

Cochrane Humane Society News

Vol. 35
December 2006



VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Elizabeth Keith has been a volunteer at the Cochrane Humane Society for a number of years. Elizabeth volunteers weekly at the shelter helping our canine residents — cleaning, cuddling, feeding and particularly walking. She is a trusted foster home as well, and we have come to count on her assistance with puppies needing loving care and dogs requiring extra attention and obedience training. In addition to her many hours working with the dogs, Elizabeth also lends her time to many of our promotional events and fundraisers.

Most recently, Elizabeth contributed to a wonderful happy ending with one of the Society's dogs named Geneva. Geneva was a deserving, sweet girl but was quite high-energy and lacking in manners, and was therefore often overlooked by potential adopters. After a lengthy period at the shelter, Geneva was finally adopted. Unfortunately, her new home was unable to deal with her challenges and Geneva was returned. Seeing that this dog needed and deserved special attention, Elizabeth took Geneva into her home and enrolled her into obedience classes which they passed a few weeks later with flying colors! Elizabeth also worked hard at socializing Geneva, introducing her to different situations, other dogs, and new people. A short time later, Geneva was adopted to a loving home. Both Elizabeth and the Humane Society have since received updates from Geneva's new home where she is now thriving and well-loved! As you will see in the story below, Elizabeth also recently provided foster care to a group of orphaned puppies.

Elizabeth is not only a valued volunteer because of her knack with special needs dogs and obedience training, but also because of her rapport with fellow volunteers and shelter staff. She is well known for having a friendly, sunny attitude and quick sense of humor. Thank you for all you do, Elizabeth— we truly appreciate you and love working with you!

Happy Endings



Usually when a litter of two-day old orphaned puppies are brought in to the shelter, it's highly unlikely all will survive. However, with the hard work of three shelter volunteers and one foster dog, all eight puppies are now thriving! The eight tiny pups were brought in to the shelter in September after their mother was found dead. Volunteers Susan Hertel, Elizabeth Keith and Elaine Gray split the pups up and began feeding them around the clock.

As luck would have it, Susan had another foster dog, Trinity, who was just weaning her own litter of puppies. Susan was able to latch her three orphan pups on, and eventually Trinity accepted all eight puppies.



Photo: Susan Hertel

Thanks to everyone's hard work, the puppies are all big and happy and have found good homes. After ultimately nursing three litters (19 puppies in all!) Trinity (now Maggie) was also adopted and is settling right in to her new home!

SHELTER & SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO.....



John Breeze, The UPS Store &

*Pat Collins for Printing and
Copying*

*Global Television for Pet of the
Month*

The Cochrane Eagle

*Pet Planet—Brentwood &
Country Hills*

*United Way Donor Choice
Program*

*Karen Falk at Safety in Motion
for donating a meeting room*

Delta Lodge at Kananaskis

Susan Flaberty for staff training

Fairplay Pet Store

Chapters / Indigo

*Belinda Austin for board
development*

Sharper Cards

The first annual **Saving Lives Fund-raising Art Sale** was held on November 4th. There was a very warm response from the public for a first-time community event, with over 300 people in attendance. The show raised \$6270, with all proceeds going directly to the Cochrane Humane Society! Our appreciation goes out to the talented artists for offering their first-class works of art in different mediums ranging from jewellery to paintings. Thanks to our Events Committee put a lot of heart and hard work into organizing this classy event.

On November 19th, Pat Collins of Images Models Inc. hosted **Tedi's Legacy Gala**, a fundraiser in memory of Pat's beloved dog, Tedi. The Gala featured a fashion show from Tumbleweedz Fashion Gallery and Smyth & Kang. Thanks to Pat Collins, Laurel Garvin and the staff at Tumbleweedz, Smyth & Kang, Tegan Smyth, and Lynx Ridge Golf Club for raising nearly \$4000!

Organizers of the **Christmas in Cochrane Craft Fair** held at St. Timothy's High School on November 4th kindly donated all admission proceeds to the Cochrane Humane Society. A big thank you to Sandi Pinto and Teresa Cowan.

