



# SCRATCHING POST

SPRING 2016

## Annual Strawberry Tea June 18th, 2016

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will hold their annual Strawberry Tea and Sale on **Saturday June 18th 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 17th 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 5 and post it in your neighbourhood. Make extra copies if you can. Spread the word! Call (250) 656-1100 for more information.**



Isabelle is collecting bottles!

### **BOTTLE DRIVE**

**Sunday July 17th**

**Save your bottles for our new fundraiser.**

**See the details on Page 3**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Regular Meeting** June 15  
6pm

**Strawberry Tea** June 18  
Knox Presbyterian Church, 1-4pm

**Bottle Drive** 11-3 July 17  
4261 Glanford Ave

**Annual General Meeting** Sept 21  
6pm

**Christmas Bazaar** Nov 19  
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.**

## 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 be a winner! 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 either to the meeting on June 15th or to the Tea on June 18th.



## Trapping and Spay/Neutering a Feral Colony by CRC President Catherine Gale

Waiting in the car for over an hour. Hey – there's one of the cats! It's approaching a trap. Sniffing around the outside...walked in! Going toward the food and ... snap! The cat is trapped. Phew! Walk over to the trap, check for any sign the cat is domestic or has already been spayed or neutered – an ear notch? No? Off to the vet for a further examination. Also to see if it's a nursing mom - she'd have to go back to the colony right away. Okay to proceed with the spay/neuter? Now it's over and time to take the cat home for a week's recovery. Then decide on the next step – release back, re-home, or keep longer for medical care? This is a quick snapshot of a scene being repeated over and over again in large feral colonies where an attempt is being made to control the population.

It takes a lot of dedicated people and cooperation to spay/neuter a large colony. People who feed the colony daily, coordination with volunteers who trap (no food in the morning on trapping days), veterinary services available to check out the cats quickly, volunteer recovery and foster homes, and barn homes where available. The combined effort and energy is immense, the endeavour so worthwhile.

Why is it so important? Years ago, a friend and I fed and trapped feral cats from a small colony where the land was later redeveloped. Until then, my experience was limited to healthy kittens. What I saw with this colony could be heart-breaking. We saw kittens with serious upper and lower respiratory disease, feline distemper as well as parasites. We trapped, spay/neutered and provided medical care for those we could and fortunately, most of them pulled through. But it became clear that the adults we saw in the colony were the survivors and spay/neutering was necessary to reduce suffering. Jo and Siam, my two 15-year old girls trapped during that last year of trapping, constantly remind me how important this is.



## Financial Information and Statistics

### Statistics

#### Sept 2015 to April 2016

Cat Spays: 104

Cat Neuters: 71

Dog Spays: 2

Dog Neuters: 4

(Medicals discontinued Feb 2011)

#### 2016 Spay/Neuter Blitz

Cat Spays: 70

Cat Neuters: 45

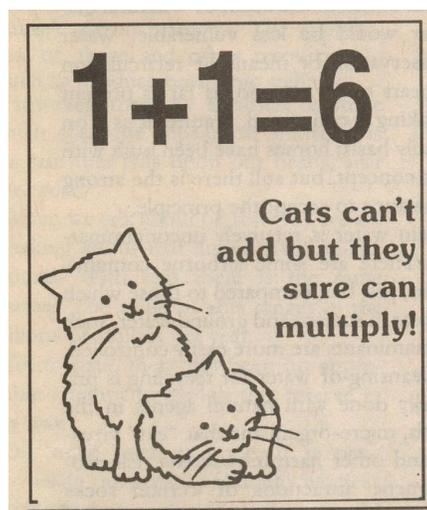
(included in stats above)

### Annual General Meeting

**Wed. Sept. 21st, 2016**

**6:00pm**

**Phone for location**



### 2015 Christmas Bazaar

The net income from the 2015 Christmas Bazaar was \$4,673.15

#### Income

Donations	\$1899.50
Memberships	\$165.00
Tea & Cake	\$432.50
Crafts	\$315.10
Prize Draw	\$259.00
Rummage	\$1311.39
Jewelry	\$958.15

