The excitement of the Christmas season has passed and, before getting too far into the new year, we would like to thank our donors for remembering Second Chance at Christmas.

We are working hard to have cats adopted to their forever homes so that we may continue rescuing abandoned and needy cats. Although the rush of Christmas is over, there is no respite to the calls for help. Over the Christmas season, some of our volunteers made 15 trips to attempt to rescue a family of kittens abandoned in the cold and to trap the mother cat who would be spayed. There is no end to the rescue needs!

The sanctuary and house cats, together with their caregivers, would like to express a special thank you to several students from Trinity College School in Port Hope. These students came to the sanctuary mid-day, on December 13, 14, and 15 and spent the remainder of their school day cleaning litter boxes, cages, pet carriers and generally caring for the cats.

On the evening of January 18, the Ajax 19th Girl Guides visited the sanctuary. These girls sorted and tidied some cupboards and spent time socializing with the cats.

The days are beginning to stretch out and it won’t be long before the grounds at the sanctuary will be in need of some tidying. Please watch our web site for the date of our upcoming grounds clean-up day and plan to join us.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Our first Second Chance Calendar is in the organizing stage and will be available to purchase in October. Submit your pet’s digital picture together with the $10 entry fee to be a part of our calendar. Please refer to the enclosed Calendar flyer for more details.

Plans for the annual Spring Fling Dinner and Dance are underway:

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2012
Location: Royal Canadian Legion
1555 Bayly Street, Pickering
Cocktails: 5:30 p.m.
Buffet Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Price: $30.00 before March 15th
$35.00 after March 15th
$15.00 after 8 p.m. (no dinner)

Dance the night away with DJ – Brian Cruden

Tickets may be ordered on-line or by phoning 905-649-8282 or 905-420-6159

Please mark your calendars and come out and support Second Chance through our main fundraiser of the year while having a wonderful evening!

Second Chance will be running a BBQ and bake sale at the Wal-Mart in Pickering on June 16th beginning at 11 a.m.

Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary operates a charity bingo at 12:15 PM several days each month. Hope to see you there!

DELTA BINGO HALL,
975 Dillingham Road, Pickering
Dates: March 26, April 2, 9, 16 -- (and randomly thereafter).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

We continue to receive many calls about cats on the street and it makes us feel incredibly sad that we cannot take these cats. Unfortunately, Second Chance is full and the most we can do is to ensure that these cats are neutered before releasing them for some kind person to feed or, when a cat is fortunate, someone provides him/her with a home.

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, SPCA is now operating a low-cost spay and neuter clinic in Newmarket. The spay or neuter fee is $50 for cats and vaccines are $10 each. Female dogs are $80 and males are $60. For more information, please visit www.ontariospca.ca

Although we no longer provide care for wildlife, we still provide assistance to people in need of help with wild animals by providing contact information of other rescue organizations.

REMEMBERING ————

CARMEL

CARMEL was a drop off about 5 years ago. She was a lovely buff colour and very timid. A timid cat is often misjudged as being feral and this was the case with Carmel as she was put into the feral area of the sanctuary. As cats in our feral area do not get enough attention, Carmel never got over being timid. Carmel, who would never willingly go into a cage, did just that in January and died alone, during the night a couple of days later.

CHARLIE

Charlie and his friend, Shy Boy, were left together in one carrier outside the sanctuary

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door in the late fall of 2010. Charlie was a lively young cat until recently when he stopped eating – a trip to the vet provided a diagnosis of FIP (feline infectious peritonitis), for which there is no cure and, regretfully, Charlie had to be euthanized.

MISS BEASLEY

Miss Beasley and her sibling, Bubsey, came to the sanctuary as kittens. Miss Beasley, unlike her sibling, was a very quiet three-year-old cat. Miss Beasley passed away while at the vet for treatment.

