

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

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www.victoriacatrescue.com

Tax no.

BN11926 1493 RR0001

**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

2012-2013

President:

Sherry Buttner

Secretary:

Pam Slyth

Treasurer:

Catherine Gale

Directors:

Magda Westmacott

Susan Robertson

Whitney Garside

Bazaar Convener:

Magda Westmacott

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

We're on the Web!
victoriacatrescue.com



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

FALL 2012

Annual Christmas Bazaar November 17th

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will be
holding their annual **Christmas Bazaar**
on Saturday November 17th at Knox
Presbyterian Church.

The function will take place from 1-4 pm
and a piece of cake and a beverage will
cost \$4.50. **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. 16th**
between 2-7pm. 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.

Magda is always looking for fabric with cat
related prints or trim for her crafts. Call
250 656-1100 if you have some to spare.

There is a church parking lot, street park-
ing on Richmond, and extra space in the
lot next to the church that is available to
us on the day of the tea. Please respect
the "residents only" parking areas.

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

Meetings:
3rd Wed. of each
month at 6:00pm.
Call 250 656-1100
for location.



UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be no
regular monthly
meeting in
December.

Christmas Bazaar **Nov.**
1-4 pm **17th**
Knox Presbyterian

Regular Monthly **Nov.**
Meeting 6:00pm **21**

Regular Monthly **Jan.**
Meeting 6:00 pm **16**

Strawberry Tea **June**
Knox Presbyterian **2013**
1:00 - 4:00 pm **TBA**

This little boy pictured at
left needs a forever home.



YOUR TABLE AWAITS YOU!

Please join us for Tea and Cake

NOVEMBER 17TH 1 TO 4 PM

Knox Presbyterian 2964 Richmond Rd.

Volunteers Needed!

We are currently seeking volunteers in all areas
of our society. Our **Foster/Adoption program** is
operating but could use more foster homes.
More hands are needed to strengthen our
society. Any skill you have would be most
welcome. Meetings are currently held on the
3rd Wednesday 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."

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



Q How can I distinguish between a cat's normal shedding and abnormal hair loss?

A With the exception of hairless breeds such as the Sphynx, cats are known for their furry pelts, so if a cat starts to lose his coat, it's justifiably cause for concern. The answer is easy: Shedding doesn't cause bald spots. If the skin is visible, best to schedule a vet exam or ask for a reference to a dermatologist. Hair loss, or alopecia, takes two main forms: 1. the hairs fall out spontaneously, or 2. the hairs are broken off by scratching or chewing. In the case of spontaneous hair loss, a rare occurrence, it can be the result of stress, endocrine disease, or a form of cancer. In the case of hair lost by chewing or scratching, the condition is known as traumatic hair loss and is the most common form. The cats are typically licking the hairs off or pulling them out because they have an allergic or behavioral condition. Allergies to the environment such as pollen or ingredients in their diets can cause the skin to itch. Determining the cause of hair loss requires a complete clinical and laboratory evaluation.

Financial Information and Statistics

The **net income** from our 2012 Strawberry Tea was \$6,619.15 broken down as follows:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Raffle | 2,500.00 |
| Cake and Tea | 687.50 |
| Crafts | 208.50 |
| Rummage | 880.02 |
| Jewelry | 474.40 |
| Donations | 2,356.08 |
| Memberships | 210.00 |
| Silent Auction | 133.00 |

Expenses:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Hall Rental (offset by donation) | 350.00 |
| Strawberries | 296.00 |
| Newspaper ad | 59.27 |
| Pizza | 115.00 |

Announcement

The cost of strawberry shortcake and a beverage will be increased to \$5.00 in 2013 due to the rising cost of strawberries. The same generous portion will be served.

Statistics
Sept. 2011 to Aug. 2012

| |
|-----------------------|
| Cat Spays: 147 |
| Cat Neuters: 94 |
| Dog Spays: 7 |
| Dog Neuters: 9 |
| (includes 2012 Blitz) |

Our Treasurer tells us that our 2012 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 .



The cat in the manger. Gigi helps with the Christmas decorating.

Forever Homes Urgently Needed

Call 250 656-1100
for adoption information
Notes from Kim our Adoption Co-ordinator

A mom cat and kittens was spotted near a ditch on the highway in need of rescue – it took a month of trapping and we got the kittens one by one – they were traumatized and skinny –especially the last kitten who was left on her own and stayed under the dumpster for weeks while we tried to trap her. One of the little kittens was dead on the highway, and the mom was never found. These kittens have been to the vet, and they have really come around and are very loving and confident. If you would consider adding another family member to your household, please contact us as soon as possible.

