



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

Fall 2019

WE ARE NOT HOLDING A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR THIS YEAR

We are sorry to disappoint our supporters who love to shop and have tea in the holiday season. For reasons outlined by Sherry in her President's Report on page 3, we won't be holding our annual Christmas Bazaar this year. Our Strawberry Tea in June 2020 is still scheduled to go ahead, and we look forward to seeing you there.

As a result of this decision, the current issue of the newsletter is smaller than usual. We hope you will consider coming out to a meeting to hear about our work and perhaps help in some way.



Photo: Kaeden Penty

Foster Kitten—see page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting *Nov*
6pm *20*

First Regular Mtg *Jan*
of 2020 *15*

Strawberry Tea *TBA*
June 2020

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

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

A Kitten Called Hope

In June VCRC was called to assist with a mother and six kittens who were found abandoned behind some building products on an abandoned property. Mom and all six kittens were struggling to survive. They were immediately placed in foster care and given medical attention. One of the smallest kittens was failing to thrive. This sweet little kitten had a very strong spirit and the will to live. But despite medication and supplemental feedings, she was failing. She was placed in hospital with the wonderful staff at Sidney Animal Hospital and this little kitten pulled through! With lots of love, bottle feeding, and veterinary care Hope has turned a corner and is full of beans. Hope is a very special little soul and we are thankful for the staff at Sidney Vet for saving her life!



Respected Volunteer Passes Away

VIVIENNE GENT MARCH 25TH, 1929—AUGUST 22, 2019

With the passing of Vivienne, we have lost a legend of dedication to animal welfare in our city. As one of your members remarked: "she was cut from the same cloth as Thora Bonneau". Vivienne was on the front lines with Thora back in the 1970's before the Cat Rescue Corps was formed; she and Thora went out in the dead of night to places like Chinatown where there were feral cat colonies. Feeding stations were maintained until they could humanely trap the cats and kittens and bring them back to Thora's house to be looked after and, if possible, placed in loving homes. From that start, Vivienne went on to having her own "cat room" in her house where many abandoned or stray cats and kittens were given refuge until she could find homes for them. At the same time, Vivienne was holding down a full-time job and looking after her ageing parents. Vivienne kept up her own rescue work and was recognized with a citation by the SPCA and, later, became the President of the Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders. She carried this responsibility for several years before finally retiring. She had lost both her parents by then so lived alone for the rest of her life along with, of course, her family of rescued cats. She was still active in supporting the various animal groups in the city and around the world. Unfortunately, Viv's health started to fail after a bad fall about six years ago. From then on, Vivienne displayed remarkable courage in dealing with constant pain and chronic nausea. She remained at home until the last, and after being diagnosed with Bone Cancer, she decided to give up the battle. One of the last things she said to me was: "I know I am being selfish"....I think we can all agree that we would have to think very hard to name someone more unselfish than Vivienne Gent....she was an inspiration to us all and will continue to be for those of us who knew her.

By Val Boswell



2019 Strawberry Tea

The net income was \$3,521.25

There was no raffle this year.

Income

Donations	2,234.09
Memberships	105.00
Tea & Cake	657.00
Crafts	196.70
Rummage	1,102.55
Jewelry	469.45

Expenses

Hall Rental	400.00
Pizza	125.00
Strawberries	250.00
Ads	166.14
Liability Insurance	152.40
Cake	60.00

Financial Information and Statistics

Statistics

Sept 2018 to August 2019

Cat Spays: 189

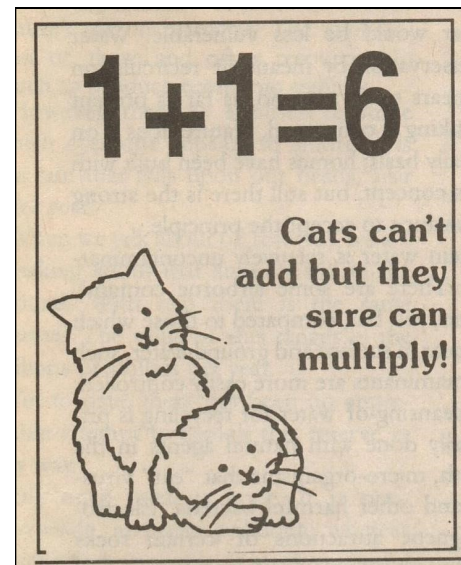
Cat Neuters: 130

Dog Spays: 2

Dog Neuters: 1

Dog Euthanasia : 1

(Medical assistance was discontinued in
February 2011)



