



Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

Mewsletter

Fall 2023

TIME TO PAWS AND REFLECT



We hope everyone had a great summer, and you are now enjoying the lovely fall season and the vibrant foliage. As we move into the latter part of the year, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue and numerous other charities are still trying to navigate

the many challenges of 2023.

Over the last few months, media reports have continued to highlight the devastating impact the economic downturn has had on animal rescue organizations. The falloff in charitable giving was to be expected, but the overcrowding situation in shelters was unforeseen. Many rescues have reported they are at maximum capacity due to an increase in surrenders and decrease in adoptions.

Unfortunately, the soaring cost of pet care is making pet ownership unaffordable for many people, and

surrendering their pets to shelters is sometimes the only option. Even the housing/rental market is impacting pet ownership, as people are struggling to find pet-friendly housing within their budget.

The Forgotten Ones team is dealing with the current situation by limiting the number of animals we rescue to responsibly manage their welfare, both physically and financially. Additionally, we are trying new avenues to increase donations: on November 25, we will have a booth at the Newmarket Farmers' Market Christmas Market. As well, thanks to our veterinary partner Green Lane Animal Hospital, we have been featuring Forgotten Ones cat-themed merchandise in their clinic, the sale of which has brought in much-needed funds.

This year, more than ever, we hope our year-end fundraising efforts will be successful. We recognize that this is a challenging time for everyone, so whatever contribution you can make to our organization will be greatly appreciated—no donation is too small. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

~Laura Wyatt, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

ADOPTION ALUMNI—Gidget



I met Gidget when I stopped by Tru Pet during the pandemic. She was sleeping in her cage and, although all the kittens at the centre were cute, Gidget responded to her name being called and

came running to me. She started purring and rubbing against my hand lovingly. She had me hooked, and I fell in love with her right there and then. I could not get her out of my mind and kept going back to Tru Pet to see her almost every day.

Gidget adjusted to her new home right away and was the most lovable, social, and friendly cat I had ever met. She found her comfort spots in the oddest of places—the TV stand is one of her favourite spots.

She is naughty and mischievous, and is my little runner—running outside at the first opportunity. Gidget loves the outdoors and going for walks on her harness.

I love every little piece of her: her cute nose, her mischievousness, and her loving social demeanour. Most of all, I love it when she comes running when called and jumps into my lap, wanting to be cuddled.

~ Nafisa



The King of Kaszubska Street

Kot Gacek

5.0 ★★★★★ (10,246)
Tourist attraction

People from around the world posted glowing reviews about their encounter with Gacek.

“I am very fortunate to have come here and meet this distinguished gentle creature.”

“I came all the way from Lancaster UK to see Gacek. We chatted for a while. It was good.”

“A beautiful chonker who is worthy of his adoring fans.”

“It was worth traveling three hours to feel ignored by him. Recommended.”

“This is the best cat ever! He brings peace and joy to all who see him.”

Recently, the top-rated tourist attraction in a Polish city was a chubby, nondescript cat. He was so popular that he earned a perfect 5-star average on Google Maps!

Szczecin is a lively city on the Oder River in northwest Poland and a popular tourist destination. The medieval locale boasts many spots of interest for visitors, including a 14th-century castle called the Pomeranian Duke’s Castle and a lush urban park called Kasprowicza Park. But it was a surprise when, earlier this year, the city’s best-rated tourist attraction was an unassuming tuxedo cat named Gacek.

Gacek Gains Local Attention

Gacek (pronounced “Gatsek”), which means “long-eared bat” in Polish, was a non-celebrity when he first started hanging out on Kaszubska Street about ten years ago. He was friendly with everyone in the neighbourhood, and became such a fixture in the area that he earned the title of the King of Kaszubska Street. Although Gacek had no specific owners, the local shopkeepers took on the responsibility of caring for him. They built him a little wooden house for shelter and ensured he always had fresh food and water. Additionally, a local animal shelter oversaw his welfare.

