



CAT TALES

Volume 1, Issue 1

November, 2003

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We've Moved!!

On November 30, 2003, C.A.R.E.S. at last moved into its new home located at 6840 Glover Road in Langley.

After receiving a rental termination notice December 31, 2002, C.A.R.E.S. began the process of searching for a suitable home for its 65 feline residents. A front page article in The Langley Advance News followed by news coverage on CTV failed to promote the response of help the shelter volunteers had hoped for. At the same time concern was building in the community with the pending closure of the Langley SPCA and the urgency to find C.A.R.E.S. a suitable home weighed heavily on the volunteers. Finally, the wonderful news came. A home was found!

The project is a partnership with The Langley Heritage Society and C.A.R.E.S. The lovely new shelter consists of the main heritage house (Moir House) which will be occupied by

MOIR HOUSE



a caretaker; and two outbuildings, which will be used as the shelter. The larger building with its

seven indoor/outdoor runs plus one large main indoor/outdoor run will house the shelter and the smaller building will house the hospital, laundry and washroom facilities. Six large built-in kennels will be available for new arrivals to the shelter to provide entry isolation. All buildings were re-roofed and painted and new utilities - gas, electrical and plumbing - were installed.

Then to top it all off, a modular 10' x 40' office was donated by Restwell Mattress Company! This office will be used as a meeting centre, an education centre, an adoption centre and counseling centre.

C.A.R.E.S. is deeply grateful to all who assisted in this project. A Grand Opening Gala is planned for Spring 2004. Details will be posted in future newsletters and on the C.A.R.E.S. web site, www.langleycares.com.

DENNIS RATCLIFFE CARES Relocation Manager



C.A.R.E.S. would like to thank the following for their support:

- Lorne Dance - Langley Heritage Society
- Don Carnegie - Langley Heritage Society
- Fred Pepin - President, Langley Heritage Society
- David Taft - Britco Trailers
- Dennis Ratcliffe, CARES Relocation Manager
- Dr David Marlowe - Brookwood Veterinary
- Dr Susan Lomond - Veterinarian
- Langley PetSmart and Staff
- Mike Brown - Petfare
- Target Products Ltd./GT Commodities Ltd.
- Semihamoo Bulldozing
- Mrs. Evelyn Oberg

The 2003 C.A.R.E.S. Board of Directors are:

- Marietta Ashton
- Carol Briner
- Gail Carruthers
- Marian Haney
- Donna Healey-Ogden
- Mary Ridd



C.A.R.E.S.
Canadian Animal Rescue
& Extended Shelter
505, 8840 210 Street, Suite 290
Langley BC V1M 2Y2



DONATIONS

An income tax receipt will be issued for donations over \$10.00.

Yes, I would like to help by contributing:

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to become a member for an annual fee of \$25. A tax receipt will be issued.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Christmas Adoption Boom

Tis the season for giving. Many people love to buy pets for loved ones as Christmas gifts. At first, it sounds like a great, thoughtful and loving gift. Right? Well, let's consider a few things. What if that person is allergic and you never knew it? What if they don't like cats? What if they don't want the emotional or financial responsibility of owning a cat? What if you knew all the answers to those questions and you are still sure that this person would like a cat as a gift. Excluding the obvious begging, how would you know that they like this particular cat? Would the colour and hair length be right? Would the personality be right? Maybe they don't want an adult...maybe they want a kitten, or vice versa. Most people who adopt a cat look for some type of personality...or lack thereof. Only they can know which cat is right for them. After all, they have to share their home with this cat.

Cats seem to fly out of the Luv-A-Pet cages at an alarming rate at Christmas. C.A.R.E.S. has always adhered to the policy of not allowing the adoption of a cat if the cat is to be a gift (unless, of course, the person who will be living with the cat is present and allowed to be interviewed). The gift of a cat should never be a surprise to the person receiving the gift. It is absolutely essential for a potential owner to select their own furry friend. The bond between owner and pet should last a lifetime and should not be considered lightly. Our adoption counselors make a great effort to match the perfect cat with the perfect home. This is impossible to do if the perfect home is left out of the picture. It is extremely hard for a cat to be yanked out of a home and returned to the shelter or a cage at PetSmart if the adoption doesn't work out.

As an alternative, please consider the gift of a C.A.R.E.S. membership or adoption fee. That way, the potential cat owner may make their own decision, after Christmas, about which cat becomes the newest member of their family.

