

THE CAT CONNECTION

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The North Toronto Cat Rescue Newsletter



SADIE'S STORY

One look into Sadie's eyes and you know this sweet girl's journey to North Toronto Cat Rescue was not easy. Deemed too feral to live in a traditional home by the shelter that originally housed her, Sadie, as part of their Barn Cat Feral Release Program was placed into a barn on the outskirts of Markham. This was meant to be Sadie's new home for the rest of her life, but Sadie had other ideas.

As a "working" barn cat, Sadie's only source of food came from the mice she caught. Perhaps driven by hunger, Sadie left the confines of the barn and set out on her perilous journey. Facing the dangers of busy highways and roadways as well as the risk of being hunted by predators, Sadie undeterred, traveled for seven kilometers before taking refuge under the deck of a family home in Markham.

Throughout a very frigid winter, Sadie lived under the deck and was fed by the homeowners. Once the weather broke, it was decided to trap her and bring her to us here at North Toronto Cat Rescue where she could finally experience the comfort of a warm home that she so rightly deserves.



Once inside, it was obvious that Sadie was grateful for her new living situation.

Sadie has tested positive for FIV, a virus we believe was transmitted to her by being bitten by an infected feral cat. This by no means makes Sadie unadoptable. In fact, she can have the same lifespan as any cat and easily live among cats unaffected by the virus.

Sadie is a quiet and shy lap cat. She gets along well with other cats and would make an excellent addition to any family home. She is waiting patiently for the right person to walk through the door and discover what a gem she is. To meet Sadie please contact the shelter at (905) 940-CATS (2287).

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Jun 2: AURORA FESTIVAL

Bring your family to the Aurora Chamber Street Festival – a fun event with facepainting, street performers, music, and food... But don't forget to stop by our booth and say hi!

WHEN: June 2 from 11 AM–5 PM

LOCATION: Yonge Street, Aurora, ON (between Wellington Street & Murray Drive)

Jun 15: SHOP FOR A CAUSE

On the hunt for some new bling? Check out ALEX AND ANI's in-store shopping event. 15% of all proceeds goes to the NTCR!

WHEN: June 15 from 1–4 PM

LOCATIONS: ALEX AND ANI at Yorkdale Shopping Centre & Upper Canada Mall

Oct 20: SCOTIABANK MARATHON

Join us at the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and fundraising on behalf of the NTCR. Every dollar raised and every kilometre run counts!

WHEN: October 20

For more information, visit our website!


DID YOU KNOW?


SHOP **amazon**
& HELP SAVE NTCR!

ATTENTION ONLINE SHOPPERS!


By shopping on amazon.ca, you can help support NTCR. Since launching our Amazon affiliate link in October 2017, our supporters have helped raise over \$850 for the shelter!

Visit www.northtorontocatrescue.com, click the "Shop Amazon" button, complete your purchase, and that's it! It's so easy and there's no additional cost to you!


 www.northtorontocatrescue.com


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 www.linkedin.com/company/north-toronto-cat-rescue

 www.pinterest.ca/ntcrshelter

JOIN NTCR ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Be the first to know about our kitties, upcoming events and much, much more!



Meet NOMI BERGER, author of our ALL THINGS CAT articles!



“Then, at the end of each day, there is Mini, ALWAYS AND FUR-EVER Mini.” ♡

I was born, quite literally, with a pen in my hand. **WORDS ARE MY PASSION** and were my profession. A Journalism graduate from the American University in Washington, D.C., I had, over the years, been a poet and best-selling author, an advertising copywriter and PR director of a major hospital, a contributor to scores of journals and a public speaker on teen mental

health issues.

As a child growing up in an extremely allergic household, we never had pets. As a woman with a highly successful career and an active social and cultural life, having a pet never crossed my mind – particularly after developing severe asthma to cats in my twenties! Then I tumbled head over paws for a rowdy Jack Russell terrier named Uggie in the 2011 Academy Award winning film “The Artist.” Don’t ask me why. Writers have no logical explanation for their obsessions, and Uggie, a rescue dog, became mine.

