

VICTORIA PET
ADOPTION SOCIETY

POINTS OF
SPECIAL
INTEREST:

- VPAS is a non-profit organization
- VPAS is not government funded in any way and relies solely on donations from the public, fundraisers, and adoption fees to save lives
- 100% of all donations made go directly to help homeless pets

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Victoria Pet Adoption

Society - Update 2008



WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANURAY, 2008

Welcome to Victoria Pet Adoption Society's Second Annual Newsletter

Welcome to the Victoria Pet Adoption Society's (VPAS) 2nd Annual Newsletter! VPAS is a registered non-profit organization that has been working to find homes for homeless pets since our inception in 2002. In 2007, VPAS successfully rehomed over 150 pets, bringing our total to over 800 pets rehomed since we officially registered as a non-profit.

Each pet that comes to VPAS is spayed/neutered, vaccinated dewormed and has full medical

care provided for it until it finds its' forever home. This endeavor would not be possible without the fabulous community members and volunteers who donate their time, money, and resources to help us save lives.



Gizelle, an adoptee and VPAS' poster kitty

In this issue of our newsletter we will introduce you to some of the many pets that VPAS has helped over the past year, as well as some pets that are still waiting to find their forever homes. We will update you on some of the projects that VPAS has worked on this year and tell you about some of the things that we have planned for 2008. We hope you enjoy learning more about our organization, and encourage you to contact us at victoriapets@gmail.com with any questions or feedback.

In 2007 VPAS spent over \$30,000 to help save the lives of homeless pets!

Where Our Pets Came From in 2007	Pets Adopted Into New Homes	Allocation of Funds by VPAS in 2007
Owner Surrendered - 31%	Cats - 38	*Spay/Neuter Programs
Abandoned by Owner - 8%	Kittens - 103	*Emergency/Critical Care
Stray - 14%	Dogs - 3	*Medications
Feral - 43%	Puppies - 3	*Preventive Care & Vaccines
From Another Shelter - 4%	Other - 8	*Housing/Food

What's New?

VPAS has a new website and a new email address! Due to the high volume of emails that VPAS receives every day and the increasing amount of web-traffic, VPAS now has new addresses to better accommodate you.

Our new webpage is equipped with bigger, clearer photos of our adoptable pets and is better formatted to showcase our wonderful critters. It also has a new section to update you on upcoming events, fundraisers, and news. In the new year please check out

our new website at <http://victoriapets.ca> or email us at victoriapets@gmail.com.

Our adoptable pets can also be seen on www.petfinder.com, www.1-800-save-a-pet.com, and www.victoriaadoptables.com.

VPAS' Featured Pet: Lucy



Lucy, posing for the camera

Meet Lucy, a beautiful, 3 year old, spayed female cat. Lucy came to VPAS in January of 2007; an allergy in the family forced them to relinquish her. Lucy's personality is a unique blend of sassiness and cheeky humour. She always makes us

laugh with her goofy expressions and princess-type demands. Lucy is looking for a home where she can be an only child (of the 4-legged or 2-legged variety.) If you have a quiet home and are looking for a companion, or if you work

during the day and are looking for someone to come home to at night, please consider Lucy, she won't let you down. For more information about Lucy you can check out her bio on our website at victoriapets.ca or phone at 652-4312.

Sushi's Story

Meet Sushi, the longhaired, ginger cat. We first met Sushi in the summer of 2007 after she had been run over by a hay thresher; she desperately needed our help. One of Sushi's hind legs was very badly injured and needed to be amputated. Fortunately, the doctors and staff of Shaw Pet Hospitals donated their time to perform the surgery that Sushi urgently needed.

Shortly after recovering from her surgery and arriving at VPAS Sushi was adopted by a family who learned about her story on the news. Sushi now lives a life of luxury in a local bed and breakfast, along with her roommate, another orange, 3-legged cat.

VPAS would like to thank all of those who made donations to purchase the supplies that were needed for Sushi's surgery to be performed.



Sushi in the hospital, recovering from her leg amputation

"There were an estimated 30-40 feral/stray cats roaming the area, most of which had not been sterilized and many of the females were pregnant or had recently had litters of kittens."

Summer Home Project

In April of 2007, VPAS was approached by members of a local trailer park with a plea for help with their overwhelming stray cat population. At the time there were an estimated 30-40 stray and semi-feral cats roaming the trailer park that had been abandoned by various owners who had moved away. Most of the cats had not been fixed, and many of the females were pregnant or had recently had litters of kittens. The trailer park is highly populated by people and the cats were thriving because of the large amount of garbage and other food sources that were available for them. Unfortun-

nately, many of the residents of the trailer park were fed up with the cats and a few had even contacted the local animal control agency to have the cats trapped and destroyed.

When VPAS was approached by members of the trailer park with a plea for help we replied with a resounding, YES!

It took many volunteers several months of daily visits to the park, but by the end of September, with the help of Greater Victoria Animal Crusaders and Cat Rescue Corp, VPAS had successfully spayed/neutered, and re-homed over 30 cats and kittens.

This project was a huge undertaking and it would not have been possible without the hard work of our volunteers and the support of the local community.

