



Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

Newsletter

Spring 2023

TIME TO PAWS AND REFLECT



I hope everyone is enjoying the arrival of spring, the season symbolizing new beginnings and transformations. We have gone through three years of worldwide turmoil, which makes this Spring definitely feel like a fresh start as we emerge from

COVID-19 and from winter.

The pandemic has changed how most businesses operate and has forced companies to pivot in new directions. That is true for Forgotten Ones as well, although operational changes are not uncommon to our rescue organization. In fact, being flexible and moving in new directions has been key to our rescue's longevity.

A primary reason we are constantly monitoring how we function is that the greatest risk to animal rescue groups is volunteer burnout. Being cognizant of that hazard is critical to Forgotten Ones, as we are 100 percent volunteer-based.

We are aware that if we have too many animals in our care, volunteers will become overwhelmed. Our goal is to make success achievable by being realistic about the number of cats we can properly care for and manage.

To that end, over the last 10 years our volunteer team has continually reassessed and refocused our participation in adoption centres. In 2013, our team oversaw four adoption centres in pet stores; six years ago, we down-sized to just two adoption centres. In October 2021, we decided to concentrate our efforts and resources in one adoption centre only.

Our team determined that featuring our adoptable cats in Tru Pet only would be the most effective choice for Forgotten Ones. That option would enable us to provide more personal and hands-on support for adopters, fosters, and volunteers.

We believe that, in continuing to right-size our business, the value Forgotten Ones provides cats and kittens in need, as well as our community, remains constant.

~ Laura Wyatt, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

ADOPTION ALUMNI - Truffles



I adopted Truffles three-and-a-half years ago, when she was almost eleven years old. I didn't want a kitten, as I thought a young cat would be too lively for me.

When I first met Truffles, she was a little shy and wary, but she was in a strange place—the pet

shop—so I thought it was understandable. I joked that we would be two old ladies together.

After we arrived home and I let her out of the carrier, she inspected her new home and then settled on the sofa to survey me and the room.

I adopted Truffles before COVID, and I was usually out for a couple of hours during the day. So when the lockdown started and I was home all the time, Truffles loved that! She wanted to be with me wherever I was. I think her company got me through the lockdown.

Truffles is very affectionate. She loves to lie on my lap, just like a baby, and be cuddled. If I am busy, she will lie on the floor near me. She has a gentle nature, and if I stop petting her she will reach up and pat my face as if to say, "Don't stop." She has found lots of places to curl up in.

Everyone who sees Truffles just loves her—as you can see from her picture, she is a very pretty girl!

~ Joyce



A CLAIM TO FLAME

Flame was a scrawny, homeless kitty (below) when the firefighters at Belmont Fire Department in Greenville, South Carolina came to his aid by giving him food and water.

The station crew won the stray's trust with fried chicken and love. In turn, Flame's endearing personality won the hearts of the entire fire station staff, who claimed Flame as their mascot.



Firehouse Cats

Firefighters are not known for seeking out a firehouse pet, but sometimes the ideal appli-cat just turns up unexpectedly!

FLAME – United States

Flame was rescued by the Belmont Fire Department eight years ago and, since that time, his role as the station's mascot has been well publicized in the media. However, Flame's initial adoption by the fire crew was done on the quiet, as his coworkers were uncertain how the fire chief would react to having a resident cat.

Firefighters to the Rescue

Firefighter engineer Jordan Lide has a vivid recollection of his first encounter with Flame, which he described to ABC News. "It was getting a little bit later and guys were making their way inside, and I heard a meowing sound out in the grass," said Lide. "I could see this small cat but he didn't run. He was really skinny and malnourished. I think he was scared and timid but kind of desperate at the same time. I started edging my way towards him, squatting down and talking to him," he recalls.

