



Fall/Winter 2010

Volume 1, Issue 2

CATS BANNER

Nanoose Bay CatSpan - PO Box 64, Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9J9 (250) 468-0255

www.nanoosecatspan.petfinder.com

nanoosecatspan@gmail.com

Read All About It!

Welcome to the 2nd edition of Nanoose Bay CatSpan's newsletter - Cats Banner. With the winter season upon us we are reminded of the harsh elements feral and outdoor cats encounter each day and cold nights. Thanks to your continued support CatSpan is able to ensure feral colonies are consistently fed and monitored for illness or injuries throughout the fall & winter. Some colonies are provided with small shelters to protect them from the rain, snow & cold temperatures. Thank you for sharing our love and concern for these beautiful wild cats.

Happy holidays everyone!



How You Can Help

The Cat's Plan...

This is more than a name to rhyme with CatSpan and Cat's Banner. The Cat's Plan is our monthly donation program enabling CatSpan to budget & plan for new TNR programs and to continue providing shelter & food for existing colonies. Many animal welfare agencies encourage supporters to donate monthly to ensure a reliable and consistent income throughout the year.

It's like a monthly paycheque for the cats.



Caring for feral cats in the Oceanside communities for over 20 years

Thanks to **CanadaHelps**, our secure online donation method allows you to easily make monthly (as well as one-time donations). But, if you prefer, we gladly accept post-dated cheques. Your monthly donations, joined together with others, will provide CatSpan with consistent cash flow that the volunteers and cats can rely on for our lifesaving work.

Visit our **Brand New** website at www.nanoosecatspan.petfinder.com to donate online. Simply click on the "Donate Now" button at the bottom of our homepage. Within minutes you will receive your official tax receipt from **CanadaHelps**.

Sympathy E-cards can be sent automatically when making an "In Memoriam" online donation.

This is a quick and easy way to help.

Or mail donations to:
PO Box 64, Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9J9.

What's New Pussycat?

Since January 1st NBC has spayed/neutered **80** cats from Lantzville to Hilliers. 5 cats were adopted out to good homes and 7 are currently being fostered.

CatSpan Secretary, Heather Henderson hosted another successful Silpada jewellery party in October and raised over \$1800. Thank you to all who attended and supported this worthy cause. Many thanks to both Heather and **Barbara Berg**, the Silpada Jewelry rep who donated 50% of her proceeds to CatSpan.

CatSpan members Gregg & Sharon Bolderson of Qualicum Beach held a garage sale in August and helped raise more than \$1200 which was shared by CatSpan and Catnap (of Nanaimo). Bravo Gregg & Sharon!

Member David White was busy in his Nanoose workshop building several feeding stations and shelters for some of the colonies in our area. The members who feed and the well-fed cats *thank you* David for your excellent workmanship and time & effort. You got *2 paws up* from one colony!!

Catspan has an account now at the **Parksville Bottle and Recycling Depot** off the Alberni Hwy (next to Buckerfields). When you take your recyclable bottles and cans to the depot and mention our name, the proceeds will go to our account. *This is an easy way to contribute to CatSpan on an ongoing basis.*



Socialized feral kitten *Lily* is loved by her new family



2 local colony cats testing their new feeder box

Many Thanks To.....

The following organizations and individuals for their generous support and contributions to NBC.

The estate of **Douglas Cassidy** for his generous bequest. Mr. Cassidy's contribution will have a profound impact on improving the lives of the local feral cats. Bless you.

The **Regional District of Nanaimo** for awarding CatSpan grant funds in 2010.

Frank Pertelson for free advertising in his publication *The Barnacle News*

Bosley's pet food store (Canadian Tire mall, Nanaimo), **Pet Mania** (Errington), **Petsville** (Parksville), **Shar-Kare** (Parksville) and **Qualicum Pet Foods** for their generous donations of cat food.

Lee A for his generous time & expertise creating our new & professional website.

Ken Matson at **The Floor Store** – Stanford Avenue in Parksville for donating material for the new cat feeders.

Barb & Deb of

Qualicum Cat Rescue (Qualicum Pet Foods)
For always saying "Yes" to lending a hand.

CatSpan at Xmas Fairs

For the first time CatSpan attended 2 Xmas fundraising fairs; Fairwinds on November 14th and Nanoose Place on December 4th. CatSpan's artistic volunteers sold craft & gift items with all proceeds going to CatSpan.

Shirley Lee created beautiful assorted hand towels and gift baskets for all occasions. She also hand-crafted one of a kind photo cards, primarily of the cats she has rescued, fostered and has since adopted out. Others are fun Xmas fabric cards.

