



CAT TALES

C.A.R.E.S. mission is to rescue, shelter and find loving homes for stray, abandoned and unwanted cats.

www.carescatshelter.com

SUMMER/FALL 2013

- Cindy and her tale of Hyperthyroidism
- Sign up for the Walk-A-Thon today!
- Me and Cats and 'Coons – oh my!
- Upcoming and recent events
- Chatty Catty



Beauty is still waiting for a forever home. Beauty is a friendly kitty who enjoys attention and she gets along with other cats, but she has one request; no dogs please!

Can you help? Please check out her details on our website:
www.carescatshelter.com

604.532.5632

GET YOUR BOOTS READY FOR THE 10th ANNUAL C.A.R.E.S. WALK-A-THON!

Mark your calendar for September 22, 2013 and participate in the 10th Annual C.A.R.E.S. Walk-a-thon at Derby Reach Park "Fort to Fort Trail" in Fort Langley. It is an easy 5 km walk and you are invited to a free BBQ after the walk. Come and spend a fun filled afternoon with lots of other C.A.R.E.S. supporters and raise some much needed funds for the shelter.

Help us help cats like little Peppy who was rescued after his mother went missing and his rescuer was unable to feed him. Peppy was only days old when he came to C.A.R.E.S. He was fostered by his new "mom", volunteer Lisa MacDonald, who had to take him everywhere with her making sure he got his bottle. Peppy survived his ordeal, but would not have done so had it not been for people who donated money to his care and for compassionate volunteers who took care of him. Please help us help cats like Peppy.

We are confronted daily with situations similar to Peppy's and we cannot help them without donations from you. We need to be able to carry out our mission to rescue, shelter and find loving homes



Little Peppy



for stray, abandoned and unwanted cats. Please help us help the cats by pledging to walk and by getting sponsors.

The C.A.R.E.S. annual Walk-a-thon is the largest and most important fundraising event of the year for the shelter.

Contact all your friends, family and co-workers to sponsor you. Ask them for \$5, \$10, \$20 or even \$50 each. Collect the money and bring it to the walk on September 22. We are counting on you! To download a poster, a pledge form and directions to the walk, please go to www.carescatshelter.com. You may also tell your friends that they can use credit cards, Interac or Paypal and make a secure [online](#) donation through CanadaHelps.org in your name.

If you cannot come and just wish to make a general donation, please do so [here](#). For more information and to register for the walk, please contact Carol Briner at 604.202.0713 or e-mail: donations@carescatshelter.com.

Registration starts at noon and the walk begins at 1 PM. SEE YOU THERE!

CINDY AND HER TALE OF HYPERTHYROIDISM



Beautiful Cindy

"If we could cure her medical problem, then her chances of finding a loving home would greatly increase"

We first met Cindy when she came to C.A.R.E.S. in April, 2007. She had been rescued by a kind Surrey woman who had accumulated too many cats in her home and could not keep them all. Cindy had such a loving personality and was so adoptable that it took only days to find her a new home. Cindy had six good years in her adoptive home until her owner fell upon difficult times and was forced to give her up in June of this year. In the last several months that Cindy's owner had her, she had become very thin even though she would ravenously eat her food. He could not afford to have the necessary blood work done for her, but his vet suspected that she might have a problem with her thyroid. He gave the owner some food to try which was for Hyperthyroidism and some improvement was noted as a result.

When Cindy was surrendered to C.A.R.E.S., this information was given to us and it was decided that blood work and urine testing should be done to confirm that she did indeed have this problem. The results of these tests confirmed the first vet's diagnosis; Cindy had Hyperthyroidism. Now, at this point Cindy is only 9 years old and she still has that great personality. If we could cure her medical problem, then her chances of finding a loving home again would greatly increase.

Cindy's best chance for this would be to have a costly treatment done using radioactive iodine. If she tested okay to be a candidate for this treatment, she would then need to be transferred to North West Nuclear Medicine for Animals (NWNM) clinic in Vancouver. The decision to pursue the treatment was made and we contacted NWNM for information. They agreed to take Cindy pending a review of all her blood and urine tests. The clinic informed us that for shelters like C.A.R.E.S., they would give a donation to the shelter for \$425 thus making the total cost of treatment much easier for the shelter to manage. What luck!

