

An Incorporated society  
dedicated to the  
alleviation of suffering of  
cats and all animals.

*The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society*

# SCRATCHING POST

*Spring 2022*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**WARNING:** *If you read on, prepare to be inspired and have your heart strings tugged by the stories of some very special cats we have been helping, many from a large feral colony in the Cowichan Valley where we have been working for the last three years.*

This feral colony is different from other feral colonies. Some might consider it to be a Pandora's Box in view of the number of cats that turned out to be involved, as well as their extensive and significant medical and dental conditions on top of the usual spay/neuters, vaccinations and deworming done in feral colonies. In addition to the 50 cats and kittens we have already helped, there are possibly 20 more cats there, three of which are heavily pregnant females. Our Board has chosen to carry on until we have assisted every cat in the colony, as we see this as an opportunity to truly help alleviate not only rampant cat reproduction, but unwitnessed incredible pain and suffering in this population. Some of these feral cats might not be adoptable due to being under-socialized and requiring a lot of time and patience, maybe never becoming tame. We therefore have a plan we hope to have enough money to fund, which is to take the unadoptable cats to a cat sanctuary in California, where they will be well taken care of and able to live out their final years in the peace, security and contentment they deserve.



**PAUL** is a senior boy that vets think could be as old as 15 years. He came in with a bad gash on one leg and a mouth full of rotten teeth. He needs major dental work, and then can be adopted into a loving home for his sunset years; warm, safe and fed. He is timid but gentle, and so deserving of a new forever family. His poor condition indicates that he has quietly suffered for some time.

**SPUNKY:** This senior gal was emaciated and in very poor condition when we got her, drooling out of the side of her mouth. A vet check showed she had a huge tumor on one side of her tongue, along with terrible teeth, severe Upper Respiratory Infection and was underweight and malnourished. We are awaiting results of tests to determine if the tumor was cancerous. Regardless, we will make sure this spunky senior will have the loving care she needs.





As soon as we got **DAVE** we knew he had a dental problem because his upper lip sank in where some teeth were obviously missing. He also has a partly cloudy eye and will need a patient loving home where he can learn to trust that he will now be safe and cared for.



**BRUNO:** Inside his rescuer's car during transfer from the trap to a transport cage, this feisty fellow got loose in her car and took an hour to be secured. During his neuter appointment, we discovered he only has 3 remaining teeth: all of which need to be removed. His energy has proved his right to a pain-free, comfortable, safe future.

**QUEENIE** was the senior mom cat in this feral colony. She is estimated to be around 8 years old and desperately needs to be spayed after this last of undoubtedly many litters of kittens. She is blind in one eye and going blind in the other, but valiantly used the rest of her senses to keep herself and her coming babies safe by evading our every effort to catch her and bring her to safety and the medical attention she needs. We were finally successful and she is safe at last.



**DAISY AND SID** were two very sick kittens with Upper Respiratory disease, lice, heavy worm loads and poor appetites. Daisy also initially required medication three times a day. That is all behind them now. They are looking for a loving home.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! IT IS ONLY A FEW DAYS UNTIL OUR GARAGE SALE ON JULY 23RD. SEE **PAGE 6** FOR DETAILS. PLEASE TRY TO HELP US BY DONATING ITEMS OR COMING OUT TO SHOP FOR TREASURES. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.



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## OTHER EXTRAORDINARY CATS IN OUR CARE



**PIERRE** suffered neurological problems, which meant he couldn't walk without falling over, he would walk into walls due to sudden blindness, and he couldn't eat due to severe gastrointestinal problems – all of these symptoms caused him to try to hide and not move.

**PIP** came to us from being in hospital on an IV, about to be euthanized. He didn't go blind, but had neurological problems, fever and gastrointestinal problems causing great pain and lethargy because he couldn't eat.

These two unrelated cats are FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis) positive. This is a horrible disease, that is nearly always fatal and most usually found in kittens. FIP is a rare mutation of one of several more benign strains of feline coronavirus. In FIP, the mutated virus infects the cat's white blood cells, which trigger an intense immune system response, the resulting inflammation of which can wreak havoc in the intestines, brain and other organs. There are two forms of FIP, both with terrible symptoms and formerly the lack of a cure always led to euthanasia.

A veterinarian professor at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, named Niels C. Pedersen, has been studying FIP since the 1960s. In 2018 and 2019, he tested a newly developed antiviral drug as a potential treatment with groundbreaking results, successfully curing naturally occurring FIP in 25 out of 31 cats in a field trial. Further developed by a pharmaceutical company, which made a small change in a molecule, the company created a second, nearly identical drug – **remdesivir**, which they pursued as a possible antiviral treatment in humans (the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus causes COVID-19). Meanwhile, Dr. Pedersen, in collaboration with the drug company's own researchers, showed the simpler drug cured FIP.

