

# ANIMAL *Writes*

[www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca](http://www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca)

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# NEVER AGAIN!

**UHS's fight against rodeo cruelty has helped convince the Cloverdale Rodeo to drop four of the most brutal events from its annual show. From now on, calf roping, team roping (pictured above), steer wrestling and wild cow milking will no longer be part of Surrey's so-called 'entertainment' calendar. For the full story, turn to page 4**

**More success for Chicken Out!: See pages 6 and 7**

# Editorial: Have we reached the tipping point?

At VHS, we try to balance our newsletters with good news and bad. It's how we balance our workday – to avoid cynicism, paralysis and burnout.

But the past few weeks have provided a plethora of good news, most of it directly relating to VHS's work. In fact, the sheer number of exclamation marks in this newsletter threatens to cause them to lose their startling intent!

Three areas of VHS focus – rodeo, captive exotics and battery hens, have achieved astounding victories in what seems to be a relatively short space of time. And while we would be vainglorious to take complete credit, VHS has definitely been a major player on all these issues.

We sometimes weather criticism – from our opponents, from our allies, and sometimes even from our supporters. We are too conservative, or too radical. The issues we work on are not the most important (local, late-breaking; substitute almost any adjective.)

What we've learned from the criticism, and the praise we also receive, is that you can't please everyone all the time. And that's not what we're about – we're about helping animals. We go about it in the most effective way we can.

Our board of directors and staff choose issues and strategies not to gain popularity for VHS, but according to how much suffering we can alleviate and how many animals we can help.

I know our ability to focus, our tenacity and our strong commitment to animals is a winning combination that has contributed immensely, sometimes essentially, to these recent unprecedented victories for animals.

This winning, and vital, combination involves you, our supporters. You are VHS – you make it what it is. You provide our staff with the ability to work for animals full-time, to spend our days (and nights, and weekends!) fighting for animals. You help spread compassion – at work and at home; you are the letter-writ-

ers, the politicians, the newsletter distributors. You provide homes for animals, food for strays, education for your families and co-workers. You point out abuse when you see it. You show the world that compassion for animals comes in many forms and can start with even one small, but mindful, choice.

Is this the tipping point? Is this an unstoppable wave of awareness that will result in a better world for all animals, not just the cute and furry, not just the ones that share our homes? I believe it is. I believe that growing awareness about global warming and the inter-relatedness of the environment, animals and people (the major focus of our Power of One Humane Education Program) is opening new, exciting opportunities for awakening compassion and empathy for animals – opportunities that we **MUST** be there for.

Together, we'll be here for the bigger and better things that are yet to come.

— Debra Probert, executive director

## DONATIONS

### Memorial Donations

Rick Fabbro & Melissa Schaefer, in memory of *Alex Wallach*;  
Robert & Colleen Goodrich, in memory of *Alex Wallach*;  
Shirley Iverson in memory of *Alex Wallach*;  
Peter & K. Rempel, in memory of *Alex Wallach*;  
Harvey & Diana Scott, in memory of *Alex Wallach*;  
Gerard and Marie Lebeuf, in memory of *Alex Wallach*;  
Henry and Florence Derksen, in memory of *Alex Wallach*;  
Robin Reid, in memory of *Terry Reid*;  
Shirley Iverson, in memory of *Wally Iverson*;  
Marlies Michael, in memory of *Boots*;  
Steven Ross, Graham and Melodie, Brian and Lisanne, and Helen, in memory of *Josephina*;  
Etta Muir, in memory of *Matt Rumberg*;  
Patricia Hamilton, in memory of *Kermit*;  
Bill Spaetgens, in memory of *Scooter*;  
June Humphreys and Diann McGrath, in memory of *Shirley Glass*;  
June Humphreys, in memory of *Mercury Steiman*;  
Kirsten Kane, in memory of *Gretchen*;  
Sharyn Elder, in memory of *Grace M. Nelson*.

### Thank you to these businesses that support our work:

InDesigns (hosting the VHS website for over six years!)

UPS Store in Marpole – Retell and Roshme  
Anthony Redpath at Redpath Studios  
Rakes and Ladders Garden & Property Services  
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Classy Cat Cat Dishes  
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### Employee Groups:

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RCMP "E" Division – Lower Mainland  
Sierra Wireless, Inc.  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver Port Authority

### Under the stewardship of Vancouver Foundation, we'd like to thank:

The Winifred Townley Hill Memorial Fund;  
The Irene Joy Stewart and Florence Maud Shedden Endowment Fund for Domestic and Wild Animal Welfare.

