

# ANIMAL *Writes*

www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca

Volume 43 – Spring 2009



*Brody, a six-month-old Chihuahua, is one of the animals VHS is helping. Brody's leg got caught in a door and required expensive orthopedic surgery. VHS launched an appeal to cover the cost of his operation and, thanks to our generous donors, Brody is now recovering.*

## Double your dollars for animals!

VHS and the animals we help with the costs of medical emergencies are so lucky to have the Irene Joy Stewart and Florence Maud Shedden Endowment Fund for Domestic and Wild Animal Welfare on our side!!

In 2008, the Fund issued its second challenge grant, this time for \$15,000. This

means that the fund will match every donation targeted to our McVitie Fund for emergency medical help for animals, up to a maximum total of \$15,000.

We are happy to report that we have reached nearly \$12,000!! But we only have until May 5th to raise the rest – just over \$3,000.

Please, help us by sending your donation today to assist us in reaching our goal. Every donation to the McVitie Fund, set up to honour a special ginger cat named McVitie, will be doubled until we reach \$15,000!!

**Thank you!**

*To see some of the animals we've helped go to page 7.*

# Dog Breeding: Creating genetic mutants for our own vanity?

*"The diminutive size and winsome expressions of Toy dogs illustrate the main function of this Group: to embody sheer delight."*  
American Kennel Club website

No one would deny that dogs often provide humans with "sheer delight" but is that their function in life? Of course, dogs have been bred to serve us in many other ways over the last 15,000 years – for herding, guarding, hunting and, of course, companionship. Sometimes it seems that this relationship is all about us.

Some argue that the dog has had a good deal since its ancestors left the wild for a domestic life with man – trading services for a stable food supply, warmth, companionship and protection. Yet, there is no doubt that selectively breeding dogs to fulfill certain "functions" for human benefit has done them harm.

We're so used to seeing dogs of all shapes, sizes and configurations that it's hard to believe that, according to scientists, their

ancestors all looked something like the Australian dingo. But we have genetically bent them to our purpose and created what amounts to a collection of mutants.

And many of these mutants suffer as a consequence of our endless re-designing of the dog.

The result is dachshunds with ruptured spinal disks, German shepherds with malformed hips, and bulldogs with respiratory problems. Labrador retrievers—America's most popular dog—are prone to bone disease, hemophilia and retinal degeneration, and nearly 60 percent of golden retrievers suffer from hip dysplasia. The list goes on.

While it might be silly to blame our ancestors for trying to create a better herding or hunting dog, modern breeding for show is certainly culpable for the genetic distress inflicted on dogs. Kennel clubs contend that health defects are just the result of irresponsible breeders but this excuse has been swept away by intense scrutiny of the dog show industry.

Last year the RSPCA in the U.K. withdrew from the famous Crufts dog show in London, stating that the "judging criteria used by shows such as Crufts encouraged inbreeding and the rearing of deformed dogs." (The BBC has also refused to broadcast the show for these reasons.) The same criticisms have been leveled against American dog shows. None of this should be surprising – these dogs are being bred to match arbitrary human notions of desirable appearance, not for health. For our whims, they suffer.

The whole history of dog breeding has been about us, not them, and that has to change. We need to stop breeding dogs for show and focus on keeping them healthy and happy, not exploiting them. That's why VHS does not support breeding and encourages people to get their animal companions from shelters or rescue groups, not breeders. Dogs don't care how they look and they need homes more than we need blue rosettes for best in show.

