



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

SPRING 2015

Annual Strawberry Tea June 20th, 2015

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will hold their annual Strawberry Tea and Sale on **Saturday June 20th at 1:00pm at Knox Presbyterian Church.** (See poster on page 3.) 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 19th 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 3 and post it in your neighbourhood. Make extra copies if you can. Spread the word!
Call (250) 656-1100 for more information.



BOTTLE DRIVE
Sunday July 5th
Save your bottles for
our new fundraiser.
See the details on
Page 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting **June**
6pm **17**

Strawberry Tea **June**
Knox Presbyterian **20**
Church, 1-4pm

Bottle Drive 10-4 **July**
356 Bay St. **5**

Annual General **Sept**
Meeting 6pm **16**

Christmas Bazaar **Nov**
Knox Presbyterian **21**
Church, 1-4pm

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

No meeting July or Aug.

Important Notes

- Our raffle tickets are now on sale at participating vets and pet supply stores. We've got some good prizes this year – buy a \$2 ticket to support our activities and you could win a \$300 gift card for the Bay Centre, a Spa Package at the Fairmont Empress Willowstream Spa, or dinner for two at Milestones plus tickets for the IMAX Theatre at the Royal BC Museum. The draw will be held at the Strawberry Tea.
- 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.
- If you are selling raffle tickets on behalf of VCRC, please remember to bring the stubs and money to the Tea on June 20th.



Adoption and Foster News

We're looking for adoptive parents! Clayton and Miss Ellie, Sophie, Brock, Harmony, Lacey, and Anna are ready to be adopted into permanent homes. Please see our website at www.victoriacatrescue.com or call 250 656-1100 to inquire. Some of these animals have been waiting for many months for their forever home. Some require dental work, which is costly. If you would like to make a special donation to help with these costs, we'd greatly appreciate it.



CLAYTON AND MISS ELLIE



SOPHIE



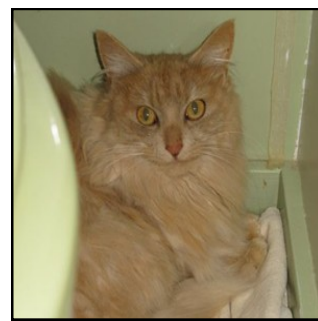
BROCK



HARMONY



LACEY



ANNA

Financial Information and Statistics

2014 Christmas Bazaar

The net income from the 2014 Christmas Bazaar was \$5,224.86

Income

Donations	2,292.21
Memberships	135.00
Tea & Cake	427.00
Crafts	405.00
Prize Draw	203.00
Rummage	1,419.30
Jewelry	938.00

Expenses

Hall Rental	350.00
Times Colonist Ads	94.49
Pizza	119.04
Posters	17.47
Disposal	13.65

Statistics

Sept 2014 to April 2015

Cat Spays: 134
Cat Neuters: 118

Dog Spays: 4
Dog Neuters: 0
(Medicals discontinued Feb 2011)

2015 Spay/Neuter Blitz

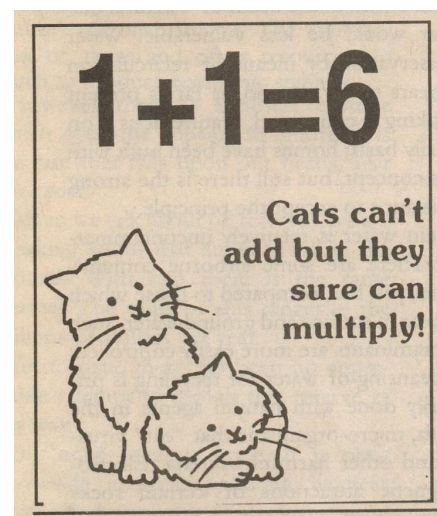
Cat Spays: 84
Cat Neuters: 62
(included in stats above)

Annual General Meeting

Wed. Sept. 16th, 2015

6:00pm

Phone for location



President's Message-Spring 2015

Just as we were preparing this issue of the Scratching Post, Magda Westmacott, our dear friend and fellow director passed away. You will know her as the crafts lady at our bazaars, selling her beautiful cat-design pillows and other items, who was featured in our last issue. She was also our long-time volunteer coordinator, bazaar convener and much more. She was a treasure and it's hard to think of the Corps without her smile, gracious presence, kind heart and tireless dedication. We are bereft without her but will carry on in her spirit.



