



ROYAL CITY HUMANE SOCIETY

SCRATCHIN' POST

"COYOTES, OUR OTHER NEIGHBOURS"

By Monica Wacker



This article is dedicated to Vinnie, a sweet and cheeky little cat-friend that was reportedly carried away from our neighbourhood by a coyote.

It can be easy to forget that we share our neighbourhoods with coyotes. We rarely see them, even though they are active both during the day and at night. However, they often live surprisingly close by. This is something to be aware of, particularly for those of us who live near parks, ravines, or any other forested or bushy areas. Pet lovers need to beware because coyotes will prey on cats and small dogs. More rarely, coyotes have stalked or attacked small children or even adults.

The more we know about coyotes the better we will be able to protect our families and pets. The Stanley Park Ecology Society has excellent information on their website at www.stanleyparkecology.ca (select Co-Existing with Coyotes from the left sidebar). Along with facts, pictures, and videos there are educational materials for parents, teachers, and children. There is also a phone number and an email address to contact if you spot coyotes in your neighbourhood (coyote sightings are posted on the website). In addition, there are coyote warning notices that you can print off from the website and place around your neighbourhood.

According to the Ecology Society, we must discourage coyotes from perceiving our neighbourhoods as welcoming places and good food sources. It is important to know that coyotes eat a wide variety of foods, depending on where they live. Their diets can include rodents, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, fruit, berries, nuts, fish, birds, eggs, garbage, composted matter and pet food. Therefore, everyone in the neighbourhood has a part to play in eliminating all possible food sources for

coyotes or their wild prey. For instance, compost, garbage, fruit that has fallen from trees, pet food, and bird feeders should be covered or removed at night. The Society also recommends clearing potential mice or rat habitats such as woodpiles, bushes, long grass, etc. If you do see coyotes on your property or in the neighbourhood, try to frighten them away by making loud noises (for example, by shouting or banging metal pots, pans or garbage lids), waving brooms or other large items, or throwing objects at them.

Pets are safest when kept indoors, of course. However, if you do have indoor-outdoor cats, avoid leaving them out overnight. Take their food in well ahead of dusk or only feed them indoors. If possible, you could also build an enclosed run for their daytime use, or a tall, solid fence around your property. Just be aware that coyotes can jump as high as two metres and dig under fences (see the website for more details on fence construction).



When you are outdoors in wooded or other isolated areas, keep children close by and dogs on a leash. Try to travel in larger rather than smaller groups. Bring along a "noisemaker" (see the website for ideas and instructions). You could also take along sticks, objects that can be

thrown, or dog or bear sprays. Coyotes usually avoid humans but if you encounter one do not turn your back on it or run away. Instead, make yourself appear large and aggressive by waving your arms overhead and yelling in a deep, loud voice. Attempt to scare the coyote off by throwing objects at it or by threatening it with large items such as walking sticks. Move slowly to a safer location (for example, where there is more human activity) while maintaining eye contact with the coyote. If you have small children or pets with you, pick them up and carry them. Teach children to be "big, mean and loud" and to never run when they see a coyote. See the website for many more details.

FRITZ'S GRAND JOURNEY

by Doreen Stocks



Sometimes things happen that make me believe that cats (at least some of them) really do have nine lives. On the afternoon of January 31, a tabby cat suddenly appeared at our open shelter window and meowed " Help me - I'm hungry" until Shelly the afternoon volunteer noticed him and went outside to investigate. There was a friendly but very emaciated and obviously very hungry cat who she had never seen before. When she offered him food he quickly scarfed it down and looked for more so she brought him inside to check him over.

Inside his right ear was an easy to read tattoo from the SPCA hospital in Vancouver so on Monday morning a phone call to their office provided us with phone numbers and an owner's name.

By mid morning we were in contact with "Fritz's" people. At first there was disbelief that their guy "Fritz" had truly been found and was alive and safe because he had gone AWOL from the Cariboo and Cumberland area in Burnaby, six weeks ago on December 20. There was no doubt later that day when Martin arrived and spoke "Fritz's" name and held him in his arms. He'd lost a lot of weight but he was the cat Martin adopted as a kitten and watched grow into a four year old - his best buddy, Fritz!

When we pieced the story together it turned out Fritz's family was to move to a house in Coquitlam from their place by Queens and Twelfth in New Westminster so Fritz went to stay with a family in Burnaby to be sure he would be safe during the move and subsequent renovations to the new home. Apparently Fritz had other ideas - he missed his people and his old home so decided he would go find them and so began his dangerous adventure.

In the six weeks while he was missing, he made his way across some pretty busy traffic corridors, through coyote territory during harsh winter weather conditions and no certain meals along the way but his little inner compass was

set for his old home in New Westminster. On that Sunday afternoon when he meowed at our shelter window in the Queens Park area of New Westminster he wasn't too far off his destination but if he hadn't caught Shelley's attention there's no way to know if his story would have had a happy ending because even nine lives can get used up on a journey such as Fritz undertook.

