

THE CAT CONNECTION

WINTER 2020
VOLUME 32



NORTH TORONTO
CAT RESCUE
Canadian Registered Charity
No. 83607 9673 RR0001

The North Toronto Cat Rescue Newsletter

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

THE TALE OF OL' SMOKEY

WHEN YOU FIRST MEET Smokey, she doesn't look like a 13-year old cat. Small and petite, she almost resembles a growing kitten – one with a quiet temperament, that loves to settle into laps for long head rubs.

But Smokey is an old girl with a sad past, who's endured some pretty hard times in her life.

As a young cat, she was adopted by a very kind gentlemen - one that adored her so much, he microchipped her in case she ever went missing. Sadly, the initial high of love faded, and he was forced to give her up while moving provinces. Jaded and confused in unfamiliar

surroundings, Smokey broke out while bouncing through homes, and was struck by a moving object that left her with a shattered leg.

For three days, she lay collapsed under a tree, frightened and in pain under the sweltering July sun.

For three days, she was ignored by everyone out on their daily walks, until finally, NTCR was contacted by a dog-walker who noticed the injured cat had not moved in three consecutive days.

Three days. Can you imagine being injured, in pain, without food or water, and in unfamiliar surroundings for three long days? Our plea to anyone reading this is to please respond quickly when you come across a cat in distress.

NTCR immediately rushed to the location and, after determining Smokey was still alive, urgently whisked her to the vet, where she was diagnosed with a shattered leg, internal bruising, and extreme dehydration. Smokey's leg was wrapped in a bright pink cast and she was treated with a water solution, antibiotics, and a pain reliever – all

things to help her feel better. She was moved to the NTCR shelter where she was lovingly cared for while her leg fully healed.

Today, Smokey roams a room without her cumbersome cast. Even amongst her old, furry friends, she seems like a demure young kitten! But don't let her young looks deceive you – this old girl is a survivor with a lifetime of stories to share. As this goes to print, we are thrilled to report she has now found a loving family who just wants to listen!

**For three days,
she lay collapsed
under a tree,
frightened and
in pain under the
sweltering July sun.**



Then



Now

Look at
my cast!



www.northtorontocatrescue.com



@NTCRescue



(905) 940-CATS (2287)



@ntcr.shelter



www.facebook.com/ntcr.shelter



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!



A SILVER BULLET TO THE RESCUE

IT'S OFTEN THOUGHT that most cats are comfortable being left alone. And although some felines may seem to enjoy their solitary time, our furry friends really are social beings who crave companionship. After all, their ancestors travelled in packs where they would find security, survival, and of course, love.

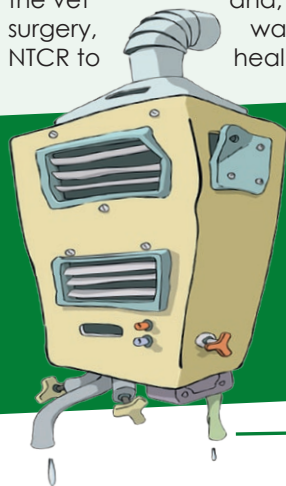
This past summer, we welcomed little Bullet to the shelter. Bullet was born in the wild amongst a colony of feral cats. Sadly, he encountered a very horrific start in life when, as a little kitten, he was shot with a pellet gun by an incredibly cruel human being. It hurts to even imagine what this young kitten endured. His almost lifeless body was found, wounded and bleeding, by a kind volunteer who regularly cared for the colony. The kitty was rushed to the vet and, after undergoing surgery, NTCR to was brought to heal and recuperate.

Although Bullet was now in a safe and loving environment, the little kitten seemed alone and depressed. Maybe it was the brush with death, we thought, or perhaps he's not used to being indoors. It was only when the volunteer realized that Bullet had most likely bonded with another cat (nicknamed Silver) that it became our mission to reunite the two little buddies, and the team set to work to trap and rescue Silver.

The Silver-Bullet reunion was a sight to behold! As soon as they were reunited, the two kitties began to groom each other, and young Bullet found his appetite again, making way for a speedy recovery. The duo now spends their time playing together in the shelter, never too far from each other – a bonded pack ready to take on the world... or maybe just a friendly furever home for now.



