



Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

Newsletter

SUMMER 2023

TIME TO PAWS AND REFLECT



Summer is finally here and, without a doubt, it is Canadians favorite season! The start of summer is also the half-way mark for the year, and looking back at the first six months of 2023, we can identify critical issues that are affecting charities.

An overview of the giving trends currently challenging Canada's charitable sector was published in CanadaHelps' *Giving Report 2023*. An online survey of 2948 charity professionals was conducted, and the findings gave a detailed picture of concerning trends in how Canadians give.

Of significance to our charity were two statistics: one, 31.1% of charities reported that funding is below pre-pandemic levels; and two, 80% of charities reported that inflation has increased their service delivery costs, while funding has not increased to meet this demand. Forgotten Ones has definitely been affected by both those trends this year.

In addition to a substantial drop in donations, animal rescue groups face challenges unique to their sector. In particular, the increased number of pets being surrendered by their owners. This is also an issue that Forgotten Ones has witnessed first-hand.

The substantial rise in pet surrenders in the last two years is so alarming that the situation has received media attention. In a *CBC News* feature, published January 2023, The Humane Society of Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford Perth reported a 32 per cent increase in surrenders in 2022. Additionally, Toronto Animal Services stated in a *Toronto Sun* article, published in March 2023, "The number of animals being surrendered is moving towards a crisis point. This is driven more by money or medical reasons than by any post-pandemic mass return to the office. People are stretched financially, and pet food and vet bills are expensive."

Facing difficult challenges is not new to any charity, including Forgotten Ones. But we try to remain positive and appreciate the things that remain constant, such as the summer months that make up a beautiful time of year across our country. Bearing that in mind, our team wishes you a safe and happy summer!

~ Laura Wyatt, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

ADOPTION ALUMNI - Smokey



Smokey

It's been over eight years since my husband and I adopted Smokey (formerly Amber), who we chose to be a friend for our kitten Clover. Smokey is healthy and happy, and Clover is doing great, too!

Smokey is an excellent guard-cat and hunter. Not a bug or mouse dares to enter our home, thanks to her hunting prowess. She will guard the house, take a break and demand hugs, and then go back on patrol

again. Smokey is just a crazy snuggle-monster. She is adorable and very vocal, and makes the cutest little *frurp* noise when she speaks to you.

Clover is very sensitive but extremely sweet. She will come and hug you if she senses you're not okay or are just in need of hugs. She is very much the caring protector of the house.

Clover is my husband's shadow. She follows him everywhere, including to the gym. She coaches him while he works out by sitting on his back while he does pushups, or by slapping at his weights while he's curling. My husband and Clover talk to each other—it's hilarious. He will ask something and she will chirp back to him. Clover is definitely daddy's li'l princess! ~ Fiona & Andy



Clover

A COMPLEX CHARACTER

Cardinal Richelieu was the cunning and ruthless Chief Minister to King Louis XIII. He was a workaholic who would spend long days forming brutal policies that would bring the country's aristocracy into line and crush resistance from French Protestants.

In complete contrast, he showed great kindness and caring when it came to his pet cats. He would take breaks from his statecraft to lavish them with attention and affection.

Below: *Richelieu and his Cats* by Charles Édouard Delort.



A Place in History

Felines have been social companions to humans for centuries. In some cases, their relationships with famous personages even rendered them noteworthy in historical records. Here we look at five illustrious figures whose affection for, and association with, felines was worthy of mention in their biographies.

Armand Jean du Plessis de Richelieu (1585-1642)

Armand Jean du Plessis, Duke of Richelieu, known as Cardinal Richelieu, was a French statesman and clergyman. Richelieu was consecrated as a bishop in 1607 and rose to power in both the Church and the French state. He became a cardinal in 1622 and King Louis XIII's chief minister in 1624, remaining in office until his death in 1642.

Richelieu's achievements for France, whether viewed in a positive or negative light, resulted in the dominance of France in Europe for two centuries. His ruthless tactics to maintain power included censoring the press, developing and maintaining a huge network of spies, forbidding discussion of political matters in public places, and executing those he suspected of conspiring against him.

