



Did you know.....

CAT COLLARS CAN BE DANGEROUS!

by Leslie Rodgers/Doreen Stocks



"Heather" was discovered last winter with her front leg stuck through her hard collar. The collar had dug into

Heather's armpit and neck and the flesh was raw, infected and foul-smelling. RCHS managed to trap Heather for a life-saving trip to the vet, where the wound was cleaned and sutured with 15 stitches. Had she not been rescued, Heather's leg would have self-amputated. Since she also was pregnant at the time, Heather would surely have endured prolonged suffering and a painful death.



Why do we collar cats anyway? The most common reason is so that we have a place to affix an identification tag in the event kitty gets lost, or "rescued" by a well-meaning person assuming s/he is a stray. Some cat caregivers affix either a magnetic or electronic key that gives kitty access through a cat door, or a bell to scare off birds which might otherwise end up as kitty food but beware the bell might

well make kitty coyote food. Please never bell your cat. Still others use collars for flea control or cosmetic reasons.

However, as we can see from Heather's story, cat collars present risks that can be harmful or even catastrophic for our furry friends.

Collars with elastic inserts can and do stretch and become loose-fitting over time, making it quite easy for a cat to trap its front leg inside. Or the collar can get stuck over the cat's jaw. Either situation can induce panic and potential injury.

Rigid collars (such as the one that severely injured Heather), carry the same risks but for different reasons. The "right fit" is one where there is enough space between collar and neck so cat is comfortable but not enough space for a foot and leg to get



caught. It is imperative that the collar be checked regularly for proper fit because a loss of weight can cause it to become too loose and growth or weight gain will result in the collar digging into the flesh of the cats' neck and becoming embedded which requires veterinary care. With long hair cats this can occur before you realize there is a problem.

A snap collar or a break away collar is the better choice. These collars provide the cat with some protection from getting entangled or caught on something. A plastic buckle snaps open when the cat struggles to free itself. You can test how easily a snap collar or break away collar opens by hanging a heavy object from it. The collar should open under the cat's weight but not under a very light pressure.

**THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE...PLEASE, SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS
CONTACT US ABOUT OUR SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS...604-524-6447**

As well as a collar and ID tag there are two other ways to ID your cat...

a tattoo - an inked code inside your cat's (usually) right ear made up of a combination of letters and numbers specific to your veterinary clinic, the year and an individual client number. This information is permanently recorded at the clinic but you must inform them of any changes in your contact information to keep your record up to date. A tattoo can only be done under sedation so is ideally performed at the time of spaying or neutering.

a microchip - a tiny implant the size of a rice grain that is inserted by needle under the skin between the cat's shoulder blades and requires no sedation so can be done at any veterinary visit. The microchip contains a unique set of numbers that can be read with a special hand held scanner. As with tattoos it is vital that you keep your contact information current.

Because cats can lose their collars, tattoos can fade and become undecipherable and microchips may move from the implant site and not be picked up on scanners, RCHS recommends whenever possible that you take advantage of all three methods to ID your cat and increase the chances he/she will be found and returned safely should your cat escape and become lost.

(And don't forget to keep your contact information up to date!)

So how did Heather's story turn out? Thanks to the compassionate woman who found her, RCHS who trapped her, Dr. Singh at Alpine Hospital who treated her, and the wonderful family who adopted her, Heather (renamed Marbles) is fully recovered and being the kitten she never got a chance to be. She runs, jumps, gets into mischief and is one totally loved feline. It is a fairytale ending to a story that could have ended tragically.

RCHS Volunteers Learn TTouch™

by Leslie Rodgers



RCHS provides a sanctuary for homeless or surrendered cats to experience warmth, safety, plenty of food and water, and caring volunteers.

At the same time, we know shelter life can be very stressful for our feline residents.

That's why, last spring, 17 RCHS volunteers signed up for Tellington TTouch™ workshops.

TTouch™ is a method of "gentle, connected circular touches, and lifting and stroking movements on the skin." Designed by internationally recognized animal expert Linda Tellington-Jones, it can calm animals, enhance their well-being and change problem behaviours. The method has been specifically adapted to cats but is used to help many other species such as dogs, horses, hamsters, zoo animals and even whales.

During two, 2-hour workshops over consecutive weekends, volunteers learned the basic techniques, and then practiced at the shelter under the guidance of instructor Helen Walkley. We noticed positive changes, such as timid Francine

(one of our feature cats in this edition), relaxing into the gentle touch, and grumpy Rosa purring in spite of herself.

Here's what some of the volunteers had to say:

"TTouch will give each of us a new, more thoughtful approach to interacting with our shelter cats."