## DONATIONS

### MEMORIAL

Ms. Margo Johnson,  
*in memory of Anthony May;*  
T. James Ross & Rhoda M. Hughes,  
*in memory of Ben (Willie) Law;*  
Aaron Ui, *in memory of Pekoe;*  
Susan Schincariol,  
*in memory of John Townsend;*  
Dr. Cortlandt Mackenzie,  
*in memory of Jean Mackenzie;*  
Jim and Lora Van Dusen,  
*in memory of Puggie Maddams Dunn;*  
Nicholas Read, *in memory of Bill Hennessey;*  
Anonymous, *in memory of Barry Grosse;*  
Judy Werts,  
*in memory of Connor Frank Werts, Dolly Werts,*  
*and Philippa Windsor-Liscombe;*  
Kim Capri, *in memory of Heike;*  
Leah Skretkovicz, *in memory of Walter;*  
Christiane Cully and Janet Sawatskey,  
*in memory of Brian Korchinski;*  
Barb Burrows, *in memory of Cathy Burrows;*  
June Humphreys, *in memory of Moxie;*  
Anonymous, *in memory of Tesla;*  
Carita Chan, Genevieve Ip, and Vincent Sy,  
*in memory of Barbara McKenzie;*  
Barbara & Roy Sommer,  
*in memory of Robbie;*  
Grace Clayton, *in memory of Cheryl Franko;*  
Donalda & Elsa Meyers,  
*in memory of Cheryl Franko;*  
Phil & Gail Cote,  
*in memory of Cheryl Franko;*  
Brenda Richmond, *in memory of Lando;*  
Monika English,

*in memory of Edward & Jeremy;*  
Judith Hoad, *in memory of Simon & George;*  
Leah Skretkovicz, *in memory of W.G. Bailey;*  
Michael Christopher, *in memory of Harley;*  
Remond Jones, *in memory of King;*  
Lil Eason Toles, *in memory of Cheryl Franko;*  
Dale Kinnear, Cassie and Marika,  
*in memory of Roy Anderson;*  
Dale Stromberg, *in memory of Tony;*  
Charles W. Brown,  
*in memory of Cheryl Franko;*  
Vera Catamaran,  
*in memory of Cheryl Franko;*  
Margaret Bryant, *in memory of Sadie.*

### SPECIAL OCCASION

Cathy Morton,  
*in honour of Debra Probert's birthday;*  
John & Dena Sharkey,  
*in honour of Paul & Paula Wallis' wedding;*  
Anonymous,  
*in honour of Robin Loucks' 50th birthday;*  
Jennifer McGarvie & Ron Westlake,  
*on behalf of their animal friends;*  
Milo McGarvie & Riggs & Casey Meinardus;  
Mary Lelond, *in honour of Marilyn Repas;*  
Barbara Hallat,  
*Christmas gift for Chelsea Whittet;*  
Kacia Yu,  
*Christmas gift for Maria & Thomas Yu;*  
Meghan Hamilton,  
*in honour of John Hamilton & Trish Kennedy;*  
Elaine Sta Mina,  
*in honour of Andrew Lichman and Sally Jo;*  
Anonymous, *in honour of Jacque Estabrooks;*

Katharine Dill,  
*in honour of Beth & Johnathon Schofield;*  
Anonymous, *in honour of Bobbi Parker;*  
Anonymous,  
*in honour of Jacqueline Koropatrack;*  
Anonymous,  
*in honour of Maureen & Michael Clarke;*  
Patrice Cooper, *in honour of Kylie Wystrach;*  
Steve, Dawn, Jason, Aaron & Christa,  
*in honour of Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hammell;*  
Dr. Shelley L. Forrest,  
*as a Christmas gift in honour of Joyce Kinamore;*  
Anon, *in honour of Carol Hathaway;*  
Sasha Mazzuca, *in honour of Denyse Steeves;*  
Fearn Edmonds, *in honour of June Humphreys.*

**A special thank you to the following businesses that support our work, either with employee donations or in-kind gifts or services:**

Nirvana Metaphysic & Healing Centre  
Electronic Arts  
Kama Natural Soaps  
United Way of the Lower Mainland re the  
Donor Directed Gifts Program  
Elan Records Canada  
Independent Quality Home Care Ltd.  
Capers Community Market on Robson

**A huge thank you to all of our wonderful monthly donors, and especially to those who increased their donation in 2009. With the economic instability, we are particularly grateful for your support!**

# CHICKEN OUT UPDATE:

## Metro Vancouver decision a victory for Cage Free movement

By Leanne McConnachie

Support for VHS's **Chicken OUT!** project continues to grow with more universities and municipalities adopting cage-free egg purchasing policies every day. Here are the latest cage-free collaborations!