If only Fritz could talk - or write, this would no doubt be a much more exciting and interesting story, but only Fritz will ever know what adventures he had!

KITTIE PROFILES

by Carla Sharpe



CRUZ

Cruz is a handsome cat that has been at the shelter since the middle of last December. Black with some small white patches of fur, he tries to put on the tough guy image. In reality, he is really a big softie just looking to be pampered.

Cruz came from a home where he spent most of his time outside with an inconsistent level of care. The shelter volunteers quickly learnt that Cruz had a lot to tell us. With his throaty drawn out meows, he ensured that every volunteer was aware he was there. As days passed, Cruz settled right down and decided he likes this easy life of being pampered. The talking is not as often, but he can still hold his own in any conversation when prompted. During his leisure time, he can quite often be found lounging on his bed or gazing out the window at any activity outside. Cruz does like to be brushed and petted, especially under his chin. When he has had enough, he rolls over and gives you his back. He also loves his treats, especially now that he does not have to work as hard to get them.



DELORES FINLEY

July 25, 1935 - December 25, 2009

due. When Delores heard about her, she set her up in her spare bedroom and assisted during the birth of eight tiny kittens, at least two of which wouldn't have lived without Delores help.

"Velvet", dear, sweet and deaf gave up on life and quit eating at the shelter and went into hepatic lipodosis. Delores nursed her back to health with syringe feedings and tuna and salmon sashimi and then gave her a home.

There were so many acts of thoughtfulness and kindness:

Delores lost her battle with cancer and we at RCHS lost one of our most dedicated versatile long term volunteers.

Delores answered a call for help to care for kittens in 1999 and by the summer of 2000 she had four cats and kittens of her own plus a dozen more kittens in foster care.

I met Delores in the spring of 2001 when I delivered a litter of four kittens to her place. I had heard about Delores and John, the couple who did kitten adoptions from their home but I wasn't prepared for it to be a beautiful modern townhouse, carpeted throughout, and a small but elegant dining room completely rearranged and set up as a kitten nursery. At that moment I knew that anyone who cared that much about these cute but messy little creatures had to be really special. And she was.

Her dedication and hard work meant that hundreds of animals got the chance to live much better lives and it was due to her compassion and TLC that some got to live at all:

"Nero" was a tiny black and white kitten born with a congenital absence of radius bones in both front legs. As his healthy normal siblings grew and began to race about, he would scramble along as best he could, pushing himself along with his back legs and as they shot up the tall cat post he would try in vain to climb even a little way up.

Delores devised a physio and exercise routine for Nero and set about finding the perfect sheltered home for him and she did. And he climbed that cat post before he left!

"Mofdat" was a very pregnant little cat dumped on the street to fend for herself days before her kittens were

-Food deliveries to desperate pet owners who couldn't bear to see their animals go hungry when their money wouldn't stretch to next pay day.

-The many times she drove elderly or people with disabilities and their sick animals to veterinary appointments.

-The custom sewn diaper, harness and velcro apparatus for the incontinent manx kitten "Brew" - complete with finished button hole for his stub of a tail.

-The time we moved to our new shelter and there was "stuff" everywhere and the people were stressed and the cats were stressed and one cat was missing and no one had had any lunch and in walks Delores with take out food and drinks. How could we not love her?!?

Delores helped our society in so many ways whether it be kitten fostering and adopting, record keeping, answering our phone line, being our treasurer or helping out with fundraising and year after year mobilizing her whole family to come out and support us.

We are all going to miss her so terribly much - her innate ability to sense a need and her sincerity and generosity as a friend, her quirky, wry sense of humour, her skill at getting us organized, the animated animal emails to cheer us up and her passion for animals, especially cats.

We are so fortunate and thankful to have had Delores as a part of our lives and we will do our best to carry on the RCHS in a way that will honour her memory and the faith she had in our ability as a small dedicated group of individuals to help animals and the humans who love them.

Hi Doreen and all the RCHS Volunteers!



Thought we would drop you a line, to let you know how well we are doing.

We have adopted Dac and Phyllis, we will be keeping them. Though I think Frisky is more spoiled than me but she disagrees.

Anyway we gotta go. We have to go and inspect the two stockings hanging by the fireplace., Be sure to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love
Pumpkin & Frisky

Kioko

For her 7th birthday party, Kioko decided that she'd rather share some of her good fortune with others by making a donation to the Royal City Humane Society to help the cats.

Thank you very much Kioko from all the RCHS volunteers and especially the Cats!





Coming Events

15th Annual Queens Park Garage Sale

Saturday May 8, 2010
Help support our homeless animals
201 3rd Avenue

Come visit our booth at
Queensborough Days
Sunday May 30, 2010
Queensborough Community Centre
located at 920 Ewen Avenue

Doggie Fun Day

August 29, 2010
at Queens Park
Bring your dog for a day
of fun and activity.



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.

One-Time Donation _____ Monthly Donation _____

\$25 \$35 \$50

\$75 \$100 \$200

Other \$ _____

Please accept my annual membership fee of \$20.

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 



First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: () _____ Cell: () _____

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