

Spring/Summer 2018 | Volume 25

The Cat Connection

The North Toronto Cat Rescue newsletter



Canadian Registered Charity
No. 83607 9673 RR0001

The Story of Rumtum



When it comes to saving the lives of our furry friends, we're fortunate to have the support of the community and our volunteers.

In December, a couple noticed a large, long-haired cat shivering cold in the outdoors. It appeared to have an eye infection and was noticeably scared.

Knowing the cat wouldn't survive the harsh winter, they coaxed the cat into their home to provide him food and a temporary warm shelter. The following month, the cat was picked up by an NTCR volunteer and brought to the shelter for further medical attention and the hope of finding a permanent home.

We welcomed him and named him Rumtum!

Our vet determined that although the tabby was only three years old, he was afflicted with a hernia and, for reasons unknown, had a stub for a tail.

Over several weeks, Rumtum was treated

and cared for until he became healthy again. He proved to be a sweet, gentle and shy personality, and while he didn't necessarily rush to humans, he did enjoy being petted, even letting familiar volunteers hold him. It goes to show, not all outdoor cats are "feral" - they can learn to trust and love human companions.

With his wounds healed, Rumtum ran freely around his room at the shelter, his long handsome coat soft and gleaming. He adapted wonderfully to being an indoor cat and played nicely with other cats. It's was a lot of fun watching this large bundle of fur chase and tumble after toys!

Our shelter volunteers have watched Rumtum morph from a sick and scared kitty to a lovable and friendly cat.

When he was adopted in February, the volunteers couldn't be happier - in a few short months he was rescued, rehabilitated, and adopted. Although he'll be sorely missed, we're so happy he found his forever home!



The 2nd Catnip Bowl was a Strike!

Cat lovers and their friends and family rolled their way into Playtime Bowl & Entertainment on November 16, 2017 to attend NTCR's second Catnip Bowl. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the 49 participants and to everyone who couldn't attend but still showed their support by buying raffle tickets - we are so grateful for your kindness, love and generosity. With your support we generated \$2,100 of net proceeds that will go towards operating our shelter!

During the event, we screened a short film featuring two of NTCR's furry friends, Munchkin & Lucky. After the video, there were a few people who got "dust in their eyes" but were glad to hear about the happy endings from NTCR's work. To assist in Munchkin's vet bills, Not Sharing donated cupcakes with all sales proceeds going to NTCR.

What a great night! Join our [Facebook group](#) to be notified about future events!



NTCR: A Hidden Gem for Cat Lovers

There's a saying that goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." Just imagine all the hands required to care for hundreds of cats! NTCR is a volunteer-run organization. The majority of our musCATeers (what we lovingly call our volunteers) are Cat Caregivers or Feeders who provide daily attention to our furry friends.

We asked one of our volunteers what led her to NTCR.

Emanuela C.

"I started volunteering at the North Toronto Cat Rescue in Fall 2017. After the loss of my beloved cat in September 2017, I've been actively looking for a place where I could be in direct contact with our feline friends, looking at city-run shelters and other venues, before coming across this fabulous organization.

I have been a cat-lover for as long as I can remember. When I was a little girl, I always wanted a kitten but was never allowed to have one at home. As an adult, I started adopting kitties as soon as I could afford it; together with my husband, I had three wonderful furry friends over several years that I loved very much!

When I joined the North Toronto Cat Rescue, I soon found myself surrounded by like-minded individuals. All volunteers are loving and caring people, who do their best to make our resident cats comfortable until they find their permanent homes.

Every time I'm able to help I feel a sense of fulfillment that makes my day a better day!"



What is High-Rise Syndrome?

As cities increase in density, High-Rise Syndrome (HRS) is a danger to cats when they fall from two stories or higher including the injuries they sustain.

HRS occurs due to two misconceptions:

1) Cats can't determine heights. Cats are playful creatures and when excited can become bold and leap from furniture to the wall without much thought – especially younger cats. One false move or miscalculated step and they can easily fall over the balcony.

