



MAVERICK CAT COALITION

A trap, spay/neuter & return program to humanely reduce the suffering of homeless cats.

Registered Charity (#86494 5068 RR0001)
100% Volunteer

Box 72051
Old Orchard P.O.
Burnaby, BC V5H 4P9
Phone: (604) 521-8200
Email: mavcat@telus.net

Edition 3 - Fall-Winter 2003

Dear Friends,

It is time to acknowledge the challenges and achievements of the past months.

First, we would like to thank ALL of our donors. Every contribution is sincerely appreciated. Our work continues because of your support!

Special thanks to Margaret Gardiner and Vancouver City Savings Credit Union for a grant of \$1,000 received in July. This donation helped us significantly.

Our work would not be possible without the valuable help of our volunteers and the caring people that continue to feed and monitor their cats at various sites throughout the Lower Mainland. A big "Thank you!" goes out to all of you.

Next, I would like to mention some challenges that we continue to face: too few volunteers (especially trappers), a need for more foster homes and, last but not least, funding. This has meant that, in some cases, we are asking callers to take a more active role. For example, when trapping is required, callers may be asked to borrow traps from us and our assistance would be limited to training, information and referral to other agencies.

When we have cats recovering from surgery and no foster homes available, the hospitals have been temporary residences. Our veterinarians of choice are all low-cost; nevertheless, costs for injured cats can be significant sometimes.

We continued our fundraising efforts in New Westminister, where our charity is based. In early May,

we held a yard sale and \$108.55 was raised! This will be an annual event, so if you have items, please let us know.

During the summer, three Saturday afternoons were devoted to fundraising outside of Toni's Internet Café. David Fowler entertained everyone with his unique brand of blues guitar. An information booth was set up and featured our mascot, *Moose*, who attracted a small crowd of admirers.



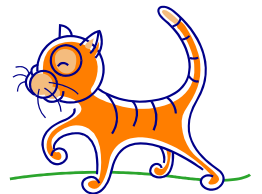
Moose, a real charmer

In November, we invited everyone and their four-legged family members to have their picture taken with Santa! The fun took place at "Hava Java" in New Westminister. A portion of the proceeds was donated to Maverick Cat Coalition and the local Food Bank, thanks to the generosity of owners Terry and Tracy.

Finally, we are pleased to report that our website is under construction. Many thanks to Malcolm McDougall, Meg McGeachie and Eduardo Soriano for their advice and assistance. We are especially grateful to Peter Fletcher for working on this project and making it happen!

Because we care for cats,

Cylia T. Wong
Secretary-Treasurer



This newsletter is dedicated to *Moose*, a true Maverick!



Seagull or kitten? (Read his story inside.)

2002-03 ACTIVITIES (IN BRIEF)

MCC continues to assist people in trapping, feeding and caring for stray and homeless cats.

During the period January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 we helped 232 cats and their caregivers.

City	Caregivers	Cats	Kittens	Total
Vancouver	25	96	43	139
Burnaby	7	24	23	47
Surrey	6	18	13	31
Other*	4	15	0	15
TOTAL	42	153	79	232

*Coquitlam and New Westminster.

Under our Trap, Neuter and Return Program, 66 female cats were spayed and 56 male cats were neutered.

Several people offered their homes as temporary shelters. Cats and kittens (such as those featured in our newsletter) generally make rapid recoveries in foster care; MCC assisted these volunteers with advice, supplies and medical expenses.

Almost all of the monies received were the result of fundraising activities and donations through our newsletter. Several organizations were also supportive by helping with veterinary costs, donations of cat food, supplies, and humane traps.

ASSIGNMENT SNAPSHOT - BURNABY (SUMMER 2003)

July 23:

Sheltered between apartment buildings in Metrotown are several rental houses. We were told that an elderly man had been feeding stray cats. Now he was gone, leaving cats (and one kitten) to fend for themselves.

July 26:

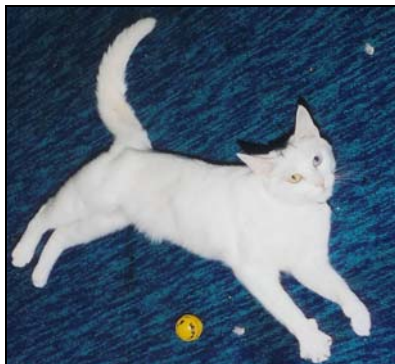
We met the caller, Fran, and looked around the area. She told us we could place a trap inside her shed, where she had begun feeding the cats. We decided to trap later, returning to our truck to monitor the situation. Although it was dark, the cats were easy to spot because many of them were white!

July 30:

Kittens have ravenous appetites, so it was easy to catch *Moose* (see page 1). He was bold and aggressive; therefore, we placed him with volunteers who could devote plenty of time towards his socialization.

