

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

SPRING 2019

Annual Strawberry Tea June 15th, 2019

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will hold their annual Strawberry Tea and Sale on **Saturday June 15th at 1:00pm at Knox Presbyterian Church.** (See poster on page 5.) The function will take place from 1-4 pm and strawberry shortcake and beverage will cost \$5.50. Clean sale items in good condition will be accepted at the church on Friday June 14th 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.

YOUR TABLE AWAITS



"Strawberries and Cream" by Vladimir Rumyantsev

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting (1 wk early) 6pm	June 12
Strawberry Tea Knox Presbyterian Church, 1-4pm	June 15
Bottle Drive Glanford Depot	July 21
Annual General Meeting 6pm	Sept 18
Christmas Bazaar	?? See page 2

**Meetings held 3rd Wed. of each month at 6pm.
Call 250-656-1100 for location.
No meeting July or Aug.**

Very Important Notes

- Please see the information on page 2 regarding the status of the 2019 Christmas Bazaar.
- If you have access to a truck and are free to help empty the hall after the Tea, please call (250) 656-1100 as soon as possible.
- 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.
- Do you like to bake? Please consider donating baking this year. Please label your items with an ingredient list, especially if nuts are used.



A Request for Help

We would like to acknowledge that Victoria Cat Rescue Corps has a loyal and hard working band of volunteers for our fundraisers. The administrative work and activity planning, however, are all done by volunteer board members with busy lives. This work includes fundraising, financial duties, event planning and co-ordination, adoption/foster and rescue program, phone line, mailings, newsletter, and much more. This is a lot of work for a few people. If at any time you have entertained the thought of helping animals in a really meaningful way, **NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.**

It is not necessary to be a board member to help with these tasks. Training will be available, and jobs can be shared or delegated. Our current board members have been active in various roles for many years, and some, including our President, are planning to retire. Our 2019 Christmas Bazaar is in jeopardy, as currently we do not have a co-ordinator for this event.

Please call now (250 656-1100) to offer any assistance you can, and plan to attend our Annual General Meeting on September 18th. (details below) Please RSVP so we know how many may attend.

We would like to continue our financial assistance program, helping low income families pay for spaying and neutering their cats. We would also love to see suggestions for new programs or projects but none of this will be possible without more help.



Financial Information and Statistics

Statistics

Sept 2018 to April 2019

Cat Spays: 180

Cat Neuters: 123

Dog Spays: 2

Dog Neuters: 1

2019 Spay/Neuter Blitz

Cat Spays: 133

Cat Neuters: 85

(included in stats above)

Rescue Spay/Neuter

Cat Spays: 9

Cat Neuters: 11

(included in stats above)

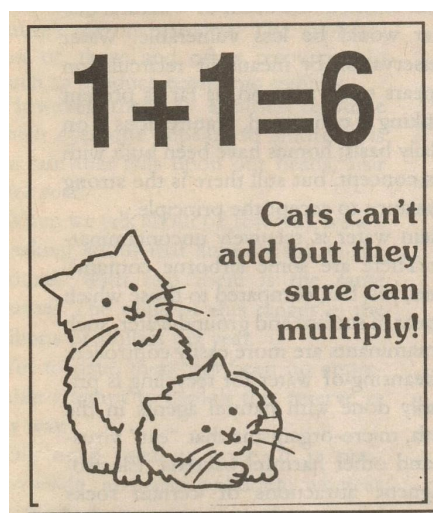
Annual General Meeting

Wed. Sept. 18th, 2019

6:00pm

3975 Carey Rd (just below McKenzie)

Please RSVP to **250 656-1100**



2018 Christmas Bazaar

The net income from the 2018 Christmas Bazaar was \$4,667.01

Income

Donations	\$1,953.27
Memberships	225.00
Tea & Cake	424.00
Crafts	360.65
Auction	310.00
Rummage	1,245.53
Jewelry	887.55

Expenses

Hall Rental	400.00
Liability Insurance	82.50
Advertising	115.49
Pizza	125.00
Disposal	16.00

Focus on Adoption– Ready For Forever Homes

Baxter is a very loving cat who was outdoors fending for himself before he came into care. He is very timid at first, but once he warms up to you and settles in he is the most affectionate boy who prefers to sleep in bed with you. He is approximately two years old. He is not suited for a busy household or a home with small children. He'd love to have another cat for companionship or be adopted with Jake or Meng who he shares a foster home with!! He's a very peaceful and easy going cat but likes calmness and predictability. He has been neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and treated for fleas. Baxter has been tested for FIV and Feline Leukemia and both tests were negative.

Jake is thought to be 1-2 years old, and came into care as an unloved, beaten up intact male cat. He was scrounging for food and showed up on the right doorstep! He is a very dear cat. He is peaceful, loving and affectionate. Jake is best suited for an adult only quiet home. He is a very quiet cat who does not enjoy a lot of commotion. He will sleep on your bed and likes to snuggle! He has been neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and treated for fleas. At time of neuter, he was given blood tests which were negative for FIV and Feline Leukemia. He would love to have another friendly cat for company, or he'd love to be adopted with one of the other foster cats that he is friends with. Because he lived with a lot of other cats in a location of strays, he would prefer not to be an only cat!