### CAGE FREE EGG PURCHASING POLICIES

#### BC Municipalities

The Metro Vancouver Regional District will only serve free-range eggs in its HQ cafeteria, and is encouraging others to do the same.

VHS proposed that the District adopt a resolution to serve only cage-free eggs in the region's city-run food outlets. The District's Agricultural Committee recognized and supported the important ethical consideration of how eggs are produced and how agricultural production methods impact the sustainability of our region. Their decision was unanimous! Beginning March 2nd, only free-range eggs will be served in the District's cafeteria at its headquarters in Burnaby. A notice has been posted in the cafeteria advising its customers that they are "helping the chicken out" and serving only cage-free eggs.

Although the immediate impact of the policy affects just one cafeteria, the Committee's leadership on this issue sets an important example for other municipalities and regional districts to follow. The Metro Vancouver region is made up of 22 municipalities and one electoral area, with over 60 food outlets amongst them, of which about 40 serve egg products. Within the Metro region, Richmond, Vancouver and Pitt Meadows have already adopted cage-free egg resolutions.

As part of the resolution, the District will also encourage its residents and businesses to consider similar purchasing preferences for cage-free eggs and will write the provincial and federal governments to state its opposition to battery cage production methods.

#### Ontario Municipalities

VHS has been working with Humane Society International/Canada to help educate municipalities in Ontario about egg production practices in their region. Two Ontario municipalities have adopted cage-free egg resolutions – Pickering and Port Colborne – and others are currently considering doing the same.

#### Universities

PETA recently named the University of Victoria Canada's second most vegetarian friendly university. UVic continues to establish high ethical standards for its meals and food policies. In recent discussions with VHS, the university has indicated it will pursue a cage-free egg policy for its campus food facilities. The University intends to implement its cage-free egg policy by September of this year. Thank you UVic for your leadership and for setting an example for other universities and colleges to follow!

That brings the total to 12 post-secondary schools across the country, five of which are in BC, that have adopted cage-free egg procurement policies.

#### CBC TV REPORTS ON Chicken OUT!

On December 14th 2008, CBC News Sunday aired a 15 minute report on Chicken OUT! and egg production methods in Canada. CBC interviewed VHS's Director of Farm Animal Programs, Leanne McConnachie, along with two Fraser Valley egg farmers (one battery, one free-range), world-renowned poultry scientist Dr. Ian Duncan, and some students from Guelph University. The report also included an interview with British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver. The story generated a lot of positive viewer comments in support of the cage-free movement.

If you didn't see the story, you can still

watch the video via CBC's archived footage. Go to the News section or "green tab" on our website, [www.chickenout.ca](http://www.chickenout.ca), click on the December 14th story, and follow the prompts to get to CBC's site. Once there, click on "watch the video".

#### Chicken OUT! AND ABOUT The Wellness Show

Once again, VHS exhibited at the 17th Annual Vancouver Wellness Show, Feb. 6-8, at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. VHS's display and information booth was a great success thanks to both long-time and new volunteers who were on-hand to distribute leaflets and answer questions from the public about our programs and activities. The show involved over 300 exhibitors and close to 35,000 people attended the event.

#### UBC Animal Welfare Program

VHS, together with the BC SPCA, was recently invited by Dr. David Fraser of the University of BC to present to his students taking his award-winning course "Animal Welfare and the Ethics of Animal Use". Dr. Fraser asked VHS and the BC SPCA to present the approach they each take with their respective farm animal welfare programs, and demonstrate how two organizations with seemingly common goals can take different approaches to achieve reforms.



