

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

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LOOKING FOR LOVE

DECEMBER 2023

A YEAR TO BE THANKFUL

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

This is the time of year that we should be thankful for the good things in our life.

- 1. That we have a roof over us, when so many do not
- 2. That we have good and plenty of food, when so many do not
- 3. That we have a warm and safe place to stay, when so many do not

I am thankful for all the wonderful volunteers that we have at C.A.R.E.S., who come every day to help the unfortunate cats and kittens in our community. Many of these animals are abandoned, stray or from situations that are not safe, that are unable to provide the food or vet care that is needed. Our volunteers come in 365 days a year, and we are so grateful!

In the past year we have had to deal with situations of CAT HOARDING. What is CAT HOARDING?

A recent cat hoarding case, in Langley, found one owner with 50 un-spayed and unneutered cats living in a house with substandard food and substandard living conditions. Hoarding happens when the accumulation of animals is such that minimum standards of care are not provided. Things such as nutrition, sanitation, shelter, vet care and socialization. The conditions they lived in were crowded, cramped and filthy. People who hoard are not evil or malicious, they normally have mental health issues leading to this.

C.A.R.E.S. in the last year, has taken in cats from hoarder situations. In one case, the cats were covered in fleas, dirty and did not know how to use the litter boxes, it was quite the mess. The cats were not spayed or neutered, growing the population quickly. We at C.A.R.E.S had to expend money on vet care, to ensure the cats were in good health once we received them.

But, vet care is not where the ends are. Normally, cats from hoarding situations are afraid of people, as there are too many cats for the hoarder to socialize. This lack of socializing is the biggest issue for shelters. It is the goal of a shelter, to act as a temporary home for animals. It is difficult to adopt shy, non-sociable cats, as most people are interested in nice friendly cats and kittens.

Speaking from experience, non-social cats can be a challenge, but a rewarding one. I adopted Julie, a black, nasty girl from the shelter. She greeted you with a bite or an outright attack. It took months, but now, she is the sweetest girl. Her favorite thing is to curl on my lap and watch TV with me, and the best thing is, she never complains about what I am watching.

So, we at C.A.R.E.S. are continuing to work with these cats, they are coming along, they now use the litter box, they are still a bit shy, but they are proving to be gentle animals that just need to be cared for by some great people. I would encourage all those interested in adopting a cat, to please consider these guys; this is what rescuing is really all about.

May you all have a great holiday Season.



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

In the late 70s, I had the rather dubious honor of becoming branch manager at BMO Maillardville. It seems that my only redeeming qualification was that I spoke French! Within a year or two of my arrival, I met with Russ Bruce, who had recently taken over the family business at Cedar Rim Nursery. Russ and I soon became fast friends, and we were able to help him a little bit at the outset.

Nursery

Suffice it to say, the business has been an outstanding success due to hard work and Russ' good management. Russ has never forgotten this and, for over 20 years, he has been a constant and generous supporter of C.A.R.E.S., and me personally. Whatever the fundraising function, he has made a regular donation. Cedar Rim is located some 300 yards from our shelter, and many of us drop in and catch up.

I was very pleasantly surprised this spring when Emily, the office manager at Cedar Rim, contacted us with a view to our holding an adopt-a-thon event at the nursery...... They visited the shelter and did some filming and photography of our kitties...which went out on their newsletter and Facebook page. The location in the store was excellent and the response from the public was so encouraging!

In late October they called again with a second invitation to come to the Nursery.....with another marvelous result, and a warm reception from Russ and, as always, all of his staff.

At C.A.R.E.S., we feel like family at the nursery. Everyone there is so welcoming and kind.....and they have even adopted one of our furry family who by all accounts has settled in happily.....Meowwww! In total, 17 of our kittens/cats found homes.

In terms of success, the adoption was literally the icing on the cake!!
Russ, Emily and staff.... we cannot thank you enough.

