



Alliston & District Humane Society

Alliston & District Humane Society
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www.allistonhumane.com

Charitable Registration # 13529 8081 RR0001

The Alliston & District Humane Society News is a bi-annual newsletter.
Editor: Jane Clarke info@allistonhumane.com 705-458-9038. Publisher: Marilyn Harris

ADHS is the Newest Member of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies



ADHS thanks its many supporters. We rely on your donations to operate. See page 7 for how you can help.



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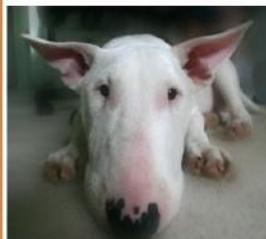
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Fat Cats

If your cat is beginning to look more like a baby seal or an orange striped throw pillow, you may have a problem. No, your pet is not big boned or short for its weight. Your feline is likely overfed and under worked. Many house cats are. This weight gain is not due to being spayed or neutered but is directly due to the amount you feed your cat. It's hard to be svelte when all you do is eat and lie in the sun by your favorite window. Unfortunately this laidback lifestyle can have serious medical consequences for your furry companion.



Obesity is the number one health problem of house pets and, in particular, cats. It often leads to serious health problems such as diabetes, liver failure, skin problems and lameness. It seems the only area spared is heart disease. The causal relationship between obesity and diabetes is unclear. Theories abound. However, the incidence of diabetes in mature, overweight cats is markedly higher than in those of normal body condition. Invariably, the onset of diabetes occurs in the mature animal. As in people, there is a genetic influence but lifestyle has a marked effect.

Another common problem in the overweight cat is Hepatic Lipidosis. This syndrome occurs as the liver is choked as it rapidly burns fat. The inciting cause can often be vague. Injury, loss of appetite, stress or any condition which causes a cat to stop eating can result in Hepatic Lipidosis. As the liver is plugged with fat, a cascade of problems can result. At some stage, the liver fails, and despite intensive care, death from complications can happen. Often the initiating cause is never discovered. The most common finding is an obese cat that had stopped eating.

Although not as common, lameness and injuries also plague heavy weight cats. A jump or a fall, easily handled by a more athletic cat, can result in serious injury. Ruptured ligaments in the knee are an uncommon injury for cats. When it does happen, the kitty is usually overweight. Such injuries can only be repaired by complicated surgery.

Unless you are more devoted and patient than most owners, getting your cat to exercise is out of the question. Dogs will come when called; most cats will simply take a message. Diet modification is the only answer. The better the quality of the diet, the easier it is to maintain our cat's body condition. Better quality foods give a better balance of nutrients. However, it may not be what you feed but how you feed it. Many owners simply refill the bowl as they see it getting low. This constant source of food may be alright for cats who regulate their intake but for many cats, eating is their main activity and they continue to eat as if it is their last meal. If this is the case, portion feeding is your best weapon. Measure and monitor your cat's body condition. As a bonus for your efforts, this method of feeding makes you more acutely aware of your pet's health. Choosing a diet is more controversial. The diet you feed may be just fine if you limit the amount.

NEVER CRASH DIET A FAT CAT: Your cat's liver will have to try and burn off lots of fat very quickly, Hepatic Lipidosis may result.

YOUR CAT SHOULD NOT LOSE MORE THAN ½ POUND PER MONTH: Most experts recommend calorie restriction and some recommend added fiber as filler. Both approaches work. Both require our commitment and patience. When your cat reaches its target weight, you will both feel better.

Dr. David Funston, Boyne Vet Clinic

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Snipped & Tipped!



ADHS Receives Canfel Grant for Rural Spay/Neuter

ADHS would like to thank the Canfel foundation for its financial support of ADHS's rural feral spay/neuter and education initiative in 2017. ADHS will be using these grant funds to spay and neuter outdoor feral and abandoned cats. This grant will also support education about how to help feral cats and will provide funds to purchase winter shelters for some of the cat colonies in our area.

The CanFel Foundation is a registered charity designated as a public foundation. It was established and generously funded by the late Sandra Bond in support of animal welfare. Ms. Bond was an early and passionate advocate for animal welfare; she particularly supported programs designed to instill humane values in children, and spay and neuter programs designed to reduce the number of unwanted companion animals.

