

## GIBBY

Gibby is the cat who sang (our book's title). She startled strangers with her vocalizations. Her adopter wrote, "She is still happy, healthy and chatty as ever (she makes a very wide variety of meows and chirps) and we are so glad to have her in our lives!" Gibby always was vocally gifted!



*The Cat Who Sang* won favourable reviews and is available for purchase through the shelter.

## Our Friend, Shirley

In 2002 we met someone who came to adopt a pair of cats. That was the beginning of a long friendship - lifelong as it turned out.

Shirley Barbeau was a gentle-natured, unassuming, cheerful person who gave her love to animals and her friendship to all people. She adopted two cats that summer day in 2002 and went on to adopt two more.

She visited as often as she could and the cats loved those visits. Timid ones flourished under her quiet attention. She couldn't come as often as she wanted due to poor health and the long journey from home.

She passed away when cancer overcame her. We miss her. Yet she was still with us when she looked after Katie's Place in her will. Her thoughtfulness afforded many vet visits since her passing and means treatment can be provided to animals whose ills became severe when they had nobody to care.

She is remembered by a communal room named "Shirley's Spot." Her own fur-babies had returned to us, and she would be pleased to know they found new homes. Somewhere, she must be smiling. The animals are lucky to have this angel watching over them.



## Yellow Pages Snafu

If you check the big Telus yellow pages (not the local one), you'll find Katie's Place under Animal Shelters. We're also listed on-line. But you'll never reach us at the number given. It's not in service!

When building our shelter, we anticipated phone service at the new place. Working it out got tricky. In the end, we don't have a phone at the shelter. It's too expensive. We continue taking our calls off-site. Yet somehow we still ended up listed with a non-working phone number.

We've had trouble getting that removed. Telus agreed to forward calls from that number to our working number.

When we tried the non-working number later to see if everything was okay, a voice recording said to enter the number of the person you want to leave a message for or your own mail box number. That stumped us! We'll continue talking to Telus. Otherwise, all we can say is our *only* phone number is 604-463-7917.

## In Memoriam and Tribute

*We gratefully acknowledge gifts to Katie's Place*

*from Mary Ridd in memory of  
David Ridd*

*from James McGhie in memory of  
Harry and Wesley*

*from A. Crema in memory of  
Maureen Walsh*

*from Debra Werner in memory of  
Faye Stigant*

*from Scott Dobbie in memory of  
Curtis*

*from Grace Stilwell in honour of  
Les and Elaine Stilwell*

*from Mona Quinton in memory of  
Flora Elliott*

*from Edith A. Nagle in memory of  
Flora Elliott*

*from Carole Anne Inkson in memory of  
Flora Elliott*

*from Marjorie Houghton in memory of  
Ingrid Hoflin*

*from Elsie McBournie in memory of  
Alexander Sivewright*

*from Violet O'Hagan in memory of  
Bill and Kelly*

*from Mary Ann Smialek in memory of  
Captain Cat*

*in memory of  
Big Boy*

*from Mary Ann Smialek in memory of  
Jesse*

# Katie's Place Animal Shelter

MAY, 2010

## Volunteering

Volunteering here is a unique experience. We need cleaners but appreciate any skill set and accommodate any schedule. Whether you give an hour or a day, whether you come early or late, it all helps.

If you're first to arrive for the day, you'll find a greeting committee of hall cats. These are cats who don't do well communally. Bobbi Magee has a rude word for any cat who passes her. Laverne and Hal were depressed and perked up in the hall. Charlie just wormed his way into hallway privileges. He's a plain black senior, unlikely to be adopted, so we indulge him. He'll shout a greeting. Charlie doesn't meow. His raucous squawk has startled the uninitiated.

Volunteers do one communal room as a rule. Some do more. Some do half and the room is finished by a later shift. Any help is help! We use pine litter pellets (odour and dust-free). Litter pans need cleaning daily or more often. Bowls of fresh water and dry food are in every room — but not too much. Dexter keeps dumping the water, even when the bowl is weighted. Other times, water gets spilled during games. Too much food is as bad as too little. So we tell new volunteers how much to use of everything.

