



CAT TALES

August 2010 Newsletter

Mission Statement:

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

Phone: 604.532.5632

www.carescatshelter.com

THE AMAZING MAHTZE

by Lauralee Porter

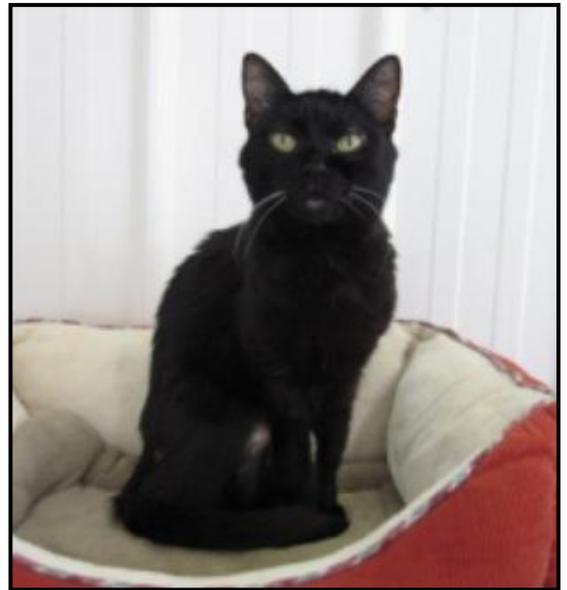
Mahtze. A plain and ordinary looking skinny black cat. But as the saying goes "looks can be deceiving". Mahtze is anything but ordinary and her story is anything but ordinary.

Mahtze was born in Romania and she immigrated to Canada with her owners, a husband and wife. We first met Mahtze in February 2007, when she was 12 years old. Her female owner had recently died of breast cancer and the grief stricken husband was giving Mahtze up as he was moving to the States with his young son to be with close friends for emotional support.

But Mahtze wasn't being surrendered alone. She had two 8 week old kittens with her! Mahtze was 12 years old and had never been spayed! Instead, her owners had chosen to give her an oral contraceptive, which the husband failed to keep up regularly after his wife died.

Not surprisingly, Mahtze's two kittens found a home together very quickly, but we expected mom cat would be with us for a long time. There just isn't a lot of demand for plain and ordinary looking older black cats.

When we took Mahtze to our vet to have her spayed, we were given a bit of bad news after the surgery was completed. It was discovered that, like her former owner, Mahtze had breast cancer. The cancer was most likely the result of never being spayed or even possibly due to being given contraceptives. The vet did feel that she had managed to remove all the little tumors, but said that it could possibly come back and gave us a prognosis of 12 to 16 months.



We settled Mahtze in with several other older cats in our "Geriatric" ward at the shelter. Although not thrilled about being bunked in with so many other cats, Mahtze managed to adjust and settle in and her personality began to emerge. She loved people attention and would sit on the table waiting in anticipation for her opportunity for some loving. She also waited for any opportunity to hop on your shoulder, in particular when

you were busy sweeping or mopping the floor! For a 12 year old cat that just went through child birth and then breast cancer, she was lively and full of life!



Mahtze had lived at the shelter for exactly one year when one of those small miracles happened. An older lady named Monique was referred to our shelter by a friend. Monique was interested in adopting an older cat that otherwise might never get adopted. When Monique visited the shelter in February, 2008, she met and instantly fell in love with our Mahtze, and Mahtze fell in love with Monique! We informed Monique about Mahtze's bout with breast cancer and the possibility of it returning. Monique was not daunted by this news and she still wanted to adopt Mahtze. What a thrill to see Mahtze being given a second chance!

A short while later, we received all good reports that Monique and Mahtze were getting along famously. Mahtze became a wonderful companion for Monique who had lived alone. And Mahtze was in heaven as she was receiving the one on one love that she always craved to have. All seemed well.

But then sadness came again for Mahtze just two years later. In June 2010, C.A.R.E.S. got the call from a friend of Monique saying that Mahtze needed to come back to C.A.R.E.S. Apparently, Monique was found incapacitated in her home after friends hadn't seen or heard from her in three days. It would appear that Monique was suffering from dementia. She needed to be admitted to hospital for care and most likely would not be returning home. Monique's friend brought Mahtze back and dropped her at the C.A.R.E.S.' vet. In spite of not eating for 3 days, Mahtze was no worse for wear and the now 15 year old cat appeared healthy.

