

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 ONLY if you wish to
receive important notices from VCRCS.

Email: _____

Executive Board

2010-2011

President:

Sherry Buttner

Secretary:

Pam Slyth

Treasurer:

Catherine Gale

Director:

Magda Westmacott

Bazaar Convener:

Magda Westmacott

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

We're on the Web!
victoriacatrescue.com



Simba
volunteers by
answering
CRC phone
lines...

What can you
do to help?

Volunteers Needed!

We are currently seeking volunteers in all areas
of our society. Our **Foster/Adoption program** is
running again but could use more foster homes.

We also need a **person with fundraising
experience**. Any skill you have would be most
welcome. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday
of each month.

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."



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

FALL 2010

Annual Christmas Bazaar November 13th

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will be
holding their annual **Christmas Bazaar
on Saturday November 13th at Saint
Matthias Church, 600 Richmond Ave.**
The function will take place from 1-4 pm
and a piece of cake and a beverage will
cost \$3.75. We are renting on both levels,
so watch for signs to direct you to your
favourite items. **Help us by bringing your
own re-usable shopping bag!**

Clean sale items in good condition will be
accepted at the hall on **Friday Nov. 12th
between 1-7pm. Please note that no
donations can be accepted on Saturday.**
**PLEASE—No furniture, old model
microwaves, large appliances, or
computer equipment. These items are
typically difficult to sell, and we have
to pay for their disposal.**

Many thanks for your contributions so
far. Please dare to search through your
stash of fabric for unused pieces of fleece,
flannel, quilted fabric and anything in a
'cat' print. We would welcome your
donations—call 250 656-1100 if you have
anything suitable.

**Please cut out the flyer on pg. 6 and
post it in your neighbourhood.
Please photocopy more if you can.**

Meetings:
**2nd Monday of each
month at 6:00pm.**
**Call 250 656-1100
for location.**



Nikki's Story Page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be no
regular monthly
meeting in
December.

Christmas Bazaar **Nov.**
1-4 pm **13th**
St. Matthias
Church Hall

Regular Monthly **Nov.**
Meeting 6:00pm **8th**

Regular Monthly **Jan.**
Meeting 6:00 pm **11th**

Strawberry Tea **June**
St. Matthias **18th**
1:00 - 4:00 pm

YOUR TABLE AWAITS YOU!
PLEASE JOIN US FOR TEA AND CAKE
NOVEMBER 13TH 1 TO 4 PM



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



Q How can I convert an Outdoor Cat to Indoor Pet?

A If you remember to put health and safety first, there are ways to make a smooth, happy transition for all. If the cat is an outdoor stray, make sure to schedule a vet appointment and quarantine the cat from existing pets until it has been examined. Spaying or neutering is a must, to decrease the chance of objectionable behaviours. Gradual integration is the next important key. Create a safe area with food , litter, and water and keep them isolated from the other pets for several weeks. At this time, if you haven't already done so, kitty proof your home by removing cords, poisonous plants, pest poisons and choking hazards. Gradually allow all the cats in the house more exposure to each other at meal times. Have plenty of litter boxes, water bowls, toys and scratching material available to avoid competition. Provided plenty of physical and metal stimulation to help the cat adjust, and your time and patience will likely be rewarded.

Financial Information and Statistics

The net income from our 2010 Strawberry Tea was \$6,655.66	
broken down as follows:	
Raffle	2,370.00
Cake and Tea	619.00
Crafts	294.00
Rummage/Jewelry	1,625.56
Donations	1,870.55
Memberships	165.00
Silent Auction	144.00
T-Shirts	12.00

Statistics
Sept. 2009 to Aug. 2010

Cat Spays: 196
Cat Neuters: 126
Cat Medicals: 78
Dog Spays: 15
Dog Neuters: 15
Dog Medicals: 25
1 snake medical
1 rabbit medical
(includes 2010 Blitz)

Our Treasurer tells us that our 2010 event was the best Strawberry Tea ever! Thanks to all who volunteered and also to our loyal customers. A detailed list of donors and a grateful thank you was printed in the Spring newsletter .

Expenses:

Hall Rental (offset by donation)	385.00
Food (offset by donation)	395.32
Liability Insurance	50.00
Disposal	9.45

Just for Fun!

Check out Craig and his cats at www.caboodleranch.com
It is an awesome sanctuary for abandoned cats in Madison Florida



RESCUED AND HAPPY
Vanessa has been placed in a good foster home. See page 5.

President's Report

Twenty-ten has been an interesting year to say the least for your Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society. On the plus side, we had our best Strawberry Tea ever, netting over \$6500 including over \$2300 by our amazing Raffle team! Thanks to everyone who supported the Tea: volunteers, donators, and visitors alike. Our rescue program -albeit small- also saw a successful year taking many cats off the street, and many others TSNR. (Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release)

On the downside, the Bonneau Spay/Neuter Blitz totals were down and we are working on tweaking the Blitz for 2010. There are also fewer veterinarians willing to participate in the low-cost spay/neuter/medical programs for various reasons. It had to happen, as there are VERY few veterinarians in the Victoria area who do low-cost work for us, and they are carrying the load. I really would like to invite more clinics to help out, even with just a few low-cost procedures each month. The more vets who can help, the easier it will be for all, and the more we can assist low-income people in more parts of the city as many cat owners simply can't get transportation to vets outside the city.

