



CAT TALES

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

www.carescatshelter.com

Winter 2020

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Susan Phillips, Editor



Sophie

TIMBERLAND—THE CAN-EATING CAT!

Hi, my name is Timberland. Most people think cats like me are tough and can live perfectly good lives on their own outdoors with no provided food or shelter.

I have been living outdoors in the rain trying to catch my own food for who knows how long, it feels like forever. It's a very rough life; I could spend most of my days looking for food or a dry place to sleep. I'd have to always be on the lookout for predators, cars and angry people who didn't want me around. Most nights I would go to bed hungry and dream about catching mice and bowls of food.

One day I noticed this nice human coming around and leaving food out for some of the other street cats. Unfortunately I was too scared to approach and by the time I felt safe enough to come out from hiding, all the food would be gone.

This person kept coming around and the number of street cats seemed to becoming less and less. What was going on? Where were these cats going and why was this person showing so much kindness to us?

Unable to hunt for my own food, I was in rough shape. Finally, one night in the pitch black, I noticed a can of food sitting there waiting just for me. I approached it slowly and cautiously, smelling its wonderful scent and then—"BANG"—a door shut behind me and I was trapped!

At first I was scared and panicked, but then I realized that the food was trapped in the cage with me.

I gobbled it down as fast I could!
I was so hungry and starved that I couldn't stop myself and started chewing on the can itself!





TIMBERLAND—THE CAN-EATING CAT! cont'd

“In the early hours of the morning before the sun was up, that nice lady came back for me”



In the early hours of the morning before the sun was up, that nice lady came back for me; she put a warm blanket around me and brought me straight to C.A.R.E.S., where I am now recovering. It is so nice here, I have a comfy bed and blanket to sleep on, it's warm and dry and I get all the food I want. It's going to take me some time to trust all these new people but I know I will be much happier and healthy here.

I'm so grateful to that human who took the time to help me and all the other street cats. I know I will be taken care of here like all cats should be and one day

I know I'll get a new forever home in including all the food I want (minus the can!) just for me.

Submitted by,
Allison Chapman
Shelter Coordinator





SECOND C.A.R.E.S. AUCTION!

Because so many items have been donated, C.A.R.E.S. is having a second silent auction! This will begin Sunday, December 6th at 9:00 am and will end Sunday, December 13th, 7:00 pm.

Find some bargains for your gift giving this Christmas. All proceeds go to the C.A.R.E.S. cat shelter to help the kitties.

It's easy! Please go to the auction 32 site directly and register:

<http://32auctions.com/xmascats>

To bid, you will need to create an account. Click on the “**create an account now**” button and complete the information.

You can also access the auction on the C.A.R.E.S. Cat Shelter’s website.

The site is secure and all auction items are to be paid for within 24 hours; this can be done online at the auction site. The site takes MasterCard and VISA. If the item is not paid for within 24 hours, the next lower bidder will be offered the item.

The items will be available for pick up Saturday and Sunday, December 19th and 20th, at the shelter. Each winner will be contacted as to the date and time, in order to have effective Covid-19 procedures in place.

Should you have questions please contact **Carol Briner at 604 202 0713** or email ccbriner@telus.net.

We will be social distancing for the safety of all. Again, thank you for helping the cats in our community.



**PLEASE SHARE
THIS POST WITH
YOUR FRIENDS
ON FACEBOOK.**



TIKI AKA TONY

I received an email from the son of one of my former neighbours that had moved. Graeme and his wife Carolyn were looking for a young kitty; it didn't matter if male or female, or the colour. They just want to add a kitty to the family, and their little girl, Lily, especially wanted one.

"Sure!" I said. I had a special kitty in mind for them, and quickly forwarded a photo of Tiki. The minute Lily saw the picture she immediately said that his new name was going to be "Tony".

We set up a meet-and-greet and it couldn't have gone any better! Lily and Tiki (soon to be Tony) were in love at first sight. Tiki cuddled right up to Lily, purring and head butting her.

