

## In Memoriam

### Helen Griffiths

In memory of Bette Hiebert

### Lynn Heyman

In memory of Hugh McManes

### Gerda Stocker

In memory of Joy Rodway

### Frank & Myrna Schwagly

In memory of Turnip

### Nora Tseng

In memory of her cat, Chloe

### Helen Dagg

In memory of her friend,

Margaret V. Smith

### Lois Rightmyer

In memory of Ann Mischenko  
and her dog, Nike

## Alpine Animal Hospital

In memory of John Finley

### Cheryl Rogers

In memory of John Finley

### Ronald & Ingrid McKeown

In memory of John Finley

### Phodoline Meszaros

In memory of John Finley

### Pearl Robinson

In memory of John Finley

### Lower Mainland Purpose Society

In memory of John Finley

### Royal Agricultural

### & Industrial Society of BC

In memory of John Finley

### Tanya Boguski

In memory of her grandma,

Edyth McIvor

## In Honour

### June Heys

In honour of her daughter, Vickie Heys

### Harold & Eva Hopkinson

In honour of their neice, Vickie Heys

### Lorrie Williams

In honour of the people who

found her cat, Pepper

### Barry Tietjen

In lieu of Christmas presents,

in the names of his extended family

The Royal City Humane Society, and the  
creatures who have been entrusted to  
our care, are grateful to have been  
remembered with these gifts.



# The Inside Scoop

January 2004 ~ Volume 1, issue 1

The Royal City Humane Society

www.rchs.bc.ca

## Seniors for Seniors Our New Adoption Program

In this issue:

### Seniors for Seniors Program

If you are a senior and are in need of some  
companionship you may want to consider our  
newest adoption program, Seniors for Seniors.

### Special Needs Cat ~ Barnum ~

Seniors 60 years and older may adopt a senior  
companion animal (6 years of age or over)  
from the Royal City Humane Society at a  
reduced adoption fee of \$25.

### Kitty Corner ~ Diabetes ~

People in their retirement years can make won-  
derful partners for companion animals. With  
their children raised, seniors have more time to  
devote to caring for pets.

### Dogpatch ~ Gentle Jenny ~

And pets can also be ideal companions for  
seniors, offering socialization, entertainment,  
mental stimulation, physical contact, accept-  
ance and an outward focus.

### Success Stories ~ Two Billies ~

Studies have demonstrated the therapeutic  
benefits that seniors derive from interacting  
with pets, especially in relieving stress.  
Seniors with pets have lower heart rates and  
blood pressure.

### Upcoming Events

### The service to seniors includes the follow- ing:

Low cost adoption fee of \$25  
Free membership to the Royal City Humane  
Society  
Free in home assessment to help choose your  
pet  
Free registration to our "Live for Life" program  
No cost spay/neuter of your new fur friend  
All initial shots  
FIV/FELV testing

### To take part in the program you must:

Fulfill all regular requirements of our adoption  
program  
Provide identification for proof of age  
Be able to provide an ongoing nutritional diet  
Be able to provide excellent shelter for your pet  
Be prepared to continue with routine veterinary  
care

For information, call 604 524 6447  
or visit our website:  
<http://www.rchs.bc.ca>

## The Tail End

## Sponsors

Alpine Animal Hospital  
Angela Kerslake Law Corporation  
Anipet  
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Bosley's, North Road, Coquitlam  
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Manna Computer Services  
Paul Cassels - scratching posts

Pawsabilities Holding Corp.  
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Royal City Animal Hospital  
Royal City Rockets Dog Agility Group  
Shirley's Upholstery  
South Burnaby Animal Hospital  
Techni-Cal  
TELUS Community Connections  
Tony Jackson - scratching posts  
Unger & Company CGA  
Vancouver Pet Centre - New West  
wFIDO for EARS training  
Zen Dogs Canine Services

**Thanks to all our sponsors for their  
ongoing support**

## Upcoming Events

### May

23/24 - **Hyack Festival**, Queens Park  
30th - **Queensborough Day**,  
Queensborough Community Centre

### July

17/18th - **FraserFest Dog Wash**,  
New Westminster Quay,  
by the Boathouse Restaurant

### August

29th - Doggy Fun Day,  
Queens Park

### September

19th - Urban Farmers Fall Fair,  
Queensborough Community Centre  
TBA - Pet Lovers Digest,  
Day in the Park, Brighton Park,  
Vancouver

The Royal City Humane Society is a registered, no-kill animal charity based in New Westminster, BC. As the only charity animal shelter in New Westminster, RCHS campaigns against pet overpopulation and cares for stray, injured and abandoned animals by testing them for disease, sterilizing and tattooing, and finding them new homes. RCHS is 100% volunteer run. Funding is obtained through various fund raising activities, memberships and donations, and all funds are spent on the welfare of the animals.