Louis is a fantastic cat who is full of personality. He is extremely bright and can be described as "dog like" in many ways. Louis gets along with almost all of the cats in his foster home, but he can be particular with a couple of cats. Although very outgoing, Louis is a cat that will take time to adapt to a new home as he is nervous with change. The vet estimated his age to be 18 months. He was treated for fleas and worms when he came into care and is now free from both. He has been vaccinated and has tested negative for Feline Leukemia and FIV.

Meng is a lovely one to two year old male who needs a home where he will be given a lot of attention. He is not suitable for a home with small children, and he needs at least one other cat for companionship. He came into care extremely neglected, with a deep bite wound, fever, and infection. Meng is now doing well and ready for a very loving home. He would love to be adopted with Baxter or Jake but will also be happy in a home with another young friendly cat! Meng has been neutered, vaccinated, and treated for parasites. Antibiotics took care of his infection. He had a full blood panel and is healthy. He also tested negative for FIV and Feline Leukemia.



Baxter



Jake



Louis



Meng

Baxter, Meng and Jake are possibly litter mates and all love each other - it would be amazing if all three could stay together !

Please contact our adoption worker Kim at kimesau@shaw.ca if you are interested in helping.

Bottle Drive Fundraiser

Our Treasurer Cheryl McCreary is organizing a Bottle Drive for **Sunday July 21st 2019** from 12:00am to 4:00 pm. Drop Off location: Glanford Bottle Depot, 4261 Glanford Ave. Cheryl can pick up your donations if necessary. You can contact her at 250-888-4454 or email her at shermacbookkeeping@gmail.com 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 summer fundraiser.***



In Memoriam—Donations received in memory of loved ones

Linda Rutherford in memory of Amanda
Susan Robertson in memory of Bert
Ruth Wittenberg in memory of Panda and Rocky
Aaron Severs and Sue Ward in memory of Joyce Ward
Jane and Robert Seright in memory of Abby and Webster
Bonnie Laird in memory of her beloved rescue cats: Bubba, Teddy, Sherry and Sylvester
Jane DuBroy in memory of Teazer
Pam, Alan, Kaeden and Rippa in memory of the lovely Isabelle
Carol Sheilds in loving memory of Jean R. Strachan and all her beloved furry friends



Robyn Thompson and family in memory of Anastasia Thompson:

"Remembering beloved Anastasia pussycat'o'... cherished beyond words. So grateful for the wonderful 20 years and 9 months you shared with us. We love you so, baby meow."

An Afternoon at Bosleys in Colwood

Pam and Cheryl, along with adoption hopefuls Jake, Malcolm and Louis, spent the afternoon at Bosleys in Colwood at their May 5th Adoption event. Thank you to the lovely staff there for hosting us, and providing lemonade and cookies by donation to Victoria Cat Rescue. The guys were nervous but did a fantastic job of representing us and working for the cause. You can see more information about these adoptable cats on page 2.



Malcolm



Cheryl at the Victoria Cat Rescue table.

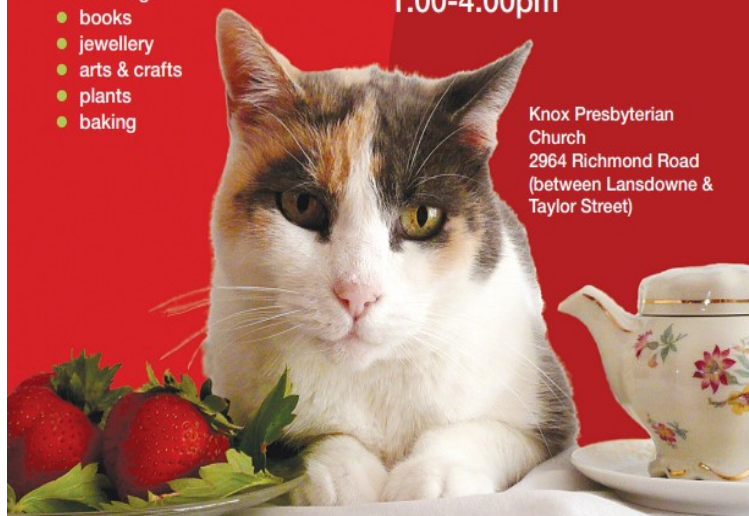


Strawberry Tea & Bazaar

- strawberry shortcake and tea/coffee - \$5.50
- rummage
- books
- jewellery
- arts & crafts
- plants
- baking

Saturday, June 15, 2019
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

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.



And thus the next generation
of cats is taught the ancient
ways of its people.