Heather Henderson created prints and cards from an original drawing (entitled "Night Watch") she had gifted to her by a local artist. Heather has also sewn beautiful quilts for cat beds from delightful cat-themed fabrics.

If you weren't able to make it to the Xmas fairs you can contact Shirley at kokomick@shaw.ca or Heather at (250) 468-5527 to purchase these lovely hand-crafted gift items.



Wish List

- Donations of money (one-time or monthly) – you can now donate online (see "*How You Can Help*" section)
- QF Points
- Books and food donation "Drop Off" spots with public access (stores, Vet clinics etc...)
- Dry cat food
- Recent, good quality books, CDs, DVDs & videos for Book Sale. Please NO text books, encyclopedias, Readers Digests condensed, magazines, out of date or books in poor condition. Drop off at **Petsville** (across from Tim Horton's – Parksville), **Red Gap Video** (Nanoose Bay) or **Qualicum Animal Hospital**.
- Donations of cans & bottles at the **Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot**



Calling All Volunteers!

We are in dire need of volunteers who are willing to **foster feral kittens**. Our existing foster homes are full and kittens need care and socializing while awaiting their *forever homes*. Please contact our *Volunteer Coordinator* **Mary Linn** at (250) 468-7904 or maryandlyle@shaw.ca if you are interested in volunteering with NBC.

NBC always needs more hands to feed feral cat colonies, Trap Neuter & Return, provide warm/dry places for cats to recuperate after surgery and to transport cats to & from Vet clinics. Fundraising skills are most welcome too!

What is a feral cat?

Feral cats are members of the domestic cat species but are not socialized to humans. Because they are not tame they are almost never adoptable and cannot be kept at a shelter. They usually live near humans to be close to a food source.

What is TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release)?

Cats are humanely trapped, neutered, treated for any medical problems or parasites and ear tipped to identify them as having been neutered. This way if they are accidentally trapped again they are easily and quickly identified as already neutered and can be released immediately. After the vet visit they are then returned to the colony. The population of a neutered, monitored, feral cat colony stabilizes, and behaviour that is annoying to human neighbours, (yowling, spraying & fighting), stop. **The 'R' in TNR**

Ideally the 'R' in TNR stands for RETURN. Many of the cats we trap and neuter are returned to their old environment, where either the property owners or CatSpan provide food and shelter. If the cats cannot stay in their original environment, due to threat to their well being, or the owners of the property refuse to have them back, the 'R' stands for RELOCATION.

Moving these cats is only done as a last resort. Firstly, as they do not like to be removed from their territory and secondly because nature's vacuum effect will always attract another group of intact cats into the now unoccupied area.

This is the reason why catch and kill has never worked. Because relocation is sometimes necessary, CatSpan looks for suitable permanent rural areas where, if need be, we can relocate feral cats.

Rural Properties Needed...

While feral cats are best left in the areas where they have formed colonies, sometimes they have to be moved to a safer location. NBC needs to find rural properties, preferably well away from the main roads where a colony of cats can be relocated. NBC sets everything up and when the cats settle in they will return the favour with some light "mousekeeping".



These 3 kittens were TNR'd and now live happily in a horse barn in Nanoose Bay – they were too wild for adoption.



Sheena, Erin (with Charlie) & Michelle – Bosley's friendly staff (Canadian Tire Mall – Nanaimo) Thank you for your friendly smiles and generous donations of cat food!

Adoption Centre



Gracie

Gracie and Tom (not shown here) are 6 year old litter mates – two peas in a pod. They're well adjusted, gentle, and affectionate. They enjoy the outdoors and are familiar with flap doors. They do require regular grooming, but are not prone to matting. They are used to small dogs.



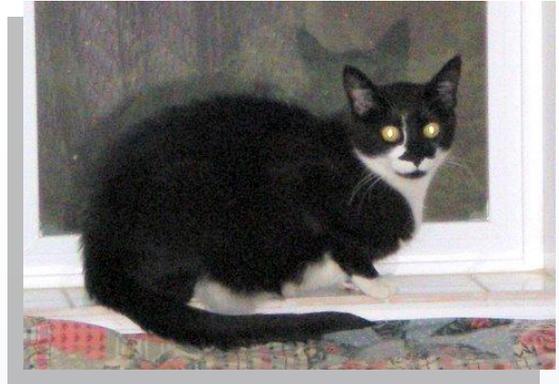
Shadow

Shadow is a 5 month old neutered male who loves to play with other cats.



