



MAVERICK CAT COALITION

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

Registered Charity - 100% Volunteer

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Dear Friends,

We wish to acknowledge and thank our active band of volunteers. They have been very busy in the last couple of months and we appreciate their help!

Many thanks to everyone for your generous support. It is encouraging to receive donations and letters from individuals who have heard about us and appreciate our efforts on behalf of stray cats.

Special thanks to the Tweedledum Foundation for donating \$500 in support of our TNR program. This will help us significantly over the next few months.

On January 31, we had an information booth at New Westminster's second annual *Festival of Volunteers* (see page 3).

On February 22, Maverick Cat Coalition and the Vancouver SPCA organized a Spay-a-thon for Maverick Cats. This landmark event received coverage on BCTV and community newspapers (see page 2).

We have more stories and information to share, so please read on!

Because we care for cats,



Cylia T. Wong
Secretary-Treasurer



"Peek-a-boo" Maverick Cats in New Westminster



This cat was not coping well on the streets of East Vancouver. He was likely an abandoned pet, so we sheltered him at *Meow-Aid*.

"You saved me from the streets.
You gave me shelter,
and you gave me time.
Time is the measure of life.
I have nothing but gratitude."

- William Jordan

(From the book: *A Cat Named Darwin*
-- *How a Stray Cat Changed a Man*
Into a Human Being)



A few months later, and what a difference! Now called "Mr. Biggelsworth", he is enjoying a pampered life with a caring owner.

MAVERICK CAT COALITION'S ROAD TO SUCCESS

We continue to provide services to people who care for stray and feral cats. We have also responded to calls directed from other rescue groups. Donations of food, blankets, traps, and carriers were received from Meow-Aid, SARA, CPPCS, VHS, and both the Burnaby and Vancouver SPCA branches.

During a two-year period we helped 326 cats and 70 caregivers (see the chart below). Under our Trap, Neuter and Return Program, 93 female cats were spayed and 77 male cats were neutered (170 cats in total). A total of 156 cats and kittens were delivered to private homes or shelters.

Location	2002		2003		Total	
	Cats	Caregivers	Cats	Caregivers	Cats	Caregivers
Vancouver	104	19	67	18	171	37
Burnaby	36	6	56	13	92	19
Surrey	27	6	14	4	41	10
Coquitlam	0	0	13	1	13	1
New West	1	1	8	2	9	3
Total	168	32	158	38	326	70



MAVERICK CAT SPAY-A-THON

On Saturday, February 21, four teams of Maverick Cat Coalition volunteers were at various locations in Surrey and Vancouver to meet with caregivers and capture the Maverick Cats they care for.

Trapping took place in barns, warehouses, townhouse complexes and backyards. At the end of the day, through the combined efforts of everyone involved, eighteen cats in total were caught.



This Maverick Cat will be back home soon.

The cats were kept overnight in a quiet, secure location. The following morning, they were transported to the SPCA Hospital in Vancouver.

Each cat was treated in a friendly, efficient manner by the SPCA volunteers. Afterward, every cat was given a carrier furnished with towels to recuperate in.

Later that day, all eighteen cats were returned to their caregivers and original locations for observation and eventual release.

B.C.'s first Spay-a-thon for Maverick Cats was very successful. It will serve as a model for veterinarians in other communities to work with rescue groups like the Maverick Cat Coalition.

We are grateful to everyone who volunteered their time and expertise - veterinarians, technicians, receptionists, transporters, trappers, and caregivers.

We have begun fund-raising to purchase more traps for the next Spay-a-thon. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, please contact us.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Saturday, May 8 - Giant Yard Sale - in New Westminster (including baked goods and beverages)!
- Mid-May - Public Awareness/Information Planning Session - Open to registered volunteers.
- Sunday, May 30 - Volunteer Orientation - pre-registration required. Open to registered volunteers and anyone wishing to learn more about our group.
- Early June - Miss Kitty's Nickel Auction - a "FUN" fundraiser.
- Early July - Annual General Meeting.

NOTES FROM A BLUE AFGHAN

Here I am again, your favourite female tabby cat reporting from Burnaby.

Mrs. E. told me that February was dental month. I thought *she* was going to get her teeth done. No, she meant me! What a traumatic experience.



One Friday night I had my meal like usual. Then, I took a catnap and later that evening I decided to eat again. NO FOOD! Just water. I had to tell Mr. and Mrs. E! I jumped up on the bed and meowed loudly. I did that all night long. Mrs. E. petted me and spoke to me quietly, but she didn't get up and feed me.

Next morning - still no food and guess what's in the living room? The *carrier*! This can only mean one thing - I'm going somewhere. I hate the carrier. I hate riding in the van. I hate not knowing where I'm going. I expressed my concerns very loudly all the way to the vet hospital.

