotten Ones! Wishing you many more years of success and happy tails!



Lily's career trajectory began when she adopted Beau, who inspired her to pursue a career in the field of veterinary medicine. Lily's update on Beau: "Beau is living his best geriatric life :)"



Lily designed cat buttons when she was a teenager, and they still remain a popular fundraising item.



Huei and Frank have fostered many timid cats, but Huei said Sammy (insert) “was a brave one, so he didn't really hide and was fast to accept us as his slaves.”



Cindy holds Jimmy Dwight and Kevin holds Paddy, who were adopted by the couple in 2013. True to the expression “one cat leads to another,” two additional felines have found their way into the home and hearts of Cindy and Kevin.

Huei and Frank—Pandemic-Inspired Volunteers

In the current crisis, volunteering can be comforting, as it helps people overcome feelings of inertia and helplessness, and connects them to others working towards a common purpose.

By chance, Huei and her husband Frank discovered a passion for fostering cats during the COVID-19 pandemic. Huei and Frank have fostered eight cats since December 2020, and they were even up for the challenging task of fostering kittens! Huei describes how they happened upon an unexpected volunteering opportunity last year.

“I had always loved cats and, due to the pandemic, we decided it was the right time to get one. However, because I have allergies, I asked the Forgotten Ones volunteers if I should adopt a short-haired cat, thinking it would be better for allergies. They suggested that I try fostering a cat first to see if I was okay. I thought that was a great idea!

“It was then I learned that many people wanted to adopt, but not many wanted to foster, and foster homes were lacking. So I decided that, instead of adopting a cat, I'd foster as many cats as I can and, that way, I get to meet all kinds of cats!

“My fostering experience has been great! All the volunteers are very experienced, super-responsive, and very helpful. They are also very caring towards the animals, which speaks volumes about the level of their services.

“It has been such a rewarding experience to have a shy, untrusting cat let go and let a human love them. When we see the cat's attitude change from being afraid to being cuddly and loving, it feels like a huge achievement. That is why we decided not to adopt cats, but foster them instead, because fostering saves more lives!”

Cindy and Kevin—Present Volunteers

One of the more well-known benefits of volunteering is its impact on the community. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place.

In 2013, Cindy and Kevin saw a cat named Jimmy Dwight at a Forgotten Ones adopt-a-thon and they instantly fell in love with him. Meeting the cute little kitten with the funny mark on his nose was their introduction to the organization. As Kevin describes below, their decision to adopt one cat led to four cats sharing their home, and to a rewarding volunteering experience.

“Director Laura is a fantastic salesperson and she ended up convincing us that it really is better to adopt two kittens together so, in the end, we adopted Jimmy and his best friend Paddy, as they were a bonded pair.

“Cindy and I really liked what Forgotten Ones was doing in the community, so the natural next step was to become part of the team.

“We contribute in a variety of ways. I volunteer on Friday mornings at the Tru Pet adoption centre and Cindy contributes by baking for fundraising events. We are also fostering a cat named Delilah, who joined our other three cats and has become part of the family.

“We’re firm believers in the adopt-don’t-shop approach to bringing animals into your family. We also love the relationships we have developed with both Tru Pet and Forgotten Ones. We’re animal-lovers at heart, so it is nice to interact with people who value a pet as much as we do. Our cats really do complete our family.”

Micheal Taggart—Volunteer Extraordinaire

Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue has established many beneficial partnerships during the last two decades and we have been fortunate to find businesses that have shared values. In June 2016, we teamed up with Mike Taggart and opened a cat enclosure in his store. Featuring cats and kittens in Tru Pet has enabled us

to find loving homes for more than 150 cats. In addition, we have hosted many adopt-a-thons, fundraisers, and bake sales over the last five years.

We have valued our relationship with Mike and his team as they share our belief in community spirit and involvement. As well as supporting Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue, Mike is well-known for his contributions to many organizations in the Richmond Hill area, including 360Kids and the Richmond Hill Food Bank.