2) Cats land on their feet. While jumping, a cat will move its body to steady itself and doesn't necessarily mean they land directly on their paws. Even if the balcony is only

one story high, they could injure their legs or pelvis if their legs are separated too much.

In the summer, ensure there's sufficient water and adequate shade to protect their paws from the hot floor. While the warm weather is a great opportunity to let your cats enjoy the sun, make sure you're aware of HRS and keep your furry friend inside and safe.

Pet owners with balconies should, therefore, be diligent:

- Let them out only if your balcony is enclosed and reinforced with a strong mesh
- Place them in a harness that won't extend to the railings, and ensure it's fastened securely to an immovable object.

Capturing the Pet Perfect Photo

We all want to capture our feline friends at their quirkiest and cutest, but getting the right picture can be downright hard!

Alex L., a former photographer turned hobbyist (and NTCR supporter!), provided a few tips to help increase your chances of scoring that coveted picture. "It's easier to photograph cats with a DSLR over a compact digital camera as it shoots faster," says Alex, "but today, digital and smartphone cameras are so advanced, that with a little patience and practice, you can snap some great shots."

Tip #1: Grab a zoom lens to get up close

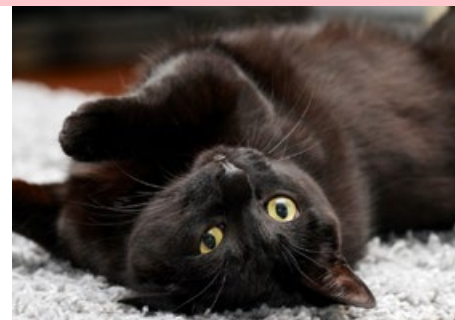
To not intimidate the cats, Alex used a telephoto lens to provide some distance between him and his photo subjects. He also used a flash unit to "freeze" the subject and prevent blurry pictures. Although smartphone cameras have come a long way, their zoom function and flash lighting don't offer the same photo quality as a DSLR or regular compact camera.



See the difference? The picture on the left is taken with an iPhone 8, while on the right, with a DSLR camera;; both from the same distance.

Tip #2: Move around

Experiment with different heights and stand in different locations to see what works. As Alex cheerily suggests, "Don't be afraid to get low and get dirty!" If you can only get one snap, it's best to be eye level with the cat ... they tend to look friendlier. Try kneeling or lying on the ground, or standing on a step ladder to look them in the eye.



Tip #3: And sometimes ... stay still!

Younger cats love to move around and play, and it can be challenging to get the right shot when you're both moving! In times like this, pick a spot, stay still and wait for the picture ... and the curious minds ... to come to you!



Share Your Photos!

Show off your photography skills and tag your cat photos with the hashtag [#myntcrat](#) for a chance to be featured on NTCR's social media channels.

Upcoming Events

Did the Catnip Bowl sound fun? Come join us at some of these upcoming events – it would be paw-some to see our supporters in person!

Pet Valu Pet Appreciation Month

When: Saturdays and Sundays in April (excluding April 1, 2018)
Where: 5853 Yonge St., North York

Pet Valu National Adoption Weekend

When: April 21 and 22, 2018
Where: 13075 Yonge St., Richmond Hill and 1410 Major Mackenzie Dr. W., Vaughan (Sunday only)

Aurora Chamber Street Festival

When: June 3, 2018
Where: On Yonge St., between Wellington St. & Murray Dr., Aurora

Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival

When: June 30 and July 1, 2018
Where: Off Main Street at Memorial Park (2 Park Dr., Whitchurch-Stouffville)

33rd Annual Veg Food Fest

When: September 7-9, 2018
Where: Harbourfront Center, 235 Queens Quay W, Toronto

Thornhill Village Festival

When: September 15, 2018
Where: On Yonge St., between Centre St. and John St., Thornhill

First Annual NTCR Gala

When: October 2018
Where: For event updates, send an email to events@northtorontocatrescue.com.

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Just for fun!

Just look at this clowder of cats! Can you spot the nine differences between the two photos? 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 is a mailing address only and is not the location of the rescue shelter. Thank you for your support!