

# PET PRINTS

NEWS FOR VOLUNTEERS AT THE SURREY BRANCH OF THE BCSPCA

## Raise Your Paws!

In case you haven't already heard, volunteers at the Surrey SPCA are organizing the First Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction in an effort to raise much-needed funds for animals at the shelter. The evening will feature a delicious buffet dinner, no-host bar, prizes and both silent and live auctions of a variety of donated goods and services. All proceeds will benefit the Surrey SPCA.

Did you know that the Surrey SPCA is one of the busiest animal shelters in BC? It averages 350 animals per month through its doors — that's 150 dogs, 150 cats and 50 of other species. Some of these animals are reclaimed by their owners, but most remain at the shelter, where they are cared for until new homes can be found for them. In addition to caring for lost, abandoned,

abused and surrendered animals, the SPCA shelter helps prevent further pet overpopulation in Surrey — more than 1,000 cats and dogs were spayed and neutered by the Surrey SPCA in 2004. Funds are urgently needed to keep up with the high demands placed on this shelter and to ensure each and every animal gets the care he or she needs, including a second chance at life in a loving home.

*Come "raise your paws" for Surrey's animals in need on Saturday, February 19, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Aston Pacific Inn.*



The event takes place Saturday, February 19, 2005, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Aston Pacific Inn, 1160 King George Highway, Surrey. Tickets are \$60/each, \$100/couple, or \$360/table of 8 people, and can be purchased by calling (604) 597-6728, e-mailing [surreyevents@spca.bc.ca](mailto:surreyevents@spca.bc.ca) or visiting the shelter. Please support Surrey's animals and come raise your paws at this benefit for animals in need. •

### Contract update with the City of Surrey

The City of Surrey has once again chosen the SPCA as its service provider for animal control. The year 2005 will see us performing our regular animal control duties, such as dog bite investigations, apprehension of stray animals, and more. The major change for 2005 is that the Society will no longer be selling dog licenses in Surrey, including the door-to-door campaign. This responsibility will fall completely in the hands of the City and its staff.

We are pleased to renew our relationship with the City. We believe that the SPCA provides the best possible care, with all of your help, to the animals — two-legged and four — of Surrey. We hope to embark upon a longer-term contract with the City at the end of this year and will be enlisting the assistance of volunteers and CAC members to help us reach out to the municipality and councillors to ensure they understand just what a

wonderful job we with the little resources we have.

We look forward another successful year! —Kim Archibald

### Happily-Ever-After Story: Angus

Angus, an adult pit bull-cross (pictured right), came to the Surrey shelter sadly neglected with a collar imbedded in his neck. Everyone that met, handled and walked him fell in love with his gentle, mellow ways. He was the exact opposite to the popular misconception about the breed's "savage nature". He lived at the shelter for two months and was always peaceful in his kennel and outside. He was not stressed by shelter life at all — a daily walk, a chew toy, and a warm blanket was just fine for him — sadly, it was probably much better than where he came from. Angus's only fault was that he didn't want anything to do with other dogs and would react negatively if they got too close. As long as they kept their distance, he was fine. Despite his almost-perfect nature, there was uncertainty about what the future held for Angus as pit bulls are difficult to re-home, but happily a volunteer fell in love with this wonderful dog and adopted him. Hopefully he will be spoiled rotten in this home!



### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

At 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 13 & Mar. 13 at the shelter.

## Foster Program Success Continues

The foster program is now in its fifth year and once again over 500 kittens and cats, and approximately 60 puppies and dogs received foster care. Many thanks to all the foster homes and volunteers who assisted and helped in various ways with publicizing the foster program.

In case you're not aware of what the foster program does, volunteers screen foster homes and adopters, answer phones, set up pet events, arrange for TV spots, match fosters to adopters, make posters, network with other coordinators and groups, and place cats, kittens and puppies into loving homes many of whom stay in contact with us.

