

## Cats to be a Documentary

We were surprised to be in the news for our feral trapping over the last year. It began with a colony in a neighbouring community which was relocated by small rescue groups working together. With offers to take ferals still open after that operation concluded, we were able to help another community with a feral cat crisis. Again, working with other rescuers, we showed the community leaders how to solve their feline problem without sacrificing lives. For weeks, trapped cats were relayed from their original turf to willing properties elsewhere. One of our volunteers with a large garage filled it with cages for post-op spay/neuter recovery before the cats went to their final destinations.

Just when we thought the excitement had died down, we were contacted by a film producer. They were making a documentary about Canada's cat overpopulation crisis which will air on CBC in the fall/winter 2010/11 season. The producer filmed segments in New York, Ottawa, Calgary, Banff ... and then they



*A feral cat waits after being altered for transfer to his new property.*

came to Katie's Place to film. The awareness raised by a production like this would be priceless. Watch for Cat Craze on CBC's Doc Zone next fall/winter.

## Huge Raffle Planned

We are planning our next major fundraiser and it's going to be great! (We have lots to do if we want to make up for the lost grant.) So we're going to hold a raffle -- a BIG raffle. We're wracking our brains for really good prizes. If you have something deluxe, something new that you'd be willing to donate, we'd like to talk to you about maybe making it a raffle prize. We can give tax receipts for gifts-in-kind. Please give us a call!

## Donating Option

You can donate receipts from the ValleyFair Mall and Westgate Mall Save-Ons which we redeem for cleaning supplies and pet food. It doesn't matter how old the receipts are. Your points cannot be donated unless you request to donate them.

When you take your bottles etc. to the Changes Recycling depot behind Save-On-Foods at ValleyFair Mall (only at ValleyFair Mall) you can donate your recycling funds to Katie's Place. We can also redeem Canadian Tire money for cleaning supplies and other items.



"Please sir, may I have some more?"

If you have any cat food in your cupboard that your own persnickety puddytat refuses to eat, our guys would love it. We ALWAYS welcome donations of cat food. Our guys eat like bottomless pits, and we have several feral colonies that we keep supplied with food too.

## In Memoriam and Tribute

*We gratefully acknowledge gifts to Katie's Place*

*from Helen Hylton-Foster in memory of Honey*

*from Louise Zalusky in memory of Heinz Albert*

*from Betty Remillard in honour of Glen Hewson*

*from Waves Hair Design in memory of Larry Moyer*

*from Kate McCormack in memory of Baby*

*from Caity Langis in memory of Steve Langis*

*from Carol Bell, Linda Lockett and Angela Barnes in memory of Rick Glanville*

*from Diana Ferrell in memory of Mr. Peepers*

*from Flora Elliott in memory of Baby*

*from Cheryl Fulton in memory of Lingo*

*from Cheryl and Paul in memory of Joanne Keith*

*from Axis Installations in memory of Karen Posnick*

*from Ellen Weitzel in honour of Mr. Finnigan'*

# Katie's Place Animal Shelter

JANUARY, 2010

## A Crippled Cat who Lived a Good Life

Little ones like Beyonce are why Katie's Place exists. He was a crippled kitten who would never be whole. Yet life was precious to him, and he was infinitely precious to us.

He was found homeless in September 2007 -- a fluffy, black-and-white Manx with hind feet that wouldn't straighten at the ankles. Everything about the kitten was so small; to all appearances, it was female. So we named the scrap of fluff "Beyonce." We didn't get him altered because he was so small and frail. That's how our error was overlooked until it was impossible to think of him by any other name.

He was a happy-go-lucky, playful, agile, confident kitten. He made friends with everyone, human or feline, and he zipped around his communal room like a tiny tornado.

Beyonce was a Manx Syndrome kitten. The gene that causes the Manx taillessness can shorten the spine too much and will shorten their lives. So he walked flat on his hind paws and couldn't control his eliminations. He left little messes and we coped by covering everything with towels. Beyonce and his roommates didn't mind. He felt no discomfort, and his pals stepped adroitly around any accidents. There was a brief attempt to diaper him which lasted about seven minutes before he wriggled out.