"Eventually, after 15 to 20 minutes, he let me get to him and as soon as I pet him for the first time, it was game on. He started climbing all over my lap and I could tell how malnourished he was." Lide knew the kitten was in critical need of food, so he found some leftover chicken in the fire station fridge and brought it out to the cat.

For several days thereafter, the kitten remained hanging around the fire station and Lide continued to feed him, as did some of

the other firefighters. “We started raiding guys’ cabinets, giving him food, and we gained his trust more,” Lide said.

The kitten, which they named Flame, seemed to be very happy to make the fire station his home, but Lide was uncertain if the fire chief would allow a stray cat in the station house. “We were nervous about telling him at first,” Lide said.

Ironically, a few days later, Lide arrived at work to find Fire Chief Segars squatting down and petting Flame. “We were like, ‘Oh, this is a good sign’,” Lide said. “And [the chief] was like, ‘Where did this cat come from?’ And we said, ‘Uh, he kind of lives here now.’”

Flame charmed the chief and the feline instantly became the station house mascot. Segars was so accepting of the new feline recruit that he began referring to Flame as “just part of the crew.”

Flame’s Daily Duties

Flame soon established a routine, and his dedication and work ethic are appreciated by everyone at the Belmont Fire Department. “He lives in the bays where all the trucks are,” Lide said. “We’ve tried to bring him in before, but he prefers to be out in the bays. We close and lock up the bays at night, and in the morning when we come in, he’ll meet us right by the door.”

Lide detailed how the loyal cat always patiently waits for the firefighters’ return from a call and then provides them with a comforting welcome. “First he rubs up on the truck to see where we’ve been, and then he follows us over to the lockers, and then he’ll come and jump up and sit next to you on the bumper,” he said.

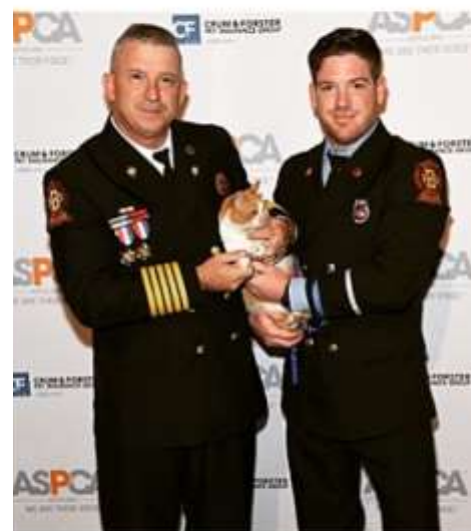
“It’s something you can count on because he’s always there. Especially in the morning, he sets the tone for the day. He just gives you that sense of, ‘Take a step back, relax, take it one call at a time.’ He’s definitely a part of the guys. He’s a part of our everyday lives.”

Flame’s Therapeutic Duties

The job of firefighting can often be stressful and sometimes traumatic, and Flame’s role as an onsite therapist is invaluable. “You don’t realize he’s therapeutic until you’re playing with him and he starts rubbing up on you. It’s a mental break,” Lide said. “We’re on shift for 24 hours, running calls and working, and we see the worst side of stuff sometimes, and the innocence of him, he just wants to be loved on and played with, and then you forget you were in a bad fire.”

Fire Chief Segars also appreciates the emotional support Flame provides his team. “My guys, they see horrible accidents, horrible things every day,” Segars said. “We’re involved in something weekly that stresses to them to some degree, and he is a tremendous stress relief to these guys. He is therapeutic after a bad call comes in.”

In February of this year, when asked for an update on Flame for our Mewsletter feature, Chief Segars sent the reply, “He’s doing great! Thanks for asking.”



A MEDIA STAR

Flame was named the ASPCA’s 2017 Cat of the Year, and he accepted his title in New York City, accompanied by Chief Segars (above left) and Firefighter Lide (above right).

Flame has his own Instagram page with more than 114,000 followers. Cute photos of Flame dressed as a firefighter are often posted on the account.





