



At the Scratching Post

Volume # 3. Date: March, 2024

"You are not the person to be doing this. You care too much"

These are the words I heard recently by someone whose opinion I value. As I stood there wondering what kind of person I am, that isn't the right one and who would be the right person, I became more and more confused about what would motivate someone to want to put their whole life into rescuing animals that wouldn't be about caring too much. What is it then?

It certainly isn't to make money as I have spent my life savings on this endeavour. To make any money, you would have to bypass true animal care, consistently run under capacity, or profit by means that are simply unfathomable to anyone with integrity and a sense of community. As a nonprofit this is not a realistic goal by any means. It has been done, I guess, by those without a conscience, but it's not an option for me.

Is perceived power and/or glory a motive? I have heard about the huge egos and God complexes of some rescuers, and I guess this one could be a motive, but how would that really look, and what type of person truly wants this type of attention? One who likes to create or enjoy drama? I hate the limelight, as anyone who knows me knows that. I rarely speak in public, I don't like confrontation and I am a true introvert! This can't be my motive. So what is it and why is it wrong?

The possible things wrong with what motivates me:

- I love animals, especially cats, with all my heart. What does this look like in a person who doesn't "care too much"?
- I believe they are the windows to our souls and that each one is worth saving if we can. I assumed all animal care providers felt this.
- I believe that animals deserve respect and love. What does this look like in a person who doesn't "care too much"?
- I have spent a lot of my own funds trying to help them. Would I do this if I didn't "care too much"? Why wouldn't I be soaking up the sun somewhere or travelling the world with my money and my time during retirement? Hmmm.



Cathy and Harold

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• I cry a lot, especially when I lose one, and wonder if I could have done more to save them. This is the one that people who don't have it in their souls really don't understand. I didn't choose to do this... it chose me. I don't ever want to stop caring enough that I stop crying. This keeps me human, compassionate and empathic.

As time passes and I realize that you can only do so much, it eases but also motivates me to move forward and try new ways and means of doing it better next time. It's about passion for what you do. Each tiny face imprints on me; I will never want it any other way. The more I learn, the more I can help them.

• I want to educate people on what they can do to help. Where does this fit in?

• I want to help people with mental and physical barriers benefit from the love of a cat.

• I want to surround myself with like-minded people – the others that “care too much”

I did not choose to save kittens because they are “cute” and easy to adopt out. I did not choose to save pregnant cats because they produce cute, cuddly kittens. I chose this avenue to save the kittens from euthanasia or dying outside when something happens to the mom. Most shelters and rescues will not take neonates... this is why I chose to help them. I also chose to help abandoned or stray pregnant cats to save them from the struggle of life outdoors, trying to raise kittens.

People don't want to know, so they don't ask the questions... they assume to know me and my motives, and that's ok. Let them think what they want. I can't afford to stress myself out trying to explain and defend the unfathomable to some people.

I just wish people would look around more, see what needs to be seen and not look away when it gets uncomfortable. Know who you are dealing with and supporting on all levels. Don't make assumptions that can come back to haunt you. You have the internet – use it. Do the research. You might be surprised!

I would rather be the “one who cares too much”.

WRITTEN BY CATHY BLACK

Operations Manager: Cathy Black

Contact Us by E-mail: woodstockkittennursery@gmail.com

Phone: 226-232- 6758

Facebook: [@woodstockkittennursery&rescue](https://www.facebook.com/woodstockkittennursery&rescue)

Please Note: Prices & information in this newsletter are accurate as of the time of the publishing date and are subject to change without notice



Irving, aka Superkitten!

For many of our followers, Irving needs no introduction. He came to us about a day old (if that!), lying next to his deceased sibling, with no momma in sight.

His first weeks were spent in our incubator while we did our best to keep him warm, fed and definitely loved while he fought for his little life.

He was syringe fed every three hours with many a late night feeding delivered by Cathy and Harold, while we all waited with bated breath and put out ALL the good vibes, prayers and well wishes that he would continue to get well, get stronger and fight, fight, fight!