We knew he wouldn't have a long life nor be adopted. Katie's Place was his home and we would be his family for as much time as nature gave him.

All kittens are irresistible but Beyonce was exceptional. His little face always beamed with enthusiasm. We could cuddle him with his hind quarters wrapped in a towel. Cats took him to their hearts too. One cat would pin him with her paw to give him a thorough bath, and he loved the attention. He threw himself into rough-and-tumble games with other youngsters, and he held his own in wrestling matches. Anything other cats did, he did.

Lively and mischievous, he liked to filch canned food from new-cat cages, reaching through the bars to snag morsels. He 'assisted' volunteers with their work, peeking into water buckets and playing with rolls of paper towel.

A year later, Beyonce was still small. We monitored his hind quarters which were never quite clean due to his incontinence. He was finally altered while out for a vet check. As a mature cat he grew calmer. But he never failed to roll over and wriggle playfully for us.



At the new shelter, we have hot running water so it was easier to clean him. That was a blessing since he began to require more inter-

vention to stay infection-free. We bathed his backside regularly, a procedure he endured with good grace. After his bath

there was always a towel-wrapped cuddle and an exciting look around the shelter on his way back to his own room.

Beyonce was often on antibiotics for minor infections. But the vet was satisfied that his health was maintaining, and he was as chipper as ever. At his last vet visit on November 18, he rolled and purred on the exam table.

One week later, a volunteer arrived and went to the room she would clean. There she found that Beyonce had passed away in the night.

We were devastated. He had been doing well despite approaching the end of a Manx Syndrome cat's life span. We hadn't realized how much this little cat meant to us. He grew up with us and had always been so joyful. He knew no other kind of life, and to him it was a good life.

He had loved us, and he accepted our love without question. In our eyes and in his own eyes, he was a valuable member of the community. He was our beautiful Beyonce.



## An Outstanding Year

The first full year in our new shelter ended with about the same number of animals at the shelter as when the year started. But admissions and adoptions increased greatly. So we've kept busy! We rescued nearly 375 animals last year and did more than 225 adoptions.

Many of the rescued animals were feral cats who were relocated to new properties. We helped relocate cats from two large feral colonies that were on the brink of being exterminated. The surprise was how many of them proved to be homeless pets who found haven among the ferals but were glad to be with people again -- Morpheus, Parker, Neo, Wendy, Julian, Liam... all are happy we found them.



A feral kitten relaxes enough among people to play with a toy -- promising progress!

As always, we gave priority to those who needed us most, and many animals needed vet care for illness or injuries. Our vet bills (confirmed to October 31), were \$59,169.79. We don't have the final total for 2009 yet, but extrapolated for the whole year, the bills were probably about \$71,000. That's why the loss of our annual gaming grant dismayed us so much. That \$32,500 would have paid half those bills. But our ever-resourceful volunteers

got busy fundraising. They're a talented bunch! Crafts such as cards and jewelry were elegant and hugely popular at craft sales. Our cookbook showed our culinary skill, and the book about our shelter animals, The Cat Who Sang, received good reviews in the media and has already delighted many readers.

We were touched by how many supporters stepped up to donate yet again when they heard that we would be short this year. The animals have some truly wonderful friends! It will be a bit harder for a while but we'll make it.

The end of our ninth year saw nearly 2,600 animals rescued and more than \$415,000 spent on vet care for them since 2001. It represents a triumph we didn't dare dream of when we started. Faith carried us this far and we have faith that the coming year will bring more happy endings for more homeless animals.

## Triumph for Community

We can't put it strongly enough -- we volunteers alone could never have rescued so many animals and restored them to health. We didn't have \$415,000 for vet bills. This shelter is a team effort to which the whole community has contributed. Aside from supporters who sent donations, people and groups have gone out of their way to help us, giving up time, space and resources to raise money for our animals. Children have asked for donations to Katie's Place instead of birthday presents for themselves, and they've held some ingenious fund raisers for us. **Coins for Cats** was initiated by a supporter, Pauline, and has kept funds coming in. **The Kooky Kat Catnip Company** has given us loads of catnip and sold huge pumpkins (Pumpkats) for us at Halloween. Our successful Pet Photos with Santa would never have happened if **Bosley's** hadn't opened their store to us and created a Christmassy den where Santa could greet the pets.