Cat came from humble beginnings as a homeless kitten (above) but, over time, she established herself as a contributing citizen of her community.

She has a strong affiliation with every aspect of the Metchosin Fire Department, including the photocopier.



CAT – Canada

During a rainstorm in 2013, Stephanie Dunlop, chief of the Metchosin Fire Department, went to investigate a strange sound coming from the roof above her office. She found that the source of the noise was a petite, rain-soaked kitten. Dunlop took the seemingly-lost kitten to her office, where she provided the tiny animal with food and warmth.

When the storm stopped, Dunlop let the kitten out, thinking she would find her way home. The kitten remained at the fire station for several days, so Stephanie canvassed the community to find the animal's owner, but she was unable to locate the kitten's feline or human family.

A 10-Year Veteran

A decade later, the cat—whose name is Cat—remains living in and around the fire hall, and she has become such an integral part of the staff that her name is listed on the department's official online members list.

Cat ingratiated herself with the firefighters by assisting with a multitude of tasks: helping with hoses, supervising first aid training, and keeping the photocopier company.

In an interview with CTV News, the Fire Chief talked about life with Cat. "I think she's been here longer than 50 per cent of our crew," Stephanie said. She went on to explain that Cat's fearless personality makes her the perfect resident cat for the noisy station house. "She's actually not scared of anything. We can be doing auto-extrication with drills and hydraulics and loud sounds, and she's right in there!"

Cat is very community-minded, and her civic involvement extends to the city council as well. She will often walk from the fire hall to the municipal hall in order to sit in on council meetings or to have one-on-one meetings, sitting on the mayor's lap.

Fortunately, Cat always returns to the fire hall to fulfil her

primary duty of greeting her firefighters when they return from a call. Her presence and the emotional support she offers is all the more appreciated after particularly difficult calls.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when firefighters were deprived of comforting personal touch because of social distancing, Stephanie commented that Cat provided her team with reassurance. "People will just sit and pet her," she said, "getting that connection with something."

Enkas – Turkey

Following the tragic 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in February 2023, search teams worked tirelessly to help the victims of the terrifying natural disaster. Members of the Mardin Fire Department were part of the rescue effort and were able to find many survivors, even 11 days after the two earthquakes.

Among the survivors was a cat that had been trapped under the rubble of a collapsed building for nine days. Ali Cakas, a member of Mardin Fire Department, found the adorable cat and decided to name him Enkas, which translates to "rubble."

The cat's survival was an uplifting story amid the immense tragedy, not just because Enkas was able to survive with just minor injuries, but also because of the cat's bond with the firefighter who pulled him out of the rubble and gave him food and water.

Speaking to one of the local news agencies about Enkas' rescue, Cakas explained that the cat refused to leave his side. "So I could not leave him either," said Ali. "The cat is now in my home. We sleep together. My family treats the cat as a member of the family. We will get through this trauma together."

Enkas has become engrained in every aspect of Cakas' life, including his work, as the cat has been named Mardin Municipality Fire Department's mascot. 🐾



The video and images of Cakas wearing a bicycle helmet and goggles, with the black-and-white cat on his shoulder, went viral on social media.

The 33-year-old firefighter also coaches the Turkish national mountain-bike team.

Forgotten Ones
Cat Rescue



Forgotten Ones is 100 per cent volunteer-based with no paid staff. We have been operating in the Richmond Hill area since 2000.

Our charity relies 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 at www.forgottenones.ca or email us at contact@forgottenones for other donation options.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

Words of Appreciation

“Mike has become such an integral part of our rescue. His thoughtfulness, kindness and humour always brighten any day!” ~ Michelle Tom, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

“It was a lucky day when we met Mike! He has become a vital part of our Forgotten Ones team, as well as a true friend. His contribution to our animal advocacy efforts is invaluable.” ~ Laura Wyatt, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

Mike cuddles with Milo (below), one of many cats that has been well-pampered while residing at Tru Pet.

