



Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Due to personal issues 2 board members have had to step down.

The remaining Board of Directors have appointed Anne Wilson and Krista Griffiths to serve on the Board until the Next Annual General Meeting.

Welcome:

Anne Wilson – Recording Secretary
Krista Griffiths – Transcribing Secretary

SPRING IS COMING



Hair Coat Shedding Related to Seasons

While excessive hair shedding is a common complaint heard among pet owners, in most cases, the shedding is usually normal. An understanding of why dogs and cats lose their hair coat, and what causes shedding, goes a long way towards explaining why they shed hair all the time.

Dogs and cats do not grow hair continuously, but rather in cycles. Each cycle has a growing phase, a transitional phase and a resting phase. These hair cycles are controlled by such factors as nutrition, hormones, state of health, but most importantly, the amount of light (called photoperiod) and changes in the surrounding temperature. Dogs in northern latitudes tend to shed their hair coats twice a year, in the spring and fall, as the outside temperature and the amount of daylight changes. As the weather turns colder or warmer, and as the period of daylight gets shorter or longer, the brain sends a message to the hair follicles to increase activity.

Hair growth tends to be maximal in summer and minimal in winter. Pets that are kept primarily indoors tend to experience changes in both temperature (going in and out of the house) and light (artificial lights turned on and off) all year round. As a result, these pets tend to shed their hair, sometimes profusely, throughout the year. If you suspect that your pet's hair loss is abnormal, you should first consult your veterinarian. If a thorough physical examination indicates that your pet is healthy, steps can be taken to minimize the effects of shedding. Diet is very important to the health of the skin and hair coat. Supplements such as cod liver oil are unnecessary if a complete and balanced diet is fed. If the diet is questionable, it is best to change over to one that is well balanced. Nutritional supplements such as omega fatty acids can help reduce shedding if the cause of the shedding is related to a fatty acid deficiency. Daily brushing is good for the hair coat and will remove those hairs that would normally fall out. From a housekeeping point of view, it is better to have the hairs come out on the brush than around the house. Frequency of bathing and the type of shampoo used can also factor into the amount of shedding that occurs. Using a human type shampoo, for example, can cause excessive shedding because these shampoos can be quite harsh to a pet's skin and perfumes can cause hypersensitivity reactions. Bathing too frequently can dry out the hair coat and cause excessive shedding. Stress can also play a role in hair shedding. It is quite common for dogs and cats to start losing excessive amounts of hair during a visit to the veterinarian. This is because of the effects of the stress hormones that are released into the bloodstream. The coat is often "blown" when a female goes through the pregnancy/ birth/nursing cycle.

"Paws for Life Adoption Fair"



*The Adoption Fair was a huge success !
14 cats and 7 dogs were adopted and over
\$5,300 was raised which will go to save animals !*

*If you weren't able to make it to this event but you
are looking to adopt a "rescue" dog or cat ??
Or if you have lost or found an animal ?*

*Please check out this awesome web page. It is updated daily !
GVAC posts all their animals up for adoption as well as other animal
rescue organizations in Victoria.*

*This is a great site to see what animals are in need of a new home or
lost or found animals.*

Please pass around to all your friends !

VICTORIA ADOPTABLES

www.victoriaadoptables.com



Pasha Needs a Forever Home



Pasha is a pretty 7 year old female cat, spayed, vaccinated and a healthy Indoor Only De-clawed (all 4 paws)

Bio: She is an affectionate and loving cat who needs a peaceful environment as she is a bit skittish. She comes with her favorite dry, wet food, treats, bowls, cat litter box with litter and cat activity centre.

Owner is heartbroken but has to find her a new home as he thought his new condo would allow 2 cats but will only allow 1. And the second one is special needs and needs extreme care so he is keeping her.

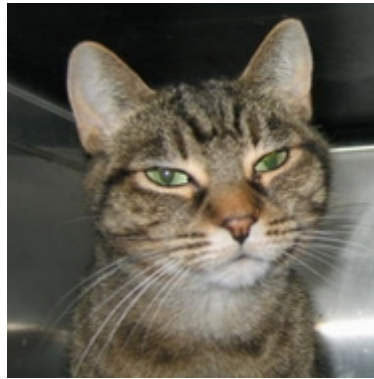
Please Note: Pet Insurance comes with Pasha and will be paid for by previous owner for her entire life !

For info or application form please email gvac@shaw.ca or call Pamela 381-4744

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

-Anonymous

Ramona Needs a Forever Home



Are you a person who just wants one cat to dote on? Then maybe I am the right kitty for you! I don't get along well with other kitties so if you want just one kitty in your home I'm your gal ! I am extremely affectionate and a true love. If you want more info or to meet me please call Pamela 381-4744 or email gvac@shaw.ca



Kashton needs a new home !

Due to Severe Allergies I need a new forever home. I am spayed and an inside only kitty

Kashton is 12 years old and is almost completely deaf but it doesn't affect her ! she is a loving and a very sweet girl !

Contact Linda for more info at 250-743-7013 or email lindakine@yahoo.ca .



Rules for Non-Pet Owners Who Visit and then Complain About Our Pets

1. The pets live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why it's call "fur"niture.)
3. To you, our pets are just animals. To us, they are an adopted son/daughter who happens to be hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.
4. Dogs and cats are better than kids because:
 - they don't ask for money all the time
 - they are easier to train
 - they usually come when called
 - they don't hang out with drug-using friends
 - they don't need a gazillion dollars for a college education, and
 - if they get pregnant, you can sell the children. :)





STATISTICS

<u>Month/Year</u>	<u>Spay</u>	<u>Neuter</u>	<u>Other</u>
September/05	23	21	31
October/05	32	21	40
November/05	29	26	30
December/05	24	22	41
January/06	<u>36</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>57</u>
Total	144	122	199

GRAND TOTAL ANIMALS HELPED 465

Alcohol Poisoning in Pets



Alcohol is a dangerous substance for pets. Common sources include:

- * Rubbing alcohol disinfectant used for first aid in the home (methanol)
- * Alcoholic beverages (ethanol)
- * Bread dough (in raw rising dough, ethanol)

Dogs in particular may be attracted to alcoholic beverages left out by the pool or on tables, so keep drinks and bottles are out of reach at all times.

Bottles containing first aid alcohol may also be chewed open by curious pets so make sure that these are locked away in a cabinet along with other home medications.

Signs of alcohol intoxication in pets may include:

- * vomiting
- * wobbly gait
- * depression and disorientation
- * hypothermia (low core body temperature)

High doses may result in:

- * heart arrhythmias
- * seizures and tremors
- * death

Signs of alcohol poisoning usually begin 30 to 60 minutes after ingestion. If alcohol ingestion is suspected, bring your pet to see a veterinarian immediately. Call the veterinary clinic before you leave to let them know you are on the way and to get instructions for care during transport. If you find a chewed bottle and are not sure what concentration of alcohol it contains, bring it along as well.

Donate your Canadian Tire Money

We will take the Canadian Tire money and purchase food and needed supplies for stray and abandoned animals.

Send in your money to:

GVAC

**PO Box 5541 , Station B
Victoria, BC V8R 6S4**



**Something you want to see in our News Letter??
Email any story or topic suggestions to the email below.**

**Contact Us:
P.O. Box 5541 - Station B
Victoria BC V8R 6S4
(Phone) 250-474-5581**

(Email) gvac@island.net (For Inquiries, Subscription or Cancel your Subscription)

(Web) www.members.shaw.ca/gvac