Surprisingly, although he was viewed as cruel and scheming, he was also known for his great compassion and affection for cats. Richelieu's appreciation for felines was so well-known that courtiers and diplomats would present him with cats as gifts, and he influenced the trend in fashionable French society to own cats as animal companions.

In 1639, Richelieu established a cattery in his opulent, newly-constructed Palace Richelieu (later renamed the Palace Royal) to house fourteen of his cat companions. The cats were so integral to his life that he frequently had one of his precious pets on his knees while he oversaw government affairs and, at night, his favourite cats shared his bed. Richelieu assigned two servants to be at the cats' service and, in the event of the slightest health problem, a doctor would immediately be dispatched to care for them.

To ensure the long-term welfare of his pets, Richelieu made provisions for them in his will. He bequeathed a home, staff, and money to provide for them after he passed.

CATHERINE THE GREAT (1729-1796)

Catherine II, most commonly known as Catherine the Great, reigned over Russia for 34 years, longer than any other female in Russian history. Her many accomplishments included establishing educational reform, extending Russia's borders, and championing the arts. She also founded the State Hermitage Museum, which is now the world's second largest museum, hosting more than 3 million exhibits.

Historical accounts reveal that Catherine's association with cats began when she inherited the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, which served as the official home of Russian sovereigns from 1732 until 1917. Along with the imperial residence, Catherine also inherited the palace cats, who had been brought to the palace through a decree issued by Catherine's predecessor Empress Elizaveta Petrovna.

In 1747, to deal with a rat infestation, Elizaveta had ordered a chauffeur to "bring house cats suitable for catching" to the imperial residence. Upon her command, dozens of felines were picked up from the streets of Kazan (a city known to have the fiercest cats), and were transported by carriage to the palace. The cats sole purpose was to rid the palace of vermin.

When Catherine moved into the royal residence, she viewed the Winter Palace cats in a very different light than Elizaveta had, and their status was greatly improved under Catherine's reign. Catherine promoted the felines from the lowly status of pest control to the more highly regarded positions of social companions and titled palace guards.

Catherine's personal cats had higher status and lived on the upper floors of the palace, while the unpedigreed working cats were delegated to the basement. Nonetheless, even the cats that lived on the lower level enjoyed many advantages. Catherine officially promoted the working cats to the status of guards and provided them with salaries and additional food.

Catherine's favorite felines were the Russian Blue breed, and she held them in such high esteem that she would bestow them as gifts to ambassadors of foreign sovereigns, including, reputedly, the British royal family.

ROBERT SOUTHEY (1774-1843)

Born of humble origins, Robert Southey went on to become Poet Laureate of England from 1813 until his death in 1843. A contemporary of 19th century Romantic poets like William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, he was an incredibly prolific writer of both poetry and prose. One of the original versions of the



Above: *Catherine La Grande*, by Vigilius Eriksen

Catherine the Great employed guard cats to prevent rodents from damaging her artworks. To this day, cats still remain as residents of the Hermitage Museum and, like the art exhibits, the felines are a tourist attraction.

Below: The Heritage cats are often seen in the museum's courtyard and will graciously pose for visitors.





Above: Robert Southey by Edward Nash (1820).

Below: President Calvin Coolidge was one of the most prolific pet owners in the history of the White House. He and his wife had an eclectic menagerie that included dogs, cats, birds, a goose, a bobcat, and a pair of raccoons named Rebecca and Reuben



fairy tale *The Story of the Three Bears* was written by Robert Southey. It was first published in 1837 in his four-volume collection of essays and stories called *The Doctor*.

Southey lived in Greta Hall, a house in Keswick in the Lake District of England, for 40 years, and during that time he shared his home with many beloved cats. His pet felines were often mentioned in his correspondence with friends and family, and his remarks highlighted his affection for his cat companions.

One such example is an excerpt from a letter he wrote to his friend Grosvenor Bedford, a fellow cat-lover. He describes the passing of his pet Rumpelstilzchen with sadness and humour:

Alas, Grosvenor, this day poor Rumpel was found dead, after a long and happy a life as cat could wish for, if cats form wishes on that subject. His full titles were: The Most Noble the Archduke Rumpelstilzchen, Marquis Macbum, Earl Tomlemagne, Baron Raticide, Waowhler, and Skaratch.

