



Fall/Winter 2017

The Cat Connection

The newsletter for North Toronto Cat Rescue

Our Temporary New Home

After nine years at our former location, the NTCR shelter was forced to move as the property was being redeveloped. This was a sad and stressful time, as we said goodbye to our old home and scrambled to relocate over 120 cats and shelter supplies before the June 30th deadline.

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers and helpful media coverage, the NTCR shelter has now temporarily relocated to Thornhill.

Sadly, this breathing room is only temporary. Our new lease runs until June 2018, and renewal depends on permits and any redevelopment plans for our new landlord.

Currently, basement renovations are underway and we're sheltering approximately 150 felines. But with the upcoming cold winter (and the following spring kitten boom), we anticipate the nine-room home to soon be filled to its 200-cat capacity. We live in hope of not having to move again because our furry friends' lives are precarious until NTCR can find a long-term home.

Our goal is to acquire our own shelter, but without raising the \$1.5-million

needed for this venture, we would struggle to secure the land in this heated real estate market.

We are seeking a property owner who will agree to a long-term lease that'll afford us the stability to rescue, rehabilitate, and provide necessary veterinary care to homeless and abandoned cats. If you're aware of any available commercially-zoned properties, please call Donna Cox at (905) 940-2287.

Meanwhile, we need donations to raise \$45,000 to cover rent and moving costs that have greatly impacted our operating budget. Please consider helping us using the donation information on the last page or through our website www.northtorontocatrescue.com.

Moreover, with the new location, we've lost volunteers who couldn't commute. Since we're a 100% volunteer-run organization, if you'd like help us please contact us at volunteer@northtorontocatrescue.com.

At NTCR, we will continue to go the extra mile for our feline friends and never give up – please help us keep our mission alive.



Wishlist Store

With a shelter of over 100 cats, we go through a lot of supplies! Some items we need:

- Clumping cat litter (any brand).
- Wellness canned wet food (turkey, chicken, or herring).
- Natural Balance canned wet food (turkey & giblets).
- First Mate canned wet food (turkey, chicken, or tuna) - available exclusively at Global.
- Taste of the Wild dry food (Rocky Mountain feline formula).
- Performatrin Ultra dry food (chicken & brown rice) - available exclusively at Pet Valu.

If you would like to donate items to us, please call (905) 940-CATS (2287) to coordinate a drop-off time. You can also visit the NTCR website to donate funds to our **Wishlist Store**.



Run Forrest Run!



On June 19, 2017, NTCR welcomed Rosie, a mother cat and her two little kittens to the shelter, and soon enough they assimilated to life at the shelter. In late July, one of our volunteers found Rosie in the process of giving birth. Yes, she was already pregnant again!

Amongst the litter of newborns was a special little kitten who we named "Forrest". He was born with a deformity -- his two hind paws were bent backwards, with pads pointing upwards.

Our hearts cried seeing little Forrest, but at NTCR, we believe every cat deserves a chance at living and we refuse to abandon even the most challenging cases. Our volunteers immediately rushed the kitten to our local vet (who thankfully, also shares our belief!), and after a little brainstorming, came up with an ingenious way to help little Forrest's tiny legs -- supportive splints created using paper clips!

Over the next month, little Forrest visited his vet regularly to have the splints changed and adjusted as he grew. His limbs now point forwards and downwards, and Forrest is now able to walk and play with his other siblings!

Seeing our kittens recover and live more fulfilling lives is what is most rewarding for our NTCR volunteers. As Tom Hanks famously quoted in the Forrest Gump movie, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." When Rosie came into our shelter, we certainly didn't expect the surprises that would come with her.

How glorious it was to see our little Forrest run!

Getting on The Right Side



NTCR's Donna Cox with Priya Rajan, founder of The Right Side

Opened in September 2017, **The Right Side** offers a curated selection of ethically-made, cruelty-free handmade items from talented makers and artists in ceramics, jewelry, fiber/textiles, and woodworking. Founder, Priya Rajan, first ventured into the world of fashion through her vegan handbag line, **Meter by Metre**, designing stylish products made of biodegradable waxed canvas and upholstery ends.

A firm believer in designing quality products that have no dependence on animals and minimal impact on the environment, Priya's new permanent store, The Right Side, allows customers to shop guilt-free, offering products that are:

- Vegan: free of animal fibers including wool, leather, and silk.
- Sweatshop-free: most sourced designs are from Canada and the United States; for items produced in Asia, Priya ensures workers are paid a fair wage for their craftsmanship.
- Environmentally-friendly: using quality materials that offer versatile designs that can be worn season to season.

A long-time supporter of the NTCR, Priya has dedicated a special Charity Corner in her store, where 100% of the proceeds go to our shelter. There are tons of delightful handmade wares for pet lovers and their furry friends including household items such as hand-painted mugs and wine glasses, necklaces, cushions, coasters, and oven mitts. Some of our favorite pieces include the adorable faux leather key chains (\$10), the cutest bandana collars for cats (\$20), and whimsical totes perfect for the market (\$30).