SHELTER FURNACE REPLACED... If ever YOUR help was needed, it's NOW!



DUE TO THE ONGOING PANDEMIC, our usual avenues of fundraising remain closed. And with winter approaching, the timing could NOT have been worse for our furnace to give out.

Essential to the safety and wellbeing of our kitties and volunteers, it was promptly replaced. But because we lack the funds, we must pay for it in monthly instalments.

Won't YOU consider making a donation to NTCR to help ease the financial burden this has placed on us?

Given all of our other daily expenses, no amount is too small, and all contributions are most gratefully accepted. With your help, we can continue caring for the most vulnerable kittens and cats in our community.

When Adoption is Not an Option Sponsor a Cat

WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE with one of our cats but just don't have the ability to bring him or her into your home, a great option to support that cat is through monthly sponsorship. Every cat at the shelter is adoptable but some have specific health or behavioural issues that make it hard to find a "fur-ever" home for them. Sponsoring a cat helps us afford all the essentials needed to support him or her, including holistic organic food, veterinary care, and a safe environment to live in.

We have a variety of cats and kittens who are in need of a patron to help care for them. For as little as 82¢ a day or \$25 a month, you can help save a life. In return for your sponsorship, you will receive a thank you package that contains a picture or pictures, a copy of our bi-annual newsletter, and periodic updates to let you know how your sponsored cat(s) are doing.

Visit our **Available for Adoptions or Sponsorship** page at www.northtorontocatrescue.com/adopt/rescue-pets/ to see a full biography and photo of our cats. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us and we will arrange a payment schedule that works best for you. Your name or a dedication name can be added beside the cat(s) that you have sponsored. We have so many wonderful cats and kittens eagerly waiting for you to become their sponsor.

"If you wonder whether your support makes a difference, we promise you it does"

SPONSOR THE SHELTER... SPONSOR THE SHELTER...

NORTH TORONTO CAT RESCUE is working on our long-term goal of securing a new residence so that we may continue to rescue and rehabilitate cats and kittens who are in desperate need of help. We want to create lasting partnerships with businesses, both big and small, who want to help NTCR achieve that goal.

In return for your generosity, we will use our website, social media outlets, and shelter as a platform for our sponsorship partners. We will provide ad space on both our website and newsletter, branded media posts, as well as add our patron's name to adoption rooms. By becoming our partner, there are many opportunities to develop brand awareness. For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at (905) 940-CATS (2287) or by email at info@northtorontocatrescue.com.

LET'S FORM A PARTNERSHIP THAT HELPS SAVE LIVES!



VOLUNTEER

FROM ONE DECISION IN 2015 to begin volunteering at NTCR, I've gotten so much from the experience – including two amazing members to our family!

My love for animals drew me to NTCR as a volunteer and it's here where two little kittens, Pippa and Kiki, entered my life. They were born with a condition called cerebellar hypoplasia ("CH"), where the cerebellum part of their brain does not fully develop, affecting their balance, coordination, and mobility. In short, their motions can become wobbly.



Since they needed some extra attention, I agreed to foster them and during this time developed a happy routine and trusting relationship. Pippa and Kiki eventually became permanent members of the family. Sadly, due to a lack of education, there's sometimes a stigma against cats with CH, but they can live extremely comfortable lives when given the opportunity. See for yourself on their Instagram account [@thetumblesisters!](#)

We decided to adopt them when the future of NTCR became uncertain (the property may be redeveloped soon, and the organization will be evicted). It's this experience that started the #SaveNTCR campaign to fundraise resources to move to a new shelter. To help with the cause, I harnessed the power of the community to launch a Kittysaver benefit involving raffle prizes and live musical performances.

Kittysaver is such a success that it became an annual tradition, growing bigger and better – to date we've raised over \$10,000. The latest benefit (Kittysaver V) was even completely vegan/cruelty-free! I didn't want other animals to suffer in order for us to fundraise for cats.



"Christmas bulbs or fur balls"



GET YOUR PETS PHOTOS READY! Our 4th GoGo Photo Fund Raising contest will **start November 29, 2020** with 100% of funds raised going directly to NTCR Whether your pet has fur, feathers, scales, skin, or warts they all have their Happy Place.