Lily asked her mom if they could take him home. Mom of course said "yes". Lily told me that she would love him, take care of him, feed him and keep him safe.

"We set up a meet and greet and it couldn't have gone any better!"



Below is a note for Lily's grandma (my former neighbour):

"Marian! You have picked the most awesome kitty for Lily! They have really hit it off right from the beginning. Tony has stayed with Lily all the time and loves to be handled and cuddled even wrapped in a blanket on his back with tummy up and vulnerable! It is a match made in heaven for sure.

Thank you, Marian. Thank you so much."

Its happy-endings like this that continues to melt my heart!

Submitted by,
Marian Reid
Adoptions





MY VOLUNTEER STORY

My name is Tara and I became a volunteer at C.A.R.E.S. after my 15-year-old cat, Simba, passed away in May of this year. I felt so lost and grief stricken and I wanted to honour his life somehow. What I didn't know then, is the profound emotional journey I was about to go on.



I started volunteering in July at C.A.R.E.S. doing night meds. I feed, clean, love and administer any medication that's needed that evening. The team of dedicated volunteers is absolutely unbelievable! The cats are so lucky to have this family of volunteers! 🐾

A cat named Sox was brought to the shelter after having surgery to remove a large abscess on the left side of his face. He was terrified and didn't understand what was going. He was also very hungry after a long day of surgery and after a few failed attempts at trying to help him navigate eating with the cone; I ended up holding the bowl under his cone for him to eat. The stitches on the side of his face were rubbing on my fingers while I was holding the dish and he was eating like he never ate before. I stood there for what seemed like forever with tears streaming down my face helping this tiny little soul that was so deserving of life. He purred even that night after everything he had been through. He knew we were helping him.

When I got home I cried for hours. I was not sure that I had it in me to keep doing this work, to see this type of hurt. I have seen some cats shut down from adjusting to life at the shelter. Some of the reasons they arrive hurts my heart too. But I have also seen them be nursed back to life and get amazing second chances. The updates we receive are so rewarding.

“When I got home I cried for hours”

Other cats, like Raider, have taught me so much. Raider is so sweet and loving that he purrs during his insulin shots, even when a newbie like me comes in to learn on him!



And the beautiful Queen Mollybee is so sweet; she would let me apply eye cream without a fight, despite hating it so very much.





MY VOLUNTEER STORY cont'd

Being a C.A.R.E.S. volunteer has changed me. It has saved me! I was so lost and hurt after my cat, Simba, passed away and helping these cats has ignited something inside of me that I didn't even know was there. I want to help. I want to be a part of these second chances and I am thankful for this opportunity and amazing group of friends I have made.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email us and request our C.A.R.E.S. Volunteer Application Form.

C.A.R.E.S. is staffed 365 days a year to feed, clean, care for and find homes for the animals. Therefore, we seek individuals who are able to commit two to three hours per week for a period of three months or hopefully longer.

*Please note that volunteers must be 18 years of age or older (except for medical care and adoption volunteers who must be 21 years of age or older).

I look forward to my volunteer shift every week. I go there excited and ecstatic to see who got a home and say hello to my little tiny loves. I know most of the kitty names by heart now. It has been VERY hard to not take them all home and I have struggled with that (A LOT) because there really are so many amazing, deserving cats here.

I just wanted to share what volunteering at C.A.R.E.S. has done for me and say that it really can be healing. If you've been thinking about volunteering in anything I say DO IT! You will find it very rewarding.

Thank you to my C.A.R.E.S. family for taking me in and thank you all so much for everything you do to give these precious cats the most amazing, structured, loving life they can have! I would like to say at the age of 41 my crazy cat lady transformation has happened really quick and been an incredible ride!

Tara Adam,
A third generation cat lady

P.S. Sox was adopted after healing and is living his best life. Raider and Mollybee are still waiting for their people to come find them.

P.P.S. Mollybee is quiet and keeps to herself so if you make an appointment at the shelter, seek her out to meet her—she's worth it (and our sweet Sophie too, shown below).