Suffering from fibromyalgia and severe spinal problems that had left me increasingly housebound, isolated and unproductive, I found myself fascinated by and envious of the unbreakable bond of loyalty and love that Uggie shared with his onscreen owner. It wasn’t long before I took my obsession, born of that envy, one step farther, surprising myself and everyone I knew by **TAKING A HUGE LEAP OF FAITH** and adopting my own rescue dog – a petite 5.5 pound (hypo-allergenic) Maltese named Mini!

Within days of prancing into my life, she redefined my life, and by week’s end, **SHE BECAME MY LIFE**. I was stunned by the depth of my love for her. It was **A LOVE UNLIKE**

ANY I had ever felt before. Fierce and protective. Exquisite and unconditional.

If not for Mini – and Uggie – I doubt I would have immersed myself in the world of animal rescue. I began systematically emailing hundreds of query letters to DOG rescue organizations (as if the mere sight of a cat would trigger my asthma!) in Canada and the U.S. To my supreme delight, I found that many of the groups I approached not only needed but enthusiastically embraced my voice.

Within months, I began emailing scores of slightly modified query letters to CAT rescue organizations. And as ironic as it sounds, I currently write for more cat rescues than dog rescues – alternately grinning and tearing up at every sweet and sassy, beautiful and bewhiskered face I see. To say I’m completely and utterly besotted with them – albeit at a safe distance – would be an understatement.

NEARLY SIX YEARS AND COUNTING! I write all day every day, and I not only love it, I live for it. It excites and challenges me. But most importantly, it makes me feel useful. Then, at the end of each day, there is Mini, always and fur-ever Mini.

WHAT TO DO?
(cat care tips)

WHEN KITTY SHEDS HER WINTER COAT

BY NOMI BERGER

As your kitty trades her heavy winter coat for a light summer one by shedding – a natural and important process – she’s helping to remove any dead fur that causes skin irritation. On the other hand, no shedding may be a sign of poor diet or an underlying medical issue, while too much shedding that leads to bald patches or a very thin coat warrants a visit to the vet.

Although some breeds shed more – or less – than other breeds, their exposure to daylight also plays a part in “signaling” their bodies when it’s time for a seasonal shed. And so, if your cat spends a great deal of time outside in the sunshine or lying in direct sunlight inside, she may be more prone to shedding as the days grow longer.

BRUSHING YOUR CAT REGULARLY is the best way to manage any excess hair at the source before it starts wafting through your home in tufts or emanating from kitty herself in the form of hairballs. A good indicator of how often you should brush her is the length and thickness of her coat.



(Article continues on page 3)



WHEN KITTY SHEDS HER WINTER COAT



(Article continues from page 2)

If your kitty isn't used to being brushed or quickly becomes fidgety, it's important to make the process as stress free as possible for her. Begin with brief sessions and reward her with plenty of praise and high value treats. Once she's more relaxed, increase the duration of the brushing sessions, and by making it a positive bonding experience between the two of you, she'll appreciate it even more.

Always brush **WITH THE GRAIN** in the natural direction that her fur grows. Brushing out knots and mats can be difficult and some may need to be cut out. If your cat is severely matted, it's advisable to see a groomer or consult your vet before trying to remove the mats yourself.

Longhaired cats are best served by starting with a long, stiff shedding rake or comb that reaches down near the skin and dislodges hair from the undercoat while leaving the outer coat almost entirely unaffected. They should then be brushed at least every two days.

For shorthaired cats, begin with a bristle brush. This loosens some of the hair trapped near the skin that causes irritation. Shorthaired cats with a double coat require less brushing than longhaired cats, while those with a single coat need even less. Whatever the length of your cat's hair, ending each session with a slicker brush (its smaller bristles are ideal for grabbing the hair dislodged by the brushing) is another way to keep her coat smooth, shiny and sleek.