The other area which continues to concern us (and many rescue groups) is the lack of interest in animal rescue work by young people, unless it involves "working with the cute kittens". I've taken dozens of calls and emails from prospective volunteers this year, as in previous years, but when they learn we're not a shelter and have only mundane tasks like working at the Tea and Bazaar, working the phone lines, and so on, we never hear from them again.

These tasks are vitally important, and we really need teens and young adults to get involved in our work. Working at the fundraisers or answering the phones may not sound exciting, but knowing we help save so many beautiful creatures every year has it's own rewards!

So as 2010 comes to a close and we look forward to another successful year for the Corps, I wish the same for you and yours. Thank you for your continued support of the Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society! Purrs, Sherry



Merry Christmas

In Memoriam



Myrna Inman-
in memory of Karen Webb
Elsie May Ross-
in memory of Norah Couchman

If a friend, relative or beloved pet has passed away, please consider giving a tax deductible donation in their memory to the Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society. We will acknowledge your donation in our newsletter, and send you a receipt. Any amount, large or small, will be very much appreciated and will help us assist low income families with veterinary expenses.



A Visit to the Bamfield Cats! By Sherry

The west coast of Vancouver Island is a magical place for me and after many visits to Tofino and Ucluelet, I decided it was finally time to make the trek to Bamfield. Partly because of it's remoteness, but partly because of the story of the Bamfield cats.

The long-time postmaster of the Bamfield Post Office was a true cat lover and was caring for 60+ cats at the time of her passing. Rather than let the cats fend for themselves, the Bamfield villagers rallied together to care for them. Volunteers look after the day-to-day management of the colony, funds are raised by the people of Bamfield and donation boxes are set out for visitors' contribution, and even the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre sells merchandise in their gift shop in support of the cats. Veterinarians in Port Alberni offer low-cost/at-cost medical care for them.



And strolling up the boardwalk in Bamfield West, you round a corner and come upon a wonderful sight: the Bamfield Cat Houses, a collection of brightly-painted kitty condos in all shapes and sizes built just for these well-loved felines. It is truly a heartwarming sight.



Victoria Cat Rescue Corps
Adoptive Homes Needed
Call 250 656-1100
for adoption information

Our Programs:

- Spay/Neuter Financial Assistance Program (formerly the Bonneau Spay Fund) offers modest assistance to those who cannot afford to spay or neuter their pet.
- Assistance to William Head Cat Fund, who along with the prisoners, care for cats at William Head Prison.
- Foster/Adoption Program where we attempt to find good homes for abandoned and homeless pets. Foster homes and volunteers are needed to sustain this program.
- Education program to alert the public about the importance of spaying and neutering to reduce the stray population.

SEE MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.victoriacatrescue.com

**"Foster homes and
volunteers are needed to
sustain the Foster/
Adoption Program."**

Foster/Adoption Program Report by Kim

Here is the story of the latest rescues in September. I hope we can find some great people who won't let them down again! Here are the ones looking for foster/adoptive homes:

Four kittens about twelve weeks old that were dumped at Lordco almost a month ago - they were domestic kittens as the staff called me when they noticed the kittens as the kittens were crying - but the place is full of machinery, etc - and despite a week of traps, food, etc they were never seen again so we pulled the traps and left food down for yet another week (none of it was touched). I assumed they did not make it. In the process, a poor little tortie girl was trapped and terrified -and is getting all the TLC she needs at Sherry's home. Last weekend the kittens were spotted under a ten foot pile of tires at an auto shop near Walmart. All four were trapped within two days which speaks to their level of hunger. I have them in a pen and can already touch and pick them up though they are still quite terrified. They are eating and eating and eating and are no longer bone-racks. It would be great if someone was home more than I am and could spend a couple of weeks or so just socializing them - my thought would be to split them up and do two each. They can then go up for adoption as soon as they are more relaxed. They are not feral.

The little Siamese/tabby mix called "Vanessa" (see photo page 2) showed up on a reserve with four 12 week old kittens. I trapped them all - the four kittens are in a foster home. Progress with them is slow but the foster mother is giving it her all. The mom was spayed and has since been placed in another foster home. She needs a few months to relax and learn to trust, and then I think she will be quite adoptable as she is very beautiful with unusual colouring and markings. Last but not least is the young black and white guy. He's a delight. Sweet, cuddly, and affectionate. He will make an awesome pet. He has been neutered - and tested negative for FIV/Felv. He needs to gain some weight and get healthy (scruffy coat and just generally grubby looking). If you know anyone who could foster or adopt these lovely cats please call us at 250 656-1100 as soon as possible.