Magda passed away May 14, 2015



We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming Strawberry Tea and Bazaar on June 20th. The strawberries should be great this year. So come and join us – it's our major fundraiser of the year. There will be lots of rummage, jewelry, books, and crafts, as well as our delicious strawberry shortcake!

We had a short but popular Spay/Neuter Blitz during 'pre-kitten' season this year. During the blitz we paid the full cost of spays/neuters for approximately 146 cats belonging to low income cat owners. Thanks Pam for handling the call line again this year.

You may see some posters around town about Project Purr: Kitten Rescue Project. United Hearts Animal Society is working together with local rescue groups to take in unwanted or stray kittens, pregnant cats, and nursing queens with litters to find them homes. There will be three events this summer where people (with photo ID) can drop them off. Each cat will also be vet-checked, spayed/neutered, and vaccinated. We're supporting this project and will provide some funding for spays/neuters. For more information about the events or how to help, please visit the Facebook page for United Hearts Animal Society

<https://www.facebook.com/events/893039137419193/> The events will be held on June 14, 10am-4pm, at Central Saanich Animal Hospital (1782 Stelly's X Rd); on July 12, 10am-4pm, at Saseenos Veterinary Services (5490 Sooke Rd); and on August 16, 11am-4pm, at Vetcetera Pet Hospital (Upper Level Tillicum Mall). A pick-up service will also be available for those without access to a vehicle.

If you'd like to volunteer or attend our monthly meetings, please email us at meow.133@victoriacatrescue.com or leave us a message at (250) 656-1100. We'd love to see you. As ever, we and the animals we serve, deeply thank you for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you. Catherine

NEW FUNDRAISERS

*Our Treasurer Cheryl McCreary is organizing a Bottle Drive for **July 5th 2015** from 10:00am to 4:00 pm. Drop Off location: 356 Bay Street. For those members who do not have a car, Cheryl will come and pick up your bottles. You can contact her at 250-479-0909 or email her at cmccreary@shaw.ca Please save all returnable beverage containers, with the exception of milk products. This includes gable top juice containers, tetra packs, cans, alcoholic and non-alcoholic containers. ***Please ask your friends and family to participate in this fundraiser.***

*Feeling lucky? In addition to our raffle tickets, we are holding additional draws for prize baskets at the Tea. You can buy a strip of tickets and enter for the basket you want to win.



In Memoriam—Donations received in memory of loved ones

- Catherine Gale, Robin Durkin, Gail Fattore, Irene Tassie in memory of Magda Westmacott
- The College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC in memory of Magda Westmacott
- June and Ron Thibault in memory of Ginger Sherman of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
- Eileen Thomson in memory of Bob Waddell—a gentle soul who nurtured animals wounded in body or spirit
- Carol Sheilds in memory of Jean R. Strachan and all her beloved pets
- Gae VanSiri in memory of her friend Sheila's cats Toto and Remy
- Mrs. Beryl Gatzke in memory of her husband, Ave
- Jordan Trenaman in memory of her cat Bronte
- Mary Goodspeed in memory of Tove Bording
- Elaine Carson in memory of Nancy Russell
- Les Thomas in memory of all his furry friends
- Leslie Painter in memory of her cat Marley 1994-2014
- Dot Austin in memory of memory of past member Kim Cutler
- Barb Elliott in memory of her Mum, Iris
- Magda Westmacott in memory of Ann de Bruyn
- Irene Tassie in memory of George, Henry, Whiskey and Doran
- Aimee Botje in memory of Sabia