### Special Occasion Donations

From Ms. Lynn Brown, in honour of *Bert Cowan's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*;  
From Cathy Morton, in honour of *her birthday*;  
From Katharine Dill, in honour of *Johnathon Schofield's birthday*;  
From Ms. Lynn Brown, in honour of *Margaret Tipping's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*.

### Individuals

A huge thank you to:  
Don Crane, of Rush Crane Guenther, Barristers and Solicitors, for his legal advice;  
Daryl Gardiner, of DDB Canada, for his strikingly clever ads;  
David R. McCann of Creekhous Gallery (1996) Ltd. for his art appraisal expertise.

### In-kind donations of art

Gary Anderson, Courtesy Creekhous Gallery  
Bob Rennie of Bob Rennie Marketing

### And finally,

The Grade 5/6 Class at Brockton Preparatory School raised \$104.21 for VHS!  
The residents of New Vista Care Facility had a Walka-Wheel-athon for VHS – three separate wheel/walks and family, friends and volunteers took part - they sang, and marched their way through the care facility and shared with one and all their love of animals. Final amount to be announced.

# Tiger killing forces action

## Government heeds VHS warnings about exotic animal dangers at last

The B.C. government is considering regulating the sale and ownership of exotic animals in the province following the fatal tiger attack on a woman in Bridge Lake, B.C. in May.

The Bengal tiger and other lions and tigers were kept in 12-foot by 12-foot cages by Siberian Magic, an animal performance business run by Kim Carlton. Carlton's partner, Tania Dumstrey-Soos, died after being mauled by the tiger, which was later destroyed.

VHS had previously warned the provincial government that the Siberian Magic facility was unsafe and inhumane. In a December 2006 letter to environment minister Barry Penner and other government officials, VHS said the facility was "a disaster waiting to happen." VHS has protested publicly about Siberian Magic several times in recent years, most recently in 2005 when VHS helped convince a Whistler restaurant to drop plans to display Carlton's tigers.

Now the government is considering introducing legislation that may restrict the ownership of exotic animals and set standards for their keeping. VHS has long called for such regulation and has joined with the BC SPCA and other groups in making recommendations to the govern-



*Under current laws, anyone may own a pet tiger almost anywhere in British Columbia.*

ment on how to deal with the issue.

VHS wants a strict permit system that would allow only facilities with exceptionally high animal welfare and safety standards to keep exotic species. The standards should be species-specific (designed to maximize the welfare of each species, based on its particular behavioural and biological needs) and would be subject to rigorous inspection and enforcement by government authorities. This would eliminate roadside zoos, animal rental agencies, private menageries and other unprofessional

facilities, as they would fail to meet the high standards. Only zoos or conservation facilities that make the necessary investment in public safety measures and animal care could continue to operate.

VHS, the BC SPCA and Zoocheck Canada have agreed upon an extensive list of exotic animals that should be subject to regulation and this has been submitted to the provincial government.

If the government introduces strong regulation, it could end the suffering of thousands of exotic animals throughout the province.

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## VHS sounds alarm on Disney dog deaths

VHS raised the alarm about the treatment of five golden retriever puppies that died while being used in the making of a Disney film in the Lower Mainland earlier this year.

As many as 40 puppies, most under eight weeks old, were shipped from the United States into B.C. About 25 were from a breeder in New York and were allegedly flown illegally to the west coast (it is illegal in the U.S. to transport dogs under eight weeks old).

While on set locations in the Hemlock Valley and in Langley, many of the dogs became ill. A number turned out to have

giardia and coccidian and later more puppies were diagnosed with parvovirus – all serious illnesses. As dogs died or became ill, the movie company, Snow Buddies Productions, shipped in yet more puppies from U.S. and Canadian breeders, some of which also became ill and died.

VHS has written to the Township of Langley, which granted a film production permit to Snow Buddies, requesting that permits require animal welfare safeguards. Langley's mayor said the council would consider taking the appropriate steps. We also wrote the provincial government and the B.C. Film Commission.

The Commission has launched a review of animal use in film productions in B.C., to which VHS will be making a submission.

VHS is against the use of dogs under eight weeks in films and will recommend that all B.C. film productions using animals should be monitored for animal welfare. VHS is also calling for an end to the use of exotic animals in films, urging that computer-generated imagery be used instead.

We are urging the public to remember what happened to the puppies when the film, also titled Snow Buddies, appears in cinemas in the coming year.

# Cruel rodeo on the ropes

Animal lovers all over Canada have been shouting “Yee-ha!” since the Cloverdale Rodeo announced on May 22 that it was dropping four of the cruellest events in rodeo: calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling and wild cow milking.