*Cage Free chickens at the UBC Farm*

# URBAN CHICKENS - A good idea?

Vancouver City Council is considering amending its animal control bylaw to allow the keeping of poultry in the city, a practice currently banned. The move is part of an "urban chicken" trend sweeping across North America.

While VHS appreciates the positive aspects of keeping backyard poultry flocks in urban areas (environmental benefits, food security, etc.), the concept presents several animal welfare concerns including:

## **CAPACITY FOR HUMANE KEEPING**

- The humane keeping of chickens requires a high degree of knowledge and expertise in poultry husbandry and in the care, feeding and housing of poultry. While it is entirely possible for individuals to acquire such expertise, the reality is that many people are likely to obtain chickens without the ability to humanely care for them.

This has historically been the case with exotic pets, with a few "experts" applying a degree of knowledge to their hobby. However, most exotic pet keepers display ignorance and neglect which results in considerable animal suffering. Moreover,

it is sadly evident that some pet owners are unable or unwilling to provide humane conditions even for their cats and dogs, despite the substantial educational resources available and a long history of domestication. Media horror stories of animal neglect or abuse remind us of this fact on an almost daily basis.

VHS regularly receives calls for help from people who have taken ownership of animals without the resources, knowledge, space or temperament to provide for their care.

**VETERINARY CARE** - A lack of knowledge about poultry would likely include an inability to detect illness or disease symptoms. Diseases could be spread and, if left untreated, could result in suffering and death. There is also the question of whether urban poultry owners would ensure their chickens receive prompt veterinary treatment (as they might with a cat or dog) given the expense.

**SLAUGHTER** - If people choose to raise chickens for meat (or dispose of layers when they are spent) the issue of humane

slaughter arises. It is unlikely people will take poultry to a vet for euthanasia, as they would their dog or cat. And, if not, what methods will they use? How willing or proficient will inexperienced, urbanites be at decapitating their poultry in the traditional way - with an axe? Even if chickens are kept as pets and treated humanely, the issue of humane slaughter arises for old or sick poultry. Will owners ensure euthanasia for their flocks?

**URBAN PREDATORS** - Metro Vancouver is home to predators such as raccoons and coyotes, which would obviously be a threat to poultry kept in any housing not built to be predator-proof.

## **REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

- It could be argued that the above issues could be addressed by a system of standards and regulations set out in municipal bylaws. A licensing system could mandate appropriate housing, care, feeding, veterinary care and so on. However, the reality is that municipalities have traditionally been reluctant to put in place such regulations and almost certainly would not have the ability to enforce them. Vancouver, for example, does not even have a spay/neuter bylaw for cats. In VHS's experience, municipalities simply do not have the resources to adequately enforce animal welfare bylaws.

It should also be noted that poultry kept as urban pets would not be subject to the animal welfare audits that are applied to commercial producers seeking Certified Organic or BC SPCA Certified standards. These audited standards provide at least some assurance of a level of enhanced welfare. Without them there is no guarantee poultry are being kept to any standard.

While VHS recognizes that knowledgeable individuals with proper resources could provide chickens with a life far superior to that of intensively-farmed poultry, we would not support bylaw changes that would allow for the practice to become widespread. It's true that other cities allow poultry-raising, but it remains to be seen whether this will result in animal welfare problems in future. In our view it is likely that a new and unwelcome animal welfare issue will emerge in these urban areas.



*Backyard flocks bring animal welfare concerns*

# VHS targets Calgary Stampede Tourists

VHS is going to kick the Calgary Stampede where it hurts. As part of a plan to educate tourists on the animal abuse that takes place at the Stampede and other rodeos, VHS has reached an agreement with a major international travel company to show the “dark side” of rodeo to travellers. U.K.-based **responsibletravel.com**, the world’s leading ethical travel company, has agreed to carry a webpage of information from VHS about the cruelty of rodeo.

