

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

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Tax no.

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**An Incorporated society
dedicated to the
alleviation of suffering of cats
and all animals.**

Founders:

Thora and Tommy Bonneau

Honorary Patron:

Judge Loretta Chaperon

The society began in the 1960's as the Bonneau Spay Fund. It was incorporated in 1984 as the "Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society."

Become a member today!

Membership includes a subscription to this newsletter. Please complete this form and mail it with your cheque to the address on the left.

Please make cheques payable to:

Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

Family \$45 Single \$30

Life \$ 150 Senior/Unwaged \$15

Donation _____

Total Amount enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Enter your email address here if you would like to receive the Scratching Post electronically, and receive important VCRCS notices.

Email: _____

Executive Board

2013/2014

President:

Catherine Gale

Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Treasurer:

Gail Fattore

Directors:

Magda Westmacott

Pam Slyth

Sherry Buttner

Bazaar Convener:

Magda Westmacott

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

We're on the Web!
victoriacatrescue.com

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society



SCRATCHING POST

SPRING 2014

Annual Strawberry Tea June 21st, 2014

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will hold their annual Strawberry Tea and Sale on **Saturday June 21st at 1:00pm at Knox Presbyterian Church.** (See poster on page 4.) The function will take place from 1-4 pm and strawberry shortcake and beverage will cost \$5.00. Clean sale items in good condition will be accepted at the church on Friday June 20th starting at 2:00p.m. **We do not have access to the church before that time!**

Volunteers have requested that items NOT be delivered on Saturday morning unless absolutely necessary.

NO ELECTRONIC ITEMS PLEASE.

Please cut out the mini poster on page 4 and post it in your neighbourhood. Make extra copies if you can. Spread the word! Call (250) 656-1100 for more information.



Gorgeous JAKE is still in foster care waiting to be adopted. He needs a forever home.

See his story at victoriacatrescue.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting June 6pm **18**

Strawberry Tea June 21
Knox Presbyterian Church, 1-4pm

Annual General Meeting Sept 6pm **17**

Christmas Bazaar Nov 22
Knox Presbyterian Church, 1-4pm

Meetings held 3rd Wed. of each month at 6pm. Call 250-656-1100 for location. No meeting July or Aug.

Volunteers Needed!

We are currently seeking volunteers in all areas of our society. Our **Foster/Adoption program** is not fully operating due to lack of help. To run this program we ideally need a team of 4-5 people, plus **foster homes** for animals in crisis. Many animals have been rescued and are now happy and healthy.



Why not volunteer today?

Just call 250 656-1100.

Our Philosophy

The Animals are our brother creatures who share this earth with us and are equally deserving of our respect as well as compassion. It is indeed our moral duty to alleviate their suffering whenever and wherever possible. Perfect peace and harmony can never exist in this world if the plight of even one of its creatures is ignored. If we were to solve all the problems of poverty, disease, and overpopulation and still somehow lacked the single quality of compassion, we would still have a world not fit to live in.

Our Purpose

The purposes of the Society are to promote an aggressive spay/neuter program for cats and dogs to reduce the stray population with its attendant suffering; to encourage euthanasia if it is clear that there is no other humane solution for an animal; and to offer monetary assistance to aid these goals regardless of financial circumstances. The Society's paramount concern being animal welfare, to educate towards responsible pet ownership and compassionate understanding of and respect for all living creatures, and to be a voice for all animals mainly through the Society's newsletter "The Scratching Post."

Important Notes

- Raffle Tickets are now in pet stores and vet offices, and will be available at the Tea. Prizes this year: Gift Cards for Hillside Mall, Lifestyle Markets and Willow Stream Spa. Get your tickets while they last!
- Please respect the 'residents only' street parking when attending the Tea. The Church has a parking lot, and we can also use the lot next door.
- Magda always welcomes cat themed fabric for her crafts. Call us or bring it to the Strawberry Tea.
- Email apenty@shaw.ca if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically.



Adoption and Foster News



We have two deeply bonded ten month old kittens looking for a loving home. **Cuddlebug and Ninja** are extremely active and busy cats so they would be most suited for a house rather than an apartment. They are both extremely affectionate. They are spayed and neutered, FIV tested, and updated on vaccines.



Alma is looking for a foster home! She is extremely affectionate with people, but a bit anxious about her surroundings and needs to be in foster care while she gains some trust and we get a better handle on her needs. Veterinary costs and food are covered.

Please email kimesau@shaw.ca or call us at 250 656-1100 if you are interested in fostering or adopting a cat.