Gacek Gains International Attention

Gacek's international reputation came about after the local news outlet *wSzczecinie* posted a video about him in 2020. The video went viral and, over the next few years, earned a total of 4.5 million views on Facebook and YouTube. The popularity of the video caught the attention of several international media outlets, which published articles about Gacek and further increased his celebrity status.

The extensive media recognition garnered the King of Kaszubska such popularity that the black-and-white street cat soon became one of the primary motivations for a trip to Szczecin. In early 2023, government officials reported that Gacek had become the city's number-one tourist destination.

In addition to international media coverage, Gacek also gained a social media presence. Area resident Diana Grabowy was inspired to document the cat's life on Facebook. In an article in *The Washington Post* she said, "I decided to create a blog to raise awareness of his situation and present him in an interesting way to those who have not yet had the opportunity to meet him."

"Gacek has a fantastic personality and is very sociable and charismatic," Grabowy added. "He's a cat who likes to be among crowds of people. He enjoys people's company, and he allows them to pet him or simply observe [him in] his surroundings while he is in his cozy bed."

Gacek Gains More than Just Fame

Gacek's celebrity status did come with a drawback—as his fame increased, so did his weight. Tourists brought so many offerings of treats and food for Gacek that he gained five kilograms, which put his health at risk. Due to his weight gain and for the sake of his overall well-being, in April 2023 the Society for the Care of Animals assumed complete responsibility for his welfare. He underwent veterinary tests and, although the results of the blood tests were excellent, he was diagnosed with dental disease and joint pain. He immediately received medications and treatments—and was put on a restricted diet. The Society reported that Gacek was doing well in his new environment and issued this statement: "In our temporary home, Gacek has been functioning very well since the first day. You can even say that he rests as if he was on vacation."

Gacek's popularity as an international celebrity was short-lived but definitely impactful. In addition to promoting tourism in Szczecin, Gacek became the ambassador for Szczecin homeless cats, and his story helped raise a lot of money for shelters around the Szczecin area. 🐾



During the decade that Gacek lived the life of an urban cat, he enjoyed his comfortable little home, which local shop owners built for him.

The Ducal Castle (below) is a must-see tourist attraction for people visiting Szczecin. Bizarrely, the popularity of the impressive renaissance edifice, built in the gothic and Pomeranian Mannerism architectural style, was usurped by a commonplace, middle-aged cat.



FELINE HEROS

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes—and species. Tales about animals rescuing members of their own and other species, including humans, abound. Smudge, Ivy, and Billy are three cats whose instinctive but valiant actions give us definitely feline feel-good stories.

Smudge—Scared Off Bullies

In 2014, in Doncaster, England, five-year-old Ethan was happily playing with his two-year-old brother Ashton, when three older boys approached them. As the youths drew closer to the brothers, they became belligerent and started bullying and taunting Ethan.

Ethan's mom Sarah Fenton had been watching her sons from the house and described the incident to the *Daily Mail*. "I was keeping an eye on the boys, who were playing football in the front garden," she said. "I saw three boys who were much taller and older than Ethan walk over to our front gate.

"I heard them shout Ethan's name twice, but he ignored them and just put his head back down and kept playing with Ashton. But then they shouted at him again, and then one of the boys got in Ethan's face and said, 'Oi! Why are you ignoring me?' and pushed him over."

At that point, Sarah rushed outside to help her son but, astonishingly, their pet cat Smudge had already come to Ethan's defence. "I saw Smudge fly out from under our car and jump on the [larger] boy's chest," Sarah told reporters. "I think it was shock more than anything, but the boy stumbled backwards, burst into tears, and then ran off."

Smudge had been the Fenton's pet for three years but, prior to the bullying incident, they had never witnessed their pet's protective instincts. "It was absolutely brilliant seeing him look out for Ethan like that," Sarah said.

After the confrontation, Smudge started sleeping outside Ethan's bedroom, seemingly keeping guard. "I actually feel so much safer knowing Smudge is around after seeing him defend Ethan like that," Sharon said. "He is a big part of the family and he is more of a brother to the boys than a cat."

