

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

Spring 2020

2020 STRAWBERRY TEA CANCELLED

DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, AND PROVINCIAL SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES, OUR ANNUAL STRAWBERRY TEA SCHEDULED FOR JUNE IS CANCELLED.

We are sure you won't be surprised to hear this news, and will be as disappointed as we are to miss this fun event. Thank you to all our wonderful supporters who come to the Strawberry Tea every year, and to all our dedicated volunteers who work very hard to put the event together.

We appreciate you all and look forward to serving you strawberries next year. Please note that any financial support you can give us will fund our spay/neuter and foster/adoption programs, which are still ongoing.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting *June*
6pm *17*

2020 AGM *Sept*
Call 250 656-1100 *16*
for location

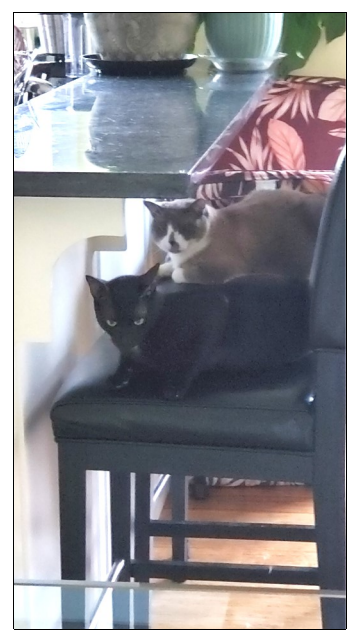
Christmas Bazaar *TBA*

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

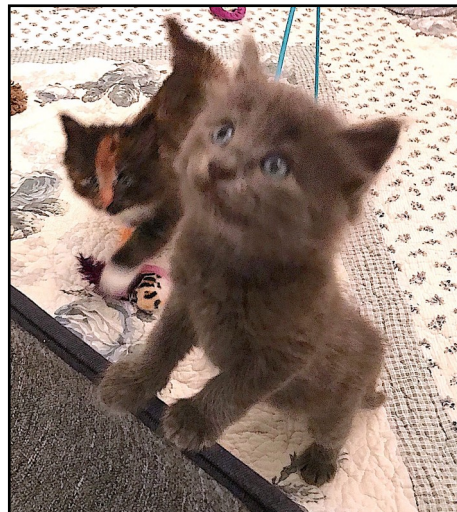
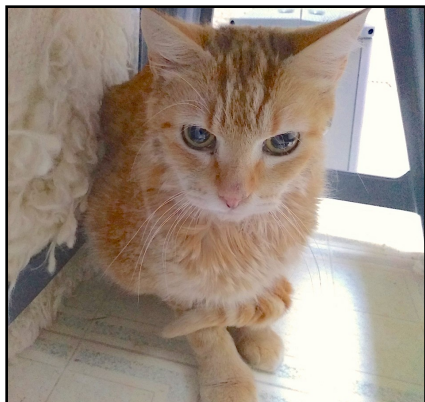
**No meetings in
July, Aug or Dec.**



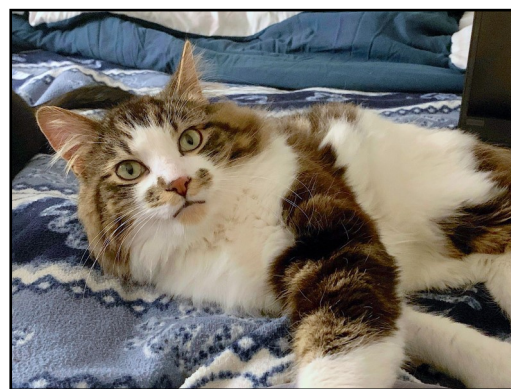
Pharoah Fig from Mexico! See pg. 3 for his story



Adoption News



Thanks to the financial donations and membership income received by Victoria Cat Rescue Corps, and the tireless work by Kim, our TNR/Foster/Adoption coordinator, these cats and many more have been rescued and found loving homes recently.