Thank You

- **Angela Westmacott** for her donation of the delicious shortcake and strawberries for this year's Strawberry Tea, and the cake for our 2018 Christmas Bazaar.
- **Anonymous members** who donated silent auction items to the Bazaar.
- **Thrifty Foods (Hillside), Market on Yates, Planet Organic, Victoria Car Wash, Dion Manastyrski, Cheryl McCreary and Ann Loutit** for their donations for fundraising at our events.
- **Patisserie Daniel** for their generosity regarding the cakes for both events.
- **Ian Fraser** and the staff of **Victoria Animal Control** for helping to transport rummage items and garbage at both events.
- **Loretta Chaperon** donation toward Hall Rental cost and for tea supplies for both events.
- **Liz Keay** for her donation toward the Hall Rental cost for both events.
- **Bosley's (Colwood)** for hosting us at their adoption event on May 5.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION BY SUPPORTING OUR SPONSORS IN ANY WAY YOU CAN

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 our rescued cats. 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

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

Q. How can I 'cat-proof' my house to prevent my kitty from ingesting something bad?

A. We can't watch our cats all the time nor can we predict with any degree of certainty what trouble they may seek out. Sometimes you may not even realize that your cat ate something bad for him. You must be alert to the signs of poisoning:

Vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, blood in the stool/urine, drooling, lethargy, loss of appetite, bruising, nosebleeds, weakness or collapse, irregular heartbeat or difficulty breathing. All of these signs can occur for other reasons as well, so you should consider any other health concerns that your cat might already be dealing with. When in doubt, it never hurts to contact your vet with your concerns. Depending on the poison, signs can develop quickly or take time. Whether or not to induce vomiting is complicated, because if the substance has had time to move past the stomach, vomiting won't help, and some substances such as bleach can cause more harm coming back up the esophagus. For these reasons, a veterinary checkup is always a good idea if you suspect your cat ate something poisonous. The vet has reliable options to make your cat vomit if necessary, and may also administer an antidote if one is available. Charcoal might also be given to bind the substance before it is absorbed in the digestive tract.

In the meantime, check your house, especially during the holiday season:

- Poinsettias cause mild toxicity. May cause vomiting, nausea, or diarrhea but the cat will most likely recover quickly.
- Broken ornaments can get lodged in or perforate the digestive tract.
- Tinsel is fun to play with strands are easily swallowed and can damage intestines.
- Electrical cords should be kept away from cats wherever possible.
- The pollen, leaves and flowers of Easter Lilies are very dangerous. Even small amounts ingested can cause kidney failure in cats.
- Foods such as grapes, onions, raisins, avocados and chocolate are off-limits.

Check out the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control or www.vet.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/CatConLA-FactSheet1.pdf



Rescue in Sidney - by Kim, VCRC Adoption Volunteer

Last year, I learned that there was a female cat trying to survive on Beacon Avenue in Sidney. After approaching some of the local businesses, I learned that there was a female cat roaming the area, who had given birth to at least four litters of kittens. Because no one was routinely feeding her, it took a very long time to establish a location where we could start putting a trap. Also, she had three kittens and it was busy tourist season - so it was difficult contending with the Sidney Markets and the busy streets. One of her kittens did manage to survive but it took from June to October to finally trap her. Her routine was so hard to predict and it really became a "needle in a haystack" process. Finally, late one evening, I caught the last remaining kitten. She was taken to the vet where she was spayed and given her shots and was dewormed. This little girl was so wild and terrified that I was reluctant to even place her in a barn home. At this point in time, she has somewhat settled but will likely never become an adoptable cat.

It took months to catch her mother. I had purchased a hunting camera to place by her food source, to see if she was still alive. The camera recorded her, along with several racoons, mink, and weasels eating the food. Trapping proved to be very difficult. She would just not go in the trap. I began to suspect that someone had trapped her before. Then the snowstorm came, and there was a period of ten days where I could not find her and she did not get fed. I decided to start retraining her to go into the trap, and over a three week period she started to get more and more hungry. She was, of course, likely pregnant again.

On March 26th, after 8 months of routinely going late at night to pull the traps, I saw her - finally this little kitty was caught. She had suffered so much. Along the way, I had learned very disturbing stories about her previous litters, and their sad fate. Only two kittens from her four litters are known to have survived. Besides the one I had caught, a staff member at the local store had found one and managed to grab her. All the others are unaccounted for. Within a week of being rescued, she gave birth to three little black and white kittens. She is able to raise her last litter of kittens in peace, quite, warmth, and safety with high quality food and fresh water. She is actually managing quite well, and I suspect this little cat was once abandoned or dumped, and was never a feral cat. She has all the mannerisms of a cat that was once a pet. She is doing incredibly well for a cat that has lived in a chaotic area dodging equipment, cars and danger, and trying to raise litters of kittens. This is all behind her now, and once her babies are weaned and adopted into loving homes, she will be given the time and patience she will need to build trust again. This little girl is one of the many examples of why we advocate for spay/neuter. It is also why we focus on helping feral cats. They suffer greatly. Even if the ferals we help do not tame or are not adoptable, just by spaying and neutering them, tremendous suffering is prevented and their lives are improved greatly.



Mama
Cat

Safe at
Last



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

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Email:

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

Email: _____

Executive Board

2018/2019

President:

Catherine Gale

Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Directors:

Pam Slyth

Sherry Buttner

Betty Kask

Kim Esau

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

**We have a new
Facebook page!**
Lots of cute cat photos.
Check it out!



We are urgently seeking volunteers in all areas of our society.
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".