#### Expenses

Hall Rental	\$400.00
Advertising	\$115.49
Pizza	\$112.00
Raffle Licence	\$25.00
Disposal	\$15.00

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## President's Message-Spring 2016

Our annual classic Strawberry Tea and Bazaar will soon be here. Please come out and join us for a luscious piece of strawberry shortcake! And check out the bargains on the rummage, jewelry, books, and crafts tables. Who knows what you'll find. We're looking forward to seeing everyone. It's our major fundraiser of the year!

Our raffle tickets are now on sale at participating vets and pet supply stores. More good prizes this year – a \$2 ticket will help support our activities and give you a chance to win \$500 cash, or a PetSmart cat gift basket including a \$100 gift card, or a \$100 gift card for The Bay, or a Willowstream Spa Empress Luxe Pedicure. Tickets will also be available at the Strawberry Tea, where the draw will be held.

A big shout-out to Voice of Concern for Animal Life (VOCAL) - they very generously co-funded our Spay/Neuter Blitz which started in February. During the blitz we paid the full cost of spay/neuters for 115 cats belonging to low income cat owners. As this was a lower response than expected, it left some funding for other activities.

So, when Dee's Orphan Kittens put out a call for assistance in March to spay/neuter two huge feral cat colonies, Victoria Cat Rescue Corps and VOCAL offered to assist. As of mid-May, we have funded spay/neuters for 42 cats. Dee's and several volunteers are actively trapping so there will be many more to come. It takes a community response to deal with such large colonies.

If you know someone who would like to adopt a cat, please keep an eye on our website, [www.victoriacatrescue.com](http://www.victoriacatrescue.com). We have several cats in foster care building trust with their foster parents and they will be coming up for adoption over the next several months.

As ever, we and the animals we serve, deeply thank you for your continued support.

We couldn't do it without you.

Catherine

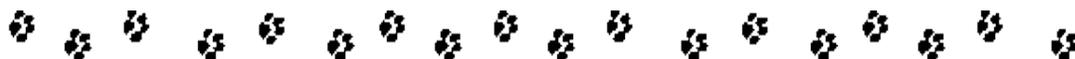


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## Bottle Drive Fundraiser

Our Treasurer Cheryl McCreary is organizing a Bottle Drive for **Sunday July 17th 2016** from 11:00am to 3:00 pm. Drop Off location: Glanford Bottle Depot, 4261 Glanford Ave. For those members who do not have a car, Cheryl will come and pick up your bottles. You can contact her at 778 265-5338 or email her at [cmccreary@shaw.ca](mailto: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.***



## In Memoriam—Donations received in memory of loved ones

Janice Barry in memory of Missy  
A.M. McEwen in memory of Ellen McEwen  
Jaci Ross in memory of Chanel and Tramp  
Barb Elliott in memory of (Mum) Iris Brookman  
Carol Sheilds in memory of Jean Strachan and her beloved pets  
Nancy Everitt-McCabe and T'sa-me in loving memory of Garry B. Tucker  
Janet Renouf in memory of Mr Kai Cat  
Kai Kubota in memory of Sydney  
Linda Allen in memory of Pussin  
Delia Mosi in memory of "all my beloved cats"  
Arlena Dodd in memory of Babette  
Barbara Litton in memory of Friday  
Irene Tassie in memory of George and Henry  
John Heller in memory of Lewis Taylor  
Mary Mouat in memory of Alan and Pam's dear Simba  
Alan Penty in memory of "my buddy Simba"



*God made the cat in order that  
humankind might have the  
pleasure of caressing a tiger.*

*Joseph Méry 1797-1866*

## For The First Time In A Century, Wild Tiger Numbers Are On The Rise

*"We are making significant progress on one of the greatest comeback stories in conservation."*

