



CAT TALES

Issue 1

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Phone: (604) 532-5632

Website: www.langleycares.com

Mission Statement

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

From Rags to Riches - Syder's Story

In some rural parts of South Langley, it is an unfortunate and all too frequent occurrence for people to take an unwanted cat and just dump it on a roadside and drive off. Such was most likely the case with Syder, who was spotted by a good Samaritan as she manoeuvred her car down the dirt road where she lived. Syder (named for being found at the roadside) was trying to find something to eat in a garbage bag. It was obvious to her that this poor thin cat was in need of help so she quickly went home and returned with some dog food. The cat devoured the food, then deciding he had a good thing, jumped in her car!

Fortunately, the nice lady knew about C.A.R.E.S and placed a call to a volunteer. She cited the story about the starving cat, adding that he was like a skeleton and his coat was very badly matted. The volunteer advised the lady to take the cat immediately to the C.A.R.E.S. vet.

Upon examining Syder, the vet stated that the cat had not eaten properly in quite some time. He weighed in at only 6 pounds (3 pounds lighter than he should be for a cat of his structure). Syder was given a flea and deworming treatment and blood tested for Feline AIDS and Leukemia but the vet held off giving him any vaccines or trying to de-matt him until the cat was in better condition; he needed to be fattened up first!

At the shelter, Syder began to thrive with all the love and attention (and food!) he was getting. He put on weight and his dull coat began to brighten up. He was friendly with all the volunteers and very appreciative of his good fortune. He happily shared quarters with his other feline friends, never appearing to cause any quarrels between them. Finally, after a few months, Syder was back at his ideal weight and he received his vaccines and an "all good" from the vet. Now, all he needed was a good home.



From Rags to Riches - Syder's Story (continued)

In January 2007, along came Deanna Devitt, a White Rock resident whose parents had already adopted a C.A.R.E.S. cat two years earlier. Deanna had been temporarily living back at home with her folks after living out of the country for several years. But now she had just purchased her own penthouse apartment and was looking for a cat of her own. Deanna tends to like the longer haired cats and it didn't take her long to spot Syder! After going through the whole shelter, she found herself back in front of Syder's run. He was the one! She would pick him up after she was all moved in. In the meantime, an appointment was made for Syder at the groomers where he received a nice bath, nail clipping and his remaining mats were all brushed out. How handsome he looked and all ready to go to his new home! From street side to high rise, this is truly a rags to riches story.

But this story goes one better. On the day that Deanna came to pick up Syder, she decided to also give a second cat a chance to come home too! She chose, Nancy, a two year old female (longer haired of course) who was rescued and came down from the community of Bella Bella (a whole other story!). Nancy was sharing the same quarters as Syder and it was hoped that the two of them would live as harmoniously at Deanna's place as they have together at C.A.R.E.S. If all worked out, Nancy would be adopted too!

Post adoption update:

Well, we heard from Deanna one week after she took Syder and Nancy home. She told us that when Syder came out of his carrying case, he was instantly at home! He checked out the whole apartment and immediately claimed a perch on his brand new scratchy post. He then followed Deanna around everywhere she would go. He knew this kind lady was his new mom and he was happy to be with her! Meanwhile, Nancy took up residence under Deanna's bed, but not for long. Deanna would gently call her and she would come out for her every time. Syder has been a bit naughty - sometimes he will chase Nancy back under the bed. We know who is going to rule the roost! But Deanna fell in love with Nancy too! Who couldn't love this sweet gal who will come on your chest and knead and purr the whole while? Nancy's adoption was completed on January 28/07!

No amount of time can erase the memory of a good cat, and no amount of masking tape can ever totally remove his fur from your couch.



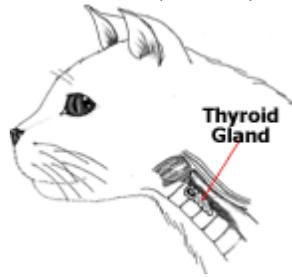
Trinity

6 year old spayed female (has 3 legs)

Trinity was rescued by a good Samaritan who began feeding her after she realized she had been abandoned by someone leaving the neighbourhood. Trinity had been outside fending for herself for awhile and she must have had a close call with a predator of some sort as she had lost one of her back hind legs. The good Samaritan knew of C.A.R.E.S. and was able to catch her and bring her to C.A.R.E.S.. Trinity is a sweet soul. She is enjoying the shelter and being cared for. She likes to perch on her scratchy post and watch all the goings on. She responds to any attention given her with head rubs and purrs! She is looking for that special quiet home with no young children that will keep her safely indoors.