Clive Ellis, C.A.R.E.S. Public Relations















Juniper "Juni" adopted by Cedar Rim

We had such a great year for Fundraising; we finally got to have a Pub Night again! The tickets sold out within weeks and we had such a great time getting together with everyone at Jimy Mac's Pub! We also had 2 very successful Purdys Chocolates fundraisers. Our Christmas one that just ended had sales of over \$8500! Something we never expected; it was so much fun and the money raised will continue to help us care for our cats.

Our spring and Christmas auctions both reached their goals too! We are so thankful for the wonderful donations received, which help make these events happen.

2023 was our 20th Annual Walk For The Cats! This event was a huge success! Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters who came out to help us and celebrate. The weather was perfect and the day was filled with fun and a delicious lunch.

We deeply appreciate our dedicated supporters who consistently attend and support our events throughout the year. Your commitment plays a crucial role in helping to sustain our nonprofit and funding our shelter. Thank you all so much for making a positive impact for our cause!

Tara White, Communications/Social Media



2023 ADOPTIONS

Just like other shelters in the Lower Mainland, C.A.R.E.S. has been pretty full throughout 2023. Our adoptions have been somewhat slower this year but thanks to the support in our community, we have found homes for a year-to-date total of 387 cats/kittens. We still have time left this year to tally up more adoption numbers.

We are very grateful to our adoption partner, Langley PetSmart, for all the help they have given us in 2023. The number of adoptions out of PetSmart total 252, a percentage of 65%. Being present at PetSmart is a great opportunity for our cats/kittens to be seen. There are C.A.R.E.S. volunteers on duty seven days a week to introduce our cats to the public, which can often result in adoptions or referrals.



Cedar Rim Nursery on Glover Road also invited us to their place of business in February, 2023 and again in October, 2023. In October, 17 cats and kittens found homes at this event, a percentage of 4% of total adoptions. Cedar Rim adopted one of our kittens too, which was a nice surprise.

Some of our more shy cats do not do very well at PetSmart as they find it too stressful. People can make appointments to come and meet them at the C.A.R.E.S. shelter. The total year-to-date number of adoptions from our shelter is 95, a percentage of 25% for 2023. In addition, a total of 23 cats/kittens were adopted from our foster homes for a percentage of 6%. **THANK YOU TO OUR ADOPTIONS COORDINATOR FOR ALL THE HOURS DONATED!**Some of our longer term feline residents got adopted in 2023: Donna Marie, McTavish, Smokey, Luna2, Koko, Barby/Laddu, Pang Pang and Pixie.

C.A.R.E.S. averages approximately 30 - 40 adoptions per month. A very big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who donate their time to help us find homes for cats/kittens in our care: PetSmart volunteers, shelter volunteers, foster volunteers and social media volunteers. C.A.R.E.S. could not do what we do without your help and dedication to the kitties!

Best wishes to all in 2024, Adoptions Team









2023 INTAKES

During 2023, our shelter was able to take in 406 cats/kittens from January 1 to November 30. We assisted other shelters by accepting 97 transfers of cats/kittens. Due to over capacity, these shelters needed our help, so, we stepped up and found a spot for them at C.A.R.E.S. **THANK YOU TO OUR INTAKES COORDINATOR FOR HELPING THESE CATS AND KITTENS IN NEED.**

The number of stray cats that C.A.R.E.S. received was 8 and the number of surrenders was 287. People reached out to us for various reasons for which they were no longer able to keep and care for their cats. Some common reasons were too many cats, children with allergies, moving to a non-pet rental, unable to afford with rising costs and litter box issues.

C.A.R.E.S. will always accept cats that have been adopted out of our shelter in the past. In 2023, we had 14 cats returned to us. In some cases, previous owners had passed away, which is a sad situation for everyone. As we are a no kill shelter, senior cats will stay in our care until they get adopted and, in some cases, go into a loving foster home. We have a terrific team of volunteers who give their time to help cats adjust to shelter life or provide a foster home.



