

# animal

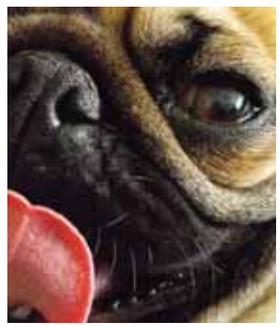
[www.vancouverhumaneociety.bc.ca](http://www.vancouverhumaneociety.bc.ca)

VOLUME 45 FALL 2009

## WRITES



VHS New Spay & Neuter Project  
pg 3

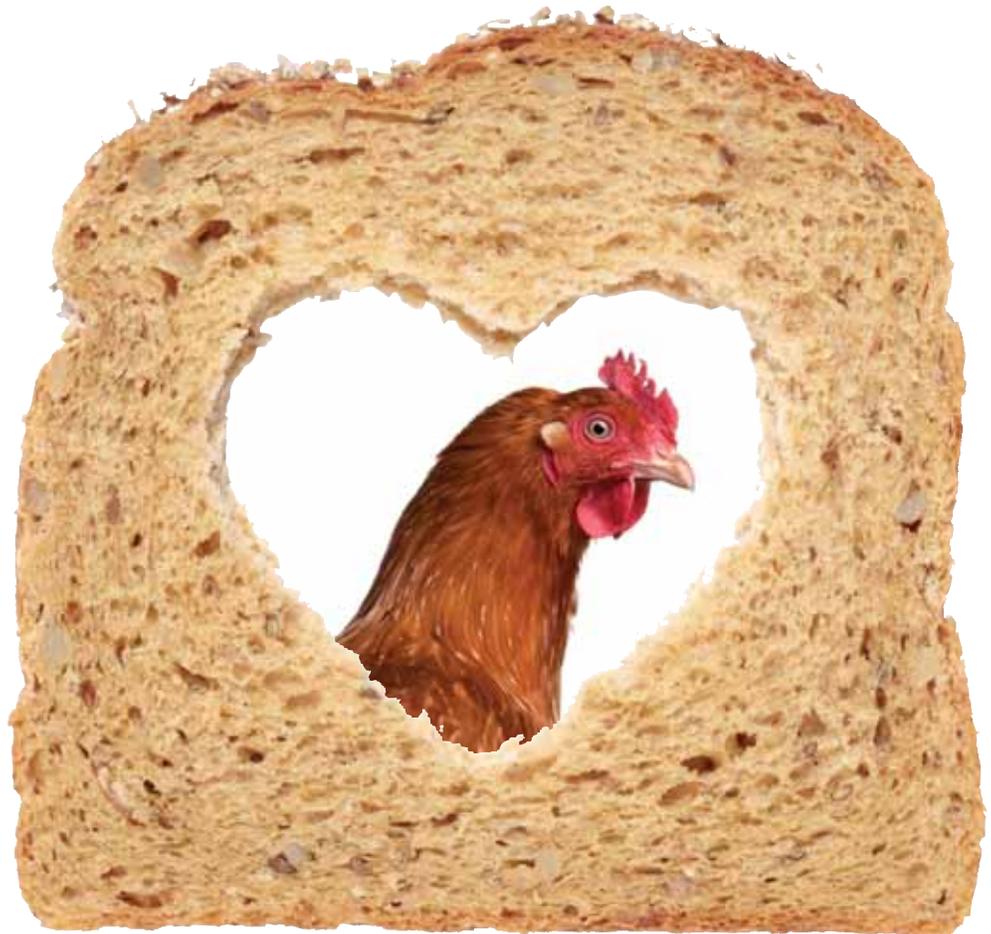


Winston's Close Call  
pg 5



VHS's 2010 Calendar is Out!  
pg 9

## Rising to the challenge TERRA BREADS GOES CAGE FREE!



Vancouver-based artisan bread maker and bakery, Terra Breads, will now use only cage-free eggs in all its baked goods.

Terra Breads head baker and co-owner Mary MacKay became interested in using cage-free eggs after hearing a VHS presentation about our Chicken OUT! campaign at a meeting of

the Chef's Table Society of BC. The Chef's Table Society is a chef-administered, province-wide collaborative dedicated to creating a foundation for the exchange of information between culinary professionals.

*continued on pg 6*

## Boycott Petcetera!

VHS is calling for a boycott of the pet store chain Petcetera because of its decision to sell a wider range of animals.

Petcetera, which went bankrupt earlier this year, is reopening a number of stores in the Lower Mainland with an expanded list of animals for sale, including a range of reptiles. In the late 1990s, after pressure from animal welfare groups, the chain agreed not to sell exotic animals.

Petcetera's decision to sell reptiles ignores the fact that these animals, even if they are captive-bred, suffer in captivity. As with all pet store animals, many will be bought on impulse, then neglected or abandoned once their novelty wears off.

The move also breaks a previous commitment by the store not to sell exotic pets. In 2008, Petcetera chief executive officer Dan Urbani told the Richmond News: *"Due to the lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of keeping exotic animals as pets, Petcetera does not support the sale of these animals."*

VHS also objects to Petcetera's continued sale of rabbits, given the overpopulation problems caused by the release of pet rabbits in several areas in B.C. Richmond, Kelowna and the University of Victoria have faced major rabbit overpopulation problems. This has not only unnecessarily exposed rabbits to starvation, disease and predation, but also creates costly and controversial dilemmas for communities on how to stop the overpopulation.

VHS is urging the public to look to animal shelters and rescue groups if they want to give an animal a home – and only if they have the time, resources and commitment to permanently provide the animal with an appropriate environment.

The BC SPCA has severed its relationship with Petcetera and has announced a new satellite adoption program with the Bosley's chain of pet supplies stores.



