

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is hard to believe an entire year has passed since we issued our last newsletter. This newsletter is late, not for want of trying, but because 2011 was an exceptionally busy and successful year for CatSpan. 2011 was a “new” year with *new* records broken; we handled 172 cats, created a *new* brochure and *new* Veterinarian policy guide, elected a *new* President and a *new*

Trap/neuter/release (TNR) Co-ordinator. Phew! That’s a lot of “new” for one year. Now, we all look forward to another successful year utilizing all the experience and *new* things we learned in 2011. It’s no coincidence that 2011 was the *Year of the Tiger*. CatSpan wishes you and your feline friends all the best in 2012.

## Looking Back at 2011...

Of the 172 cats trapped by CatSpan; 146 were spayed/neutered (that’s way up over the 97 we spay/neutered in 2010) and 26 were fostered & adopted by *Qualicum Cat Rescue*. CatSpan also fostered 19 cats of which all but 4 are adopted (see the Adoption section below). In October 2011, CatSpan joined *Qualicum Cat Rescue* to help spay/neuter 150 cats in the Coombs area with funds provided by *Petsmart Charities* (awarded to *Qualicum Cat Rescue*). This project is currently ongoing with almost 100 cats already spayed/neutered. The Coombs area is in dire need of a spay/neuter program because of the large volume of free roaming cats in the area.

The new *Veterinarian policy & Check List* evolved to ensure every cat CatSpan trapped and neutered would be tested for disease, treated for parasites, tattooed and vaccinated. Of course, the cost for these treatments are in addition to the neuter surgery, so CatSpan will have to raise more funds to pay for them.



Our new brochure features our lovely “poster girl” - *Heidi*, who was adopted by CatSpan member Heather Henderson 2 years ago. You may have also seen her in the wonderful article *PQ News’s* Neil Horner published last October requesting donations from local communities. After an extremely busy summer, our bank account and members were exhausted, Trapping & neutering (TNR) over 100 cats in just over 4 months. *Heidi* helped bring in the funds we needed to continue throughout the fall. You can pick up one of our new brochures at Vet clinics and pet food stores throughout the Oceanside area.

## Fundraisers' Report

- CatSpan won \$5000 from the *Pepsi Challenge* contest! Once again, many thanks to all of you who voted for CatSpan - it wouldn't have happened without your support. It was a very exciting contest with many deserving animal rescue groups hoping to win. This one-time grant of \$5000 enabled us to spay/neuter 50 more cats last summer. Needless to say, CatSpan kept the Oceanside Vet clinics very busy last summer.
- Our annual Wembley Mall book sale was a great success, thanks to all those who generously donated books and those who attended the sale. We had a great turnout for the sale which also included a garage sale of estate items. There were many repeat customers from the previous year's sales....I think we have a following!
- CatSpan member Heather Henderson held her 3<sup>rd</sup> annual autumn *Silpada* jewellery party with *Silpada* rep Barbara Berg donating 50% of the proceeds to CatSpan. This is always a fun evening with wine and appetizers and beautiful jewellery to try on; to purchase for yourself or as gifts. Heather is a wonderful hostess of great fundraisers and Directors meetings.
- The kind folks at the Parksville *White Spot* restaurant held a silent auction for us in November and helped raise funds to cover the additional costs of testing and vaccinations. Special thanks to Chris (White Spot manager) and his wife Michelle for their amazing effort organizing this event on behalf of CatSpan.
- CatSpan members Sharon and Gregg Bolderson held a Thanksgiving weekend garage sale on behalf of CatSpan and *Qualicum Cat Rescue* raising hundreds of dollars for both groups. Sharon's special decorating touch and table arrangements were the driving force behind the sale's success.
- Last year, our largest source of donations came from generous supporters from all over our Oceanside communities. CatSpan would like to thank each & every one of our generous supporters. We are currently feeding between 195 and 200 cats in 24 different colonies in the Oceanside area. Your continued donations will allow CatSpan to care for its current colonies as well as provide assistance to the increasing number of new requests we receive.