Many vets still don't know about, or have any experience with, this antiviral drug which brings an incredible transformation in a very short 12-week course of treatment, but costs \$4,000 for the full 12-week treatment. This drug is going to revolutionize around the world the treatment of FIP in kittens. Anyone wishing more information about this drug can look at <https://shop.animalbiome.com/blogs/pet-health/fip-has-a-cure-heres-why-its-hard-to-get> or <https://fipwarriors.com/> where you can view wonderful videos by a lady in California who, along with her former FIP positive cats, is part of a very passionate group spreading the word on how FIP can now be healed. (if these links do not work, type or paste them into your browser)

We made the choice to proceed with this new treatment for both Pierre and Pip, and watched the profound transformation it brought them, even starting within the first week. They soon started eating a bit on their own and moving around with more energy. Pierre's blindness reversed over the 12 weeks and their neurological symptoms disappeared. Now they play as normal with other kittens. Their lives were not only saved, they have added to the world-wide FIP database, with the ultimate goal that eventually this drug will be approved treatment around the world, saving countless kitten and cat lives.





This has been quite a year, in terms of being post-COVID and with costs rising for everyone in every area. With the two FIP kittens and every single cat from this feral colony requiring extensive dentistry and significant medical treatment, as well as our hope to be able to take the unadoptable feral cats to the California cat sanctuary, we are quickly depleting our financial resources. The Board has made the commitment, if funds are forthcoming, to complete this colony, but we can only do so if caring hearts are able to contribute and help us complete the work. We are also undertaking fundraising events such as a garage sale on July 23<sup>rd</sup> (see more details on page 6), and continuing our bottle drive, as well as receiving donations - no matter how small - as every bit helps.

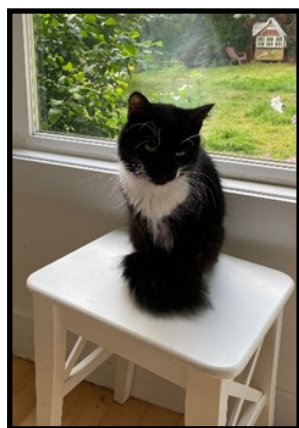
Our thanks again to all our wonderful supporters. We could not do this work without you. We are hoping for a beautiful summer, hope to see you at the garage sale on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and wish you all the very best.

Kim, and the VCRC Board of Directors



**WARREN** is a timid but loving cat looking for a forever home. This boy was initially rescued by a BC Family visiting Vietnam. During their work term they rescued Warren and a couple of other kittens and integrated them successfully with their own two cats. All 5 cats lived peacefully together until they were transferred to Indonesia. Something changed during the move and their 2 cats and the newer 3 cats did not stay friends. So they lived for a year separating the two groups of cats. Warren and his housemates made the move to Victoria almost a year ago. Warren had a hard

time adjusting but is now settled but is being bullied by the other cats. So the family has made the decision to try and find Warren his own home. He could easily be placed with another friendly cat as long as they would not dominate him. He would also be happy as an only cat. Warren needs a quiet and predictable adult only home in order to thrive. He will need someone who has the patience to let him settle in slowly. Once settled, he is a sweet and loving boy. Warren is four years old and very healthy. He had a full dental here in Victoria and has all other vetting done. If you can provide a home that is loving, patient and predictable, please reach out.



**VAL (SHORT FOR VALIANT):** This incredible momma cat came to us by way of a phone call about a flummoxed man who lives in a home with his own cat. He left a window open for fresh air and one evening, in a slightly open closet he found a strange cat, Val, with **two** kittens about a week old. Later that night he checked on her and found her with **five** kittens. The next morning there were **seven** kittens! Val had been diligently going in and out the slightly open window, jumping up and down at a very sharp angle onto a brick, to bring her babies to safety. Needless to say, the man called for help! We reached out and mom and her kittens are now available for adoption.

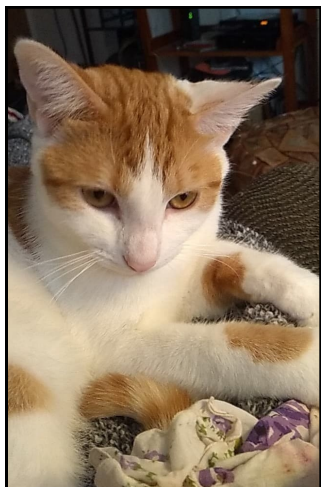
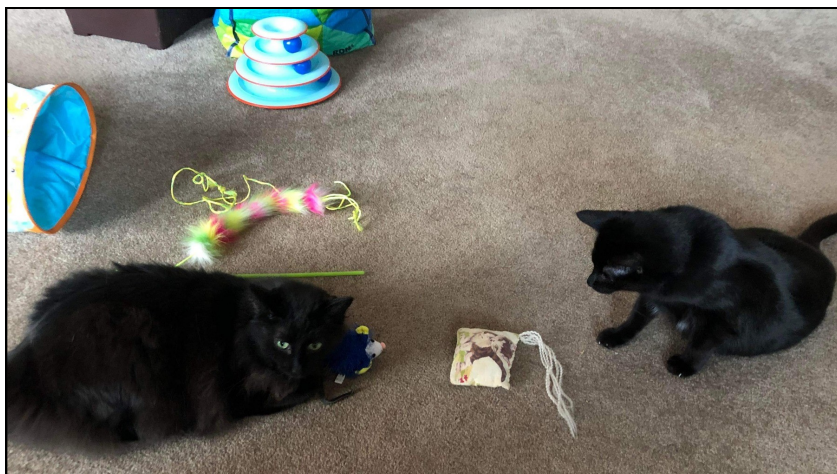
*Visit Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society on Facebook to see these and other adoptable cats in our care.*