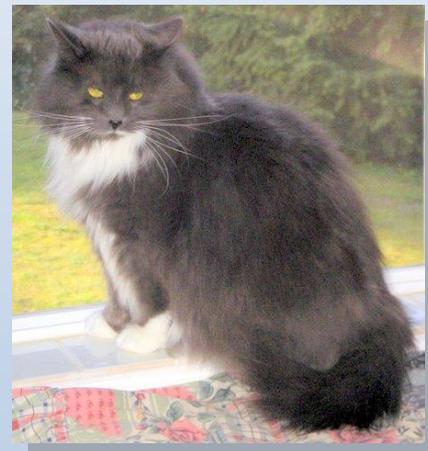
Sam & Socks

Sam and Socks are very playful & loving 5 month old male neutered kittens. They would do best with only adults but are accustomed to small dogs and other cats.



Quinn

Quinn is the sleek, elegant one, nicknamed "big eyes" for her adorable wide eyed expression. Sophie is the clown – outgoing and talkative. Her luxurious silver coat requires minimal grooming. Both cats are just 6 years old and have loving, gentle dispositions. They are accustomed to large dogs. Sophie requires activity and mental stimulation so she would benefit from having access to the outdoors. Both cats are familiar with flap doors.



Sophie

If you are interested in adopting, please contact Belinda Davies at 468-0255 or belinda.davies@shaw.ca

Adoptions cont'd....

Dr. Simon of *Parkville Animal Hospital* giving *Pippy* a hug



It's a lucky cat whose human companion is a vet! Pippy, a socialized feral kitten was taken to Parkville Animal Hospital (PAH) to be spayed and Dr. Simon & his staff immediately fell in love with her & adopted her as a clinic cat. On weekends Pippy goes home with Vet Assistant Stephanie to play with her Great Dane. Pippy is a fine ambassador for the volunteers who work to save feral cats. We are thrilled that one of our fostered kittens (socialized by volunteer Sue Godfreyson) found a great home at PAH.

Thank you Dr. Simon & the staff of PAH for supporting our feral cat program!



Jasper



Jasper is a 7 year old spayed female who loves to play with string toys. She has strong Russian Blue genes and has very plush fur. She is quiet & patient and lives well with other cats. Jasper is good company and loves to hang out with you while you work. Her vaccinations are up to date.

Teddy finds a good home....



Lost Notch Hill cat, featured in our previous newsletter has found a good home! Member Shirley Lee adopted Teddy (his new name) after only a few days fostering him.

Around The World – *Ciao Miao!*



Member Kris Riggins recently returned from Europe and was very impressed how well feral & stray cats are cared for in parts of Italy, especially Rome and Venice. These are her photos.



Check out the website www.friendsofmanycats.org and learn about the amazing cooperative efforts by Americans and Italians to provide feral cats in Rome and Venice with food & shelter (and of course TNR).



Its heart warming to know there are CatSpanners everywhere.

Happy Tails to You...



Tigger, Mei Li & Smokey frolicking in their yard after CatSpan Jan TNR'd and adopted all 3.



Netty & Monkey – Jayne Demorest's adopted feral cats

We received a very sweet letter of appreciation from Jayne Demorest of Nanoose Bay for the 3 feral cats she fostered and later adopted from NBC. It is NBC who should be THANKING YOU Jayne. All 3 cats are now living "happily ever after".



Roscoe, Bentley & Minute living healthy & happy outdoor lives in Nanoose Bay after being TNR'd

He may not have a home but he does deserve a life



This kitten is too wild to ever live with people. So, he has been neutered and returned to the colony of feral cats where he came from. He will be fed and watched over for the rest of his life by volunteers from Nanoose Bay CatSpan. CatSpan has been helping feral (wild) cats since 1987 through a program known as Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR). It is the only humane method known to stop the proliferation and suffering of feral cats.

Help us to continue helping the cats.

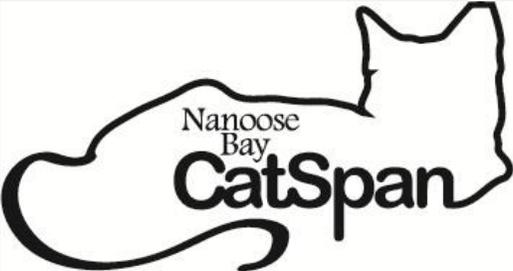
You can donate online via our website:

www.nanoosecatspan.petfinder.com or mail a cheque to:

\$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$_____ other

Name _____

Address _____



**PO Box 64
Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9J9**

Tax receipts issued for all donations \$10 & over
Charitable tax number: **86447 2543 RR0001**