By entering this contest, you are:
◆ proudly showing off your precious and photogenic pet, and
◆ supporting NTCR by donating to our future!

Your support (and entry!) helps us raise much-needed funds for our mission of protecting, caring for, and providing a temporary home for our current cats and many more that need rescuing.

There are three awesome **prizes for the top 3 photos** (determined by number of votes):

- 1) First Place: 16x20" painting of your photo by artist Sue Naus (retail value \$500)
- 2) Second Place: \$100 Cash or \$100 Pet Valu Gift Card
- 3) Third Place: \$50 Cash or \$50 Pet Valu Gift Card

Visit www.northtorontocatrescue.com for all of the details!

TORONTO STAR

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2020

We were voted
"Gold Winner in the Animal Rescue Category"
One of the City's Top Picks.



WHEN OWNERS CHOSE to let their cats run at will, and often on everyone's property, we wonder if they would also do that with their dog? We suspect the answer is NO. Not everyone is an animal lover or happy having a cat dig in their garden. Its not fair nor is the decimation of wild life for sport. Cats are so happy inside and safe.



WHAT AN INDOOR CAT MISSES:

- 1) Encounters with wildlife: coyotes, foxes, raccoons & skunks
- 2) Being hit by a car
- 3) Ingesting poisons such as antifreeze, rodent poison, etc.
- 4) Being stolen / used for bait
- 5) Picking up multi-diseases: feline leukemia, FIV, etc.
- 6) Various infections and assorted injuries
- 7) Fleas and ticks
- 8) Rain, snow, heat and cold
- 9) Danger to other species, birds, etc.
- 10) Avoid frequent calls to shelters asking if their cat was there as it just didn't return

People that say money can't buy you happiness have never paid an adoption fee"

**FOSTER
ADOPT
RESCUE
ADVOCATE**

KEEP IN THE KNOW
BY FOLLOWING US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!

NTCR Newsletter | Winter 2020





WHY IT MATTERS

EVERY CAT RESCUED from the street not only means improving a 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!

In our 30 plus years of rescue work, we have saved over 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 help build our house. Help us continue to save the lives of our vulnerable feline friends, and be a part of the House that Love Builds.



DONATE-WISHLIST-ITEMS

WITH ALMOST 200 cats living in our shelter, we go through a lot of supplies! Consider making a gift of cleaning products (vinegar, paper towels, etc.), food, or other items we need to keep our kitties healthy and happy. For more information about "Our Wishlist Store," please visit www.northtorontocatrescue.com/our-wishlist/. Every donation counts!



WE NEED YOU!

TO SAY VOLUNTEERS are the backbone of our charity would be an understatement. We are 100% volunteer-run so without you, there is no us! NTCR is currently looking for volunteers to work with us in the virtual world. We need computer-savvy talent who have skills in web development, fundraising, media, as well as grant writing & applications.

THE SEARCH FOR VOLUNTEERS

Keeping our shelter going during this pandemic has been extremely difficult. If you are able to assist us in any way, please contact NTCR at (905) 940-2287 or via our website at www.northtorontocatrescue.com/support-us/volunteer/. Stay safe everyone!

HOW YOU CAN HELP NTCR...



Volunteer with us: NTCR is always on the lookout for helping hands. We need your help to share our message and promote our cause!

Help us raise funds: This pandemic has put a huge financial burden on NTCR. We are asking our warmhearted community for their support in raising the dollars that will help keep our shelter operating during this difficult time.

Online Donations

- CanadaHelps: www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/10618
- PayPal Giving Fund Canada: www.paypal.com/ca/fundraiser/112574610408097238/charity/3454402

Virtual Fundraising: It's never been easier to fundraise online, thanks to social media. With so many of our upcoming events being cancelled, NTCR is looking for people who are willing to donate their time, talents, and creativity to help us develop fundraising opportunities in the virtual world. Whether it is an online art auction, virtual music concert, or birthday fundraiser, the possibilities truly are endless. Every little bit adds up and can have a huge impact on helping us attain our financial goals. All ideas and talents are welcome!



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!



Help us decrease printing and postage costs and save the environment by going paperless! Don't worry, you won't miss out on our newsletters and will still receive a digital copy via email. Simply let us know by emailing newsletter@northtorontocatrescue.com. Let's GO GREEN!