Happily, Cindy passed all the criteria required to be a candidate for the treatment and on July 9, 2013, she received her injection. She was monitored for several days after her treatment and the shelter received a daily update on her progress. They were very pleased at how she was responding and felt she would be able to be discharged early. The techs at NWNM all fell in love with her sweet personality and all wished they could take her home themselves! We are very thankful to the wonderful staff at NWNM for their great care of Cindy.

Cindy came back to the shelter with the instruction that blood work and urine tests would need to be repeated in about a month to check all the levels and determine whether the treatment worked. If not, she would be scheduled for a second visit at no charge. We were advised that in about 5% of cases, some cats need to have a 2nd treatment done. We are optimistic that this will not be the case for Cindy. After her return, we noticed some differences in her from when she was with us before her treatment. She is now much calmer and she no longer seems desperate to eat her food.

As of this writing, Cindy is almost ready to go in for her follow up tests. Say a prayer with us that her tests show that her treatment was successful. We will update you on her situation in future correspondence. If you are interested in knowing more about Cindy please contact me.

Lauralee Porter – Adoptions Coordinator
adoptions@carescatshelter.com



Hopefully Cindy will soon be ready for a new forever home.



FELINE HYPERTHYROIDISM

Hyperthyroidism is the most common endocrine (hormone) disorder that affects cats. It creates a wide range of signs resulting from the overproduction of thyroid hormone made by the thyroid gland.

What is the thyroid gland?

The thyroid gland is small and consists of two lobes, one on each side of the trachea (windpipe) in the neck. This gland produces the major thyroid hormone called thyroxin (T4) and a small amount of another hormone, triiodothyronine (T3).

These hormones regulate the body's metabolic rate and affect every system in the body. The production of the thyroid hormones is controlled by the hormone called thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). TSH is produced by the pituitary gland, which is found at the base of the brain.

What causes hyperthyroidism?

If the thyroid gland produces excess amounts of the thyroid hormones, the condition called hyperthyroidism results. The most common cause is benign (non-cancerous) tumours which cause increases in the number of cells in the thyroid gland. Groups of abnormal cells form small nodules on the thyroid gland and are termed adenomas. Multiple adenomas may form in the same lobe, and in approximately 70% of the cases, both lobes are involved. Only 1-2% of hyperthyroid conditions in cats are caused by malignancy (cancer). The incidence of hyperthyroidism in cats has increased in the last 25 years. The reason for this is unknown, but probably due to multiple factors. The ingredients and types of foods fed, immunological factors and environmental influences may be involved.

Which cats are most likely to become hyperthyroid?

Hyperthyroidism occurs most commonly in middle to old-age cats with a reported range of onset between 4 and 22 years. The median age for acquiring the disorder is just under 13 years. Only 5% of hyperthyroid cats develop the disease before 8 years of age. There does not appear to be a breed or sex predilection.

What are some of the signs of hyperthyroidism?

Increased appetite and weight loss, increased activity, vomiting and diarrhea are some of the most common signs of the disease. Rapid heart rates are also common in cats with hyperthyroidism and heart murmurs and high blood pressure can also occur. Cats with hyperthyroidism that are not treated often develop a heart condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, in which the muscle of the heart becomes excessively thick. This can lead to heart failure and death.

How is hyperthyroidism in cats diagnosed?

There are three main criteria for diagnosing hyperthyroidism:

Clinical signs as described above

Palpation of an enlarged thyroid gland

Increased thyroid hormone levels (T4 levels)

Since many of the signs of hyperthyroidism can also be found in other diseases such as diabetes mellitus, kidney failure, heart disease, or liver disease, other laboratory tests such as a CBC, serum chemistry, and urinalysis are generally performed to determine if these diseases are present. The test results will also influence which type of treatment would be most appropriate. Cats with hyperthyroidism may have slight increases in the number of red blood cells, increased liver enzymes and increased BUN and creatinine, which measure kidney function.