2007 Winter sessions of our **Dog Training Classes** will begin the week of February 1st. For class schedules or more information, please refer to our website, www.cochranehumane.ca or contact Tracy Keith @ 932-2072. Classes have been filling up quickly, so call now to register!

Calling all volunteers with an interest in **dog obedience!** Tracy Keith will be holding a training session for volunteers on Wednesday, January 17th from 7-8 pm at the Humane Society. This class will focus on learning the "basics" of dog training. If we can provide the dogs here at the shelter with consistent training in basic obedience, it will naturally follow that they will be more desirable to potential adoptive families and have an easier transition once that forever home is found! Space in this class is limited so please call Tracy Keith @ 932-2072 to register.



FYI! Staff have been trained in a method of assessing dog behavior called **S.A.F.E.R.** (**S**afety **A**ssessment for **E**valuating **R**ehoming). The S.A.F.E.R. assessments are particularly useful in the case of a dog where we have no background history to refer to. Examples of some of the things evaluated are sensitivity to handling, reactions to other dogs, and reactions around food.

The S.A.F.E.R. assessments help us to identify special needs and therefore make the best match possible between a dog and their new family. And in some cases it also gives us the opportunity to rehabilitate an animal. It is one of many tools used by staff at the shelter to help place animals in suitable homes. We also take into account the dog's history (if any), staff and volunteers experiences with the dog, and the findings and recommendations of the veterinarian.

One of the most rewarding "happy endings" we can attribute to the S.A.F.E.R. program is Jake's story. Jake was a young dog with serious food aggression who was due to be euthanized (by another organization who unfortunately did not have the resources to work with him). We took Jake in, and both a foster home and shelter staff worked with him on a food training program. Jake was adopted and is now happy, healthy, and well-loved in his forever home!

petsDOmatter Update

Construction on our new facility is in full swing! It is very exciting to see crews hard at work on the new building! Staff were recently treated to a tour of the construction site where we were thrilled to have the chance to walk around and envision our new home!



Thank you to Ken Munro and Don Doolin of **Talisman Homes** for providing crews to help with construction of our new facility. We are very grateful for the extra hands, and are particularly thankful for this gesture considering things are so very busy in this industry.

Thank you to our volunteers, headed by Susan Hertel, who canvassed our community again this fall. This fall's door to door campaign focused on sales of our 2007 calendars. It was again a successful campaign considering 7 volunteers were able to sell 81 calendars!



The 2007 Cochrane Humane Society pets**DO**matter calendar makes a wonderful stocking stuffer! They are available for purchase at the shelter and in locations in Cochrane and surrounding area. The desktop calendar features 12 wonderful "Happy Endings" of animals adopted from the Cochrane Humane Society. We are almost sold out, so get yours now! Only \$10 each!

Cochrane Humane Society Nominated at National Awards!

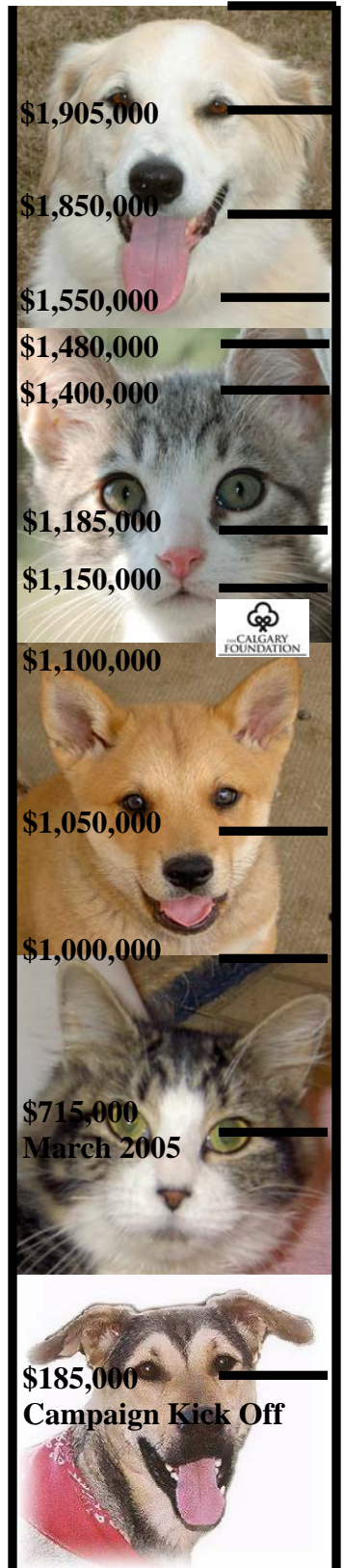
The Cochrane Humane Society received one of four nominations for the 2006 Summit Award in Animal Re-homing this October in Banff. The Banff Summit, hosted by Petlynx, is a gathering of animal care leaders from across Canada. Nominees were chosen for their leadership in the community and their commitment to improving the levels of successful re-homing for animals in transition or animals surrendered by their families.

