

# PASSAGES

THE LONG ISLAND, BRIER ISLAND AND DIGBY NECK NEWS

June 2018

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## Cat Rescue Update, *By Chris Callaghan*



As usual, there have been ups and downs in the Cat Rescue and Spay/Neuter “Biz”. A major piece of good news is that the Society for Friends of Ferals is now a Registered Charity. It took an unbelievable amount of paperwork and documentation on the part of our Treasurer, but we can now issue tax receipts for donations of more than \$10, and we will be eligible for various grants from corporations. To date, we have passed the 950 mark of the number of spays and neuters we have been responsible for. It’s kitten season again, and already we are fostering quite a few until we can get them to the rescue group that we are working with in Halifax, to be adopted. On a recent Friday morning I left home with the mission of delivering two of the famous Fred’s kittens (born in my spare bathroom in March) to their new owner. I was to meet him in Truro. On my way, I got a call from Bear River, about four kittens born that morning to a feral mother, and abandoned. Then I got another call, about

three ten-week old kittens needing homes. So instead of driving two kittens, I ended up with nine – going to three different destinations.

After that 760 km round trip, I had barely got home and cleaned out the barn when I got a call on Sunday about a cat that had been found in Digby, terribly emaciated and dehydrated. Two of our members took him to Sissiboo. Dr. Doelle thought he had probably been locked in a building for an extended period. He was brought to our place in Freeport to be fostered. Named “Laury” by his rescuers, he was barely able to walk, appeared to be blind, and couldn’t seem to eat on his own. I mixed up a nutritious formula and fed him by syringe. He purred when he was cuddled. This week has been a roller coaster ride of emotions as he rallied, then failed, then rallied again. Two more vet visits put my odometer at more than 1000 kms in less than a week, all on cat rescue. (The time and gas are my contribution. And that’s why my house looks like it does!)

As I write this, my heart is heavy. I don't think Laury is going to pull through. So the joy and satisfaction of seeing a cat go to a good home is diminished by the sadness of watching a sweet soul slip away.



It's flea season, so here's a warning. The dog flea medication that you put on your dog's back can be **extremely lethal** for cats. Read the label carefully. If the medication contains permethrin, your cat will become very ill and could die if you use it on her, or even if she gets too close to your dog for a period of time after you've applied it to him.

Shelley, Tara, Todd and I are still working on a feral cat situation in Westport. One more still to trap and have fixed. Irresponsible pet owners certainly make life less fun for the caring volunteers who try to do the right thing for helpless animals. Please, spay and neuter your pets.

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*Postscript: Unfortunately, after this article was submitted to Passages, Chris made the difficult decision to help Laury cross the Bridge before he suffered any further. We are grateful to everyone who sent positive thoughts and prayers his way, and we find consolation in that we're certain he felt loved in his final days.*