



Hannah's Birthday Gift

by Ann Davis

Childhood and an innate love of animals often go hand in hand... in fact some would argue that the world would be a much better place if everyone shared a child's compassion for our four-legged furry friends. Hannah Davis's love of animals is no exception.

This year, for her ninth birthday party, Hannah decided that - while she'd still like to spend time with her good friends - she'd rather share some of her good fortune with others by making a donation to charity than receive a lot of gifts she really didn't need. After very carefully considering many different charity options, Hannah decided she wanted to donate her birthday



collection to a charity dedicated to helping animals. She chose the Royal City Humane Society with the idea that a local charity would have greater impact as her donation would go further.

One of Hannah's own cats - who goes by the sophisticated name 'Popcorn' - was adopted from RCHS two years ago. Popcorn has brought much joy to Hannah's home and has also been a great friend to 'Sophie,' the much more senior feline member of the family household. Hannah is very happy to be able to help the animals.

Thank you, Hannah!! Wishing you many more Happy Purrrdays ~ The RCHS Cats

Feline Epilepsy

The diagnosis of Epilepsy is applied whenever repeated seizures (sudden attacks, spasms or convulsions) are observed in a human or animal patient. The incidence of epilepsy in cats is less than 1%.

Seizures can be brought about by various causes: injury to the brain, illness, and tumor growth. (For dogs, heredity can also be a factor, which is perhaps why epilepsy affects a greater proportion of them - about 4%.)

If illness or tumor growth are indicated, treatment of these may eliminate the seizures - these types are known as *causal* (or *secondary*) epilepsy. But often no cause is found - these cases are referred to as *idiopathic* (or *primary*) epilepsy. In idiopathic epilepsy, the first onset of seizures usually occurs between 2 and 3 years of age.

Since even small seizures can produce brain damage, treatment to reduce their frequency and duration is extremely important. Identifying the cause of seizures is key to determining the most appropriate treatment. **It's estimated that about two-thirds of epilepsy cases are treatable, though treatment is life-long.**

If your pet is having a seizure, try to keep it safe from hitting against sharp objects or falling down stairs. Time the attack, and watch it carefully - your description will be important to your veterinarian. Usually an attack will last less than 2 minutes. Any pet whose seizure lasts longer than 5-10 minutes, or who has more than 3 seizures in a day, should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

VOLUNTEER PROFILES

by Casper Egan

Cliff & Steve



This issue features volunteers Cliff and Steve, two quietly happy individuals who knew each other in Winnipeg before moving to B.C. These extremely dedicated fellows do double shifts at the RCHS Shelter, working every Wednesday and every Friday, from two to four p.m. It was a most delightful treat for me to watch them among cats on a Shelter shift.

Steve picked up a few months old kitten, wondering aloud if the young cat would be easily spooked. No way! The kitten looked adoringly at Steve, its little eyes gleaming, and mustered its best and biggest purr.

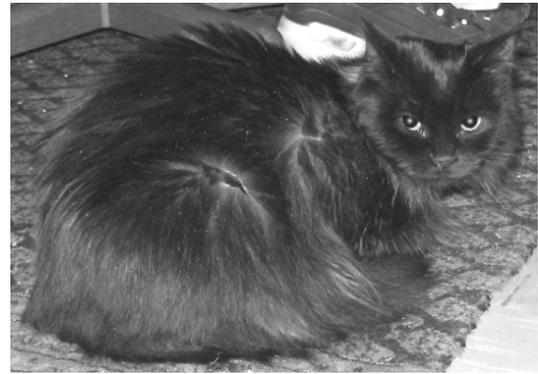
Cliff, who shared a chesterfield with a fully grown cat, eventually moved to a chair, remarking that the cat wanted to stretch out and he (Cliff) was only in the way. Now there's a person who loves, understands and appreciates cats! Cliff, who hails originally from Halifax, worked as an orderly in hospitals and private homes before his debilitating illness prevented him from continuing with that career.

