



# Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders



## With summer coming be aware that pets can get allergies just like people !

Animals and humans both can develop allergies but sometimes the pattern of signs or the type of immune reactivity to a specific allergen varies between species.

All allergens typically result in sensitization of the body's immune system. Often it takes months (or even years) of exposures to trigger a full-blown allergy, so just because an animal currently tolerates something does not mean that an allergy to that same component could not develop at some time in the future.

### **Some examples of animal allergies:**

- c Drug Allergies (penicillin, vaccine, etc.)
- c Food Allergies (beef, chicken, corn, etc.)
- c Parasite Allergies (heartworm microfilariae, flea bite, bee sting anaphylaxis, etc.)
- c Contact Allergies (shampoos, insecticides, plastic, flea collars, rubber, cedar chips, etc.)

### **Allergies may lead to development of signs of illness in a particular body system, though sometimes multiple systems are affected. Examples include:**

- c Allergic rhinitis (nasal cavity reaction to dust, mold, cigarette smoke, litter dust etc.)
- c Allergic pneumonia in dogs (lung reaction from Aspergillus fungus, pollen, heartworm microfilariae etc.)
- c Allergic dermatitis (skin reaction due to food allergy, contact allergy, cutaneous drug eruptions, atopy-allergic inhalant dermatitis etc.)
- c Allergic gastroenteritis (reaction of stomach and intestines - vomiting, diarrhea due to food allergy)
- c Allergic blepharitis (eyelid reaction to molds, dust, pollen, topic medications etc.)

The signs of allergy correlate with the system affected rather than the inciting agent. For example, allergy to beef may show up as skin lesions, diarrhea, vomiting and weight loss in a cat. Corn allergy may produce the same constellation of signs.

For gastrointestinal problems, non-immune reactions to food must also be considered. Food intolerance such as milk intolerance due to loss of the enzyme that functions to break down the milk sugar lactose will lead to signs such as vomiting and diarrhea, but this type of sensitivity is not a true allergic reaction.

If you think your pet may be having an allergic reaction to something please contact your Veterinarian.

"If your dog is fat - You aren't getting enough exercise!" Ben Williams

## Caring For Your New Puppy

### Essential Care Items

- Puppy Food
- Water & Food Bowls
- Collar & Leash
- Chew Toys
- Nail Trimmers
- Vitamins
- Kennel or Crate for Potty Training and Travel



Feed your puppy the best quality food you can afford. Poorly balanced diets can result in obesity and a shortened life span. High quality food is more easily digestible. Therefore, you use less and it also helps to decrease the amount of times your puppy goes to the bathroom. Puppies should be feed a growth formula until they are at least a year old. Growth formulas have more protein than the maintenance formulas, essential for growing puppies.

Puppies should be feed three times per day until they are at least six months old and then feed twice daily thereafter. Vitamins are great for growing puppies and are a good way to treat your dog instead of giving table scraps. Your puppy should always have access to clean, fresh water.

Your puppy should be brushed frequently (at least once daily). This helps distribute the oils in your puppy's skin making his coat shiny and healthy. Bathing should be done as needed with a mild dog shampoo (baby shampoo works great!). Your puppy's nails should be trimmed monthly, taking just the sharp tips off. Be careful not to trim to short or bleeding will occur. If this happens, apply pressure to the nail tip until bleeding stops.

Remember puppies are like children... as soon as they wake, eat or are done playing they have to go to the bathroom. Therefore, put them outside as soon as they have done any of these three things. It is also a good idea to have your puppy on a schedule so they can learn when they will be going out for potty time. Watch for circling and sniffing as this is a sign they are looking for the right spot. Praise them as soon they have done it correctly. Never punish them for doing it wrong. Try not to leave your puppy outside to play while on a potty mission. If your puppy does not potty within a few minutes take him back inside. This will help him associate outside time as potty time. If they have an accident, be sure to show them the accident and with a stern no put them directly outside (do not rub their nose in it). Clean up any accidents thoroughly to get rid of the smell. If the smell lingers this can attract them back to the spot for more accidents.

Toys allow your puppy to exercise, play and entertain itself. Puppies like children go through a teething stage where they loose their baby teeth and get their adult teeth. The chewing stage will get better after six months but can last until they are over a year old. Be sure that you provide a chew toy such as hard rubber teethers during the teething stage.

When you are picking out that perfect puppy keep these tips in mind. A healthy puppy should have bright, clear eyes (no discharge), a clear but slightly wet nose (no discharge), a shiny coat and, if at all possible, check some "potty material" which should be firm and not have any diarrhea or mucus.

Enjoy your new bundle of joy and give your puppy lots of love and attention!

