



POINTS OF
SPECIAL
INTEREST:

- VPAS is a registered charity
- 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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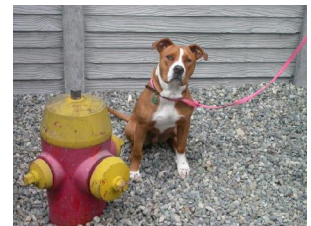
Welcome to Victoria Pet Adoption Society's Third Annual Newsletter

Welcome to Victoria Pet Adoption Society's (VPAS) 3rd Annual Newsletter! VPAS is a registered charity that has been working to find homes for homeless pets since 2002. In 2008, VPAS successfully re-homed 140 pets, bringing our total to over 950 pets re-homed since we officially registered as a society.



Our newsletter is designed to give you information about who we are, what we do, and how we serve the community each year.

In this issue we will introduce you to a few of the pets that VPAS has helped over the past year and some of the pets that are still waiting to find their forever homes. We will share with you some of the projects that our organization has worked on this year, and update you on some of the things we have planned for 2009.



We hope that you enjoy learning more about our animal rescue, our projects, our goals, and our passion. We encourage you to contact us at victoria-pets@gmail.com with any questions or feedback.

In 2008 VPAS received over \$25,000 in donations to help save the lives of homeless pets!

Where Our Pets Came From in 2008	Pets Adopted Into New Homes	Allocation of Funds by VPAS in 2008
Owner Surrendered - 24%	Cats - 39	*Spay/Neuter Programs
Abandoned by Owner - 20%	Kittens - 96	*Emergency/Critical Care
Stray - 8%	Dogs - 2	*Medications
Feral - 42%	Puppies - 2	*Preventive Care & Vaccines
From Another Shelter - 6%	Other - 1 (bird)	*Housing/Food

What's New?

The most significant change to VPAS in 2008 is that we gained charitable status. We were previously a registered non-profit organization and our mandate for helping pets has not changed. We are still working hard to provide medical attention to pets in need, and to find adoptive homes for

our homeless pets. The most significant benefit to becoming a charity is that we can now issue tax deductible receipts for donations, allowing us to more effectively raise funds to peruse our goal of helping the homeless pet population and providing medical care to those that need it.

Adopt Me!

Baby Girl was abandoned at VPAS with 13 other cats, all in terrible condition (story on pg 2). She is now healthy and ready for adoption. She is waiting for patiently for her forever home.



VPAS' Featured Pet: Eve



Eve enjoying her foster home

This beautiful kitty is Eve. She and her 5 kittens, just hours old, arrived at VPAS late at night after being found in a box on the steps of a church. They were very hungry, and cold, and one of the kittens had already died. After some time in foster care and much

TLC all of the kittens were adopted and so was Eve. Unfortunately, less than a year later Eve's human parents got divorced and she found herself back at VPAS looking for a new home.

Eve is not comfortable around young children or

around other animals, but she is a real cuddler and because she is just a big kitten herself, she is quite playful. Eve is looking for a home with someone who wants to be her companion and playmate. To learn more about Eve, please see her bio on our website at www.victoriapets.ca

Pumpkin's Story

Pumpkin arrived at VPAS after being found on the side of the road as a 6 week old kitten. Pumpkin had an eye infection, an ear mite infection, skin lesions, and she could not walk. Pumpkin was successfully treated for her eye and ear mite infections (although Pumpkin is still deaf as a result of her severe mite infection), and after a few weeks of proper nutrition her skin lesions cleared up. Pumpkin

was diagnosed with Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH), a congenital neurological disorder that affects coordination and movement. It took Pumpkin a few weeks to figure out how to walk once she was strong enough to do so, and because of her CH she still walks with a wobble, but she is now healthy as a horse and enjoying life in her adoptive home.



Pumpkin enjoying her new blanket while in the adoption centre.

"Some of the cats were in cardboard boxes, some in Rubbermaid containers, and others were squeezed into small rodent cages.."



Fourteen Souls in Need

In June of 2008 a man arrived at VPAS' front door asking for help with his cats. He claimed to have been evicted from his home and had no place to go with his 14 cats. VPAS agreed to take them, but the volunteers got quite a shock as the cats began to arrive at the shelter. Some cats were in cardboard boxes, some in Rubbermaid containers, and others were squeezed into small rodent cages. All of the cats were covered in urine and feces, and they were all suffering from eye infections, upper respiratory infections, and *Bartonella* (the bacteria responsible for Cat Scratch fever.) The cats ranged in age from 4 weeks to 2 years old

and several of the females were pregnant.

After baths, antibiotic treatment for the upper respiratory infections, eye infections, and *Bartonella*, several weeks in foster care, spay/neuter and vaccines, and lots of TLC all 14 cats were finally ready for adoption. Many of them were adopted quickly, but a few of the older, more traumatized cats are still looking for their forever homes.

