



Helping Animals a Paw at a Time !



*Email News April 2009*

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Everyone Smiles In The  
Same Language



## Why You Should Spay or Neuter Your Pet

The Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders' main mandate is to spay and neuter companion animals. In the course of a year, GVAC helps low income individuals spay or neuter their pets, as well as countless stray and abandoned cats, dogs, and bunnies. Despite this, there continues to be an endless stream of pets, abandoned and owned, that are un-spayed and un-neutered, and are producing multiple litters.

### **Here are some startling facts:**

- A single 6-year-old female dog can produce 67,000 puppies!
- A single 7-year-old female cat can produce 420,000 kittens!
- Every day, 70,000 puppies and kittens are born, while only 10,000 people are born\*\* -- simple math will tell us that there simply aren't enough homes for all of these animals.
- Gestation periods are very short, and another pregnancy can result almost immediately:
  - Cats & dogs: Approximately 63 days
  - Rabbits: Approx. 31 days
  - Ferrets: Approx. 42 days

### **Did You Know?**

- Every year, millions of animals are euthanized in shelters due to a lack of available homes.
- Purebreds account for 30% of all the animals in shelters. "Papers" don't automatically mean that an animal should be bred.
- Breeding your pet so that your children can see the miracle birth is simply irresponsible – visit any shelter to see the tragic results.
- Female ferrets should also be spayed. If they go into heat and don't mate, they can become anemic and die.
- For every home you find for your kitten or puppy bred at home, a shelter animal may lose its life.
- Animal overpopulation is at a crisis level in our country.

### **WHAT IS SPAYING AND NEUTERING:**

Spaying and neutering are safe surgical operations that prevent animals from reproducing. Spaying is the removal of a female animal's ovaries and uterus; neutering is the removal of a male's testicles.

There are so many reasons to have your pet spayed or neutered.

### **EXCUSES FOR NOT SPAYING OR NEUTERING PETS:**

- ***I can't afford it.*** There are many rescue groups out there, including the Animal Crusaders, that will help you with the cost of spaying or neutering your pet.
- ***My pet will become fat and lazy.*** Pets that become fat after spaying and neutering are a direct result of lack of exercise and over-feeding.
- ***It is not right to take away my dog's "manhood".*** Come on now fellas, are we really talking about your dog? It has been proven that neutered dogs live longer, happier, and healthier lives. It has also been proven to decrease or eliminate the chances of developing a number of different cancers! We're sure you are confident and informed enough to realize that a neutered dog is no reflection on your own manhood.
- ***What if it changes my pet's personality?*** Any change to your pet's personality is for the better. Spayed and neutered pets are less aggressive toward other animals, less likely to mark their territory with urination, and focus their attention on their human families instead of searching out a mate for breeding.

- ***I want my children to witness the miracle of birth.*** Pets want and need privacy when giving birth, so having an audience present for the birthing can seriously upset the mother, and the intrusion can result in the mother rejecting the newborns. If this occurs, the chance of the babies surviving are close to zero. If you truly want your children to witness the miracle of birth, you could always give them a baby brother or sister, or rent a video.
- ***Isn't the anesthetic given during the procedure risky?*** Anesthetics these days are very safe for pets, even older ones, and the risk to your animal, as with humans, is very small.

### **REASONS TO HAVE YOUR PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED:**

1. **Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life** – spaying helps prevent uterine and mammary cancers, which is fatal in about 50% of dogs and 90% of cats! Spaying **BEFORE THE FIRST HEAT** offers the best protection. Chances of developing these cancers increases with every heat.
2. **Your male pet will live a longer healthier life** – Neutering your pet eliminates the chance of developing testicular cancer. The risk of anal and perineal cancers are also reduced by neutering.
3. **Your spayed female won't go into heat** – Female cats can go into heat for 4-5 days every three weeks during breeding season. To advertise that they are looking for mates, they will yowl incessantly and will often urinate inappropriately, and sometimes also have a bloody discharge. Heats are also uncomfortable and unpleasant for your female.
4. **Early spaying and neutering of your cat will eliminate spraying** – Getting your cat spayed or neutered before their first heat will eliminate them spraying.
5. **Eliminates the chances of developing a uterine infection called pyometra** – Female dogs and cats can develop an infection called a pyometra, which is life threatening and can often require emergency surgery to remove the infected uterus. Spaying eliminates this risk.
6. **Your pet will be better behaved** – Spaying and neutering only improves your pet's personality. They will be happier and better companions because they are not preoccupied with the urge to find a mate. Early neutering can also counteract many aggression issues, as well as marking territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house.
7. **It is highly cost effective** – The cost of the surgery to have your pet spayed or neutered is *much less* than having to care for a litter. There can be significant costs incurred as well if your un-neutered tom escapes and gets into fights with neighborhood strays, and then comes home with injuries that need to be vet treated.
8. **Your pet does not need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth** – Allowing your pet to become pregnant and have babies that you have no intention of keeping is NOT a good lesson for your children, especially when our shelters are full of unwanted animals. There are more responsible ways to teach your children about the miracle of birth – buy a book or rent a video.
9. **Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation** – Every year, millions of cats, dogs, and bunnies are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying and neutering.
10. **Shelters and rescue groups are full** – For every home born dog or cat you have to find homes for, a shelter or rescue animal loses their chance at a home. Shelter animals could face euthanasia as a result.