It was an important victory for VHS, which has long fought against the abuse of rodeo animals and has repeatedly urged the Cloverdale Rodeo to eliminate the most inhumane events. The dropping of the four roping events is unprecedented and has sent shock waves throughout the rodeo industry in North America. There is hope that other rodeos in Canada may now be forced by public opinion to consider making similar changes.

A number of factors played a part in the four events being banned. Surrey City Council supported the rodeo’s decision, which came after a calf broke its leg in the calf roping event and had to be euthanized. This was the second animal to die at the rodeo in three years. In 2004, a steer had to be killed after having its neck broken in the steer wrestling event. VHS published graphic photos of the steer being twisted to the ground, which were widely used by the news media. In 2006, VHS used more graphic photos of animals suffering at the rodeo in a powerful presentation to Surrey Council. After the presentation, which brought complete silence to the crowded council chamber, not a single councillor attempted to defend rodeo. VHS also used op-ed articles, media interviews, talk show debates and advertising to educate the public about rodeo cruelty and to counter the rodeo’s public relations machine.

VHS’s work was matched by the courageous actions by local activists who have demonstrated at the rodeo year in and year out – often being subjected to abuse



*Team roping will no longer be a feature of the Cloverdale Rodeo.*

and rough handling by rodeo security staff. The BC SPCA’s call for a boycott of the rodeo ensured the entire spectrum of animal welfare opinion was in clear opposition to the annual event. After VHS convinced the City of Vancouver to ban rodeo in 2006, the momentum for change in Cloverdale was strengthened even further. Finally, with death of yet another animal, the rodeo itself could not stomach carrying on with the same cruel events any longer. The Vancouver Province and the Surrey Leader ran editorials welcoming the decision.

The news spread across Canada, with many rodeo industry officials put on the defensive in widespread media coverage.

(One cowboy was quoted saying, “A cow is born to die, and the cowboy’s whole purpose in life is to have them do it at our convenience.”) Many rodeo spokespeople denied Cloverdale’s decision would have an effect on other rodeos, but not everyone agreed. One B.C. rancher told a farming newspaper that public pressure on rodeos would increase and they should drop calf roping: “Calf roping is something that should have been gone a long time ago. I abhor it,” she said.

Time will tell if rodeos elsewhere are willing to change, but whatever happens one important thing has been achieved: Never again will an animal suffer and die with a rope around his neck in Cloverdale.

## Gallery painted into corner over animal display

A public outcry in April forced the Vancouver Art Gallery to close down an exhibit that pitted live animals against each other for the sake of art. VHS and the BC SPCA voiced opposition to the installation, which consisted of lizards, snakes, toads, tarantulas and a number of

insects kept together in a display case.

The animals were confined in a small space without appropriate lighting, sufficient water or places to escape from each other. VHS visited the exhibit, complained directly to the gallery’s management and made its views public. An

inspection by a BC SPCA veterinarian confirmed the animal’s conditions were inhumane.

VHS spoke out on radio talk shows, television and in the press, making the case that no form of art could justify the inhumane treatment of animals.

# Abused dogs need new homes

## Help save the life of a needy dog by adopting one from a rescue group

Although we often have to point out to the public that VHS does not have a shelter, there are always one or two dogs around the office. The most recent addition is Millie, a three-year-old spaniel belonging to Peter Fricker, VHS's Projects and Communications Director.

Millie was kept in a small wooden pen and used as a breeding machine until a compassionate family member turned her over to Better Life Dog Rescue, a grass-roots group in Surrey, B.C. After being fostered with a kind family, Millie's personality began to emerge. Then Peter and his wife Carolyn adopted her and, for the first time in her life, she began to do all the things a dog loves to do.

Within a week, they took her to Spanish Banks dog beach when the tide was out. As soon as her leash was off she ran for the horizon, splashing through tidal pools, hopelessly chasing high-flying seagulls, running for miles until she was



*Ted is a Rhodesian ridgeback cross who spent most of his life confined to a basement or on a chain. But now Ted is enjoying a happy new life thanks to Better Life Dog Rescue.*

exhausted. She'd never been so free.

Millie joins Luke, another dog Peter adopted, this time from the Vancouver Animal Control Shelter. Luke, a two-year-old Belgian Shepherd cross, was an outdoor dog from Chilliwack, turned over to the Chilliwack Pound when his guardians

moved, then transferred to Vancouver.

He's shy with strangers but once he makes friends he's adorable, as all VHS's staff will attest to.

Luke and Millie are great pals. They're also lucky. Not every dog finds a home and a family where they can be safe, secure and happy. That's why shelters and rescue groups are so important.

