



# Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders



## ANNOUNCING THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE GREATER VICTORIA ANIMALS' CRUSADERS !

President: David Broad  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Pamela Saddler  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Carol Sonnex  
Treasurer: Claudine Pelletier  
Recording Secretary: Laurelle Lynch  
Corresponding Secretary: Shann Allison



Festival of Trees  
2005

Come and See Our "Animals of Hope Tree"  
this Year from Nov 24<sup>th</sup> to Jan 3rd at the  
Empress and cast your vote for us if you like  
our Tree!!

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW "SUCCESS" PAGE

Always wondered where your donations go ?

## Statistics of Animals we have helped:

<u>Month/Year</u>	<u>Spay</u>	<u>Neuter</u>	<u>Other</u>
February/05	34	26	26
March/05	37	21	25
April/05	28	20	19
May/05	22	32	22
June/05	12	15	32
July/05	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>22</u>
Total	153	131	146

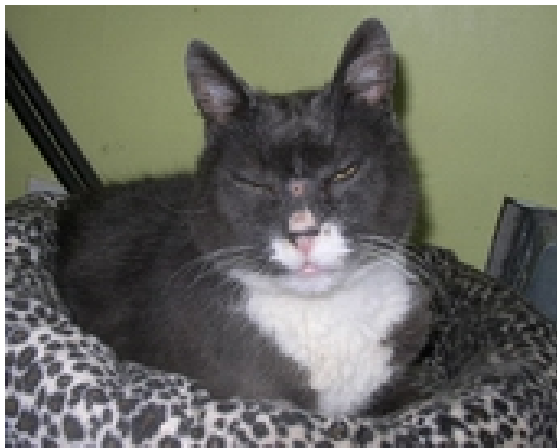
Total Animals Helped 430 !!



## In October we helped:

Cat spays	32	Cat neuters	24
Dog spays	5	Dog neuters	4
Other	37		

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP:



Norm: We paid for his Dental



Jenny: We paid for her to be spayed



Max: Had severe ear infections

# How to deal with aggression in a cat

## The Aggressive Cat

The cat that bites or scratches its owner exhibits behaviour which can be very disconcerting and confusing. The most common cause of aggression can be linked to pain or discomfort brought on by illness or injury.

## Play Aggression

A healthy cat, especially a young one, will spend some part of its day engaging in active behaviours and playing. Normal play activities are running, climbing, stalking, pouncing, biting and clawing. Most owners find this play acceptable and amusing when it is directed at designated toys. This, however, becomes a problem when it is directed to furniture, rugs, curtains and especially pets and people.

The difference between normal play and play aggression is usually not difficult to recognize. The play-aggressor animal will chase after a person or other household pet and leap on them, biting and chewing. In its most severe forms, play aggression can be frightening and painful.

There are two methods of correcting play aggression:

- \* redirecting the cat's play into appropriate, acceptable channels
- \* punishing unacceptable behaviour

To redirect the cat's play, you should provide it with numerous toys that will allow it to move and attack. Toys such as balls or objects that hang down and swing or toys maneuvered by owners are much more interesting to an active cat.

If punishment is used to correct play aggression, it must be administered immediately, every time the misbehaviour occurs and must be of appropriate type and intensity for the individual cat. Punishment should never involve hitting an animal. Squirting them with a water pistol or water bottle can work well. If your cat does not respond to these methods, notify your veterinarian.

## Fear Aggression

A cat with fear aggression behaves differently than a cat with play aggression. Fear aggression can be identified by several characteristics, such as the cat avoiding people, crouching with its ears flattened and tail held low, hissing or growling at people when they are near. It is common for cats to show fear aggression under certain circumstances, but the cat that regularly avoids people and responds to attempts at interaction with aggression behaviours requires veterinary attention.

Processes called desensitization and counterconditioning should be used to treat a cat who exhibits fear aggression. Desensitization involves gradually exposing the cat to people it is afraid of at distances and in situations that do not induce fear. Exposure to these people and situations is increased slowly over time so that no new fear responses develop. The counterconditioning phase of the process involves eliciting a response from the cat that is both behaviourally and physiologically incompatible with the fear response. To do this, we can use both food and toys to entice the cat to socialize with a person. For example, tie a toy to a long string and entice the cat to play. As the cat becomes involved and shows no fear gradually shorten the string. Once the string is short enough the owner may try touching the cat. If the cat starts to retreat lengthen the string and continue.

## Intolerance of Petting

While many cats seem to enjoy being petted for long periods of time, others have a limited tolerance of petting. With these cats petting starts out normally and at some point the cat will give a signal of impending aggression, such as twitching its ears or tail or tensing its muscles. Should the owner continue petting the cat may bite or scratch. To reduce these incidences of aggression identify your cat's petting tolerance and pet only within those limits.



## TO BREED OR NOT TO BREED ?



### Not all dogs are built to be bred

Most pets, although lovable, are not of breeding quality because they have genetic defects and other problems that should not be perpetuated. People who breed dogs for a living are very careful about choosing which dogs they will breed together based on physical characteristics and behavior. Some people decide that it would be fun to breed and just start looking for a dog that has the proper equipment and is willing. This can be a huge mistake.