We can't thank everyone enough, and we'd like to pass on the heartfelt purrs and nuzzles which the critters give us in thanks.

Charlotte the cat nuzzles Coral, a volunteer.



## Katie's Place Animal Shelter

Katie's Place, established 2001, is a nonprofit, no-kill, volunteer-run shelter in Maple Ridge. We rescue, alter and adopt out homeless small animals.

**Phone:** 604-463-7917

**Email:** [katies.place@shaw.ca](mailto:katies.place@shaw.ca)

**Shelter address:** 10255 Jackson Road, Maple Ridge

**Mailing address:** 20803 Camwood Avenue, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 2N9

**Open Hours:** Sat. & Sun. 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm

**Website:** [www.katiesplace.petfinder.com](http://www.katiesplace.petfinder.com)

**Charitable Registration**

**Number:** 86250 6037 RR0001

## Happy Endings

Seven-year-old **Kojak** was homeless, and his luxuriant coat grew matted and fell out in large patches from an untreated flea allergy. He also became infected with FIV (like human HIV). Yet he was trusting and affectionate. If you sat down, he would be on your lap within seconds and he'd nuzzle and roll blissfully, hungry for affection. He was lucky and found a wonderful home in November 2005. Now, four years later, his family sent a note. He had stomatitis which was finally resolved. "He gained weight, grew a beautiful coat and his overall health improved by leaps and bounds. Kojak is a very special cat and this journey together has made us inseparable! I am forever thankful to all the volunteers at Katie's Place for giving Kojak the chance to come into my life :)"



**Morpheus** was a homeless pet who found acceptance in a feral colony before he was rescued. **Albus** and **Hermione** were born without a human home and had to learn Housecat 101. They were all adopted together and their person wrote, "What can I say... they have enriched our lives so much already. We all love them to pieces, they are so much fun and



really seem to love us all back. Three cats are soooooo much fun!"

Hermione chillin' at home.

We never expected chubby **Sasha** to find a home. Although she was lovable, she had problems using the litter pan. But somebody fell in love with her and wanted her anyway. They wrote, "Sasha is a sweetheart. She's doing great with the litter pan. Will update more later but rest assured, it's only been a short time but she is part of the family now."



The person who brought **Vienna** to us said he came with the house when they moved in five years ago. He was probably left behind by the former owners. He couldn't live inside because the new owner was allergic. But he was allowed to live on the porch. At least he wasn't alone. He had a little one-eyed cat friend. Then one day his friend disappeared. Vienna too suffered from outdoor hazards; his ear looks like it's missing but it's actually folded close to his head. The home owner now felt it was best to bring him to us. He proved to be a calm, gentle, trusting, friendly, affectionate cat. His vet check determined that



his crumpled ear was probably due to vigorous scratching. He was estimated as about seven years old. So the poor cat had nobody to cuddle him for most of his life. Then x-rays showed a BB pellet in his flank. This gentle, trusting cat was shot by someone. Vienna found a new home. Now he lives indoors like a true family member.

## Some Current Katie's Place Cats



### HILARY

Hilary's former person said she was "skittish." But she has blossomed into a little monkey! One day she was outside and pawed at the porch door when she saw a visitor in the room. So the visitor went out to the porch. But while the visitor was outside, Hilary went inside and pawed the other side of the door to get the visitor's attention again. What a comedian!



### REED

Reed is another heart-melter. He's a big, laid back teddy bear who has Feline Leukemia. His life span won't be as long as the average cat's, but he has time ahead of him to enjoy. He loves people and he lies on our feet adoringly.

### LIAM

Liam was a homeless pet trapped in a feral colony that neighbours wanted eradicated. He hurries over and leans into pets with such enthusiasm that he risks falling off his perch.



### JETTA

Jetta was so painfully shy that she hid from us for a long time after arriving. Now, she's still shy but if she sees you coming, she stands eagerly and meows a soft, hopeful meow in her excitement at getting a little attention. She could break your heart!