Cleaning supplies are in the laundry room but some volunteers prefer to bring their own. We make sure they know which cleansers are approved. Cashmere needs organic cleansers in her room since she's epileptic and sensitive to chemicals.

Some volunteers work in pairs. Others enjoy only the enthusiastic assistance of cats who believe mops and brooms were invented to amuse them. It's hard keeping them out of the way. Cats assume that anything to which you pay attention must be important, so they sit in it or on it.



Whether you're trying to read the log book (Pharaoh is likely to plant his furry butt on the page you're reading), or trying to fill a garbage bag (you're likely to find a cat in it), the animals want to be part of activities.

We're their family. If we work, they want to help. If we come to cuddle (another highly-valued volunteer function), they gather to soak up any attention. Barclay will stick to you like Velcro, hoping for pets. Reed wants to lie on your feet. Stand long enough and Reed will flop adoringly against your legs. Stitch loves tummy rubs and rolls on her back if you look at her.



The shelter is a vibrant, living place where something is always going on. Volunteers often wish they'd had a camera, as when Harley and his best friend, Shane, sat up boxing in play one day. Usually they wrestle on the floor but the boxing was priceless.

They depend on us, so we take our work seriously. One volunteer is dedicated to veterinary issues. Anyone who suspects an animal needs medical

attention passes the information on to her and it's checked on her next visit. She's there daily, taking cats for vet visits. Other volunteers are designated feeders with a list of cats who need extra or specific foods. But it seems that everyone brings treats. The critters are our babies and they thrive on that love.

The greatest benefit from volunteering is seeing timid cats like Jag find confidence, or angry ones like Luxy find trust, or raggedy ones like Amelia become beautiful. Amelia was in sad shape. She'll always have one crumpled ear but she's healthy now. Jag, Amelia and Luxy all became cheerful, loving cats. Jag and Luxy found homes (we weren't sure we'd ever be able to touch Luxy)!

It's not glamorous work but it's rewarding when we bond with the small souls who consider Katie's Place home and the volunteers their friends.

For more information about volunteering, call 604-463-7917 or email [volunteeratkatiesplace@shaw.ca](mailto:volunteeratkatiesplace@shaw.ca).



## Community Working on Feral Problem

In March, the Times was kind enough to run an article about Katie's Place needing trappers for feral cats. We also asked to hear from people with ferals on their property, and property owners who could take ferals.

The article brought several calls from people with ferals who were also willing to help trap them, and several calls about abandoned pets. We consider this a success even though it means work - training, transport, post-op care, relocation, - not to mention vet costs of altering! Last year a former Katie's Place volunteer donated \$5,000 to trap, alter and return (TNR) local ferals. That will alter 80 to 100 animals (depending on gender). It's gratifying to see how many citizens want to help when they know there's a reasonable, humane option for the cats.



We believe TNR is one of the most important jobs we do if we are to make a dent in the suffering of cats in our community. So we have a lot more cats to TNR. But they were already out there breeding and suffering without our knowledge. Now we know; now we can help.

Everyone who reported ferals also offered to help trap. One person who trapped several cats and brought them to us last year is willing to help with other situations. That's great for us here in east Maple Ridge since she's in Pitt Meadows and can work on her own. Together we're taking action and it makes us proud to be part of such caring communities.

## Critical Grants Lost to Animals

In March, the news broke that gaming grants will no longer go to several community groups, including charities in the environmental category. The economic crisis was given as the reason. It was not mentioned, however, that animal welfare fell under the environmental category. Animal charities will no longer receive grants. This is a major setback. Our shelter received \$32,000 for vet bills yearly. That paid half our yearly vet costs. The volunteers have gone into overdrive to think of ways to make up that money. (Look for our upcoming big raffle!)

The irony is that only a very small percentage of gaming money ever went to animals anyway. We looked at the information available on the BC Lottery Corporation website. It looks like approximately \$158,500,000 was issued in the 08/09 year. Of those grants, we found \$774,000 given to animal rescues or wildlife groups. There were more than 5,000 lines to check so we may have missed some. But basically, 0.004% went to animals - less than half of one percent! Considering the hardship created for many small charities, that doesn't seem like much savings for the government!

