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Niagara Falls
Humane Society

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105.1 The River Supports NFHS

Thank you as always to Laura Leigh from The River, who visits us once a month to help us find homes for the animals.

Laura visited today and became good friends with sweet Bella, who is looking for a loving forever home.



Will Campaign for April

Brandon Boone of Daniel and Partners in St Catharines has generously agreed to provide a will campaign again this year to help the shelter. **All fees will be donated directly to the shelter.**

To schedule an appointment to complete your will, please call

Yvonne at 905-688-9411 extension 3266 or call the shelter at 905-356-4404 or email humane@nfhs.ca.

The costs are as follows:

Single will - \$200.00 + \$25 for power of attorney + \$25 for personal care and

property = \$250 total. Couple wills - \$150.00 each for will + \$25 for each power of attorney and \$25 for each personal care and property = \$400.00 total per

Thank you to
Brandon
Boone of
Daniel and
Partners

Get Your Dog License!

It's time to get your 2011 dog licence. Remember that having a tag is your dog's best chance to get home to you safely if

he gets lost. Tags are \$20 for spayed or neutered dogs, \$40 for unaltered. Tags are available at the shelter, City Hall, the

Adoption Centre at Niagara Square, Woof n Mew, Global Pets, Pet Valu and Paulmac's.

Introducing Our Staff

My name is Tessa Mernagh, and I carry many titles at the Humane Society. My main two are Dispatch and Reception. I'm the first person you talk to on the phone or when you enter the Shelter.

Currently residing in my house is my family including my furr-children, my hubby Kyle and my daughters, Samantha and Alyah. My furr-babies are Dakota my Lab (who I adopted in August 2008 from here), Floyd my Boxer, my three cats Marshall, Jake, and Jax (who is from here), my rabbit Oscar (from the Shelter), and our three fish Dora, Diego and Alicia.

I grew up on a "hobby farm". My parents had 2 horses and one pony, one pot belly pig, 17 ducks, always had 2 to 3 big dogs, up to 6 cats (all strays), newts, fish, little tiny crabs, turtle, and rabbits. I also did 4-H and trained cows

which I showed at fairs. I love horses and horseback riding! My family is into horse racing and I presently also work there as a Mutual Teller on big days. And spend my summers up there at my friends barn playing with their horses!

I started working at the Shelter in June of 2008. I started off on the desk, the truck, cleaning kennels, and doing on-calls. Most of the time, I am on the desk and still do on-calls once or twice a month. Being on the desk gets to allow me to talk to everyone! I love to talk and I love it! I get to meet and greet all potential new families. Get to know them and find them the perfect dog or cat! I get all the cats and kittens ready to the Satellite Sites and select where they go. Most of the time, I get to see any animal entering the shelter first. I love the fact I

get to play with all the cats and dogs and get to know their personality which helps me to adopt them to the right family.

There is always a down sided to being the first to see or hear everything. I get the cruelty calls, I am the first to see a family that had to face the decision to put their animal down, or have to make the decision to give the animal to us because they no longer can care for it. I try my hardest to make it easy as possible but sometimes there are no words.

Gimme Shelter

"Just scatter it like chicken feed," Bonnie suggests. Kris tosses about a handful of cat treats onto the painted concrete, and the cats come out of the woodwork. We are at the Niagara Falls Humane Society Cat Adoption Centre in the Niagara Square. It is a Friday evening and I am on my third shift.

As soon as the evening's treats have touched the ground, felines emerge from their resting places: on sofas, perches, and the shelves of the television console, and from under blankets and furniture. There are felines of all sizes, from little kittens to grown adults and a few hefty fellas. There are cats of all colours: from traditional tabbies, creamy buffs and bold oranges to glossy blacks, with even a calico and tortoiseshell here and there. No white cats, I notice. Could it be because I have adopted a pair from the Niagara Falls Humane Society?

The cats here are all waiting for their forever homes, but they are not waiting uncomfortably. They bide their time enjoying themselves: snoozing and snacking until their future owners walk in the door. Baskets of donated cat toys do not go untouched. In fact most everything here is donated, from furniture to food. The back room of this former Bluenotes store is piled high with donated goods, including bedding, food, litter, and empty bowls.