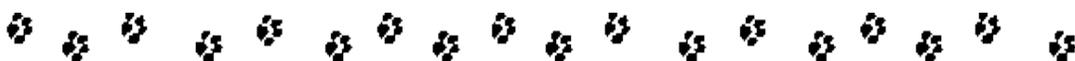
An article by Dominique Mosbergen Senior Writer, The Huffington Post

For wild tigers, the numbers have not been kind. In 1900, an estimated 100,000 tigers roamed free on our planet. Yet within one hundred years, that number plummeted by more than 95 %, the result of rampant poaching and widespread habitat loss. But it seems the tide may finally be turning for the majestic cat. The World Wildlife Fund announced recently that wild tiger numbers were on the rise for the first time in over a century. There are now an estimated 3,890 tigers in the wild, up from about 3,200 in 2010 numbers. The increase could partly be attributed to the rising tiger populations in India, Russia, Nepal and Bhutan as well as enhanced protection of the endangered species globally. Better survey methods could also be a factor. Carter Roberts, President and CEO of WWF, stated: "We've watched tigers decline for decades and have dreamed of bending that curve in the other direction. In a sea of bad news on the environment...we are making significant progress on one of the greatest comeback stories in conservation."



Tackling poaching and the illegal trade of tiger parts will be a central component of the fight to fulfill the goal of doubling the world's tiger population by the year 2022. The Global Tiger Forum, governments and conservationists are all working together to achieve this goal.

To read the full article, go to [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/tiger-numbers-increase\\_us\\_570b531fe4b0142232495502](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/tiger-numbers-increase_us_570b531fe4b0142232495502)

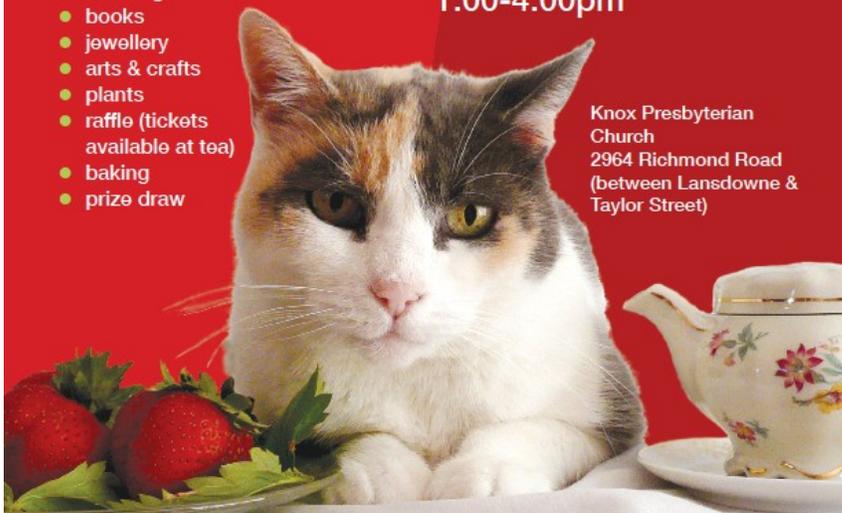


# Strawberry Tea & Bazaar

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

Saturday, June 18, 2016  
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](mailto:meow@victoriacatrescue.com)

[www.victoriacatrescue.com](http://www.victoriacatrescue.com)

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.**



## 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 our 2016 Strawberry Tea.
- **PetSmart and Sherry Buttner** for the Gift Basket Raffle Prize
- **Cherry Mills** who donated the HBC Gift Card for our raffle
- **Patisserie Daniel** for their generosity regarding the cake for this year's 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** for their donation of the Willowstream Spa raffle prize.
- **Loretta Chaperon** for the very necessary tea supplies and donation to Hall Rental cost.
- **Liz Key** 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 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 help us 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](http://www.victoriacatrescue.com)

## Foster and Adoption News

While we will have more animals in the near future that are socialized and ready for adoption, the only cat needing a forever home at the time of printing is our old friend Brock. He is extremely sweet and shy. He is making progress almost daily and will blossom in the right home. He will take time to adjust but loves attention and likes to be petted. Brock is suitable for a quiet home with lots of predictability. Not suitable for a busy home or young children. Please consider giving this guy a home! If you are interested, please email Kim at [kimesau@shaw.ca](mailto:kimesau@shaw.ca) and remember to check our website for updated adoptables.



