



Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

Mewsletter

Fall 2024

TIME TO PAWS AND REFLECT



In our Spring Mewsletter, I discussed the positive impact a sense of community plays in a world that is very divided. As we near the end of 2024, the importance of community is still very relevant, because we continue to be inundated

with media reports that we are becoming more and more polarized—in our cities, across our country, and in our world. For that reason alone, we believe that Forgotten Ones' involvement in our community remains meaningful and important, as it reinforces the idea that we can unite behind such goals as animal advocacy.

As well as the *Psychology Today* article I mentioned in the Spring Mewsletter, there have been many studies and peer-reviewed papers that speak to the positive effects of community engagement on mental health. This sense of community can act as a safety net and provide crucial support during

challenging times. For example, when people bond over the topic of much-loved pets, it can play a significant role in fostering connections among individuals and strengthening community ties.

As a case in point, this past summer, our volunteers had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of animal enthusiasts at our fundraising bake sales, our BBQs, and our fundraising booth at the Newmarket Farmers' Market. These events truly highlighted that animal lovers, coming from very diverse backgrounds, share a connection.

Many of our adoptive families, as well as people who had adopted from other rescues, came to our events and shared photos and stories about their cats. In every instance, the conversation was the same: people's pets provided them with unconditional love and cherished companionship.

Rescuing cats in need will always be our charity's primary goal; however, bringing together the people in our community through a shared passion is also a significant achievement, and Forgotten Ones is proud of that noteworthy contribution.

~ Laura Wyatt, Director, Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

FEATURED FOSTER—GERDIE



Over the years, Forgotten Ones has had in our care hundreds of cats with medical or behavioural conditions that often made them overlooked for adoption. Fortunately, we find these cats foster homes and, like Gerdie, they have wonderful lives.

Gerdie was eight years old when she was returned to our rescue. She had a belligerent side, which

made her less suited for adoption. Happily, we found her a home with foster parents Bill and Gayle. They provided Gerdie with a great life for four years, until she passed this past summer. Gerdie became very bonded to Bill, and he describes their sweet relationship.

"When I first got Gerdie, she just sat in the bathroom doorway, not even moving to let me in to use it. In fact, she was so feral and territorial that I had to find another bathroom to use. After a while, she let me pat her and she purred for me—but only me. She would let my girlfriend pat her every now and then, but nothing to speak of.

"Gerdie was very feisty, loving, and a wonderful alarm clock. If it was time she felt you were to get up, and you were not getting up, she would meow and meow until you woke up.

"Gerdie was a joy to come home to every night, and she gave me the same amount of love I gave her." ~ Bill



Homeward Bound

In 2021, Laëtitia De Amicis moved with her family and three cats from Ambly-sur-Meuse, in the Orne region of France. The move was a significant transition for the family, as they were relocating more than 450 kilometres away to the city of Ginay in Normandy. Aware that their cats Felys, Crapaud, and Cocci could be disoriented in their new surroundings, the family decided their pets should be kept indoors. Unfortunately, their gray-and-white cat Cocci managed to get of the house and could not be found anywhere.

“We searched, we searched, we searched...I woke up the whole neighbourhood,” De Amicis told *Hellas* news. “Unfortunately, no one had seen the cat.”

The situation was very upsetting for the family and, to provide her children with some comfort and hope, Laëtitia told them she thought Cocci was probably trying to find her way to their former home in Ambly-sur-Meuse. At the time, De Amicis did not actually believe that was possible but, ironically, that is exactly what happened! Thirteen months after Cocci scampered out of her new home, she was found hundreds of kilometres away, just eight kilometres from the family’s previous residence.

PROOF POSITIVE

Above is a screen capture from the video call during which Bernard confirmed that their family pet Cocci had been found—13 months after she had disappeared and 450 kilometres from their home.

When Papa Amicis went to identify Cocci in the veterinary clinic where she was being treated, any doubts that Cocci was their long-lost pet were dispelled as the cat cuddled contentedly in his arms.

As further evidence of the cat’s identity, Bernard called the feline by several different names, but she responded only to Cocci.

Unbelievable Circumstances

As it happened, Cocci was found by a couple who discovered her hiding underneath a car. It was immediately evident to the rescuers that the animal had been homeless for a while and was in urgent need of medical care. They took the cat to a local veterinarian, where she received life-saving veterinary treatment. Cocci’s struggle to survive on her own had taken a toll on her, and she weighed less than a kilogram. If she hadn’t been rescued, she would not have survived much longer.