HYPERTHYROIDISM IN CATS

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 these 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 remarkably 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 the signs of hyperthyroidism?

Rapid heart rates are 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 feline hyperthyroidism diagnosed?

There are three main criteria for diagnosing hyperthyroidism:

1. Clinical signs as described above
2. Palpation of an enlarged thyroid gland
3. Increased thyroid hormone levels (T₄ levels)
4. 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.
5. 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

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

By Carol Briner, Treasurer and Marian Haney, President

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We on the Fundraising Committee continue to raise funds to help cats like Syder.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

In December, our volunteers helped at PetSmart to assist with the Santa photos. Our volunteers had a lot of fun playing the part of Santa and his elves and taking pictures of peoples' pets with Santa. PetSmart supplied the film and photo frames and gives C.A.R.E.S. the proceeds of this event which are usually in excess of \$1,000!



Three fundraising committee members, Marian Haney, Linda Easton and Carol Briner gave an informative presentation about C.A.R.E.S. at the Langley Rotary evening dinner. Rotary has generously donated \$750 for us to purchase a garden shed that can be used to store items from the trailer; space would then be freed for use as an isolation ward.

Three grant applications were completed in hopes of obtaining funding for an air exchange system for the shelter. Our vet has encouraged us to get one because it will significantly reduce air-borne illnesses such as upper respiratory infections. We wish to thank Marlene Smith, who helped tremendously with research work on this project.

On March 10, 2007, we are having our annual Bowl-a-Thon at Clover Lanes from 9 pm to midnight. For \$15 per person, you get three games of bowling (Scotch Doubles), snacks and door prizes. There will be a silent auction, 50/50 draw and a beer and wine bar. In the past, we have raised \$1,500 at this event but we hope to surpass that amount this year. So please invite your friends, make up a team and come out bowling for the night to support our furry friends at the shelter. We really need your support in attending the Bowl-a-Thon and selling tickets.

Other events during the year are the annual garage sale and the Walk-a-Thon in the fall. The dates for these events have yet to be set.

If anyone has a fundraising idea, please call Marian Haney at 604-534-0825 or Carol Briner at 604-202-0713 - we are willing to try anything!!

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank the following for donating items for the bowling event. Many of these are local businesses, who contribute to their community.

Price Smart Foods
Carol Briner
Chapters Books
Euphoria Hair Design
Swiss Chalet
Robert Bateman
GFM Outdoors
Van City Savings
Target Products Ltd.
Coast Capital Savings
Triple O
Staples

White Caps
Office Depot
Harrison Hotel
Petfare
Township of Langley
Milestones
Judith Piccolo - Notary Public
Norstad
Marian Haney
Persona Day Spa
Christine Rietman-Everitt

Thanks to our regular supporters!

Petsmart - We place over 40 cats each month in good homes from our Luv-a-Pet adoption centre located in the Langley PetSmart Store! PetSmart donates the room and litter and also holds fundraising events to help homeless animals.

Kitty Kingdom and Davena Tarkanen - Davena designed C.A.R.E.S.' web site and, over the years, has given freely of her time and has also donated goodies from her store for several of our events. Davena has a great store, Kitty Kingdom, located in Downtown Langley.

Harvey Pet Food & Supply - Sara Harvey, owner, has contributed prizes and assisted us in many ways. At Christmas, she held her own photos with Santa sessions and raised over \$600 which she donated to both C.A.R.E.S. and the Langley Animal Shelter. Sara also "fosters" C.A.R.E.S.' cats in her store until they find their permanent homes!



Conrad

1.5 year old neutered male

Conrad was found as a stray and was then brought to the C.A.R.E.S. shelter. When Conrad first arrived, he was scared and very timid. But after some time and C.A.R.E.S. style lovin', this sweet man began to come out of his shell and show us his sweet self. Conrad gets along so very well with his feline roomies and he almost seems like he helps others adapt to their home at the shelter. We recommend Conrad be an indoor kitty and, ideally, be in a home where he might have a buddy.

We also thank those who give freely, asking nothing in return but for us to assist the animals in our community....their donations are greatly appreciated:

GOLDEN SPONSORS \$2,000 - \$10,000

Diane Anthony
Luise Hartstock

SILVER STARS \$1,000- \$2,000

Lauralee Porter
Carol Briner
Rose Longfoot
Ann Saloman
Gail Carruthers



Bernie in her new home!