Better Life Dog Rescue is trying to find homes for several dogs, all of whom have had troubled lives. For example, Ted (pictured), a Rhodesian ridgeback cross who was abused for 10 years, kept in a basement day after day and, when he was no longer wanted, nearly starved to death. A relative of Ted's owner saved him from starvation, but chained him up outside. The only highlight in Ted's life had been two cats who were his constant companions. Now he had nothing. Fortunately, Better Life came to his rescue and recently found Ted a home with a wonderful man who takes him everywhere he goes, even to cricket games and the local pub!

For more information about other rescued dogs who need help please visit [www.betterlifedogrescue.org](http://www.betterlifedogrescue.org) or contact your nearest shelter to enquire about the many animals available for adoption.

## Alexandra's birthday gift to animals



*Animal lover Alexandra Franiek, pictured here with her best friend Roxy, donated \$400 raised at her birthday party to VHS. Thanks Alexandra, and many happy returns!*

## Prince George puts a halt to exotic animals in circuses

The City of Prince George has finally banned circuses using exotic animals from appearing in the city. VHS protested to the city council when the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus appeared at the city's CN Centre in 2005 and has been urging a circus ban ever since.

Local animal lovers have continuously pressed the council on the issue, and the BC SPCA made a strong presentation to councillors, calling for a bylaw to prohibit the circuses. The council voted in favour of a circus bylaw in May.

Prince George joins 19 other B.C. municipalities that have enacted laws against using exotic animals in circuses.

# Something to crow about

*May was probably the best month in recent history for egg-laying hens in B.C., with Langara College, Crofton House School and the City of Richmond all announcing cage-free egg policies*

## Langara College:

On May 7, 2007, Langara took the lead in the ever growing campus movement to end the use of eggs from caged hens. In March, the University of Guelph, Canada's premier agricultural institution, committed to eliminating shell eggs from all its cafeterias starting in September. But Langara exceeded Guelph's initiative by dropping both shell and liquid eggs immediately from the campus cafeteria.

Chartwells Education Dining Service (Compass Group), the food service company responsible for the contract, said they wanted to support VHS and Langara in this initiative so they would cover the initial costs of the switch.

"Langara College's' decision is an important advance in the growing movement away from battery cage confinement in the egg industry," said Bruce Passmore, VHS Farm Animal Welfare Project Coordinator. "Both Chartwells and Langara should be applauded for helping to improve the welfare of hundreds of birds—as well as sending a strong message to consumers about how easy it is to help end the cruelty of cages."

Approximately 98 per cent of Canada's 26 million egg-laying are kept in small wire cages where they can barely move or



flap their wings, perch, dust bathe or nest. Alternatives include certified organic, SPCA certified, free-range and free-run.

"This really is a simple issue for us," said Linda Holmes, Langara College President. "As a place of higher learning that is committed to the concept of sustainability, we must set the bar when it comes to progressive decisions. I challenge all other academic institutions to meet or exceed what we have done."

Chris Koroneos, Chartwells' Director of Food Services at Langara said: "We strive to make each campus dining program unique. Langara made it clear that animal welfare and sustainability are key concerns for them, and so we have worked to help them meet their commitment to these values."

Langara's decision comes ahead of a number of other universities and colleges racing to become the next cage-free egg campus, including Simon Fraser University, the University of BC, the University of Ottawa, Concordia

University, McGill University, BC Institute of Technology and the University of Toronto.

## Crofton House School:

Two days after Langara College's announcement, Crofton House School, an independent school for girls in Vancouver, announced that they too were dropping eggs from caged hens from the school's cafeteria. Food Services Manager, Robert Shore, explained that the initiative was driven by students and is part of a wider project of making more compassionate decisions, inclusive of animal, people and the environment. The school has a history of student volunteerism and involvement in local humanitarian work. VHS worked with the school to publicize the program and help students understand why the change to cage-free eggs is important.

## City of Richmond:

Late on May 28, the City of Richmond,

# VHS scores wins for chickens!

## City and college governments recognize the plight of battery-cage hens

B.C., voted unanimously to become the first city council in North America to request the removal of eggs from caged hens from all city-run facilities. Council also recommended that residents, restaurants, caterers, retailers and wholesalers, choose certified organic free-range eggs. "We are thrilled that Richmond is leading the way in reducing the suffering of egg-laying hens in Canada," said Bruce Passmore, "We now know why the chicken crossed the road – it was to get to Richmond."

Richmond City Council investigated the option of using only certified organic, free-range whole eggs in city run food services after a presentation by the VHS in the September of last year.

"I would like to be part of a council that does what we can, in a small way, to make a difference for these animals," said Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt at the Community Safety Committee meeting prior to council's vote.

