



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

Fall 2020

BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

We hope all members and donors stay safe and warm this holiday season, and are able to enjoy festivities in a different way. At our house we are trying to think of fun ways to celebrate and stay safe. One idea is to drive around and see all the lights (<https://www.timescolonist.com/life/christmas-lights-map>) Or perhaps a Zoom or Facetime call to friends and family. Cuddle up with your favourite feline and please remember that we are so grateful for your ongoing support for the animals, who need us all year long. Please consider making a donation to help kittens like Vivian. No amount is too small.



VIVIAN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting Jan
6pm 6

Regular Meeting Mar
6pm 3

Strawberry Tea?? Jun
TBA

**Meetings held 1st
Wed. of every 2nd
month at 6pm.**

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

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

Vivian's Story

Vivian was found all alone in a wooded area where we have been working on a feral colony. She had infected eyes as well as upper respiratory issues. She needed several vet visits, hand feeding, and several medications to get her healthy. Vivian had such a strong will to live, and has blossomed into the most loving, healthy little girl. She is one of the many reasons why we are so passionate about spaying and neutering feral cats. Vivian will be looking for a loving home once she is spayed and vaccinated. She will be posted for adoption on our website and Facebook page when she is ready for her forever home.

The photo on the left shows Vivian's eyes completely shut from infection. On the right, she is feeling much better!



Shelters for Cats

As reported in the spring 2020 Scratching post - "Recently we received a donation from Paws Buttons www.Facebook.com/pawsbuttons. They held a fundraiser, making COVID-19 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.comKDJohnsonConstruction> has offered free labour to build them".

We are now happy to report that 3 wonderful shelters have been built and will be placed where most needed. Below is a photo of the shelters along with 2 employees from KD Johnson. Thank you so much to the owners, Kelsey and Dallas. We know the cats will love their new homes.

Cheryl
Secretary/Treasurer



BOTTLE DRIVE NEWS

Our Bottle Drive held on August 9th, 2020 did so well that Cheryl has decided to keep it as an ongoing fundraiser. Please give her a call at 250 888-4454 if you have any bottles to be picked up.

On the day of the drive we made \$951.70 and since then another \$427.50 as of October 31st. Let's keep this going as it's all about the cats!. Cheryl would like to thank her best friend Lorna, her niece Alexandria and nephew Will, and also Safaa and her 2 sons for helping. A big thank you to Coastal Movers and Bruce for picking up the bottles and delivering them to the depot on the day of the event.

Thank you so much!

Financial Information and Statistics

Statistics

September 2019 to August 2020

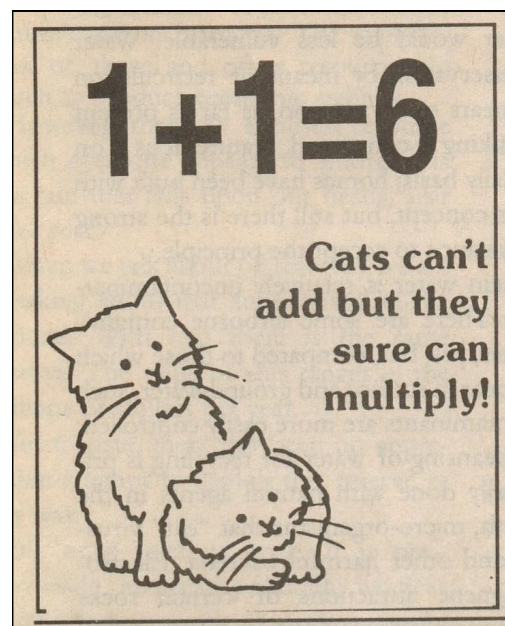
Cat Spays: 141

Cat Neuters: 90

Dog Spays: 5

Dog Neuters: 0

(\$100 donation toward canine procedures)



President's Message-Fall 2020

I am honored and excited to serve as the new President of Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society. I have been involved with this rescue for over 15 years, working intimately with cats from the point of rescue to future home placement. This entails trapping cats, performing feral cat rehabilitation, evaluating foster homes and selecting adoptive families. In my new role as President, I am fully committed to advance our two foundational programs: spay/neuter and adoption. And I hope to enhance our service to the community by growing our membership and by establishing new collaborative partnerships.

I would like to thank our past president, Sherry for her commitment to this organization. Although she has stepped down as president, we will continue to benefit from her 20 years of experience with this rescue, as she continues her service as a board member. I would also like to thank last year's board for their service and to welcome incoming board members, Barbara and Pam.

I'm very proud to be part of Victoria's rescue community, whose success lies in the service of our dedicated volunteers. We achieve our success through financial support and donations from the community; through those who support our fundraising efforts, through people who step up to foster and families who adopt cats; and last but not least through the veterinarians who continue, during these very restrictive times, to work and assist us in any way they can.

So my first message as president is one of gratitude; gratitude in a year where we have been confronted with an unprecedented pandemic, and one that continues to challenge everyone worldwide. The year 2020 is winding down and although COVID creates challenges on multiple levels, we have been blessed with a very successful year having helped over 150 feral and abandoned cats during the pandemic. And that would not have been possible without the efforts of our kindhearted supporters! I'd like to highlight how some of their contribution benefit our cat rescue community.