August 1:

Silver, an adult male, was caught and, after treatment, returned to his location. A large, black cat wandered into one of our traps; he was released immediately because of his tattoo and excellent overall condition.



Mitzi, as playful as she looks!



Silver, born to be wild



Momma, a gentle and devoted mother

August 2:

Mitzi, a lively cat, was caught, treated and reunited with her kitten, *Moose*, in foster care. She let him know who was "boss"! *Moose* settled down quickly under *Mitzi*'s guidance and the two of them, with their odd-coloured eyes, made an interesting pair!

August 9:

Momma's six(!) kittens were born on a neighbour's property, but she decided to relocate them soon after.

September 1:

We caught *Momma* and kittens in a nearby shed. They were all kept in foster care until the kittens were weaned.

September 11:

Moose charms *Genelle*, who works at Royal City Animal Clinic. She takes him home and adopts him soon after.

September 16:

The kittens were given to the Surrey Animal Rescue and Adoption Society. *Momma* was delivered to the Royal City Animal Hospital for surgery and then convalesced in her foster home.

October 3:

Fully recovered, *Momma* went to Meow-Aid where she is still waiting to be adopted. (See information below.)

To adopt *Mitzi* or *Momma*, contact MEOW-AID SHELTER FOR HOMELESS CATS at (604) 733-7013
Or visit their website - www3.telus.net/meowaid/

NOTES FROM A BLUE AFGHAN

It's me again, *Good Girl*, your top cat reporting from Burnaby. It's been a long, hot summer, and I learned to wait till the garden had been watered, and then to lie on the cool cement that Mrs.E. had just watered. I also like to sleep downstairs with my Mrs.E. on the day bed - it's so much cooler. She changes my water three to four times a day.

This summer we lost two cats and three dogs in our neighbourhood -- they moved away. The poor dog that lived next door also didn't come back after the SPCA picked him up again. There's a lot less barking around here now.

I love to go out in the early morning and eat the dewy grass and sniff around to see who has been through my yard. The only problem is that the bluejays come screeching through and dive-bomb me. They scare me so much that I have to go into the house!

Lately, I've been having problems with my territory. I never leave my yard - but it seems like everyone wants



Good Girl - living the good life

it. I chased off one small kitten, but, there is a big marmalade tomcat - a real street fighter. He challenged me, but when Mrs.E. heard him, she came running out and scared him off. Was I ever glad, because I wouldn't have stood a chance!

Well, it's 10 p.m. and I've just finished grooming myself and Mrs.E. has brushed my beautiful coat. I've eaten and it's time to fall asleep on my favorite place - the blue afghan at the foot of the bed. So I'll close with a "Meoww" for now. See you in the spring!

Good Girl 

CATS AND MODEL RAILROADING (They don't mix well - really!)

By Dave Nelson

I have a relatively small model railway layout in my basement, which I've been building for over 10 years. It is in 'HO' scale, which means an automobile about one inch long. It's basically a model city circa 1940 with street car lines, a few railway tracks and over 50 scale buildings.

I'm not a serious model railroader. A lot of folks in the hobby are very serious about how each item is correct for the time period and railway they model.

With me, I like to have some fun! Besides running all sorts of trains new and old, you can find numerous miniature characters dotted around the layout, such as Snoopy and Woodstock going for a walk, Sponge-Bob running along, Hello Kitty driving a car, Stuart Little driving an even smaller car and a much larger plastic Godzilla strolling down an avenue. But the real menace I have to contend with is the real life "Catzilla" that wilfully roams the quiet streets of my small empire.

Model trees can be economically made using dried materials found in craft stores. Catzilla loves to chew these up, turning a once lovely tree into a desolate winter scene, minus the snow. Some railway tracks are attached using miniature spikes. These tracks, usually at the edge of the layout are perfect places for Catzilla to jump onto the layout, then launch off with his mighty back paws - loosening the rails and stopping all rail movements.



A Peaceable Kingdom

Parks are wonderful places (my layout has two of them) where Catzilla can nap and rest, leaving behind a hard-to-remove layer of cat hair.

I've tried scaring the Catzillas away using strong perfumes, mouse traps and balloons. I even tried some miniature tanks and army personnel, just like in those Godzilla movies; but that didn't work either.

Recently, the Catzillas seem to be increasing, causing further disruptions to rail movements. So I've decided to let the Catzillas roam free, giving them the key to the city. 'Peace in our time', I say, thereby dedicating places like "Tabby Park" and "Calico Street" - deferring control of the miniature world that I cannot control.



THE KITTEN WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A SEAGULL

By David Fowler

My assignment had been to catch some wild kittens from the shipyards; they had been hiding in warehouses, scurrying under machinery, and dashing across the wharfs. It was an all-day game of "catch-me-if-you-can", but finally I had a collection of brown-and-black tabbies, hissing and spitting at the world--little dynamos of claws and teeth! After a few weeks with MCC volunteers, they should become tame enough to adopt; but right now they were ready to tear a strip off me.