A Volunteer's Story

I first saw the cat in the early hours of the morning as I made my rounds delivering newspapers. It was standing in the carport of a house I was delivering to and it came running to me as I neared the house. What a friendly little thing I thought as I bent to pat it. I noted that the cat seemed a bit scruffy and I wondered what it was doing outside at four o'clock in the morning. I dismissed the thought, delivered my paper and headed back to my car. The cat followed a ways and I almost wondered if it wanted to come with me. Once again, I dismissed the thought. Surely it must have belonged to this home.

I didn't see the cat again for a few weeks. It was colder out and I shivered as I approached the same house where I had seen the cat before. There it was, once again, standing in the carport. It didn't come running to greet me this time but stood there almost wavering as if it were going to lose its balance. I knelt down to pet it and was horrified to see that the fur was so badly matted that it felt hard to the touch. It must have been at least an inch thick. One could almost knock on it and make a sound as you would knocking on a door. I delivered the paper and stood for a few moments wondering what to do. I still had an hour's worth of deliveries to do on my route.

Maybe I'll come back when I'm done I thought. Perhaps it will still be here. I started back to my car and turned around to look as I opened my door. The cat had followed me part way down the driveway and just stood there wavering back and forth. I couldn't walk away this time. I ran back,

Winter Indoor Danger

We all know that there are many common house plants toxic to our furry little housemates. During the winter, we tend to spend more time indoors with windows and doors tightly shut. Indoor plants can brighten the décor of just about any room but the dangerous toxins of some plants can cause serious injury and illness to our furry companions. Just biting the leaves of non-toxic plants can cause vomiting and illness.

At Christmas, most people like to decorate with poinsettias which, though not as toxic as originally believed to be, can cause irritations to the mouth and throat as well as induce vomiting.

Some other common plants with greater toxic levels are philodendrons, rhododendrons and dumb cane.

A little known toxin is potpourri. It is put around the house in large open containers, perfect for Fluffy to play with or dine on. The scented oils in potpourri can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weakness and liver damage.

Cat owners need to take care in choosing and displaying plants. One needs to be creative when placing a plant in a room accessed by a curious feline. Some plants are best avoided completely. Please call your local poison control centre for a more comprehensive list of toxic plants. The phone numbers are 604-682-5050 and 604-682-2344.

The cats at C.A.R.E.S wish to thank Dr. Marlowe and Dr. Nelson of Brookwood Veterinary Hospital for the on-going excellent care they receive.

For additional cat care tips please log on to our website at www.langleycares.com.

scooped up the helpless creature and brought it to my car. I made a bed for it on my back seat out of a spare jacket and shirt I had. We finished my route together and I drove home with my passenger. Later that morning I made an appointment with my vet and took my sick friend in.

I was told that it was an older male and he needed a lot of medical attention which I couldn't afford. The vet recommended I take the cat to the SPCA. I dreaded the thought as I knew what would probably happen. I cried the whole way over as I saw no other choice for the poor creature. I dropped "Scruffy" off at the Surrey SPCA, told the attendants my story and gave a donation for him. Much to my relief, they told me he would be tended to, shaved, given any necessary medication, etc. (I think this was when the SPCAs were attempting to adopt a no-kill program.) I thought of Scruffy many times after that and wondered what ever became of him. I vowed that whenever I could I would try to do something to help pets in need.

It wasn't long after that when I was shopping at PetSmart (buying supplies for my own 3 cats) that I came across a brochure about C.A.R.E.S., a no kill cat shelter. If only I'd known about this place for Scruffy, I thought. I also remembered my vow. I signed on as a volunteer at the shelter. That was 2 years ago. Since then, I have repeatedly experienced the joy in seeing homeless cats in need receive love, shelter, medical attention and, best of all, new homes. That is why I came to C.A.R.E.S. That is why I will continue to volunteer at C.A.R.E.S. **Lauralee Porter - Adoptions Volunteer**

Would you like to volunteer?

There are many opportunities available!

If you have a few hours a week or month to spare, call us at 604-532-5632 or visit "Contact Us" on our website at www.langleycares.com.

I am interested in:

- _____ helping at the shelter
- _____ foster program
- _____ adoption program
- _____ assisting with the newsletter
- _____ assisting with fundraising