



Greater Victoria  
Animals' Crusaders



Happy New Year ~ GVAC hopes everyone had a  
safe and happy holiday season

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE  
RAFFLE DRAW !

Marilyn Boes ~

Prize #1 - The weekend at Mt. Washington.

Shirley Turcotte ~

Prize #2 - The dog training lessons.

Bonnie Maston~

Prize #3 - The Barbecue

With 2005 over and another year ahead of us, some of you may be considering a new pet for your home. Here are some things to consider before getting a pet:



When choosing a pet you really need to do your homework. Research potential pets, so you can make an informed choice about the pet you choose. Never adopt a pet on impulse. *Keep in mind that All pets regardless of type have specific needs, different life spans, and specific attributes.*

Now that you are looking at adopting a pet, start by asking yourself a few questions, then research the pets that suits your needs.

- 1. Why do I want a pet?** This really needs to be the first question you ask yourself. What is the reason... Companionship, protection, work? List the types of pets that fit that need, not just bird, fish, dog or cat but whether it needs to be a specific breed of bird, fish, dog or cat.
- 2. What will/can I do with my pet?** You are not going to get a hamster if you want to play fetch. So are you planning on taking it to work, taking it for a jog, cuddling with, or just someone to talk to.

3. **What level of time commitment can I give to my pet?** Commitment is something that most people forget. Check out life spans. Are you willing to have this pet for the next 15 years, or can you only plan on the next 2 years (This does not mean that you can't get a dog, but rather that you should look for an older dog). This is where doing your homework comes in, finding information on the pets you are interested in.
  
4. **What is the cost to care for this pet?** This is a hidden cost of owning a pet. Are you going to take your pet to the Vet when it gets sick, or injured. This can mean simply getting routine shots to ensure good health, to an accident that could cost thousands. Go to your local Veterinarian to find out the cost of basic care for the pet you are interested in.
  
5. **What is my housing situation for a pet?** You are not going to get a Great Dane if you are living in a tiny apartment. Keep the size and needs of the pet in mind. Don't forget that if you are renting you need to check with your Landlord first. Don't forget to take into account how long you plan on living where you are, and if you move you need to find a place that will accept your pet.
  
6. **What is your current status?** Are you single, married and want children, are you going to college, etc. These all change the timeframe of your current status. Do you really have 15 years to give to your pet?
  
7. **How are you going to plan your vacations?** Are you willing to take your pet with you? Can you find someone to care of your pet when you are gone? Will you take them to a boarding facility?

*Remember to make an informed choice about the pet you want. Pets become attached to us, and to a pet there is no understanding of why things need to change. So when thinking of a new pet, please be committed to own the pet for their entire life !*



## Lucy and Rascal need a home together !

### British Short Hair & De-clawed

Unfortunately our mom has been taken to the hospital and won't be coming home to take care of us so now we need a new home together. We are 8 years old British Short Hair, brother and sister, fixed and fully vaccinated. We are extremely sweet cats who just need someone to love them. Note from Foster mom: These 2 cats are extremely affectionate, purr loudly and loved to be brushed. They roll on their backs and head butt you for more ! They also are great with other cats. They came into my multi cat house hold and fit in right away without one hiss or growl !

For more info please call Pamela 381-4744 or email [gvac@shaw.ca](mailto:gvac@shaw.ca)

## Need a Barn cat or Mouser ??

2 young semi-feral cats need a place where they can live, be warm, fed and taken care of. As a reward to you they will take care of any rodent problems you may have !

They do like to be petted a bit but mostly they are timid. If you have a barn or place for them to live where they can be warm, fed and taken care of these cats would be perfect for you !

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### DELILAH HAS BEEN AT CRD SINCE SEPTEMBER!

20175 - Delilah - DLH Black with some white - Female

Delilah is a SUPER size girl who has been at the CRD pound since September! She is anxious to find a new home she can call her own. Delilah absolutely loves people and craves attention. She will actually grab you and hang on until she gets some attention. If you brush her she will put her arms around your neck so you would stop and get away from her.

She tolerates other cats but does not really love being around them.

CRD Animal Pound, 5401 Pat Bay Hwy.

## Ever thought of fostering a cat or dog ?? Not sure if it is for you ? Here is a letter from one of our foster homes ...

Fostering: To do it or not – My first experience (by Anne Wilson)

We have all read in the GVAC newsletter about the need for foster homes; indeed it is the plea of most rescue non-profit organizations. Foster homes desperately needed! Perhaps your first thoughts are: I have too many of my own fur babies; I don't have enough time or space to devote to another animal; I don't want to disrupt the existing routine of the household; what if my current cat(s) does not get along with the rescue foster? I am sure most of us have concerns before embarking on any new venture – whether career (should I take that new job or promotion?) whether major purchase (should I buy that new car?) or personal (is this the right relationship for me?) On the one side of the foster equation are doubts – you analyze the pros and cons; on the other side of the foster equation are rewards far greater than you can have ever imagined.

Is Rescue Fostering for you? I don't know. All I know is my personal experience. Once I took the plunge and said yes to my first feline foster, there was no looking back. I guess fostering was in my blood: growing up we always had an extra one or two foster siblings at the dinner table (of the human variety). Now that I am "matured", I have opened my home to the feline foster variety – and loving it!!