About 40 per cent of the Stampede’s patrons are tourists, with many coming from the U.K. and Europe. Tour companies around the world currently offer many “Calgary Stampede packages” as part of Canadian vacations. VHS hopes that other ethical travel companies will follow responsibletravel.com’s lead in exposing the animal suffering at the rodeo and plans to distribute similar information to tour operators and travel writers. To see the webpage on rodeo and other issues visit [www.responsibletravel.com/animal-welfare](http://www.responsibletravel.com/animal-welfare).

The trend toward ethical travel began with “eco-tourism” but has now moved into social, cultural and animal welfare issues. (See profile of [responsibletravel.com](http://responsibletravel.com) on this page.)



*VHS wants a ban on calf roping, one of rodeos most inhumane events*

## Ethical travel company takes on Animal Welfare

When **responsibletravel.com** started back in 2001, it was the first business to bring together ‘eco’ or more responsible holidays on one site. It started with just 15 holidays from two tour operators. Now the site offers thousands of deeper and more locally distinctive travel experiences that respect destinations and local communities around the world. It is a company on a mission to help reinvent travel and tourism.

The website has tough responsible tourism screening criteria (environmental, social, economic) for each holiday included on the site. Animal welfare is an important part of this initial screen-

ing process for holidays. The company cares passionately about animal welfare issues in tourism and believes it has an important role to play in raising awareness among travellers of some of the key issues. It has worked closely with a variety of animal welfare organizations over the years including The Born Free Foundation, IFAW, the Vancouver Humane Society and Care for the Wild.

Once the holidays have been screened, **responsibletravel.com** relies on the eyes and ears of travellers to report any issues with animal welfare or other social and environmental problems in destinations. The company independ-

ently contacts travellers when they return from their holiday, and then publishes their feedback on the site - warts and all. This has proved highly successful in helping to inform future travellers and in enabling the website’s tourism venture partners to assess and improve their products. To uphold their environmental (and social and economic) standards, partners who are found to have consistently misrepresented their practices are removed from the site.

More information at [www.responsibletravel.com](http://www.responsibletravel.com).

# Bailey finds a new home thanks to VHS & Boxer Canada Rescue

Although VHS does not operate a shelter we do sometimes facilitate adoptions of animals desperately needing homes. Last year we helped Boxer Canada Rescue by putting details about Bailey, a homeless female beagle, on our website. The item attracted the attention of an animal-lover, Catherine, who tells what happened next:

"When we saw the photo of Bailey on the VHS website it was love at first sight! Bailey had been found abandoned and tied to a post, with a note on her asking for someone to adopt her. Fortunately, a good Samaritan found the poor girl and brought her in to a shelter. She was then placed in the loving care of Lesa Ibarra, from Boxer Canada

Rescue, who got in touch with VHS."

"It has been just about six months and we couldn't be happier! Bailey is such a good girl, smart, energetic and adorable! She loves playing with dogs and gets along with everyone! She recently graduated from agility training and was one of the best dogs in her class! Her favourite things to do are hiking in the forest (we go every weekend now) and shredding fluffy toys to pieces!"

"It is hard to believe such a great companion was ever abandoned. For us, it has been the best decision we've ever made. We can't imagine our life without our Bailey now!"



*Bailey enjoys the beach*

## VHS passes audit with flying colours!

Late in 2008, VHS was the subject of a charity audit by the Canada Revenue Agency. CRA selects charities for audits based on one or more reasons, including random selection or as the result of a complaint. This is the first time VHS has been audited since the organization received charitable status in 1985.

Audits are incredibly time-consuming for staff, especially for a small charity like VHS. All records, financial and activity-related, for the audited year(s) must be presented to the on-site auditor, and questions about the charity's activities, backed up with documentation, must be answered. Fortunately, our records are in good order, so we were able to provide all information in a timely and orderly fashion.

As expected, with one exception, only minor problems were found, and these were easily corrected.