Visa, waiting for her forever home.

If you are required to complete volunteer hours for high school, you can volunteer at the age of 16 – 17 with written permission from a parent or legal guardian. You must commit to completing the hours within a specific time frame which you can work out with the volunteer coordinator.





“They do so much because they love the cats”

SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM C.A.R.E.S.

During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, we need to thank those volunteers who continue to come to the shelter to care for the cats. They do so because they love the cats and want to ensure their continued well being and care of the animals.

I am so grateful to them: to the morning crew who cleans and feeds, to the kitty kissers, who socialize the poor cats who come to us scared and abandoned, the night meds people who every night come to ensure that the meds are given to the cats, to the adoption people, who continue to schedule appointments and process adoptions.

I would like to thank the Fundraising team: Donna Healey-Odgen, Annette Scarf, Michelle Snow, Carole and Bill Giesbrecht, who have had to change the way we work, just to ensure that we continue to have the funds to do our good work.

This October we changed up the Annual Walkathon, and instead of our usual event at Derby Reach, we did a COVID-friendly event with a walk and a tour of the Milner area. Milner is an area rich in history and of course our shelter is located in Milner. Thanks to the Langley Heritage Society we were able to get a lot of great information and each participating group was given a guided tour of the area.

Did you know that the house in front of the shelter is a heritage building?

The Moir house was the blacksmith’s home in the early 1900’s when Milner was a farming community.

Before the day of cars, each farming community required a blacksmith. Milner was formed when the Hudson’s Bay Company in Fort Langley sold packages of fertile farm land to the pioneers.





SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM C.A.R.E.S. cont'd

I would like to give special recognition to Carole Giesbrecht, who has been sewing masks and donating the funds to C.A.R.E.S. To date she has donated over \$3,000.00!

"To date she has donated over \$3,000.00!"



This year C.A.R.E.S. held an on-line silent auction.

We received many donations that we were able to auction off. In fact, we had so many donations, that we will be doing another auction this year, December 6th to 13th.

You can log on to bid, by going to our web page www.carescatshelter.com or Google C.A.R.E.S. cat shelter and follow the link to the site.

There are some nice gifts for the family, including the cats of course.

I wish you all a Safe and Happy Christmas.

We are in this together! Next year will be better and we will be able to celebrate Christmas with our families and loved ones close by.

Submitted by
Carol Briner,
President





Adoption Centre

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

carescatshelter.com



Click here to make an online secure donation. Tax receipts are issued instantly.



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

At the time of this newsletter, all of us at C.A.R.E.S. are living under the threat of Covid, and we feel its impact much the same as other charities, stores and individual families.

We have had to curtail some of our events this year, which has affected donations and other revenues. Adoptions are considerably lower this year. Thankfully, this has been offset a little by less overhead—principally vet expenses and food costs. We all hope that things will improve next year.

We continue to work with Langley Times and Advance and thank Roxy and her staff for all their support. Russ Bruce at Cedar Rim Nursery continues to support us several times each year.

Carol Briner and her team have just held a Silent Auction online and we were able to raise over \$3,000! Carol's contribution and hard work made it all go very well.

We are working on Estate and Planned Giving initiatives in the New Year, which can give some tax relief to the donors, as well as much needed new funds for C.A.R.E.S.

Bill Giesbrecht is working on our webpage to enhance our promotions and communication. We are pleased that this will enable all of us at C.A.R.E.S. to reach more people, more efficiently, more completely and more quickly.

In the tough times, they say that the tough get going and you can be sure that everyone at C.A.R.E.S. has risen to the challenge, to provide wonderful loving care to our furry friends at the shelter.

As always, we must thank you, our friends and supporters, for all that you do. Any help that you can give going forward is appreciated more than ever.

Submitted by,
Clive Ellis,
Fundraising Committee





APOLLO

We would like to share with you some of the stories of cats you have helped us support through our open house, online auction and our other fundraisers.