Larry Evans, chair of the Banff Summit, noted the Cochrane Humane Society to be a team that was dedicated to its programs, was blessed with an army of selfless volunteers, and was devoted to protecting animals as shown by its open door policy and low-kill philosophy. He also recognized our efforts to keep up with the rapid growth of the community and our successful campaign to build a new facility.

Executive Director, Tracy Keith said, "It was a true honour to be recognized at this event by our peers for what we continually strive to be our best at!"

petsDOmatter Capital Campaign

\$2.0 Million



Campaign Kick Off

The most important thing you can do for your new puppy...

is enroll them in a puppy class! Puppies have a very narrow socialization window of around 10 to 20 weeks of age. The things a puppy experiences during this important stage are crucial to his or her development and largely determine how well-adjusted they will be as an adult dog. It is therefore important at this time to give your puppy as many positive and safe experiences as possible—with other animals, different people, new places, sights and sounds, and so on. Advice on socializing from a positive, gentle trainer is the most important tool you can have as the caregiver of a new puppy. A puppy class will provide structured puppy-to-puppy socializing exercises, basic training skills, handling exercises, and outlines activities to *get your puppy out and about and experience the world.*



2006 SHELTER STATS

Dogs reunited with owners	154
Dogs Adopted Out	314
Dogs at Shelter	24
Dogs in Foster Homes	14
Dogs Humanely Euthanized	46
Dogs Died of Illness	1
Cats reunited with owners	44
Cats Adopted Out	301
Cats at Shelter	39
Cats in Foster Homes	11
Cats Humanely Euthanized	79
Cats Died of Illness	3
Other Animals (rabbits, rodents, birds)	31

Total Animals Year To Date 1,061
(January 1 to December 14, 2006)

- Please note the number of cats adopted out was incorrectly listed in the last newsletter as 316, the correct number was 235.
- Please also note that only 1% of animals humanely euthanized were due to shelter space considerations. The remaining were due to health and behavioral problems.

Happy Holidays!

From all of us at the Cochrane Humane Society, our Board of Directors, the staff, and the animals, we would like to extend our warmest wishes for a joyous holiday and Happy New Year to our members and volunteers.

We greatly appreciate everyone's contributions to the Society this year! And we look forward to celebrating the holidays with you all next year in our brand new facility!!

Christmas Adoption Policy

In order to reduce the stress on animals being adopted during the busy holiday season, it is our policy that we do not adopt out animals from December 19th through December 26th. However, with a deposit, animals may be put on hold at this time and picked up on December 27th.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Cochrane Humane Society

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Phone: (403) 932-2072

Email: shelter@cochranehumane.ca

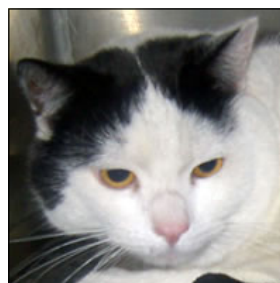
Web: www.cochranehumane.ca

Written by Tracy Keith, Tracy Donst, & Erin Munro-Clark

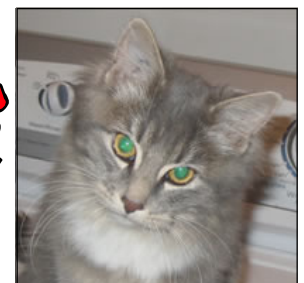


Cochrane Humane Society

Available for Adoption



Samwise



Tipper