There should be a court-mourning in Catland, and if the Dragon (Bedford's cat) wear a black ribbon around his neck, or a band of crape a la militaire round one of his fore paws, it will be but a becoming mark of respect ... I believe we are each and all, servants included, more sorry for his loss, or rather more affected by it, than any one of us would like to confess.

The full breadth of Southey's creativity in naming his cats was also noted in the book *The Life and Correspondence of Robert Southey* (1850). His son Charles wrote about his father's inventiveness and amusement in bequeathing names and titles to his feline pets:

He rejoiced in bestowing upon them the strangest appellations; and it was not a little amusing to see a kitten answer to the name of some Italian singer or Indian chief, or hero of a German fairy tale, and often names and titles were heaped one upon another, till the possessor, unconscious of the honour conveyed, used to 'set up his eyes and look' in wonderment.

Calvin Coolidge (1872 – 1933)

Calvin Coolidge was an American attorney and politician who served as the 30th president of the United States from 1923 to 1929. When the Coolidge family moved to the White House from their farm in Vermont, their pet cat Tiger accompanied them.

The tomcat, who went by the nickname "Tige," was so well-trained that he would always come when the President called him. Tiger was also very laid-back and was often seen draped around Coolidge's neck as he walked around the White House.

On the night of March 20, 1924, Tiger escaped through an open door and ran off into the wilds of Washington, D.C.

The next morning, Coolidge realized his pet was missing when Tiger did not come when called.

Alarmed, the President dispatched his staff to thoroughly search the executive mansion and grounds for Tiger, but the cat could not be found. Coolidge then enlisted the help of the city police, who were put on high alert to look for Tiger. Unfortunately, they were also unable to find the errant feline.

Desperate, Coolidge then sent Secret Service agent James Haley to a local radio station to broadcast an urgent appeal for listeners to call the White House if they had any information about Tiger's whereabouts. Hundreds of people called the White House, some with tips about possible sightings of Tiger, and others with offers to give Coolidge a replacement cat.

Fortunately, the radio announcement was heard by Captain Edward Bryant, who found the lost cat sleeping in a navy building a half-mile from the White House. To verify the cat he found was indeed Coolidge's pet, Bryant called out the president's greeting, "Here, Tige!" and the animal immediately responded to his name and ran over to Bryant.

Tiger was happily reunited with Coolidge, but the president took steps to ensure Tiger could be identified should the cat wander off again. The cat was fitted with a collar and a personalized tag that read: "My Name is Tiger. I live at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

PAUL KLEE (1879 – 1940)

Paul Klee was a Swiss-born painter who was known for a unique style that was influenced by expressionism, cubism, surrealism, and orientalism. As a child, Klee was mainly oriented to music, having played the violin since he was eight. But in his teen years, he found that art allowed him freedom to develop his style and express his radical ideas.

Klee was a cat-lover throughout his life, and cats are featured in many of his works and photographs, and are mentioned in letters. His first cat Fritzzi was a model for his works in the 1920s, and Bimbo I and Bimbo II were his later inspirations. Klee produced as many as 28 works featuring cats.

Klee's cats took their rightful place *in* his artwork and *on* his artwork. According to American Art Collector Edward Warburg, when visiting Klee, he noticed Bimbo had started to walk across Klee's still-wet watercolour. Warburg tried to prevent the cat from leaving paw prints on the art work, but Klee insisted the cat be allowed to wander where it pleased. "Many years from now, one of your art connoisseurs will wonder how in the world I ever got that effect," Klee laughingly explained. 🐾



Paul Klee (above) had a life-long affiliation with cats. When he was a child, cats resided in his family home, and years later, his cat Bimbo resided in his art studio.

Below: Klee featured felines in many of his paintings, the most iconic being the piece titled *Cat and Bird*. The painting depicts the wide face of a stylized cat with a small bird perched on its forehead. The bird is literally on the cat's mind.



Animal Advocacy in Action



Snapple, seen above with Shaine, and Riley, below, have gained mobility thanks to having been fitted with customized wheelchairs.