## 2011 Photo Album

Butterfly World Colony



Ziggy & Zorba in their new home



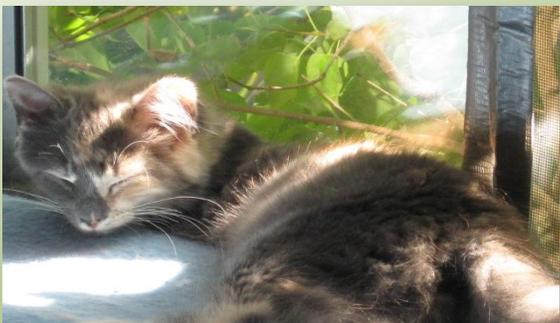
McGyver adopted by White Spot manager



Coombs kittens taken to QCR



Foster kitten Tia enjoying a sunny nap



Lantzville colony cat at new feeder



## What's New Pussycat?

### Adoption Centre

CatSpan has 4 lovely cats in foster homes waiting to be adopted. You can view each of these cats on our website at [www.nanoosecatspan.petfinder.com](http://www.nanoosecatspan.petfinder.com). Each cat has been spayed/neutered and vaccinated and is eagerly anticipating their new forever home. Contact names are indicated with each cat's description.

#### *Quinn is sweet, beautiful and*

playful, but a shy fellow. It doesn't take much to encourage him to play and *purr*. Quinn is a curious kitty which will help him to feel more comfortable in his new home as he spends time wandering and investigating. Quinn will be well worth the time, love and patience it will take for him to be a loving and loyal pet. Please call Quinn's foster Mom Sue at 250-468-0263 for further information or email us at [nanoosecatspan@gmail.com](mailto:nanoosecatspan@gmail.com).



#### *Tika is a calm & pretty female cat*

who loves to sing a loud and melodious song when held and cuddled. She is dark grey with a white bib and lovely white whiskers. Tika takes her time with new circumstances to observe and size up the situation before adventuring out. With time, love and patience Tika will make a wonderful and loyal companion. Please call Sue at 250-468-0263 for further information or email us at [nanoosecatspan@gmail.com](mailto:nanoosecatspan@gmail.com).



## *Meika - a very colourful cat*

is also very affectionate once she gets to know and trust you. She is a 3 year old female “tortie” with a playful and loving personality. She enjoys having her back scratched and walks on tiptoes in order to get your attention and lots of pats. Meika is looking to be re-homed and is comfy with respectful dogs but not small children. She would be most happy with an owner who has time to comfort her and creating a trustful bond with her. She will, in return, be a wonderful and loving companion. Please call Sue at 250-468-0263 for further information or email us at [nanoosecatspan@gmail.com](mailto:nanoosecatspan@gmail.com).

## *Buddy-Boy - a handsome fella*

who was rescued by a Catspan volunteer three months ago from a near death fate. He was alone and starving, his hair was matted and he was “skin and bones”. Thankfully, a wonderful stranger heard him at her door and saved his life. After two months of loving care he was well enough to be neutered and vaccinated. Buddy Boy's husky body is filling out, his coat is coming back shiny like coal, and his *purrrrr* is a rich baritone again. He is a one-size-fits-all lap cat! Buddy's blankie, toys and catnip are packed and ready to share a loving home. He just needs your address! Please contact Shirley Lee at 250-758-4253 for further information.



Our Feature “adoption kitten” is *Lil Wheezer*, adopted by CatSpan members Tom and Ann LaDuron from a colony of cats in the Coombs area. She settled in rather nicely, didn't she?