TIFFANY, THE SENIOR CAT

Hello. My name is Tiffany and I'm a senior. Lately, I've noticed that I don't feel as spry as I used to before. As I get older, I need to see the doctor more often for check-ups (I know, we cats hate going to the v-e-t!!). But it's true. I should see the doctor twice a year.

The best way for me to stay healthy is to have a physical every six months and blood tests done at least once a year. Yuk! Needles! My doctor needs to check my mouth too to make sure my teeth and gums are in good shape. A sore mouth would make it hard for me to eat.

Sometimes, when I try to jump up high on things now, it hurts a bit. I need my beds to be closer to the ground to make it easier for me to go for my naps. My litter box seems too far away from me at times. It would be nice to have two litter boxes, each one close to where I spend the most time. All of that said, I still like to play with my person. I love toy mice, stuff with feathers and catnip. I wouldn't say no to batting a ball around either. Although I'm getting older, I still need some exercise to stay mobile and happy.

My doctor says I need to have food that I can easily digest. I'm not sure what that is but my person will find out about the best food for me. I really like those ones that have bits of meat or fish in gravy! Yummy! Certain vitamins like C and E are good for me too I hear. I love treats but the v-e-t says I should not have too many as I need to watch my weight. Such a bore! To help me stay hydrated, I need to drink enough water. I really love the new water fountain that my person got for me. The water tastes lovely and fresh! Much better than plain old bowl water.

Because of getting older, I can't groom myself quite as good either. My person needs to help me out more with brushing, combing and trimming my nails. If I do become matted, I don't feel like myself at all! I really want to look my best, so, sometimes mats need to be cut out by my person with small scissors. If the situation becomes drastic, I might need the ve-t to give me a haircut! I don't like it very much but in the summer, I do feel cooler and more comfortable. After a while, I get used to my shorter fur and lay on the windowsill to soak up the sun! That is really heavenly. When my fur grows back it keeps me warm in the winter.

Although my body is aging, my person still loves me! I get pampered even more now. I think I deserve it as I've been a very good kitty since I came here. I love my person a lot and want to stay in my home forever. Sometimes, I have bad dreams about losing my home and it really scares me. What would become of me? I try not to think about it as it is too awful.

OK, I need to go now and have a nap before lunch. I might even get a treat too! Thank you for listening to me.

Love, Tiffany













CHAZ' SECOND CHANCE FROM A WINTERS CHILL TO A WARM HEART

Meet the stunning Chaz. This resilient guy braved the harsh winter alone outside our cat shelter. Chaz eluded our trapping attempts for months but with unwavering determination, in April we finally were able to trap him and bring him inside the shelter!

Chaz started his journey with us as a scared and apprehensive kitty, but oh how far he's come! Initially, he would hide away unsure of the world around him. However with time, patience and our amazing volunteers he has transformed into a true affection enthusiast.

Nowadays, Chaz is the embodiment of feline delight. The mere sight of a loving human hand approaching sends him





into a playful roll, eagerly seeking pets and cuddles. You would never know earlier this year he was terrified of human interaction!

This beautiful boy was adopted in October and is thriving in his new life as a cherished pet! Here is an update from his owner!

Chaz update: "He has become such a huge part of our family in such a small time. We were unsure how our older cat would take to him but the two of them have really grown to care for each other. Chaz is still learning he can jump onto the couch and the bed but before too long we are sure he will cuddle up there with us. He loves playing with the stick toy as well as anything with bells attached, especially at 2am! He loves getting head and chin scratches and has started letting us give him belly rubs.

His favorite parts of the day are breakfast and dinner time, he and his sister will yell and yell at us to hurry up when we go into the kitchen to get it. He has been so amazing and filled our hearts with so much love." Talor





CHAZ

Thank you Talor, for adopting Chaz and giving him the life he deserves.



We lost some very special cats during 2023. As always, it is never easy to be involved in cat rescue. We want to honor the precious souls that we lost this year from the shelter: Patches, Romeo, Madison and Penny. In adult foster: Bonnie, Josie, Opie. After being adopted: Meme and Luce.