Financial Information and Statistics

Bottle Drive



This year's bottle drive will be on August 9 2020 from 12-4pm

at Glanford Bottle Depot, located at 4261 Glanford Ave. If you have bottles right now I will be glad to come and collect them. Please call 250 656-1100 and leave a message for me. Hope to see you there! All proceeds will be funding our spay/neuter program.

Sincerely, Cheryl

Statistics

Sept 2019 to March 2020

Cat Spays: 85

Cat Neuters: 51

Dog Spays: 5

Dog Neuters: 0

These statistics include Trap/Neuter/Release animals.

(Medical assistance was discontinued in February 2011)

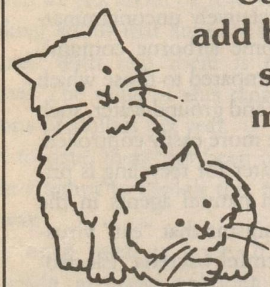
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WED. SEPTEMBER 16

CALL 250 656-1100 FOR DETAILS

1+1=6

Cats can't
add but they
sure can
multiply!





Pharoah Fig's Story by Michelle Petrie

It was January 20, 2020 and I was leaving the front desk at the Pueblo Bonito Rose Hotel in Mexico when I ran into a little stray cat that tried to trip me to get my attention. I petted him and he just talked and talked. I felt so bad leaving him there. He tried to follow me back to my room but I didn't have a clue what I could do for him as I was visiting from Canada. At home I would have simply picked him up and brought him home with me.

On January 25th, I was at our home in California and I had not been able to stop thinking about this poor cat. I had been in contact with the hotel and alerted them to the fact that there was a stray black cat hanging around. I asked if they could catch him for me and send him to Canada. They said "No" but that I was welcome to find someone to do that for me, and that they would co-operate in the rescue. This started my brain rolling on how I could get him back to Canada.

On January 26, I had a "middle of the night" brainwave. I decided to join a Facebook Group in Cabos called "Cabo Pet Escorts". I asked if there was anyone that could catch this cat and take him to the vet and get him neutered and get his shots and then get him on a plane to Canada. Luckily within 5 minutes, Margarita Angelatos entered my life and she agreed to go the next day and see if she could catch him. She did this with the help of Misty (another animal rescue person in Cabos). Margarita found him at the hotel next door sleeping under a lawn chair, and quickly got him to the vet in a carrier. I sent Margarita the fees for the neuter, vaccinations, and treatment for parasites. She fostered him for 2 weeks and although she tried, she couldn't find anyone to take him on a Westjet flight under the seat so I paid to have him flown to Vancouver via Westjet in Cargo on February 11. Margarita arranged it all. It wasn't the way I wanted him to fly as I was concerned about him being in Cargo, but that is how he got here. During his time at Margarita's home she kept me updated with photos and videos. We decided to call him Figaro and once he arrived in Canada Fig for short and now he is called **Pharoah Fig** as anyone that sees him says he looks like an Egyptian cat. Very regal.

Thus begins the 2nd part of this incredible story of Figaro the Pueblo Cat that had a following. When I joined the Cabo Pet Escorts Group and posted about Fig there was also a response from both Cheryl McCreary and Kim, of Victoria Cat Rescue Corps. Apparently Cheryl had been feeding Fig when she was at the Blanco on vacation in December. I had no idea that she had been trying, unsuccessfully, to get Fig to Victoria. I was still in California and I wasn't returning to Canada for a few more weeks. Cheryl McCreary stepped in and offered to take the ferry from Victoria to Vancouver to pick Fig up when he landed. She then took him back on the ferry to a pet foster home (which she arranged) in Victoria. (Thank you to Dean and Juliana Rheault). During his stay in Victoria I was again given updates and photos. On February 27th, Cheryl travelled with Fig to Vancouver, where he was picked up by my daughter, who then brought him home to Kamloops.