ADOPTION UPDATE

BOYS WILL BE BOYS (OR "ENGINES RACING IN NEUTER") BY ALAN DICKSON



*Unseen they suffer
Unheard they cry
In agony they linger
In loneliness they die*



The cats Rusty (née Russell) and PawCo (née Norman, but now short for "Apocalypse") heretofore known as "Da Boys" came into our home and our lives via an internet search that turned up the North Toronto Cat Rescue centre in much the way we presume on-line dating sites work. We had recently lost a 23-year-old female cat who had ruled the roost with a firm hand and the attitude to back up her demands! After a few months of quiet mourning we were ready for the challenge of new cats having nearly always lived with two felines through our 40+ years of marriage.

At the rescue centre we saw many cats that might have suited us but Rusty's sole focus was staring out the window while allowing us gentle petting. He was a 2-3 yr old who had spent some time living rough in the woods. The younger cat (7-8 months?) was active, restless, and curious but tolerated our attention.

Once in our home, the two relative unknowns to each other bonded almost instantly. PawCo was young enough that he needed a comfort-giver and mentor. Rusty has the patience of a saint. Of the seven cats we've had through the years, he is by far the most even-tempered and tolerant of kittens, vets, and fawning "parents".

The two of them are non-stop—except for sudden naps—creators of chaos! They chase soft foam golf balls, which Rusty returns like a Labrador retriever, wrestle like WWF stars, and tumble in their IKEA tunnel, which is the best \$7 we ever spent!

Both are too busy to be lap cats but our experience is that such acceptance comes with age. They have certainly livened up our home—and our lives—with their frantic antics!



FOR 31 YEARS our dedicated team of volunteers has been rescuing cats young and old, abandoned or born to the outdoors. We have been providing shelter, veterinary care, food, and love. We have worked tirelessly to find fur-ever homes for our adoptable cats and provide permanent shelter for those who may never know a home of their own and ALL of this has been made possible by ALL of you. Your unwavering financial support has helped us stay afloat for these many years and for that we thank you.

JOIN OUR CROWD RISE CAMPAIGN !

But that time has come again where the future of the North Toronto Cat Rescue is uncertain. The lease at our current location is expiring and the land is for sale and slated for redevelopment, meaning we are again on the hunt for a new home. For us to be able to continue rescuing cats, we know we need a permanent shelter and that means purchasing or building a house or small building to meet those needs.



The NTRC is reaching out to our wonderful community to rally around us and help raise those dollars to build our house. We have set a financial goal of one million dollars. I know what you may be thinking...wow...that is A LOT of money and you are correct. This is no small favour that we ask but we truly believe that together as a community we can bring this vision to life.



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Every cat rescued from the street means not only improving his or her life but also provides a great benefit to the community. One mating pair of cats has the capability of being the fore-bearers of over 400,000 offspring in a seven-year window. For every cat we rescue, spay or neuter, we are stopping that cruel cycle of unwanted kittens being born into the wild. In our 30 plus years of rescue work, we have saved 3,000 cats from a life on the street. If we assume that represents 1500 mating pairs, we have potentially stopped 600,000,000 unwanted kittens from being born only to live a short and cruel life. Imagine the devastation that would occur to our wild bird populations alone if this were to go unchecked.

Your support is the bricks and mortar that will build our house. Help us continue to save the lives of our most vulnerable feline friends. Be part of the House that Love Builds.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER WITH US. To say volunteers are the backbone of our charity would be an understatement. We are 100% volunteer run, without you there is no us and NTRC is always looking for helping hands on a variety of tasks. We need you to help share our message and champion our cause.

THROW A FUNDRAISER. It's never been easier to raise donation funds thanks to social media platforms. You can create simple fundraisers and ask friends and followers to donate to your campaign with a simple click of a button. If you live in a more analog world, host a community fundraiser. Bakes sales, garage sales, raffles, sponsored walks/runs, shopping with our partner organizations, all these acts add up and have a huge impact on helping us attain our financial goals.

BECOME A PATRON. We want to create a shelter that represents the community that helps build it. We are offering various sponsorship packages for those who can donate large sums of money. We want to build lasting partnerships with our donors and honour their generosity by branding their name on or inside the shelter.

All donations can be made through our **CROWD RISE CAMPAIGN** online at <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/saventcr>



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 NTRC.
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!

GO GREEN!

Help us decrease printing and postage costs, and help the environment, by going paperless and digital. But 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. Let's go green!

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