



# Royal City Humane Society SCRATCH'N POST

Summer 2009

## Out Of The Blue

Casey was an energetic and active 6-year-old cat. He loved to run and romp and play with his friend Birdie. Although not a lap cat, he loved to be held and petted. He had come a long way



from the painfully shy little cat he was when I first met him.

Sweet little Casey had many nicknames, K.C. Cute, Caseadia, Cute Little, Casearama, Little Rugroller (He would roll around and around on the floor while you called his name over and over) to name a few. But the name that suited him the most was, really more of a sentence, "Casey too Cute for Words". He was just plain adorable, the way he moved, the way he looked at you, the way he bounced when he walked. and I loved this shy little guy with all my heart.

It happened on a beautiful sunny morning in September 2008. I heard this thrashing around and went to see what it was. It was Casey! It looked like he had broken his leg. Immediately I blamed myself that I hadn't made things safe enough for him. I got a carrier, and picked up Casey, who was meowing quite a lot now, and put him in it. He crawled

towards the back of the carrier dragging both of his hind legs behind him, Now, I thought he had broken his back. I was horrified and really scared.

Within ten minutes I was at Alpine Animal Hospital with Casey, and fortunately, Dr. Singh saw us right away. After a thorough examination, Dr. Singh told me that Casey was a victim of **Feline Aortic Thromboelism**, a blood clot was lodged in the artery that supplied the blood flow to his legs. The prognosis for Casey was very poor and even if he did survive this time, there is a very large risk of another clot forming.



When this clotting problem happens, it is usually caused by an underlying heart problem, and due to the nature of this disease, and the poor prognosis, euthanasia is considered to be an ethical and humane option.

Casey for all intents and purposes had been a healthy, happy cat, I was shocked, dismayed, frustrated and most of all brokenhearted. My poor sweet Casey, I agonized over

how hard and painful it was for him.

So, on that beautiful sunny morning, which wasn't beautiful anymore, We had to say goodbye to one of the sweetest little fur-balls, who ever walked on four furry paws, forever. He is still missed and will always be missed.

Sandi Walker

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

## "BIG PROBLEMS FOR LITTLE PETS"



In 2007 I found myself struggling with a serious cat population problem. I called shelter after shelter, naively believing that one of them would be able to swoop in and take all the cats to safety. I was repeatedly told that the shelters were full. Imagine my alarm as I thought about what to do with the twenty or so cats and

kittens I was dealing with at the time (there were even more later because four of the females were pregnant)!

Finally, I was put in touch with Doreen Stocks at the Royal City Humane Society. With her incredible support and the resources of the Society we managed to get the cats spayed, neutered and vaccinated. She was not, however, able to take that many cats into the shelter at once. There simply wasn't room. Over time we did place some of the cats in the shelter as space became available. This took months, though, and some of those cats are still waiting for homes a year and a half later. It was a very eye-opening and saddening experience for me. I realized how much greater the "supply" of cats is than the "demand" for them. Doreen routinely receives call from people who can no longer keep their cats (for many reasons) and from those who discover abandoned cats and litters around their homes and workplaces.

I have learned so many things from this experience. Sadly, one is that the shelters alone can't solve all the problems that pets face. One of the most important things that people can do to help is to spay and neuter their animals. This would greatly reduce the sad situation of overflowing shelters having to turn away animals in need. Another thing people can do is to ask themselves some questions before getting a pet. Here are some examples:

"Are we ready to make a long-term commitment of possibly many years?"

"Can we offer a stable, safe, long-term home to the pet?"

"Can we afford a pet? Have we looked into vet care and costs?"

"Will we keep the pet if he/she misbehaves, damages the furniture, or becomes injured, ill or elderly?"

"Does the pet we want really match our lifestyle?"

"Is this a sudden decision or have we considered it carefully over time?"

"Can we give the pet what he/she needs (attention, time, exercise, etc.)?"

"Is everyone in the family "on board" with having the pet?"

"Is there at least one mature, responsible person who will be in charge of the pet?"

People who spay and neuter their pets and give serious thought to questions like these can help reduce the risk of pets ending up with uncertain futures, or homeless.

Monica Wacker

## KITTY PROFILES



## BULLSEYE BOB

Sweet Bobby, has been a regular around this neighbourhood but has been too crafty to get caught. He wandered into Doreen's home. Oops!, now he is at the shelter. Bob is a friendly old guy, but a couple of the cats at the shelter pick on him. All he wants is peace and quiet, so he really needs to have a forever home of his own and that special person to love him. Visit Bob and our other cats on our website [www.rchs.bc.ca](http://www.rchs.bc.ca).