Each time I come there are new cats to make connections with. Last week I'd fallen in love with Otter, a playful orange boy who relaxed in my lap. Today I grew attached to Owl, a gentle calico with gorgeous bright colouring. Each cat here is worthy of time. While I enjoy

meeting these new residents, it means there are more cats without homes. The number of cats at the Adoption Centre has increased significantly. My first shift there were 32 cats; 42 on my second, and now there are 51 cats here. I am hopeful adoptions will increase, but I am not unrealistic.

I am here with two other women. Bonnie has spent much of the last year and a half at the Adoption Centre. She is interested in being a vet tech and sees this as good experience on her route to that career. In addition to tending to the cats at the Adoption Centre, Bonnie keeps three at home.

Kris, a retiree who has just found part-time work at a nursing home, is on her last shift at the Adoption Centre. She has been here two nights a week for the past month. She has not left empty handed however; as she has brought home a sweet kitten named Maeve. Kris says as soon as the cat arrived at the Centre she fell in love. Kris spent the night at home thinking about the kitten, and came back the next day before anyone could get their paws on her. Maeve joins Callie, a tortie, and Cutie Pie, a gray tabby.

Lisa, a high school co-op student, is not here tonight. She is here most days though, and will continue helping out after her term is done

What do volunteers at the Adoption Centre do? They have their hands full, that's for sure. Regular tasks include performing the shift roll call with the micro-chip scanner to ensure all cats are present, keeping the litter

boxes stool free, refreshing the water dishes and topping up food bowls, grooming the cats and keeping them company.

Volunteers also get to play "matchmaker." They learn about the cats and ask questions about the potential owners to help facilitate a good match.

Members of the public come through the front of the shop, passing the round tables and chairs for new owners to complete adoption paperwork. Volunteers allow people, four at a time, through the school yard-style fence to meet our furry residents. People are free to pet and play with the cats, but are advised not to pick them up, as some have recently been fixed. I watch a couple play with a black cat on the top tier of a cat tree and a young woman bonding with an orange cat on a sofa. The original change rooms at the far back still maintain their use as privacy barriers, though now they are used to house litter boxes.

All the cats at the Adoption Centre have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, treated for parasites, micro-chipped and socialized. They mostly keep to themselves, sleeping or feeding. The Centre is surprisingly quiet, considering the vocal abilities of all its residents. But the cats are generally on their best behaviour: they want to attract a new owner, not discourage one. There aren't fights, but occasionally what I like to call little "hiss-offs," where I share my mantra with them hopefully: "Kisses, not hisses!"

Later in the evening we discuss our favourite

Andrea Epp

Introducing Our Board of Directors

Julie Bacon here. I'm in my third year as a member of the Board of Directors for the Niagara Falls Humane Society. I have loved and lived with animals (mostly dogs and cats) all my life. I was born the second child. My parent's Pekingese came along first. I have been a supporter and member of this Humane Society for the last twenty years. After retiring from the Federal Government as a Citizenship and Immigration Officer I began volunteering at the shelter. While there I found I was impressed with the

amazing staff and the day to day operation

of the organization. I wanted to know more about the machine that drove this worthwhile charity. I applied to become a Board Member and was accepted.

As a Board Member I have learned that the first priority of the Niagara Falls Humane Society is the welfare of animals. Also of great concern is dealing with the shortfalls in revenue, community awareness and many other issues. I find

the experience challenging yet rewarding and enjoyable at the same time!

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member of the NFHS I highly

recommend it and suggest you contact the shelter at (905)356-4404 for further Information.

Roundworms in Cats

Roundworms are the most common of the parasitic worms found inside a cat. Almost all cats become infected with them at some time in their lives, usually as kittens.

There are 3 ways of contracting them. Consuming infective worm eggs from soil in the environment (generally through normal grooming), nursing from an infected mother or by consuming prey animals (usually rodents).

Common symptoms are diarrhea, vomiting, pot bellied appearance, increase or decrease in appetite, weight loss, slow growth in kittens and in severe cases pneumonia or intestinal blockage. Diagnosis of the eggs can be discovered by a routine microscopic examination of the cat's stool. Sometimes more than

one exam is needed in order to confirm the presence of the eggs. Sometimes adult worms may be seen in the cat's vomit or stool. The roundworm are long, white and described as looking like spaghetti. Some females can reach lengths of up to 7 inches.

Human infection by this parasite is especially serious. It causes a condition called "Visceral Larva Migrants", and most victims are children. They are infected by consuming worm eggs in the soil (i.e. sand boxes, gardens). Once ingested the worms migrate to different areas in the body (classically in the eye), dies, and generates an extreme inflammatory reaction, which will cause permanent partial blindness.

