



Spring – Summer 2004 Newsletter

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The phone at the Sanctuary continues to be a **busy** one. During an average day, anywhere from 40 to 50 calls are handled; many are from concerned people in the community requesting advice and/or assistance regarding animals in distress.

NEW RESIDENTS OF THE SANCTUARY

The Sanctuary is bursting at the seams --- but no animal is ever turned away! There are currently over 200 cats in the Sanctuary and our newest additions are: 'Highway' (appropriately named as he was found by the side of the 401) a lovely tortoise shell, approximately 6-month old cat; 'Carmel', a calico, approximately 8-month old cat; and 'Sissy', an ebony black, approximately 4-month old kitten. Five pregnant female cats, who later gave birth to 30

SECOND CHANCE

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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kittens, along with six motherless kittens were also brought into the Sanctuary.

As mentioned previously, the Sanctuary is full and, as you can imagine, the need for veterinary care and food has increased as a result. Our major source of funding is through donations, and currently our need of support is great. As usual, we enclose our donation form hoping that your budget will stretch far enough to permit you to include any amount possible for the Sanctuary.



Joyce feeding one of the motherless kittens

ADOPTIONS

It is with mixed feelings that we bid farewell to Cyril (who won the heart of one of our volunteers), Buster (adopted by a family that had previously adopted a cat from Second Chance), and Rufus. We are happy they now have loving homes, but still miss them. Even though there are many other cats, they are like children to us; each cat has a special place in our hearts!

We did have a few prospective adoptive owners who spent time at the Sanctuary making choices from our mature cats. However, we later received phone calls from these prospective owners indicating that on their return home, they had visits from neighbours, whose cats had kittens, wondering if they would like to have one of their kittens. Unfortunately, our mature cats were then passed over for the younger kittens.

Providing homes for these kittens from the litters of the neighbours' cats may seem helpful to the neighbours and the kittens, but it is highly unlikely that the neighbours will ever have their cat spayed if they are always able to find homes for the kittens.

Remember, **spaying and neutering is an effective means of controlling the cat overpopulation.** And there are medical benefits associated with spaying and neutering; spaying can help prevent uterine or ovarian cancer, especially if the spay is done before the cat's first heat. Neutering a male cat will reduce his desire to roam or act aggressively toward other animals, thus reducing his risk of injury from cars and fighting.

Please be a responsible pet owner and do spay/neuter your pet, and informing others of the benefits of spaying/neutering may

help enormously in our efforts to reduce the pet overpopulation.



Watch for, and visit, Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary animals in the PetSmart Adoption Centre beginning August 1st.

THANK YOU

Miller Paving, for regrading and resurfacing our driveway. It is now firm and smooth and we no longer have to worry about not being able to get out of one of the huge potholes or tire ruts – some of which were worthy of challenging an army tank!

Large trucks cannot enter the main driveway at the stone-walled entrance because of an overhead clearance restriction and must enter the property using the track at the side of the driveway. **Miller Paving** again came to the rescue by cutting and surfacing a strip just inside the main entrance, which will allow trucks to enter using the end of the track and then cross over to the driveway.

Millwork Home Centre in Ajax, for the 35 pieces of cedar lumber in assorted sizes used for a new outdoor animal enclosure.

Claremont Country Depot, for very '*favourable*' pricing of materials to be used for a new outdoor animal enclosure.

Robert and Bogna, for a much-needed trailer to house new arrivals to the Sanctuary ensuring that each animal is healthy before it is moved into the Sanctuary. **Robert** also picked up a substantial donation of Eukanuba cat food in Mississauga and delivered it to the Sanctuary.



WEBSITE

Our website has a new look --- check it out!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars, Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary operates a charity bingo every other Friday afternoon at 3:30. Come on out and join in the fun and plus you have a chance at going home a winner! The place is:

BINGO COUNTRY, 610 Monarch Drive, Ajax, Ontario

The dates are: July 23, August 6, 20, September 3, 17, October 1, 15, 29 -- (and continuing every other week).