"Richmond should be proactive and take a leadership role."

Richmond council also accepted a motion to write to the provincial government, stating that "Council opposes battery cage egg production, based on the inherent cruelty of confining egg-laying hens in battery cages."

"If the City of Richmond can go cage-free, any municipality can," said Passmore. "We challenge communities from coast to coast to meet or exceed Richmond's cage-free resolution."

## Chicken Out! in action

Henny, our six-foot escaped battery hen mascot, and the Chicken Out! crew have been very busy so far this year. From exposing the cruelty on Clark Egg Farms (Ltd.) to working with Compass Group (Canada's largest food services provider) to make cage-free campuses, the Chicken Out! project has finally hit the tipping point. It has taken years of consistent, focused attention, but we are now seeing the results. The following are just a few of the many victories for animals the project has attained this so far this year:

Assisting the Guelph Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and their incredible work to make the University of Guelph the first university in Canada to go cage-free. The news of their switch hit media across Canada.

Holding media conferences in Toronto and Vancouver to release the graphic footage taken at Clarke Egg Farms Ltd. in Caledonia, Ontario. Clark Companies Ltd. is the largest poultry producer in Canada.

Garnering intense, positive media cover-

age on chickens and eggs for three solid weeks through events, op-eds, letters to the editor and articles.

Based on a request by VHS and the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Saanich on Vancouver Island wrote to the provincial and federal governments asking for more humane farming standards.

Celebrating International Respect for Chickens Day with a highly entertaining interview on CFUN radio. Radio stations all over the Lower Mainland covered the celebration following VHS's media release.

These successes could not have happened without the help of VHS's loyal supporters. Your financial support, your letters to the editor, your calls and correspondence with companies and businesses, have all helped the Chicken Out! project achieve a better life for hens. WE ARE WINNING!

On behalf of the hens, thank you for your support!

Don't forget to keep checking the website ([www.chickenout.ca](http://www.chickenout.ca)) as we have lots of very important good news coming soon. All we'll say now is that decisions coming soon will change the face of agriculture in Canada.

Stay tuned!



Thanks to VHS, the City of Richmond and Langara College have led the way in formulating policies that benefit egg-laying hens everywhere.

# Fund a tribute to kind sisters

## Vancouver Foundation endowment helps VHS fund treatment for sick animals

Readers will recall that in our last issue we highlighted the benefit of donating to our McVitie Fund for sick and injured animals. The value of each donation is doubled, thanks to a challenge grant from the *Irene Joy Stewart and Florence Maud Shedden Endowment Fund for Domestic and Wild Animal Welfare* held at the Vancouver Foundation.

This endowment was established in memory of two sisters whose lives expressed in so many ways, their love of animals and the natural world.

Irene Joy Stewart and her husband loved the outdoor life and were always in the company of dogs rescued from animal shelters. They also cherished nature, welcoming squirrels, blue jays and sundry other forms of wildlife who felt right at home in their yard and garden and in their giant fir trees.

Irene's sister, Florence Maud Shedden, was an apartment dweller and never had the privilege of keeping a companion animal of her own. That never prevented her from sharing in the pleasure of other people's pets, however, or enjoying all the wildlife she encountered on her outings to commune with nature, something she did enthusiastically all her life. Of all the animals she enjoyed and loved, dogs occupied pride of place in her affections. She always carried dog biscuits with her just in case she might meet one of her



VHS helped Mister after he was hit by a car in front of VHS's Vancouver office.



Florence Maud Shedden (right) and her sister, Irene Joy Stewart, were great animal lovers.

friends or one who would soon be a friend! When she passed away at 90 and her daughter, Donna-Mae Moore, was gathering her possessions, she found dog biscuits in every coat pocket – touching reminders of the heart that held so much affection for her four-legged friends.

These two women, compassionate animal lovers, believed mankind should respect at all times and in all ways life forms other than our own. The endowment established in their memory perpetuates their benevolent values by helping animals in need.

The endowment's generous support for the McVitie Fund means that many animals needing emergency medical help are given a chance to live, to thrive and to enjoy the companionship and love they deserve. Below are some of the animals we have been able to help thanks to this support:

**Mister**, pictured at left with his guardian Denise, was hit by a car right in front of the VHS office. He had been playing in the nearby park with Denise when he spotted VHS office dog Luke,

across the street and suddenly bolted over to see him. VHS staff rushed him to the nearest vet and reassured a distraught Denise, an Australian waiting for her work permit, that VHS would help her with the medical costs. Mister had bruised lungs but has recovered well.