All of you have left paw prints on our hearts forever and you will all be greatly missed. Our wish is for each of our cats to get an opportunity to live in a home again, and enjoy a life outside of the shelter.





TEETHI'S HAPPILY EVER AFTER



Meet Teethi: Our Enchanting Underbite Kitty

Allow us to introduce you to Teethi, a remarkable 4-year-old cat who hails from Mexico and has a heartwarming story to share. No Teeth, but A Smile That Melts Hearts. Teethi's most distinctive feature is his adorable underbite, which gives him a look that's both endearing and unforgettable. Though he may not have teeth, he's got a smile that can light up any room!

His special grin makes him resemble the beloved character, the Beast, from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." Teethi arrived from Mexico alongside his lifelong companion and best friend, Romeo. Their bond was unbreakable, and they shared countless adventures together. Sadly, Romeo recently crossed the rainbow bridge, leaving Teethi with a longing for a new companion – someone to share his adventures and snuggles with.

Our sweet boy was adopted in October and is thriving in his new home! Teethi's new mom says "He's doing amazing still timid but improved so much already. He is such a sweet boy, and I am so thankful for him!. He is settling well and is happy in his new home"

Thanks Alexandra for adopting our special guy and giving him the life he deserves as a cherished pet!



AHAB AND SALEM FOSTER UPDATE

Ahab and Salem.

What an adventure it has been. We first fostered Ahab out of the two after Chloe (our senior kittazen) passed away. What a wonderful opportunity it is to foster!

Ahab was extremely frightened. When we had to grab him to put him in the kennel for transport, it was so hard to watch that we almost thought of giving up. We scared him so badly that he defecated and urinated out of fear. He was shaking. It was very hard to take him home. We didn't know if we were doing the right thing. It also didn't help that he wouldn't eat for two days. We understand now that it can be normal for frightened cats adjusting. He eventually ate food. We had him in the bathroom and he hid in our bathroom closet on one of the shelves. We couldn't get near him without him hissing and swatting. My husband and I would spend time with him. I would take naps in there just to show that we mean him no harm. Eventually he started to take food from me. Then pets. Then he would venture out of the closet to come smell me. Then he ventured out of the bathroom into the rest of our place. At this point, things weren't improving. We decided that if he had another cat that was super cuddly he would see that we wouldn't hurt him.

Then we got Opie, who quickly became my best friend. A very spicy little man who liked to urinate and defecate anywhere but in the box. Ahab loved him. Absolutely adored him, he would follow him all around the house and try to cuddle with him. Opie did not like Ahab so this dynamic proved to be a bit challenging. We did not have Opie for long but we learned some things about Ahab after Opie's passing. He started to want pets from us and he was visibly depressed after Opie passed. He needed a companion and what better companion than his sister, Salem.

Her progression was very similar to Ahab's except she had been socialized more at the shelter so things moved faster. She won't yet cuddle with us but I will come to her and pet her. They cuddle together like an old married couple; they play together, they like to watch TV and they absolutely love the laser pointer. Ahab has come so far. Every day he hops up onto the couch for our cuddle session. He loves head butting, chest scratches and forehead kissing (which he will give me as well). Once Salem reaches the same point as Ahab, (hopefully after the new year) they will be ready to find a new home where they can be loved, cuddled, kissed and happy.









LIBERTY UPDATE

My Story:

My Mom says it was love at first sight when she saw me in a hospital cage at the C.A.R.E.S. Shelter. A few weeks later, after I visited the vet, I arrived home. Mom changed my name from Liberty to Ossian, she says it is a historic Scottish name.

I emptied the cat toy basket my second day home, Mamma picked the toys up, so I spread them around the house again. We play 'chase' on the stairs when Mom goes up or down and she brings up the toys I knock down.

