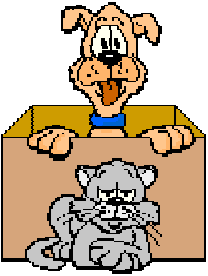


THE GREATER VICTORIA ANIMALS' CRUSADERS

Welcome to the First edition of "Animal Crusaders Email News Letter"



The Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders (GVAC) is very excited about connecting with each and every one of you through the use of fantastic modern technology!

Each month we will send out another news letter with informative information, animal antics and various topics.

GVAC is a non-profit charitable organization that has been around since 1973. GVAC is completely supported by volunteer help and financial donations that are tax deductible. No financial help is received from any Government or Agency.

GVAC's main mandate is to spay and neuter cats and dogs and to assist low income families with these costs. For animal lovers the policy of spaying and neutering prevents thousands of unwanted births and ends much suffering. Over the years GVAC has gone above and beyond just spaying and neutering by helping with Vet costs for stray, abandoned and abused animals. Once they are healthy we place them in loving permanent homes.

GVAC is a wonderful organization that uses 100% of the money raised to spay and neuter and care for stray, hurt, abused and abandoned cats and dogs in Victoria. For cat lovers, there is nothing quite as touching as a litter of fluffy kittens snuggled up with a doting mother cat. Yet, every year thousands of unwanted kittens are turned over to animal shelters across Canada or simply abandoned. Many of them will end up dying in accidents, fights with other animals, by euthanasia or through one of the many serious feline viruses that plague stray cats.

Statistically Speaking:

- Over 41% of all cats are abandoned, unwanted, stray and feral.
- 1 Unspayed female cat will have approx. 2 litters per year with approx. 5 kittens per litter.

Each kitten will then have approx. 22 kittens in their lifetime. The aftermath is phenomenal - That 1 unspayed female, with all her unspayed offspring can be reasonably responsible for over 4200 kittens without human intervention over a 7 year period.





Be A Responsible Pet Owner

Ten Worst Excuses Not To Spay Or Neuter A Pet

1. **Just one litter and then we'll have Fluffy Spayed. Studies show that virtually the entire pet overpopulation stems from the "just one litter mentality".)**
2. **My dog doesn't run loose, so he doesn't need to be fixed. (Murphy's Law says otherwise.)**
3. **We always find homes for the kittens. (And that means that an equal number of kittens at the pound will be killed. For every Kitten that is born a healthy, loving adoptable adult cat will be killed. There just aren't enough homes for them all.)**
4. **I want the children to witness the miracle of birth. (Rent a video or foster an already pregnant cat from GVAC or another animal group.)**
5. **My dog is so cute and unique, there should be more of her. (The shelters and pounds are full of cute and unique dogs, most with only a few days to live.)**
6. **It's not natural. (There hasn't been anything "natural" about dogs since we began to develop breeds thousands of years ago.)**
7. **I just couldn't look my dog in the eye if I had him castrated. (Watch it, you're anthropomorphizing.)**
8. **A female dog or cat should have at least one litter for health reasons. (Medically, factually and ethically indefensible - It is proven that you will have a happier/healthier pet if they are spayed or neutered. The odds of an unspayed female getting mammary cancer or uterine infections increases dramatically!)**
9. **Neutering my dog will make him fat and lazy. (Too much food and not enough exercise make a dog fat and lazy.)**
10. **Fixing my pet will change its personality. The main influences on an animal's personality are the kindness and care with which it is raised. The only way it will change your pets personality is by reducing its undesirable behaviors such as fighting and aggression, wandering, and spraying (for cats).**

Author Unknown



BENEFITS OF SPAYING AND NEUTERING:

FOR FEMALES:

- 100% foolproof way to prevent pregnancy
 - Prevents Mammary Cancer
 - Prevents Uterine Infections

FOR MALES:

- Reduces undesirable male behaviors such as fighting, wandering, strong – smelling urine, and spraying

How you can Help GVAC with its fight against unwanted animals:

- **Make a charitable donation today** - 100% of all donations go directly to save animals lives!
- **Donate to the United Way ?** You can “designate” your pledge to Animal Crusaders - For instructions on how this can be done go to our Web page at www.island.net/~gvac and click on “how you can help”
- **Become a member** - Fill out the attached form and mail back to GVAC and you will receive our “Paw Prints” mail out which keeps you up to date on upcoming events, stories and informative articles and this also makes you eligible to vote at our Annual General Meeting for the Board of Directors.

- Shop at Zellers or the Bay? Donate your points to GVAC. We use these points to purchase items for fundraising events.
 - Present this number to the Cashier when you shop at Zellers or the Bay and your points will go to Save Animals!

902 422 980

- Volunteer ! For more information on volunteering check out our Web page or Call 474-5581
- Spay and Neuter your pets !
- Budget for your pet ~ budgeting for your pet from day one will ensure that your pet gets the best possible care. By putting only \$20 away each month you will have saved enough money to have your pet spayed or neutered by the time they reach maturity. If you continue doing this every year you will have enough money saved for your pet's yearly checkup and vaccinations, and create an emergency fund for unexpected vet costs.

GO SHOPPING AND HELP SAVE ANIMALS !
"THE NIGHT BEFORE LATE NIGHT SHOPPING"

Hillside Centre is hosting the 4th Annual "The Night before Late Night Shopping" event, to be held Sunday, November 21, 2004 !

For just \$5 you can purchase a ticket to come and shop after hours at Hillside Mall on Sunday November 21st

The special event offered terrific discounts on store merchandise, entertainment, fashion shows, appetizers and fabulous prizes.

This year, in addition to the incentives listed above, over \$5,000 in Hillside Centre Gift Certificates will be awarded to many lucky shoppers.

Those lucky customers will have that evening only to spend their gift certificates and kick start their holiday gift giving season !

To purchase a ticket go to:

Bosleys Pet Store - 491 E. Burnside Road

Bosleys Pet Store - #107-1790 Island Highway (Colwood)

Pets West - #220 - 777 Royal Oak Drive

Gorge Esquimalt Vet - 2904 Tillicum Road

Admirals Walk Vet - #108-1497 Admirals Road



Top Pet Web Sites:

- Want info about specific registered breeds and competitions? Visit www.ckc.ca site of the Canadian Kennel Club, and www.cca-afc.com, site of the Canadian Cat Association.
 - Traveling with your pet ? click on www.petfriendly.ca (Canadian Lodgings), www.petswelcome.com (North American Lodgings) and www.travelpets.com (worldwide lodgings)
 - Stuck for a name ? Try the pet-name generator tool at www.bowwow.com.au.
 - Need a professional pet sitter or dog walker? Check out www.petsit.ca the site of the Canadian Pet Sitters Association.
- * Something you want to see in our News Letter??
Email any story or topic suggestions to the email below.



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