Once I get there -- hey, what's going on? My people are leaving me! They've never done that before. I am really scared now -- am I being abandoned again?

All of a sudden I'm taken out of my cage, put on the exam table and ouch! I feel a pinch . . .

Later, I wake up and there's a funny taste in my mouth. I'm alone in a cage with a whole bunch of other cats and noises around me. I'm so sad so I lie down and close my eyes. I wait for what seems like a very long time. Then, all of a sudden, I'm put back into my carrier and there is Mrs. E. How wonderful! My people are back and I'm going HOME!

Mrs. E. is petting me and reassuring me. I still feel groggy, but much better, knowing that I'm going home at last -- and what a wonderful home! I notice a big bald patch around my tail. I can't reach that spot and someone shaved the fur off! Mr. E. jokes that it looks like I backed into a bandsaw! My beautiful fur coat has a bald patch -- how embarrassing! Talk about a bad fur day!

I am shaky on my paws, so Mrs. E. picks me up and places me on my blue afghan. Now that my ordeal is over, I am going to curl up and have a catnap. Meow for now! I will chat with you later.

Good Girl 

VOLUNTEER FAIR IN THE ROYAL CITY by Meg McGeachie

On January 31, Maverick Cat Coalition (MCC) participated in New Westminster's *Festival of Volunteers* at the Royal City Centre.

Our friends at *Pixie's Magical Garden* created a fabulous backdrop for our display with a colourful wall of painted cats. The hinged cat faces had "peek-a-boo" openings so visitors could have their pictures taken with one of our "furry friends"! Other panels displayed photos of the many cats TNR'd or rescued for adoption. Visitors also had a rare opportunity to see our videos of feral cats. The delightful display brought many people to our booth where volunteers answered questions and distributed information.

It was a successful day because we were able to increase the public's awareness of stray and feral cats throughout the Lower Mainland.

Thanks again to all our volunteers who assisted at the event. You're the cornerstone of our organization!



Interested onlooker at the Royal City Centre

CARSON - STOIC AND LOVABLE

Carson rocks! Despite health challenges he's turned into a loving little cat.

We had an X-ray done on his leg, which led to a joint tap, and he's since been diagnosed with chronic arthritis in his right knee joint. Apparently the abscess that was treated when he was rescued never healed properly. The infection spread and caused the joint to dry up. We've been told that he'll always be lame, and it's unknown as to whether the joint will always be painful. We massage the joint daily and remain optimistic about his health.

But there's more! He's developed facial ticks, possibly as a result of the long antibiotic treatment he's just finished. So, we're looking into that too. We have always had excellent service from the Adored Beast Veterinary Clinic. (Aren't credit cards wonderful?)

His favourite toy is a multi-coloured woven belt and he also likes to play soccer with dried ginger roots, pennies and rubber balls.

He has developed a fondness for sleeping with his head on our pillows at night -- a situation which we have given up trying to change.

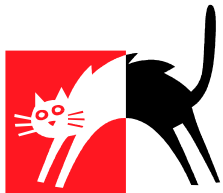


At times he's a fierce tomcat, which we respect. Other times he's an extraordinary cuddler. Of course, we welcome his affection and care for him with great pleasure.

Thanks for rescuing him, Dave. And thanks to Val and all the work that Meow-Aid does!

- Kim Goodliffe
Vancouver

REGARDING "NO-KILL" SHELTERS



The animal rescue movement is very political, and therefore misinformation and propaganda exists. For example, many shelters call themselves "No-Kill". What do they mean by this term? If a cat is terminally ill *and* suffering, a responsible shelter may decide to end its life humanely. On the other hand, if the cat is enjoying life and suffering from no symptoms of illness, there are shelters that will, nevertheless, end its life. In either case, they might still call themselves "No-Kill". This term has become meaningless; therefore, we ask: "Which shelters preserve and protect the life of healthy, adoptable cats?"



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We wish to thank the following organizations for their support:

Atlas Animal Hospital, Royal City Animal Hospital, Surrey Animal Hospital, Cloverdale Animal Hospital, Meow-Aid Shelter for Homeless Cats, Surrey Animal and Rescue Adoption Society, Citizens for Pet Population Control, Vancouver Humane Society, Richmond Centre for Homeless Cats, Van Pet Company, Tisol Pet Food Supermarket, Hava Java, the Frame Shop, Ole Ole, and the Waffle House. Thanks again to our supporters 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.

Our sincere thanks to all our volunteers for contributing your time, energy and resources!

Finally, special thanks for a very generous donation made in memory of *Marty*, who started life as a Maverick living in the bush, and eventually became a beloved housecat.