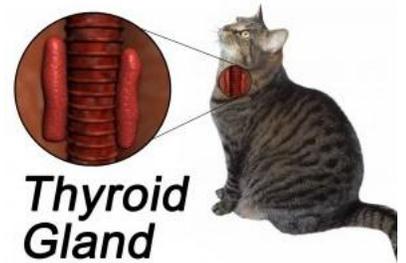
Occasionally, veterinarians will use other tests to confirm their diagnosis of hyperthyroidism. These include the T3 suppression test, thyrotropin-releasing hormone stimulation test, measurement of free T4 and thyroid radionuclide uptake and imaging.

How is feline hyperthyroidism treated?

There are currently three ways to treat hyperthyroidism in cats:

1. Medical treatment with the anti-thyroid drug, methimazole (tapazole)
2. Surgical removal of the affected gland
3. Treatment with radioactive iodine.

Always make sure you see your vet if you suspect your cat is ill.



Thyroid Gland



“Increased appetite and weight loss, increased activity, vomiting and diarrhea are some of the most common signs of the disease.”



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

I wish to thank our generous supporters and the fundraising committee who continue to provide the much needed funds for our operations.

Individuals who have made a difference this year:

- Carol Codron
- Les Walker
- Mike Meyers
- Matthew Jenkins
- Barb Sewell
- Gordon Neate
- Irene Plett
- Annette Axen
- Cheryl Larson
- Caroll and Bill Giesbrecht
- Marietta Ashton
- Joann Novak

A special thank you to Ruth and Ray Wesenburg, who have contributed generously every year. Ruth and her friend Tracy, came for a visit to the shelter and loved what we are doing for the animals in our community.

Corporate and others who have made a difference this year:

LANGLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY
I would like to give a special thank you to Fred Pipen and the board of the

Langley Heritage Society (our landlord) who in each of the past 3 years has donated one month rent.

PETSMART
Thank you for your continued support to fund and the use of the valuable retail space for our adoption centre, which I am sure most of you know, is located at the Langley PetSmart store.

NAV CANADA and BC PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND.
Thank you for your continued support.

FLAT ROOF MANOR - HOME OF FINE WINE AND A CAT and PMA CANADA
Last year we participated in a promotion of Flat Roof Manor wines. We received a cheque for \$2,300 for money raised by the sale of each bottle of Flat Roof manor wines sold in BC during the month of June. This year we were very fortunate that PMA Canada chose us again as beneficiaries of this promotion. We received \$1 for each bottle of Flat Roof Manor wine sold in BC for one month. This year the total to be donated to C.A.R.E.S. is \$2,796!! Thank you, PMA Canada and Flat Roof Manor for your support of the cats in our care.

Carol Briner, Treasurer
donations@carescatshelter.com

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?

Being a volunteer is extremely rewarding, educational and exciting. You can have a huge impact on the lives of homeless animals. In many cases, this is the first time someone has really cared for them.

Our goal at C.A.R.E.S. is to be part of the solution to this problem. We ensure that every cat we adopt out is already spayed/neutered. We screen potential adopters to ensure they are good homes that will responsibly care for their new cats. In addition, we practice TNR (trap, neuter, return) to help reduce the number of kittens being born in the wild. We cannot successfully do what we do without the help of good volunteers.

It is estimated that over 80,000 cats and dogs are euthanized every year in Canada mostly because there are not enough homes for them. In the USA, there are approximately 70,000 puppies and kittens born each day.

To volunteer or get more information, please contact our Shelter Co-ordinator, Teena Jackson at info@carescatshelter.com or call the shelter line at 604.532.5632.

An unspayed female cat that has 2 litters per year can result in thousands of kittens in less than 5 years if none of the offspring are neutered or spayed.

"Thank you PMA Canada and Flat Roof Manor for your support of the cats in our care."



604-532-1889

#111 - 6375 - 202nd Street, Langley
(Corner of 202nd St. & 64th Avenue)

Dr. Gurpreet Bath, D.V.M., M.V.Sc.