**Right now, RCHS desperately needs donations! We are critically short of funds and will have to close our doors if we do not get financial assistance. Please help!**

## Quote:

If man aspires  
towards a  
righteous life,  
his first act of  
abstinence is  
from injury to  
animals.

~ Leo Tolstoy

## Can you help Barnum?

**Black/white neutered male. 5-7 yrs. FIV positive.**

Barnum was abandoned in the Sapperton area of New Westminster. He managed to survive on handouts from kind neighbors until he was trapped and brought in to the RCHS shelter. He's a friendly guy who likes attention and petting. Unfortunately, Barnum has been diagnosed with FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) or "kitty AIDS". This means that he cannot be kept in the shelter or in a foster home with uninfected cats - he's currently in isolation at the shelter, which can cause cats to become very depressed.

Barnum needs a foster home with either no other cats, or with another FIV-positive cat. RCHS will pay for his medical care, food and litter. If you would like to foster or sponsor Barnum, please contact RCHS at 604.524.6447 or [info@rchs.bc.ca](mailto:info@rchs.bc.ca).

RCHS occasionally has cats that are older, have chronic illnesses, or require special care that makes them difficult to adopt. Even a small donation can make a big difference by helping to provide needed medicine or treatment for these cats.



# Kitty Corner

## Does Your Cat Have Diabetes?

Many pet owners are surprised to learn that cats can (and do!) develop diabetes, just like humans. In fact, 1 in every 400 cats is diabetic. Many of these cats live long and happy lives with a little extra care and attention from their owners.

## What Is Feline Diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus, or "sugar" diabetes, is a common disorder in cats and dogs, caused by the inability of the hormone insulin to properly balance blood sugar (glucose) levels.

Glucose is processed by the body into energy. After food is digested, glucose enters the blood stream. In a healthy body insulin is then secreted, signaling the cells to begin the process of converting the sugars into useable energy. As more food is consumed, more insulin is secreted, and the needed glucose is consumed. The pancreas secretes small amounts of insulin — just enough to ensure blood glucose levels don't rise too high (hyperglycemia) or fall dangerously low (hypoglycemia).

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin, and type 2 when the body's cells don't respond well to insulin. Both result in high blood sugar levels because the body is unable to process the available glucose. In the early stages, diabetics may gain weight as appetites increase and their insulin levels rise and fall. However, in spite of maintaining a good appetite, diabetics ultimately lose weight since the body isn't able to process sugars into energy. Essentially, diabetics begin to starve to death.

Overweight and older male cats are more likely to develop diabetes, but any cat can be at risk. Keeping your cat at a healthy weight and feeding a high quality diet can lower their chances of becoming diabetic.

If your cat exhibits any of the following behaviors - drinking copious amounts of

water, excessive urination, unusual fatigue or listlessness – an immediate visit to the veterinarian is in order. While these symptoms may indicate a variety of illnesses, a few simple blood and urine tests can generally pinpoint the cause and thus define the treatment.

## Treatment

**Feline diabetes is a very treatable disease.**

After your cat is diagnosed, your veterinarian will go over all the procedures, including feeding instructions and symptoms of too much or too little insulin and what to do in these cases. They will also set up a schedule of regular recheck visits to gauge how the therapy is working and to adjust the insulin dosage.

In order to treat your cat effectively, you need to develop a good working relationship with your veterinarian. If you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask questions! Every cat is different, and you know your cat best, so if something seems wrong to you, consult your vet.

Once the insulin dosage is established a diabetic cat can live a long and happy life. Generally this requires that the caretaker inject insulin twice daily. People are often initially reluctant to give injections to their pets, but it isn't really that bad. Insulin needles are very small, and many cats don't react at all to getting the shots.

## Can I Afford This?

If your cat is diabetic and you are deciding whether or not to treat it, consider these facts:

Diabetes must be treated, or your pet will likely die. Your cat will not object to the injections. Insulin is very inexpensive. Home testing is a viable, and inexpensive option to successfully regulating your pet. The most expensive part of treating a

diabetic cat is the initial diagnosis and adjustment of the insulin dose, where you may be taking the cat to the vet on a weekly basis for blood tests and glucose monitoring. If paying for veterinary treatment during this period is a major problem, talk to your vet about options for a payment plan or how to keep costs down.

