



ANIMAL CARE SOCIETY Paw Prints Fall 2014 Newsletter

President's Message from Reid Harvey

Again, as we prepare to wind down another year, it's time to look back and reflect on what VDACS has done so far in 2014. Even though we still have a couple of months to go, the number of animals we have helped is once again staggering. Excluding our adoptables, we are just shy of the 700 mark. Approximately 35% of those are ferals/strays. While most people connect VDACS to cats, it is interesting to note that of the remaining 65% of animals helped, 25% are dogs.

2014 saw a few more changes for us. While we have always been primarily a "spay/neuter" society, we have had the good fortune to be able to help with the adoptions and/or rehoming of hundreds of cats with the assistance of local veterinary clinics and pet stores. Sadly, in August with the closing of the Paws and Claws store we have had to curtail our adoptions program. We still do have cats in foster homes who are looking for their forever homes, and we still are able to get some assistance from a couple of the local animal clinics but their space is very limited, so we must go back and focus on our original mandate of spay/neuter financial assistance.

So far this year, we have had two very successful fundraising events at Village Green Centre, and thanks to the help of one of our volunteers/supporters, we were able to have a scaled down garage sale in June; but by far, the support we get through the generous donations of North Okanagan residents and businesses is what keeps us going and able to do the work we do. Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous help of those local veterinary clinics that support us, so they get the "Big Thumbs Up Award".

Did You Know?

According to Spay USA website **Dogs are 15 times more prolific** and **Cats are 45 times more prolific** than humans are at reproducing.

They don't need your help to expand their numbers--they need your help to reduce them.

2015 Calendars

VDACS Calendars are now available, but quantities are limited so get them before they are sold out.

You can choose from:

Kittens

Dogs

Pets

Calendars are available at these local businesses:

Butcher Boys

Hunter's Store

Creekside Animal Clinic

Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital

Armstrong Veterinary Clinic

Healthy Spot

D & B Home Fires

M & M Meats

Roots 88

A big THANK YOU to the above for their support.



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A Letter from the Lost and Found Cat Registry

The Registry was founded in Late 2003 and was introduced to the Vernon public by way of a newspaper article and also on the local TV Channel.

When one of my cats just “disappeared” I could not believe how painful the loss of a pet could be as I had not had the experience before. At that time there was no one to turn to for help or suggestions-we were on our own. I never found out what happened to my precious little friend. So then I got the idea to start the Lost & Found Cat Registry and approached the Board of VDACS with the idea. Most thought it was worth a try.

It has not been easy to match up reported lost cats to reported found cats but there have been enough success stories to make it worthwhile. People who report their cats lost really appreciate the many suggestions I give to them to try and locate the cat themselves. The most effective suggestion has proven to be having the owner do up a poster, make copies and distribute a copy to every door in their neighbourhood. That way everyone in the vicinity gets a copy with a phone number. As I say “someone may have seen something”. There have been excellent results from doing this. I also encourage owners not to give up too soon as some are found and reunited months and even years later. There have been instances of cats returning to former residences and travelling great distances, through town and traffic, fields and woods.

I must mention also how much I appreciate all the help we do receive from the Veterinary clinics staff who read found cats’ tattoo numbers and help with owner information. Also the kind people at the Morning Star who faithfully print the Lost and Found List every Sunday. And the kind hearted people who take care of cats they find. Each and every time I am able to get a cat home to its owner, I share their joy. That is my reward.

Margaret
250-542-3980

How to help a stray cat:

1. Put out food and water every day.
2. Provide shelter in the winter. (See “how to” article following page).
3. TNR: Live trap and get the cat fixed. VDACS can help with that.
4. Return to their territory or find an inside home if they are friendly.
5. Check VDACS Lost and Found Cat Registry, check for tattoo.

Trap-Neuter-Return:

Fixing the cats-- TNR combined with proper feeding, shelter and on-going health monitoring stops the unchecked breeding of the cats, improves their lives and allows the colony to diminish naturally over time.

HOW TO MAKE A COLD WEATHER CAT SHELTER

It is fairly easy and inexpensive to build a cold weather shelter with readily available materials. No special tools or skills required. A sharp knife or small, fine saw and a tape measure or ruler is all you will need. Following is a recommended list of materials:

1. Two "Rubbermaid" type plastic storage tubs.....one 28 and one 18 gallon size.
2. 1" or 1 ½" rigid Styrofoam insulation.
3. Approximately 1/2 "bat" of ROXUL insulation.....NOT, repeat, NOT fibreglass bats.
4. A bit of STRAW.....NOT, repeat, NOT Hay.

Start by cutting a piece of the rigid insulation the same size and contour as the bottom of the larger tub. In the smaller tub, approximately 2-3 inches up from the bottom, cut out a 6" or so square opening in the centre of one end. Place the smaller tub, centered inside the large one, on top of that rigid insulation. Transfer the hole of the small tub into the front of the large tub so when they are "nested" together, the holes line up. Pack the sides, back and front corners with the ROXUL insulation. Leave a bit of space around the perimeter of that opening so that you can put some strips of the rigid insulation around it, thereby keeping the ROXUL away from the opening, preventing fraying of it, and eliminating the temptation for the cat to eat it when starving. Place a few inches of STRAW in the bottom of the small tub, and put the lid on it. Pack more insulation on top of the lid of the smaller tub, while ensuring that the lid of the larger tub will still fit on snugly. If possible, place the shelter, especially the door, in a location where it is protected from the elements.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The materials suggested do NOT ABSORB MOISTURE. The use of blankets, towels, cardboard, newspaper, pink/yellow fibreglass insulation and HAY will absorb water, moisture and humidity in the air, which can then freeze, making the shelter unusable. Other examples can be found on the internet under "Feral Cat Shelters".





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UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Tuesday December 2nd is the Second annual Giving Tuesday. VDACS will be at Healthy Spot on 48th Avenue and Anderson Way to “kick off the Giving Season” by giving back to Healthy Spot for all they have done for VDACS. Stop by and have some coffee and goodies. VDACS volunteers will be on site from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. helping carry-out customer’s bags of cat/dog food to show our appreciation.

Please join us at our annual “**Pet Photos with Santa**” (photos available instantly) and “**Christmas on a Budget**” Sale (used Christmas decorations at bargain prices) on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th, at the NEW “WET SPOT GROOMING AND PET CARE CENTRE”, 5201 26th Street, (in the Happy Harry’s building, across the street from Target). Watch for our ad in the Morning Star, Friday December 5th.



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 \$ _____

NOTE: Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

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.comtelephone 250-542-7203

Web Site..... www.vernonanimalcare.com

Vernon & District



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