This beautiful **tabby boy** was rescued after being dumped in a rural area. Poor little guy was terrified and hungry when we first got him. He has been in a fabulous foster home and is now ready for his forever home. He will take some time to adjust as the change will be a bit scary for him, but once settled he will be a very loving boy. He gets along well with the dog in his foster home and will be best suited for a home without small children.

Financial Information and Statistics

2013 Christmas Bazaar

The net income from the 2013 Christmas Tea and Bazaar was \$4,344.64. This amount included donations, memberships, tea, crafts, and rummage items. Our total expenses of \$808 included hall rental, advertising, garbage disposal, and new shelving.



Shopping Tip:

Bring your own shopping bag with you to the Tea; plastic bags are not always available and you will be helping the environment.

Statistics

Sept 2013 to April 2014

Cat Spays: 195
Cat Neuters: 135

Dog Spays: 3
Dog Neuters: 3

(Medicals discontinued Feb 2011)

2014 Spay/Neuter Blitz

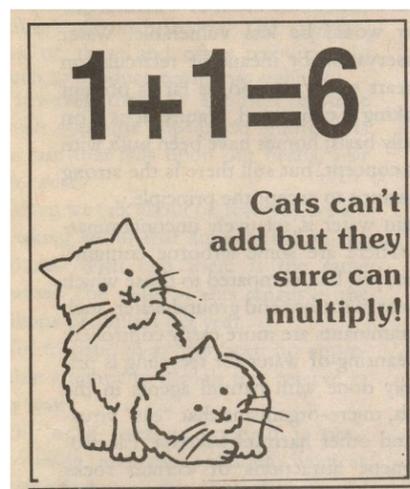
Cat Spays: 171
Cat Neuters: 119
(included in stats above)

Annual General Meeting

Wed. Sept. 17th, 2014

6:00pm

Phone for location



President's Message-Spring 2014

Welcome to another edition of the Scratching Post! We've been busy over the past several months. Our spay/neuter blitz was a great success – from February to April, we pledged almost 300 spays and neuters for cats belonging to low income people, as well as stray cats and ferals. A big thank you to our participating vets. And thanks to Pam for handling most of the calls.

Our annual raffle is underway – three great prizes – a \$300 gift card for Hillside Mall, a \$100 gift card for Lifestyle Markets, and a pedicure at the Fairmont Empress Willow Stream Spa. One dollar buys you a chance to win. Tickets are available at participating veterinary clinics and pet stores in the Greater Victoria area, the Peninsula, Sidney and Sooke. If you'd like to purchase a book of 25 tickets, please give us a call.

We also ventured further into Facebook, starting a corporate page with the help of Kendall Harris, a student in Professional Communication at Royal Roads University. It has all sorts of links to fun and interesting articles on cat care and some good recipes on homemade cat treats. You don't have to be a member of Facebook to see our page – just go online to www.facebook.com/TheVictoriaCatRescueCorpsSociety/ and browse away.

We are now preparing for our annual, classic Strawberry Tea. Word from the fields is that the local strawberries will be ready in time for some scrumptious shortcake, so we hope you can come and enjoy them with us. Magda has been sewing up a storm so there will be lots of cat-themed crafts for sale. And as usual, there will be lots of rummage and good bargains. A few other notes: first, in response to several requests from donors, we have registered with CanadaHelps.org to provide a way for donors to make donations by credit card on our website www.victoriacatrescue.com. This should be in place shortly. Second, a retraction: in the November issue of the Scratching Post, I stated that our Society had to transition to the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*. On further investigation, I confirmed that this requirement does not apply to us. In closing, remember that we're always looking for volunteers who would like to be actively involved in our Society and for good adoptive homes for our foster cats - check out our cats on our website!

As ever, thanks for your support. We couldn't do it without you.
Catherine



Your Cat's Health: Ask the Vets at Cornell University

Q. My cat squints and is pawing at her red, irritated cloudy eyes. What might cause this condition and what are the treatments?

A. Infectious causes and some inherited conditions are among the possible culprits. Conjunctivitis is one possibility. Persians, for example, are more prone because of hairs irritating their more prominent eyes. Drops or ointment containing antibiotics or anti-inflammatory drugs may be prescribed by your vet. If feline herpes virus is the cause of the conjunctivitis, antiviral medications may be necessary. Another possibility is glaucoma, which once it starts in cats, can progress quickly, resulting in potentially permanent vision loss. Corneal ulceration may be the cause. This is an erosion of the surface of the eye, due to scratches, viral infection, dry eyes, ingrown eyelashes or eyelids that roll inward. Symptoms are the same as for conjunctivitis. This can be treated with topical antibiotics, oral antiviral medications, or possibly surgery. Good news: The prognosis is good with prompt and consistent medical care.