Steve worked at a variety of jobs at a community television station, programming and installing and (ouch!) disconnecting cable tv services. He proposed that we here in the Lower Mainland could use a) a tv site or program that depicts stray pets so their owners can identify them and b) a place on tv - or in the newsletter - that follows up adopted and fostered animals so people can see how their placements have worked out.

In the 'small world' department, Steve and Cliff had to give up one of their cats and were re-united with the very same cat through the Royal City Humane Society! They called her Scarlett but she was known in the shelter as Sylvia. Cliff and Steve also foster

KITTY PROFILES

Wannie



This beautiful black, medium-haired young lady hasn't had the best start in life. In February, she and her brother (Smokey Sam) were surrendered by their owners when they could no longer take care of them. Sadly, Smokey Sam was ill by that time and has since passed away.

Wannie is 2-1/2 years old. She has epilepsy and is on medication to manage her symptoms. She's a sweet, affectionate little girl who desperately needs someone who will love her and keep her safe. Her illness requires that she be an indoor-only cat.

There are not enough Good homes



Volunteer Profile continued...

another cat named Cicero ('Jeremy' at the shelter) who is eight years of age, three years older than Scarlett. Both cats get along nicely. Steve wanted to make the point that the senses of cats are more acute than people's. Cliff said he just really enjoyed hanging out with the cats at the Shelter.

And you just gotta know that the cats enjoy the attentions of Cliff and Steve. Good going guys and thanks a bunch for all that you are doing in our little feline oasis.

Tribute to Betsy

by Linda Vanderhoek

Betsy arrived on our doorstep in the middle of the winter weather. Our friend had been feeding the stray at the Abbotsford Airport for two years. After she noticed that Betsy was limping, she brought her to a vet to get checked out. Betsy ended up at our home to recuperate.



cough - another sign that her health was not good.

The months went by. Betsy was totally loveable to us. She became braver and ventured out of her room and eventually downstairs outside onto the fenced porch - always cautious and ready to run back to her room. Her walking was

Eventually it was determined that Betsy had a severely broken rear left leg, which had shown some signs of healing. Due to her fragile health, her leg could not be operated on. Betsy also had poor vision, was deaf and had badly matted fur. We took her in with the hope that the leg would heal and she could go to a foster home. A spare bedroom was set up with large pillows for a bed, food, water and litter box. Betsy lay on her warm dry bed after eating heartily. She purred loudly as the monsoon-like rains fell outside her bedroom window.

Betsy rubbed up against us and all visitors, showing unconditional trust and affection. At first we separated her from our other cats. Eventually we introduced her to our cats but she was aggressive towards them, hissing until she started to heave and

difficult - not putting any weight onto her broken leg, slipping on the hardwood floors, falling frequently. She was a sad sight. We brought her in to the vet - the leg wasn't healing properly, so the decision was made to put her down. She went quietly, as was her way in the short time that we knew her

We loved Betsy - it was impossible not to. We miss her but take comfort in knowing that she lived as comfortable as her broken body would allow in her last few months.

It is our hope that we all learn from Betsy's loneliness and suffering. Please don't abandon your pets but bring them to a Shelter if you are no longer able to care for them. Shelters provide love and care for those who can then wait safely for a new home.

Phantom: My Lovable Rogue

by Sandi Walker

Phantom was a bit of a legend in the neighbourhood where he lived. A lot of people knew of him, as I found out down the road. I first met my Phantom in the backyard of a house where I worked. He stayed out of sight but I knew he was there, hence the name Phantom.

Eventually he decided I was Phantom-worthy, so he moved onto the back porch where he lived for a year enjoying lots of food, treats, catnip and lots of love. When my family and I moved into a house, I took him home where he promptly bit my sister and lived up to his nickname "Chopper."

Though Phantom was a difficult cat, he had a big, vibrant personality. He was a strong alpha male type, brimming with confidence, and was extremely affectionate. I've seen him defending his kitchen ready to take on the neighbours' Rottweiler at the back door, and strutting down the middle of the sidewalk in broad daylight with this cocky self-assuredness. Once he took off for four days. The world was his!