From the website with Jenn Nicola, Pet Squads with Michelle Grant, she also brought us the monthly *Pawsitively Pets* page from the Surrey Leader thanks to Lindsay Cadan. Eileen Drever allowed us time on Global TV's *Adopt a Pet* segment, and the BCSPCA head office arranged spots on *Pet on the Net* and in *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province* newspapers. A new project that got underway in the last three months is featured spots for our foster animals in *Petfinder* magazine, approximately 12 of the 16 foster cats who had pictures in the magazine have been adopted in the last 8 weeks, three of whom were senior cats aged 9, 10 and 12 years old.

Warm thanks to our network of volunteers and friends who passed the word along, Lori Cumiskey, Zelda and David, Stephanie, Jenn, Alba, Johanne and Lena, Patty and Cathy who did a wonderful job of screening, and to the many others—keep up the great work! You truly make a difference.

We can only hope that 2005 will bring fewer young animals needing foster care. I guess then we will know that people are taking responsibility and learning the simple lesson, spay or neuter your pet!—Christine Audette



Buddy is just one of Surrey's animals in foster care.

## ~ THANKS! ~

Lori and Fred Cotton kindly donated a brand new oil-filled space heater that keeps the cats in the stray area toasty warm. Carole Coates donated an electric heater that is creating a warm environment for the cats and people in the adoption room.

## Surrey Animals are Now on Video!

Thanks to the efforts of shelter volunteers, video clips of some of Surrey's adoptable pets can be viewed on the Internet. With assistance from Rebecca Edwards at head office, Surrey volunteers are now able to take a short video of an animal, upload it onto the BC SPCA website, and then link it to the animal's Petfinder biography. For those not familiar with Petfinder, it is a website where animals for adoption from shelters all over north America are featured. It is a hugely successful tool for placing animals, allowing potential adopters to view not only animals at their neighbourhood shelter, but in other districts, giving animals maximum exposure. Video clips do take some extra effort on the part of volunteers, but they say it's well worth it. Viewers get a lot of information about an animal from video, especially in the case of animals who are not particularly photogenic. Video really allows their character and personality to shine through. Congratulations to all the volunteers who worked together to make this possible. •

## ~ BRANCH AGM ~

The Annual General Meeting of the Surrey SPCA takes place Thursday, February 17, 7-9 p.m. at the Fleetwood Library, 15996 - 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Everyone is welcome!

## Community Advisory Council Update

As another year comes to a close for Surrey's Community Advisory Council (CAC), and I want to thank everyone who took part. It took the committee time to find its feet but I feel that by our last meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by the BC SPCA president Mary Lou Troman, we had come full circle and ended the year on a positive note.

Overall, I think we fulfilled our task of moving forward on fundraising and were able to put some thought into ways develop our Humane Education program. We've got lots of suggestions and ideas, now we just need to put them into action!

Many thanks to Janet Shaw for her work organizing another great Paws for a Cause Walkathon last September, and to Michelle Grant for dedication to the success of the upcoming Fundraising Dinner & Auction on February 19. Two CAC members, Leila Kullar and Debbie Strong, have decided to leave the committee and I want to thank them their commitment over the past year. To our new members, we look forward to your input as we continue in our mission to improve life for animals at the shelter.

I hope to see everyone at the branch's Annual General Meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Fleetwood Library 15996-84<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 7:00-9:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. We will be starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. so that the meeting can conclude before the library closes at 8:55 p.m. There will be refreshments and a guest speaker or two, and then the CAC will meet briefly at about 8:30pm. Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the meeting, if anyone is interested in joining the CAC. (For more information about the CAC and its role, visit the BC SPCA website: [www.sPCA.bc.ca](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca).)—Christine Audette, CAC Chair

This newsletter is published quarterly by volunteers at the Surrey SPCA. If you would like to receive this newsletter and other shelter updates via e-mail, send an e-mail to [spcapuppylove@shaw.ca](mailto:spcapuppylove@shaw.ca). Our list is not shared and is used only for Surrey SPCA communications.