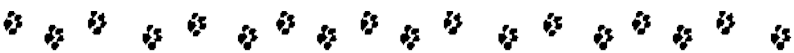


Charlie is a two to four year old super friendly and healthy male tabby searching for a loving home. Although he comes from a background of neglect, he loves people and is very good with other cats. His up to date with his vet checks and has tested negative for Feline Leukemia and FIV.



Sam is a delightful boy looking for a very loving home. He is a 1-2 year old happy-go-lucky healthy, neutered male. He would fit into almost any household as he is extremely confident and has perfect cat social skills! He gets along well with dogs, cats and people.

We are not only looking for adoptive homes, but we are always in need of good foster homes for rescued cats. If you would consider providing a foster home for one or more rescued cats, please call us as now at 250 656-1100.



In Memoriam—Donations received in memory of beloved family, friends or pets.



- Myrna Inman in memory of Richard McDowall
- Barry and Loretta in memory of Jamie Chaperon
- Evana and Jim Halliday in memory of Jamie Chaperon
- William Jesse in memory of Sedgewick the Rabbit
- Kathy Kilgour in Memory of Connie Caunt
- Anne Christensen in memory of Eddie Miller/Mouat



Scenes from the 2012 Strawberry Tea

Magda's Crafts and Cecilie's Jewelry Table bring in a significant portion of our sales revenue. Please consider donating cat related fabric or jewelry to the Christmas Bazaar.

A special thanks goes out to all volunteers and organizers; to Angela Westmacott, Loretta Chaperon and Liz Key for donations for the hall rental, strawberries, tea supplies and cake; to Magda for making crafts, and to all our other donors of crafts, supplies, rummage, and TIME. We couldn't have done it without you! And we can't forget to thank Ian and staff at Victoria Animal Control Services, who helped transport rummage and whose kitten display brought a smile to all who attended the Strawberry Tea.

Our Raffle Team went above and beyond this year, and all the raffle tickets were sold-an amazing feat! THANK YOU ALL.

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.
- 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.
- Thanks to member Pamela Miller, our fundraising/education flyer, which is mailed to thousands of Victoria area homes every year, has generated net income for VCRC of \$7,808.39 since 2004.

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

“Foster homes and volunteers are needed to sustain the Foster/Adoption Program.”

President's Report

Greetings, VCRCS supporters, and I hope you all had a terrific summer! I'm afraid my message this time will sound more like a rant than a message, but it's necessary. First, I wish to offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to all of our wonderful volunteers who continue to do such outstanding work with TNR and adoptions, our raffle, and to everyone who helps out with the hundreds of tasks associated with our Strawberry Tea and Christmas Bazaars. Huge thanks also to our patrons, who come out to shop and support our efforts. For the past two or three years we have seen income from these two fundraisers meet or break records. This is extremely gratifying! Thank you all.

But here's the thing; it is always the same volunteers who come out time and again to help, whether it is at our fundraisers, field work, or with the executive. This is not sustainable over the long run. We are all getting older; many of our members have retired from active work in the Corps, and some have passed away. It seems there is little interest in the younger generation to help out, but that is exactly what we need; young blood to follow us and keep doing the work Thora and Tommy started so many years ago.

Most of what we do is not glamorous; it is simply necessary fundraising to keep our TNR, foster, and spay/neuter assistance programs operating. I must take 10-20 or more phone calls and emails every years from people wanting to volunteer. But almost 100% of them only want to "socialize" (e.g. play with) the "cute kittens" in our shelter (despite the fact it says we have no shelter on our message machine!). When I suggest that fundraising is not only fun, but paramount to our success, they're suddenly not interested. It is all I can do to hold my tongue sometimes. People are so focused on instant gratification they can't see the end game, where we spend the money we earn. If we don't earn any, we can help no one. So, what do we do? I can continue to bleat away, but what we really need is a push to get people interested in volunteering. People of any age, but people who have the dedication and enthusiasm who can play the end game with doing the unglamorous stuff.

Please, ask around; your family and friends, your nieces and nephews, your children's schools. Have a look at our website (and page 7 of this newsletter) and see the precious cats whose rescue and rehabilitation is the direct result of countless volunteer hours, doing work other people seem to find so unworthy. We really need new faces and ideas, so please ask or volunteer!

And while you're visiting the cats on our website, why not adopt? We have cats and kittens just begging for a loving fur-ever home! Volunteer, foster, donate, or adopt...it all makes a difference! /rant!

