



CAT TALES

April 2010

Phone: (604) 532-5632

Website: www.carescatshelter.com

Mission Statement:

C.A.R.E.S.' mission is to rescue, shelter and find loving homes for stray, abandoned and unwanted cats.

Jackson's Story - What a "Thriller"

by Lauralee Porter - Shelter Manager/Adoptions Coordinator

June 29, 2009 was a memorable day as the world lost music icon Michael Jackson. It was also the day that a very special cat entered into the lives of the CARES volunteers and staff. Shortly before this date, CARES received a call from an employee of the Langley Hospital. A stray cat had been hanging around the area and was being fed by some of the staff. They could never seem to catch him but continued to leave food out for him. When the cat somehow became injured and was seen hopping around on 3 legs, it became urgent to find a place that could take him in.

CARES volunteer Lisa MacDonald set up a trap and it wasn't long before the hungry boy entered it and was caught. The cat was taken straight away to the CARES veterinarian where he was neutered and treated for an abscess on his right front leg. Lisa named him "Jackson" in memory of the singer who died that same day.

Many cats which are brought to CARES have a rough time adjusting to life in a shelter. Not Jackson. He was happy to be there with a roof over his head (even if it was a big cage), and food served to him every day. Jackson had to be kept on his own for many weeks while he recovered from his injuries. He had to wear a cone over his head to ensure that he didn't disturb the healing wounds. Neither of these things dampened his spirits. He was just happy to be there and he adored any attention that anyone would give him.

As he got better, volunteers would take turns giving Jackson a little time out from his cubby. But when he was put down on the floor, it was quite noticeable that Jackson didn't want to use his front leg. He would walk around either holding the leg up or he would lean down on his elbow when he stopped moving. We wondered if it was just because of his abscess bothering him but something told us it was more than that so a vet appointment was made and Jackson was taken in.



Upon examination, the vet concluded that Jackson may have nerve damage caused by trauma (such as a blow to the shoulder area) which was affecting the feeling in his leg. Jackson may not have been using his leg for awhile which also would cause the muscles to atrophy. The vet tentatively suggested that amputation of the leg might be an option as he felt that Jackson would not regain his feeling and the leg would just get in his way. He said that the amputation didn't have to be done right away but if the cat ever started biting at the leg, then amputation would need to be seriously considered.

This was perturbing news to many of the volunteers so a second opinion was sought. The opinion was somewhat similar. The vet noted that the toe pads were whitish (rather than pinky) indicating that little blood circulation was getting to the foot. He speculated that there could have been some possible blood clotting around the abscess area which was preventing blood flow. Jackson didn't even flinch when the vet pinched his toes. The second vet saw no rush in thinking about amputation as long as Jackson didn't appear to be in any discomfort.

CARES volunteer, and Homeopathic Practitioner, Diane Louie, had begun working with Jackson almost from day one. With the bad news received from both vets, Diane doubled her efforts with Jackson, teaching other volunteers how to work with him to help stimulate the leg. She appealed to the CARES Board to allow some more time for her to work with him. The plan was to give Jackson a variety of therapies which would hopefully stimulate Jackson to using the leg and help the feeling to return. The Board consented and Diane, along with other volunteers, began to work regularly with Jackson. Diane even contacted a chiropractor that works on animals. The chiropractor graciously came and helped to work on Jackson a few times. In a few weeks, Diane reported that she thought she could see some small improvements but it could take several months for any noticeable improvement. She was starting to research another therapy - hydrotherapy - when one day a volunteer observed Jackson gnawing on his leg. A small wound from the biting was visible. Not good. The CARES medical volunteers were alerted and it was decided that Jackson would be fostered and observed closely. Was it a one-time thing or would he do it again? If it were the latter, then amputation would have to be considered.

CARES staff member, Lisa MacDonald, took Jackson home right away to keep a close eye on him. Jackson had a great time at Lisa's home. He scampered up and down her stairs with ease on his 3 good



legs. He also made immediate friends with other cats Lisa had at home. Things seemed to be looking good but then, a few days later, Jackson did it again. Both Lisa and her daughter Mandy caught Jackson biting on his leg.....and then...he did it again. Lisa called a Board member and reported the sad news. The rest of the Board was contacted and the painful decision was made to amputate the leg.

