



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

Fall 2018

Annual Christmas Bazaar November 17th, 2018

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar and Sale on **Saturday November 17th at 1:00pm at Knox Presbyterian Church.** (See poster on page 7.) The function will take place from 1-4 pm and cake and beverage will cost \$5.00. Clean sale items in good condition will be accepted at the church on Friday Nov. 16th 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 7 and post it in your neighbourhood. Make extra copies if you can. Spread the word!

Call (250) 656-1100 for more information.



**Meetings held 3rd
Wed. of each
month at 6pm.**

**Call 250-656-1100
for location.**

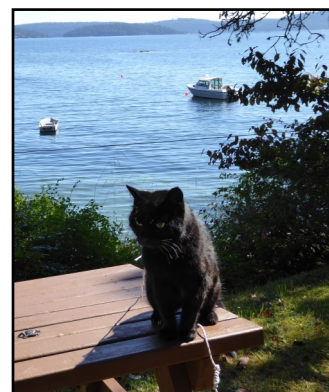
**No meetings in
July, Aug or Dec.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting Nov
6pm 14

Christmas Bazaar Nov
Knox Presbyterian Church, 1-4pm 17

Strawberry Tea TBA
2019



Read about GiGi's first vacation on page 3

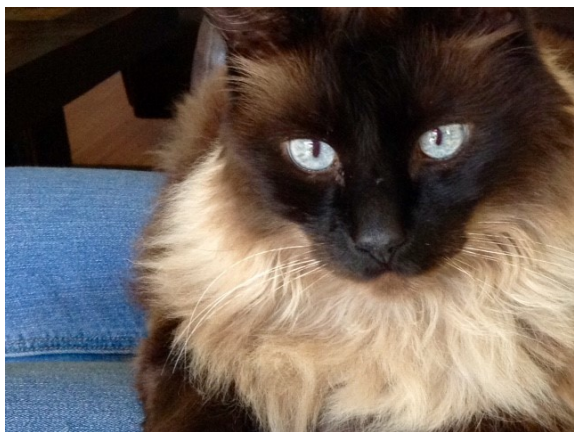
Important Notes

- Please respect the 'residents only' street parking when attending the Bazaar. The Church has a parking lot, and we can also use the lot next door.
- **Crafters and Bakers Needed:** We are short of crafted items to sell at the Bazaar. If you are a crafter and want to help, please donate sewing, or crafts. They are very popular at this time of year. Please list ingredients on your baking, and refrain from using Styrofoam trays due to health regulations.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
SHOPPING BAGS TO THE
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



News From our Foster/Adoption Program



A tribute to one of our beloved foster cats, written by Kim Esau, the co-ordinator of our Foster/Adoption Program.

Rags came into the care of CRC in 2011 when he was rescued as a malnourished stray who was near death. Rags had many ongoing struggles to regain his health, one of which was kidney disease. Because he was elderly and needed significant medical care, we made the decision to have Rags become a permanent foster cat.

He was also extremely needy and wanted to be near you constantly. Rags was a very gentle soul who touched many hearts along the way. He was matched with the perfect foster home! He spent almost five years being doted on and given all the love and attention any cat would dream of. His foster mom was retired, with a deep love for cats. Rags wanted someone home a lot. She was able to attend to his medical needs and administer several daily medications. She loved Rags, and Rags loved her. While he had clearly spent many years neglected and struggling for survival, the last years of his life were full of love and care.

We are grateful that Rags could live the life he deserved - and thanks to your donations, the kindness of foster homes - and the fabulous care he received from Sidney Animal Hospital and Hillside Veterinary Clinic - his dream came true.

Rest in Peace Rags. You were dearly loved by many.

2018 Strawberry Tea

The net income was \$4,223.06

There was no raffle this year.

Income

Donations	1,886.85
Memberships	75.00
Tea & Cake	662.00
Crafts	241.25
Rummage	1,225.45
Jewelry	707.45
Silent Auction	460.00

Expenses

Hall Rental	400.00
Pizza	125.00
Strawberries	245.00
Ads	166.14
Liability Insurance	82.80
Disposal	16.00