Amazingly, our Mahtze has quickly resettled back into life at the shelter. She is not overly thrilled with her roommates but she sure loves us! Despite everything she has been through, her eyes are still bright and hopeful and she is back to her old routine of sitting on the table, waiting for her opportunity to hop on an available shoulder. She soaks up any love you have time to give her and she loves to curl up in her bed under a comfy blanket.

Mahtze is truly amazing. She is living proof that no matter what happens in life, there is always love and there is always hope. It is my hope, that this deserving girl will find another home to love her.

Lauralee Porter
C.A.R.E.S. Adoption Coordinator



Mahtze says:

"Vă mulțumesc pentru prietenii mei
de la C.A.R.E.S. !"

(Thank you to my friends at C.A.R.E.S.)



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

by Carol Briner

Financial supporters are crucial in helping to make what we do possible and we are continually grateful for their donations. Here are a few stories of outstanding donations.

Two special people, Ray and Ruth Wesenberg, have once again come through with a generous donation to help with shelter improvements. Ray and Ruth are the wonderful people from West Vancouver, who in 2009, generously gave us funds to help complete the back of the shelter. This area is now fully operational and the cats are really enjoying their new sunroom! Ray and Ruth recently came to see the project with their family and during their visit they learned of the need to resurface the floors in two rooms. They wrote us a cheque to cover the costs! Again, thank you Ray and Ruth, for your kindness and caring.



Carrie Durkin

Carrie Durkin, who volunteers at the shelter on Sundays, recently bought a house through her Remax Real Estate agent Debbie Andrews (www.debbieandrews.net). Debbie gives 10% of her commissions to the charity her client chooses. Thank you Carrie for choosing C.A.R.E.S. and thank you Debbie for giving back to the community in such a special way!



Debbie Andrews

A special lady named Kim Bellay decided to quit smoking. She made a bet with 3 friends, that if she successfully quit smoking, they would donate to a charity of her choice. She succeeded and chose C.A.R.E.S. to receive the \$100.00 donations from Scott McCree, Steve LeBarr and Bruce Babuik. Thank you everyone and congratulations to Kim for quitting!

We also thank the following people and organizations for their continued support and giving:

PetSmart Charities
Township of Langley
Science Diet
Barbara Faucher
Super Save Disposal
Luise Hartstock
Judy Werts

Jackie Webster
Ann Moser
Lauralee Porter
Barbara Sewell
Marlene Smith
Anne Salomon
Best Buy Canada

Vanderluit and associates on behalf of Janelle Zhong & Shayne Hiet-Block



A SHORT STORY BY A LONG TIME VOLUNTEER

by Marlene Smith

If you enjoy cats and meeting people of like mind and can spare a few hours on a weekly basis, you might want to consider volunteering your time and energy at the C.A.R.E.S. cat shelter. As you may know C.A.R.E.S. is operated mainly by caring, dedicated volunteers and bless them all for doing the work that's made the shelter what it is today.

I started volunteering with C.A.R.E.S. in the mid-nineties soon after they had moved into a big dilapidated barn on private property around 32nd Avenue and 206th Street in Langley. I was on the Saturday cleaning and feeding crew. In the beginning there was only cold running water, no hot water heater and barely any heat. We had to heat the water in a kettle in order to clean the dishes, do the general cleaning as well as the litter boxes. It took forever to heat enough water to fill a bucket so that we could clean. What a challenge that was! Because of the poor quality of the well water we couldn't use it as the drinking water for the cats so there were many times when large jugs of water had to be brought from home.

We didn't have two and three hour shifts like we do now. If we were lucky three volunteers would show up but usually there were only two so we were there for up to eight hours most Saturdays. There was too much work and too few volunteers but we came every Saturday.

I remember the summer I foolishly donated my friends' time and expertise to erect posts to make a slanted roof over the big outside run. This was so it could be covered with plastic tarps to allow the water to run off instead of pooling in the middle of the tarp. I have absolutely no building experience other than knowing how to use a hammer and screwdriver. In order to help I needed to climb a ladder – yikes, I hate heights! – and hold the posts in place while my

friend nailed them on. It took us a few long days of cutting and nailing. Finally, we covered the new roof posts with tarps and for a few years it allowed the cats to go outside in all weather. I was so sore and tired from this adventure but I'm proud of what was accomplished for the shelter.