The couple posted a picture of Cocci on a missing-pets website called Pet Alert, in hopes of finding her family. By happenstance, Laëtitia saw the posting about a cat that had a similar appearance and age as Cocci, and the stray had been found in their former neighbourhood. Laëtitia contacted the cat’s rescuer straightaway to say she thought the feline was her lost cat, and she requested that a family member meet the cat in person for verification.

De Amicis sent her father Bernard to meet the rescued cat, although he was reluctant to go. Bernard did not think the found cat could be Cocci, as he believed the distance was too great for their cat to have travelled. However, he made the long trip to the veterinary clinic to ascertain if the cat was their missing pet—and it was! Bernard immediately called Laëtitia

with the happy news. “When I saw my dad cuddling my cat on the video call, I knew it was her,” Laëtitia said. “I recognized her straight away.

“I was with my daughter, and she looked at her and recognized her and burst into tears. I was also crying. My son was very sceptical until we went to pick her up. But as soon as we got there, she recognized us straight away. It’s unbelievable. I still can’t believe it.”

Home Again

Cocci needed time and extensive medical treatment to recover from her ordeal. She remained in the care of the veterinary clinic for an additional three weeks, until she was strong enough to make the journey back to her home.

Laëtitia described Cocci’s recovery: “She was less than one kilogram [when she was found]. She had fleas, worms, and an infection in her face. Since we brought her home, all is going well. She adapted again really well. She’s very cuddly.”

Animals’ Homing Instinct

Cocci’s wherewithal to travel hundreds of kilometres to find her way back to her previous neighbourhood is truly remarkable, and might have been due to an innate ability called *homing instinct*. Research indicates that homing behaviour in cats and other species enables them to return to a given place when displaced from it, often over great distances. In studying cats’ homing instincts, researchers believe that felines use the earth’s geomagnetic fields—potentially combined with scent cues—to locate their homes.

Interestingly, the theory that animals perceive Earth’s magnetic field was once dismissed as impossible by physicists and biologists alike. Over time, however, evidence from studies has indicated that animals do indeed perceive magnetic fields. It is now clear that many creatures, such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, use the Earth’s magnetic field to guide their behaviour.

Humpback whales, for example, have been tracked making a journey of more than 9,500 kilometres, from breeding areas in Brazil all the way to Madagascar.

Arctic terns are known to migrate the incredible distance of 40,000 kilometres. And each year, millions of Monarch butterflies leave their northern ranges and fly south to the oyamel fir forests near the Sierra Madre mountains in Mexico. Research indicates the butterflies navigate using a combination of the Earth’s magnetic field and the position of the sun.

Exactly how animals are able to perceive magnetic fields is still unknown and remains a mystery—just like Cocci’s journey! 🐾



The Long Journey Home

Ridley sea turtles are known for their innate ability to swim thousands of kilometres to lay their eggs in the same sand where they were born.

According to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, scientists theorize that sea turtles use two techniques to find their way back to their birth beach.

The first technique is using the Earth’s magnetic field to distinguish their global position by latitude and longitude. Secondly, sea turtles can imprint certain characteristics of their home beach, such as a distinctive smell.

FALL TRIVIA QUIZ - Try this fun autumn inspired quiz.

1. What pigment decreases in plants during the fall, making them lose their green colour?

- a. Chloroplast
- b. Chlorophyll
- c. Xanthophyll
- d. Carotenoids

2. In Ancient Greece, who was the Goddess of Harvest?

- a. Demeter
- b. Rhea
- c. Melaina
- d. Achelous

3. Dia de los Muertos is celebrated on November 1 and 2. For this celebration, which flower helps guide souls back to their family alters?

- a. Marigolds
- b. Daisies
- c. Roses
- d. Dahlias

4. Which language gave us the term *autumn*?

- a. German
- b. Italian
- c. English
- d. French

5. Who wrote the classic horror novel *Frankenstein*?

- a. Edith Clark
- b. Steven King
- c. Mary Shelley
- d. Richard Matheson

6. In which country did Halloween originate?

- a. Romania
- b. China
- c. Mexico
- d. Ireland

7. Since 2013, GivingTuesday is held in the fall and is dedicated to giving back. How much money was raised in Canada in 2023?