# Caring For Your New Kitten

## Essential Care Items:

- Kitty Food
- Kitty Box & Scooper
- Kitty Litter
- Water & Food Bowls
- Toys
- Scratchers
- Nail Trimmers
- Vitamins



Feed your kitten the best quality food you can afford. Poorly balanced diets can result in obesity and a shortened life span. High quality food is easily digestible and, therefore, you use less. It also helps to decrease the amount of times your kitten goes to the bathroom. Kittens should be feed a growth formula until they are at least a year old. Growth formulas have more protein than the maintenance formulas, essential for growing kittens. Cats are considered snackers when it comes to eating and they will eat throughout the day.

Groom (brush) your kitten regularly (at least once daily). This helps distribute the oils in your kitten's skin making his coat shiny and healthy. Cats are notorious for hairballs which can be less frequent if brushed regularly. Kittens do not need to be bathed. Most cats are meticulous groomers. However, if you feel the need, a mild baby shampoo works great. Your kitten's nails should be trimmed monthly, taking just the sharp tips off. Be careful not to trim too short or bleeding will occur. If this happens, apply pressure to the nail tip until bleeding stops.

We **strongly** do not recommend de-clawing. There are now other alternatives available such as a product called Soft Paws. Soft paws is a vinyl cap that can be fit over your cats nails and is not harmful or permanent. You can get these caps at your veterinarian's office. You can find out more information about this product at [www.softpaws.com](http://www.softpaws.com).

If you are thinking about still de-clawing your cat there are some important facts you should know. De-clawing is not like a manicure. It is serious surgery. Your cat's claw is not a toenail. It is actually closely adhered to the bone. It is so closely adhered that to remove the claw, the last bone of your cat's claw has to be removed. De-clawing is actually an amputation of the last joint of your cat's "toes". When you envision that, it becomes clear why de-clawing is not a humane act. It is a painful surgery, with a painful recovery period. And remember that during the time of recuperation from the surgery your cat would still have to use its feet to walk, jump, and scratch in its litter box regardless of the pain it is experiencing.

Kittens are easy potty trainers. Instinctively a cat likes to go in a litter box. You will only have to show them once or twice before they know to go in the litter box. There are lots of good kitty litters but we recommend the clumping variety **for adult cats only**. Clumping litter **should not be used for kittens** because it sticks to their paws, they eat and play in it and it can become deadly if it hardens in their intestines. The litter box should be cleaned daily with a sifter. The litter should be completely replaced weekly.

Toys allow your kitten to exercise, play and entertain itself. Kittens have a natural instinct to hunt and scratch. Balls to chase and bat around are a great toy for independent play. If you would like to play too, the feathers on a stick are a source of endless entertainment. Your kitten will also need somewhere to scratch (preferably not your couch!). Many are finicky about what they'll scratch. Try a little cat nip on a new scratcher so your kitten gets the idea. There are many varieties but we recommend the ones with carpet and rope.

When choosing your new kitten you should look for bright clear eyes (no discharge), a clear nose (no discharge), a shiny coat and, if possible, check any "potty areas" for firm stool with no diarrhea or mucus. A healthy kitten will be eager to play with you and chase or bat at toys. A common health problem with cats are hairballs. It is caused by hair build-up in your cats system through the grooming process and during shedding periods. If your cat has a hairball, it will throw it up naturally. You can help to minimize this problem by giving your cat an over-the-counter hairball remedy. You can also try feeding your cat mineral oil from a spoon once per month as a preventative. Enjoy your new fuzz ball and give your kitten lots of love and attention!

# The Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders

Presents ~

## "Dine for Duke Day"



Duke is just 1 of 5 kittens that were found in a cardboard box, taped shut and thrown on the side of the road. They were left to die a slow and painful death of starvation. Thankfully these kittens were found and put into Animal Crusaders care and today are happy and healthy!

*Help Animal Crusaders Save other Animals just like Duke by coming out and having a meal at any of these participating Restaurants below on JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> (Fathers Day) and \$2 from every entrée goes to Save Animals Lives !*

### Have a Meal and Save Animals !

**Charters** -5109 Cordova Bay Rd

**James Bay Inn** - 270 Government St

**The Black Fish Cafe** – 950 Wharf St



**\$2 from every Req. Priced Entree goes to Save Animals !**



Animal Crusaders is a non profit Spay & Neuter Society that also assists with vet costs and care for abandoned and abused animals. For more information call 381-4744 or visit [www.members.shaw.ca/gvac](http://www.members.shaw.ca/gvac)

## Tango needs a Forever Home !



Tango is a stray kitty who is in foster care but needs a new forever home. Tango is approx. 3 years old male, neutered and fully vaccinated. He is extremely affectionate and loves attention. He is also good with other cats.

