



## Fall – Winter 2004 Newsletter

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

The phone at the Sanctuary continues to be a **busy** one – the number of calls have not decreased, remaining at 40 to 50 calls a day. Many are concerned people in the community requesting advice and/or assistance regarding animals in distress. However, to our dismay, several of these calls are people wanting to free themselves of their animal friend!

### NEW RESIDENTS OF THE SANCTUARY

The population at the Sanctuary continues to grow! Since our Spring – Summer Newsletter, we have had several more new additions; to name a few - Priscilla, Indy, a mother cat who had given birth to 4 kittens, 2 motherless kittens, a long-haired tabby, Honey, Pumpkin, as well as several new mothers and numerous babies.

## SECOND CHANCE

### WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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[www.petfinder.org/shelters/ON99.html](http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/ON99.html).

Charitable Registration No. 890180 847 RR0001




### PETSMART ADOPTIONS

We completed our initial occupation at the PetsMart Adoption Centre on August 27<sup>th</sup> and successfully arranged adoptions for seven cats. The lucky kitties are Ricky (a well-known resident of the sanctuary), two unnamed kittens who were residents of the house, Priscilla (who never resided at the sanctuary – she was a recent find), “mother” Missy together with one of her babies, and the newly-acquired himalayan, Indy. We wish only the best for them in their new homes! We will be back at the Adoption Centre for the month of October – drop by and visit with some of our little creatures – they all love the attention.

Second Chance also participated in the PetsMart Adoption weekend that ran from September 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, due to lack of people to assist prospective cat adopters and perhaps our inexperience, we returned all the cats to the Sanctuary that we had brought

into PetsMart. Hopefully, we will be more successful at the next PetsMart Adoption weekend scheduled for next May.

 CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO BUDDY

Buddy is an 8 year-old male australian-sheppard mix. He was rescued for a second time from a veterinary clinic, where his owners brought him to be euthanized because they did not need or want him any more. Buddy was originally rescued from a shelter as a pup, after being abused by his original owner. He is a healthy, very friendly, gentle and adorable funny dog with one distinctive feature – he has one blue eye and the other is brown.

For the past few weeks, Ken, a volunteer with Second Chance, has been fostering Buddy. Well, the good news is Buddy won Janette and Ken Mantle over and he is now taking up permanent residence with them. A big thank you to Janette and Ken Mantle!



 THANK YOU

Second Chance gratefully acknowledges current and past assistance received from the following organizations as well as all those

individuals too numerous to list but without whose generous support the Sanctuary could not continue.



The following supporters for their generous donations:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Christine Alari                         | David Diamond |
| Shirley Moran                           | Roy Smith     |
| Bell Canada                             | OPG           |
| Watermark Insurance Services, Pickering |               |

 DONATION APPEAL

By far the most prevalent animal at the Sanctuary is the domestic cat. At last count we were caring for well over 200 and the number is steadily rising. **Why is this happening?** Basically, the reason is very simple. Too many cat owners do not have their pets spayed or neutered.

Did you know that over the course of four years a male and female cat and their resulting offspring could produce over 20,000 more cats?

It is well known that Canada's domestic cat population has exploded in numbers beyond manageable levels. Irresponsible, non-caring

owners will dump their pets when ownership is no longer “convenient”.

One day a volunteer arrived at the Sanctuary and found a cardboard box at the end of the driveway, near the road. Written on the box was “1 mother and 12 kittens”. The top of the box was caved in and there were scratch marks on the cardboard, and what the volunteer found inside was 11 kittens only. It was apparent, from the scratch marks on the box, that a coyote had probably devoured the mother and one kitten. The owner of these animals did not even have the common sense and decency to bring them directly to us. Dump these nuisances on somebody else and let them pay for the care is often the attitude of these idiots. They were happy to take on pets but were either too stupid to realize cats will breed or too cheap to pay a veterinarian for spaying or neutering.

At the Sanctuary we do not usually refuse to take in any animal in trouble but the time has now come when this has to stop unless we can afford to expand the facilities. We are at a saturation point in terms of suitable accommodations and funds available do not allow for expansion of these facilities. There is, literally, no more room to *properly* house any more animals.

Animals must not be overcrowded. A disease will spread like wildfire and the resulting veterinarian treatments required would lead to massive expense. Some of these diseases are highly contagious and frequently fatal; for example, distemper.

We continue to pursue adoptions but the process is agonizingly slow. Signs in stores and on notice boards offering free kittens do **not** help this process! Invariably these cats have not been spayed or neutered, have not had their inoculations, and are not micro-chipped. **Will the new owners have these procedures performed or will these kittens go on to breed more unwanted offspring?**

We have recently joined the adoption centre at the PetsMart store on Brock Road in Pickering. Through the adoption centre, we have had modest success in placing a small number of cats but this **is not enough**. If you can adopt a cat or kittens, please visit us or if you know of a responsible person who is interested in becoming an animal owner, then you can help by telling them about the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary’s animal food bills are at a record high. The same goes for veterinarian fees. We insist that the animals in our care be:

- a) properly fed, and
- b) receive the best medical attention possible.

There is a steady parade of cats between the Sanctuary and the veterinarians for spaying and neutering. This costs a lot of money but must be done.