- a. 10 million dollars
- b. 8 million dollars
- c. 13 million dollars
- d. 9 million dollars

8. What is the record weight for the world's heaviest pumpkin?

- a. 1,789 pounds
- b. 2,312 pounds
- c. 2,749 pounds
- d. 3,120 pounds

9. What root vegetable was traditionally used to carve a Jack-O-Latern?

- a. Turnip
- b. Potato
- c. Squash
- d. Rutabaga

10. Oktoberfest takes place in each autumn in which German city?

- a. Berlin
- b. Munich
- c. Hamburg
- d. Stuttgart

11. Black cats are sometimes associated with Halloween and bad luck. In which country are they considered good luck?

- a. Denmark
- b. Japan
- c. Wales
- d. Australia

12. In addition to deciduous trees shedding their leaves in the autumn, which species of trees sheds its needles in the fall?

- a. Tamarack or Larch
- b. Blue Spruce
- c. Douglas Fir
- d. Lodgepole Pine

13. What famous poet wrote the poem "To Autumn"?

- a. Walt Whitman
- b. William Wordsworth
- c. John Keats
- d. William Butler Yeats

14. "Cornucopia" means what in Latin?

- a. Horn of plenty
- b. Grateful feasts
- c. A copious harvest
- d. Bountiful

ANSWERS: 1. b. Chlorophyll, 2. a. Demeter, 3. a. Marigolds, 4. d. French, 5. c. Mary Shelley, 6. d. Ireland, 7. c. 13 million dollars, 8. c. 2749 lbs, 9. a. Turnip, 10. b. Munich, 11. b. Japan, 12. a. Tamarack or Larch, 13. c. John Keats, 14. a. Horn of plenty



HOW DO I LOVE THEE? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS!

In Close Proximity

A cat who chooses to sleep on or close to you is showing their love and trust in you.

Even if they choose to lie just out of reach for petting, this means that they feel safe and trust that you will protect them.

Lying close to you is also an indication that they will protect you if danger appears.



In the cat world, there are many ways that felines express their affection for you, including these nine displays of love.

Purring

The most obvious and audible way cats show their love and contentment is through purring. When cats climb into your lap and purr blissfully, particularly while you are petting them, it's a delightful sign that they adore you. Coupled with a relaxed body posture, your kitty is saying, "I'm happy and safe with you." Purring is usually an indication that your cat is feeling well physically, but it is important to be aware that it can also occur when a cat is sick or in pain.

Slow Blinking

Eyes are said to be the windows to the soul, and cats use eye contact with their people to show adoration. Frequently, cats will directly stare into the eyes of those they trust and love. Sometimes they will make eye contact with lowered eyelids and steady, slow blinks. This is considered a feline version of a kiss, and you can even try slow blinking to show love back to your pet.

Headbutting

Cats might bump their head against you or rub their cheeks against you to show love for you. This social behaviour is formed in kittenhood as a way for kittens to establish bonds with their mother and siblings, and is also a way they connect with humans. Headbutting people is an attempt to mark them with the cat's scent and to claim them as one of their own.

Grooming

A cat is hard-wired to associate licking with caring, in a behaviour learned from their mothers, who groom their kittens from birth. It is only natural for them to carry on sharing the love with those around them, whether they come in feline or human form.

Kneading

Cats often knead with their front paws, which is a behaviour that begins in kittenhood and is associated with nursing on their mother. The action of pushing out and pulling in its front paws against a surface is believed to bring comfort to the animal by the release of endorphins, which reduces stress and promotes relaxation. Cats will often start kneading when they are being gently petted to display their contentment.

Showing Their Belly

Exposing the belly and/or sensitive parts is a very vulnerable moment for your cat, so when your cat rolls over in front of you, it's a good sign. This action is your pet's way of saying, "I trust you!" and indicates your cat is happy to be with you.

However, you should be aware that displaying his belly is not necessarily your pet's invitation to pet that area. The hair follicles on a cat's belly are hypersensitive and, for some cats, a tummy rub can be overstimulating to the point of being painful.

Following You

Following someone around is a completely normal behaviour for cats, especially when they have a close bond with their human. When your cat is following you everywhere you go, it's likely because they adore and trust you, and want to be around you.