RASPBERRY

Joyce rescued a kitten hiding behind a raspberry bush in her backyard. It turned out that the kitten was a special breed called Maine Coon and had large feet and was in fact polydactyl meaning that it had an extra toe on each front foot. Although every cat that Joyce rescued was special, this kitten was perhaps extra special and, considering where he was found, Joyce called him Raspberry. Raspberry came to be considered Joyce’s cat.

Cats grow quickly and Raspberry was no exception. He grew into a large cat and carried himself with a certain – bearing. Among the house cats, Raspberry was – The Cat. During his life at the sanctuary Raspberry picked up a friend. Actually, more likely the friend picked Raspberry. A three legged cat, Felix, was rescued and brought to the sanctuary. It was soon noticed that wherever Raspberry might be, Felix was not far behind. Further, when Raspberry would curl up to sleep, Felix would snuggle up with him.

Raspberry remained in good health until mid-2011. It was noticed that his last Lion Cut did not grow back in nearly as quickly as usual. Then the tell-tale signs started: listlessness, poor appetite, increased vet visits, intense care. Raspberry had pancreatitis (from which he did not fully recover), kidney problems, and arthritis. Raspberry had too many problems and on February 1, 2012, the sanctuary lost the last of its founding creatures.

SUGAR BEAR

Sugar Bear had been at the sanctuary for eight years - since he was a kitten. Sugar Bear was one of our many black cats but he was very timid and seldom able to be held or receive petting. Then in early January, the caretaker of the sanctuary cats was able to pick him up – which was very unusual. Once Sugar Bear had been held, we knew he had a problem. He was very thin and, when put in a cage for observation, we discovered that he would not eat. Sugar Bear had kidney problems, he was jaundiced and dehydrated – euthanasia was recommended.

BIRTHDAY WISHES to –

George Gray, in honour of his 60th, from Miriam and Alan Harris --- thank you!

DONATIONS IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Second Chance is grateful to the following people who very generously requested, that in lieu of Christmas gifts, donations be given to Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary:

Carol Carter
Courtney St. John
Joe and Aiki
Marlene Richardson
Mary Lattion-Wells

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IN-MEMORIUM DONATIONS

Donations have been gratefully received by Second Chance, in memory of --

Audrey Lattion
Barney, my family dog
Cody
Cooper Padgett, friend’s dog
Joyce Smith
Ron Jacobson, friend
Rufus, Cinders & Willie, our loving companions greatly missed
Samantha, my beloved dog
Shamrock, friend’s cat
Shaun Johnson
Smidgeon, gone too soon and forever loved
Zoey, my little angel kitty

DONATIONS HONOURING

We appreciate the donations received in honour of –

Alicia Lam
CTV Scheduling
J. B. Mom’s baby little girl
Linda D’Avignon
Little Kitty
Melanie Good
Mike Cuzzetto
Seamus, Little Thing, Plunkin, Bully, Spike, Cheech, Ming & Cora Lee
Sharon Brown
Tom Wildfang

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.

Science Diet’s “Second Chance for Love” shelter program has partnered with us and is donating pet food for all dogs, cats, kittens, and puppies being cared for here.

Eden Conservation Trust

The Sanctuary would like to express a special thank you to Precious Pets whose expertise in grooming is welcomed by our felines. When our cats return from a visit to Precious Pets, it’s obvious how much better they feel after having received a thorough combing or the “lion cut”!

A special thank you to Nancy Camick, who very generously donated the Pickering Town Centre gift certificate she won in our Christmas Draw back to Second Chance.

A special thank you to Shirley Gosby-Ryan, who hand-knits baby blankets and very generously donates the income from these sales to Second Chance.

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DONATIONS

Do you know that 100% of every donation goes directly to sanctuary activities. SCWS Directors are not paid. There are no paid staff other than those who directly handle and care for the animals. SCWS does not pay fundraisers. SCWS does not make investments or lend money. Administrative expenses consist of things for which we are charged, for example, phone, cable, bank charges, mailing costs.