On October 30th, Jackson's leg was removed. I went to see him after the surgery that evening. He was still sedated but I was able to see what he looked like and as I stood by his cage, I said a small prayer that we did the right thing and that Jackson would adapt. Well wouldn't you know it, but when Lisa went to see him the next day, he was sitting up in his cage bright eyed and in great spirits! It was like he was saying "Leg? What leg? Did I have a leg?" Jackson was doing so well that the vet discharged him into Lisa's home care that same day!

For the next several weeks that Jackson was in Lisa's foster care, we would hear her stories about how well he was doing. It was like he was free. He bounded up and down her stairs on all three's. He played and romped with the other cats. The funniest story though, was when Lisa arrived home only to find Jackson on top of her refrigerator!

As Jackson got better and better, conversation began happening about Jackson's future. Where should he go? He was very adoptable on his wonderful personality alone. We could try to feature him at our adoption centre in Petsmart. He would no doubt win hearts. But it would be so much nicer if he didn't have to go there. If only a home could be found that he could go to straight away.

It was then that an idea came to me. Only a week before, Paula Renaud from Walnut Grove, had adopted a shy mom cat and her three kittens from us. Paula and her husband Andy did have five cats at one time and, over the years, they had all passed away of old age. Paula had wanted to start again with a family of cats and had adopted the four. I recalled that at the time she had said she "might not be finished adopting yet". Would Paula and Andy consider taking Jackson? It wouldn't hurt to try. A phone call was made and we told Paula all about Jackson. She was thrilled to learn of him and was willing to give him a try. So Lisa took Jackson to meet his new potential parents and needless to say, he won them over very quickly!

When Paula sent these pictures to us, here is what she said:

"Hi Lauralee,

Sorry it took so long to send you these pics. Andy and I adopted Lily and her three babies Jaego, Nemo and Hannah in November....a week later Jack joined the family. He is the perfect big brother. They all play together and they all take turns cleaning each other. Most nights they sleep on the bed with us. Words truly can't describe how much fun we're having. I have never seen any of them strike out, hiss or even become annoyed. Not so long ago, I would have thought it cruel to keep a cat alive that only had 3 legs...Jack changed my way of thinking completely. We never even think of him as different. He jumps, runs, climbs just like his brothers and sisters.



I won't bore you with anymore kitty stories....suffice it to say...we're having a great time together! Would love for you to come and see how they are all doing. Paula."

Needless to say, this truly was "A Thriller".



FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

By Carol Briner, Treasurer

GET READY, SET, GO.....WE'RE OFF TO THE RACES!



Plan to attend our next fundraising event and plan to have a lot of fun!

When? Saturday, April 10th, at 6:30pm (until closing)

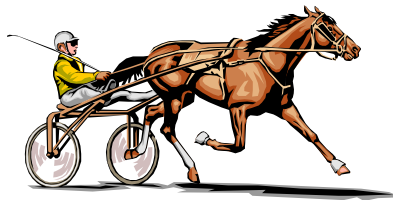
Where? Fraser Downs Casino and Race Track

What? A night at the harness races

Have a night out, try your luck at betting on the horses and help the homeless animals.

Tickets are \$25.00 and include: admission to the races, dinner and a drink, silent auction, door prizes and more!

Phone Carol at 604-202-0713 or Lauralee at 604-328-5595 for tickets. See you there!



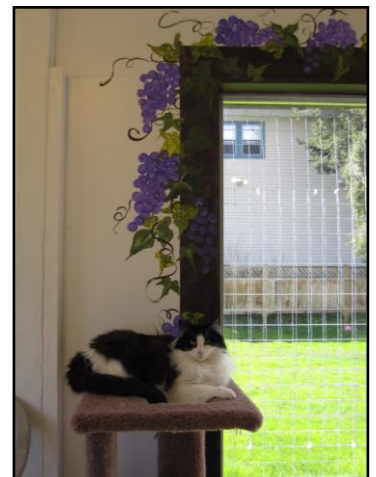
VOLUNTEERING

Would you like to volunteer? There are many opportunities available!

If you have a few hours a week or month to spare, call us at 604-532-5632 or visit "Contact Us" on our website at www.carescatshelter.com.

I am interested in:

- helping at the shelter
- fostering cats and/or kittens
- working at adoption centre
- assisting with the newsletter/web site
- assisting with fundraising



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BOWLING NIGHT

Thanks to all 93 of you who came to our bowling night in February! There were lots of laughs, lots of prizes and lots of money (\$2,300.00) was raised for the shelter because of the help and support of so many people and organizations.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked the event and who helped with pre-event preparations. They are: Caroll Giesbrecht, Linda Easton, Donna Healey-Ogden, Marlene Smith, Marietta Ashton, Carol Briner and Anne Salomon.