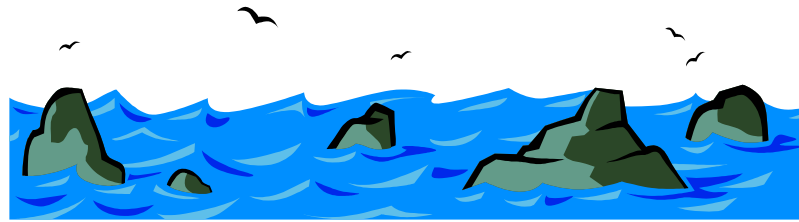
As I was leaving, a worker yelled out: "There's one living out on the pier!" I was skeptical; the kittens had been living around the dark, dry warehouses--not the wet, windy pier (which was covered with seagulls). On the other hand, cat behaviour is not an exact science. . .

A few minutes later I caught a shivering, cream-coloured kitten with big, blue eyes (see page 1). He looked up at me from inside the trap and cried: "Scaw-reee! Scaw-reee!"



That evening I delivered the tabbies into foster care, but decided to take the last one home with me. He was very timid and easy to handle. Over the next few days, his strange, bird-like noises lessened in frequency as he began to purr and make other "normal" kitten sounds.

I was intrigued. He was completely different in looks and temperament from the others. Was he an outcast, trying to imitate his feathered friends out on the pier? In any case, I call him "Seagull", in honour of his clever "imbirdinations", and hope that he enjoys being a kitten!



THREE "TUXEDO" CATS - SEPARATED AT BIRTH?



Cindy (holding a patient) and Gina

LOW COST/HIGH QUALITY

The Maverick Cat Coalition would like to thank all of our low-cost vets and their staff for being valuable partners in our work. We are indeed grateful for the *high standard of medical care* given to all of our cats - especially those suffering from injury or neglect. Also, with *prices that are fair and reasonable*, low-cost vets enable us to help as many cats as possible.



"Signed, sealed, delivered - I'm yours!"

* ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS *

We wish to thank the following organizations for their support:
Atlas Animal Hospital, Royal City Animal Hospital, Surrey Animal Hospital, Cloverdale Animal Hospital,
The Roving Vet (phone: 219-4687, website: www.rovingvet.com),
Meow-Aid Shelter for Homeless Cats, Surrey Animal and Rescue Adoption Society, Forgotten Felines,
Vancouver Humane Society, Aid to Animals in Distress, Richmond Centre for Homeless Cats,
Van Pet Company, Hava Java, Toni's Internet Café, the Frame Shop, Olé Olé, and the Waffle House.
Thanks again to everyone at Vancouver City Savings Credit Union (North Road Community Branch).
Also, the BCSPCA (Vancouver and Burnaby Branches) kindly supported us with donations of food and blankets.
Maverick Cat Coalition thanks EVERYONE for donating their time, energy and resources!

MAVERICK CAT COALITION DONATION/VOLUNTEER FORM

Maverick Cat Coalition is a Registered Charity run entirely by volunteers dedicated to helping homeless, sick and abandoned cats in your community. Our primary concern is meeting the cost of basic veterinarian care for each cat; this includes spay/neuter, vaccination, tattoo and other treatment, if necessary.

If you would like to make a donation or contribute as a volunteer, please complete the following information and send to Maverick Cat Coalition at our mailing address below:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email/Other Contact Info: _____

Volunteer Interest:

Trapping	Transport	Fund-Raiser	Feeding Cats
Foster Care	Volunteer Co-ordinator	Public Relations	Photographer

Participate in our "SPONSOR A MAVERICK CAT" program!

Once your Maverick Cat is treated and returned, you'll receive a picture of him or her. We will also provide a brief description of your cat's circumstances and how your donation has been applied.

Please name your Maverick Cat(s): _____

Yes, I would like to SPONSOR _____ Maverick Cat(s) with my donation of \$ _____
(\$50 per cat)

I would like to become a MEMBER \$ _____
(\$15 one-year membership)

Also, I would like to DONATE \$ _____

TOTAL CHEQUE \$ _____

(Payable to "Maverick Cat Coalition")

Thank you for your donation!

*". . .to know even one life has
breathed easier because you have
lived, this is to have succeeded." -
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Have you considered leaving a bequest to our Society? For more information, call (604) 521-8200.

Here's what your donation provides:

\$25	Will provide a one month's supply of cat food.
\$50	Will sponsor one Maverick Cat (see above).
\$100	Will cover expenses for fostering kittens.
\$250	Will provide basic medical treatment for a small colony.
\$500	Will cover medical costs for sick and injured cats.

Do you wish to receive a charitable tax receipt for your donation? Yes No

Do you wish to be included on our mailing list? Yes No

Message

Maverick Cat Coalition
Box 72051, Old Orchard P.O.
Burnaby, B.C., Canada
V5H 4P9