# MOUSE'S STORY

On a dark and rainy fall night a woman driving home along the Scott Road flats spotted a cats lifeless body by the roadside.

Instanly she pictured that little body run over repeatedly by drivers oblivious to anything except getting home that miserable night.

She pulled over, stopped, got out of her car and picked up the small limp bundle of fur and then not sure what to do with it, placed it on the floor of her car and resumed her homeward journey.

Suddenly to her amazement the little creature began to move. She could see the cat was terribly injured, with one eye protruding from its socket and blood dripping from its mouth. However, where there is life there is hope, so she was determined to do everything possible to save this little cats life.

She drove directly to Alpine Animal Hospital where Dr. Singh met her and proceded to determine the severity of the injuries. She would lose her one eye, her tongue was cut and x-rays showed little dead bodies in her abdomen.

Surgery was performed to remove the womb and the presumed dead kittens but there were no dead kittens! The dead little bodies were the mice she had eaten not long before her accident hence her name "Mouse".

She used up a few of her nine lives that rainy night but thanks to kindness she got a chance to have a much happier life as you will discover as Mouse's story continues.

## MOUSE

I first met Mouse a few days after she was hit by a car. When I came in for my Monday morning shift I spotted her in the cage and was deeply touched by the sight of her. She had such a tiny sad face and was wearing a collar with her left eye stitched up. Immediately I went over to comfort her but she reacted by hissing at me which was totally understandable given her circumstances.

After she was released from the cage, I looked for her for about two weeks but could not find her. I asked where she was and was told she was here but hiding because she was afraid. Later on I found her under the couch. One time she was sitting on a bed so I kneeled beside her and talked softly to her. She did not bolt, however instead she sat there and stared at me. I had started to feel a bonding towards her.

I wanted her to come and live at my home, so I decided to foster her. For approximately the first month or so she hid behind the couch during the day and only came out to eat or use the litterbox. At nighttime when

everyone was in bed, she scurried around the room and played with her toys. My friend never thought she would be as tame or affectionate as most cats, but Mouse proved him wrong. It took a little while but she started to gain trust in me and eventually she allowed me to start petting her.



Since then, she is a totally different cat who is lovable, gentle, sweet, loves to be petted and picked up. Almost everynight she sleeps on my bed.

Mouse had found the home she always wanted and needed. Everyone in my household loves her tremendously. My plans are to adopt her.

My final note is to thank Kelly, the good samaritan who rescued her from death. If it was not for her compassion I would never have had the honor of having Mouse as a part of my life.

Rita Okiyama

## COMING EVENTS

**Saturday September 26th**  
**Royal City Humane Society**  
will be hosting its

**4th Annual**  
**Variety Show**

at the **Sapperton Pensioner's Hall**  
**318 Keary Street.**

**There will be entertainment and**  
**a silent auction plus much more.**

**For more information call**

**604-524-6447**

# FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

## PUB NIGHT FUNDRAISER

The Pub Night Fundraiser, held at the Paddlewheeler Pub, Saturday, March 14, was a resounding success! The activities were fun and many volunteers worked very hard to raise the money, which goes to help support the ongoing activities and needs of the shelter and the animals in our community. A BIG thank you to all who supported the event.

## QUEENSBOROUGH DAYS

The Royal City Humane Society, had a presence at two significant events this spring. The Queensborough Days, May 24, celebrating the 150th anniversary, had many family activities, entertainment and informational displays. We focused on Who is the RCHS, what they do and how you can help support their work. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the event.



Queensborough Days Pictured from left to right: Stacy Ashton, Faye Condon and Jeannette Blanchard

## SENIOR CATS FOR SENIORS

The RCHS also had a display at the Century House Seniors event, held Saturday, June 13. It was a well organized and well attended day. Our focus was to provide information on the cat shelter and promote the "Senior Cats for Seniors" adoption option.

## CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

This note is long overdue and I apologize for that. I adopted Chester on June 13 last year, he is a peach tabby and had the name Creamsicle Bobby.



Chester is a dream, he has been a wonderful addition to our family. We also have a 17.5 yr old and recently have adopted another rescue kitten, a 5 month old. The young addition is meant to provide some companionship to Chester as his "sister" unfortunately loathes him.

Things have worked out perfectly, Chester now has a little brother who is making his life much more interesting. At the present time we are living in So. California, we normally reside at Point Roberts, so all have enjoyed a much more enviable winter than you poor folks up north.

Chester is an indoor only cat, he also "enjoys" having his teeth brushed each night.....only for the reward of his favorite treat at the end of that indignity.

So there you have it, another very happy patron of your rescue establishment.

Warm regards,  
Fran and Chester

## 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



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