Animal rescues and wildlife rehabilitation groups struggle to survive. Many don't survive. Their loss is felt in their communities. Abandoned and unwanted pets are still a crisis. When animal charities fold, the slack must be taken up elsewhere. Costs of municipal animal control increase. We don't expect the government to reconsider unless citizens protest. Our voice alone won't matter. We hope others will chime in.

## Building Beside Us Begun

Construction began beside us on the new animal facility for the District of Maple Ridge and the SPCA. It will be exciting to see the new building. But we understand construction will take to about the end of the year. Construction fencing has cordoned off the area so the old parking lot and drive are closed. There's on-street parking. You can walk to Katie's Place on whichever path becomes available as construction progresses. When you visit, park by the road and look for the path. We'll be open our usual days and hours and we look forward to seeing you.

### 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

## Our Furry Friends

We've had some great adoptions lately and admitted more hard cases.

### REGIS

Regis, a sweet, elderly cat, came from a 99-year-old who could no longer care for him. He's polydactyl (extra toes) and all his toes are declawed. Blood work revealed he's hyperthyroid and starting kidney failure (a chronic condition common in old cats). But he found a new home!



### AVRIL

Avril, a pretty tortoiseshell, looked around with saucer-wide eyes from her new-cat cage. She came from people who sold her kittens except for one which they kept instead of Avril. Though scared, she's affectionate.

### SPARROW

Sparrow lived in a barn and clearly had medical problems. Though he was friendly, the people never helped him because they didn't like him. His bulging eye will be removed when his health is stabilized. He was matted and covered in burrs. Our vet found he's older, hyperthyroid and developing kidney problems. Yet he's trusting, loving, and thrilled to have soft beds.



### BRAD

Brad's person was going into long term care, and he looked rough. He tested positive for FIV. But he was altered at a clinic that gives a full range of inoculations. This prompted our Animal Health Volunteer to send his blood to a lab back east which checks DNA. He does *not* have FIV. As our vet says, even without boosters, the vaccine can stay in the system for life meaning they can test positive for life.

### CINDERELLA

Cinderella was found in a box in a cemetery. Our vet estimated her to be eight or nine and found no obvious medical issues. However, she then had several seizures in which she held her blanket in her teeth and stared, motionless. The friendly cat went to foster care pending more test results. There, she had more seizures and seemed to have trouble walking. She was finally sleeping peacefully when she passed away. We're just glad she didn't die alone in a cemetery.



### COLETTE

Colette arrived in July 2007 and hated other cats so much that she lived in our office. We thought she'd rule over us forever. But an adopter chose her. The lady wrote that, "Colette is doing incredibly well. She is a loving, happy cat!"



### HARLEY & SHANE



Harley and Shane met at the shelter and became best friends. It was an odd pairing of a one-eyed cat and an epileptic tabby. The impossible adoption happened when someone wanted two special-needs cats and didn't mind Harley's epilepsy.

### CHRISTINE & KERRY

Christine and Kerry were black feral kittens. They remained a bit skittish, but they found a home, and the last report said, "They have taken over the house and our bed and our laps. We absolutely adore them. I don't who is happier: the cats or us."



### LIAM

Liam was trapped in a feral colony we were relocating. But Liam wasn't feral. He was a homeless pet who found refuge with the feral cats. He was adopted and his person wrote, "Liam is a loving gentle giant and a joy."

### NANCY

Nancy was a young tabby from another shelter where she'd been too skittish to adopt out. She found a home and her people wrote "Every time you pet her she flops. It's like the pets feel so good she can't stand up. Each day she seems not so skittish."



*A photo from home shows the new Nancy!*



### TOSCA

Tosca had been a shelter cat for too much of her life. Her sweet nature was soured by the inescapable company of other cats. She was adopted and her person wrote, "After the first 20 minutes of checking out her new home, she was on the couch looking for cuddles. If we look at her, she purrs. What a joy, from the very first day."

*Continued on page 4*