The following people and organizations generously donated items for the event:

Ocean Park Pizza (Brookswood)
Choo Choo's Restaurant (Langley)
The Fort Wine Co. (Fort Langley)
Linda Easton
Carol Briner
Champers Salons (Walnut Grove)
Petfare (Brookswood)
Keg Steakhouse (Langley)
Caroll Giesbrecht
Joann Novak
Swiss Chalet (Walnut Grove)
Marian Haney
Harbour Air Seaplanes (Langley)

Capilano Suspension Bridge
The Old Spaghetti Factory
Township 7 Winery (Langley)
Gordon Thomson
Donna Healey-Ogden
White Spot (Walnut Grove)
Hardy Food Sales
Boston Pizza (Langley)
Marlene Smith
Anne Salomon
Sammy J Peppers (Langley)
Lauralee Porter



CARES MEMBERSHIP

I would like to become a member for an annual fee of **\$30**.
(NOTE: The annual fee for volunteers is only \$12.)

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ PROVINCE _____

PHONE # _____ POSTAL CODE _____

EMAIL _____



Please mail to: CARES, 505, 8840 210 Street, Suite 290, Langley, B.C. V1M 2Y2

For more information contact us at info@carescatshelter.com

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY BARBEAU



On November 12, 2008, a Surrey resident named Shirley Barbeau lost her battle with cancer. She was only 53 years old.

We weren't even aware of Shirley's existence until 2009 when we received a letter notifying us that CARES was a beneficiary in her will. Shirley had designated \$50,000.00 of her estate to CARES. Needless to say, we were floored!

Naturally, we wanted to know more about this special lady who we didn't know but who obviously knew about us. In Shirley's obituary, it read "The loves of Shirley's life were her cats, Sam, Fancy, Max and Amy and her music, which both gave her strength and peace." The obit went on to say "Donations in Shirley's memory may be made to Katie's Place Animal Shelter in Maple Ridge...her favourite charity."

We placed a phone call to Katie's Place and spoke to Tracy and Evelyn. What could they tell us about Shirley Barbeau? We found out from them that Shirley had adopted all four of her cats from Katie's Place. Even with having four cats of her own, Shirley would drive out to the shelter whenever she could, to visit and give love to the cats that didn't have homes yet. When Shirley died, all of her cats returned to Katie's Place but, happily, all of them found new homes quickly! Shirley was glad she could come to the Grand Opening of Katie's Place's new shelter in September 2008. It was one of her last outings that she managed to do before she died.

We also wrote a letter to Katie Dorans who is the executrix of Shirley's Estate. Katie kindly gave us more of a picture of who Shirley was. Katie wrote:

"I worked with Shirley at Canada Revenue Agency for the past ten years and it has been an honour to ensure her last wishes are carried out. Shirley was a rather eccentric, passionate and private, single lady who did not make friends easily. She lived on her own with her four cats which ruled the roost! She had a troubled childhood but learned at an early age that cats were always trustworthy. Hence she always loved cats! She only ever got her cats from shelters, knowing that they needed her love and attention more than those in pet stores or friends' homes. She was compassionate towards them, especially those with Feline Aids or who had been abused. She supported a number of cat shelters throughout the Lower Mainland but each one had to prove they could meet her high standards before she was won over by them. Obviously CARES met her standards! She also collected china cat ornaments and every spare table top, counter or cupboard was covered with them.

Shirley was also passionate about music; she loved the music of the 60's, 70's and 80's and had an awe inspiring music collection. She went to many concerts over the years and she especially enjoyed the Vancouver Folk Festival. Her other passion was shoes. Oh my! How she loved the shoe sales, especially the Army and Navy annual shoe sale. She would always take a day off work in order to go to that! She must have had a least a hundred pairs!

But her first love was cats, both her own and those with no place to go or call home. She would be really happy to know that the money she left to CARES will make it a little easier for you to care for cats in distress in the future. She believed in the work CARES is doing."

Shirley, if you are up there listening, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your generous gift will help us to ensure that many more cats which desperately need our help will get it.

Carol Briner, CA
Treasurer, CARES



FEATURED VOLUNTEER

CAROL BRINER

By Lauralee Porter, Shelter Manager



I first met Carol in 2002 when I was working at our adoption centre in Petsmart. Carol had come in for fun to look at the cats. We struck up a conversation and I spoke to her about volunteering and lo and behold, the next time I saw her was at our shelter with her mop in hand!