For his heroic actions, Smudge was nominated for 2014 National Cat of the Year award, awarded by the Cats Protection charity.



IT WAS JUST MEANT TO BE!

It must have been fate that Smudge became a family pet and hero for the Fentons. The cat they had planned to adopt was taken by another family, so they were introduced to an alternative kitten, a 10-week-old tabby.

According to Sarah, when they met Smudge, "it was just love at first sight."

Above: Mom Sarah Fenton with son Ethan and hero cat Smudge.

Ivy—Responded to a Distress Call

Mary Johnston, a senior resident of the tiny Northern Ontario community of Tekhummah, first set eyes on Ivy when the cat was available for adoption at a local shelter. Mary was enthralled by the cat's striking blue eyes and decided the elegant part-Siamese was the cat right for her.

Ivy settled in to her new home with Mary and was a calm and docile cat companion, until her behaviour changed dramatically on an October afternoon in 2017. Johnston was sitting in her living room reading when, out of the blue, Ivy started making a fuss. "Ivy will usually lay on my couch next to my chair," Johnson told *CBC News*.

But on this occasion, Johnston said her cat's actions were very odd. "She got antsy, and was back and forth between the window and the couch several times, which wasn't her habit." Ivy then jumped onto Mary's lap, which was also unusual behaviour for her pet.

Due to her cat's antics, Johnston stopped focusing on reading and became aware of an alarming sound coming from outside. "I heard what I thought was a cat in distress," she said, "that deep growl sort of noise they make." She went outside and followed the sound to her neighbor Eric Russell's barn. Mary discovered that the sound wasn't coming from an animal, but rather it was her neighbour calling out in anguish. Eric was on a stepladder, 13 feet above the ground, and was unable to move, as his arm was trapped in the garage door spring he had been trying to repair.

Mary alerted Eric's wife to call 911 for emergency help and, once he was extracted from the spring, Eric was rushed to the hospital. The doctors who treated Eric's severely damaged arm said that, had medical treatment been delayed any longer, he could have lost his limb.

Mary believed it was Ivy's instincts that made the cat respond to Eric's calls for help. "Cats have much better hearing than humans," Mary explained. "I think she heard these sounds of distress and it bothered her. So she figured I should do something about it."

Eric was extremely grateful to his two- and four-legged rescuers, and thanked his feline hero with toys and treats. In addition to receiving special attention from Eric, Ivy's heroic efforts were also acknowledged by local and international media.

But according to Mary, Ivy was completely immune to the fame.



INTENT ON GETTING ATTENTION!

Ivy was not a particularly vocal cat, according to Mary Johnston, but her cat was determined to communicate something when she heard Eric Russell's cries for help.

Ivy's persistent efforts to get her owner's attention were the reason Mary discovered her neighbour in a perilous situation.



Ivy's heroic actions were featured in *Woman's World* magazine.

Sam Felstead (below with Billy) believes that her cat's out-of-the-ordinary behaviour was responsible for saving her life.

Felstead describes Billy's normal demeanor as very subdued, which made his actions on August 8 last year extremely unusual.

"He's never woken me up in the night before, he never bothers you. He doesn't [even] wake you up for food," she said.



"She thinks she's a prima donna at the best of times," Mary said. "When she's not tormenting her feline housemate, Ivy is curled up on the sofa by herself."

Mary's other feline companion Nellie is also an independent cat, so much so that she refuses to be touched at all. But Mary is very accepting of her cats' aloof attitudes. "If they're happy, I'm happy!" she said.

Billy—Reacted to a Medical Emergency

During the early hours of August 8, 2022, Sam Felstead of Stapleford, Nottingham, was awakened by the odd behaviour of her seven-year-old cat Billy. The cat, who normally was very quiet and unexcitable, jumped on her chest and was relentlessly trying to get her attention. Billy simply refused to leave her alone.

In an interview with BBC news, Sam described the encounter. "Suddenly I woke up in the early hours covered in sweat and couldn't move. Billy was on my chest and was meowing loudly in my ear hole," she said.