A Thank You to All Our Youth Supporters

Thanks to all of the young people who have asked for donations for the animals rather than birthday gifts! There are too many to mention here. For the month of June, thanks to Noah Touma (8 yrs. old) and Cesar Tapia (7 yrs. old) who brought in 635 dollars for the animals. Laine Southwood collected cash and donations for her birthday for the last two years and donated them to ADHS! We appreciate the support!

Thanks to the students of Ms. Stephenson at Ernest Cumberland who created a project designed to learn how companies work. Their design company chose to make bracelets and donated their company profits to ADHS. The class of Mrs. Marengour at Tec Beeton also chose to make bracelets and donate the proceeds to ADHS. Thanks to these wonderful students for supporting the animals!

A big thank you and best wishes to Blake Chiselette who volunteered at ADHS during his gap year before university. He came to us with no pet experience but became quickly involved doing cleaning shifts, running cats to the vet, working with our difficult felines, and assisting with big moving jobs, and working with the dog team. Blake was interested enough to look up information online to learn more about cats. His observations picked up on cats with illnesses and, cats of course tend to hide issues. We wish Blake the best this fall as he starts school in Newfoundland!



Blake enjoying a moment with Mello at the shelter.

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Joy and Sorrow in the Dog Kennels

Many times when people come and visit the dog kennels, they are very sad to see how many dogs we have. I always tell them not to be sad because being here is a good thing. These dogs are no longer trying to stay alive on their own, they are no longer starving, no longer in pain (if injured), and no longer being hit. They are safe.

Sadly most of the dogs that come through our doors haven't had the best of lives. Some have been abused, starved, neglected etc. The stories never end. But most of these dogs recover and become much better dogs. Usually when dogs come in they are afraid. The shelter is loud and smells funny. There are other dogs barking, and lots of strangers moving around. By day 3, the dogs have figured out that there is a routine; people always arrive around the same time. The dogs go out for a quick personal business trip. They get outside time in the kennels and then they get a long walk (weather and health permitting) and play time. Somewhere in the mix, they also get their breakfast or dinner and fresh water. By about day 5 or 6, they join in with the chorus of dogs barking because people have arrived and they know good things are about to happen.

Some of the dogs need to learn to trust people again and that is where our program is great, because we follow the same routines everyday. No matter who they are being handled by on shift, there is a consistency the dogs learn to trust. When a volunteer picks up the leash on a dog's chart, he knows he is coming out and getting to do something. When we feed the dogs, their food bowls are placed on top of their kennel walls until they are safely inside. The dogs begin to automatically look up to check to see if their bowls are there and some even sit down right away upon seeing the bowls. All of the dogs learn that they must sit in order to get their bowl of food.

The lives of these dogs gets better the second they walk in our door. Some were pulled from other shelters where there was little chance of getting out alive. Some are dumped on the side of the road; some have been taken away from horrible owners and some have lived their lives on the end of a chain with nobody paying any attention to them and getting food only when people remembered. But their new life starts as soon as they walk through our door and they will soon have a new family.

But then there are the other dogs, the ones that had a great life, a home, a family and were loved by people but for a variety of reasons had to be surrendered. For them the shelter is a very different experience. They are confused and scared. They don't know why they are here. They don't know what they did and they spend their time hoping their family will come back. They actually have to go through a grieving process. For them my heart breaks. When they arrive at the shelter they are happy and playful. Usually by the second day they start to panic. By the end of the first week, they are sad and depressed. This normally lasts for a few days and then they start to recover and begin to be themselves again.

Continued on page 8



Dr Stefani Warmington

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CANINE HYDROTHERAPY AND WELLNESS CENTRE

Volunteer Corner

This is the sixth in a series of articles about volunteers that help make our organization run.

“Mama” Keri Hutchinson and the joy of dogs

Keri Hutchinson is a petite, effervescent woman whose friendliness and enthusiasm for animals is infectious. Keri has been an ADHS volunteer for more than six years and she credits her good physical and mental health to her work at the shelter.

Keri doesn't have a dog of her own and so she gets her dog 'fix' at the shelter each week. Keri signed up for the dog team and did the training. However, she found some of the larger dogs were difficult to handle and harder to walk at times because of arthritis in her fingers. Keri found her niche however, when ADHS dog coordinator Emily Day began a program to classify dogs according to their size, temperament



and ease of handling. Keri loves the “green dogs,” which are often smaller ones, and finds them easier to walk and handle. She does one 4 hour shift per week but can be found at the shelter 3 or 4 other days providing extra attention, walks, grooming, cuddling and bathing for dogs who need to bond and socialize with people. Her nickname “Mama” Keri comes from her affinity with these dogs and she can be seen weekly, walking, playing, and working with small dogs who come in stressed and need cuddles and interaction to become more social. Recently Keri put in many hours of extra time with Peaches, pictured to the left, who is a very stressed and skittish husky.