Carol is one of those brave people who will always "step up to the plate" and do whatever is needed to get the job done. For the past several years, Carol has carried a heavy load serving on the Board of Directors as Treasurer, as well as working feverishly on the Fundraising/Events Committee. Carol helps us to stay within our budget while working on more ways to raise funds for the shelter. On top of these duties, she has fostered cats and kittens in her home and regularly helps to cover a number of shifts at the shelter.



It has been through Carol's efforts that the shelter has successfully obtained a variety of grants which have helped greatly with shelter improvements. It was also through Carol's efforts in 2009, that we were accepted into a food program offered by Science Diet. This program saves the shelter some \$12,000.00 in food each year!

In 2005, the shelter's funds were nearly depleted and CARES was in grave danger of having to close its doors. The shelter could no longer afford to pay its part time medical employee and the volunteer base was also at a low. Carol literally took CARES on her shoulders and for seven months, she worked at the shelter five days a week - for free! She donated a lot of her own money and also worked tirelessly at helping to rebuild the volunteer base....and succeeded!

One of the biggest things I have learned from Carol is to always remember to thank the volunteers. Carol has always stressed how valuable our volunteers are and how their only payment (other than the joy of working with the cats) is a "Thank you" from us.

Whenever Carol is at the shelter, you will **always** hear her say...."Thank you....you're a great volunteer!" to which the volunteers always laughingly groan.



Well Carol, it is our turn to really show you our appreciation for all you have done for the cats and for CARES Thank you Carol, you **really** are a great volunteer!

If you are interested in becoming a CARES' volunteer, give Carol a call at 604-202-0713 or email her at ccbriner@shaw.ca.

Introducing Chatty Catty

Hi everyone. My name is Chatty Catty (okay, this is my "paw" name) and I am currently a resident at the CARES cat shelter. My real name is Abbey and I am 6 years old and still a very good looking gal, if I do say so myself! I arrived at the shelter in October, 2009, after being rejected by my second home. My first people moved and didn't want to take me with them so they gave me to friends who really didn't want me either. I mostly lived in the downstairs part of the home as the husband didn't want me upstairs. They told the CARES shelter that I had litter box issues...I totally deny this as I haven't had any problems at the shelter! Incidentally, did you know that litter box issues are the #1 reason that cats are either euthanized or surrendered to shelters each year? I will talk about that in a future newsletter. Anyhow, I have just been chosen to have my own column in the CARES newsletter. I will be reporting on news and mews at the shelter, and as well, I plan to speak on various topics such as litter box issues and cat care to name a few.



Today, I want to make mention of some of the nice improvements happening at the shelter. Firstly, a very talented lady named **Jodi Eeckhout** is helping to pretty up the place. She is donating her time to paint pretty flowers and stuff all through the shelter. Thanks, Jodi! We can't wait to see the end results!



Secondly, we got a fancy new commercial lock on the front door. It is so great because the volunteers don't have to deal with a lock box on the side of the building anymore. All they have to do is type in a code and they're in! Our new lock was donated by **Executive Lock & Safe** in Port Coquitlam, BC. Owners **Cal Sawyer** and **Barb McClure** are both animal lovers, as well as their daughter **Casey**, who has recently started volunteering at the CARES' adoption centre in the Langley Petsmart store. Thanks, Barb and Cal and Casey! All of us here at the shelter think you are simply meow-vulous!

Until next time,
Chatty Catty

Your Donations at Work



BEFORE

George was abandoned by his owners when they moved. He was seriously injured and had abscesses on his face. A good neighbour called CARES, who came to his rescue and gave him the required vet care, including shots, neuter, worming and de-fleaing. George would not have made it without our intervention.



AFTER CARES' HELP

YOU CAN HELP CATS LIKE GEORGE BY MAKING A DONATION TO THE SHELTER
TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR DONATIONS OF \$10 OR MORE

- Yes! I want to help CARES continue its mission of rescuing, sheltering and finding loving homes for stray, abandoned and unwanted cats.

Here is my gift of:

- \$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$_____ (other)

Receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

- Enclosed is a cheque made payable to CARES.

- I authorize CARES to debit my chequing account for \$_____/month and have enclosed a blank cheque marked VOID.

- Or use your credit card to make a donation online! Just go to the CARES website www.carescatshelter.com and click on DONATE NOW through CanadaHelps.org button.



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