If you have multiple members of your family but the cat follows only you, it means you're their favourite human. It also means your cat has identified you as the primary source of food, affection, security, and other resources.

Greeting You at the Door

Your cat is trying to show you that they missed you when they greet you at the door. This is often followed by walking between your legs and curling their tail around your legs.

Bringing You "Presents"

Cats are natural-born hunters. Even our domesticated felines retain the instincts of their wild ancestors, which include stalking, pouncing, and capturing prey. When your cat brings you a toy, it's a manifestation of their hunting prowess. They see you as a member of their "pride" and are essentially sharing their hunting successes with you.

This instinct is deeply rooted in their DNA and is a way for them to bond with you. 🐾



Love That Knows No Bounds — or Boundaries!

Some cats are so intent on keeping you company that they ignore social etiquette and will accompany you into the bathroom.

"Your cat can follow you around for a variety of reasons," says cat behaviour expert and best-selling author Pam Johnson-Bennett.

"The number-one reason is that you have a strong bond, and your cat finds comfort being near you."



A Purr-fect Pose

When Ziggy the “honourary student,” felt it was his turn for a school photo, he effortlessly jumped up on the photo chair, looked straight at the camera, and got his picture snapped. Once finished, he promptly left the room.

Ziggy’s owner Emma Roberts admitted she bought a copy of Ziggy’s school photo, which will be featured on her mantel-piece, right beside her daughters’ photos.

Apparently, that’s not the only place Ziggy’s photo will be displayed. Head teacher Mark Biltcliffe said, “He thinks he’s a pupil so it’s fitting he’s had his own photo. I think it’ll be put up on the staff noticeboard.”

A PICTURE SAYS IT ALL!

The Roberts family, who live in Buckley, a community in Flintshire, Wales, adopted a cute-looking orange-and-white cat named Ziggy in 2019. Right from the start, Ziggy’s impish nature was evident, and his rambunctious behaviour was so challenging that the family contemplated returning him to the animal rescue centre. His adoptive mother Emma said that Ziggy’s bad behaviour included pulling the hair of her daughters Meghan and Chloe, and “trashing the house.”

Fortunately, Ziggy calmed down somewhat and settled in with the family’s daily routine, which included accompanying Meghan and Chloe on their walk to Drury Primary School. However, Ziggy was definitely an unconventional cat and, when the trio arrived at school, he refused to remain outside the building. The incorrigible cat would escort the children right into the school building.

Emma said that Ziggy was not welcome in the school initially and, when her pet cat was discovered in cupboards, he would immediately be removed from the premises. According to head teacher Mark Biltcliffe, the school staff were continually booting Ziggy off the school property, but that proved to be

ineffective. Biltcliffe said that it had been very tough trying to stop Ziggy wandering into the school, so they conceded and deemed the cat an “accepted visitor.”

“It’s difficult to keep a cat off the school grounds,” Biltcliff said, “even if you wanted to. But, thankfully, he’s one of the nicest cats I’ve ever come across. It’s his second home, I think.”

He added that Ziggy’s presence is actually a positive influence. He joked that Ziggy’s regular school attendance record is “an example to pupils.” “We’ve not been looking to have a school cat or dog really, but he chose us.”

A School Tradition with Catitude

Ziggy was able to ingratiate himself into all aspects of school life, including school traditions. In September 2023, he took it upon himself to participate in the Drury Primary School Photo Day, which turned out to be a complete surprise to Emma.

The day the children’s photos were delivered to the parents, Emma was looking forward to seeing an endearing portrait of Chloe posing for her yearly class picture. When she opened the envelope, she was more than shocked to see another family member’s photo was included in the package.

“Chloe handed the letter to me and I expected it to be her photos,” Emma told local Welsh news, *The Leader*. “When I

looked [at the pictures], I was just in floods of laughter and so were the other mums standing by me.” The cause of the group’s laughter was that, along with Chloe’s class picture was a photo of Ziggy! He was perfectly posed and looking directly into the camera.

Wondering how the feline photo shoot had come about, Emma queried Chloe. “I asked her what had gone on and she said he just jumped on the chair. He didn’t need any encouragement, he just got up there for a photo.”

