

# CAT ACTION TEAM Annual General Meeting 2013

## Reports from the Board of Directors

### **Business Arising from the Minutes of the AGM of April 15, 2012**

As the minutes from the 2012 AGM record, under “Other Business,” “Carol Ann DesJardins presented research she had done regarding testing or not testing feral/stray/barn cats for FIV and Feline Leukemia.” Members present at the meeting indicated by a show of hands that they overwhelmingly approved the proposal to discontinue universal testing. Subsequently, on April 29, the Board of Directors met with Dr. Peter Foley to discuss the issue. At the Board meeting of June 3, the following motion was passed: “That CAT abandon universal testing for FeLV and FIV, but continue selective testing based on the recommendations of the veterinarians conducting the clinics.”

### **Report: Fundraising**

As you will hear in more detail when Michelle Burge of MRSB presents her report on our 2012 financial statements, CAT did not raise as much money in 2012 as we did in 2011. Our explanation is that 2011 was an exceptional year for fundraising – we refer to it as “The Year of the Motorcycle,” because it was in 2011 that we raised so much money by raffling off the vintage Harley-Davidson which we acquired as the result of the generosity of Dr. Charles Dewar. Donations also were exceptionally high in 2011, in large part due to an extraordinary donation of \$7500 from Vogue Optical.

Nonetheless, in 2012 we raised more money than we did in the more typical year of 2010. Again in 2012, as in 2010, we raised the most money from sales of our famous CAT-nip mice; and again, the second largest fundraiser was our “Christmas Cheer” raffle. We are grateful indeed to all the volunteers who worked on these fundraisers.

We expect that in 2013 the CAT-nip mice and the Christmas Cheer raffle will again be major sources of revenue. Soon we will begin selling tickets for a “Labour Day 50-50 Meow Draw,” featuring a basket of back-to-school supplies.

In addition, we have been asked by the Humane Society of PEI and by SpayAid PEI to participate with them in organizing a “Pets on Parade” event to take place in September, probably at Victoria Park in Charlottetown.

*(continued ...)*

**Report: Food**

As has been explained at previous AGMs, in past years the two most important sources of food donated to CAT have been (1) the reclamation shipment – including cat food, cat litter, dog food, and bird seed -- that comes to us from Nova Scotia; and (2) the Iams-Eukanuba cat food that is donated to us via veterinary students at the AVC. In the past, we could usually count on receiving three reclamation shipments a year. But many more animal welfare groups have been established in the Maritimes since then, and they compete with us for these shipments. As a result, we received only two reclamation shipments in 2011, only one shipment in 2012, and so far this year, there have been no shipments.

Fortunately, in response to appeals from CAT's Food Coordinator, Iams-Eukanuba of Canada has donated more food to us in 2012 than in any previous year (approximately 4000 pounds). We also purchased food with the money raised by our ongoing campaign to "Feed the Ferals" (previously "Pennies for Paws"). And, in December 2012, the AVC students came to our assistance again, organizing a food drive that resulted in hundreds of pounds of food being donated for distribution to our colonies.

We are grateful to receive donations of food also from the Humane Society of PEI, from Global Pet Foods, and from the Abegweit Animal Hospital.

**Report: Grants**

We received more grant money in 2012 than in any preceding year: We were awarded \$5000 by the Pegasus Foundation of Silicon Valley, and \$19,800 by PetSmart Charities of Canada®. All of the grant money arrived in late July, and all of it was to be spent within a year on TNR. The money from PetSmart Charities was earmarked for use in O'Leary and the immediate vicinity, to neuter at least 220 cats. Meanwhile, the Pegasus grant was used to neuter 62 cats at TNR clinics at the Montague Veterinary Clinic.

We are proud that, due to the enormously hard work of our clinic liaisons and the volunteers who assisted them, we spent all these funds by the end of February – which means that at least in O'Leary, where the PetSmart Charities money was used, we expect very few kittens to be born this spring.

Because we spent all of our grant monies ahead of schedule – thereby demonstrating that we have the necessary expertise and resources to undertake more ambitious projects – we are in the enviable position of being able to submit our reports ahead of schedule, and to re-apply immediately for more funding.

The PetSmart Charities report was submitted in early March. At the end of March, we applied to PetSmart Charities for a two-year grant, totaling \$51,300, to be used in 2013-2015 to neuter 560

*(continued ....)*

(CAT AGM 2013 - Reports from the Board of Directors – page 3)

cats in the northeastern tip of the Island, which includes the communities of Tignish and Alberton. We should hear the result of that application sometime in May. Within the next few weeks we will also be applying for a new grant from the Pegasus Foundation.

Again, we are anticipating Michelle's report concerning our financial statements, but we do want to point out that in 2012, in large part because we received so much grant money, CAT was able to spend an unprecedented amount on TNR: \$55,441 (in contrast, for example, to the \$43,582 spent in 2011, even though our revenues were far higher in 2011 than in 2012).

It should also be noted that the TNR clinics organized by CAT at the Atlantic Veterinary College are funded by a number of groups, including Iams-Eukanuba Canada, the Pegasus Foundation of Silicon Valley, Pfizer Animal Health, the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, and of course, the AVC itself. We thank these groups for their generous, ongoing support over the years.

In 2013, the Grants Coordinator will be seeking new sources of grant monies.

### **Report: Education and Publicity**

The work we did this year earned us much good publicity: there were two stories about the O'Leary project in the Summerside *Journal-Pioneer* (on October 14, 2012, and on February 22, 2013), one story on CBC *Compass* (February 25, 2013), and one story in the Charlottetown *Guardian* (March 4, 2013).

As we mentioned at last year's AGM, CAT is a member of the Companion Animal Welfare Initiative (CAWI). One of the goals of CAWI is to educate the public on issues concerning companion animal welfare, and to this end CAWI sponsors a series of feature articles that appear once a month in the Charlottetown *Guardian*. On March 16, it was CAT's turn to shine, in an article entitled "Looking Out for Feral Cats." This article explained what a feral cat is and why TNR is the most humane and effective way to deal with feral cats; the article of course also described the work of our organization.

And finally, CAT has been invited to participate in two important conferences in the spring of 2013. CAT's Education Director will be attending:

(1) the Atlantic Regional conference of the "International Summit for Urban Animal Strategies," a group founded and funded by private corporations, including Iams-Eukanuba, "to promote strategies that build healthy communities for pets and people, and to recognize those who achieve success" (in Halifax on April 18) and

(2) the PEI provincial conference organized by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies to discuss the problem of cat overpopulation in Canada, its effect on our communities, and steps that can be taken to address this problem (date and location yet to be announced).