RECENT FUNDRAISING EVENTS

As you will all know, C.A.R.E.S. endeavors to meet an ever increasing demand for sheltering, spay/neuter and providing medication for the cats and kittens in our area. Your Fundraising Committee continues to arrange events to help with our goals and in the first 6 months of the year, we have had a variety of Fundraising events.

LOVE-A-CAT - where people could sign up for a monthly donation online or via mail.

ADOPT-A-THONS - held in the Langley PetSmart store, where the public and supporters had a chance to see some of our kitties first hand and give them a new home.

BOWLING NIGHT - always a fun event every year, with 50/50 Draws, a Silent Auction, Door Prizes etc, held at Willowbrook Lanes in Langley.

GAMING NIGHT - another evening full of good prizes, good food and good fun was had by all.

PMA WINE SALE - here we paired up with Flat Roof Manor, where each bottle sold provided us with a \$1 donation during the month of June.

GARAGE SALE - always a huge, team oriented event with all of our fundraisers, volunteers and Board

Members involved. This year we raised over \$3,000 in 2 days. Thank you to all who donated their treasures and we would like to thank the many volunteers who help every year as this is a huge undertaking. A special thank you to our President/Treasurer Carol Briner, who literally let us take over her house for almost a whole week.

TNR - Additionally, we should advise that our "Trap/Neuter/Release" program is progressing well, thanks to the large donation from the Langley Kinsmen received late in 2012.

As always, a very large and grateful THANK YOU to all of our individual donors and volunteers, who continually give of their time, their money and their caring for our Kitty Family. The need for care grows annually and we could not do it without all of your support.

I would finally like to thank the Fundraising Committee: Donna, Marian, Carol B, Caroll, Chris B, Allison and Anne as well as all the worker bees without whose advice, support and hard work we could not have achieved the successes we have had.

Clive M. Ellis, Fundraising Chair
fundraising@carescatshelter.com



Volunteer Allison at the Adopt-a-thon



Garage Sale

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

10th ANNUAL

C.A.R.E.S. WALK-A-THON

September 22, 2013. This is our biggest and most important fundraising event. It will be held at Derby Reach Park on the "Fort to Fort Trail" in Fort Langley. Registration will start at noon and the walk will start at 1:00 PM. Please mark the event on your calendar and start collecting your pledges from your friends and family. The pledge sheets can be obtained from our website at www.carescatshelter.com. This event is fun and you get some light exercise as well, so plan to come and bring a friend. Dogs are also welcome. We invite you to stay after the walk for the BBQ and door prizes.

CANADIAN TIRE CAMPAIGN

For the month of September we are part of a month long campaign at the Langley Canadian Tire Store, where C.A.R.E.S. will be promoted in house as "The Charity of the Month" and customers can make donations to us. This will give C.A.R.E.S. visibility and recognition as more people in the community will get to know us. Please donate your Canadian Tire Money during the month of October at the Langley store.

PUB NIGHT

To be held at Jimy Mac's Pub in Walnut Grove, Langley on November 23rd, 2013. More details of the event will be announced.



"Everything I have learned from my cat: When you are hungry, eat. When you are tired, nap in a sunbeam. When you go to the vet, pee on your owner."
Gary Smith

ME AND CATS AND 'COONS – OH MY!

I'm almost certain there is an animal telegraph line leading directly to my backdoor or a large red cross painted on my roof visible only to wildlife and a string of stray cats.

One winter, I fed five skinny stragglers. For some reason, they were all black and white cats. I managed to find homes for two of them, Sylvester and Snow; and two moved on after fattening up. Moocher stuck around until his heart began to give out, at which time, I took him to the vet to be euthanized. And then there was Ghost.

She was a long-haired, silver gray cat and I called her Ghost because when she first appeared, half-starved and wary of humans, she ran and hid whenever I opened the back door. My husband built her a house, which we placed at the edge of the woods. I put her food inside it each morning. Like a ghost, she would vanish into the woods, but, the minute my back was turned, she would magically appear and quickly gobble up the tasty morsels.