If you would like more info or to meet Tango please call Laurelle at 380-1346

## FOSTER HOMES URGENTLY NEEDED !

With kitten season in full force, adult cats are just not being adopted and have been in cages in Animal Shelters far too long.

Foster homes are quickly running out and Animal Shelters are becoming very full ! If foster homes are not found soon some animals will have to be turned away or even worse! If you can open up your heart and home for a short time and help save an animals life please call !

Even if you have other pets a spare room or even a bathroom will be much safer, warmer and comforting to them than the alternative ...

Please note: foster homes will also be needed for dogs and puppies

Please call Carol Sonnex at 474-5581

Or Carol Broad at 920-9135

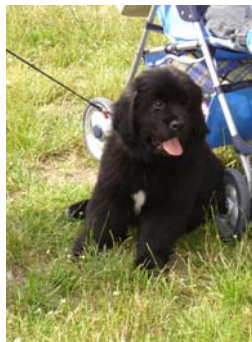
Please call if you can help foster

## WHISKERS 'N' WAGS DOG WALK

Thanks so much for all who helped support our First Annual "Whiskers 'N' Wags" Dog Walk !  
It was a huge success with a good turn out and lots of booths and fun things for you and your dog(s)  
Thanks also to those Non Profits and Vendors who came out and helped make it such a huge success !

With all your help GVAC raised \$1,517.79

**Here are some happy dogs at the event!**



## CRD DOGS THAT STARTED THE WALK !



## BEST DRESSED



**If you want someone who will bring you the paper, without first tearing it apart to remove the sports section**



**If you want someone willing to make a fool of himself simply over the joy of seeing you:**



**If you want someone who will eat whatever you put in front of him and never says its not quite as good as his mother made:**



**If you want someone always willing to go out, at any hour, for as long and wherever you want:**



**If you want someone who will never touch the remote, doesn't give a darn about football, and can sit next to you as you watch romantic movies:**



**If you want someone who is content to get up on your bed, just to warm your feet, and whom you can push off if he snores:**



**If you want someone who never criticizes what you do, who doesn't care if you are pretty or ugly:**



**If you want some who doesn't care if you are fat or thin, young or old:**



**If you want someone who acts as if every word you say is especially worthy of listening to and loves you unconditionally:**



**But, on the other hand, If you want someone who will never come when you call, ignores you totally when you come home, leaves hair all over the place, walks all over you, runs around all night and only comes home to eat and sleep, and acts as if your entire existence is solely to ensure his happiness:**



## **Traveling with your pet?? Contact "Pets CAN Stay"**

Pets Can Stay Travel Services is North America's full-service travel agency for people who travel with pets. Their Travel Services representatives provide live, personalized customer service to ensure that your next trip is set up exactly as you want it. Whether for business or pleasure, Pets Can Stay Travel Services is the first choice for pet-toting travelers.

Best of all, their accommodation booking service is FREE! They can source out the best available rates via their GDS and direct-to-property reservation systems, book your reservation, and send you your confirmation itinerary, all at no extra charge. So bid farewell to those long hours of toiling through endless pet travel websites, and let Pets Can Stay take the effort and guesswork out of planning your next trip.

Call toll-free at **1-800-574-3121 (local No. 413-3161)** or go to [www.petscanstay.com](http://www.petscanstay.com) to complete our online accommodation request form.

## **WHAT IS ANIMAL BOWEN ?**

Animal Bowen Touch Balancing is an adaptation of the Bowen/Bowtech Technique to the physiology and anatomy of animals, as developed and taught by Carol Bennett. The purpose of this technique is to relax inappropriate muscle tension that can be the cause of an animal's poor performance, or the beginning of a more serious health challenge and to facilitate balance of the body.

- ❖ Animals treated with the Bowen technique show a general improvement in well being and can show relief from signs such as lameness, malaise, digestive problems, allergies, skin conditions, etc.
- ❖ The gentle moves on soft tissue appear to restore balance to musculoskeletal, autonomic and meridian systems equally for humans and animals.
- ❖ Bowtech for animals appears to also produce an integrated response, improving circulation, lymphatic and venous drainage and helping in assimilation of nutrients and elimination of toxins.

For more information contact Cristal Bishop – Certified Animal Bowen Therapist  
Bowen Therapy – Bowen for creature's great and small and their human's too !  
250-213-1626 or [cristalbishop@hotmail.com](mailto:cristalbishop@hotmail.com)

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



<http://go.to/funpic>

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