In Memoriam

- Joyce Harrison in memory of her dog, Shadow
- Linda Rutherford in memory of Lily
- Jane Nielsen in memory of Charles
- Joannea Lovell - "In memory of Buster and Daisy Mae from 'Auntie'"
- Joannea Lovell - "In memory of Gracie (Chaperon) from 'Auntie'"
- Carol Sheilds "in loving memory of Jean Strachan & Cleo, Marcus, Caesar, Jackie, Negrita, Blanquito, Ginger, Pokey & Jasper"
- Rex Pendril Brown in memory of Betty Brown
- Nancy Everitt-McCabe in memory of Gus Salkus



Spotlight on Members—Cecilie Davidson



Cecilie grew up in Victoria, and travelled quite a bit with her parents, who wisely believed that missing a term, or travelling on summer holidays provided a good extra education. Interspersed with working at the McPherson Library, being a parent, renovating houses, and running a janitorial business, she has always tried to keep a hand in with animal advocacy and some volunteering, and "oh the hours of online petitions and letters hand-written." She feels that one is in fine company there, with members of thousands of causes actually effecting changes by flooding the inboxes of people who decide the fates of animals.

Both her Mum and her grandmother spent many hours of letter writing, meetings and advocacy back when dedicated people in Britain and a few in Canada were anti-vivisectionists. The "ant-vivvies" were among the precursors of the animal rights movement. Partly she was inspired by Mother Cecilia Mary who stood up to her superiors and ran the Good Shepherd Shelter at Cobble Hill. As a child she lived in fields of cabbages where Queenie the draught horse ploughed the furrows, and left Cecilie her shoe for good luck. Also inspiring were Tommy and Thora Bonneau (founders of VCRC) who walked the talk, and then some. Always with animals at home, she learned that they are not our play toys, that they are fellow sentient beings with character, and DNA remarkably similar to our own.

After some years of advocacy work, liaising with interesting people in wildlife protection, selling art to help fund anti-poaching units in India and Siberia, talking at luncheon meetings, getting people to march in the Victoria Day Parade, helping at bazaars, and holding several executive positions for VCRC, she currently finds herself more low key than before. Gone are the days of grabbing volunteers from the Wilderness Committee and others because she just had to mount an insta-demo with big signs and truck banners to tell Asia Pacific trade moguls to honour CITES and lay off tiger habitat. Occasionally she is still called out of the mid-island bush to tackle the bad guys harming wild salmon, or to hold placards at rallies. Mostly she keeps plugging away with petitions, helping the Qualicum Cat Rescue fundraiser, and of course she always looks forward to her bit for VCRC. (Cecilie has been in charge of the jewelry table at our fundraising events for years.) Cecilie says "Now that my cataracts are off I can do a better job! And I think about my tiny grandson and how I hope he will elevate animals too. For in so doing we elevate ourselves."

We thank Cecilie for all she has done for animals, and particularly for her work with our society!



Strawberry Tea & Bazaar

- strawberry shortcake and tea/coffee - \$5
- rummage
- books
- jewellery
- arts & crafts
- plants
- raffle (tickets available at tea)
- baking
- silent auction

Saturday, June 21, 2014
1.00-4.00 pm

Knox Presbyterian Church
2964 Richmond Road
(between Lansdowne & Taylor Street)

In support of the
Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society
Contact
250 656 1100
meow@victoriacatrescue.com
www.victoriacatrescue.com

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society is a charitable organization run by volunteers. All donations go toward spay, neuter and medical costs for the animals we assist.

Sad News

Our dear little ANNIE, OUR POSTER KITTY for the Strawberry Tea (pictured at left) has passed away. We shall never stop missing her. From Magda and Angela



Cut out the flyer on the left and post it in your neighbourhood.



Thank You

- **Bayside Press** has once again helped us by assembling our raffle ticket books at no cost.
- **Angela Westmacott** for her donation of the delicious strawberries and cake and **Loretta Chaperon** for the tea supplies.
- **Patisserie Daniel** for their generosity regarding the cake for the 2013 Christmas Bazaar and the 2014 Strawberry Tea.
- **Ian Fraser** and the staff of **Victoria Animal Control** for helping to transport rummage items and garbage. Their help is invaluable.
- **Lifestyle Markets** gave us \$100 Gift Certificate for our raffle
- **Willow Stream Spa/Fairmont Empress** donated a Pedicure for our raffle.

Please show your appreciation by supporting our sponsors in any way you can.

These donations, the donations of crafts and rummage, and the many volunteer hours, help to make our Raffle and Strawberry Tea a success, and enable us to raise more money to assist low income pet owners to care for their animals. We appreciate our donors very much!