Once she was fully awake, Sam realized the seriousness of her condition, and she called out to her mother Karen Felstead for help. Sam's inability to move was extremely alarming and her need for medical attention was evident. Sam was rushed to Nottingham City Hospital and, after tests, doctors confirmed she had suffered a heart attack in her sleep.

Felstead was discharged from the hospital after three days and reunited with her saviour, who, as Sam noted, showed little interest in her return.

In fact, according to Felstead, there was only a very brief period of time when Billy seemed at all bothered by Sam's medical emergency. "When I came out of hospital, he wouldn't go near me for a good few hours, whether I smelt funny from coming out of the hospital I don't know," she told BBC. "I don't think he has one bit of a clue what's happened," she added. "As long as I feed him, he's not bothered."

But despite her kitty's indifference, Sam said she's thankful for Billy's middle-of-the-night intervention. "I'm grateful towards him as I didn't know if I'd have woken up," she said. "My alarm [wasn't] for another two hours, so who knows if I would have woken up?"

"I do think he saved my life and so does everybody else around me," she concluded. 🐾

Feline Teeth Traits

Teeth are an important part of a cat's anatomy and serve many functions. In addition to their primary purpose of helping cats hunt and eat, teeth are used for grooming and defence. They also enable a mother cat to carry her newborn kittens from place to place.

Here are a few interesting facts about feline fangs.

Cats Have Almost as Many Teeth as Humans

Kittens are born without teeth and their deciduous (baby) teeth erupt within two weeks. By the age of eight weeks, kittens should have 26 teeth. The baby teeth will start to fall out around three months of age as the permanent teeth erupt.

All of a cat's adult teeth have usually broken through the gums by six to seven months of age. In all, the adult cat has 30 teeth—just two less than humans have.

Cats' Teeth Are Designed to Eat Meat

Cats are true carnivores and their teeth are highly evolved to help them to hunt, kill, and eat prey. They have four different types of teeth, each type providing a specific function.

The small teeth at the front of a cat's mouth are called incisors and are used for gripping prey and tearing food. Right behind the incisors are the big fangs called canines. They are long, strong teeth used to bite and grasp another animal's flesh—when cats are either hunting or defending themselves. On either side of the jaw are wide teeth known as premolars. Cats have ten premolars in total—six on their upper jaw and four on their lower jaw—and the purpose of these teeth is to break food into small chunks.

Cats don't have molars as kittens, but they do have them in their adult set of teeth. Molars are designed to crush the bones of prey, such as birds or mice.

A Cat's Incisors are Multitaskers

A cat's incisor teeth serve more than one purpose and perform a variety of tasks. They help a cat pick up small objects or move their prey around, and also enable a mother cat to pick up and move her kittens.

Additionally, they are a valuable and useful tool for grooming. Cats use their incisors to pull dirt and debris out of their coats and to remove parasites, such as fleas and ticks. Sometimes, cats will use their incisors to scratch an itch.



Momma Cat's Teeth Help Transport her Kittens

Kittens fall into the altricial animal classification, which means they are relatively immobile and must be cared for by adults when they are newborn. Humans are also an altricial species.

Unlike a human, who can pick a baby up in their arms, when a mother cat needs to move her kittens, she uses her teeth. A momma cat will gently grab the loose skin on the back of her kitten's neck to pick up and transport her baby.



Brushing Your Cat's Teeth

Nothing compares to brushing your cat's teeth when it comes to home oral care, but it can be quite challenging in some felines.

Starting home oral care when your pet is very young allows for a greater chance of success.

Alternatives to tooth brushing include dental treats, dental diets, water additives, topical gels, and oral rinses.

Cats Can't Move Their Jaws From Side to Side

Humans can move their lower jaws slightly sideways, as well as forward or backward, and this enables us to chew and grind food before we swallow. Cats can move their jaws only up and down, and, because of this limitation, their jaws are not designed for chewing. Instead, cats rip off small pieces of meat and then swallow the torn-off chunks whole.