Phantom and I had many "conversations" about his biting. Finally he stopped but it took lots of patience, understanding, love and research. On rare occasions Chopper would let me know he still lurked. There really are no bad cats, only bad habits.

Sometimes Phantom acted more like a dog than

a cat. He had this trumpety meow when he smelled something really good on his dinner plate, like roast chicken fresh from the supermarket, or real tuna from the can; he would stand up on hind legs, trying to take the plate from my hands with those great big white powder-puff paws of his.

Phantom suffered from hyperthyroidism when he came to me; shortly after that he was diagnosed with kidney failure. We wouldn't have long together. From then on I made every day as special for him as I could. On February 2, 2006, my lovable rogue and beloved companion went into heart failure, and very sadly had to leave us.

Mailing Address:
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Royal City Humane Society

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

One-Time Donation \$ _____

Monthly Donation \$ _____

\$25 \$35 \$50

\$75 \$100 \$200

Other \$ _____

Please accept my annual membership fee of \$10.00

Cheque Enclosed

Sponsor a Spay/Neuter please accept my \$50.00 donation so I can sponsor sterilizing a feral (*wild*) cat

I Do Not Require A Receipt

Donations may be made on our Website www.rchs.bc.ca by using



Please complete the information below

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: () _____

E-Mail: _____



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-RR0001

Royal City Humane Society's **September 30th Fundraiser** Sapperton Pensioners Hall 318 Keary St., New Westminster

Featuring A fabulous Silent Auction & Amazing Variety Show
"Emma The Calendar Girl"

\$10.00 per ticket

tickets will also be available at the door

Time: 6 pm to 10 pm /cash bar

for more information or tickets please call...

RCHS 604-524-6447 or Lorrie Williams 604-521-3416

Pub Night

On behalf of the Royal City Humane Society, we would like to Thank our Sponsors for their generous donations to make Pub Night a successful event! - and a special Thanks to all the Volunteers for making this Happen and to the Rivers Reach Pub!

Best Friend Pet Food & Supplies

Boston Pizza, New West

Charlie's Chocolate Factory

Delany's Pub

Grizzly Construction

IGA, Old Orchard, Burnaby

John Stuart Sports, (J.S. Sports)

La Spaghetteria

Me 'n' Ed's Pizza

Pizza Hut, New West

Reubens Chocolates

Rogers Video, New West

Safeway, McBride, New West

Tim Horton's Queensborough

The Keg Restaurant

The Waffle House Family Restaurant

Walmart, Queensborough

Bosley's

BCIT, Recreation Services

Cockney Kings Fish & Chips

Goodie Bags by Siobhan

IGA, New West

Jennifer North, Mary Kay Consultant

Lady Dynafit, New West

Marine Pub & Brewhouse

Minoas Greek Taverna

Purdy's Chocolates

Rivers Reach Pub, New West

Safeway, 6th Ave, New West

Tim Horton's, 6th St., New West

The Fermented Grape Winemaking Shop

White Spot, New West

Wild Rice Studios

Spring Garage Sale

The 2006 RCHS Spring Garage Sale was a great success! The total amount raised was just over \$2500. A big Thank You!! to all the good people who donated/bought sale items and to all the volunteers who worked so hard on this event.

Doggy Wash

Held July 15th and 16th, 12 volunteers washed 60 dogs and managed to raise about \$500. Thank you volunteers!! (And a wee nod to those brilliant dirty dogs and their owners, too.)

The cost of rehabilitating stray and abandoned cats has gone up as dramatically as everything else, so every single donation is precious. But even donations that aren't monetary can make a difference. Cat climbing posts, cat-friendly cleaning products... that sack of food Fluffy isn't too keen on anymore... a flat of canned cat food that's on sale. Anything the cats can use that we don't have to buy allows donation dollars to stretch much further.



**THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE...PLEASE
SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS**

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