Ask your veterinarian about prevention and

treatment choices to eliminate roundworm from your cat and especially your kitten. Treatment is relatively easy but has to be administered several times, and only kills the adult form of the worm. The best way that you can help your cat from limiting their exposure of the roundworm is to keep them indoors.

Here at our shelter we deworm all cats and kittens for roundworm upon arrival as a precautionary measure. Because we usually have no history on them it's one of the first medical procedures or treatments we give. By the time they go up for adoption they have already been dewormed two or three times. After adoption it is up to the new owner to maintain any deworming if necessary per your vet's recommendations.

The Cat Came Back...But NOT the Very Next Day!

The Gienow Family

Ever since the addition of our first cat to our family of five in 1992, we've been blessed to know the love and companionship of a family pet. Following the passing of our first kitty, we brought a new friend into our home, a kitten named Curtis. In 2009 we welcomed his "brother" Jimmy into the family. At four years and 1 year old respectively, Curtis and Jimmy were the princes of the household. Imagine our devastation when four year old Curtis went missing on December 28th, 2010! The search party began immediately. We scoured the neighbourhood and nearby parks, we went door-to-door informing neighbours of our missing pet, we called and visited the Niagara Falls Humane Society regularly, but Curtis was nowhere to be found. As days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into more than a month, our family began to give up hope that we'd ever see our friend again.

ceived a message on our answering machine: "Hi. This is the Niagara Falls Humane Society. We have your cat, Curtis, and he is safe. You can come pick him up tomorrow." We cried! We yelled! We clapped! Our boy was coming home! Even though a blizzard had been forecasted, there was no force too great to prevent us from getting our beloved pet home. We drove through the inclement weather, and found ourselves reunited with Curtis the cat. We couldn't help but wonder, where had he been all this time? And how did he end up at the Niagara Falls Humane Society? Apparently, Curtis had been found wandering around the parking lot of the Niagara Square (at the exact opposite end of town from his home!), and was brought back into Petcetera by the departing food rep. Steph, an employee of Petcetera, took wonderful care of Curtis until he could be brought into the shelter. Once at the shelter, Curtis was scanned for a microchip to see if his identity could be verified. The staff at the Humane Society

were easily able to learn his name, his address, and who his family was, all based on information contained on the microchip. We were contacted immediately, and as I type this article Curtis is now resting in his favourite corner of the couch on his favourite blanket.

This story has two morals: 1. NEVER give up hope of being reunited with your pet, and 2. Be sure to have your pet micro-chipped right away, because sometimes they need a little help finding their way home!

Thank you to the food rep and Steph at Petcetera, and the caring staff at the Niagara Falls Humane Society. And to all animal lovers, if you ever have the opportunity to volunteer or donate to the Humane Society, my family encourages you to do so. It's a wonderful place that turned this blustery day into one of the brightest days of our lives.

On Tuesday, February 1st, 2011 we re-



6025 Chippawa Parkway
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6X8

Phone: 905-356-4404
Fax: 905-356-7652
E-mail: humane@nfhs.ca

Visit our website:
www.nfhs.ca

2nd Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser

Friday, April 15, 2011

Delphi Banquet Hall #1

4414 Portage Rd. Niagara Falls

Doors open at 6:00 pm for Silent Auction

Trivia starts at 7:00 pm

\$ 20.00 per person includes Trivia, snacks, pizza & door prizes

There will also be a cash bar, 50/50 draw & a silent auction

Tickets available at The Niagara Falls Humane Society,

Niagara Square Adoption Centre

For more information please contact Kathleen at 905-328-4407

or the Humane Society at 905-356-4404

\$500 Donation Made!

Sincere thanks go to Aldo Bortolon and his handsome chocolate lab Bronson. Aldo's beautiful photo of puppy Bronson won the \$500 prize in a calendar contest sponsored by the Lebanon Turf. Aldo chose NFHS as the recipient of the donation, much to our delight.

Bronson is the newest member of the greens staff at Lookout Point Country Club in Fonthill. He is quickly learning the ropes

under the watchful eye of Aldo, who is the golf course superintendent. Bronson is very affectionate and has wasted no time in becoming an integral part of the family at the course. His favourite duty, aside from chasing geese, is greeting the early morning golfers at the first tee, while waiting for his hugs and kisses as they begin their rounds.

Thank you Aldo for thinking

of us, and thank you beautiful Bronson.