As The Right Side looks to expand, they are also looking for graphic artists to help create new designs for products. Please email info@therightsideboutique.ca to contribute to the cause.

We are incredibly grateful to Priya for her continued support and love her new store! Holiday shopping just got easier!

Where to find them:

2097 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
www.therightsideboutique.ca





FeLV is not a death sentence -- we can live happily ever after

Imagine if you were diagnosed with leukemia and the doctor's response is to tell family members to put you down.

Unfortunately, this is the bleak outcome for many cats diagnosed with the feline leukemia virus (FeLV). Sadly, the unnecessary euthanization is largely due to the virus being misunderstood. Feline leukemia is very different from the human version of the disease. For cats, it simply means they have the virus and not a full-blown disease that requires treatment.

Cornell University's **Feline Health Centre** explains the following about FeLV:

- Transfer between cats occurs through bite wounds or from an infected mother to her kittens; it's rare that the virus is passed through shared litter boxes or feeding dishes.
- While the virus can be secreted in saliva, urine or feces, it only survives a few hours outside of their feline host.
- There is a vaccine available, although it is not 100% effective.
- The best way to protect your pet is preventing their exposure to

FeLV-infected cats; keeping them indoors is recommended and if there are infected cats in the household, it's best to house them separately.

What Does It Mean For Humans?

Researchers have conducted tests for over a decade and have found no conclusive evidence that FeLV can be transmitted to humans or other animal species. Accordingly, when caring for our furry friends, there's little to fear.

What Does It Mean For Cats?

Ultimately, a cat's lifespan is dependent on whether the virus actually turns into a disease. Although the virus does not require any special medication, ensuring their system is strong and healthy will increase their chances of leading a long life - proper nutrition and exercise is crucial.

At NTCR, we've had a history of sheltering cats with FeLV and most have lived long vigorous lives. In 2017, three of our FeLV infected cats found their fur-ever homes: Desiree (9 years old), Frosty, and Brownie.

Diesel and Conner Update



As featured in a 2016 newsletter, Linda and Kevin, adopted two FeLV cats (Diesel and Conner). The pet owners admit to having some hesitation, since they were concerned about the cats' life spans hoping to spend many years with them.

However, once Linda and Kevin walked into NTCR's FeLV room, they knew Conner was the one: he was affectionate and stole the show, they could not say no. Wanting Conner to have a friend, they also adopted Diesel.

Since then, they doing great, well-adjusted to their new home and leading normal lives. In May, Conner was diagnosed with feline diabetes, but within two weeks of receiving insulin treatment, he went into remission and is now as playful as ever.

"We have had many cats over the years and these guys are no different than the others. They eat, play, and are affectionate. They are not on medication. They are amazing!" says Linda.

When your feline friend is diagnosed with FeLV, it's not a death sentence. Keep them indoors and follow healthy habits, they can lead long fulfilling lives.

"...these guys are no different than the others. They eat, play, and are affectionate. They are amazing!"

The Cat Connection

In May, our long-time NTCR volunteer, Brenda, created the "Look At That Face" fund-raising contest where pet owners could win a custom painting of their feline family members. Applicants were asked to submit a photo of their beautiful cats along with a \$10 entrance fee that went towards helping NTCR's fundraising efforts for a new, permanent home. Voters also paid to cast their picks. With 14 contenders, the votes came in fast and furious with over 1,150 casted!



We would like to thank Sue Naus who donated her incredible skills for the custom artwork. If you would like to commission your own painting, please contact Sue at (416) 385-2415.

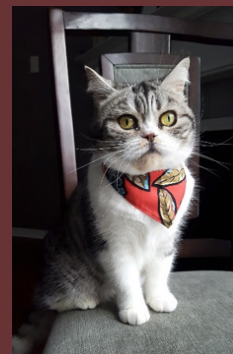
A picture is worth a thousand words ... and about \$1,288 in your support!



First place:

Toby

Won a 16x20 painting
valued at \$500.



Second place:

Stella

Won \$100
Pet Valu gift card.



Third place:

Merlin & Mowgli

Won a \$50
Pet Valu gift card.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to everyone that participated for your support!

Aren't the stripes on Wally absolutely beautiful?

Wally is one of NTCR's handsome FeLV cats available for adoption.

Can you **spot the ten differences** between the pictures?

If you're stumped, visit our website for the answers.



North Toronto Cat Rescue Donation Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of : CAD \$ _____ *

* A tax receipt can be issued for donations of \$20 and above.
Would you like a tax receipt (check one)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I'm also interested in volunteering with NTCR.
Please contact me via email or phone.

Please send cheque and completed donation form to:

North Toronto Cat Rescue,
28 John Stiver Crescent, Markham, ON L3R 9A8

Note: This address is for mail only and is not the location of the rescue shelter. Thank you for your support!