"TTouch provides an opening to a new way of communicating with, and honouring animals—and humans too!"

"I found this information great and I can see how it would help."

Information on TTouch can be found at www.ttouch.com and on local instructor Helen Walkley at www.balanceforanimals.com



KITTY PROFILE

TUXEDOS ARE FOR GIRLS, TOO

In this edition we feature two of our well-dressed "tuxedo" girls, Chia and Baby Girl.



Chia

At the shelter, these gentle ladies tend to stay in the background while other cats assert themselves to get noticed. Baby Girl and Chia are more "classical" than "rock stars". Yet each of them would thrive in their very own forever home.

If you are into sweet, well-behaved, quiet yet extremely loving cats, one - or both - of them would make a wonderful addition to your family.



Baby Girl

Baby Girl doesn't understand why her caregiver had to move overseas and leave her behind. She would love a new, cozy home very soon, please.

Chia and Baby Girl - all dressed up and ready to go!

UPDATES

BIDDY & WHISKEY



I just wanted to update you on how Whiskers and Iddy Bidy are doing!

Both of the cats have settled in really well. Iddy Bidy, (or just "Biddy", as we now call him), is still a little shy at times, and gets startled easily and will run under the bed if he hears a loud noise, but he

is very cuddly and sweet and is becoming less shy every day. Whiskers, (now "Whiskey"), follows us all over the house and always wants to be snuggled up next to us. They both sleep with us every night and they have a big cat bed that they love to curl up in together!

They are still eating Medi-Cal cat food, but we found that Whiskey was vomiting up his dry food frequently...We tried both the Medi-Cal Mature formula and Medi-Cal Mobility Support, and he was still vomiting every 24 hrs or so on both of those foods...Dr. Kennedy at Blueridge-Cove recommended that we try him on Medi-Cal Gastrointestinal formula (the Moderate Calorie one), and he's had no further vomiting since then! I guess he just has a bit of a sensitive tummy. So they are both eating that now along with the Medi-Cal Mature formula wet, and they love it! They are both eating like little piggies... :o)

I took both of the cats to see Dr. Kennedy for a quick health check shortly after we got them, and she was concerned that Whiskey's T4 level was a little high on the bloodwork that was done back in March. We rechecked it and his T4 level had already elevated more since then...(it was still on the cusp of the high-normal range, but the increase was definitely an indication that he is becoming hyperthyroid). Dr. Kennedy suggested that we start him on a low dose of Methimazole now to get it under control early. He's currently getting a 2.5mg tablet in a pill pocket twice a day, and he LOVES it! He always looks forward to getting his little pill treats! (Biddy also gets an empty pill pocket at the same time so he doesn't feel left out!) Haha... :o)

We couldn't be happier with them and we are so thankful for all the work you've done. Thanks again for everything! We love our big squishy guys so much! All the best. Kaelyn

MR. FRIENDLY



About two and a half years ago I adopted a cat from your shelter in New Westminster. When I arrived and walked among the 30 cats at the shelter, it was hard to choose, but when I held my cat in my arms I burst into tears.

You had named him "Mr. Friendly" and is certainly a social cat. I have named him Percival. I love him dearly. He is an indoor/outdoor cat and our neighbors love him too.

He brings structure to my life and reminds me to slow down, be in the moment, and be loved. I am keeping all the promises I made when I accepted him. Thank you for this great gift to my life. Sue

ROYAL CITY HUMANE SOCIETY

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SUNDAY JANUARY 27th
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Thank You to
 Telus Charitable Giving Program - Pearl Young

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Gail Beau - In Memory of Midge
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 beloved pet guinea pig Treasure
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 of Joey Jacobson
 Arlene Harley - In Memory of Debbie
 Sloan's cats Precious & Bandi
 Betty Ang, Jerry Chow, Lois Rightmyer,
 Ken Pearse, Doreen Stocks, Nan St Eloi - In
 Memory of David Holm

Thanks to Holly & Ellery for donating their birthday
 loot for the cats. Their thoughtful generosity is much
 appreciated and bodes well for the future care of the
 animals in our community.

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We, the animals who have been rescued from the streets, now and in the past, would like to thank all of the wonderful donors who so generously give us money, food and supplies throughout the year. Some of us have found new and loving homes. As for the rest of us we now have full bellies, warm dry beds, safety and love. Thank you, you have helped to make a world of difference in our lives.
 Purrs From The RCHS Cats

Royal City Humane Society

Mailing Address: Box 0102, 667 Columbia Street, New Westminster B.C. V3M 1A8

604 524-6447

www.rchs.bc.ca

Yes! I would like to make a donation to the RCHS to help animals in need.

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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.
 Registered Charity # 89683-2532-RR001