**Splash** (pictured at right) is a seven-month-old female cat who needed major surgery to treat an intestinal blockage. VHS helped cover the cost and she's doing well now.



**Corwin**, a rescued stray cat, is an FIV-positive neutered male. VHS is covering his medical costs and paid for his neuter. Once sick and starving, he is now enjoying life.

**Rosie**, a pug dachshund cross, was injured when she fell off the sea wall and needed surgery on one of her legs. She was homeless as well, waiting in the vet clinic while VHS raised funds for her operation. She's doing much better and has now been adopted.

**Mac** (pictured at right) was a hungry stray cat with matted fur and a bad case of chronic gingivitis until a rescuer took him in. VHS paid for his dental surgery and he recovered well, emerging as a sweet-natured, affectionate companion. Mac is looking for a permanent home. If you can help please call Laura at 604 339 2947.



**George and Hailey update:** George the golden retriever and Hailey the rottweiler, the two dogs who needed extensive surgeries, are both doing well, thanks to VHS supporters!

# Random thoughts from the executive director...

Pepsi-Co, the parent company of brands like Pepsi, Frito-Lay, Tropicana, Quaker Oats and Gatorade, announced in May that it will no longer conduct or fund experiments on animals. The company put the following statement on its website:

"PepsiCo does not do any animal testing and does not directly fund testing using animals... Where testing on animals is not required, PepsiCo strongly endorses efficient and effective research that does not include the use of animals. We will encourage our partners to use alternatives to animal testing and share this statement with organizations we believe to be involved in projects potentially involving animal research done on behalf of PepsiCo or with PepsiCo or PepsiCo Foundation funding." (email, PETA, May 9, 2007)

Cover FX, a cosmetic company specializing in make-up for people with skin conditions, and better yet, a company that does not test on animals and does not use animal-derived ingredients, has some new products. SKINPREP FX is a treatment and priming serum with vitamins F, A, C and E. LIP FX is lipstick and treatment with sunscreen. (www.coverfx.com)

Want to support a humane human charity? The Tapestry Foundation for Health Care raises funds for seniors care, hospital care, physical rehabilitation and dementia research. CEO Ann Corrigan assured VHS that the fund does not support or fund any research on animals. Tapestry hosts the yearly Pacific Spirit Run each May. For other humane charities, go to www.humaneseal.org

— Debra Probert



## You can find us on the web too

Be sure to visit VHS's new website (homepage pictured above) at [www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca](http://www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca). Our current annual report can be found there under 'About Us.' Our thanks to Glenn Gaetz for his brilliant web design.

## A special appeal for a special dog

Caine is an eight-year-old American Staffordshire who has been the constant companion to his guardian, Mila, since she adopted him as an abused puppy.

Mila has many medical challenges and lives off a meagre disability pension. She describes Caine as her "reason for living."

A neighbour took Caine out for a run a couple of weeks ago and he tore the ligaments in his left rear leg. Due to Mila's limited finances she was unable to afford the surgery that Caine needed, so VHS stepped in to cover the cost.

Caine requires further treatment and VHS is appealing for donations. If you can help, please contact the VHS office at 303-8623 Granville St., Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5A2.



Caine is Mila's "reason for living."

# Students empowered by VHS

By **Chris Hajek and Liberty Mulkani**

VHS's Power of One (Po1) program teamed up with the staff at Maple Ridge Secondary School (MRSS) to put on a week-long student empowerment event dubbed: "Power of One" Social Responsibility Week. The idea behind the week's festivities was to help the students realize how they can and do make a difference in the world. Throughout the week of March 12-16, students attended presentations, participated in workshops and worked on special projects that focused on a range of social, environmental and animal related issues.

The event began with an assembly for the entire school of 1400 students, led by Po1 Program Director Lesley Fox. In her address she encouraged the students to get involved in the week's activities and realize the significance of their daily actions and the power they hold to make change. Lesley introduced an eye-opening video produced by three talented MRSS students. The video, inspired by materials provided by Po1, highlighted disturbing abuses currently plaguing animals, people and the environment. It allowed the audi-

ence to witness challenging images such as conditions on factory farms, laboratory experiments on animals, neglect and abuse of animals in entertainment, child labour, sweat-shop footage, and environmental degradation. For many students this was a shocking, behind-the-scenes introduction to the reality of modern life. "The students were captivated by the images in the video presentation," said Lesley, "It provided a glimpse into topics that they are not normally exposed to."