Financial Information and Statistics

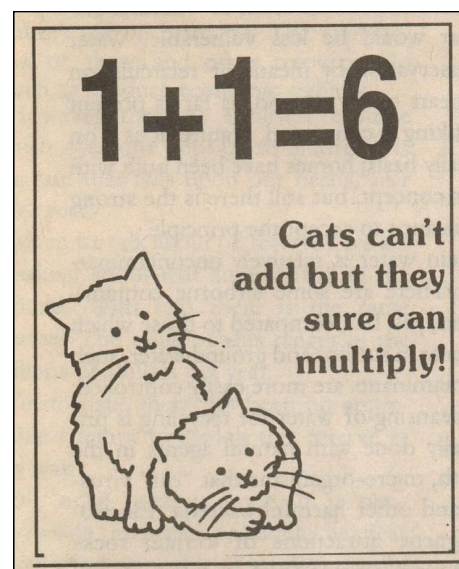
Statistics

Sept 2017 to August 2018

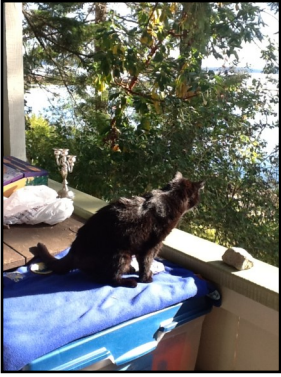
Cat Spays: 130
Cat Neuters: 101

Dog Spays: 1
Dog Neuters: 2

(Medical assistance was discontinued
in February 2011)



GiGi's First Vacation by Pam Slyth



In April of this year, our indomitable cat Gigi had her 19th birthday. After many years of faithful companionship to our daughter, who was six when Gigi arrived, we celebrated with a rendition of Happy Birthday and a nice tuna treat.

Gigi displays the usual characteristics of a senior cat; she sleeps a lot, demands a lot of attention, and is visibly slowing down. She is deaf, but her senses of smell and eyesight have not failed; the smell or sight of a can of tuna opening can bring her running at a kittenish pace. She has gracefully accepted her special renal diet (for now anyway) but an occasional treat is always welcome.

This summer, due to a lack of organization on my part, and the unavailability of suitable pet sitters, we found ourselves ready to head out to the cabin for two weeks, with no plan for Gigi. A boarding kennel: too stressful. An occasional drop in by friends: too lonely. So we made the last minute decision to take Gigi to the cabin for the first time. Despite several worries expressed by friends and complete strangers who either said we had lost our minds, or that the cat would escape, be eaten by an eagle, or keep us up all night, we persevered. After all, the cabin is not far away and we could be home again in less than two hours to make other plans if any of their dire predictions came true.

We advised her to make a packing list: her favourite blanket, basket, heating pad, special diet, and cat kennel were duly packed and she was ready to go. Certainly as much stuff as when travelling with a toddler!

First stop was cabin #10, which is just big enough for our daughter and Gigi, with a covered and gated deck looking right out onto the ocean and the dock. Signs were posted to warn dog owners of the presence of a cat. Much to our surprise, GiGi settled right in, happy that her heating pad and her human companion were close at hand. Every morning she sat, supervised, on the railing of the deck watching the seabirds and the boats going by. She could often be seen inside, sitting on the windowsill, carefully open only a few inches, watching people walk by and taking long deep sniffs of sea air with her nose up against the crack.

At the end of the first week, a move was necessary to cabin #3. Again GiGi settled in quickly and was waiting eagerly every morning for her outing to the deck to check out the wildlife. She was taken for little walks on a leash, and happily slept most of the day in a sunbeam.

So the vacation was a great success. GiGi seemed to enjoy it and our daughter was free of stress because her cat was at hand. At the end of the vacation, GiGi threw a toddler-like tantrum, unhappy to be home, and refused to leave her basket for two days. It was breakfast in bed until she forgave us. We are optimistic that she will be with us at the cabin to celebrate her 20th year.



Five Tips for Travel with Your Cat– from CatWatch September 2018

For cats who must travel with you, (such as GiGi's story on page 3), please consider these safety tips from Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

1. **Restraint and Identification.** Especially if you are travelling by public transportation or car, choose a safe crate that will both confine and protect your cat in case of a crash. Consider a collar, tags or microchipping to identify your pet.
2. **Consider sedation or other means of calming if your cat is not a happy traveler.** This may mean a prescription medication from your vet, or simply using a pet pheromone or aromatherapy designed for cats. Always discuss these options with your vet before trying them.
3. **Plan on packing food and water for your cat.** Cats do best with their usual routine and normal diet. Add in an extra day or two of food, in case of delays.
4. **Routine is important.** Try to keep your cat's normal schedule as much as possible. That means mealtimes at the usual time, with plenty of time to use the litter box. Remember that cat's don't understand time-zone changes, so you may need to adjust for that.
5. **Be realistic.** Most cats prefer to stay at home with a pet sitter instead of gallivanting across the country. That said, there are adventure loving cats (the Editor has friends whose cat loves travelling in their RV, and considers it their second home), and if that describes your cat, be prepared to ensure their safety while away from home.