Mike’s civic-mindedness was recognized on April 20, 2021, when Richmond Hill held its 56th Volunteer Achievement Awards with a virtual presentation. The Community Recognition Certificate was given to individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond during COVID-19. The city acknowledged those who have made a meaningful difference to their communities, and Mike Taggart was one of the worthy recipients of the certificate.

During the past year, Mike donated pet food to the Richmond Hill Food Bank and personally delivered pet food to customers who were in isolation and were unable to leave their homes. Kudos to Mike for always extending a helping hand to those in need! 🐾



In April 2021, the city of Richmond Hill recognized individuals and groups who have provided a civic service. Mike Taggart received a Community Recognition Certificate and, on behalf of Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue, Laura Wyatt accepted a Milestone Anniversary Certificate for the charity’s 20 years of animal advocacy.



Lola – A Darling Demeanor

I learned about Lola through the website and, once I laid eyes on her picture and then met her on a Zoom call with her foster parents, I knew she was the one for us.

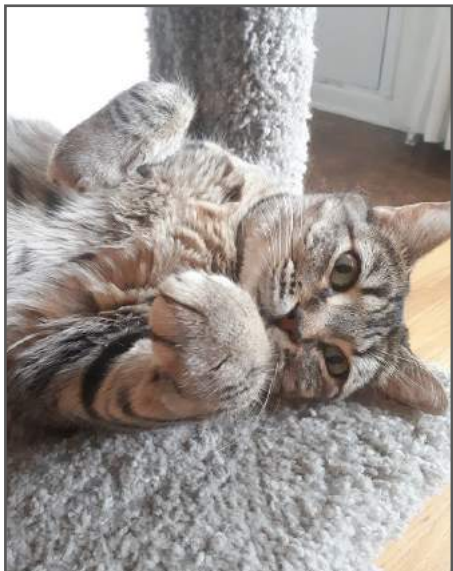
She was said to be young and very playful, which is something I was hopeful for in a companion. Seeing her demeanour online that day—and sweet little mittens to boot!—really solidified my idea that she was the perfect match for our home.

Since we adopted Lola, my mother has added a senior cat to the mix, and they utterly adore each other. Lola brings out the kitten in the older guy, and he helps keep her calm (or does his best—haha). They’re an adorable pair that love one another very much and are often caught snuggling. Our house has been so much better with them in it!

Lola has displayed many funny, quirky habits, like an endless love of cardboard chewing, sitting in the bathtub, falling asleep

in the weirdest positions, or mouthing back when you tell her no or to stop doing something. She has created her very own human schedule whereby she consistently wakes for breakfast at 6 a.m. and beckons for dinner at 5 p.m.—what a gal!

Lola is an absolute hoot and we love her so much. She has certainly helped me navigate my way through all the craziness that has been the world since COVID-19, and for that I will be eternally grateful to Forgotten Ones. Thank you again for matching us up. ~ Amber



Brie – Wrong Location, Right Cat

We saw a black kitten on the Forgotten Ones website but, when we went to check out her out at an adopt-a-thon, it turned out she was at a different pet store. Instead, we met Brie—and it was love at first sight. We hadn't seen Brie on the website because her photo hadn't been posted yet.

Brie was a little shy at first, but we fell for her calm demeanour and sweet personality. She was very comfortable being held and interacting with us, so we knew right away that she was the one for us.

Brie is a sweet girl who loves people! We love her independence, playfulness, and good temperament. She sticks to her daily routine: patiently waiting for her first feeding, warming up on the heating vent, and then enjoying playtime with her toys. She likes to watch people walking on the street, the birds and squirrels on the lawn, and especially trucks driving by.

Once she is comfortable with you, Brie is very talkative. She is constantly reminding us to get her fresh water (multiple times a day) and letting us know when she wants us to play with her.

While we have been working from home, Brie has been a great co-worker. She loves mid-day cuddles and keeps us company while we're on the computer, but understands when we are just a bit too busy. Overall, Brie's playfulness is a great break from the day and her calmness is soothing and relaxing. She's an amazing cat. ~ Robin & Family