

Our Furry Friends

RUBY

Ruby came to us as a 12-year-old with eye problems. Our vet determined that she probably had a bad eye infection and, left untreated, her eyes tried to heal themselves. Her eyelids fused partly shut so it looks like she's squinting. Also, one eye was damaged and is blind. She's in no pain and she needs no medication.



Ruby

She has adjusted to her restricted vision. While she was anaesthetized, our vet also removed her bad teeth. Now she has only three teeth. With all her problems she's still a trusting, affectionate cat. This half-blind, nearly-toothless senior found her forever home when someone was prepared to give a chance to a cat who needed it. The reward is theirs in the end because she's such a sweet soul. They reported, "Ruby has settled in as if she'd lived here all her life. She had a little hissing from Roger, but that was it. They are running around chasing each other right now. She has the sweetest meow."

Donate Through Save-On

Running a shelter is expensive, and one excellent way we defray costs has always been the Save-On-Foods program. Save-On gives us credit for receipts or points that customers donate. In 2010, we got \$670 in receipts and \$953 in points at Save-On. From the Changes Recycling Centre we received \$396 in cash donations and 157459 points. For a volunteer-run shelter, that goes a long way toward providing basics from cleaning supplies to cat food. Giving your Save-On receipts will cost you nothing, and your points won't go to us unless you choose to donate them. Here's how to participate. Save your receipts from both Maple Ridge Save-On-Foods (store number 928 and 935 only). For every \$10,000.00 in receipts we get, Save-On grants us a \$20.00 gift card. If you wish to donate your points, that can be done *only* at the ValleyFair Mall location. Please go to the service desk and ask for the points from your account to be transferred to PLU 102 (that's us). Every 1000 points donated means \$2.00 for us. If you wish to donate your refund from the Changes Recycling Centre, that can *only* be done at the ValleyFair Mall location. Please ask the Changes attendant to put your refund slip into the Katie's Place box behind the counter. The fur-babies and the volunteers thank 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

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

Charitable Registration

Number: 86250 6037 RR0001

In Memoriam and Tribute

We gratefully acknowledge gifts to Katie's Place

*from Istvan and Renay Bajkay in memory of
Bosley*

*from John and Phyllis Roberts in memory of
Bosley*

*from Carole Newson in memory of
Patience*

*from Sinit Pantudom in memory of
all her beloved cats who have passed*

*from Dawn Becker in memory of
SamSam*

*from Cynthia Ammann in memory of
Dr. Edmon Condon and Mango*

*from Nannette Clare in memory of
Gerry Clare*

*from the National Association of
Federal Retirees in memory of
Christina Baker*

*from Sharon Schifferns in memory of
Don Hagerup*

*from Mr. and Mrs. R. Floden in memory of
Donald Hagerup*

*from Valerie and Darryl Hume in memory of
Donald Hagerup*

*from Murray and Joan Toms in memory of
Donald Hagerup*

*in memory of **Christine Baker** from her sister
from the Ruck and Parent families in memory of
Richard McDuff*

Katie's Place Animal Shelter

MAY 2011

It's All Here in Black and White

One in three cats at Katie's Place is black and white or all black. Shelters have a harder time finding homes for these cats because they're plain and common. That's the fallacy right there. Underneath that plain, common fur is a colourful personality brimming with love to offer.

On the web, the cats that get the most hits are the purebreds, then kittens, then youngsters. Recently, Trump, a Himalayan Manx cross, had the most hits. Right at the bottom with the fewest hits was Pauline, a 15-year-old black-and-white. Pauline only lost her home because her elderly person moved. The odds that anyone will want her anymore are low. Yet she hungers for love.

Pauline has a special friend among the volunteers. When her friend arrives, Pauline watches, eyes bright with anticipation. Each cat needs pets, but when it's finally her turn, Pauline leans so far forward she risks falling off her perch. She presses her head into the pets and begins to roll blissfully. Inevitably, their visit must end. When the volunteer turns to go, Pauline catches at her hand, begging her friend to stay. Sometimes she utters a small, urgent cry full of longing.

The second highest number of hits on the web were for Dagobert, a Bengal. The second lowest were for plain black Hal. Hal has been waiting for a home for three years. From the start, he was easygoing and affectionate with lots of personality. We couldn't understand why he wasn't chosen. After a few months, he met some larger cats at the shelter who made him feel anxious so he started scent-marking, probably hoping to carve out some safe space. It's likely that he would be his perfectly-behaved self again if he found a home where he's the only cat. But of course we can't absolutely guarantee that now. So Hal must wait for a special home to want him.

Biff has been waiting for a home for three years and three months. He's a good boy who never pesters anyone. Naturally this plain black cat is never noticed by anyone either. Yet he glows with pleasure when he gets attention. He's adjusted to shelter life. But black Feather, and Peregrine, her black-and-

white brother, found adjusting hard. They were lively and loving when they arrived more than a year ago. Feather gradually grew dispirited and stopped calling for attention while Peregrine struggles to live among many other cats and can only take a few pets before he's overwhelmed.

Being lively, loving, and easygoing isn't enough if a cat looks plain. Sydney is one of the most lively, lovable cats in the shelter. She wheedles her way out of her communal room to play in the hallway. When we scoop her up to return her to her room, she submits with good humour.

Sydney's nature supports a claim in *Animals Make Us Human*. Author Temple Grandin notes that a number

of studies found black cats more likely to be laid back and friendly than other cats. Many factors affect temperament of course. However, no study ever found more negative traits in black cats than in other cats.