Magdalene Marie WESTMACOTT

Times Colonist, Saturday May 23, 2015

Magda lost her courageous battle with cancer on Thursday, May 14, 2015. Predeceased by her husband Tony in 2012, Magda is survived by her beloved daughters Angela (Victoria, BC) and Cheryl (London, England); her "adopted" daughters Mary-Ann Pfeifer, Cherry Mills and Elka Tooren; her niece Susan Westmacott and daughter Noelle; and her much loved cat Theodore. Magda was born in Bremerhaven, Germany on July 8, 1928. She immigrated to Canada in 1954 to start a new life. She was working in Montreal when she met Tony. They married in 1958 and moved to Ottawa where their daughters were born. In 1974, the family relocated to Kelowna. Tony and Magda settled in Victoria in 1989. Magda worked tirelessly for many charities over the years, but devoted most of her time to The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society after moving to Victoria. Her renowned sewing skills were instrumental in raising money for animal welfare. Magda's many interests included a passion for social justice and the environment, and a love of music, theatre, and travel. She was a prodigious reader. Magda was loving, warm and generous to a fault, touching many lives with her kindness, humour and infectious smile. She will be deeply missed by her girls and many wonderful friends. Magda successfully battled lymphoma for over 13 years, only to be diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in July 2014. She and her family were grateful for the wonderful care she received from Dr. Donna Cuthbert, Dr. Brian Winsby and Dr. Jeffrey Schulz. Our thanks as well to Brenda England; to Arlene, Vicki, Patti, and all of the other fabulous nurses at D & T at RJH who treated Magda like family on her bi-weekly visits for transfusions; to Heather Fahr who provided friendship and loving care to Magda; and to her dear friends Catherine Gale, Dawn House, Gail Fattore and Pamela Miller for their unwavering support. A Celebration of Life will take place on Friday, July 3, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the University Club of Victoria at UVIC. In lieu of flowers, Magda would have appreciated donations to any animal welfare charity, but particularly The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society.



Strawberry Tea & Bazaar

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

Saturday, June 20, 2015
1.00-4.00pm

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.



PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
SHOPPING BAGS TO THE
STRAWBERRY TEA



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

©1998 Randy Glasbergen. E-mail: randy@glasbergen.com www.glasbergen.com

YOUR CAT'S BOSS



GLASBERGEN

"When you're done ruining the sofa, I want you to start clawing the new stereo speakers. After that, you need to leave your tongue prints in the butter, then take a nap on a pile of clean laundry."

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 strawberries and cakes for both the 2014 Christmas Bazaar and the 2015 Strawberry Tea.
- **Patisserie Daniel** for their generosity regarding the cake for the 2014 Christmas Bazaar and the 2015 Strawberry Tea.
- **Ian Fraser** and the staff of **Victoria Animal Control** for helping to transport rummage items and garbage. Their help is invaluable.
- **The Fairmont Empress and Angela Westmacott** for their donation of the Willowstream Spa raffle prize.
- **Susan Pitt** donated the dinner and Imax pass raffle prize.
- **Loretta Chaperon** for the very necessary tea supplies and donation to Hall Rental cost..
- **Liz Keay** for her donation toward the Hall Rental cost.

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 Raffles and fundraising events 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!

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.
- Spay/Neuter Blitz held every Spring, when we offer full payment of spay/neuter procedure to low income families
- 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 is mailed to thousands of Victoria area homes every year.

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



The cats pictured at left are from a feral colony in the Lochside area near the airport. VCRC member Dennis has been assisting Natalie from Dee's Orphan Rescue Fund. The plan is to release the healthy ones after spaying and neutering.

Many rescue groups in our area are working hard to help cats in similar situations.

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

Q. Our cat, Mugs, weighs 26 pounds. He has eaten nothing but diet cat food for two years and has gained four pounds! What can we do to help our large boy? He is an indoor cat.