However, it was a surprise to all of us when CRA singled out our Humane Education program as being problematic. We were requested to suspend the project or make substantial changes to it because the CRA felt it exceeded our mandate.

After much discussion and deliberation

at the board level, it was decided that at this time we would not attempt to modify the program to meet CRA recommendations. Ultimately, our limited resources can only be stretched so far, so we will continue to focus on building upon our successes on farm animal, exotic pets and animals in entertainment issues.

In the meantime, we are circulating our humane education presentations to other organizations with the hope that they will incorporate our work into their educational efforts.



## DON'T WORRY We hate junk mail too!

"Many of you have asked us if we trade your personal information with other charities or businesses or sell our list.


### THE ANSWER IS NO!

We do not presently, nor do we intend to do so in the future. If that policy changes, we will give you the opportunity (if you have not already specifically informed us) to keep your information private. So if you are receiving unwanted mail from other groups or businesses, your information has not been sourced from VHS.

We hate junk mail, too!


# Happy Endings

## OZZIE


Ozzie, a one-year-old Chihuahua, not only needed hip surgery but also was homeless. VHS ensured he had his operation and now he also has a happy “forever” home. He has regained the use of his back legs and now chases his new friend Chi (another Chihuahua) around the house at full speed! 



## DONOVAN

Poor Donovan, an eight-year-old ginger tabby, fell three storeys, crushing his nose, jaw and left front arm. Amazingly, he had no broken bones but he did require a considerable amount of ongoing medical treatment that his guardian couldn't afford. VHS helped cover the costs and Donovan is on the mend. 

## SHILO

Shilo's guardian had recently rescued him from poor conditions and he seemed to be doing fine. But he became suddenly ill and a vet diagnosed a blockage in his intestine requiring emergency surgery. He had literally hours to live. His new guardian couldn't pay the entire bill, so VHS stepped in to help and Shilo had a successful operation. 



# The **DARK SIDE** of petting zoos

By Joanne Chang  
Campaigns Director, Liberation BC

Two baby goats huddle tightly next to each other, their terrified faces jammed into the corner of the barn. They are crying uncontrollably. The goats are so young that they shouldn't be anywhere without their mothers, yet there are no adult animals in sight. A few feet away a calf is being chased, and a piglet nearly gets trampled. No, this is not an image from a slaughterhouse or a factory farm. This was something I personally witnessed inside a petting zoo at a local fair.

For a \$5 admission, children roamed unsupervised with baby animals inside the fences of this petting zoo. For a dollar more, they could purchase treats to feed to the animals. Treats were littered all over the barn, yet I never saw a single bowl of water for the animals, which they desperately needed. For the same low admission, parents who have no experience handling farm animals got a chance to teach their kids how to pick up fragile bunnies by the scruff of the neck and carelessly drop them to the ground.

Petting zoos teach children nothing about farm animals. The most valuable education to be gained is usually never told: petting zoos operate for the benefit of the profit makers, not the animals or the children. Animals in petting zoos live short and brutish lives. From early spring to late fall each year, the animals travel from fair to fair, getting no rest from rough handling and stressful trans-

portation. When the animals reach maturity, they are sent to the slaughterhouse, which is why there are seldom adult animals in petting zoos.

Problems with petting zoos go beyond animal welfare issues. In recent years a notable number of deadly E. coli stains have been spread, mostly to children after visits to petting zoos. In British Columbia, 45 people were infected with E. coli O157:H7 after a school field trip to a petting zoo. In Oregon, 82 people were infected after visiting a coun-

ty fair. Another 108 people fell ill after visiting a state fair in North Carolina. In all of these cases, E. coli bacteria were traced back to the feces of animals in petting zoos. Symptoms of E.coli O157:H7 range from bloody diarrhea to acute kidney failure.

Petting zoos pose a danger to the health of children and animals. Next summer when the fairs come around, perhaps we can all bypass this inhumane and unsanitary animal display.