As you may know, the Sanctuary is a Registered Charitable Organization and, as such, will promptly issue you a Tax Receipt for your donation, which will be a welcome bonus for your Income Tax Return.

In this Newsletter, there are two simple and convenient forms for giving donations. One is for a cash donation and the other is for our pre-authorized donation plan. Unlike many charitable organizations, *all* donations we receive go directly towards the daily running of the Sanctuary, not to third parties such as paid professional fundraisers. You may rest assured that *100%* of your donation will be used to pay for the animals’ food, veterinary care, etc. No donation is too small; whatever you can comfortably afford will be most welcome and greatly appreciated.

***Please, help us help all the animals in our care. We cannot do the job without you.***

## ✂ CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

The Canada Goose enclosure and coop which was mentioned in our previous Newsletter has been completed thanks, in part to the generosity of **Roy Smith** who donated all the cedar lumber and concrete mix needed for the enclosure's frame. This enclosure will house injured and orphaned geese that will be released when they are able to fend for themselves.

The original idea was to build a 30' x 30' enclosure but, after a further review of the site, it was decided that 20' x 40' would be more suitable. The sides of the enclosure are covered with strong 14-gauge steel wire mesh and the roof is 2" chicken wire. Two ponds were dug by hand with much groaning and perspiration! Inside the enclosure is an 8' x 8' coop and, in the truest tradition of the Sanctuary, it is finished with durable white vinyl siding and black roof shingles.



This enclosure is currently serving as a temporary home for the Sanctuary's five chickens, one rooster and four hens! Needless to say, the chickens must think they have died and gone to Heaven. We are rebuilding their outdoor run. The old run was only 6' x 8' x 2' high and was not accessible for cleaning. The new run will be 8' x 16' x 6' high, with a gate, to allow us humans to get in there and carry out proper daily maintenance.

Next in line for improvement is the duck enclosure. It started life measuring 16' x 16' and was later extended to 24' x 16'. It will now grow to 40' x 16' to better accommodate its expanding population. Also, we recently replaced the pond liner as the old one had deteriorated to the point where there was more soil and debris than water.

Our vintage 1982 riding lawn mower was and still is kept going by a combination of TLC, threats and friendly persuasion. Again, **Roy Smith** came to the rescue by donating the funds for a replacement. He and Richard, our Construction/Maintenance/Treasurer volunteer, visited the local Home Depot and selected a reconditioned, almost brand new, mower that was being offered at a considerable discount. It was delivered two days later and is reported to be comparable to driving a Rolls Royce versus an old Volkswagen Beetle! The old mower, however, is still used for rough work. For example, the ground needed clearing for the chicken run and duck enclosure expansions mentioned earlier. The weeds, a combination of 3' high Goldenrod and other miscellaneous growth, were no match for the old clunker. It took time to plough through this mass but in the end the ground was clear for construction to begin.

Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary continues to operate a charity bingo every other Friday afternoon at 3:30. Hope to see you there! The place is:

BINGO COUNTRY, 610 Monarch Drive,  
Ajax, Ontario

The dates are: October 1, 15, 29,  
November 12, 26, December 10 ---(and  
continuing every other week)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Sanctuary receives calls from people who want to donate materials but have no means of transporting these goods to us. The other day a lady called to say she had leftover cedar lumber from a recent deck construction at her home and would we like to have it. All we had to do was pick it up. Unfortunately, we had to pass on this kind offer because the Sanctuary has no means of transporting long lengths of lumber or similar items.

If you have a pickup truck or know of someone who does and are willing to help us when needed, please call Joyce. These offers do not happen very often but when they do, we need reliable help to collect the donation. These pickups may be arranged to suit your timetable.

The need for a **Fund Raiser** is still a major one. The Sanctuary desperately requires someone who could organize some events and bring us more into the public eye and therefore help us meet our financial needs.

For anyone who finds the days too long, Second Chance is always in need of people to help care for the animals both at the Sanctuary and during our time at PetsMart. Volunteer drivers are also needed for transporting the

cats for medical attention and the occasional grooming.



### HALLOWEEN PET SAFETY TIPS

courtesy of The Treehouse Animal Foundation

1. Keep cats indoors! If you have an indoor/outdoor cat, take steps to make your cat an indoor only animal. There are numerous dangers for animals in the outdoors, and these dangers are multiplied during the Halloween season.
2. Keep your dog on a leash at all times of the year Dogs can become spooked by the sights and sounds of Halloween, and a leash will help you protect him and keep your walk safe.
3. If you plan to hand out candy to trick or treaters, be sure your companion animals are in a safe area of the house to prevent them from sneaking out of open doors.
4. Give your cat or dog treats that are designed for them! You could even treat your cat or dog to a new toy and spend some time playing with your favourite animal friend!
5. Use battery operated lights to illuminate Halloween pumpkins! Curious cats and dogs could tip over a candle lit pumpkin and cause a fire!
6. Make sure Halloween decorations are out of your cats and dogs reach. Items like spider webbing and balloons can be hazardous if swallowed!
7. Keep an eye out for stray cats in your neighbourhood. If you are unable to rescue them try to keep watch for potential abusers who might prey on them during the Halloween season. Report acts of abuse to the police and your local humane organization.