Throughout the week, Lesley was joined by Po1 presenters Deb Gleason, Chris Hajek and Liberty Mulkani to lead talks to nearly 400 students in classes such as English, Social Studies, Science, and Biology. One presentation that evoked an especially positive response explored everyday purchases and asked students to analyze how the products they buy impact animals, the environment, themselves and other people. Seventeen year-

old Amanda said the presentation was informative. "I'm going to be more aware of the 'true cost' [of products] and what goes into producing things," she said.

MRSS teachers also benefited, attending an advance Po1 presentation and receiving additional information and resources during Power of One Week to enable them to add humane education topics into their regular curriculum. Several teachers expressed their gratitude for Po1's involvement, as it gave them insights into issues that they had not previously explored in such depth.

By the end of the week it was clear that the event had been a resounding success. One student summed up what he had learned: "People have more talent and ability than we credit them with. It just takes some time and a little bit of patience to see this take effect in the world."



## Thanks Cathy, welcome aboard Liberty

Cathy Morton, elected to the VHS board of directors on November 25, 2002 and elected President the following year, stepped down from the board at our AGM on February 28. Cathy guided VHS through a number of exciting, yet challenging, years and there really are no words to express how much we appreciate her hard work. Her intelligence, experience and common sense (not to mention her punctuality!) have left VHS a stronger, more professional organization. Thankfully, VHS continues to benefit from Cathy's advice when needed, and she also continues to make her beautiful hand-made cards for VHS.

Liberty Mulkani was elected to the board May 29, 2006 to replace an outgoing director, and rose quickly through the ranks to become VHS president at our February, 2007 AGM. We feel extremely fortunate to have someone of Liberty's



*Cathy Morton (left) has stepped down as VHS president. Liberty Mulkani takes her place.*

calibre at the helm, particularly with such hard shoes to fill. Liberty has been a driving force behind our Power of One Humane Education project and is working on her Masters with the Institute for Humane Education. She was awarded the

Silver Award in the Education category at the Burns Bog event "Celebrating Women and the Spirit of the Cranes" earlier this year.

We hope that Liberty will stay with us for many years to come!

# VHS out and about for animals

VHS has been busy interacting with the public directly, too. Here are just a few of the past events:

The Vancouver Wellness Show  
National Farm Animals Day  
International Respect for Chickens Day  
Henny at the Vancouver Sun Run  
Animal Voices Film Festival  
Chicken Dance Party

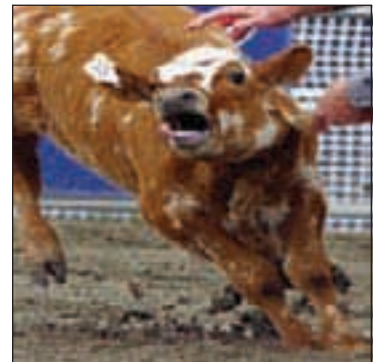
This summer will be exciting with so many VHS events planned. If you would like to volunteer at any of these events, please email [events@vancouverhumane-society.bc.ca](mailto:events@vancouverhumane-society.bc.ca)

Farmer's Markets (various)  
Richmond Hamilton Community Festival (June 22)  
Golden Spike Days Canada Day Celebration (June 30/July 1)  
Vancouver Folk Music Festival (July 14/15)  
Richmond Animal Wellness Expo (July 21)  
Vancouver Pride (August 5)  
Animal Rights Day (August 11)



VHS had an eye-catching stall at the Vancouver Wellness Show in March.

## HERE ARE 4 GOOD REASONS



## WHY YOU SHOULD REMEMBER ANIMALS IN YOUR WILL



**Vancouver Humane Society**

Please contact our office for further information.

*Against  
all animal  
cruelty!*



## Acknowledgement

In our last update, we told you about our amazing Chicken Out! PSA (public service announcement) but neglected to acknowledge the significant support of Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Food Animals (CETFA), Humane Society International/Canada and the Vancouver Foundation.

Simply put, the PSA would not have come about without the support of our dedicated partners. We pride ourselves on working with other groups; working together is one of the most effective ways we can help animals. Our sincere apologies for our inadvertent omission.

## Realty referrals will boost VHS!

Realtor Gwendy Williams will give VHS a generous donation for every referral sent to her by a VHS supporter. Gwendy can be reached at Coldwell Banker, 233-410 Carleton Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V5C 6P6. Tel. 604 298 8777. [gwendy-williams@coldwell-banker.ca](mailto:gwendy-williams@coldwell-banker.ca)