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are finding that you have some spare time on your hands, we are always in need of people to help care for the animals, transport the animals for medical care, etc. The Sanctuary is also in need of a Fund Raiser: someone who could organize some events and bring the sanctuary more into the public eye and therefore help us meet our financial needs.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sarah, a long-time volunteer with the Sanctuary, was married on June 30th. Best wishes to the happy couple and we look forward to seeing Sarah at the Sanctuary again once her life is back to normal.

NEW TENANTS

There are now eight goats residing in the outdoor enclosure formerly occupied by raccoons. As you know, due to a change in Ministry of Natural Resources guidelines, the Sanctuary is no longer able to provide care and shelter to raccoons.



CAT BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS

(From Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals publication)

1. She's not using the litter box!

Cats are usually trained by their mothers on how to use a litter box. If your cat has not been trained, then try confining her in a small room like a bathroom. Her bed, litter box and feeding bowls are placed in the

Help prevent the increase in domestic animal population – PLEASE SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PET!

room. Bed and food are kept as far away from the litter box as possible and the cat is confined for about two weeks. Visits for daily play are important, as is a thorough cleaning of any area in the house that was previously soiled. Your cat should learn to use her box. If problems in using the litter box arise, they may be due to:

- Unneutered males and unsprayed females trying to mark territory or attract mates. Cats should be spayed or neutered at an early age. A new cat in the home or cats hanging out in the yard may trigger this behaviour.
- Medical conditions such as diarrhea, bladder problems or other diseases may cause failure to use the litter box. Cats should be checked regularly by a veterinarian.
- Cats need clean litter in a location they prefer and can have constant access. Litter requires regular cleaning and changing. Cats can vary in their preference for type of litter – most like a sandy texture.
- Stress due to other pets, visitors, redecorating, renovation, moves, and schedule changes can cause inappropriate urination and other mistakes. Try eliminating the stressors or providing your cat with its own “space”: a favourite spot with a cubicle, box, crate or shelf.

2. She’s scratching and clawing!

Cats have a natural desire to scratch and/or claw. There are several ways to try to resolve inappropriate scratching or clawing:

- A good sturdy scratching post, either plain wood or with natural fibre rope wrapped around it, generally works best.
- Pepper or bitter apple or orange applied to the items being scratched will often deter cats from scratching.
- Sticky double-sided tape can be temporarily applied to the objects or

aluminum foil or vinyl sheeting attached to the sides or backs of the sofa until the problem stops.

- Praise when she scratches on the post, but issue a firm “no!” when she’s caught inappropriately scratching.
- Giving your cat a squirt from a water bottle may help correct inappropriate scratching.
- Cat’s nails require frequent trimming, usually every two weeks.
- Declawing should only be a last resort. It’s a painful process and may affect the cat’s leg strength and various behaviours.

3. She’s making me her prey and playing at night!

These behaviours represent a combination of instinct and boredom.

- Your cat may try “sneak attacks” on you when she has been alone for extended periods.
- Cats need at least 5 to 15 minutes of active play time every day. Cats like plenty of toys.
- Cats often choose to try to play or wake you up at night. If the cat is hungry, fill her bowl at night. Try to ignore her or retrain her to have her food first thing in the morning. If she wants to play at night, try a play period just before bed time or train her to sleep in a separate room where you won’t be disturbed.
- You may try using a squirt from a water bottle to deter this behaviour in your cat.

4. She’s fascinated with the plants!

Cats are often fascinated by plants in the home.

- She may try to eat them. Plants may be moved out of your cat’s reach or sprayed with bitter apple or its equivalents. Growing catnip or wheat grass may satisfy her craving for vegetation. Play time and a variety of

toys rotated over time can solve some of the desire to eat plants.

- She may dig or urinate in the plant. The dirt can be covered with aluminum foil or gravel. Vinegar may be added to the soil to counteract the ammonia in the urine.
- Again try discouraging this behaviour by squirting your cat from a water bottle.

These are just a few tips on cat behaviour problems. If you have questions, you may ask your veterinarian for advice and guidance.



ADULT FEMALE



CHIP



MOLSON



BING



CARUSO

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