Eventually over many years and through endless hours of donations in time and money from countless volunteers the barn and surrounding buildings became home to many rescued cats.



Marlene with two of her foster kittens Rascal & Petey

In 2005 the property in Milner was renovated for C.A.R.E.S. by the Langley Heritage Society and we got all the modern conveniences - heating, sinks, a water heater, washer and dryer and many things that made it easier to clean the new shelter. Oh joy; there was even an indoor washroom!

When the Kitty Kissers were established I volunteered to work with the cats – socializing, playing, grooming, and in general loving them up. It has been very rewarding watching fearful, stressed cats blossom into playful, happy cats. Sometimes, when I'm feeling really stressed, I spend some extra time with the cats. I think that they do more for me than I do for them.

Along with socializing the cats, there are certain tasks that are done when at the shelter. There is laundry to wash, dry and put away, picking up empty dishes and small cleaning jobs. One is also always on the look-out for distressed cats making sure that the information is written up and passed on to the Shelter Manager.

Another job that's interesting is assisting at the various meat draws at local pubs that the fund raising committee has started in order to raise funds for the shelter operating expenses. These are really fun! People buy the tickets we sell and if the person wins they get a package of good quality meat. The meat draws are held at three different pubs on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. I get the opportunity to talk about C.A.R.E.S. and meet a lot of nice folks who are also animal lovers.

I think that one of the best volunteering jobs is to foster cats and kittens. They steal your heart and it's really amazing to watch how fast the kittens grow. I get to pet them and handle them a lot so that when they go to their forever homes they are more comfortable. Cats and kittens are a treat to watch as they scamper around, play with each other and any homemade toy you can find. I use rolled up wax paper balls which they bat around my kitchen and hallway. Watching them is much better than T.V.

I really like volunteering at C.A.R.E.S. – not only for the kitties but also because the people are really dedicated to the cats, maintaining the shelter and finding forever homes.

If you've been thinking about volunteering come and spend some time at C.A.R.E.S. There's a lot to keep you busy and you'll be making a big contribution to the shelter.

Sincerely,
Marlene Smith



HAVE TIME? LOVE CATS? Call our Shelter line at 604.532.5632 or send us an e-mail at volunteers@carescatshelter.com

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

by Carol Briner, Treasurer

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The fundraising committee is comprised of eight people who work tirelessly at raising the needed funds to fulfill the C.A.R.E.S. mission, which is to rescue, shelter and find loving homes for stray, abandoned and unwanted cats.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: We are very happy that over \$1900.00 was raised at our 5th annual garage sale held on June 19 and June 20 in Surrey.

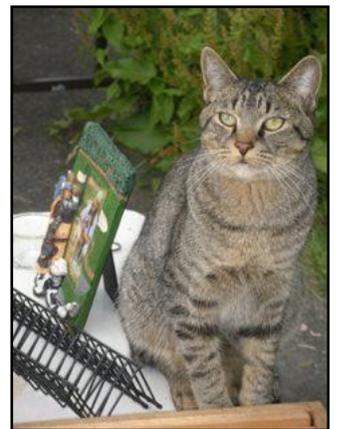
The following persons were instrumental in making it all happen:

Marietta Ashton, Carol and Chris Briner, Donna Healey-Ogden, Marian Haney, Caroll and Bill Giesbrecht, Chris Kasdorf, Teena Jackson and Marlene Smith.

These people worked hard in presorting items, picking up the tables, setting up tables, making signs, advertising the event, putting the “treasures” out for display, selling at the event and then removing the unsold treasures and delivering them to a local thrift store.



The annual garage sale is a huge undertaking and I would like to thank all of our supporters who donated lovely treasures to the sale, which we converted to cash for the shelter. A thank you also goes to all the people who came by to buy all the “stuff”.



TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY GRANT: We are pleased to announce that we applied for and received a \$1500.00 Community Grant from the Township of Langley. The money will be used to design and purchase much needed event display banners as well as printed materials for all our programs including the spay and neuter program. Thank you to the Township for granting C.A.R.E.S. the funds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL KITTEN ADOPT-A-THON: Saturday, August 7, 2010 at Pet Smart on the Langley Bypass from 10 AM to 4 PM. Our shelter and foster homes are bursting at the seams with cute, cuddly and adorable kittens ready for adoption - please help us find loving homes for them.