My kitten crunchy bowl is always full and Mom gives me pate and treats too. We share Mom's large bed, I have a cat bed, and I sleep on all the soft chairs. The sink is just the right size for me when I finish drinking water drips. I even heard Mom talking to my big brother about building a catio for me. I don't know what it is—a catio sounds interesting—something else for me. momma tells me she is grateful that a woman in northern B.C. trapped me and my brothers and sisters before the cold winter and so am I. The woman took us to a cat shelter and we came to C.A.R.E.S. from there. Thank you for your help finding my mamma C.A.R.E.S.

Nancy McLeod, Nightmeds









Victoria

VOLUNTEER STORIES

I started volunteering in the summer of 2021 and I absolutely fell in love with all my "kitty friends" at the shelter. I even ended up taking one home with me! "Lucy" is now Luna and she is my bestest friend who LOVES to snuggle.

I love working with the kitties and helping the shy ones come out of their shell and learn how to be cats who love to play and get pats and love. I'll never forget Maddison, and how a scared, swatting cat turned into a loving furball who loved pats, brushes, and especially her "cat gogurt". I look forward to many years of helping other scared and lonely cats find their forever homes.

Victoria Zegarra, Kitty Kisser





Shana Williamson, Nightmeds/PetSmart





Shana

WANT TO VOLUNTEER TOO?



HOW 1 CAT TURNED INTO 11 CATS AND 9 WEEKS

It all started on August 20th with a phone call to pick up a distressed newborn kitten in someone's yard close to my house. The goal was to get it to the amazing Therese of Vokra. When I arrived I was met by one of the neighbors, Tiffanie. After careful searching, we couldn't find the tiny baby cat anywhere. We started knocking on doors and asking. A couple had taken the kitty in and put it in a box lined with blankets.

They tried really hard to care for him while he was there. When I picked up the baby cat he was freezing, so Therese told me to put him in my shirt against my chest. I tucked his tiny little cold body into my shirt and got in my car and started making my way to meet her. When I arrived at our meeting spot we were separated by a train, these minutes were some of the most traumatizing, longest minutes of my life! I've never seen anything like that in my life. I will spare the details but this tiny boy had been hurt badly. Perhaps by a bird and he was estimated to be 1-2 days old.

Finally after what felt like forever, the train ended and Therese raced over. She took this tiny little soul, provided him pain relief, cleaned his wounds and filled his belly. He only lived for a few hours, we were heartbroken. There's a lot of comfort knowing that he wasn't in pain and was warm and loved. Therese's son named him Hank. Rest in peace tiny baby Hank. I will never forget you.

After Therese took Hank, I decided to head back to the cul-de-sac because when I was there I noticed several 6 month old kittens just outside running around. I talked to Tiffanie again and she let me know that those kittens were born outside and there was also the mom cat living there. This is a large cul-de-sac full of nice houses in the middle of Walnut Grove, so it was surprising.

We went around door-to-door talking to all the houses and nobody owned any of these cats. The couple that tried to save the baby were feeding them and trying to socialize them; they were very scared. A plan was hatched to trap them and space was available here at C.A.R.E.S. for them. Little did we know the ride that was about to start!

So we caught the first three young kitties pretty quickly on the 1st night we tried. Tiffanie had named them after cheeses. Gargazola, Parmigiano Reggiano and Cambert were trapped. We brought them to the shelter and at this time we shortened 2 of their names to Zola and Reggie.

Then we tried to get Pecorino (Rino). We did multiple drop trap attempts, but no luck. We made a new plan, to set up a feeding station and a camera on the side of Tiffanie's house. Mama (we named her Maisy) looked as though she could be nursing on the camera, and we thought maybe Hank could have been from a second litter she had this year. So we went door to door talking to all of the neighbors again and asking if we could search their backyards. Everybody was so kind and helpful. We looked everywhere through all the yards and saw no signs of kittens.

Once again we started to try and trap the cats. We even left the drop trap for them to eat under for days so they would be comfortable, but when we were around they always knew. So we changed our approach by trying a homemade wooden box trap and we started using this every day to feed them in. Tiffanie and I took turns loading food morning and night everyday for weeks and weeks on schedule. After building a feeding routine and getting them comfortable with it we set the cat door to close on this wooden house trap behind them. When it was set it looked almost exactly the same, but they always knew it!! HOW!?!