Thus, donations to SCWS are used for the expenses of keeping the buildings operating, food, veterinary expenses and, as just noted, ordinary admin costs. Veterinary expense is a very large item (burden) usually running to several thousand dollars per month. When you donate to SCWS, your money goes directly to the welfare and care of the animals. It is spent carefully and responsibly just as you would want it to be.

If you are already a donor, please consider increasing your donation; if not, please consider becoming a donor.

It is now possible to make donations to the Sanctuary securely online through CanadaHelps.org. - simply access the Second Chance web site and follow the instructions.

It is also possible to make donations to Second Chance through the United Way via your employer. All you need do is designate Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary as the recipient on the donation form and provide the address and charitable registration number (which are both available on the front page of this newsletter).

A donation to benefit one of our special needs cats can be made to the “Amber” fund. As mentioned in our previous newsletters, Amber would have been blind (due to ulcers rupturing in her eyes) if we had not decided to have the surgery on her remaining eye. The “Amber” fund will cover care/operations for cats in need of special treatments.

HUDSON BAY COMPANY

Second Chance is a member of HBC Rewards Community program. The public ID number for Second Chance is ID 8925939. Points may be collected at The Bay, Zeller’s and Home Outfitters. Anyone wishing to donate their points to Second Chance may do so by setting up a donation from their own personal account. The transfer of reward points may be accomplished in one of the following ways:

1. Go to the HBC reward desk in The Bay (any outlet) and provide the Second Chance ID 8925939
2. Call 1-800-844-8131 and provide the Second Chance ID 8925939
3. Visit www.hbcrewards.com
   If a problem is encountered while trying to donate points on line, please contact Phyllis (905-426-2922) for assistance.

These points will help Second Chance to obtain many items needed for the Sanctuary such as paper towels, facial tissue, and pillows for the cages.

We gratefully accept Canadian Tire Money!

USED CLOTHING DROP BOX

Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary receives a portion of the proceeds from used clothing drop boxes that are monitored by Louis Lal. There are two of these boxes located at the sanctuary.

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and more drop boxes are located throughout the region – there is a box at Country Depot in Claremont as well as McCowan Road and 16th Avenue. Please help Second Chance by depositing your used/unwanted clothing, linens, and towels in one of the drop boxes located at the above-mentioned addresses. If you operate a business and have space for one of these drop boxes, please call Louis (416-318-2873) who will be happy to deliver the drop box to your business property.

CANDY DISPENSING PROGRAM

Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary receives a portion of the proceeds from a Candy Dispensing Program which is operated by Craig Bigelow. Craig will deliver the dispenser to your place of business AT NO COST TO YOU. Each dispenser carries the Second Chance logo and says you care about the animals. Please contact Craig by phone (416-492-5074) or email (craig.bigelow@yahoo.ca) for more information.

BRING US YOUR LOONIES/PENNIES

We have started our coin cylinder again and, as there is talk of phasing out the penny, let’s put them to good use (in our coin cylinder) before they are no longer considered legal tender.

Thank you to Brooke MacKinnon who wanted to save up her shiny coins and give them to the cats.

A PENNY FOR THE CATS

If your time is limited but you still want to help the cats at Second Chance, here's what you can do...join in and help out with our penny drive. We now have penny cans to offer you for collecting your pennies and small change. Consider taking a penny can and then maybe a few extra cans to distribute via your friends/family or a business owner you know with an interest in helping the cats at Second Chance. Then, periodically collect the cans you distributed and bring the coins to the shelter. It's volunteering that you can arrange to fit your schedule! The more of us who can join in with a little bit of change will be a big help in caring for the cats at the shelter. Collectively we will make a difference! For more information or to obtain your collection cans please contact us by email (adoptacat@second-chance.ws) or phone (905-649-8282).

PetSmart

A selection of Second Chance cats were at PetsMart during February. This visit to PetsMart proved very successful for Second Chance with six cats being adopted.

Please drop by to visit the next time Second Chance cats are at PetsMart (May).

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