Figaro was very vocal and anxious. We got him Pheromones and tranquilizers for a week while he calmed down. He was part wild and he would chase our other cat Luna and claw her. His nails were like razor blades and we had to trim them but he was freaked about that as his feet were wounded when he was in Cabos. I was stressing that we wouldn't be able to keep him. Fast forward to today's date and Figaro has become a different cat. He hardly talks anymore (which I miss) but when he does he's telling you something. Fig and Luna are now eating and playing together and have settled in. Figaro loves his new life and you can see it when he licks your face or purrs in your ear or flips over and shows you his cute little belly. He's a very special cat and I'm so glad that all these angels helped to bring him home to us. I couldn't have done it without them.

President's Message-Spring 2020

I hope this message finds you all well, and safe. Strange times. After taking a break last Fall by not holding our annual Christmas Bazaar, we were gearing up for a busy Spring and a fantastic Strawberry Tea in June. We really miss seeing our guests! But the coronavirus pandemic that has swept the world has also put a halt to that, as well as our physical monthly meetings. But it hasn't put a stop to the cats who need our help.

Since people have been self-isolating at home, the calls for adoptions has spiked unbelievably. We are getting several emails and calls every day from people looking to adopt, and others wanting to foster. This is a good time to acknowledge the incredible work of Kim, our TNR/Foster/Adoption coordinator. Kim works full time, yet spends hundreds of hours trapping, getting cats to and from the vets, fostering, responding to the flood of foster and adoption inquiries, doing home checks, and making sure our rescue cats find good, loving homes. This is not easy work, but Kim has the passion and energy to try to help as many cats as possible. Thank you, Kim.

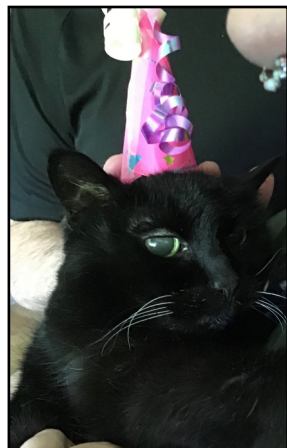
Recently we received a donation from Paws Buttons (www.facebook.com/pawsbuttons) They held a fundraiser, making COVID-19 face masks, selling them and donating the proceeds to local animal charities. They followed our trap-neuter-vaccinate and return projects last year. We were able to help some feral cats on a First Nations Reserve. They wanted to donate some funds to be used to create outdoor shelters for the cats! And KD Johnson Construction (<https://www.facebook.com/KDJohnsonConstruction>) has offered free labour to build them, so we should have some nice shelters delivered to the kitties before the weather gets cold. Thank you Paws Buttons! Thank you KD Johnson!"

Many thanks also to our Board members for their hard work keeping VCRCS running: Cheryl (Treasurer/Secretary) Susan (Recording Secretary) Betty and Marilee (Directors) and also Pam for publishing the always-terrific Scratching Post.

Who knows how the rest of 2020 will go? Will we be able to hold our Christmas Bazaar in November? Or our AGM, which is scheduled for September 16, 2020? One thing is clear: cats and other animals continue to need our help, and we continue to need your help by volunteering, making a donation, fostering, or adopting. We can't do it without you. We sincerely hope to see you all soon, and thank you very much for your continued support! Stay Safe

Sherry

GiGi's 21st Birthday by Pam Slyth



At the moment GiGi isn't sure if she and the family will be travelling to the cabin this summer. This would have been her 3rd year there. But she did have a lovely 21st birthday and this is a photo of her wearing her birthday hat. She is suffering from common age-related conditions such as arthritis and hyperthyroidism. The arthritis causes her to think before jumping now, and the hyperthyroidism is being treated with medication. Older cats with this condition may lose weight, or vomit, and drink more water than usual. Their hearing and vision deteriorate and they rely on other senses such as smell to navigate. GiGi sleeps a lot, and enjoys occasional supervised visits outside on the grass. She can still find the best sunbeam in the house for her long naps. Her heating pad is frequently warmed up for her. Older cats can enjoy quality of life; they may just need extra help from their humans to do so.



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

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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

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Secretary/Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Recording Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Directors:

Kim Esau

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".