In addition to helping them walk and to be pain-free, wheelchairs gives animals self-esteem, freedom, and independence.



Promoting animal welfare can be an incredibly rewarding experience, and there are countless and creative ways that people can be animal advocates. For Shaine Kilyun, a Minnesota high-school student, building wheelchairs for disabled animals has become a meaningful way for her to take action and help animals in need.

Shaine's quest to help handicapped animals began in December 2020 when she was just 15 years old. She learned how to build do-it-yourself animal wheelchairs from YouTube tutorials and, through trial and error, became proficient in manufacturing custom-designed mobility devices for disabled pets.

To date, Shaine has made 16 wheelchairs, and she has plans to build two more over the summer holidays. Her clients are diverse, including dogs of all sizes—from a Chihuahua to a Great Dane—as well as cats and a hedgehog. In addition, she made a sling for a duck.

The wheelchairs are time-consuming to build and each is one-of-a-kind. They have to be custom-fit, and measurements must be precise to ensure comfort and support for the recipient.

Shaine gives willingly of her time and makes no profit from her enterprise, charging only for the cost of materials. She helps as many animals as she can, and those who are have the most urgent needs are at the top of the waitlist.

"I first reach out to shelters and rescues who are in need of wheelchairs—they are my number one priority," she says. "If an animal is at risk for euthanasia due to a mobility issue, that is the device I work on first. I do not charge these places for the wheelchairs. Then come individual owners, in particular the elderly who cannot afford them for their furry companions."

One of Shaine's clients is Scooter, a young paraplegic dog who was rescued from Saudi Arabia via the Home For Life Animal Sanctuary, an organization that helps animals that are often considered unadoptable. Scooter had developed sores and lesions on his legs as a result of dragging his limbs along the ground. When Scooter received his wheelchair, he quickly adjusted to his new "legs" and, within minutes, he was happily running around. Shaine's wheelchair was life-saving and life-altering for Scooter.

Shaine's compassion and enthusiasm for helping animals is great, as is evident when she describes her activism. "I mainly focus on cats and dogs, but I am certainly open to other animals as well," she says. "I am always looking to expand my efforts to help as many as I possibly can.

"I find this experience extremely rewarding. I get to help improve and save lives, which is such a great feeling! The more I donate, the better I feel." 🐾

CANADA QUIZ How well do you really know Canada, eh?