Keri, left with Peaches and ADHS dog team member Tanya Chipman Peaches made a break for freedom but lingered around the shelter. Peaches has clearly bonded with Keri and the extra interaction and love she provides helps to move Peaches towards coping with a home and family of her own. Keri likes the philosophy of our dog program; she notes that there are no throw away dogs at ADHS. All canines receive medical treatment, attention, rehabilitation and she loves to see the happy endings.

Keri is also to be found at the shelter on open house mornings. She cleans the common areas and tidies up before the public arrives to look at the animals. She often stays to greet the public and enjoys hanging out with families seeking a new member. She is an enthusiastic ADHS supporter, whether this means getting up on the dance floor at our new annual winter dinner dance Raise The Woof (March 24, 2018) or working with her mother to make special animal goody bags for fundraising events.

Keri feels that her work with ADHS animals gives meaning to her life and she enthusiastically endorses the physical, emotional and mental benefits of this work. She attributes her good health and lack of illness in the last 5 years to the physical activity. Her anxiety and stress levels lessen after every shelter visit and she loves the rural setting, the peace and quiet and the ample room to run, play and work with dogs.

Keri, like many ADHS volunteers, is very concerned about the gravel pit development slated for the ADHS property line. She fears that the stress and anxiety of dealing with the noise, dust, and their effect on the animals will damage her sanctuary and stress the animals. We can only hope that ADHS can stop this development from changing the rural environment at our shelter, allowing us to keep invaluable volunteers like Keri.

The Truth About Rats

Pet rats have increased in popularity as pets over the past few years. Yes rats! To some, rats are just dirty vermin, but rats have captivated the hearts of many pet owners. Unfortunately there are many misconceptions about pet rats, due to the reputation of their wild cousins. Here are 5 myths about pet rats that just aren't true!

MYTH: Rats caused the Bubonic plague.

TRUTH: Recent studies have shown that rats may have had little to no input to the Bubonic plague due to the climate. During the period of the Black Death, rat fleas would not have been able to survive the temperatures. Newer theories are now suggesting that human lice is the main cause of the spread of the Bubonic plague.



MYTH: Rats are dirty.

TRUTH: Rats are known to groom just as much as, if not more than, cats! They spend hours a day vigorously cleaning themselves, their cage mates, and their human friends.

MYTH: Rats are mean and aggressive.

TRUTH: Much like dogs and cats, rats all have individual and unique personalities. The majority of rats are extremely outgoing and friendly, It is very unlikely a rat will be aggressive towards a human. We are much larger than them and rats are more likely to be fearful of us, rather than aggressive.

MYTH: Rats bite more than other rodents.

TRUTH: Rats are actually the least likely to bite compared to other pet rodents. Rats are very social creatures, and do not like to bite their friends. In addition to this, rats are extremely intelligent and are capable of thinking through situations, rather than relying heavily on fight or flight.



MYTH: Rats don't make good pets for children.

TRUTH: Rats make better pets for children than most other small animals! Rats are not as fragile as tiny hamsters, who can be easily dropped, and most rats very much enjoy being picked up and carried around unlike rabbits, who prefer to stay grounded! Rats love attention, and will keep the whole family engaged with their endless silly shenanigans!

Emily Brown, Small Animal Team Member

ADHS Tails

This is Pixel and Mac adopted by Samantha Rose in March. She says, "These two are closer than any other rats I've owned! And they are absolutely precious. Their limited sight caused them to be a little more timid than most, but they've settled in nicely now :-). I couldn't be more grateful that you guys take these little ones in and give them a chance at an amazing life!"

Would you like to contribute to ADHS ?

There are **FOUR** ways to donate money. Donors may contribute monthly or make a single donation by credit card or PayPal or through Canadahelps.org. These options are available on our website **allistonhumane.com**. Click the DONATE NOW or PayPal button.

E-transfers may be sent to info@allistonhumane.com

Please mail donations by cheque to:

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Everett, Ontario

LOM 1J0

Cash is always welcome at our shelter open houses or in the many donation boxes around our community. You can also contribute by volunteering, providing a foster home, running or contributing to a fundraising event and donating items listed on our wish list available at allistonhumane.com.