BRONZE STARS \$300 - \$999

Shona DeGuzman
Dr. Andrew P Woo Inc.
Gordon Eccles
Odette Watson
Lisa Fairburn
Marnie Welsh
Linda Easton
Barbara Sewell

Sherri Swailes
Deb Malcolm
Barbara Faucher
Larry and Beryl Fardo
Christina Reeves
Kathleen Mengies
Marietta Ashton
Cheryl Larson

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Buy tickets for the Bowl-a-Thon. Tickets can be purchased from: Marian Haney (604-534-0825), Carol Briner (604-202-0713), Lauralee Porter (604-328-5595), Susan Kushner (604-532-8055), Marietta Ashton (604-536-3886), Lisa MacDonald (604-607-0250), Linda Easton (604-533-7366) or Donna Healey-Ogden (604-308-5992).
- Donate treasures to the upcoming Spring Garage Sale - phone Carol at 604-202-0713.
- Donate time or funds to C.A.R.E.S. - see the last page of this newsletter for a donation form; tax deductible receipts are available.
- Contribute monthly to C.A.R.E.S. - we now have a monthly contribution plan in place where you can automatically donate to our account each month. Contact Carol at 604-202-0713.
- Members and Volunteers - please ensure you reserve March 7, 2007, for C.A.R.E.S.' Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Milner Church at 6716 216th Street (just east of Glover), Langley, BC. Your attendance is important for our BC Gaming Commission funding and for you to select the 2007 Board of Directors.
- Take your recyclables to Choices in South Surrey - 3248 King George Highway, White Rock. An account has been set up whereby Choices will accumulate any money designated to C.A.R.E.S. (from recycling) and send it to our account.

Volunteer Power - The Success of C.A.R.E.S.

Susan Kushner - Director, Secretary, PetSmart Volunteer

I first came to C.A.R.E.S. about three years ago when I was looking for a great place to volunteer. I have not been disappointed once. I was pleasantly surprised when I first went to the shelter and saw how organized and efficiently it ran. I was thrilled to see how happy and spoiled the cats were. Scratching posts aplenty, many toys, lots of attention and good quality food, plus treats!!! - kitty heaven, I thought, for the unfortunate cats looking for good homes. I knew at this point this was what I was looking for. I started out with the Sunday morning crew at the shelter and eventually changed to PetSmart where I adopt from Luv-A-Pet.

All was well in my world until last July when my eighteen year old tuxedo cat, Sylvester, was diagnosed with cancer. When Dr Surbey gave me the news, I cannot explain the pain in the pit of my stomach and heart; I felt for my much loved cat. When Sylvester went to kitty heaven, I was completely devastated and found I had a huge void in my life. At this point, I asked Lauralee to match me up with a cat that needed someone as much as I did.

At this point, here enters Marilyn and Tinker into my life. These two are a brother/sister team who were given up because their owner could no longer care for them. C.A.R.E.S. did not want to separate the two because they had always been together for their eight years of life. WHAT A COUPLE OF BEAUTIES!! They are a Siamese/tabby mix, with blue eyes. Tinker now drapes himself over me whenever I am watching TV and he also loves to work with me on the computer. In fact, he should probably have his own email address. My Marilyn is timid and shy but is very happy in her new pink bed, watching us as she pretends to be asleep. Thank you, C.A.R.E.S., for the wonderful job you did for me and our community at large.



Sylvester



Marilyn



Tinker



Susan

Submitted by Susan Kushner, C.A.R.E.S. Volunteer

I love my cats because I enjoy my home; and little by little, they become its visible soul.

VOLUNTEERS

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.langleyC.A.R.E.S..com.

I am interested in:

- _____ helping at the shelter
- _____ fostering cats and/or kittens
- _____ working at adoption centre
- _____ assisting with the newsletter/web site
- _____ assisting with fundraising



DONATIONS

You can help by making a tax deductible donation.

Yes, I would like to help by contributing

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ OTHER |



MEMBERSHIPS

I would like to become a member for an annual fee of \$25. A tax receipt will be issued.
(NOTE: The annual fee for volunteers is \$10.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROVINCE _____

PHONE # _____ POSTAL CODE _____

EMAIL _____



OUR MAILING ADDRESS:
505, 8840 210TH Street Box 290
Langley BC V1M 2Y2