Mike Taggart — Celebrating A Milestone!

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” ~ Winston Churchill

In December 2022, Tru Pet owner Mike Taggart celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the opening of his pet store. For any small business, remaining viable for a decade is an accomplishment. In fact, according to the Government of Canada Small Business Statistics 2022, only 68.2% of businesses in the services-producing sector survive five years, and it drops to 44.7% at 10 years.

On this milestone anniversary, we want congratulate Mike on his success in the retail industry—and survival through the COVID years. We would also like to recognize his commitment to community service.

Supporting Forgotten Ones

The relationship between Forgotten Ones and Mike started in June 2016, when we partnered with him to open an adoption centre in his store. The space he has provided for our charity has enabled us to facilitate almost 300 adoptions. In addition, we have held dozens of fundraisers at Tru Pet, raising thousands of dollars in donations.

The Tru Pet adoption enclosure provides a comfortable temporary home for cats awaiting adoption, but Mike’s contribution is so much more than just donating floor space. He makes a caring connection with every cat that resides in his store and, along with Forgotten Ones volunteers, he attentively monitors their physical and emotional well-being. His affection and compassion for animals is evident in the way he interacts with each cat and kitten.

Childhood Advocacy

Mike’s animal advocacy was evident as far back as childhood, when he would rescue wild bunnies. Mike’s mother Barbara says animals have always been an integral part of his life.

“Even as a child, Mike had a love for all animals. Our first pet, a tabby we named Digger, was a homeless cat that just showed up on our front step. Digger lived for more than 15 years.

“When we adopted our first golden retriever, named Nikki, it was a family decision, but it was Mike who was behind the adoption of the second one. A teacher at Mike’s school had a dog that had a litter, and he asked if we were interested in taking one—we were! We named that second golden retriever Hunny. Our third golden retriever joined our family—again by Mike—when his school friend’s dog Lucky had to be rehomed. Lucky was a very special dog and I think he still holds a special place in Mike’s heart.



“On another occasion, Mike brought home a nursing mom cat and kittens that had been left at the Global Pet Foods near us. Mike and the store owner were able to find homes for all the kittens, but Mike was worried the momma cat Boots would not find a home, so we took her in.

Boots, or Scaredy Cat, as we called her, stayed in our basement for months. Eventually, she started sleeping on our beds, and she would hang out with Hunny and Lucky. We just loved our Scaredy Cat.”

Compassion Continues into Adulthood

Barbara tells how “As a teenager Mike’s dream was to have a pet store, and he made his dream come true. How amazing is that?

“Mike is so very helpful to his customers, assisting them in finding the right food or the best bedding for their animals—from hamsters to dogs. His customers really care about him and, if he’s not in the store, they want to know ‘what’s up?’

“I admire his commitment to the community. In addition to supporting Forgotten Ones, Mike is involved with 360 Kids and the Richmond Hill Food Bank. He also oversaw the 2023 Richmond Hill Winter Carnival, and he put a lot of heart and soul into it. I think he has a mutual love affair with the Richmond Hill community.”

Barbara says, “As his mother, I am most proud that he is just a very good person.”

Supporting the Richmond Hill Food Bank

In donating pet food to a local food bank, Mike is not only helping people in need of assistance, but is also helping to care for their companion animals. Marney Beck Robinson, volunteer and board member of the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank, describes Mike’s contributions to their organization:

“Michael Taggart generously donates carloads or truckloads of pet food to our Richmond Hill Community Food Bank. He routinely gives many bags and cans of dog and cat food (that must cost a lot of money), which are so greatly appreciated by all our local families who have pets to feed.

“All the clients coming to our food bank know that we will provide food, but when we offer dog or cat food, often they are very surprised—some even have tears in their eyes. Especially during the pandemic, when our whole province was shut down and everyone had to stay home, the fact that we had donations of pet food from Michael Taggart was a very important and uplifting way to support hungry families.”