A. Nutritionists are not certain of the causes of obesity in cats but suspect that genetics play a role, as do behavior and lifestyle. Unfortunately, the energy expenditure of most indoor cats is less than their fuel intake. Obese cats have a higher incidence of diseases such as diabetes mellitus and suffer from more conditions like arthritis. Your veterinarian can help you determine the ideal weight for Mugs, and then two steps are required: **1.** strict calorie controlled diet and **2.** more exercise. Your vet can help you determine the ideal calorie intake for weight control and weight loss, so offer that amount and no more, with no between meal snacks or people food. You can figure out the caloric content of his food by calling the manufacturer if the information is not listed on the can. Movement can be encouraged by putting Mugs' food or favourite cushion in a place where he must move or jump or climb to reach them. More play time should be added to his day. Get a toy or an item that he likes to chase, and get him moving!



My Search for The PERFECT Cat by CRC Member Denis Brisson



I want the perfect cat. One that is fun to play with, one that loves to snuggle with me, is soft and has nice fur, is the perfect breed, and I can be proud to say is my cat. If you talk to any cat owner they will laugh at you, saying there is no such thing as the perfect cat.

Their cat does things that defy understanding, will follow them everywhere but don't want to be touched, hide for the first two weeks you own them, then only come out late at night for food and the litter box. Oh, did I mention owned??? That's right... YOU are owned by your cat/s. You do not own them! You are there to see to all their needs, not the other way around! When you get a cat, YOU ARE THEIRS!!!

But I don't want one of THOSE cats! I want a GOOD cat! I want a GREAT cat! I want the PERFECT cat!!!

Well, you MAY want a perfect cat but every cat will have a personality, and as that personality comes out, some traits will appear. It is up to you and your vet to get the good traits to stay, and the not so good traits to not come up as often, or not at all, by training the cat. Your vet will often have advice that will help ease the stresses the cat is undergoing. There may even be a medical issue that is causing a problem.

Scratching is one that is often heard of, and the meme I have seen most often is a picture of a cat, beside a destroyed item, with the line beside it saying, "This is the reason we can't have nice stuff.". Covering something that cats start scratching at with foil makes it less nice to scratch, but you have to have something they CAN scratch beside it so they have something to scratch. Cats may like both horizontal, and/or vertical scratching posts.

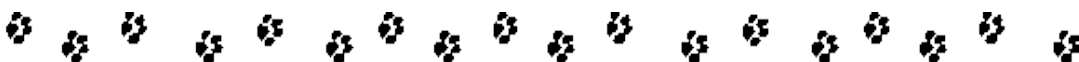
If your cat scratches around in the litter box then steps out of the box and hasn't urinated or urinates beside the box or runs to you and urinates, that is a sign that they might have a UTI, a urinary tract infection, and need veterinary medical help. Or they may find the box just stinks and can't stay in long enough to do their thing. Cats have a great sense of smell, so if you can smell it, imagine how it stinks to them!

Cats are really not fans of change of any type. Change their type of food, litter brand, or location of the litter box, different people in the home, or a different home, and they may become stressed. This may come out in various ways, such as vomiting, hiding, licking off all the accessible fur, and defecating in different spots.

Many of the people who foster rescue cats send along a blanket the cat slept on to give it something familiar to go to, when it feels stressed on arrival in a new home. They may recommend a type of cat food and litter to make the cat feel more comfortable so that there is less stress about the new home. Some people might also adopt a brother or sister of their new cat so they have a familial scent and a friend close by to snuggle with.

So what is the perfect cat? That would be the cat that loves you unconditionally, and that you love back the same way! Now THAT is the perfect cat!

By Denis Brisson



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

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Victoria BC V8R 6S4

Phone: 250 656-1100
Email:

meow.133@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 if you would like to receive the Scratching Post electronically, and receive important VCRCS notices.

Email: _____

Executive Board

2014/2015

President:

Catherine Gale

Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Directors:

Magda Westmacott

Pam Slyth

Sherry Buttner

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

We're on the Web!
Victoriacatrescue.com

Volunteers Needed!

We are currently seeking volunteers in all areas of our society. Our **Foster/Adoption program** is in need of foster homes for animals in crisis and adoptive homes for rescued animals.

Many animals have been helped and are now happy and healthy.

Why not volunteer today?



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".