Some background: I already have four resident feline fur babies (all past rescues) ranging in age from three to twelve years old, and a Border Collie X dog. One would think, that my household is already pretty full.....yet, when I got the call from Pamela....foster home needed...."yes" came out of my mouth before I could blink. Okay, now I was committed. Gulp. Details were exchanged, contact name and phone number given, date set for the pickup/rescue.

This was not a rescue from an abused situation, this was not a lost feline wandering the neighborhood, this was a little fur baby through no fault of her own, that had had three homes in four months, and now the current home found they could not keep her either.

The morning of the “rescue” I get the phone call, my rescue had escaped. What to do? I decided to drive out to the home, and wait for her to come back. Getting slightly lost en-route (directionally challenged that I am! – thank goodness that is not a prerequisite for being a foster mom) I arrive at my destination. Thankfully after a short interval, my rescue decides to come back into the house. Voila, I am holding in my arms, my first rescue – who is none too pleased about the entire proceedings. As I start to put her into her carry case, she gets ambushed from behind by the huge resident Tomcat. Well, my maternal instincts kick in, suddenly I am in protect mode. Yes, I say to myself, I am doing the right thing here. On the drive back from Sidney, I talk very softly to “Q” trying to reassure her that she is safe, all the while she is letting me know that she is confused, scared and still thinking she needs to protect herself.

We arrive home, and my dog gets excited when he sees the carry case (what has Mom brought home now?) and my resident cats are curious. I bring my new temporary family addition into the computer room (soon to be renamed the *rescue room*). The kennel door is opened and tentatively out she comes, hissing at me to show how brave and independent she is. I totally understand, dear one. (bravado at its best) Oh, what a darling you are. I sit on the floor, talking softly to her, not making direct eye contact, keeping my hands in my lap, all the while she is exploring the smells and the layout of the room. As I get up to go get her food and water (litter box already set up) she scurries underneath the loveseat. No worries. Totally expected behavior. But wait, I come back into the room, and she is now laying on top the loveseat. I continue to talk to her softly and before I know it, she is approaching me for hugs. My heart soars. We progress to her giving me little kisses on my hand, as if to say, thanks. Over the next few days, she decides she feels safe enough to jump up, plop on the keyboard and help me “type my emails”. Oh what a helpful little thing she is. She then demonstrates a fascination with the mouse movement on the monitor. My heart opens up more and more, each day progresses towards more bonding between human and feline. Yet, given her past, I know she is better off in a one cat household.

Then one week later, *the call*. The new prospective family comes over for a meet and greet. As a foster parent, not only are you essential in the care and well being of your rescue, but you also get to “screen” hopeful new Moms and Dads. (of course, there was also some preliminary screening done by the more seasoned veterans of GVAC). My rescue is on her best behavior, being even more cuddly and loveable than normal. It is almost as if she knows, that her new ideal home just awaits her (mine was only the stop-over way station). It is a

hit on both sides! Arrangements are made for final pickup and signed documentation for one week later. The night before departure, my rescue and I have a good little bonding cry session. I assure her that she is starting a wonderful new adventure and she reassures me that I did indeed pass with flying colors, as a Foster Mom.

It is a dark and raining night when the transfer happens. Final moments: one final hug from Foster Mom and final kisses on the hand from my first Foster fur baby. Off she goes, and I go sadly back inside, thinking about her all evening. Then, another phone call – from my rescue’s new home!! Apparently they let “Q” out of the carry case, and being the "gal about town" that I knew she had in her, off she went confidentially exploring her new Mom's entire house, room by room, furniture piece by furniture piece, and then when she had finished her little walkabout, “Q” determined that this home suited her *just fine*, thank you very much, she brazenly laid down in the middle of the living room floor and decided to have a little rest from all that new world exploring she had just did. (with the three adults looking on, amazed) nary a care in “Q's” head or even a thought about pretending to be timid or shy! She knew she *had* arrived!!

For me: that is what fostering is all about. Providing sanctuary for fur babies, opening your heart and your home for felines who can not help themselves; that a part of you will always be imprinted within them, as they go off onto their forever homes. Knowing that you made a difference in that fur baby’s life. ***Why not try it out for yourself.....It is soooooo worth it.***





## A Cat's Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
The king-size bed is soft and deep...  
I sleep right in the center groove  
My human can hardly move!

I've trapped her legs, she's tucked in tight  
And here is where I pass the night  
No one disturbs me or dares intrude  
Till morning comes and "I want food!"

I sneak up slowly to begin  
My nibbles on my human's chin.  
She wakes up quickly, I have sharp teeth -  
And my claws I will unsheathe

For the morning's here and it's time to play  
I always seem to get my way.  
So thank you Lord for giving me  
This human person that I see.

The one who hugs me and holds me tight  
And sacrifices her bed at night.

## Animals are good for your Health!

- Living with a cat or dog can help lower your blood pressure
- Heart attack victims survive longer if they have a dog to share their lives
  - Stroking your cat or dog can block transmission of pain
- According to a long-term study, people who adopt dogs are more active and get more healthful exercise - this is especially true for the elderly
- Just stroking a dog or cat can boost your mood-boosting chemicals and relieve stress
- Exposure to animals early in life can prevent allergies and asthma by helping your body build defenses and by building up your immune system.



**Something you want to see in our News Letter??**

**Email any story or topic suggestions to the email below.**

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