Well Done, Mike!

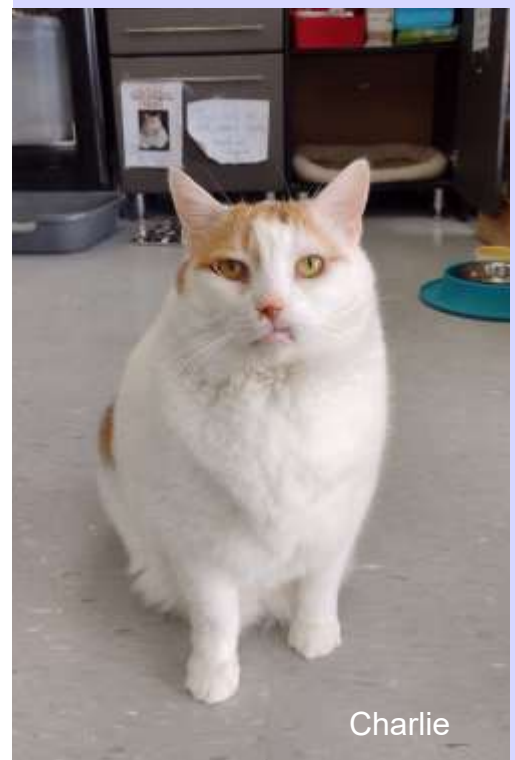
Mike, on behalf of Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue volunteers, we wish you a Happy 10th Anniversary. Congratulations on this significant occasion and many wishes for future success! 🐾

EATING UP THE PROFITS

Retail space management refers to the efficient handling of the space within a retail outlet to maximize profits. This goal has become more difficult for Mike since Charlie became his store foster cat.

Because Charlie was an extremely obese cat, Mike encouraged him to run up and down the store aisle to help with his weight loss. Unfortunately, Charlie would stop mid-gallop and tear into expensive bags of dog food. Mike had no option but to cordon off a large space in the store for him, away from the tempting food.

Charlie’s behaviour might have been detrimental to Mike’s retail space management, but his weight loss has been positive. He has lost almost 6 pounds, the equivalent of 90 human pounds!.





Flossie has had a number of families during her long life. Her current owner Vicki (below), who, at 27, is the same age as her cat, says: "I knew from the start that Flossie was a special cat, but I didn't imagine I'd be sharing my home with a Guinness World Records title holder."

Flossie — A Grand Old Dame

Flossie has had an incredible journey since her birth in 1995. She has outlived two of her caregivers and has been rehomed four times. Surprisingly, even when she was up for adoption at the age of 27, she did not remain homeless for any length of time.

On November 22, 2022, the British brown-and-black cat received official recognition from Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living cat. At that time, she was just a few weeks short of her 27th birthday.

Flossie started her life as a homeless kitten in a colony of cats that were living close to Merseyside Hospital in Liverpool, England. She was fortunate to be one of several kittens that were rescued and adopted by a group of hospital workers in the spring of 1996. Flossie had a good life with her first owner until the woman passed away 10 years later.

Flossie was then taken in by her late owner's sister and continued to live a comfortable life for the next 14 years until her second owner died.

Her second owner's son took over her care, and she lived with him for three years, until he realized that he could no longer adequately meet her needs. He made the difficult decision to entrust Flossie to the volunteers at Cats Protection, the largest feline welfare and adoption charity in the UK.

When Flossie was surrendered to Cats Protection, the charity workers questioned her owner as to whether he had the correct age for his cat. It didn't seem possible that the cat could be so old. The staff sought to get verification of the cat's age through her medical history, and they were shocked to find out that Flossie's birthdate was Dec. 29, 1995.



"We were flabbergasted when we saw that Flossie's vet records showed her to be 27 years old," said Naomi Rosling, the charity's branch coordinator, in a media release.

