



## DO YOU THINK CATS ARE INDEPENDENT?

by Lynn Keller

I'm always puzzled when I hear people say that cats are aloof and independent. I didn't find that to be the case with my feline. When "His Lordship" came into my life he was a mean little bully but it became evident that he wanted someone to be boss; however if nobody took the job he assumed that it was his. When I made it clear that I was boss he made sure that I knew -- I was the jewel in his crown.

His name was Mew-Mew -- far too wimpy a name for a 30 pound cat! So his name was shortened to Mew. As he became more comfortable with his new home and my roommate, he would make a grand entrance into the living room while we watched TV, making sure he was noticed and appreciated. One evening my roommate said, "Here comes the Emperor to be adored by his subjects."

We started calling him "Your Lordship".

I once told a young friend that the cat's name was Mew but he answered to "Your Lordship". She was openly disdainful. She went into the room where Mew was sitting on a shoulder high-ledge looking out the window. "Mew," she called. "Mew!" No response. "MEW!" No response. "Your Lordship?" she asked and Mew immediately turned and looked her right in the eyes. She almost fainted!

I roared with laughter. The timing was excellent, as if rehearsed. What a hoot!

He was completely involved in the activities of the household. He was there to greet us at the door when we came home. He would howl if his food or water bowls were empty. He'd howl if his litter box needed to be cleaned. He would also howl if there was a message on the answering machine and the howling didn't stop until we listened to the message. Then he would go off about his business.

Mew wasn't an only animal. He shared our love with a

chinchilla and a dove, each of which had a large cage in the living room. Now, both of these creatures are messy and they chuck seeds, hay, feathers and assorted bits in all directions. Mew loved to be able to stretch out in the middle of the living room carpet but hated the "bits". So he would saunter in, stand in the middle of the room and howl repeatedly until I got out the vacuum and cleaned the carpet.

It was worse than living with my mother.

He followed our schedule to the letter and was quick to remind us if we were not in sync with the daily routine. 10:00 PM was my bedtime and he would walk into the room and meow to tell me I should be going to bed.

I didn't realize how rigid this was until my roommate burst out laughing one evening as I was going to my room. "What's so funny?" I asked.

"You and the cat do the same things," she squealed. She explained that she watched the cat go to the living room and call me. As was my habit, I went to the kitchen for a quick snack and some warm milk then off to the bathroom, then into my room. Unknown to me, while I was in the bathroom the cat had gone into laundry room, had a

bite to eat, a drink of water, used the litter box and was out just in time to walk with me to bed.

Sure enough, every night at 10:00 PM, Mew's routine was:

call the Boss

wait for her to eat

walk her to her litter box, then

off to my own dish, bowl and litter box.

All timed to perfection to walk the Boss to her room and snuggle into bed.

Now, how is any of that aloof and independent?



# PLAYING WITH CATS

by Anna Shestakova



We humans have started making pledges to live a healthier lifestyle, eat properly and exercise more, to live a long and happy life. As cat lovers and guardians we should also take a look at the health of our furry friends. Good diet and a healthy dose of exercise can go a long way for maintaining our beloved cats' health, decreasing the probability of diabetes, heart disease and other life threatening conditions. Good cat food will take care of the diet and if your cat is a bit on the heavy side weight control and weight loss diets are readily available for purchase at your local vet's. That is the

easy part. However, what do you do to give your cat enough exercise? How much exercise is enough? These are the questions we will discuss in this article.

In the wild, cats are actually not the most active of creatures and, like their fellow domesticated cats, spend a lot of time ... sleeping. Moreover, when they do hunt, they go for a fast kill, not the prolonged marathon canines engage in. Thus, exercising your cat is not so much of a chore as you might think. Fifteen minutes of high energy activity a day, or twice a day for younger/more active cats, is all you need to provide to keep your feline happy and fit. Keep in mind that some cats will get tired way before fifteen minutes are up. Stop when your cat stops actively chasing the toy, and try playing later.

Playing with your cat is important not only because it helps to keep your cat fit, it also stimulates the cat's brain and reduces boredom. Hence, it may help reduce unwanted behaviours, such as aggression and marking. But first you need to find out what makes your cat interested. To help solve this mystery think of toys like your cat will think or them: rodents (fluffy, fast moving, and terrestrial), birds (flying, chirping, with feathers). To make it even more interesting for yourself, engage the whole family in making the homemade toys. Here are some suggestions.

Birds: attach a bunch of colourful feathers to a string (make sure, the attachment is secure). Once done, tie the string with feathers to a long stick. The string will help simulate the flying and the stick will give you more control.

Rodents: attach a fluffy ball to a string.

Next, attach the string to a piece of semi-flexible electrical wire. And finally attach your creation to a stick. The semi-flexible electrical wire (or even semi-flexible plastic) will simulate the jerking movement of a small rodent.



Figure 1: Bird, Note soft string + hard stick



Figure 2: Rodent Note: soft string + semi-flexible wire + hard stick

# KITTY PROFILE

by Leslie Rodgers

## RISKER



This guy liked to live on the edge - rushing across busy streets while cars did the swerve and brake thing - because he had found friends to put food and water out for him on the other side.

One person cared enough to hang out for two cold rainy nights and finally...Risker was

trapped and here he is in all his glory!!

If you want energetic and devoted, Risker could be the cat for you.

A favourite around the shelter, Risker perches on laps, follows volunteers around and even rides on shoulders. He loves to be doted on.

Risker made his outgoing, trusting personality known within a day of arriving at the shelter. His sunny disposition, coupled with a wee mischievous side, will make him an entertaining and rewarding addition to a loving family.