The feral/stray cat population at this particular site is now under control and is being managed by residents of the trailer park. Sadly, many other locations, just like this one, are over-run with stray or feral cats. For more information on how you can help control feral/stray cat colonies in your area, or if you are aware of a cat colony that is in need of help, please contact us at victoriapets@gmail.com



Fundraising

Raising funds is an essential part of the work that our volunteers do. We could not help the number of pets that we do each year without the much needed funds that these events help us to secure.

During the first three weekends of December, VPAS and PetSmart Charities hosted Pet Photos with Santa Claws. This event was a huge success, raising almost \$1000 for homeless pets at Christmas time. VPAS would like to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to run and organize this

event, and to the more than 200 pets who came out with their families to sit on Santa's knee. And don't worry, if you missed Santa this year you can look for him at PetSmart again next December.

Not every fundraising effort is an event organized by a group of volunteers. Sometimes it is hard work and dedication by one individual that makes a world of difference. One fabulous example of this is the hardworking volunteer who makes our Mice For Life. These mice are carefully hand-knit and filled with

fresh, home-grown catnip by one of our wonderful volunteers. These hand-crafted cat toys always sell out much faster than our volunteer can make them, especially at Christmas time. Just in the month of December the Mice For Life raised over \$200 to help homeless pets over the holidays.

VPAS would like to thank each and every volunteer who donates their time to help our wonderful pets.



Two parrots enjoying Santa's company

"Sometimes it is hard work and dedication by one individual that makes a world of difference."

What's in Store for VPAS in 2008?

Charitable Status

VPAS is currently a registered, non-profit organization. Our plans for 2008 included obtaining charitable status so that all donations made to VPAS will be tax deductible. Being granted charitable status will not only allow us to collect donations from corporate sponsors, but it will allow us to be eligible for project grants (like our

Summer Home Project) through organizations such as PetSmart Charities and PetFinder.com. Additional funds made possible by charitable status will allow us to further expand our organization and increase the number of pets that we are able to help each year.

A New Facility

Last year we told you about our plans to renovate our facility and increase the amount of space available for housing adoptable pets. We are currently working on building plans and hope to begin renovations some time in late 2008. Look for more updates in future additions of this newsletter and on our new website.

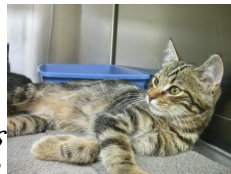
More of the Pets That VPAS Has Helped This Year



Rufus was found as a tiny kitten hiding in a bush with a pro-

lapsed rectum. After surgery to fixed his rectum Rufus was adopted. *Cost to VPAS - \$905.77*

Mr. Norris was found as a kitten lying in the middle of the road after being hit by a car. After a few days of hospitalization he made a full recovery.



Cost to VPAS - \$1744.10

Sambuca was taken to the vet as a feral cat in a trap who needed to be spayed. To their surprise, within hours of arriving she gave birth to two kittens. When the kittens were old enough, Sambuca was spayed and re-homed by VPAS. VPAS also found good homes for both of the kittens. *Cost to VPAS - \$1623.89*





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Please Help Us Help Them!

VPAS is a registered non-profit organization that was started in 2002 in an effort to find good homes for unwanted and homeless pets. VPAS does not purchase pets from any breeders or stores. We take in orphans, unwanted litters, stray and abandoned animals, and animals whose owners are no longer able to care for them, for any number of reasons.

Most of the pets that arrive at VPAS are in need of some medical attention before they are ready for adoption. Every pet that comes to VPAS is health checked by a veterinarian prior to adoption, is spayed/neutered, is vaccinated, and is treated for both internal and external parasites. This level of care has been made possible only by the continual support of community members through donations, and by the staff of Shaw Pet Hospitals who donate their time to provide excellent veterinary care to our adoptees.

If you are looking for a new loyal companion to add to your family please check with us often.

How You Can Help ...

VPAS would like to thank each and every person who, through their generous donations, made it possible for VPAS to help so many pets in 2007. We hope to increase the number of homeless pets that we can help in 2008, but we cannot do it without your help.

VPAS is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to help socialize our adoptable pets, walk dogs, groom, organize and/or run fundraising events, or if you have skills including web design, accounting, or photography please consider volunteering some time to help pets in need.

While VPAS does everything we can to ensure that the pets within our care are happy and comfortable, there is no substitute for a real home. Some of the pets in our care have special needs and require spe-

cialized care, and many of them simply do not do well in a shelter environment need a comfortable place to curl up in while they wait for their forever homes. Foster homes are incredibly valuable to every adoption organization, but unfortunately they are far too few and far between. If you have room in your home and are interested in fostering one or more deserving pets while they wait for their forever homes please contact Catherine at victoriapets@gmail.com

Don't have time to volunteer and can't foster a pet in your home but still want to help? If you have gently used blankets, towels, linens, or pillowcases, cat carriers or dog crates, pet toys or scratching posts, please consider donating them to make a homeless pet more comfortable



Thank you from all of the animals at VPAS and have a safe and happy 2008!

while he or she waits for a new home. VPAS also graciously accepts monetary donations at any of the three Shaw Pet Hospitals (Central Saanich Animal Hospital, Vetcetera Pet Hospital, and Hollywood Pet Hospital.)