Above and on right:
Lordco Kittens



Young B&W Male
"Panda Bear"





Merry Christmas!

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society will hold their Annual

Christmas Bazaar!

Saturday
November 13, 2010
1:00-4:00pm
St. Matthias Church,
600 Richmond Avenue

Rummage
Books
Jewellery
Arts & Crafts
Plants

Cake & Drink
\$3.75

For more information, please contact us at
250 656 1100
email us at meow@victoriacatrescue.com or visit 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.





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

Sept 2010 Annual General Meeting

Elections resulted in the previous Executive being unanimously re-elected for 2010/2011 term. See page 8 for listing. It was unanimously decided that we will submit a Change of Constitution, changing our requirements for Directors from six to three. These three will be comprised of President, Treasurer, and Secretary. We will amend our Constitution, removing unnecessary positions such as 1st VP, 2nd VP. Monthly meetings will commence at 6pm starting with the next meeting (on the 2nd Monday of each month as usual except for July, August, and December).

Pussins Still Opens a Door by Pamela M.

Pussins, our beloved grey, female cat was euthanized on July 12th this year. One of her favourite pastimes was opening doors. She knew how to turn a door handle just hard enough to make opening easier from the bottom. She was very affectionate and intrigued by any chore I was doing, so she often kept me company in the kitchen by repeatedly opening the door between the kitchen and pantry. She did this to no other purpose than the sheer joy of doing it. When she got it open she would smile triumphantly at me, as happy as that human finding the source of the Nile. Pussins was so beautiful. She had lighter grey necklaces around her neck and chest and a striped, light and dark grey raccoon tail. She was a little rounder than she should have been but moved with such grace that I rarely felt her when she climbed on my lap. Pussins was graceful and very sweet. She was the only cat I've ever known to come the first time I called her name. The vets who cared for her thought she was about ten years old when the cancer took her. She had a very rough time the first half of her life, enduring repeated abandonment. Sherry called us in February, 2006 and Pussins found her permanent home. I told her many times that I wanted to be a lot more like her, loving and grateful, and a lot less like me, angry and unmindful of my blessings. For four and a half years she was a daily inspiration to me. When she died I made a vow to the universe that I would honour her example of how to be, by remembering to be more like her, as best as I can. Oh, and that door that she still opens is the door to my heart.

Nikki Comes Home by Pam S.

As Secretary of VCRCS, I am usually doing paperwork or answering the spay/neuter phone lines—and not involved in rescue work. This summer I was unexpectedly involved in my very own rescue operation. While vacationing at the family cabin near Yellowpoint in July, a starving cat made an appearance, and after enjoying our BBQ leftovers, decided that we were her favourite people. Christened “Nicholson” after our location on Nicholson Cove, or Nikki for short, the cat was skin and bone and very very hungry. Nikki soon became the darling of the camp, everyone having advice and love, but no one offering a forever home. Nikki followed us at every step, loved to be petted, and was really a very nice cat. Already having some territory issues at home with our three cats, we didn’t feel we should bring her to our house. Something had to be done before we left for home, as we didn’t want to leave the cat behind in a seasonal situation, where the cat would be alone and starving again during the winter. I sent an emergency email out to see if a home could be found, and soon received a reply from friend Jennifer on Salt Spring Island, who had previously adopted a cat years ago from the same location. “Tilly” (named after our camp Tillicum) had passed away of old age and Jennifer’s family was ready for a new cat. VCRCS agreed to cover the cost of exam and spay, and I donated the vaccinations. We drove Nikki home, her cage squeezed in with the camping gear, stopped at the Elk Lake Vet Clinic for a quick exam, where she was pronounced healthy enough to be spayed in a few days. Until her appointment, we blocked off the inside door to our cat run and Nikki had her own private hotel. A few days later, Nikki still groggy and straight from the vet, we drove her to the ferry, where Jennifer met us and took Nikki ‘home’ to Salt Spring Island. Recently, I received the following note from Jennifer: *Nikki has taken over the house, she pulls cushions off chairs, so that she doesn't have to sit on the floor. She can open all cupboards, so we have had to put the dry cat food in a tin. Any other cats that dare walk past our house must be chased away, she is an “only” cat. We can pick her up, but only when she wants to be picked up - not all the time. Nikki stays off the table and the counter - when we are in the room. She still likes to stay very close to the fridge, but the top of the stairs is a very good place to keep an eye on everyone. She doesn't beg for food when we are eating - but the rest of the time it is lunch time. She tries to grab our legs if we go into the kitchen, most of the time she doesn't use her claws. All in all, I think that she was settled in quite well to life on Salt Spring. Everyone involved was very grateful to Victoria Cat Rescue Corps for the financial assistance required to get Nikki the veterinary care she needed.*

To see photos of Nikki, go to page 6.

Photos of Nikki. Story Page 3

The cabin where it all began.

Not looking good.

Feeling a bit better.

Able to relax at last and have a nap—with a full stomach!