If you are thinking about adopting a kitten or a cat or if you know someone who is - please come to our Adoption Center at PetSmart on the Langley Bypass in Langley. We have so many gorgeous, healthy, cute and playful cats & kittens available. Thank you, PetSmart, for providing us with space for this special event.



6th ANNUAL WALKATHON: Sunday, September 19, 2010 at Derby Reach Park, Fort Langley. Registration is at 12 noon and the walk will begin at 1 PM. Please stay for a BBQ afterwards.

Prizes will be awarded to persons bringing in the most donations and all participants will receive a little something to take home with them. This event is a lot of fun and it is our biggest and most important fundraising event of the year, so do plan to come and bring a friend – dogs are welcome too.

It is easy to participate - all you have to do is take the attached pledge sheet and get your friends to pledge you for the walk. Pledge sheets can also be obtained from our website www.carescatshelter.com or call Carol at 604.202.0713. See you at the Walk!

HELPING THE CATS AT THE SHELTER AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

There are so many ways you can help - you can volunteer a few hours a week at the shelter or at fundraising events, you can become a Foster Parent to kittens or special needs cats or if you have fundraising experience – we need you! For more information about Volunteer Opportunities, please go to our website www.carescatshelter.com.

If you cannot volunteer – you can help the cats by making a donation. Any amount is greatly appreciated and a tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

✂ _____

Yes! I want to help C.A.R.E.S. continue its mission of rescuing, sheltering and finding loving homes for stray, abandoned and unwanted cats.

Here is my gift of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$_____ (other)

Enclosed is a cheque made payable to C.A.R.E.S.

I authorize C.A.R.E.S to debit my chequing account for \$_____/month and have enclosed a blank cheque marked VOID.

Or use your credit card to make a donation online! Just go to the C.A.R.E.S website www.carescatshelter.com and click on DONATE NOW through CanadaHelps.org button.

THANK YOU!

Mailing address: 505, 8840 210 Street, Suite 290, Langley, B.C. V1M 2Y2

Ph: 604.532.5632 e-mail: info@carescatshelter.com

CHATTY CATTY'S CORNER

Hi everyone - Sassy here. I'm the new "chosen one" to take over our Chatty Catty column. My predecessor Abbey has gone off to our volunteer Lynn's Hewitt's house on a trial basis with hopes that it will become permanent digs for her. From what I hear, things are going well! I can only hope to be as lucky as her. I've been here since last October thanks to a kind lady who was feeding me after I was abandoned by my owners. She finally called C.A.R.E.S. to take me and now here I am. Me and about 99 others. Yeup - you heard me right. We are pretty full around here this summer. Our Shelter Manager says she doesn't remember it ever being this bad! Not only are there 100 of us at the shelter, but there are 14 more of us up at our adoption centre, and another 70 kittens and mom cats in foster homes! We have a waiting list a mile long. And it isn't just our shelter - it is every shelter around the Lower Mainland. The situation is dire.

It's so sad because there are just too many of us and not enough homes for us all. It just makes my tail fluff when I think that the overall solution to this mess is for people to be more responsible and get their pets spayed! I think if I hear about one more person calling to ask for help because their unspayed cat had kittens, I'll cough up a hairball! (Actually, I recently had a shave - I look like a cute poodle.)

Some people's excuse for this is that they want their cat to have a litter so their kids can experience the miracle of birth. What's up with that? They don't realize that for every "miracle birth" they bring into this world, some other cat somewhere has to be euthanized because there is no home for it. To these people I would like to say, rent a video and watch the miracle there. Better yet, why not become a foster home for a rescue group like C.A.R.E.S.?

There are absolutely **no** advantages to not spaying your cat, but there are plenty of advantages to spaying. It's just common sense. Spay, spay, spay, I say!

You can also help by adopting me or one of my fellow roomies. We would be forever grateful! You can arrange to see us by calling our shelter line or by clicking on "Contact Us" on our website www.carescatshelter.com. You can also come to our special Kitten Adopt-A-Thon at PetSmart in Langley on August 7 - hope to see you there!

Until later,
Chatty Catty (AKA Sassy)

