



CAT Tales

Summer 2015

Cat Action Team www.cats-pei.ca

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Anyone can submit!

From The President's Corner...

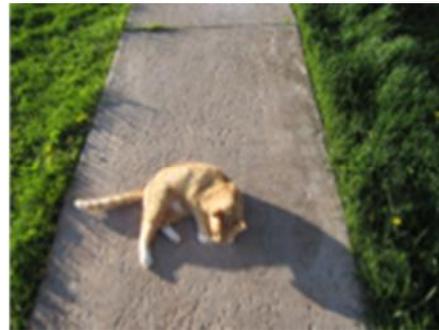
The Cat Action Team has a new Board with many new additions and an executive that is all new with great energy and fresh ideas.

CAT is much more than just The Board, of course: we have many volunteers who work hard for the cats we care for. Many years ago we used to have Chapters (Montague, Charlottetown, and Summerside) and general membership meetings regularly (every couple of months or so). Those meetings were used to come up with new and exciting ideas for fundraising and to get everyone involved. They also kept the members up-to-date on other aspects of CAT as well. I would like to work at getting these meetings up and going again.

We also plan to educate the public on CAT by developing an education program to present to various groups of either children or adult groups. If you are a member of any groups (Lions Clubs, Shriners, 4H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Women's Institutes, etc.) and would like to have a member of CAT speak to your group please contact me. If you would like to be an educator and help us develop this program, also contact me.

I will also be doing some videos again to promote the work CAT does and will be looking for stories that will make a good short (one minute or so) video that will touch the heart of cat lovers everywhere, so send me ideas. Please feel free to contact me at prince_edward_island@hotmail.com

Bob Stanley, President, Cat Action Team



Fundraisers

We just finished a Vesey's bulbs/seeds fundraiser, from which CAT received almost \$300. A similar fall fundraiser is being planned.

The CAT Canada Day Draw is currently on-going. Tickets are available at most Veterinary Clinics, as well as the Grafton Café located in the Polyclinic in Charlottetown. First prize is a table and chair set that was donated for the Donna Hickox Feed the Ferals Program and there are two secondary prizes. Tickets are \$1.00

each and proceeds will be divided between Feed the Ferals and emergency veterinary care for cats. Tickets are on sale until June 26, and the draw will be on July 1st.



Ongoing fundraisers include a penny collection—yes, banks still accept them and what better way to empty out those old jars of change?! Catnip mice also remain available at various vet clinics across the Island (Editor's note: my favourite big orange cat, Simon, LOVES his catnip mouse!).

Upcoming fundraisers: In addition to the Fall Vesey's fundraiser, Paula is planning to revive the CAT Meow Thanksgiving 50-50 Draw. Second prize is a cash gift (amount tentative). Tickets will be \$2.00 each.

Many thanks to Paula Connolly for her hard work on fundraising!

Special Features

Tips for caring for feral cats in the summer.
By Vicky Smith

Caretakers shouldn't leave food out all day. Hot weather spoils the food, insects may land in it, etc. It's best not to leave food out too long at any time of the year, as it attracts other animals including predators of the cats. Provide fresh water daily, changing it more frequently if it becomes fouled. Put food in a raised feeding station to keep skunks out!

Covered feeding stations keep the rain off and make food a little less accessible to birds. If the entrance and exit to the feeding

station have a small diameter (6" or less, depending on size of cats), it will be hard for the foxes and raccoons to get at the food. The Internet has many examples of feeding stations, including through the links on the CAT Facebook page.

If people only leave food out long enough for their colony cats to eat, most of these problems won't occur. Do NOT put the food in or near where the cat shelters are. As mentioned, the food will attract other animals including predators, putting the cats at risk in their shelters, or the making the cats too nervous to use the shelters because of the other animals showing up.

Cats should be treated for internal parasites from time to time. If the cats will let a person near them, treatment with Revolution for cats will take care of several problems. Speak to your vet or contact CAT for more information.

What has TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) done for PEI? By Diane Minick

CAT of PEI began trapping feral cats in Charlottetown in early 2001. It took about 5 years to address all of the truly feral colonies around town but eventually we got the majority of them fixed. According to an observant person, the difference is noticeable since cats would once be seen running downtown.

Later, CAT expanded to all parts of the Island, including barn cats, which led to 10,000 cats spayed and neutered.

At one time, many hundreds of cats and kittens would be taken to PEI Humane Society. Their stats on surrendered cats have dramatically decreased.

Think about the numbers: If we take the number 10,000 and estimate that 50% of those cats were female and would have had at least 2 more litters of 4 kits, CAT's TNR program means a minimum of 40,000 unwanted kittens did not get born. Of course, CAT is not finished. Pregnant cats

are often abandoned in the country or unaltered cats are left behind when people move. Folks have been feeding cats for years, or have them in barns but do not know about CAT or don't get alarmed enough to ask for help until the numbers are 20-40 cats.

While CAT does its best to fit everyone in, resources or capacity are limited. Some have to wait longer than they would like. This past winter, a number of clinic days had to be cancelled, which means that about 50 females scheduled did not get seen and most likely had another set of kittens.

Why not Trap-and-Kill programs? By Dr. Melissa Parsons

There are many reasons why “trap and kill” methods just won't fly, the obvious being the majority of us think it's inhumane (ed.'s note: absolutely!). However, another reason is because the area will likely just become inhabited by another colony after removing the first colony; it doesn't solve the problem. Keeping a feral colony at one location, and sterilizing those cats, is the best way to decrease any “nuisance” behaviour. TNR also significantly improves the lives of the individual cats themselves. TNR improves the quality of life of ferals in many ways: they get seen by a vet, they receive any necessary medical treatment at their visit, they get vaccinated, and receive parasite control, all improving their overall quality of life. In the long run, they live longer, happier lives, as it decreases roaming, fighting, and chances of developing health issues associated with remaining intact. TNR also improves the relationship between the feral cats and the surrounding human population, which in turn, keeps the cats and people happy!

Good bye, Dr. Melissa Parsons!

CAT enthusiasts will remember Melissa fondly. She has always loved animals, volunteering with animal shelters and organizations since she was small. When arriving on PEI seven years ago, she discovered the Cat Action Team and decided to join. As she was a vet tech before arriving, she was able to help out with trapping, transporting, and feeding, as well as helping out with medical care. Two large colonies have been stable and happy for seven years due to her help.

After graduating from the Atlantic Veterinary College this past May, Melissa is relocating to Florida. However, she states that the Island “has become [her] home over the past seven years, and the people and animals are very dear to [her]. [She] tells everyone it's not goodbye, it's just see ya later”!

My Favourite Ferals



These are Vicky's favourites, Boots and Socks. They joined her farm in Earnscliffe, and quickly turned both Vicky and her dog into cat lovers!

Thank you for reading the summer edition of CAT Tales ☺ Look out for the next edition to be published this fall!

To submit, please send anything you think might be interesting to our readers to me, your editor, at Jeannette.verleun@dal.ca