

### President's Report

Happy New Year to all our members, volunteers and supporters. As predicted in our last newsletter, 2013 was indeed a very busy year. Excluding our own adoptables, we provided financial assistance to help just under 1000 animals, including our Feral Trap/ Neuter/Return (TNR) program. That compares to just over 700 in 2012, so a fairly significant increase. Of interest in 2013 was an increase in assistance for dogs which accounted for approximately 15%. About 68% were feline spay/neuters and the balance was the emergency veterinary care program.

While the numbers are staggering by themselves it is absolutely shocking when one does the math. One unspayed female and her offspring over eight years can produce up to 2,072,514 kittens. Yes, you read that right....TWO MILLION!! The big message here is... one small, unfixed cat can create one BIG problem. Still, the number of "free kittens" advertised is staggering and many of those will not find loving, forever homes. Sad cases of abandonment, homelessness and suffering continue despite our efforts. However it is obvious by our increasing financial assistance numbers that we are making a small dent in the overpopulation problem. We can only do this due to the strong support of our participating veterinarians and the

generosity of those who donate to our spay/neuter financial assistance program. 100% of all monies raised stays here to help local animals.

Along with our spay/neuter and TNR programs, we also assist with a lot of adoptions, fostering and re-homing of cats. In 2013 we adopted out approximately 140 cats and kittens. Our adoptables do not go out without a veterinary check and a spay/neuter certificate (if they are not already "fixed").

Unfortunately late in the year we had to suspend our emergency veterinary financial assistance program. Unlike our spay/neuter financial assistance program where we do get contributions to help offset the cost of the procedure, the repayment and/or contributions for the emergency assistance program were few and far between. The fact is that emergency veterinary care is costly as it is usually an urgent situation and we could not continue to deplete our resources with very little return. Having said this, a huge thank you to those clients who faithfully contributed towards the cost of their pet's care. That is greatly appreciated.

Reid Harvey, VDACS President.

*For those who are wondering how the Pettits are adapting to retirement, here's an update from Past President, Heather Pettit:*

### **Feline Life By The Salish Sea**

It's over a year since our cats travelled in a convoy of four cars to their new home on Gabriola Island. They're now beginning their second winter here and, should Stats Canada happen to conduct a survey of their job satisfaction and personal happiness, I'm positive that every single one of them would give their new home a paws up. After all, the entertainment is first rate. Even with multiple skilled hunters constantly prowling our little acreage, there is an endless supply of rodents -from rats to shrews- arriving only to meet their doom. [Our cats, sporting types all, don't eat their victims; burying the poor little corpses is a constant chore for Robert who knows exactly how busy they are.] Our big boy Eustace probably misses chasing trespassing cats out of his territory but I'm sure he finds shadowing the browsing deer a good substitute. Even the rain is not a problem. If it starts to pour there are lots of shelters to duck into and the cat trails through the dense salal and massive ferns are nearly waterproof. Tree climbing is another exciting activity. After a couple of scary rescues with me teetering at the very top of an extension ladder, the cats have learned to keep within 20 feet or so of terra firma.

Robert and I may have trouble finding somewhere to sit or enough room on our bed to stretch out but the cats are

supremely comfortable in our much smaller house. Right now, I'm sitting at the computer on a dining room chair because Oliver has claimed my desk chair. [We don't use the dining room table anyway because Pandora and Pixie Wee like to loll around there on their purr pads.] All of us enjoy the woodstove. Drowsing by it after a preliminary wash makes the perfect finish to a feline day.

I don't think the cats miss Vernon at all but Robert and I certainly miss you, VDACS members and supporters. We are very glad that you are continuing to support VDACS' dedicated board members whose hard work, along with your donations, made possible the spaying/neutering of 1,000 cats and dogs in 2013.

Congratulations!  
Heather Pettit

#### **VDACS has received generous donations in memory of the following:**

Susan Mitchell	memory of	Reg Maidment
Joyce Pifer	memory of	Eleanor Down
Pat Kirschner	memory of	Flora
A Marzolf	memory of	Katie & Casey
R & H Pettit	memory of	Flora
R & B Harvey	memory of	Rosie & Flora
Joan Salt	memory of	Annie



## Barn Homes Needed

VDACS is always on the lookout for barn homes for cats that are deemed healthy but not well socialized.

The barns or out-buildings need to be secure and safe for the cat for several weeks while the cat adjusts to its new surroundings. Food and water must be provided daily for the life of the cat. If you are interested in helping, please contact VDACS by telephone 250-542-7203 or email: [info@vernonanimalcare.com](mailto:info@vernonanimalcare.com)

It would be wonderful to have a list of potential barn homes.

As always, VDACS will make sure the cats are healthy and have been spayed or neutered.

### Notice of AGM

VDACS AGM is scheduled for  
Monday, March 10, 2014  
7:00 PM at People Place  
Members and a guest  
welcome

## THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

VDACS welcomes the support of community groups, corporations, school groups, or individuals that would like to organize a fundraiser for VDACS and has added "Third Party Fundraisers" information to our website. There you will find the information you will need, as well as the information VDACS needs for your successful fundraiser.

You will also find a list of ideas for your fundraisers.

Here are a few examples from some VDACS creative supporters.

- The Birthday Club...this is a group of women who instead of buying birthday cards, put the money they would have spent on cards for each other in a jar and donate it at the end of the year.
- Another supporter collects bottles all year long and in the fall she cashes them in and buys cat food and donates it all to VDACS
- A local seamstress donates .50 cents for every pair of pants she hems over the course of the year.

*For more information on VDACS Third Party Fundraising please visit our website at [www.vernonanimalcare.com](http://www.vernonanimalcare.com)*

## Fundraising

VDACS is still running the ongoing "Every Penny Counts" Fundraiser. Pennies and any or all change can be dropped off at Hunters Store (4600 PV Road) or Paws & Claws on Anderson Way.

Upcoming events: Book Sale..... Date & Time TBA  
Collectable Sale..... Date & Time TBA  
Silent Auction..... Date & Time TBA  
Hunter's Store Hot Dog Sale..... Date & Time TBA

## Membership News

Annual memberships have always been important for communication between the Members and Board of Directors to let the Membership know what has happened during the past few months and what the plans are for the future.

This year, we are pleased to announce that Paws & Claws, 5601 Anderson Way, Vernon, have generously offered VDACS members a 10% discount off regular-priced

merchandise.

Upon paying your annual \$25.00 Membership Fee, you will be mailed a numbered and dated Membership Card. Simply show this card every time you make a purchase at their Vernon store and you will receive the 10% discount.

We are also pleased to announce that Membership fees can now be paid on Pay/Pal and Canada Helps.

Details can be found on the website:

[www.vernonanimalcare.com](http://www.vernonanimalcare.com)

VERNON AND DISTRICT ANIMAL CARE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM.....(Please send form with cheque)

I would like to (a) renew my annual membership @ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

OR (b) become a new member.....@ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Vernon and District Animal Care Society and mail to:

VDACS, P.O. Box 1564, Vernon, B.C V1T 8C2

Other Contact Information: email..... [info@vernonanimalcare.com](mailto:info@vernonanimalcare.com) .....telephone 250-542-7203

Web Site..... [www.vernonanimalcare.com](http://www.vernonanimalcare.com)