Emma shared the incident on Facebook with an opener that read, “If a cat could be the village idiot, then that cat belongs to me. He is ridiculously embarrassing.” Her Facebook post was liked more than 30,000 times and Ziggy’s amusing antic was featured in several publications, including *People* magazine.

When contacted recently to find out how Ziggy is doing, Emma response was, “He’s fine, bonkers as always!” She also sent an accompanying photo of Ziggy (right) with the comment “Currently having a rest after a non-stop week!” 🐾



Doodle is a Reason to Celebrate the Season!

At this time of year, we make our annual appeal for donations to support our efforts to help cats and kittens in need. We are extremely grateful that there are so many animal enthusiasts that believe in the season of giving and make a donation to our charity during the holiday season. Forgotten Ones volunteers rescued many cats from homelessness in 2024, including Doodle and his family. Helping Doodle and his siblings was only possible thanks to the generosity of animal advocates.



Ways You Can Support Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue

PARTICIPATE in GIVINGTUESDAY On December 3, 2024, join the global generosity movement by making a donation to Forgotten Ones Cat Rescue. On the days leading up to GivingTuesday, visit our Facebook page, where we will feature cats that will benefit from your contribution.

PURCHASE In-Honour Holiday Cards For many of our supporters, Forgotten Ones In-Honour cards have become a traditional and meaningful gift for family and friends. Cards are available for a minimum donation of \$10.00 per card.

Holiday cards can be purchased at Tru Pet, 10520 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, (905) 508-1112.



ATTEND a Fundraising Event Forgotten Ones will be at the Newmarket Farmers Market on November 23, 2024, and our very popular Holiday Bake Sale will take place at Tru Pet on December 14, 2024.

For updates about our 2024 Fall Fundraising Campaign, visit our Facebook Page. We thank you for your support and wish you a Happy Holiday Season!

Donations Can be made at canadahelps.org



Takoda and Jacy—Embody Love and Lore

When one of our FOCR rescue cats passed and we had a bit of a hole in our hearts and home, we knew we were ready to take in another furry friend from FOCR. In 2022, Takoda (meaning “Friend to Everyone” in the Sioux language) came into our lives. Then, when the second of our original FOCR cats passed, Jacy also came to us from Forgotten Ones. Jacy’s name is also based on indigenous lore, and means “The Moon.”

It was as if Takoda and Jacy had always lived here. Both adjusted with no problems at all and, right from their introduction to one another, they got along with just a bit of the expected struggle of proving themselves to each other.



Jacy loves to climb right up on top of me to give full-on head-butt-style cuddles that will often knock the glasses right off of my face.

Takoda will climb up on our laps or beside us and proceed to make biscuits, as the action is known in cat-loving circles, all the while drooling like a baby. I read this is a sign of being very comfortable and relaxed and/or just forgetting to swallow. When we find a wet spot on our blankets or clothes, we know we are loved.

The two of them together are a great pair, always chasing each other about and playing. They don’t cuddle up together, but where one is, the other will always be very close by. We LOVE them both so much!

~ Crystal & Todd



Niko—A Whole Lot to Love

For nearly three years, I had been searching for a companion for my nine-year-old female cat Josephine. I had tried two adult cats as well as kittens as companions for Josephine, but she is such a princess that she rejected them. One day, I was going by Tru Pet and decided to inquire about the cats they have for adoption, and that is when I met Laura, who was very knowledgeable about cats. I told her about my problem, and she immediately recommended Niko, because his age was so close to my Josephine and because of his calm temper. When I saw his picture, I fell in love—he was all white, and huge!

I brought Niko home, and it only took seven days for the two cats to become the best of friends. Niko integrated beautifully, and he and Josephine became like an old married couple. They would eat and play together and shared window time. They would even split their breakfast with one

another by eating half out of each other’s dishes.

Niko has decided on my husband as his own person, but he is a hit with everyone—my uncle, my mom—everyone just loves him. He has taken to the attention rather well and I don’t think I have ever seen a cat so happy to receive so much attention. He has a larger-than-life personality, and his extra toes and fingers are loved by everyone who has met him.

Here we are nearly a year later, and Josephine and Niko are inseparable. They are as thick as thieves, playing all night and learning habits from one another. It is the funniest and cutest thing. Thank you, Forgotten Ones, for your expertise in matching him so well with us. ~ Leila & Family