

Winter 2018 | Volume 26

# The Cat Connection

The North Toronto Cat Rescue newsletter



Canadian Registered Charity  
No. 83607 9673 RR0001

## Happy Holidays

*from your friends at North Toronto Cat Rescue*

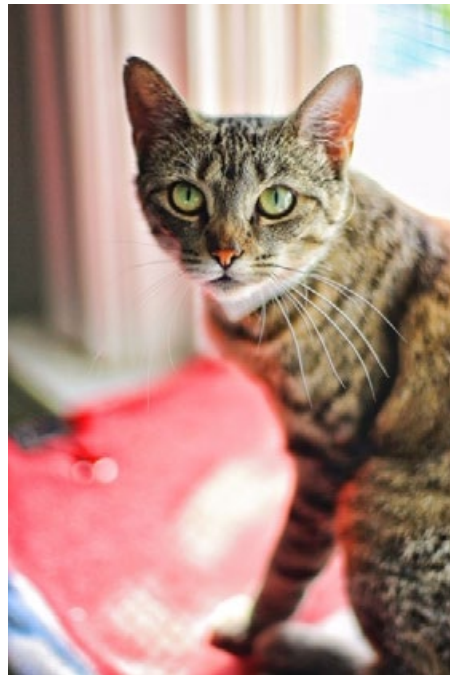


## A Happy Holiday for Holly

As we're reaching for parkas and toques to protect ourselves against winter weather, take a moment to think of all the homeless cats whose lives are at stake, scrounging for food and shelter as they try to escape the elements and predators. For injured cats, the chance of survival decreases dramatically.

Sweet little Holly was fortunate to be rescued by Kevin and Cathy at their farm in Nobleton, ON. She was believed to have had a violent encounter with another animal, leaving her with giant teeth marks on her leg and side. Subsequently abandoned, Holly somehow managed to land on the farm where her rescuers first spotted her from afar. They began to leave food for her on their porch, watching with broken hearts as she slowly dragged herself onto the property to eat and drink.

After building a little trust, Kevin and Cathy were able to trap Holly and bring



her to NTCR, where we took her for immediate medical attention. A trip to our vet revealed that the wounds on her back and her hind leg were severely

infected, impacting the rest of her body. She would likely have passed away had she not been brought in. Following many medical visits, antibiotics, and physical therapy, timid Holly was soon on her way back to recovery. At the shelter, she would lie quietly on her bed and welcome a head pat or two, as our Cat Caregivers cleaned her cage. After a few weeks, our volunteers encouraged her to exercise her leg, which she started slowly by stretching. What a joy it was to see her eventually jump onto a window ledge! We were even happier when Holly was adopted in September.

Domestic cats are indoor animals, and it is immensely difficult for them to survive Canada's harsh winter. Not every cat will be lucky enough to find caring rescuers like Kevin and Cathy. Over the last 30 years, NTCR has saved over 4,000 lives, but there are many more still hoping to be rescued. We can only continue to do this with your help as a donor or volunteer.



Join NTCR on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for all the updates on our special kitties, upcoming events, care tips and much more:



[www.facebook.com/ntcr.shelter](http://www.facebook.com/ntcr.shelter)



[@ntcr.shelter](https://www.instagram.com/ntcr.shelter)



[@NTCRRescue](https://twitter.com/NTCRRescue)

Visit: [www.northtorontocatrescue.com](http://www.northtorontocatrescue.com) | Call: (905) 940-CATS (2287)

## Volunteer Spotlight: From Feeling Guilty to Loving It!

We caught up with one of our Muscateers to see what inspired them to start volunteering at NTCR.



### Jenn W.

“ I used to only donate money, telling myself that I’m helping financially and that’s sufficient. Then I adopted Kiwi and Taco, two adorable kittens that continue to bring joy into our household. I imagined their lives if a volunteer hadn’t trapped them to save them from the elements, a foster parent hadn’t socialized them and taught them trust, or the daily volunteers didn’t clean and feed them at the shelter. Would they still be loving cats?

That’s when I decided donating wasn’t enough and became a cat caregiver. At first, I begrudgingly went in on Sunday – I hated chores, and now I’m doing it elsewhere! As I connected to the cats, learning their names and temperaments, my feelings changed – I wasn’t just cleaning but genuinely caring for them.

I’ve also put my professional skills to use by organizing newsletter publications and coordinating volunteers for Pet Valu events – avenues to raise awareness so NTCR can continue to save, socialize, and shelter cats that will bring joy to many more households. ”

We all have our reasons for why we volunteer. If you’d like to join the Muscateers or want more information, please visit our website [www.northtorontocatrescue.com](http://www.northtorontocatrescue.com)

## This season, shop ...and you’ll be helping NTCR!

Congested parking lots? Crowds of shoppers? No, thank you!