If we could hand out glasses at the door that make plain cats glow with colour, we could find homes for some wonderful characters. Give a plain cat a chance! When you get to know them as individuals, they'll prove every day that you made the perfect choice.

*Hal finds a safe
place to sit.*



Pauline reaches for her friend's finger.



Page 3 can be clipped and posted on a public bulletin board. Together we can save lives!



Our Furry Friends

TOOPY, APACHE & KAT KING COLE

In the last couple of months we took in three cats with Feline Leukemia, an incurable virus. Toopy, Apache and Kat King Cole had already been tested twice. But the results were only a faint positive. Kat King Cole had a bite wound which could have given him the virus and he was tested just before the wound was discovered. He was then retested only two weeks later and was still a faint positive. This scenario



Toopy

pointed to him being infected by the bite and fighting off the virus. So we retested him a third time and he was a positive but so faint that the technician thought it was negative at first. Looking at their circumstances, we wanted another test done on these cats. Our vet did a blood test on their DNA and was able to finally confirm that all three are in fact negative. They had been exposed and their immune systems successfully fought it off. Toopy has already been adopted by a technician in the clinic where the definitive test was done. Apache and Kat King Cole share the same communal room at the shelter and these young cats chase each other in exuberant games.



Kat King Cole (left) and Apache (looking at camera)

TONY

Tony is a sensitive soul who was a real scaredy cat. He had been found homeless at the age of two, and he has FIV, a virus he would have caught in a battle over scarce resources with another cat. For a soul that is easily bruised, ending up alone and fighting to survive would be devastating. Sure enough, Tony huddled in his bed when he arrived and watched us with sad, scared eyes. He enjoyed some pets hesitantly, but he had experienced too little kindness in his short life. Once he was released into his communal room from a new-cat cage, he hid for three months. Finally we began seeing him sitting out in the room. Then he was among the cats who gathered around us for pets. He'd lean into a stroke and dart back in the same moment, overwhelmed by the risk he was taking. Now Tony is comfortable with us at last. He hurries over for pets and soaks them up eagerly, drinking in the kindness he'd been starved for. We've seen other cases of cats struggling to forget past terrors and evolving into cheerful, loving pets again. It's always gratifying.



At long last, Tony feels 'at home'

MASUMI & ZENITH

Masumi, whose nose was sheered off by a cow's hoof, and Zenith who has a terminal heart condition, share a foster home. They're both less than a year old and they're best friends who play and snooze together. When Masumi had grown enough, she went for surgery on her damaged nose. The specialist operated for free and removed scar tissue so she can breathe more freely. She has a hole where a real nose should be, but otherwise she's a normal, lively, lovable young cat. Zenith's life will be short so she's being pampered in her foster home; she will know nothing but happiness in her time among us.



Masumi



Zenith

HELENA

Helena came to us for being aggressive with a toddler in the home. Her new-cat vet check discovered stress-grooming on her belly and vision problems. Helena is blind. She was probably aggressive because she never knew where the youngster was. She went straight to a foster home and her foster mom sent a report. "I started to take her to bed at night to give her some 'quality time' and now she often sits at the door to the upstairs during the day and waits. Mostly she growls when you touch her but she NEVER lashes out. I've even learned how to play with her a little. She can hear the sound of the toy moving back and forth on the floor and she's surprisingly accurate in grabbing it. She will follow my footsteps and voice all around the house; she wants the company. Sometimes I just walk around and call her to see if she'll follow and she does! In the evening she will find her way to the couch, find one of our laps and spend the entire evening on a lap. The other day I walked into the house and she came running toward me. She has never had an accident; she knows where the box is. She knows where the food is. She hisses at the other cats if she bumps into them but it's rare. She navigates the house very well, going upstairs and downstairs without problems. You would hardly know she's blind."



Helena

Continued on page 4.

Do you have an unaltered pet?

The most common reasons for not altering are:

- We always find homes for the babies.**
That means an equal number at a shelter lose their chance.
- I want the kids to see the miracle of birth.**
The real lesson learned is irresponsibility.
- Just one litter and we'll get her spayed.**
Studies show virtually the entire pet overpopulation stems from this excuse.
- A female pet should have at least one litter for health reasons.**
Altering helps protect both sexes from diseases of the reproductive system.
- Altering will change my pet's personality.**
Personality depends on how they're raised.
- I can't afford to get them altered.**
It's cheaper than caring for a litter, replacing scent-marked items, or vet bills after fights or being hit by a car.
- My pet doesn't run loose so he doesn't need to be altered.**
If there's any way to slip out, unaltered pets find it.
- I just couldn't look my pet in the eye if I had him castrated.**
Pets really don't care.
- It's not natural.**
Companion animals stopped being natural when we domesticated them.
- My pet is so cute and unique, there should be more of her.**
Shelters are full of cute and unique pets.
- Neutering my pet will make him fat and lazy.**
Too much food and too little exercise make him fat and lazy.

Maple Ridge has a by-law requiring cats to be altered.

Too many shelter pets are dying for a chance at too few homes.



A message from your fellow citizens and from



**Katie's Place
Animal Shelter**

www.katiesplaceshelter.com
katies.place@shaw.ca

What's your excuse?

PLEASE SPAY/NEUTER

For assistance with altering, call Katie's Place asap.

KATIE'S PLACE
604-463-7917