*Day 1 in her new home*

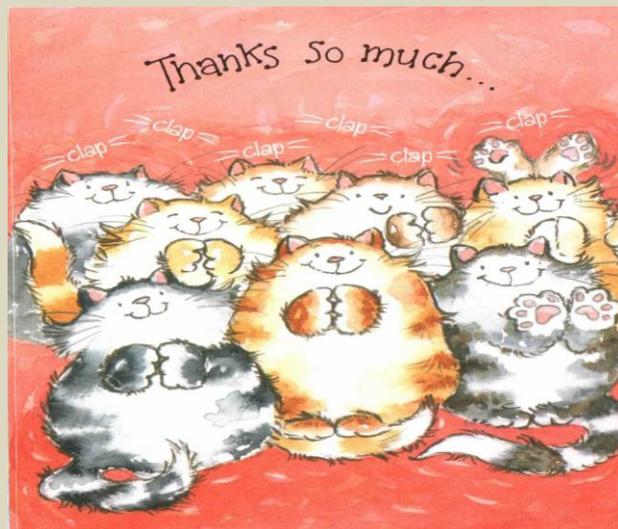


*Day 2 in her new home*



*“Bless you” to all those who adopted cats and kittens in 2011 from CatSpan.*

*We wish you many years of love and happiness with your new friends.*



## How you can help...

While charitable giving at any time of year is great, the best way to give is throughout the year. Not only is it convenient and easier to budget, CatSpan is able to count on donations coming in during the full year. At [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org), you can set up secure monthly donations and you only get one receipt for the year. You can also keep track of all your donations in a free online account.

The **Cat's Plan** is the name of our monthly donation program enabling CatSpan to budget & plan for new TNR projects and to continue providing shelter & food for existing & new colonies. Your monthly donations, joined together with others, will provide CatSpan with consistent cash flow that volunteers and cats can rely on for our lifesaving work. **Thank you** to those of you who have chosen the Cat's Plan and we hope many more of our supporters will chose this way of donating.



*"It's like a monthly paycheque for the cats!"*

Thanks to **CanadaHelps.org**, our secure online donation method allows you to easily make monthly (as well as one-time) donations. But, if you prefer, we gladly accept cheques and post-dated cheques. Visit our website at [www.nanoosecatspan.petfinder.com](http://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

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### *Interesting note on charitable giving in Canada:*

*From Statistics Canada's 2007 Caring and Giving report ([http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/files/giving/en/csgvp\\_highlights\\_2007.pdf](http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/files/giving/en/csgvp_highlights_2007.pdf)) you will be surprised to learn that environmental and animal groups only receive 2 percent of donations in Canada. Go to page 18 where you will find, near the bottom, the percentage of donations that go to animal groups. You won't see it, because it is listed with environmental groups. 2 percent is donated to animal and environmental groups combined. That's 2 cents out of every dollar and this 2 percent is shared with groups like Western Canada Wilderness and the Sierra Club. The rest goes to humans. This is standard across North America. Animals probably get about 1 cent or less out of every dollar. Animal lovers are too often made to feel guilty about their donations to animal charities when 98 percent of charitable giving goes to humans.*



The BCSPCA has just launched a new site for lost and found animals. Members of the public can post information on a lost or a found pet. Check it out at

<http://bcpetsearch.com/search/?s=found&newsearch=yes>. Pass the information on, as the site will work best if many people are aware of it and use it.



## Wish List...

- Donations of money (one-time or monthly) - you can now donate online (see "**How You Can Help**" section)
- Dry cat food - we predict we'll be feeding 30-35 colonies by 2013. Cat food is needed more urgently during these colder months.
- QF Points - each time you shop at QF, ask to have your point donated or transferred to CatSpan (we use QF points to buy items for our fundraising events).
- Use a Thrifty's Smile Card each time you shop there. Thrifty's donates 5% of what you spend using your Smile Card. Contact us to receive your Smile Card today.
- Recent, good quality books, CDs, DVDs & videos for Book Sale. Please NO text books, encyclopaedias, Readers Digests condensed, magazines, out of date or books in poor condition. Drop off at **Petsville** (across from Tim Horton's - Parksville), **Pharmasave** in Parksville, **Royal LePage** office in Nanoose Bay or **Qualicum Animal Hospital**. Email [nanoosecatspan@gmail.com](mailto:nanoosecatspan@gmail.com) or call Jennifer at 250-248-6095 for information.
- Donations of cans & bottles at the Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot (make sure you tell them your cans & bottles are for CatSpan!)
- Books and pet food donation "Drop Off" spots with public access (stores, Vet clinics etc...)
- Rural properties with barns or large sheds (with folks willing to provide 2 or more outdoor cats with a caring outdoor home)



## Calling All Volunteers!

Fundraising skills are most welcome too! CatSpan is growing rapidly and so is the number of cat colonies we provide food and shelter for. In order to keep pace with our increasing # of colonies we are in dire need of volunteers willing to:

- feed feral cat colonies
- trap neuter & return
- provide warm/dry places for cats to recuperate after surgery
- transport cats to & from Vet clinics
- help organize fundraising events

We will train you. Our volunteers meet once or twice a month for social and informative gatherings. We share stories and advice and enjoy a social visit too.