There were a handful of us watching the live camera all day everyday... And there were so many heart stopping moments. What a rush watching them go halfway in and back out! Then a massive heartache when you don't get them. It just began to look like we could never get them safe. They were both just too smart. We had met our feline matches!

Many evenings before I went to bed I would drive back up there and lock the trap door open overnight. (Couldn't trap overnight on work days) Like clockwork, as soon as the door was locked open, they would just freely go in and out and eat offerings. During this time Tiffanie and I went to the shelter often to work with Zola, Reggie and Cambert. They were not mean or hissing at all, just absolutely terrified. They were used to Tiffanie as she had spent a couple months trying to earn their trust once they started freely running around in the cul-de-sac. She would regularly see them at night time when walking her dog. It was a slow process at first but all three of these cats started to very much enjoy the affection. Cambert loves food, so he was easy! Sweet Zola got a cold and wasn't feeling so great, and tiny Reggie would hide in the corner, but really liked the attention when you went to her. Tiffanie adopted Zola when he was ready; he went back to where it all began! As well, Tiffanie is now a C.A.R.E.S. volunteer!

HOW 1 CAT TURNED INTO 11 CATS AND 9 WEEKS CONT..

The outside feeding routine and drop trap attempts continued. It was now October and it was getting cold; they're still out there. Every morning we all rushed to check the camera overnight to make sure they are both safe. This experience was tough because I've never worked so hard at something and not been able to succeed. At this point two months have almost passed of daily effort and concern.

Then on October 8th my phone rings. It is one of the neighbours letting me know when they were in their backyard they saw a couple of kittens. These kittens ran under their low to the ground back deck. She does have babies! We are glad we didn't succeed in getting her. These babies appear to be about 7 weeks old, they were Hank's siblings! We asked these nice people if we could put a camera under their deck to determine how many kittens there were and they agreed. It turned out there were six that survived. This meant that mama Maisy had 7 kittens this time and 4 that survived in January. 11 babies from 1 cat in 2023!

We now changed all our plans because we need to get these babies first before we could take mom in. So over the course of the long weekend, we were able to get them all safe, 2 at a time. Then we were back to trying to get Maisy and Rino, two of the world's smartest cats. Weeks passed and they were too smart for the drop trap and the wooden house. We were feeling defeated. It was a roller coaster of emotions! So many hours out there and they still aren't safe.

I had a 1 week trip planned to leave on October 19th and I really wanted these cats safe before I left but that didn't happen. I left and within a few days, Therese called me and said I got a new plan! I'm putting a remote control door on the trap so the door can be closed from further away (they always saw us in our cars...even 20 feet away they knew) and she literally did this. That day at feeding time, she closed the door of the house behind them from afar! Finally after over 9 weeks of trying, they were safe!

During this time Tiffanie and I came in regularly to work with Maisy's second litter. They were much younger so it was faster getting them used to people. Lucky, Casey, Boots, Socks, Taylor and Parker I named them. They are now fixed and are looking for their forever homes. Four have been adopted and the other 2 are at the Langley PetSmart. Pecorino (Rino) is now ready for adoption. We are still working with mama Maisy who has been spayed now, so no more babies for her. She is not mean at all, just very scared. We will continue to spend one on one time with her overcoming her fear for however long it takes! Today she ate with me close by and I touched her back foot!... It's progress!

I thought trapping cats would be easy but it is absolutely not. The dedication and effort is exhausting on many levels. Thank you to everyone who has spent time trying to save cats out there and thank you Therese and Tiffanie! It was a hell of a ride!

Tara White, Communications/Social Media

C.A.R.E.



CAMBERT

MAMA MAISY





LITTER #2

FIND US ONLINE FOR MORE CAT STORIES AND UPDATES!



REGGIE









LOOKING FOR LOVE





















JUNIPER SINGH SUMMER

MORE INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE CATS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.CARESCATSHELTER.COM/ADOPT