Lots of you followed along on social media, where his feeding videos made him a viral sensation, garnering MILLIONS of views!

Our little rock star continues to thrive against the odds, and although he still needs visits with a specialist in the Toronto area, he has come a long way. So far, in fact, that he has accepted the position of "Emissary Cat"! So make sure to come to our events - you might just meet Irving in person!

He happily plays with his fellow emissaries and wins the hearts of anyone who gets close enough to hear those motorboat purrs.

Irving's story is just one of many the folks at the nursery can tell as we continue to help these littles live the best lives they can, with the generous help of our donors.





*It takes a
village to
rescue
abandoned
cats and
kittens!*

Our Board of Directors & Coordinators Grows Stronger!

Directors

Cathy Black (retired CPA) - President/Nursery Director
Linda Arnold-Taylor - Secretary/Admin Director
Randi Young (RVT) - Medical Director/Nursery Advisor
Anu Sharma - Treasurer/Director of Finance
Julia Linares-Roake - Funding Director (Doctoral Student)
Vacant - Director of Community Programs

Coordinators

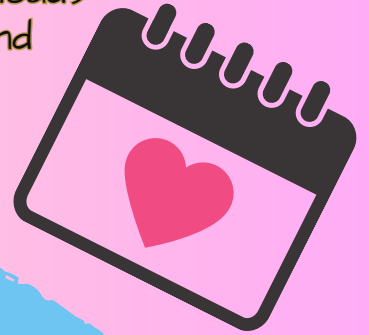
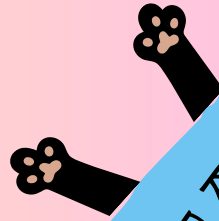
Ginger Storey-Taylor - Assistant Nursery Manager
Jayne Skanes - Volunteer Training Coordinator
Alana Bufalino - Volunteer Coordinator
Cathy Black - Adoption Coordinator (acting)
Emily Wettlaufer - Assistant Adoption Coordinator
Miranda Rowntree - Foster Coordinator
Carrie Pickles - Assistant Foster Coordinator
Vacant- Community Program Coordinator
Julia Linares-Roake - Funding Coordinator
Vacant - Fundraising Coordinator
Becky Horst - Social Media Coordinator
Anu Sharma - Donation/Bookkeeping Coordinator
Roxanne Jasan - Gatekeeper

HERE COMES 2024!

We have lots of plans for the new year, and loads of great fundraising and adoption events and opportunities to get involved!



"Cruise for Kittens" is back in May, 2024 at Ingersoll Home Hardware's parking lot! Look for further info on our Social Media pages!



Coming in May!
Krispy Kreme
Donut & Yard
Sale!



Quarterly
Quarters for
Kittens
Auctions starting
March 23!



Back by Popular
Demand!
Our popular yard
sales & bottle drives
are starting up in late
spring - check back
often for updates!



Lots of FaceBook
Livestreams through
the week: donation
unboxings, question of
the day, cool cat facts
and tours to meet the
mommies and babies!
Check our Facebook
page often!



"I have felt cats rubbing their faces against mine and touching my cheek with claws carefully sheathed. These things, to me, are expressions of love."

- James Herriot

FOSTER SPOTLIGHT WITH JENN LOWES

"Saving one animal won't change the world,
but it will change the world for one animal"

My husband Mike, daughter Kallie and I actively foster and volunteer with WKNR.

Around 8 years ago, I decided to give fostering a try. With extra space in our basement, our elderly cat Reggie (who will be 18 this summer) still had free reign over the main floor. Initially, my husband wasn't too enthusiastic about fostering, expressing sentiments like "absolutely not," "no way," or "over my dead body"...something along those lines. My motto became "better to ask for forgiveness than permission," and we welcomed our first litter of three adorable boys. While two of them found forever homes, a charming little brown tabby named Charlie was left behind and scheduled to return to the rescue. It was Mike who made the decision that Charlie would stay with us permanently.