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

**Q.** My 11 year old male cat has just been diagnosed with diabetes. I am feeling overwhelmed by the prospect of managing his condition and concerned for his wellbeing.

**A.** Diabetes is a common feline disease. It does require dedication and the collaborative efforts of both owner and veterinarian. The beta cells in your cat's pancreas that normally produce insulin either are producing less than normal, or the cat's cells have become resistant to the effects of insulin - or both. Cats with diabetes typically have elevated blood glucose concentrations and various tissues within their bodies may become starved of energy, leading to clinical illness. Therapy is needed to limit these clinical signs and is achieved by administration of insulin by injection and by controlling obesity, avoiding certain drugs, and watching the diet of your cat. It is important to work closely with your veterinarian to evaluate your cat's condition and devise a management plan that is effective and feasible for you. Careful monitoring both at home and during vet visits will be important. The good news: with appropriate treatment and monitoring, cats with diabetes can do very well for long periods of time. It might seem overwhelming at first, but you will become accustomed quickly to your role in treatment for your kitty!



# Domino's Story by CRC Member Sherry Buttner

Domino came from Victoria-area reserve. Some people who feed feral cats saw the kitten being tossed around the playground by a bunch of children. He was being put down the slide, tossed around, and otherwise abused. The children (and their parents) were spoken to, but the abuse continued. Then later on they saw Domino, and he was declining. They believe that once he was no longer a kitten, he was just tossed outside and not given any food or shelter or care. They've seen this happen previously with their own eyes, so they know it is a bit of a pattern. So when Kim (VCRCS TNR/rescue/adoption coordinator) was doing Trap/Neuter/Release, she discovered that Domino was in the trap. He was an absolute mess. Because he was so dehydrated and in rough shape, he looked like an old cat. Once he was fed and cared for, she realized that he was a very young cat. While Kim had him, he had some issues with his back end, which resulted in a strange gait. He had a vet visit and an xray, which showed no skeletal abnormalities, which was a relief. So I took Domino home to temporarily foster him, but we fell completely in love with him, and adopted him permanently. Domino's back end problems have resolved, but he does continue to have intestinal/digestive problems. These will probably be life-long issues, but careful attention to his diet keeps the condition under control.

## Go Domino ☺

Without the generous contributions to VCRCS by way of memberships, donations, bequests, and volunteering, happy endings like Domino's would never be possible. Thank you!

~Sherry,

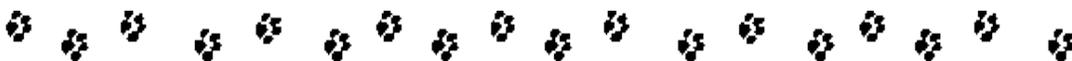
Past President, VCRCS.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

P.O. Box 5478 LCD 9  
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

**2015/2016**

*President:*

Catherine Gale

*Secretary:*

Susan Robertson

*Treasurer:*

Cheryl McCreary

*Directors:*

Denis Brisson

Pam Slyth

Sherry Buttner

*Scratching Post Editor:*

Pam Slyth

**We're on the Web!**

[victoriacatrescue.com](http://victoriacatrescue.com)

## Volunteers Needed!

We are currently seeking volunteers in all areas of our society including administration. Many animals have been helped and are now happy and healthy.

We always need workers at our fundraisers too!

**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".