Since older cats are often less likely to get adopted, it seemed inevitable that Flossie would spend the rest of her life with Cats Protection. But she was soon adopted by Vicki Green, who had cared for four senior cats, including a cat named Honeybun, who lived to 21 years old.

Green described how Flossie settled in: "She was loud for the first few nights because she can't see in the dark and was a bit confused in her new surroundings, but she sleeps through the night now, snuggled on the bed with me."

Despite not being able to hear or see, Flossie is still playful, according to Green. She is also in good health and enjoys cuddles and food.

"She never turns her nose up at the chance of a good meal," said Green. "She sometimes misses her litter box or needs help grooming herself, but I can help with all of that. We're in this together."

"If I'm in such good shape when I'm her age, with someone who does what's best for me when I need it most, I shall be a very happy lady," Green said. 🐾



Flossie may be the oldest living cat, but she isn't the oldest cat who ever lived. That title belongs to a cat named Creme Puff (above), who lived to the remarkable age of 38 years and 3 days.



SPRING BAKE SALE Fundraiser

Drop by TruPet and pick up some freshly-baked sweet treats to celebrate Spring, Passover, and Easter!

Saturday, April 8, 2023
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

TruPet
10520 Yonge Street,
Richmond Hill
Tel 905 508-1112



Forgotten Ones
Cat Rescue



Pixie & Ryder – Passionate about Northern Nights

I adopted Pixie about 16 years ago, when she was just nine months old, to be company for my cat who has since passed. She would follow him around everywhere. As a kitten, she had such a wonderful energy and would play fetch and jump six feet in the air to catch toys.

Ryder was a failed foster who came into my life about 13 years ago, and I fell so deeply in love with him that I immediately adopted him. I truly believe Ryder is my soul mate.

Since I moved to the Yukon in 2014, Pixie and Ryder have enjoyed living in a space that is larger than my Toronto apartments. They love all the sunbeams and bird watching, and they enjoy the long nights and short, dark days in the winter—it is an excuse to sleep in.

Pixie loves blanket forts and will dig at the area under my leg when she wants me to make her one. She always wants to be as close to me as possible. She also loves any sort of carb-y snack and has been caught trying to steal a whole bag of oats.

Ryder is just the sweetest, most handsome guy, and loves to snuggle on my chest. He makes the cutest *chirrup*-like purr when

he is getting chin scratches. He loves soft things and has some favourite blankets that he likes to make biscuits on. He has recently been learning some tricks—it helps that he is a little treat-motivated monster.

Pixie and Ryder are aggressively affectionate snuggle bugs! ~ Selene



Sarah – Treating her Shyness

Sarah is an extremely shy cat who had litter-box issues and required a foster home that would give her lots of love and a chance to blossom. Beth and her family kindly came to Sarah's aid last year, and we have this encouraging update.

“Sarah is very comfortable in her little domain in the basement, which she fiercely protects from my cats, who she does not like at all. Since her arrival, Sarah hasn't had any bathroom accidents and no problem using her litter box. She has settled into a routine and is now talking to us, especially in the morning. She tells us it is time to play with her, and, now, play even comes before breakfast! Da Bird is still her favourite toy, with the toy bee attachment.

“She is very treat-motivated and waits at the table in the morning for her treat (her pill in a pill pocket). She has become

comfortable enough to come up on the couch and walk across us to get her treat, and she will also take treats from our hands. But she still only tolerates touching and petting when having a treat.

“That being said, she does want to come around when we are in the basement watching TV or doing laundry. When my husband was sick a few months ago, he slept in the basement bedroom, and Sarah slept in the room with him many nights. During the day, she would sleep by his pillow.

We love Sarah's playfulness, her curiosity, and her wanting to be around humans—but at her own distance. She really does want to connect with us, but it is a slow process. Sarah will thrive even more in a quiet house where there are no other cats or young children.” ~ Beth & Family