Fate led me to a post seeking a volunteer to provide overnight care for the sickly J Litter at Woodstock Kitten Nursery & Rescue. While working at home, I saw it as a rewarding experience: it felt like caring for a newborn again, with late-night feedings, toileting and diaper changes. Eventually, Cathy, the founder, asked me to foster a little kitten named Junebug, and that's how we found ourselves back in the fostering game. Junebug was eventually adopted by our neighbours and now resides in New Brunswick.

To date, our family has fostered 53 cats and kittens, 35 through WKNR. People often wonder how we can give them up. I won't deny that it's not easy, and I shed tears every time one leaves our care. Fostering is an incredible way to give back, especially for those who may not have the time to volunteer at a nursery. If you've had a rough day, there is no better therapy than getting down on the floor to play and cuddle with your foster kittens. Even that tough guy I mentioned earlier can often be found on the floor, showered with kitten kisses. Kallie and I also try to help at adoption events in local pet stores, craft sales, garage sales, and any other opportunities that arise.

As a reminder of why I foster, a sign in my home office perfectly encapsulates my motivation:
"Saving one animal won't change the world, but it will change the world for one animal."





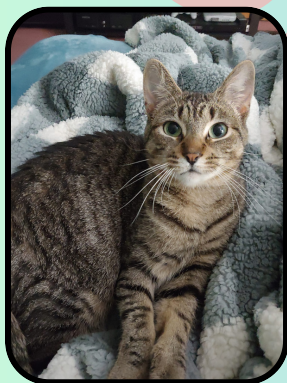
OUR AMAZING ADULTS!

Adult cats have a tough time being adopted next to those cute, cuddly kittens, which is a real missed opportunity because bringing an adult cat into your home has lots of benefits:

- You know what you're getting in terms of energy level and temperament, especially if you find the cat through a source that has gotten to know them (LIKE US!)
- There's normally little to no training needed
- There's not as much need for the extra time or tolerance that can sometimes accompany a kitten adoption.

Consider an older kitten for adoption - they are as loving and loyal as any pet can be, and in just as much need (and full of love and shenanigans) as the littles!

SOME OF OUR 2023 ADULT ADOPTIONS



WILLAMENA

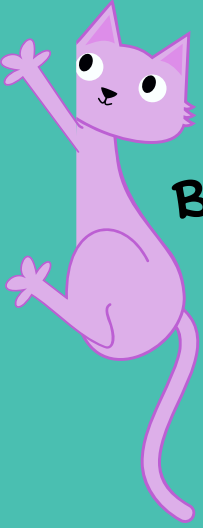


ADY



ARIEL

IN THEIR WORDS: THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE



By: Jenn & Grace
Ormsby



"We are a mother-daughter duo who were looking for a volunteer opportunity in our community. After coming to the volunteer open house at WKNR in the fall of 2023, we knew we wanted to be a part of this great place! We volunteer for the 8-12 shift. Most mornings are quite busy with feeding, medication and cleaning but we always have lots of time for snuggles. We've learned a great deal about how to properly administer medications, nebulizing and isolation protocols. We've also learned about the importance of socialization for the kittens. Seeing a shy, scared kitten gradually become social and loving towards their human caregivers is so rewarding. All the volunteers we have met are wonderful people who truly want the best for the animals they care for. Cathy and Ginger are our main points of contact and are always available to provide guidance and support. The best part of volunteering? Sitting on the floor with kittens cuddled up and purring on your lap.

We would definitely recommend WKNR as a volunteer opportunity for anyone looking to give back to their community in a low stress, positive environment. This is truly a volunteer experience where you get more than you give!"



WKNR IN THE COMMUNITY!

Paws & Whiskers

A Community Connection Program

**WEEKLY
DROP-INS
STARTING
MARCH 22
2024**

Fridays 10 AM to 12 PM

Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to join!