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Help + Advice via phone	✓ Yes!	✗ \$0 to \$50
TOTAL COST	\$180 for Adoption Fee	\$405 to \$875 for "FREE Kitten"



Adopting from the ADHS ensures your kitten's health care is provided for at much less cost than a "free" kitten.

Continued from page 4

Recently we had a dog in this situation and it was tough for everyone. It was hard on the volunteers to see the dog so sad, it was hard on the dog because she did not understand where she was or where her family went and it was horrible for her family who had no choice but to surrender her due to a life threatening allergy that hospitalized her young owner several times. There are no words that can explain the anguish that this family felt having to surrender their girl (dog), an anguish that could be clearly seen the day they brought her in. I can't even imagine how painful it was for them and just thinking about it brings tears to my eyes. This dog went through all of the stages listed above: confusion, panic, grief and finally acceptance that her family was not coming back for her. But she recovered and came back to being the wonderful girl that she was when she arrived.

Her story doesn't end here.....one open house a woman came to see her to see if she would be a good fit for their home as they had lost their dog. A meeting was booked for her to come back with her husband and teenaged son. The visit was great; everyone liked each other and she seemed to know that she was going to go home with them and she was trying to tell them that she wanted to go with them. When the son was walking her around outside, she kept pulling him over to their car and jumping up on the door trying to get into the car. I am pretty sure she was saying "ok let's go, I am ready". That family did adopt her and she did get to go into the car. She was such a happy girl, bouncing, and jumping. Her new family stuffed her huge bed from her former home into the trunk of the car; it was a very tight fit and they were off. Everyone had such huge smiles, the dog included. She was grinning from ear to ear, and the light was back in her eyes. They pulled out of the driveway and she never even looked back.

Rhonda Doucette, ADHS Director and Dog Adoption Coordinator

ADHS Tails



Pluto is one of the many stray dogs that passed through ADHS kennels in 2016 and found a loving home.

His owner, Vanessa Guizzetti writes:

We adopted Pluto about a year and a half ago and he is doing great! He fit into our family instantly with his big appetite and love of food. He seems to especially enjoy fresh cucumbers from the garden. He is pretty popular around our neighbourhood and his friends stop us daily while out walking to say hi.



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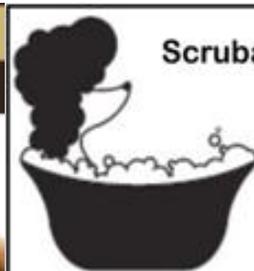
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All donations over \$20 are eligible for a charitable donation receipt. Thank You!

You can also complete this form online at www.allistonhumane.com and make your donation via PayPal.

ADHS Tails

An update on ADHS animals and their new families



PRALINE

Tomorrow will mark our 3rd month with our Praline! Unbelievable how time flies so fast!! When I visited her on March 23, Marilyn told me there was a pretty girl who would fit into our family. (We were devastated from the bad news received 2 days before... My heart was set on another calico but she unfortunately had serious health problems and was gone to the rainbow bridge...). She was right: Praline was a kitten who had a bad start in life in Québec (where I also come from). She told me she was a real sweetheart and it was true! We got her that March afternoon and I strongly believe she was sent to me by my 2 cats who passed away in July 2016 and February

2017. Sometimes, she acts like there's a part of them in her. I love her so much and she helped me through the grieving process. I promised her to give her the best life she deserves. Our dog Charlotte and her are best friends and we are so lucky to have them both. Thanks again for letting me have Praline in my life.

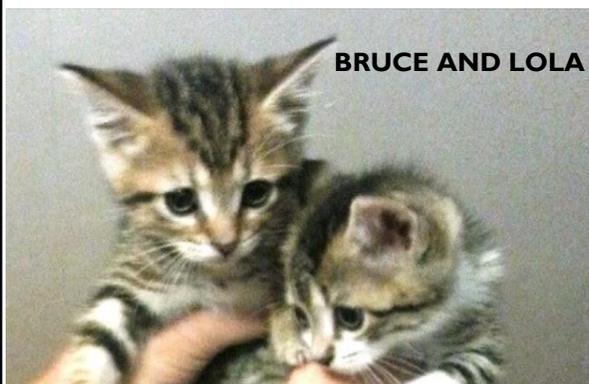
Josee Gregoire

I adopted Snow from the Alliston & District Humane Society about a month and a half ago. When I first saw him, I instantly was in love and knew he had to come home with me. From there on we would spend almost every moment together, like cuddling on my bed when it gets cold or him stealing a raspberry out of my bowl when I wasn't looking. When I first adopted him, I didn't know how happy he would make me or how close a bond we would form. I don't consider him a pet. He's more than that. He's my best friend and I'm so thankful that he gets to spend the rest of his life with me, getting spoiled and the love he deserves.