When a large number of pets arrive in any animal shelter unexpectedly a significant strain is placed upon the shelter's volunteers and resources. VPAS' volunteers, as well as the staff of Shaw Pet Hospitals (who provided all of the nec-

essary medical care for the 14 cats) did a wonderful job of pulling together to ensure that these cats received all the love and care that they needed to find wonderful new homes. Although a few of these cats are still waiting for their forever homes the cost for care so far has exceeded \$7000. Thank you to everyone who donated time and funds to help these 14 wonderful souls.



Some of the Special Pets That VPAS Has Helped This Year

Braveheart found himself at VPAS at 3 weeks of age. He was abandoned by his owner because he seemed a little different than his littermates. He was quickly diagnosed with a hole in his heart. And the staff of Shaw Pet Hospitals worked to make him strong enough to undergo the life-saving surgery that he needed. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the VPAS volunteers and the medical staff caring for him, Braveheart succumbed to his heart problems and passed away before his surgery could be performed. Cost to VPAS \$1775.25.



Ashes came to VPAS at only 3 days of age. Her mother rejected her litter of kittens and all of them died except for Ashes. She was surrendered so that our medical staff could provide her with the care she needed until she was old enough and healthy enough for adoption. When Ashes first arrived at VPAS her foster mom had to tube-feed her every 45 minutes - around the clock. Cost to VPAS \$647.34



When Laloo was only 5 weeks old she was abandoned by her family outside of a storage facility and left to fend for herself. Fortunately someone quickly found her and brought her to VPAS. Poor Laloo was suffering from Rickets and skin lesions (due to poor nutrition) and she had been eating rocks and twigs just to try to keep herself alive. Laloo quickly regained her health once on a proper diet and found her forever home very quickly. Cost to VPAS for Laloo's care \$335.63



What's in Store for VPAS in 2009?

New Adoption Centre

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 well on our way toward the new adoption centre, and hope to begin renovations some time in early—mid 2009.

Our goals with the new adoption centre are to increase capacity for

the number of pets that we are able to help at any one time, increase the comfort and esthetics of the adoption centre for the pets (and visitors), and to create a play area for the pets so that any time spent in a kennel can be limited as much as possible. Our new leveled kennels and interactive playroom are sure to be a hit with pets and visitors alike.

Community Support

Now that VPAS is a registered charity we are working with Thrifty Foods, Zellers, and The Bay to benefit from their respective Smile Card Program and points programs. Keep your eyes peeled for VPAS within these programs and donate your points to help provide medical care to homeless pets in our community.

*"Sometimes
the hard work
and dedication
of one
individual
makes a world
of difference."*

Thank You!

Victoria Pet Adoption Society was able to help a record number of pets in 2008 because of the wonderful support of our community. We rely on adoption fees and donations to provide care for all of our adoptees and none of it would be possible without your support.

VPAS would especially like to thank the doctors and staff of Shaw Pet Hospitals for

their continuing support, and for providing all of the medical care for our adoptees at a discounted rate. We would not be able to provide the level of medical care to our adoptees that we do without their help.

We would also like to thank the individuals who donated their time to organize fundraisers, those who donated items for sale as fundraisers, and all of those who

were able to share their good fortune with our pets by way of making monetary donations.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who work so tirelessly to run every aspect of VPAS. VPAS is an entirely volunteer-run organization and it would not be possible to achieve our goals without these dedicated people. Thank you!



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Help Us Help Them!

VPAS is a registered charity that began in 2002 as 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.

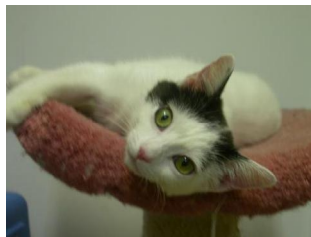
How You Can Help ...

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 2008. We hope that with your continued support we can increase the number of homeless pets that we can help in 2009.

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 specialized care, and many of them simply do not do well in a shelter environment and 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 us at victoriapets@gmail.com.

VPAS is always in need of volunteers. If you have an interest in organizing fundraisers or events, if you enjoy liaising with the community, or



Thank you from all of the animals at VPAS and have a safe and happy 2009!

if you are crafty and are interested in sewing pet toys or bedding, please consider volunteering some time to help pets in need.

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 while he or she waits for a new home. VPAS also graciously accepts monetary donations and Canadian Tire Money at any of the three Shaw Pet Hospitals in Victoria (Central Saanich Animal Hospital, Vetcetera Pet Hospital, and Hollywood Pet Hospital.) Tax deductible receipts can be written for donations of \$10 or more.