Join the Woodstock Kitten
Nursery & Rescue for **weekly drop-in
community workshops.**

Each session will feature unique activities for
finding peace, relaxation and creativity while
spending time with our adorable Emissary cats!



Location Details

Foldens Hall
374091 Foldens Line
Ingersoll, ON
(Facility is wheelchair accessible)

Program Benefits

- ✓ Creative arts activities
- ✓ Interactive games
- ✓ New friendships
- ✓ Kitten education and companionship



United Way
Oxford



The Paws & Whiskers Program is funded by the Government of Canada under the Community Services Recovery Fund

The Paws & Whiskers Program est financé par le gouvernement du Canada sous le Fonds de relance des services communautaires.

IN THEIR WORDS: THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

By: Emily
WetHaufer

*I have lived with
several Zen Masters - all
of them cats!"
- Eckhart Tolle*

I have been volunteering at the Woodstock Kitten Nursery & Rescue since August 2023.

Being at WKNR has been a heartwarming experience, allowing me to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the kittens in our care. Weekly, I socialize and use a fear-free approach to create a trusting and calm experience for the kittens. I see the progress of scared and sick kittens becoming less fearful and feeling safer in the environment, and I see their personalities emerge.

While at the rescue, I have gained extensive knowledge about cats, from their body language and signals to their instincts and preferences. Volunteering at the nursery has taught me how to properly bottle feed kittens and their developmental stages, which can be significant, especially in the cases of orphans. I know how important it is for kittens to get the proper nutrients to continue growing and how vital weight gain is in reflecting that.

One super neat experience I have had in the nursery is the story of Irving. I was at the nursery the day Irving was brought in, and I learned about caring for orphaned kittens in the moment. The first thing I learned was how important it was to keep him warm, which was why he remained in the incubator for the beginning weeks of his life. I also learned how to syringe feed/bottle feed, burp, and stimulate him, which the mom cat usually does for the kitten, but in the case of Irving, we were required to. I got to see Irving overcome many obstacles thrown his way with his health and watch him overcome them. The most remarkable thing was seeing how Irving interacted and still interacted with people, being that people raised him. It is so warming to see the connection he has with humans.

My experience of volunteering has allowed me to see what goes on in rescue and every step behind the scenes that most people overlook and will never know. Volunteers commit countless hours to caring for the kittens that come into our care, preparing them to go to their forever homes. This can be bittersweet, especially when you build such a connection with them, but it is gratifying knowing all of the care you gave them and seeing them finally get the families they deserve.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Without the generous and consistent support of our sponsors and allies, we couldn't continue to do all that we can for these Mommas and kittens.

From the bottom of our human and feline hearts,
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

In no order and with all of our hearts and gratitude, we thank:

♥ Miss Dixies Foundation - Kitchener

♥ Global Pet Foods - Woodstock

♥ Pet Valu - Woodstock

♥ Home Hardware - Ingersoll

♥ Home Hardware - Woodstock

♥ Royal Canin - Canada

♥ Upper Thames Brewing Company - Woodstock



"A cat has absolute emotional honesty. Human beings, for one reason or another, may hide their feelings, but a cat does not." - Ernest Hemingway

GIVING MEWSDAY WALL OF FAME!

Our November 28 Giving Tuesday
campaign was a huge success, bringing
\$2760 in to the Nursery!

UP TO \$49

A. Haynes
R. Cardle
J. Harris
C. Barrie

\$50 TO \$99

R. Oldacre
B. & D. White
J. Yearsley
C. Kryzanowski
M. Rountree
W. Wojtkowski

\$100-\$499

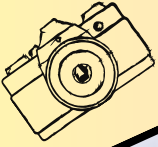
J. Pollard
J. Lowes
W. & L. Taylor
K. Robinson
L. Odorico

\$500 OR MORE

Rolmaster Conveyors, Cambridge, Ontario

From the bottoms of our feline and
human hearts, THANK YOU! 

CAPTURING MOMENTS AT WKNR!



**Follow us on Instagram
@woodstockkittennursery**

Editor: Ginger Taylor

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