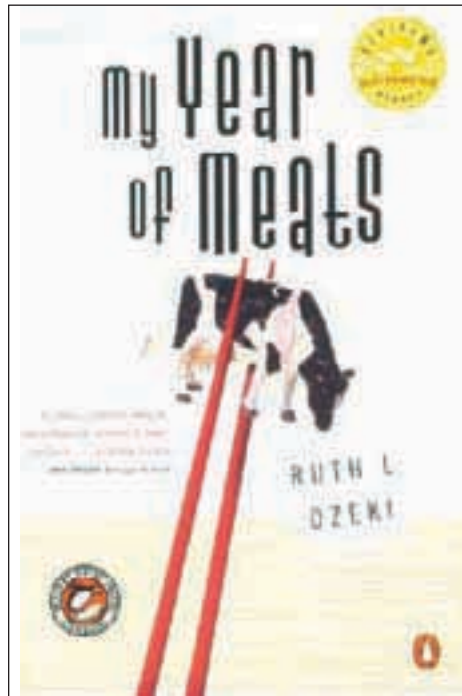
## Bears and birds

In our last edition we ran a story on feeding birds. The Get Bear Smart Society asked us to point out that it's not a good idea to put out birdfeeders during bear season, which in areas like the North Shore can be all year round. For more information visit:

[www.bearsmart.com/bearsBackyard/ManagingAttractants.html#2](http://www.bearsmart.com/bearsBackyard/ManagingAttractants.html#2)

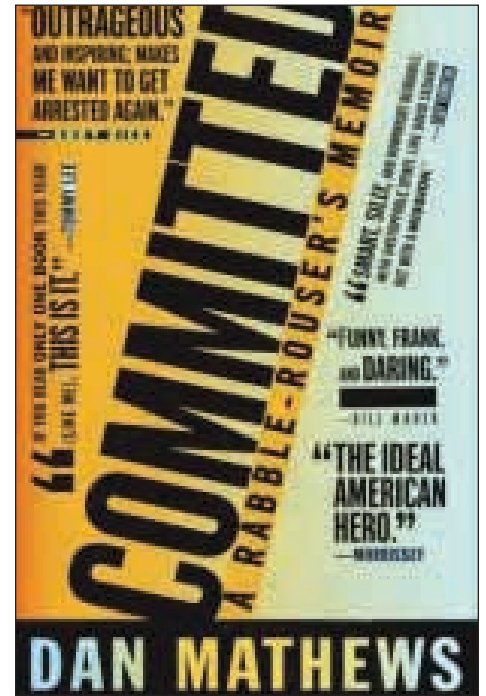


## Book some time for a good read



*My Year of Meats*, by Ruth Ozeki. Penguin. \$14

Ruth Ozeki's novel chronicles a year in the life of a struggling New York documentary filmmaker who is hired to produce a Japanese television show sponsored by a lobby group of the U.S. meat industry. As she learns more about meat production, feedlots and the harmful use of artificial growth stimulants in cattle, she uses her camera to counter ignorance and consumerism. Ozeki not only tackles meat production but also cultural differences, gender roles and sexual exploitation.



*Committed*, by Dan Mathews. Astria. \$24.

Animal rights activist Dan Mathews is the campaign mastermind behind many of the daring, headline-grabbing protests that have made PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) such an effective and controversial organization. Just as PETA uses sometimes outrageous shock tactics, Mathews uses juicy anecdotes and no-holds-barred humour to create a wildly entertaining memoir with a serious message. A rare and enlightening behind-the-scenes account of animal activism that's well worth reading.



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**Contributing Writers:**  
Liberty Mulkani, Chris Hajek, Bruce Passmore, Debra Probert

**Our Privacy Commitment to You**  
You, our supporters, are our most valuable resource. Without you, we would not be able to do the work that we do. You are our lifeblood. When we expose and protest animal abuse, we know that you are right behind us, ready to speak out for those who cannot defend themselves. And for that, we thank you.

Sometimes it is very advantageous for groups like ours to share information. This is the fastest and most economical way for us to inform people like you about animal issues. It is also the most efficient way for VHS to grow and become more effective.

It is very frustrating for all of us when we open our mailbox to find that we have received donation requests from worthy organizations, many of which we would like to support. Not only is it a waste of paper and postage, it is often heartbreaking to open the envelope and be told yet another story of sadness and despair.

That is why when we do share information about our supporters; we do it ONLY with like-minded organizations - other people who care about animal suffering and want to put their resources towards exposing and stopping it. If you allow us to share information with other like-minded groups,

simply put, we can help more animals. And it is our sincere promise to you that we will only exchange lists with organizations with similar views and policies. Even knowing how important it is to us, if you still do not want VHS to share your name, just phone the office and we will honor your request.

Do you want to become a VHS member? Just let us know. The membership fee is \$2 per year. The only other things we require are that you have interests that are compatible with our goals and philosophy, and that you donate two hours per week (or the equivalent) of your time.