To Our Donors

Our donors entrust us to use their funds in the best way possible to reduce the suffering of abandoned cats, and to promote an aggressive spay/neuter program. They provide the financial foundation to expand and strengthen our services.

This year having had access to greater funds, we have been able to work with a larger network of foster guardians to address the nutritional, medical and emotional needs of cats in care. At the same time, in working collaboratively with other rescues, we have been able to offset costs by reducing the number of rescued cats in our care. Donors, we are grateful for your financial charity.

Going forward, we do anticipate financial challenges while working through the pandemic destabilization. From a financial aspect, the main challenge our organization is facing with COVID is the curtailing of events, which significantly impacts our financial resources. Our rescue raises funds through membership fees, donations and fundraising events. Unfortunately with COVID we have had to cancel our two annual fundraising events: our spring Strawberry Tea and our Christmas Bazaar and Tea events. Also, during times of financial instability, which many people in our community are facing, spaying or neutering a pet can become a non-critical expense. So now more than ever, it is essential to expand our foundational spay and neuter program, to protect cats that otherwise may not be spayed.

If you know someone who would like to donate, please reach out to them. Donations are always welcomed and greatly appreciated and can be made online or by mail. Tax receipts for donations greater than \$25 are provided and are mailed in February.

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Cont. from page 3

To Our Foster and Adoption Families

Many people in our community open their hearts and homes to rescued cats, souls who at times come across as being less than perfect. Foster homes are the vital spirits of rescued cats. Why? Because they dedicate themselves to help cats heal, with the hope that these precious souls will lead a happier and healthier life. Whether that means assisting with their medical recovery, socialization or resolving behavior problems, the fosters seek to prepare these sentient beings so they can thrive in their future adoptive home. This year, thanks to our donors' support, we were able to increase the number of foster homes from 5 to 17!

We placed some very shy cats with people who are willing to take the time to help bring them out of their shells. Two FIV kittens, whose chance of survival were minimal, were immediately placed with fosters who are willing to take care of their medical needs. A few weeks ago we trapped a litter of five feral kittens and immediately had two foster homes willing to take the time and energy to tame them. One of our long time members took two untouchable kittens and adopted them. I feel very blessed to have compassionate and dedicated families who are able to step up and provide the care that these cats need.

And throughout the summer, our incredible adoption families all provided loving homes to pairs of kittens. To set up kittens for a healthier and happier life, we strive to place them in pairs or with another friendly feline companion, as the newest research suggests. Imagine not being able to see another one of your species again.

And while we have had amazing success in placing cats and are so grateful for your support, we are always looking for loving foster homes and adoptive families. Please keep an eye on our adoption page. You can view photos of our lovely beings on our webpage

www.victoriacatrescue.com and our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VICTORIACATRESCUE/>

To All Our Supporters

With your help, we have been able to increase our community outreach to work in tandem with a greater number of rescues. Collaboration with other rescues can truly elevate cat welfare to a new standing. Working side-by-side allows us to strike a balance and optimize resources between rescues that need help and rescues that have the ability to help. And this is becoming more evident as COVID continues to create and highlight obstacles that cat rescue organizations face.

Having worked very closely with hundreds of rescued cats over the past 15+ years, I value your commitment to our organization. We are blessed with your generosity as you freely give your time, money and energy to support the activities of Victoria Cat Rescue. Without you, the misfortune of Victoria's homeless cats would magnify. You are the foundation of this organization; we profoundly and sincerely thank you!

If you have an interest in volunteering or know someone who does or who would like to become a member to support cat rescue work, we'd love to hear from you. You can contact us through email at meow.133@victoriacatrescue.com or call 250.656.1100. ***Please see page 6 for current volunteer positions available.***

Kim

President

Adoption News



Jill came into our care several months ago. She was rescued as a pregnant stray by K9 Advocates in Manitoba. We had an available foster home so we were able to take her into our care. She raised her 3 kittens and two of them went off to a fabulous home together! Jill is still shy and needs more time to come out of her shell, and will continue to thrive in a calm, loving and patient home. Jill and her kitten would like to be together in their new forever home.



Countess and King are searching for a home together. They are 5 months old and have had all their vaccines, are spayed, neutered, microchipped and have tested FIV/FeV negative.

King is a very strong, confident cat who is a real character and just slightly bossy. Countess is a sweet gentle soul. These two compliment one another and Countess keeps King grounded!!! King is likely going to be a very large cat. He needs a fair amount of space to accommodate his energy and would love some supervised, safe outdoor access. To find out if these beauties are a good match please message us.



Food Donations Needed

The society is in need of donations of dry food for feral cats. We are feeding a few colonies and would appreciate donations of any brand of dry food. If you are a Costco member, the Kirkland brand is good for ferals.

Please call 250 656-1100 if you can help, and we will arrange pick up or drop off for any food you can donate.



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 2020/2021

President:

Kim Esau

Secretary/Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Recording Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Directors:

Sherry Buttner

Betty Kask

Barbara Lyons

Merilee Panchy

Pam Slyth

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

**We're on the
Web!**
victoriacatrescue.co

Volunteers Jobs Available

We are currently trying to fill the following volunteer positions:

- Adoption Application Screener (training provided)
- Volunteer Driver to transport cats to and from foster homes and to vets.



Why not volunteer today? 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".