## Many Thanks To:

- The **Regional District of Nanaimo** for awarding CatSpan grant funds in 2011
- **Bosley's** pet food stores (Canadian Tire mall, Nanaimo and Parksville), **Pet Mania** (Errington), **Petsville** (Parksville), **Buckerfields**, **Shar-Kare** and **Qualicum Pet Foods** for their generous donations of cat food
- **Leigh Angman** for his continued time & expertise upgrading /maintaining of our website
- **Neil Horner** of the PQ News for publishing crucial articles on behalf of CatSpan

## Remembering our Feline companions:

We would like to send our love and thoughts to CatSpan's retired President Terryl Fisher, who's beloved **Blackie** passed last month. For many years Blackie met us at Terryl's front door with hopes of receiving a treat or a loving pat. Blackie will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Our love and kind thoughts go out to CatSpan member Heather Henderson who's **Tiggy** passed quietly in her sleep on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tiggy was believed to be 18 years old and was rescued by Heather from the Fairwinds area over 8 years ago. She will be remembered for her feistiness and her love of fresh prawns.

### *In Memoriam donations:*



A donation was received by CatSpan from Jennifer Coleman in remembrance of **Indy** the shelter cat beloved by the past and present staff and volunteers of the Parksville SPCA

## Educational

### Anti-freeze update

*Last year, anti-freeze legislation supposedly made it safe for our pets because retail antifreeze must contain a bittering agent. Well, not quite. Here's an incident that illustrates the problem.*

*A year ago, I made a point of asking for pet-safe antifreeze at the local garage when they flushed out the cooling system. Now, if the system has a leak, it will only drop safe antifreeze on the driveway that won't kill pets. But, last week, the truck went in for an oil change. As part of the service, the mechanic topped up the cooling fluid. He used the antifreeze he had on hand which is ethylene glycol (EG); the poisonous one, without the bittering agent. Did he know I wanted the safe version? Did he ask before he did it?*

*It turns out that the antifreeze that mechanics buy is the toxic product and they are allowed to buy and use it because it hasn't gone through the retail channel. Unfortunately, most mechanics aren't aware that this product can kill cats and dogs. They are still using it blindly and not giving their clients a choice.*

*When you get your car serviced, ask for the pet-safe antifreeze. It might cost a little more, but you may save your own or another pet's life.*

This excerpt is from the Mid-Isle Veterinary Hospital newsletter (January 15, 2012), by Dr. Jeff Grognet.

## Bang on the Hood of your Car!!

Cats seek warmth and shelter when it is cold out. Your car engine might seem like an ideal warm spot until you start your engine with a cat sleeping in it. Avoid this potential disaster by banging on the hood of your car every time you get into your car. Our feral cats are especially at risk this time of year.

## The Importance of Pet Identification

We at CatSpan are happy and relieved when we find a stray/abandoned cat with a tattoo. But it is short lived when we discover the tattoo is a dead end because **the address/phone number** wasn't changed (with their vet) when they moved. A tattoo is also usually a good indication that the cat has been neutered - but it can also be done any time a pet is under an anaesthetic for surgery or treatment. If your cat does not have a tattoo, you can have a microchip inserted and make sure you update your address and phone number with the microchip company rather than your vet. Vet clinics and the SPCA have scanners for microchips. Vets are also experts at reading a tattoo should you find it difficult to read. If you own a cat with a tattoo that you only just discovered and the owners can't be found, have your vet change it to your address and phone number.

## How to contact us:

[nanoosecatspan@gmail.com](mailto:nanoosecatspan@gmail.com)

PO Box 64, Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9J9

We are now on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