*Let me out of here!*

## UHS discusses Global Trade & Farm Animal Welfare

Thanks to funding from **Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Farm Animals (CETFA)**, VHS was able to send its Director of Farm Animal Programs, Leanne McConnachie, to an international conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare. The two-day conference was held in Brussels, Belgium this past January, and was organized and hosted by the European Commission, the RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming, WSPA and EuroGroup for Animals. More than 400 people representing 55 countries attended.

The conference provided VHS with an incredible learning experience about how legislation and trade agreements are making an impact on farm animal welfare and consumer attitudes worldwide. The European Commission has a strong commitment to animal welfare, and they wish to incorporate animal welfare

standards into their trade agreements to ensure a level playing field and transparency for all.

A highlight of the conference was a presentation from a South African egg farmer who uses a completely natural and holistic approach to raising his hens. He was able to refute all the claims that battery producers make in opposition to free-range systems. Equally enlightening was learning how far behind some countries are in their understanding of animal welfare, thinking that a sign of good welfare was simply a lack of lesions and bruising on the carcass at slaughter. Their motivation to improve "welfare" was to avoid lost profit margins from having to discard bruised meat rather than improvements for the animals' sake.

Another key benefit of attending the conference was the opportunity to

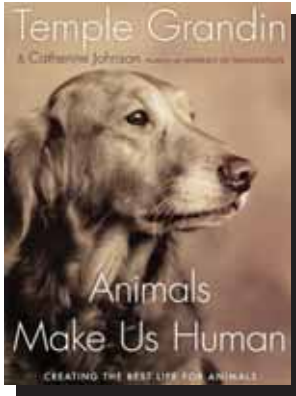
network and meet with so many organizations and individuals that have led animal welfare reforms in their own countries. VHS is fortunate to be able to draw upon these contacts for their knowledge, ideas and support as we continue our efforts here at home.



# NEW BOOKS to enlighten & entertain

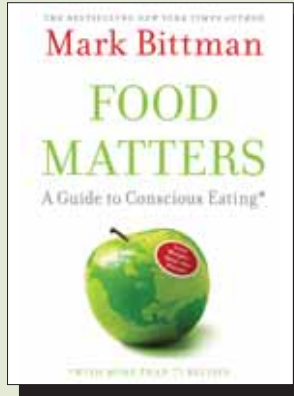
*Animals Make us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals*, by Temple Grandin. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. \$34.95

In her groundbreaking book *Animals in Translation*, Temple Grandin drew on her own experience with autism as well as her distinguished career as an animal scientist to deliver extraordinary insights into how animals think, act, and feel. In *Animals Make Us Human* she builds on those insights how animals can have better and happier lives. Drawing on the latest research and her own work, Grandin identifies the core emotional needs of animals and discusses how they can be satisfied. Although animal activists sometimes oppose Grandin's work with the livestock industry, her knowledge of animal behaviour is nevertheless valuable.



*Food Matters*, by Mark Bittman. Simon and Schuster. \$28.99.

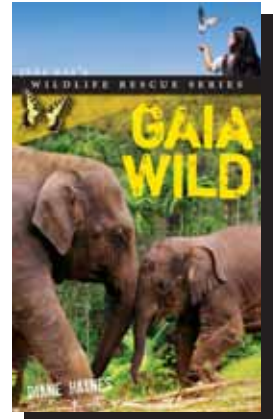
Cook book author and New York Times food writer Mark Bittman shows how government policy, big business and global economics influence what we eat. While not a vegetarian, Bittman exposes the environmental degradation caused by the overconsumption of meat and offers an alternative approach to food. Unlike other books on this subject, *Food Matters* also provides meal plans and recipes that will help consumers move away from a meat-centred diet.



This book is a welcome addition to the growing body of food literature that is putting a plant-based diet firmly in the mainstream of North American culture.