At the end of any chasing game, give your cat its favourite treat, to reward the effort and to complete the cycle of hunting behaviour.

**Stimulating** hunting behaviour: take an old tennis ball and cut two wide slits on the opposite sides of the ball, one horizontal and one vertical. Fill the ball with catnip or a couple of kitty's favorite treats to stimulate the interest.

As you can see, giving your cat exercise is not hard and it is lots of fun! So, make some cat toys, be creative, play with your cat and if you make extras, bring them to RCHS!



Figure 3: Front and back of a tennis ball

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE



### Our Amazing Volunteers

by Leslie Rodgers

They are unconditionally loving to the new and the old, the short-haired and the long-haired, the friendly and the timid, the head-turning beauties and the everyday cat-next-door.

They cheerfully scoop litter boxes, clean up "accidents", brush and groom, play and chit-chat, cuddle everyone who wants it and give space to those not yet ready for it.

They are the devoted, cheerful, and hopelessly-hooked-on-felines RCHS volunteers who care for our shelter residents ten hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

To each of our roughly 50 volunteers, a huge **THANK YOU** for your hard work and dedication. You make miracles possible. Cats who would surely have had bleak, short lives trying to fend for themselves in a harsh world have a chance of finding a loving, forever home because of you. You give the cats and kittens a warm, safe, clean and caring refuge, and in return, want only the best possible outcome for them. You are ambassadors of hope and kind-heartedness.

## Royal City Humane Society VARIETY SHOW & FUNDRAISER

by Jenniffer Sandford

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, RCHS held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Variety Show and Fundraiser at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall. This year's event had dozens of silent auction baskets, seven terrific acts, which included **Songbirds Singing Trio, Westcoast Harmony Chorus, Duck Soldiers, Cellist Tate Zawadiuk, Wild West Cancan Dancers, Comics Zoe Clemens and Rajee Raj**, food and lots of door prizes.

RCHS wants to thank everyone who attended the Variety Show. Our gratitude is extended to Bryon Fleming of Grizzly Construction, Councillor Lorrie Williams, Gordon Hobbs of Cap's Bicycle Shop, Leona Green of Greens and Beans Café, John Locke, Velma Lenaghan, Waves Coffee on Columbia Street and to all our terrific volunteers.

We'd also like to thank the sponsors who donated auction items:

- Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
- Councillor Bill Harper
- Alpine Animal Hospital
- Central City Animal Hospital
- Columbia Square Animal Hospital
- Van Pet (Royal Square Mall)
- Bosleys (Eagleridge Plaza)
- Westminster Credit Union
- Eclipps Hair Café
- In Style Hair Studio
- Soul'ar Energy Holistic Health
- The Tanning Studio
- Dynamic Health & Fitness
- West Coast College of Massage Therapy

- Old Bavaria Haus
- Heritage Grill
- Greek Kouzina & Grill
- Karmavore
- Lucky Strike Lanes
- Brian Bannan, Hyack Excel Tire
- Jim Mockford, Listel Hotel
- Terri Taylor
- Barb Ganger
- Elaine Jung
- Denice Pi
- Norma Ames
- Cathy Slade
- Wayne Kirton



## PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

by Jenniffer Sandford

Royal City Humane Society held its annual Pet Photos with Santa fundraiser on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2011. Pet owners brought in their furry companions to Van Pet at the Royal Square Mall so that they could have their pictures taken with Santa. Our Director Linda had dressed up as Santa and was visited by 60 dogs and 9 cats. The suggested donation was \$10 and the 2-day event raised a total of \$850. We would like to thank all the pet owners for their support of the event and to the all the volunteers who helped out. It was a fun two days for everyone!

## SPONSORS

Bryon Fleming, Grizzly Construction  
 Alpine Animal Hospital  
 Central City Animal Hospital  
 Ka & Jenny Lo  
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 Van Pet  
 City of New West for the Community Grant  
 Royal City Record for Pet Page  
 Royal Bank Charitable Giving - Fran Jull  
 Erno Kratky Machinery

## HONORARY DONATIONS

Doreen Stocks in honour of Makita (Tyne) and her Dad  
 Daphne in honour of Oreo & Lizzie  
 Marie Louise in honour of Inky & Boots  
 Margaret Jackson for the "Tripoli Fund"  
 Colleen in honour of Master  
 C. Riley in honour of Jake and Maddie  
 Eric Sahrman in honour of Oscar (Elroy)  
 Allan & Irene Morgan in honour of Chester  
 Lynn Keller in honour of her birthday  
 Kathleen Mayer in honour of Max  
 Gina Griffiths in honour of Vance

## IN MEMORY

Gina Griffiths in memory of Vanity  
 Joanne Lomas and Ron Legros in memory of Jackie Wagner  
 Arlene Harley in memory of Meggie  
 Annette Krintila in memory of Sheena Scott  
 Linda Wilson in memory of Dan Coughlan

## DONORS

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 Angie Chorney  
 Franca Bertoncin

## At home with Maddie & Jake, Zelda and Katya



Maddie and Jake in their new home. They're doing well and are quite at home now.

It didn't take Zelda too long to check out all 3 floors of her new home



and by 5:30 she had snuggled up beside my hubby on the couch and was watching TV.

I just finished brushing her and she is now rubbing up against my leg and purring. She comes when we call her name already!

I think it is safe to say she has settled right in with her new family! We are very surprised, but of course delighted that we made the right choice.



We adopted Katya from RCHS and we are so in love with her!!!! Such a perfect addition to our family :)

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.

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](http://www.rchs.bc.ca)

by using 



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Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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-RR0001