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**WINSTON AND RENATA** are looking for a loving home together. These two year old siblings are absolutely amazing little cats. So sweet and gentle natured. Winston is like a little puppy dog who will follow you everywhere. They are loving, confident and playful but past the crazy kitten stage. Everyone who meets these two falls in love with them. Winston is scheduled to have a dental procedure this week at Evergreen Dental and will be ready to join his new family a week after that. Apparently he purred through his entire exam despite being in some dental pain.

To find out more about these two lovely cats, please email [victoriacatrescue@gmail.com](mailto:victoriacatrescue@gmail.com).



**APPOLLO** is looking for a very calm and relaxed home. He came into our care at Christmas and has absolutely blossomed. He was born on a farm where he had limited interaction, so he has taken some months to learn how to love people. He is very loving with his foster mum, as well as her 3 cats and her dog. He will need to be adopted into a home that will allow him some time to settle in, as he will need to adjust to a new environment with patience. Once he settles in, you will have an amazing little feline!! Here is what Apollo's foster mum has to say about him:

Distinctive markings: 13 rings on his tail, a heart shaped ginger patch above his right back leg, deep golden eyes and a little tiny ginger patch on his chin. And of course all of his lean mean body. He is a very handsome boy! He has a way of lowering and pointing his ears that is beyond cute. Likes: BELLY RUBS!!!! He will fly by you to position himself in your path in belly rub position! He never wastes an opportunity. He loves wrestling and racing with his two colony mates and cuddles with Clueso (an older cat that I have). One on one time with his guardian is also a favourite thing. He's a good eater and loves his treats and the routine leading up to treat time. He puts everything in his mouth that he can reach or find. He chews on my baker's rack, my buffet and my glasses along with everything else. If you drop something on the floor, he will have it in his mouth in a nanosecond. Apollo is a talker! He talks about everything in his day and waking hours. You won't ever have to wonder how he is doing, good or bad, because he will tell you. He will also tell you when it is dinner time and treat time...If you are looking for a silent partner, he isn't your guy. It is music to my ears but not everyone feels the same way.



### Statistics

September 15, 2021  
to May 31, 2022

**233 Enquiries**

**55 spay/neuters funded  
or partially funded**

**67 TNR and medical for  
Colony Cats to date**

**20 more Colony Cats to  
be assisted**

**67 adoptions completed**

**2022**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**September 14, 2022**

**6:00pm**

**Please call**

**250 656-1100**

**For meeting details and  
location.**

### **Executive Board**

**2021/2022**

**President:**

Kim Esau

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Cheryl McCreary

**Recording Secretary:**

Susan Robertson

**Directors:**

Sherry Buttnor

Betty Kask

Barbara Lyons

Merilee Panchy

Pam Slyth

**Scratching Post Editor:**

Pam Slyth



**WHERE: 195 MADDOCK AVENUE WEST**

**WHEN: JULY 23RD 10AM TO 2PM**

Victoria Cat Rescue Corps, Dee's Orphan Kitten Fund and Paws Buttons are joining forces this summer for a yard sale fundraiser. On July 23 we will have a giant yard sale to benefit all three charities. Donations of gently used items will be appreciated. No plastics please. You can drop off your donations at 195 Maddock Ave. West, but please call first.

Kathryn 250 384-9139, or Cheryl McCreary 250 888-4454



Hello everyone,

Once again I would like to thank all of the wonderful members that have been donating bottles to our ongoing Bottle Drive. I am doing the same thing this year so please contact me at 250-888-4454 for bottle pick ups. Please note that Milk cartons are now accepted (try not to crush them down as they need to be in their original state) but not CREAMERS or SOUP containers. Thank you again, Cheryl

**Volunteers Needed!** We are currently seeking a volunteer to assist with our fundraising efforts. If you have experience in any kind of fundraising, especially online fundraising, please get in touch as soon as possible. Email us at [meow133@victoriacatrescue.com](mailto:meow133@victoriacatrescue.com) if you can help.

**The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society**

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