1. Canada is home to the world's largest uninhabited island. Which one is it?

- a) Devon Island
- b) St. Paul Island
- c) Shediac Island
- d) Southwest Island

2. What do historians believe is the original meaning of the word Canada?

- a) Land of Lakes
- b) Village or settlement
- c) Homeland
- d) New Nation

3. Which animal was brought to Prince Edward Island and was not indigenous to the region?

- a) Beaver
- b) Striped skunk
- c) Red squirrel
- d) Snowshoe hare

4. What is the total number of time zones in Canada?

- a) Four
- b) Five
- c) Six
- d) Seven

5. Which of the following actors is NOT Canadian?

- a) Martin Short
- b) Michael Cera
- c) Jason Segel
- d) Seth Rogen

6. When Canada was founded in 1867, what was the country's national sport?

- a) Ice Hockey
- b) Basketball
- c) Cricket
- d) Lacrosse

7. What is the longest river system in Canada?

- a) St Lawrence River
- b) Niagara River
- c) Hudson River
- d) MacKenzie River

8. Which Canadian singer signed their first record deal for \$2 million at age 16?

- a) Justin Bieber
- b) Celine Dion
- c) Avril Lavigne
- d) Carly Rae Jepsen

9. What is the tallest mountain peak in Canada?

- a) Mount Logan
- b) Mount Fairweather
- c) North Twin
- d) Mount Caubvick

10. Which is the deepest lake in Canada?

- a) Quesnel Lake
- b) Lake Superior
- c) Great Slave Lake
- d) Lake Huron

11. The first Tim Horton's opened in which city?

- a) London
- b) Saskatoon
- c) Hamilton
- d) Winnipeg

12. Which province was the first to grant voting rights to women?

- a) Ontario
- b) Quebec
- c) Manitoba
- d) Nova Scotia

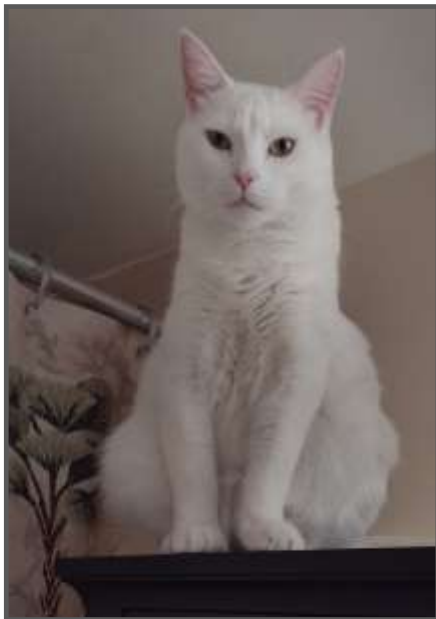
13. Which of the following is NOT a Canadian invention?

- a) Paint roller
- b) Peanut butter
- c) Electric wheelchair
- d) Cheese slicer

14. Eileen Edwards was born in Windsor, Ontario, and internationally she is known by what name?

- a) Luba
- b) Shania Twain
- c) Holly Cole
- d) Lara Fabian

Answers: 1. a) Devon Island 2. b) Village or Settlement 3. b) Striped Skunk 4. c) Six 5. c) Jason Segel 6. c) Cricket 7. d) Mackenzie River 8. c) Avril Lavigne 9. a) Mount Logan 10. d) Great Slave Lake 11. c) Hamilton 12. c) Manitoba 13. d) cheese slicer 14. d) Shania Twain



Rollie - Rocket Man

It has been over a year since I brought Rollie home. I had the option of fostering-to-adopt to see how things went but, after one day, I knew he was a good fit with me. I loved having him around.

I gave him the nickname Rocket because he moves as fast as a rocket. He is also rocket-fast when he is being naughty, and I have a very hard time trying to catch him.

Rollie has never been uncomfortable in his new home, he did not hide in fear from me, nor was he fearful of his new surroundings. In fact, he loves to play and explore. Rollie has helped my other cat, Zoie, become more social. And in return, she has taught him how to snuggle, and to not scratch the furniture—well, that's still a work in progress.

Rollie is fascinated with water and prefers drinking from the tap. He also likes to keep me company when I take a shower—that took some adjusting to!

Rollie waits patiently for me to come home from work and is the first to welcome me. He loves having people around and enjoys head pats and tummy rubs. My friends and family enjoy visiting because they get to see my cats.

Although he was a bit scrawny when I first brought him home, he has filled out nicely and is very happy, healthy, and affectionate. Thank you, Forgotten Ones, for bringing us all together! ~ Neil



Eggsy - An Egg-ceptional Match

Early this year I lost my sweet cat Forrest Gump, who was the centre of my little family. I have two other cats, Minu and Sasha, but I knew Forrest would want us to adopt another little guy.

I reached out to Forgotten Ones and inquired about one cat but, based on the information I provided, a cat named Eggs Benny was suggested for me. He was described as sweet in nature and very friendly. I was advised that he wasn't immediately available for adoption as he was quite sick with an upper respiratory illness.

When I met Eggsy (I renamed him for the character in the *Kingsman* movies), he jumped up on my lap, purred into my ear, and rubbed his face into my neck. I was immediately smitten!

I brought him home at the end of April and, although he still had some ongoing health issues, he was so full of life. He was immediately curious and excited to follow after Minu and Sasha. Now, Minu and Eggsy love to run and jump and chase each other, and they are always chirping. Sasha is quite elderly and prefers her own company or to be on my lap.

Eggsy loves to follow me around, but he moves so quietly that I have to be careful to avoid stepping on him. He chats a lot, and when he sleeps, he snores!!

Eggsy still requires medication but I believe that, in time, he will heal. Kudos to Laura for bringing Eggsy into my life—she is an excellent matchmaker. Although Eggsy has only been with me for a very short time, I can't see my life without him. I love him to the moon and back. ~ Stacey