Insulin and needles for your cat are very inexpensive (supplies for our diabetic cat cost us under \$15 per month).

Frugal Feline Diabetes: Treating Your Diabetic Cat on a Budget () is an excellent web site geared to people who want to care for their diabetic cat but have limited resources.

## Where can I find out more?

There are a number of excellent resources on the web for owners of diabetic cats.

**FelineDiabetes.com** - <http://www.feline-diabetes.com>

FelineDiabetes.com is an introductory guide to the treatment of diabetes in cats. This site has a great introductory section for the newly diagnosed, plus a message board where you can connect with other cat owners going through the same experiences.

**Living with Feline Diabetes** - <http://www.netpets.com/cats/reference/diabetes.html>

Information on diagnosing, treating and living with feline diabetes.

**About.com: Feline Diabetes** - <http://cats.about.com/cs/felinediabetes>  
Resources for symptoms, causes, and treatment of feline diabetes.

**Frugal Feline Diabetes: Treating Your Diabetic Cat on a Budget** -

<http://www.sugarcats.net/sites/jmpeer-son/frugal.html>

How to treat your diabetic cat without having to resort to a life of crime.

~ submitted by Ellen Ashdown

# Dogpatch



Jenny, who wiggles shamelessly, is the sweetest, most lovable rottie girl anyone

has ever met. After years of breeding, malnutrition, and utter neglect she still loves everyone—with no exceptions. Jenny came to us from a city animal control facility. She was emaciated, flea and parasite infested, with bloody sores all over her hairless body. Her under belly sagged from litter after litter of puppies suckling from her and the hair that she did have was so dry it would fall out in handfuls if you only touched her. She looked a mess.

Now after 3 months of TLC she is at a beautiful, healthy weight and looking gorgeous and fit. All her hair has grown back soft and full. Her loose skin on her under belly has firmed up. She has been treated for her severe parasites and will have more blood work done to make

sure all is well. Next she will have surgery on her anterior cruciate ligament, which is torn. This is a common and costly problem with rottweilers, and because it has been left untreated she also has severe osteoarthritis in that knee.

But even after the way she was used, and then thrown aside with a crippling, painful injury she still loves everyone. She leans and wiggles so much she falls over when someone is petting her. Jenny is a truly sweet and loving dog and deserves the exceptional home we feel every dog deserves. If you would like to help Jenny, donations can be made to The Royal City Humane Society on her behalf.

~ submitted by Toni Reed

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## Meet One-Eyed Billy

Billy, a rottweiler pup, was dropped off at the pound in September of 2003. He was only 2 weeks old, weighed 1lb 14 oz, and needed bottle feeding every 2 hours. He had lost his right eye and the use of his right elbow due to two untreated infections, and only the dedication of our vet and dog volunteers kept him alive. Billy now weighs about 26lbs and is an outgoing and confident dog. He loves people and playing with other dogs. He is still unable to get down the stairs but can go up most. When he has to go down he slides on his belly. Billy is a smart boy and already knows "sit" and "shake a paw"! He is going to need an elbow replacement later on, and his missing eye socket needs to be closed due to infection from the lashes that fold inward. This is a tricky and costly surgery.

Check out Billy's page at:  
[www.canineconsulting.com/billy.htm](http://www.canineconsulting.com/billy.htm)



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## Billie the Miracle Kitten

Billie is our 5 month old "miracle kitten". She was found abandoned and starving with a broken leg. When she was brought in to our vet, the x-ray of her leg also showed a piece of plastic, a sewing needle and thread in her stomach requiring major emergency surgery. She probably ate the plastic and sewing needle while scavenging in a garbage can for food. The final cost of her treatment was over \$1200. Without the surgery, she would certainly have died a very painful death. Instead, she is now ready to be adopted into a loving family.

Without the generous assistance (both financial and material) of our members, volunteers and supporters, we would not be able to help these and many other animals. Please help us before it's too late for the animals who depend on us! Donations can be made by cash, cheque, or through our web site with your credit card using PayPal - fast, free and secure online payment. We also accept donations of food, litter, carriers, leashes, dog beds and other items.

**If you would like to provide a foster home, donate, volunteer, or participate in any fund raising activities, please visit our web site at <http://www.rchs.bc.ca> or contact us at 604.524.6447 or [info@rchs.bc.ca](mailto:info@rchs.bc.ca).**