Emily Smith



SNOW



BRUCE AND LOLA

When I first saw the picture of these two I fell in love, and immediately I knew I had to have them! They were the last two kittens to be adopted and I knew I wanted to keep them together. Bruce and Lola have adjusted very well, and have already taken over the household as king and queen. Bruce is very loving; he greets everyone that comes over by rubbing up against them and purring loudly. Lola is also very loving, but she is still very shy around other people. We are very patient with her and can see that she is getting better with others as time goes on. Bruce and Lola are the best siblings. They are always playing and love to cuddle each other. I cannot thank Alliston Humane Society enough for giving me these two. They bring me so much joy, and I am thankful everyday that I come home and see these two waiting at the front door.

Laura King

More ADHS Tails

We adopted our fur babies August 28th 2016! We adopted two sisters Piper (short hair) and Pippa (long hair), but it turned out Piper is a boy! We originally only wanted to adopt one kitten, but we fell in love with these two and knew we just had to adopt both. That was the best decision ever! Piper and Pippa are not only brother and sister; they are best friends and playmates. They keep each other company and tire each other out! When we are out for the day, we love knowing they have each other. Piper and Pippa have opposite personalities, which is definitely a good thing since Piper is quite the trouble maker! Piper is always making us laugh and is definitely more adventurous. He loves going on walks outside, sleeping in the sink, climbing the screen, and getting into anything and everything. One of our favourite things about Piper is his loud purr and cuddles. Pippa is our quiet, sweet girl. She is more timid and lets Piper discover things first. Pippa loves to cuddle, chase flies, scale the counter and sleep! Pippa has the sweetest little meow and gives the best cuddles! We are so happy to have adopted our fur babies and are looking forward to many years with them. *Logan Verlinde*



PIPER AND PIPPA

Juno (previously known as Sapphire) was adopted from the shelter in May. Juno and her sister Safari were part of the group of huskies rescued from a hoarding situation. She was about 4 months at the time of adoption and is growing up so fast. I'm loving every minute of being a puppy mother, even when she's naughty and chews something she shouldn't. She's enrolled in puppy classes and she amazes me how quickly she learns and just how smart she is. She is absolutely in love with the water and sometimes thinks water bowls are for more than just drinking. Juno loves the camera and is incredibly photogenic so selecting one picture of her was really difficult! I chose to submit one of her in the pool and sunshine. It's hard to think about what her life was like before she was rescued but I know how much we both changed each other's for the best. *Renee Wall*



JUNO

This is Bobby (formerly Buster) & Chewie (formerly Cinnamon) that me and my family adopted in Nov 2016. They both are doing fantastic. Chewie gets her belly rubbed ALL the time and Bobby gets his hugs and kisses ALL the time. Thank you again to Alliston Humane Society for all the care and love you all gave to Bobby & Chewie during their stay there! *Vivian Fong*

BOBBY AND CHEWIE



Find us on
Facebook

We love to hear updates on your fur babies, Please feel free to post your story and pictures on our Facebook page.

!OPEN HOUSE!

Please join us the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month for our Open House from noon to 4 pm at the shelter. Come and visit all the animals and meet our great volunteers, and drop off donations. One of our recent visitors sent us a lovely commendation:

“What a great place! I left with a smile on my face. Thank you all for working to make this wonderful organization. Everyone benefits from your hard work and enthusiasm. I became inspired, on such a dreary day, and I will be sure to pass on word about your shelter to others too.”

Precious (7) (right) and Boop (5) (left) are mother and daughter waiting for their forever home. Their senior owner passed away. Looking for a quiet home.



Adoption Corner

Call (705) 458-9038 or info@allistonhumane.com

The ADHS is a registered charity. All board members, volunteers and foster homes are unpaid. All funds raised pay for the current services provided, as well as future programs. All cats and dogs over six months of age are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and dewormed. All kittens under the age of 6 months come with vouchers that allow owners to take the kitten to a local vet for vaccinations, rabies and spay or neuter.

Adoption Fees

Kittens \$180 Cats \$140

Puppies \$300 Dogs \$275

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