It took me an entire year of following this routine before I could touch this feral feline. I spent many hours sitting a few feet away quietly talking to her. She allowed me the space, but the minute I made a move towards her, she'd vanish. I continued feeding and talking to her at the edge of the woods, gaining her trust. After many months, she finally accepted my outstretched hand in friendship.

Then, on one extremely cold night, I managed to pick her up and place her in my garden shed. I had to lock her in because, on the first attempt, she was panic stricken and bolted for the door. In the morning, I let her out and, eventually, I only had to close the door, which she was able to push open, and she settled in.

Her new home came equipped with litter box, fresh food and water and, in the winter, she had her own electric heater. The shed kept her safe from coyotes and gave her the luxury of a warm bed.

However, she wasn't alone in the shed; she shared it with mice and a Douglas squirrel (who eventually chewed through the roof, but that's another story). Somehow, they all seemed to co-exist, possibly due to Ghost's gentle nature. I spent hours combing and cutting her long, gray matted fur, until she finally grew a beautiful new shiny coat. Her skin was the same gray as her fur and I scissor-nipped her on a few occasions while cutting away the matted fur. She never once bit me.

Day by day, Ghost began to assert herself. She evolved from a pair of yellow eyes at the forest's edge peering into our warm home, to a demanding feline who refused to leave the doorstep unless given a dish of food. Not any food, mind you, along with her assertiveness she developed a taste for a more expensive cuisine. She no longer accepted our dinner's leftovers and would sit at the patio door staring at me until I got off the couch and fed her a proper cat meal.

In the warmer weather, Ghost slept on the porch in a cardboard box or on the chaise lounge. I watched her interact with the resident raccoons. If she was on the chair when they arrived for dinner, she shared the deck. If they invaded her personal space, she just quietly moved on.

One night, I watched when a pair of raccoons dropped by. They checked out each nook and cranny, while taking turns at the feeding station. A short time later, much to my amazement, there in the glow of the porch light lay two stretched out raccoons and a curled up grey cat all three enjoying an after-dinner snooze.

A TV commercial break allowed me to check on the trio just in time to see the wild pair waddling back to the woods. Suddenly, a high pitched scream pierced the evening's tranquility. I rushed to the window in time to see one of the coons running from the forest towards my house.

"A short time later, much to my amazement, there in the glow of the porch light lay two stretched out raccoons and a curled up gray cat all three enjoying an after-dinner snooze"



Our Nikkita looks just like Ghost.



Cats and Raccoons are normally not friends!



ME AND CATS AND 'COONS – OH MY!

He ran between the houses and out onto the road then disappeared into the night. The next morning, I took a walk through the woods, looking for signs of a struggle or a dead raccoon. I found nothing.

That night, a lone raccoon visits, eats, and then stretches out for a nap. This behaviour confirms to me that it is one of the pair – I named it Nicki. Ghost does not move away. She seems to sense its loss as the two animals sleep side-by-side. Ghost continued to share the deck with wildlife – a possum, another stray cat, or a mother raccoon with her rambunctious troupe – it didn't seem to matter she reigned over them all from her deck throne.

In time, Ghost's health went into decline. The vet said her kidneys were failing, she also had thyroid issues and she would die of an oversized heart. The two friends continued sleeping, side by side, until the day I watched Ghost drag

herself onto the porch. Her time had come. We lay together in the sunlight as I asked her permission to ease her pain. She lay with her head on my knee as we drove to the vet, and I stroked her in my arms as her body relaxed in death. That night, Nicki waddled onto the porch alone. Her friend's bed lay empty. She ate her dinner, then, for the first time, curled up in Ghost's box her head upon her paws, her eyes watching the back yard... waiting.

That was the first and last time Nicki climbed into Ghost's bed. From that night on, she slept alongside the patio door. Ghost's bed remained empty until I removed the sad reminder of a lost friend.

Ghost now sleeps deep beneath my rockery, her blanket a sweet patch of purple thyme.