### There are already too many dogs in the world

Breeding your pet is a serious endeavor and should not be taken lightly. If your breed of dog has large litters, what will you do if you are unable to sell the puppies? Do you really want to contribute to the massive problem of pet overpopulation? There are far too many pets that end up in shelters.

### Dogs that aren't neutered face serious health risks.

Consider your dog's own health. Male dogs that are neutered are less likely to be hit by cars, because unaltered males have a very strong urge to roam and find a fertile female. Male dogs will go over or under fences, through doors and windows, and will pull leashes out of unsuspecting hands in quest of a mate.

Additionally, neutering greatly reduces the incidence of prostatic disease and eliminates testicular cancer in males, and cuts down on breast cancer in females. The possibility of uterine infections is also eliminated by spaying.

### Female dogs used for breeding may have unwelcome visitors.

If you spay your dog, you will not have to chase persistent male dogs out of your yard. Also, you won't have to worry about cleaning up messy heat cycles.

### Be prepared to work like a dog when your pet goes into labor.

Many people do not realize just how much work and expense is involved with letting dogs have puppies. Getting the mother through pregnancy is the easy part, but labor is truly laborious for dog and owner alike. Dogs usually decide to have their puppies at the most inconvenient times, like 2:00 in the morning when veterinary hospitals are closed.

If your pet develops a problem during delivery, it means at least the expense of an emergency call. If the complications are life threatening, you must be prepared, especially if you have a breed of dog that has a broad head like a pug, to pay for an emergency C-section. It is very distressing to have to leave home in the middle of the night, worry about your pet, get a large veterinary bill and then try to explain to your boss why you cannot possibly come to work the next day.

### It can be devastating when the puppy's die

There is always the prospect of the loss of some or all of the puppies. A neonatal mortality rate of 10 to 30 percent is considered normal. And, it's easy to lose a puppy if you don't have the experience or knowledge to care for newborns. Because puppies are not able to regulate their own body temperature initially, you may need to supplement their environment with heat.

## Not all dogs make the best mothers

If your female doesn't have enough milk to feed all its puppies, or decides that feeding her offspring is not her cup of tea, it will be your responsibility to provide them with nutrition every three to four hours, round the clock. And how many mouths are there to feed?

Another aspect of puppy care that you can look forward to if your dog wants nothing to do with her brood is the manual stimulation of urination and defecation. Until puppies are three weeks old they will only void if directly stimulated. If mom isn't doing this, you will need to take a moistened cotton ball and gently rub the urogenital area until the babes begin to urinate and pass stool. Failure to do this can result in some pretty unhappy puppies.

## Good luck seeing a profit!

Your last responsibility before they go to a new home is to have them dewormed, vaccinated, and examined by a veterinarian. You will want to make sure that you have budgeted a sufficient amount for this purpose. Needless to say, if you decide to breed mixed breed puppies, you have no opportunity to recoup this expense.



## **CRITTER IN NEED !**



### **Meet Corey J.**

He's in desperate need of dental treatment. Being a fairly young cat, Corey J is very skinny as a result of teeth that need vet care.

Donations to his treatment will greatly benefit his quality of life.

If you want to help please make a donation to the address below specifying "Special Needs Fund"

**GREATER VICTORIA ANIMALS' CRUSADERS, "SPECIAL NEEDS FUND"**

**P.O. BOX 5541, STN. B,  
VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 6S4**

# *The Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders & Bosley's*

would like to Present  
*"Pet Photo's with Santa"*



Help us Save animals and have your  
pets photo taken with Santa !

Date: Saturday – December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday – December 4<sup>th</sup>

Time: 10 am – 12 pm (1 hour lunch)  
1 pm - 4 pm

Where: Bosley's ~ 491 E. Burnside Road  
2 photo's for \$10  
All pets Welcome !

**All proceeds go 100% to  
save animals**

**~ For info call 381-4744**

[www.members.shaw.ca/gvac](http://www.members.shaw.ca/gvac)



Monty



Crystal

## Monty & Crystal need homes ( Together Prefer)

Monty and Crystal were inside only kitties when their previous owners moved out of the house suddenly and put them into the streets, left to fend for themselves. Thank goodness a neighbor saw this and spent an entire day to get them into her car so we could help them. They are in Foster care at the moment but need a forever home soon !

They have always been together so they would like to stay that way please ! Both cats are 4 yrs old spayed and neutered. Monty is about 20 lbs, extremely loving, loves people loves to be cuddled and combed. His friend Crystal, female, is a bit shy at first but loves to be petted once she gets to know you.

For more info please Call Pamela 381-4744



## 2 FEMALE KITTENS NEED A HOME

They are 10 weeks old, very loving and affectionate. They are litter box trained. For More info please call Pamela 381-4744



## Starr & Levi

6 Month old Kittens need a forever home (together). Starr (Tortishell) is a bit shy but she loves to cuddle and have her snuggles. Levi (Black) is extremely affectionate. They are both fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered.

For more info call Pamela 381-4744



**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](mailto:gvac@island.net) (For Inquiries,  
Subscription or Cancel your Subscription)**

**(Web) [www.members.shaw.ca/gvac](http://www.members.shaw.ca/gvac)**