Meet Apollo:



Molson is a beautiful boy who reminds us age is just a number! He came to C.A.R.E.S. cat shelter covered in uncomfortable mats all over his fur.

After his new haircut - he is rejuvenated and frisky. You'd never guess he is 14!

If you are thinking about adopting a cat, please consider a senior cat like Molson.

Because age places no limits on love and companionship.



Apollo was trapped in Cloverdale with a group of several feral cats to be neutered and released back to the farmland they had made home. One of the ladies trapping the cats noticed that Apollo seemed to enjoy being around people and wasn't scared like the others. In fact, he seemed just a little bit shy.

Apollo was taken to our vet, neutered, and brought to C.A.R.E.S. to be socialized more by our dedicated team of kitty kissers.

Apollo responded so well he started to really come out of his shell after just a few days. He started asking for love from all the volunteers and his little feet would start making biscuits as soon as he would see someone come in the room! He really is such a sweet boy.

Apollo came down with a cold and spent some time in our medical at the shelter where he could be closely monitored. He was such a good patient, so gentle and loving. Apollo felt better after about a week of care and was adopted out to his forever home shortly after.

We are so happy for Apollo and the many other cats like him! Without your help none of this would even be possible. Thank you!

Submitted by,
Tara Adam



Meet **Motley!**

Motley is a sweet, 11 year old boy who was returned to C.A.R.E.S. after he had been adopted years ago. Once he warms up to you he is very affectionate (he loves head pats and chin scratches!). Due to his quiet nature, a home with young children, dogs or other cats would not be a good fit for him.



Sometime after Motley returned to C.A.R.E.S. he suffered an injury to his right eye and had to get a skin graft. He has now recovered, but he likely can't see very well out of that eye. He can still see perfectly fine out of his left eye though!

If you're interested in meeting Motley please contact C.A.R.E.S. by phone or e-mail.

Ph: 604-532-5632

E-mail:

info@carescatshelter.com

ADOPTIONS

Arlo on the left and **Sweetpea** on the right are our C.A.R.E.S. rescues we are in LOVE with. Here they are watching YouTube Bird Videos. – Peter B.



We adopted **Lily** from there in September! She's settled in pretty good. She finally has decided a lap isn't such a bad thing after all. We realized she is hard of hearing, at first we thought she was just ignoring us, but if I whistle she can hear it. She's a funny little thing and we love her! – Shirley F.



Thank you! I found my cat **Baby** there in 2010 and she's my best bud! – Skye L.





C.A.R.E.S. AND COVID-19

2020 has been a long year with a lot of changes for most of us! But one thing hasn't changed: The kitties need for love, care and support at C.A.R.E.S. Cat Shelter. Due to Covid-19, C.A.R.E.S. regular fundraising events were cancelled. This included our pub nights, meat draws, selling raffle tickets at markets, and the list goes on.

Thank you to everyone who supported and continues to support C.A.R.E.S. with our improvised fundraisers this year and into next year

From donating to our different online fundraisers <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/4601>, to:

- ... purchasing raffle tickets/ masks / items on our silent auction
- ... raising pledges and participating in our social-distancing walking tour
- ... donating items from our wish list <https://carescatshelter.com/wish-list/>
- ... donating your time and volunteering
- ... donating your empties to our charity account (#290) at Willowbrook Return-It Depot
- ... holding your own fundraiser in our honour
- ... adopting or fostering one of the homeless kitties . . . the list goes on. C.A.R.E.S. wouldn't be possible without you!
- A warm, dry, clean shelter for the kitties to live and be safe and cared for - until they find their forever home or foster home.
- Food for all the different dietary and special needs of the kitties!
- Necessary medications
- Necessary medical procedures
- Neutering / Spaying
- ... And more!

Please email us at info@carescatshelter.com if you would like any information on how to help or drop off monetary donations or donations from our supplies wish list.

PLEASE NOTE: We are NOT doing adoptions at this time as a result of the latest public health mandates. s a volunteer-run cat shelter located in Langley BC. This post was brought to you by a volunteer.

Submitted by,
Nat