GiGi's Second Vacation by Pam Slyth

Readers might remember that 19 year old Gigi had a great time at the cabin last year. I thought I would provide an update to say that although now being the great age of 20, she once again ventured out on the 2019 family holiday. Gigi spent 10 days at the cabin, and seemed to enjoy the bird watching and sunbeam naps just as much as last year.



In Memoriam—Donations received in memory of loved ones

- Gail Fattore in memory of “Gus, my adventure boy and Scout, my N.J. boy”
- TOPS BC 5305 in memory of Juanita Aiken
- Candace Kenyon and Gerald German in memory of “our little cat Phoebe”
- Irene Tassie in memory of George and Henry
- Pam Slyth in memory of Vivienne Gent



A Big Thank You To:

- Angela Westmacott: Strawberries and Cake for our 2019 Strawberry Tea
- Loretta Chaperon: donation toward the hall rental
- Liz Keay: donation toward the hall rental
- Pepper's Cadboro Bay: whipping cream, coffee cream and milk
- All our supporters and donors
- The dedicated volunteers who worked so hard at our Strawberry Tea
- Victoria Animal Control Services: transportation of goods between storage and the hall

Also a special thanks to artist Frances Harber, who is donating 50% of the proceeds of the sale of her “Blue Cat” painting to VCRCS. The painting was shown at the Gage Gallery in May 2019. Please take time to check out her work at: **www.francesharberart.com**

President's Message-Fall 2019

Where does the time go? It seems like yesterday when I joined Victoria Cat Rescue Corps, yet it's been 19 years. The rescue scene has changed a lot in that time, but the need to help cats is as great as ever.

I appreciate the confidence placed in me as your new (and old!) president, and with a terrific Council on board, I know we are up to the challenges.

I would like to thank past-president Catherine for all her hard work with the Corps over the past few years. Her work in running the group, as well as guiding us through some challenging changes to the Societies Act is much appreciated.

As noted elsewhere in this edition of the Scratching Post, we have reluctantly decided not to hold our annual Christmas Tea and Bazaar. Council agreed that given the proximity of the event to the recent AGM elections, competition from many other holiday season events, and time needed to address changes to our programs for next year, it was a good time for us to take a breather, regroup, and hit 2020 running. I know this will be a disappointment for many of our valued supporters, and those of us who run the Bazaar will very much miss seeing you, but rest assured that we will be back for the Strawberry Tea and Sale next June, and look forward to seeing you then!

Meanwhile, please remember that all VCRC members are welcome to attend any monthly meeting (currently the 3rd Wednesday of each month except December, July, and August), and we welcome your ideas and input for the programs we run to help cats. Just send us an email for the location of the upcoming meetings: **meow.133@victoriacatrescue.com**.

I am eagerly looking forward to the upcoming year. With some of the changes we hope to make to our TNR/rescue/adoption and spay/neuter programs, I know we will be able to help many cats and other animals that we serve.

As always, THANK YOU for your support of the Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society.

Sherry



A Visit With our Foster Kittens

In June a few members were invited to Kim's house to visit and play with several litters of adorable kittens who needed some socializing before being adopted into their forever homes. We spent a lovely afternoon cuddling, playing, and laughing at the antics of the kittens. If you are interested in adopting, please contact our Adoption Co-ordinator Kim at kimesau@shaw.ca



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

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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

2019/2020

President:

Sherry Buttner

Secretary/Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Recording Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Directors:

Kim Esau

Lia Fraser

Betty Kask

Merilee Panchy

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

**We're on the
Web!**

victoriacatrescue.co

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 over-population 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".