*Gaia Wild*, by Diane Haynes. Walrus Books. \$8.95

*Gaia Wild* is the latest addition to the popular Jane Ray's Wildlife Rescue series. When a film production company arrives in Cedar's Ridge to shoot a movie, everyone is excited - except Jane Ray. One of the film stars is not being treated well: Gaia the elephant is kept in tiny quarters and forced to kneel, walk and trumpet on command. Jane learns that Animal Actors Inc. wants to buy Gaia from the zoo and put her to work, and Jane is determined to sabotage the plans. When the sale falls through and Gaia is to be euthanized Jane decides it's up to her to save Gaia's life.



## 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!*





PETA launched its campaign at Vancouver City Hall

## PETA launches Olympic seal hunt campaign

VHS lent its support to the launch of a campaign by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) targeting Canada's annual seal hunt as the world's attention is focused on the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

The one-year campaign was launched on the steps of Vancouver's City Hall on February 18, with the help of VHS staff and volunteers. The event, which unveiled a parody of the Olympic logo showing a seal hunter clubbing a baby seal (see photo), attracted considerable media attention.

PETA is asking people to write to the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC) to ask for its help in persuading Canadian officials to end the hunt. Letters can be sent to:

400 – 3585 Gravelly Street, Vancouver, BC, V5K 5J5 or to [info@vancouver2010.com](mailto:info@vancouver2010.com).

## Author explores our relationship with animals

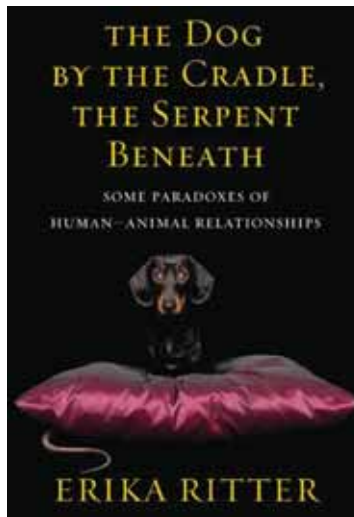
Author and broadcaster **Erika Ritter** will read from her new book, *The Dog by the Cradle, the Serpent Beneath*, at the Vancouver Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, on Thursday, March 19 in the Alice Mackay Room, Lower Level. Admission is free.

The book traces the essential contradictions in humanity's relationships with animals, from prehistoric worship of the cave-bear to the latest research on the intelligence of crows, to the future of animals' legal rights.

Ritter probes the human-animal bond with experts in animal cognition, welfare advocates, philosophers and animal rights advocates. And she paints vivid pictures

of research apes in retirement, a greyhound adoption convention, a public memorial for a fallen police horse and other unforgettable images of animals among us.

Ritter is a veteran CBC radio broadcaster and playwright who lives in Toronto.



## Thanks Capers!



Capers Community Market on Robson Street in Vancouver has raised a whopping **\$1,550 for VHS!**

The money was raised through **Capers' Community Chest** program – when a customer uses their own bag or re-uses a bag, Capers offers them 10 cents off their bill or a token they can donate to a non-profit organization. *So a big thank-you to Capers and their thoughtful customers!*



#303-8623 Granville St., Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5A2  
Phone: 604-266-9744 ; Fax: 604-266-1311

Web: [www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca](http://www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca)  
Email: [info@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca](mailto:info@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca)

**Board of directors:**  
Liberty Mulkani, *President*  
Laura Brown, *Secretary*  
June Humphreys, *Director*  
Lana Grosse, *Treasurer*  
Chris Hajek, *Director*

**Staff:**  
Debra Probert, *Executive Director*

Peter Fricker, *Projects and Communications Director*  
Leanne McConnachie, *Director, Farm Animal Programs*  
Carita Chan, *Outreach Assistant*  
Laara Ryane, *Administrative Manager*

### Newsletter

Peter Fricker, *Editor*

### Contributing Writers:

Leanne McConnachie, Debra Probert, Joanne Chang