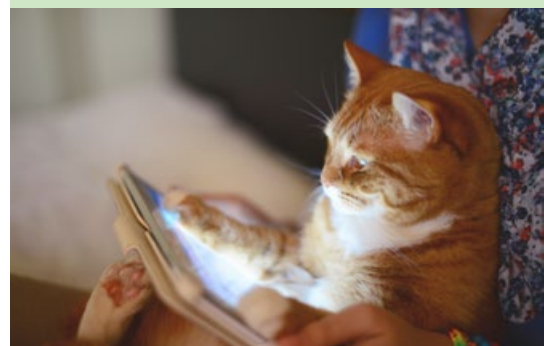
Many of us already shop online for gifts and daily items. Did you know that by shopping on [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca), you can also help support NTCR? And the best part – there’s no additional cost to you!

Since launching our Amazon affiliate link in October 2017, our supporters have helped generate over \$850 for the shelter.

Visit [northtorontocatrescue.com](http://northtorontocatrescue.com), click the **Shop Amazon button** and complete a purchase. That’s it!



## Go Green!



Help us decrease printing and postage costs, and help the environment, by going paperless and digital.

Don’t worry, you won’t miss out on our newsletters -- you’ll still receive a digital copy via email.

Simply let us know by emailing [newsletter@northtorontocatrescue.com](mailto:newsletter@northtorontocatrescue.com)

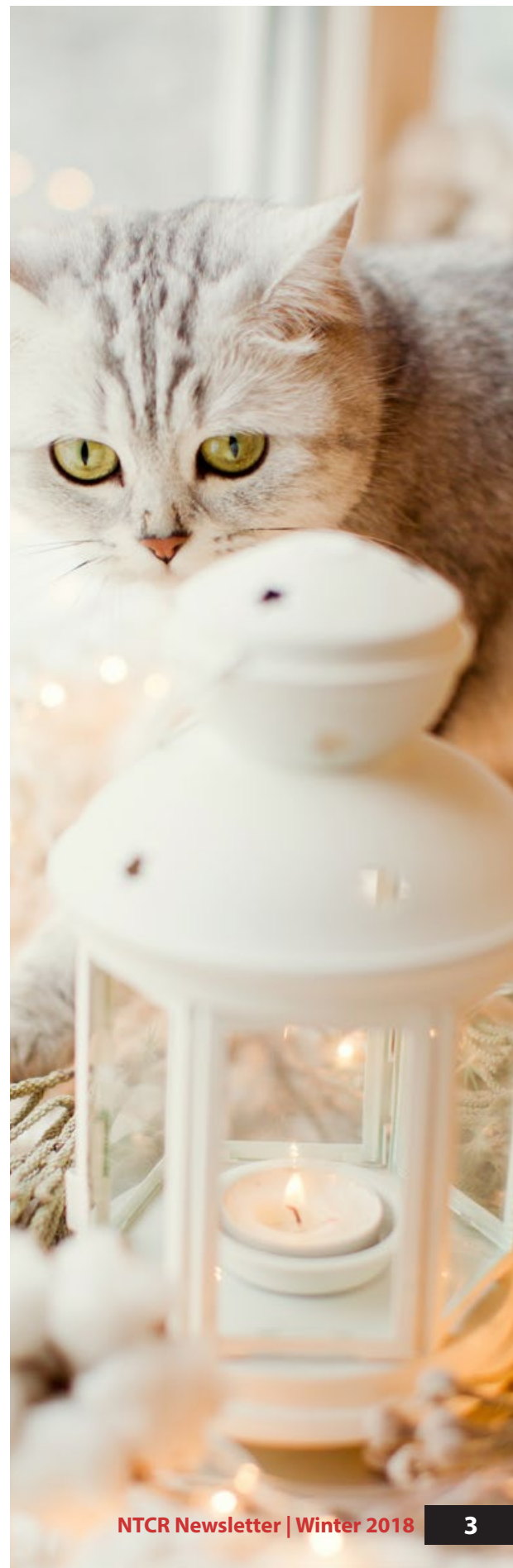
# Keeping Kitty Safe During the Holidays

by Nomi Berger

As Christmas arrives, it's time to think cat safety. Any changes in a cat's regular routine – a home suddenly filled with new scents, sounds and strangers – may send even the least “scaredy-cat” felines scampering for cover. Here's a few tips to help:

- Be careful about the plants you bring home. Despite their obvious beauty, holly, mistletoe and poinsettia are toxic and should be kept out of reach, while a single leaf from any form of lily is lethal. Christmas tree oils can irritate their mouths and stomachs, causing vomiting, while the prickly needles are hazardous to their entire GI tracts. Consider buying an artificial tree and artificial plants instead.
- Hang delicate ornaments higher and resist placing any in decorative bowls on low surfaces. Not only can cats choke on them, but the sharp edges of any broken pieces can lacerate their mouths, throats and intestines.
- Drape tinsel higher as well, and keep ribbons on gifts underneath the tree to a minimum. If tinsel or ribbons are swallowed, they can twist and bunch inside a cat's intestines, causing serious, sometimes fatal, damage if not caught quickly.
- Artificial snow is toxic and should be avoided at all costs.
- Lights are hot and breakable but also beware of electrical cords. If bitten, they can cause electrical shock if not properly grounded, and if frayed, they can cause severe lacerations to your cat's tongue.
- Place all lighted candles out of reach to reduce the risk of singed fur and pads, paws and tails, and lower the chance of them being tipped over, leaving burning wax everywhere or worse, starting a fire.
- As appetizing as holiday fare is for people, it can prove agonizing, even lethal for pets. The most notorious offenders are:
  - **Raisins and grapes:** A handful of raisins can cause sudden kidney failure and even grapes cause toxicity. Signs that usually occur within 24 hours are lack of appetite, lethargy, weakness, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and decreased urination.
  - **Onion and garlic:** Sulfoxides and disulfides in both destroy red blood cells and can cause serious blood problems including anemia.
  - **Fat trimmings:** They cause upset stomachs, vomiting, and diarrhea.
  - **Bones:** Whatever the size, shape or texture, they all spell the same thing: danger. From throat scratches to stomach perforations to bowel obstructions. To safeguard against these painful possibilities, all leftovers, particularly bones, should be carefully wrapped and promptly disposed of.
  - **Alcohol:** Keep these temptations (including partially eaten plates of food and half-empty glasses) out of the reach of your cat to avoid intoxication and alcohol poisoning.
  - **Chocolates:** Not only can your cat get sick from eating the chocolate, the foil wrappers can get stuck in her throat or cause problems as they work their way through her digestive tract.
  - **Christmas pudding, cake and mince pie:** Filled with potentially toxic raisins, currants, and sultanas, they are also made with fat and suet, and laced with alcohol – from scotch and brandy to sugary liqueurs.

With some strategic planning beforehand, you and your cherished kitty companion can enjoy the happiest and healthiest of holidays.





## Dear Santa,

We've been such great kitties this year! Here's a few things on our Christmas list:

- **A permanent shelter:** We are in a temporary location that will be redeveloped and time is running out. We don't want to go back to the streets. Please help us find a permanent location so we can someday find our furever homes.
- **More volunteers:** Since the shelter runs on our loving volunteers, we don't get fed or have a clean room without them. There's so much work to be done: feeding, cleaning, fundraising, transportation, handy work, social media, newsletters, events and more. We could really use the help.
- **Donations in kind:** With over 150 of our feline pals at the shelter, we go through a lot of supplies! We need clumping cat litter, canned food (Wellness, Natural Balance, First Mate), and dry food (Taste of the Wild Rocky Mountain feline formula or Performatrin Ultra chicken & brown rice). Financial donations (through our [PayPal](#), [CandaHelps](#) and [GoFundMe](#)) also go a long way!

*Thank you and Happy Holidays,  
The Cats of NTCR xoxo*

### Thank you, PetValu!

April was [Pet Valu's](#) Pet Appreciation Month! Although Mother Nature wasn't always on our side, our dedicated volunteers persevered, going to 8 events where we featured 9 of our furry friends (5 are now adopted). It was such a great opportunity to speak to fellow pet lovers, introducing them to our kitties and the work that takes place at the shelter.



Thank you to the Major Mackenzie/Dufferin and Newtonbrook stores. Together we raised \$3,400 for our cats -- a much-needed infusion since NTCR runs entirely on the generosity of others! A heartfelt thanks to PetValu and their customers for their continued support.

### What a Galloping Success!

On October 21st, [Winsong Farm](#) threw a special fundraising event in support of NTCR. It was a fun-filled day featuring demonstrations of the horses' carousel training, amazing vaulting skills, and miniature horses showing off their night-out-on-the-town clothes. We were enamoured with Ramsey, a dark and handsome horse that rolled out the carpet to welcome attendees. And the Headless Horseman, who according to Winsong legend returns every 100 years, made a surprise appearance riding his trusty steed, Pax.



A heartfelt thank you to Kevin, Cathy, Bill and Winnie for organizing and hosting the event (including bringing Holly and Norman to the safety of our shelter). The event raised \$1,000 that will go towards covering vet bills incurred during the kitten boom. Thank you to all who supported this event.



## 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!*