Wow, that is a pretty persuasive argument don't you think? Please get your pet spayed or neutered, and remember, there are many groups out there that will help you with the cost of spaying and neutering your pet. Your spayed or neutered pet shows that you are putting your pet's welfare first and foremost, and you are doing your part to help fight pet overpopulation.

*\*These numbers refer to the US. Numbers for Canada were not found, though are likely comparable.*

Thank you to the following resources for this article:

- Ontario Veterinary Medical Association
- North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
- American Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- PetRescue.com

# Monkey



Monkey was found as a stray and taken to the CRD Pound. It was quickly discovered that she had a severely broken Leg. GVAC was called and asked if we would take her on. Of course we did. After further Vet examination it was determined her leg will have to be amputated and we are hoping to save her leg but we won't know for a few weeks if that is possible. GVAC needs your financial help to cover this hefty Vet bill to save this sweet little girl !

If you would like to help contribute to Monkey's medical care and others just like her please send donations to address below

Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders  
PO Box 5541 Station B Victoria BC V8R 6S4

Please note that you can also make a donation by pay pal by going our web !

We also except credit cards. Please call 250-474-5581 to arrange this !



## MARCH STATISTICS

| <u>Cat Spay</u> | <u>Cat Neuter</u> | <u>Dog Spay</u> | <u>Dog Neuter</u> | <u>Other</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 70              | 52                | 16              | 13                | 122          |

**Total: 273**

## Lorenzo Saved Me !!



One night at about 2:30 am I was sleeping with my two cats, as well as my 2 and a half year old Chihuahua "Lorenzo". As well there are 6 other dogs in the house.

At about 2:30 am I woke up and ran out of bed still half a sleep to my little man barking and barking. His bark was different then usual. When I got out of bed I found him standing near my front entrance of my house barking at someone that was entering my house. I was

quick to get out of bed to see what was going on but Lorenzo had already taken care of everything for me by making sure that the intruder did not enter.

The front door was wide open so I closed it and then my little man followed me around the house to make sure that everyone was safe and inside. If it was not for my 6pound lil man Lorenzo I don't want to think what could have happened.

Never ever again should someone underestimate the size of a dog. I know that I love Lorenzo and that he loves me and because of our relationship built on trust that's why he protected me. Lorenzo possibly saved me and the things in my house and made sure that no cats got out and kept me safe.

Lorenzo is my hero.



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### [Bark Mulch Warning for All Pet Owners](#)

**\*\* GVAC has called numerous vets and to the best of our their knowledge this is true.**

**Please tell every dog or cat owner you know. Even if you don't have a pet, please pass this on to those who do.**

Over the weekend, the doting owner of two young lab mixes purchased **Cocoa Mulch** from Target to use in their garden. They loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from their garden. Their dog Calypso decided that the mulch smelled good enough to eat and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical when she eats something new but wasn't acting lethargic in any way. The next day, Mom woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Halfway through the walk, Calypso had

a seizure and died instantly.

Although the mulch had NO warnings printed on the label, upon further investigation on the company's website, this product is HIGHLY toxic to dogs and cats.

**Cocoa Mulch** is manufactured by Hershey's, and they claim that 'It is true that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it.'

The Snopes website, <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp> , gives the following information:

**Cocoa Mulch**, which is sold by **Home Depot**, **Foreman's Garden Supply** and other **Garden supply stores**, contains a lethal ingredient called 'Theobromine' . It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last 2-3 weeks. Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine

## In Memory ~ Sweet Gracey

Gracey winged her way to the Rainbow Bridge today.

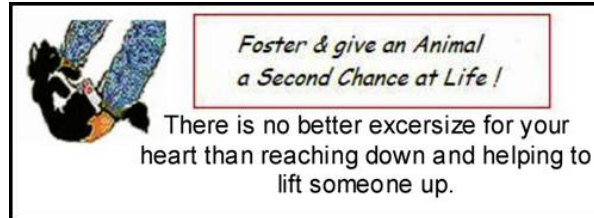
Gracey always loved the other creatures and was especially fond of wee motherless kittens. All of them loved to crawl amidst her thick coat and she seemed to revel in their antics. She always loved her boys, Jessie and Ben and always did her best to watch over them and protect them. Gracey is now with Jessie and I am sure the reunion is a happy one.

Rest in peace Gracey



# GVAC Urgently needs Cat & Dog Foster Homes !

It is one of the most rewarding things you can do !  
Just providing a safe place will give them time to find a forever home and get them off the street.



**Check out Who we have up for Adoption !  
GVAC has all our animals up for adoption  
on our Web page**



## **Contact Us:**

**P.O. Box 5541 – Station B**

**Victoria BC V8R 6S4**

**(Phone) 250-474-5581**

**(Email) [gvac@shaw.ca](mailto:gvac@shaw.ca)**

**(For Inquiries, Subscription or Cancel your Subscription)**

**Web: [www.animalcrusaders.ca](http://www.animalcrusaders.ca)**

~ Please pass along to Friends, Family or anyone who Loves Animals ~