Cats Don't Get Cavities

Human teeth have many ridges and horizontal surfaces where the bacteria that cause cavities can develop and thrive. Feline teeth are completely different—pointy and smooth—which prevents cavities from forming. A cat's diet is predominantly meat-based and low in carbohydrates and sugars, which is another factor in keeping them from getting cavities.

A Cat's Dental Care Is Often Disregarded

Paying attention to your pet's oral health is perhaps the most overlooked aspect of preventive care, and taking your cat for yearly medical checkups will allow your veterinarian to catch potential issues early. Often pet-owners are surprised when they learn that their cat has developed significant levels of harmful plaque and tartar.

According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by the time they are three years old. Dental disease in cats can cause serious pain and discomfort and, if left untreated, can be a health risk that extends beyond the mouth. The heart, liver, and kidneys are vital organs that are susceptible to the spread of oral bacteria.

The three most common dental diseases in cats are gingivitis, periodontitis, and tooth resorption, and the severity of each of these conditions can vary. Gingivitis occurs when plaque along the gum line causes inflammation. If not treated, gingivitis can develop into periodontitis, which causes the teeth to become loose or fall out.

One in three adult cats also develops tooth resorption, where the affected tooth slowly degrades and is replaced by bone tissue. Untreated resorption can lead to bone infection, tooth loss, and oral bacteria entering the bloodstream through diseased oral tissues, which can affect other organs as well.

Treating your cat's dental disease is vital to their well-being and, fortunately, teeth extractions shouldn't affect your pet's daily life. In fact, domesticated kitties can thrive and have healthy, happy lives with no teeth at all. As cats' teeth aren't made for chewing, they can still swallow kibble, although some people find their cats with teeth removed prefer wet food. 🐾

WHISKY - Carries out Morning Taps

I heard about Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue from my son Alex and my daughter-in-law, who adopted a cat named Millie from the organization. When I checked the rescue's site for adoptable cats, I saw Whisky's picture and I knew I wanted to adopt him, even though he was FIV positive. He was six years old when I adopted him in 2021.

Whisky quickly got used to his new place and made himself at home, and I got used to his quirks. He likes to tap on my arm around 2:00 a.m. and then again at 5:00 a.m. so he can have an early breakfast—and, of course, I get up to feed him!

He won't eat by himself—even if his plate is full of food. I have to go and sit behind him and only then will he get up to eat. He has his own office chair on which to sleep, and his snore is much louder than mine.



I love him so much that I even let him take over my bed. But he always has to sleep right next to me with his bottom facing my face. The vet said it was okay to use a wipe on his bottom, but he will run around after I clean him.

I asked my sister Karen to do some paintings of Whisky, and the one on the left (to the right of the photo) is by her.

Whisky and I are doing good! ~ Anissa

SNUGGLES AND CHAANDI - They're a Wish Come True

Since our daughter Gemina was a baby, we have been telling her that one day she would get kittens of her own. She has always had cats in her life, and we have fostered and adopted from Forgotten Ones. So of course, we contacted them when it was time to adopt kittens!

Gemina chose Snuggles and Chaandi because she liked that there were only two kittens in the litter, and they would not have to leave their brothers and sisters when adopted. She also liked that they were silver!.

Snuggles and Chaandi (which means "silver" in Gujarati) quickly made themselves right at home. Our older cat Lucky, who originally came from Forgotten Ones, had to get acquainted with the kittens, and them with her, but it did not take long for everyone to get used to one another.

Snuggles likes to see people on Zoom. I teach online and he will climb up the back of my chair and perch there so that he can be part of the meeting. All of my students know him! Chaandi loves to give hugs and he will wrap himself, even his tail, around us and purr.



They both have big personalities and they are both very different. They are good company and no one could ever be bored with them around, because they are always finding some new excitement. They are very loving and always wait at the door for Gemina to come home from school.

They bring a lot of fun and life to our home!

~ Kelly & Family