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



Q: Occasionally my cat's eyes water for no reason. They clear up on their own, but I am wondering if I should get her checked at the vet.

A: Eye discharge is common in cats and may have a simple cause, or indicate a serious disease. You would be wise to get your cat checked. Young cats are especially susceptible to a variety of upper-respiratory infections, both viral and bacterial. Cats who are affected may experience chronic, intermittent discharge from the eyes, even if they don't display other symptoms. Vaccines can decrease the chance of infection, and the severity of the disease. Discharge from both eyes may suggest a systemic problem such as a viral infection, while discharge from one eye could mean a blocked duct or a foreign body such as plant material lodged in the eye. Allergies can also cause ocular discharge in cats.

Any indication of pain, squinting, or pawing the region around the eye should be addressed immediately: these signs may indicate corneal ulceration and/or glaucoma.



President's Message-Fall 2018

Hi Everyone,

It's hard to believe the Christmas Bazaar and Tea is soon upon us! Please remember to mark your calendars for November 17 and come out and join us. It's always great to see you. As usual, there will be some delicious tea and cake to enjoy with friends and lots of bargains to find on the rummage, books, and jewelry tables. There will be crafts and baking too. Starting to check out recipes...

Thanks to everyone who came to the Strawberry Tea in June and helped make it a success. And to our many volunteers who helped out – we couldn't do it without you. Thanks also to Cheryl, her helpers and donors who supported our Bottle Drive in August. The drive raised \$351.75 for our spay/neuter fund.

Please keep an eye on the adoption page of our website, www.victoriacatrescue.com if you or someone you know would like to adopt a cat. 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 clients we serve (feline and human) deeply thank you for your continued support.

Catherine



Catherine and Gail doing kitchen duty



Scenes from the 2018 Strawberry Tea



Susan arranging flowers for the tea tables.

You Name It!
You can probably find
it at our Bazaar.



Jewelry Table



In Memoriam—Donations received in memory of loved ones

Barb Elliott in memory of Iris Brookman

A.M. McEwen in memory of Ellen McEwen

Gail Fattore in memory of Indy and Midnight

Mary Goodspeed in memory of Ed Hvarregaard who loved cats

David Mitchell in memory of Eli Bashovski

Loretta Chaperon in loving memory of Oliver Chaperon dearly loved by Barry and Loretta and Andrew

Mary Gelpke in loving memory of Oliver; an exceptional cat and beloved companion of Loretta Chaperon and Barry Ming



Poem for Oliver

She Dwelt among the Untrodden Ways - by William Wordsworth

She dwelt among the untrodden ways

Beside the springs of Dove,

A Maid whom there were none to praise

And very few to love:

A violet by a mossy stone

Half hidden from the eye!

—Fair as a star, when only one

Is shining in the sky.

She lived unknown, and few could know

When Lucy ceased to be;

But she is in her grave, and, oh,

The difference to me!

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

MANY, MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS WHO HELP US WITH OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS, FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS, OR PARTICIPATE IN OUR FOSTER PROGRAM. YOUR HELP THROUGH THE YEARS HAS BEEN HEARTWARMING AND WONDERFUL!



Merry Christmas!



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society will hold their Annual

Christmas Bazaar!

Saturday
November 17, 2018
1.00-4.00pm

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

Rummage
Books
Jewellery
Arts & Crafts
Baking

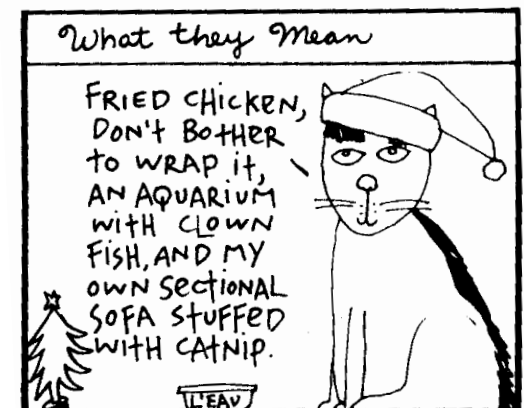
Cake & Drink
\$5

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



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



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.

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



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 "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

2018/2019

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Catherine Gale

Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Directors:

Pam Slyth

Sherry Buttner

Betty Kask

Kim Esau

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. We always need more hands at our fundraising events. Many animals have been helped 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".