Dee Walmsley
Writer – Senior Living magazine



HELP US FIND A HOME FOR FELIX

Felix, a 10 year old neutered male came to C.A.R.E.S. in 2010 as he was going to be euthanized by his owners who had several cats in their home. Someone was not always using the litter box and the assumption, although never proven, was that it could be Felix. He had been checked for urinary infection previously at the vet and all showed clear. When his owners brought him to the vet to be euthanized, one of the staff knew of C.A.R.E.S and asked if the owner would hold off and see if C.A.R.E.S. would take Felix. We did, and Felix was spared. Felix is a very friendly fellow who just can't get enough human attention. He seems to be getting along fine with all his feline roommates and does not appear to have any litter box issues. Felix would make a great pet for just about anyone, but sadly, because he is older and black in colour, it is harder for this old gent to find that special home. Would you consider giving this loving soul a second chance? He'll love you forever for it!



Felix is still waiting for his forever home.



*"A black cat crossing
your path signifies that
the animal is going
somewhere"*
Groucho Marx



Click here to make an online secure donation. Tax receipts are issued instantly.



Adoption Centre

PetSmart
20015 Langley Bypass
Langley, B.C.

Mailing address

505, 8840 210th St
Langley, B.C.
V1M 2Y2

Phone

604.532.5632

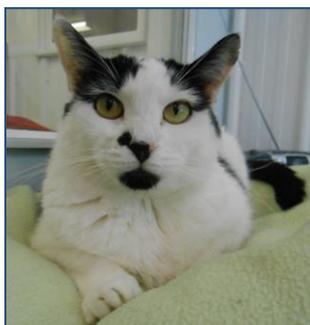
E-mail

info@carescatshelter.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

carescatshelter.com



Lady is a 12 year old female.

This sweet gentle soul was surrendered by her owners after they had a baby. She is a loving quiet girl who would fare well in a nice adult oriented home.

Can you help?
SENIOR CATS ROCK!

CHATTY CATTY 'S CORNER

Hi everyone, Ariel here. Can we talk?

It has been a little while, so I will bring you up to speed on what's happening.

Currently we are going through our hectic season where we see more kittens coming through. Thankfully, kitten season hasn't been as bad as last year with volume. That's the good news. The bad news is that we seem to be seeing way more situations with people needing to surrender not just one cat, but two or more at once! Here are a few examples of calls we have received in the past few months:

"My elderly mother died, and we can't take her three cats. Can you help?"

"Our neighbour moved and they left their two cats behind. Can you help?"

"I have eight cats and my landlord is going to evict me. Can you help?"

"We have two cats to surrender as we have a new baby. Can you help?"

I'm scratching my head, and NOT because I have fleas! I just don't quite understand folks, because so much of this could be prevented just by a bit of planning ahead and being a responsible pet owner. For example, in the case with the lady with the eight cats, it got that way because she never got her cat fixed, and then let her go outside...and then....you guessed it....kittens....and then....you guessed it....more kittens. Hullo? Duh!

What part of spay & neuter your pets are people just not understanding? Hiss! Scratch!

In the case with the folks who wanted to surrender the cats as they were stressed with the new baby, the answer to that is plan ahead. Do some research on-line and get information on how you can prepare your pets for a new arrival. You really can have a baby and keep your cats too, if only you would plan ahead and be patient.

Lastly, in the case where an owner has died and no one in the family can or will take the pets. Again, planning ahead

would have greatly helped. Make a provision for your pets in your will to go to a designated person or to a reputable shelter should something happen to you. I know about this one. My owner was killed in a car crash. One cousin tried to take me and my brother, but her "terms" were too much for me (no litter box inside the home – had to learn to go outside) and I was given to C.A.R.E.S.

So my message to you all is to be responsible pet owners. Spay your pets. Plan ahead for life changes such as moves, new babies and for if something happens to you.

Another thing I want to tell you is that my friend Lauralee Porter has stepped down from the Shelter Manager position. She is now the volunteer Adoption and Intake Co-ordinator. I will miss her every day at the shelter! To fill her shoes in addition to the many volunteers, I am lucky to have two capable ladies looking after us; Teena Jackson, who has looked after us for a while will share the job with a new lady, Avalon Lawrence. Welcome on board and meow!

Until next time,

Love from Ariel

PS: I still need a forever home ♥