Thank you for your continued support of the Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society.

Purrs, Sherry





Merry Christmas!

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society will hold their Annual

Christmas Bazaar!

Saturday
November 17, 2012
1:00-4:00pm

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

Rummage
Books
Jewellery
Arts & Crafts
Plants

Cake & Drink
\$4.50

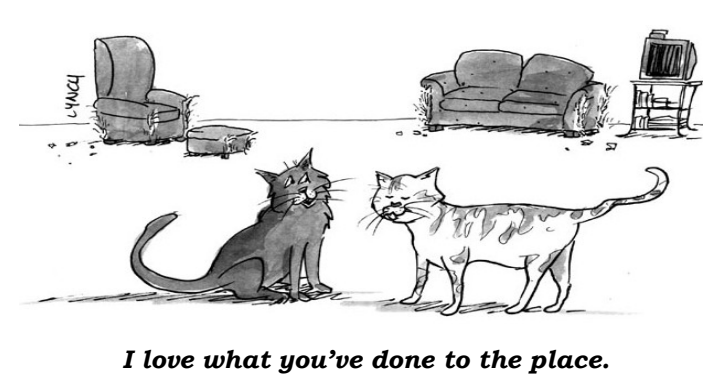
For more information, please contact us at
250 656 1100
email us at meow.133@victoriacatrescue.com or visit www.victoriacatrescue.com

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.



Request for Newsletter Submissions

If you have an interesting story or photo that you would like us to include in the newsletter, please contact the Editor at apenty@shaw.ca We would love some new material for the Spring issue. Perhaps you have a story about your own pet, or an interesting article or story that you saw in the media. All ideas are welcome.





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

Attention!

If you would like to receive the Scratching Post Newsletter by email - send your email address to our Editor at apenty@shaw.ca with a note saying you would like to be put on the email list. Please include your name.



Paws for Thought—what do you think?

- Cat video film festival** to celebrate web's furriest virals—as reported on *BBC News Website*
The internet phenomenon of sharing cute videos of cats is to be celebrated in the "world's first" film festival dedicated to viral felines. The Internet Cat Video Film Festival took place on 30 August in Minneapolis, in the US. Videos of cats online have come to symbolize the internet community's fondness for amusing quick-hit entertainment. Stand-out examples include Keyboard Cat, a clip originally recorded in 1984 showing a cat "playing" a tune on the keyboard. It was uploaded to YouTube in 2007, and has since had over 25 million views.
- Putting Cats to Work**—*Globe and Mail Wed. July 4, 2012*
A North Side Chicago neighbourhood is putting area feral cats to work battling its rat problem. CBS Chicago reports that the 47th Ward is working on a pilot program with the Tree House Humane Society where neutered, vaccinated and microchipped feral cats are being sent back out to the street to try to deter pesky rodents. The shelter's development director explained to the station that the Working Cats program is an alternative to the city spreading ineffective and expensive rat poison. Instead, the presence and odour of a cat can help scare away rats. A similar program was previously instituted in Los Angeles, not only to deter rats, but to save the feral cats' lives.

Holiday Overload Can Affect Their Health

CatWatch Magazine-Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Feline Health Centre

With shopping, traveling and entertaining, the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's can be anything but relaxing. However, humans are not the only individuals to suffer holiday overload. Cats can also become stressed, and if prolonged, the stress can result in changes in health and behavior. "A cat under stress would change personality as he loses his coping mechanisms. Often, the reaction is avoidance with or without vocalizations, and if the cat cannot escape, he defends himself aggressively. That's why it's important to create a safe place ahead of time" says Germain F. Rivard, DVM at Cornell University. He points out that new people, animals and situations can be difficult for many cats. Even a simple change of routine can be stressful because cats generally cherish consistency. Physical signs of stress include vomiting, diarrhea, refusal to eat and skin problems. Behavioral changes include excessive self-grooming, turning the body away, or the meatloaf pose: The cat lies on his stomach with his legs tucked and hidden under his body. Some cats may hiss when approached. Some things you can do to alleviate seasonal stress include: -manage canine visitors by keeping the guest dog on a leash and separating the animals-supervise children and make sure they know when the cat has had enough attention-consider boarding if your cat does well with it. For some cats, being away is preferable than being in a home filled with holiday chaos. And the last piece of advice is for the cat owner: CHILL. Cats may become stressed if they sense that their owners are anxious. Reduce your stress and don't be a perfectionist. And try to set aside some quality private time for you and your cat to enjoy each other's company. Time spent with loved ones is what the holidays are really all about.