## Truly FRIGHTENING!

VHS has called on provincial and municipal authorities to investigate an animal rental agency in Abbotsford that appears to be keeping a number of potentially dangerous exotic animals – including cobras, rattlesnakes and an alligator.

The agency, called The Fright Stuff, supplies animals to the film industry. It claims on its website that it has a range of large and exotic reptiles, which are pictured and listed as available.

According to film industry sources, the agency is located in Abbotsford.

VHS wrote to the provincial environment minister, Barry Penner, and to the City of Abbotsford, pointing out that Fright Stuff's possession of venomous snakes and alligators would be a breach of city bylaws

and of provincial regulations.

Abbotsford bylaw officers have confirmed to VHS that they are investigating the agency, but there has been no response from the environment minister's office. Earlier this year the ministry announced new regulations that ban the ownership of a number of exotic animals without a permit, including venomous snakes and alligators.

Fright Stuff is just one of a number of animal rental agencies in B.C. that provide exotic animals for films, commercials and entertainment purposes. It is unclear how they will be affected by the new regulations.

**The Fright Stuff's website:** [www.members.shaw.ca/rzoo/frightstfhome.html](http://www.members.shaw.ca/rzoo/frightstfhome.html)

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## VHS calls Petting Zoos to account

VHS has written to the Vancouver Park Board about complaints from the public concerning the petting zoo (Children's Farmyard) in Stanley Park.

We received information and photographs showing rabbits kept in wire-floor cages (which can injure feet), dirty barns, obese animals and other problems at the zoo. VHS's letter demands that conditions at the zoo be reviewed and these issues be addressed. The information has also been passed on to the BC SPCA, which is looking into the matter.

VHS has also written to the president of the Pacific National exhibition concerning the September outbreak of E. coli at the PNE's petting zoo, which caused several children to fall ill. The letter states: *"Petting zoos represent an outdated, meaningless form of entertainment that is hard on animals and useless for children in terms of understanding and appreciating animals. To risk children's health for such a trivial form of entertainment seems irresponsible."* VHS recommended that the zoo be closed down.

# New project targets homeless cats in Surrey

## Beaker Made it Home

Beaker is typical of the kind of cat that will be helped by VHS's spay/neuter project. At 12 weeks old, he was one of a family of feral cats trapped, spayed and neutered by VHS volunteers. Unlike his feral siblings, Beaker was friendly and adoptable. But he was found to have an umbilical hernia, which VHS had treated, but also a serious heart murmur, so no one would give him a home. A kind VHS volunteer took him in, but sadly, at three-years-old, Beaker's little heart gave out – a short life, but one lived in a loving home, not on the streets.



Photo © Laura Brown

Despite years of public education work by animal welfare groups, many people are still not spaying and neutering their cats. In addition, unwanted cats are sometimes abandoned in "someone else's neighbourhood," where populations of feral or stray cats grow.

To help address the issue, VHS has launched a project in Surrey to reduce the numbers of homeless and feral cats. The project is being financed through the "Punky Fund," established by a generous VHS supporter (who has also initiated a wider "challenge fund" – see story this page).

The project will target several areas where the overpopulation of cats has become acute. One area, a mobile home park under the Pattullo Bridge, has become a dumping ground for unwanted pets, mostly cats. Some residents of the park try to care for the cats but many just can't afford veterinary costs and don't have transport to take cats to be spayed or neutered. Other cat 'hot spots' in Surrey have similar problems.

That's where VHS's spay/neuter project comes in. In addition to trapping feral and stray cats to take them for sterilization at nearby veterinarians,

VHS volunteers will offer local residents help with spay/neuter costs for any cat they find in their neighbourhood. Posters promoting the service will be put up in local vet offices and distributed to landlords.

If possible, some cats will be rehomed after spay/neuter, while others (such as ferals) will be returned to neighbourhoods where residents watch over them and provide food.

By working with compassionate local residents, VHS hopes it can reduce the numbers of unwanted cats and end much of the suffering they endure.

## Double your donation to help animals today!

Our supporters are the best! One of you has generously issued a challenge to the rest of our supporters! She will double your donations to the VHS emergency medical help fund, up to a total of \$5000! That means if we can meet the challenge, we'll have \$10,000 to help animals in desperate need of medical attention.

This comes at a crucial time in so many ways. Because of the economic downturn, we are receiving more requests for help than ever before. Although there is much talk of economic recovery, many people have lost their jobs and have not been able to find work. Many of them are in tears when they call. It's heartbreaking to have to tell them we have no funds available to help them with their companions.

This donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has asked us to name the fund

the Jamie and Punky fund. Although her reasons remain confidential, the sentiment isn't. She recognizes the close bond and profound sense of responsibility that we have in our relationships with our animal companions.

If we don't help them, who will?

So if you'd like to contribute to the Jamie & Punky Fund, please indicate that on your donation slip. Thank you!!! Together, we're making a difference!



# Antibiotics for Animals Jeopardizes Human Health

By Debra Probert

In June, the media dutifully covered news from the medical journals *The Lancet* and the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* revealing that the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is deeply alarmed over the use of antibiotics in poultry production. Five months later, the question remains: Is anyone doing anything about it?

Specifically the agency is concerned about the "cephalosporin" class of antibiotics - one of the last remaining categories available for treatment of gonorrhoea, pneumonia and urinary tract infections in humans. PHAC officials, who have been tracking cephalosporin resistance in bacteria from meat and poultry products, and in humans since 2002, believe the use of this drug in poultry production has led to a striking rise in cephalosporin-resistant bacteria, which is now not just confined to hospitals, but is also occurring in the wider community.

In North America, clinically important antibiotics are routinely used in poultry and pig production by the bucketful. These drugs are not used to treat disease - rather, small doses are added to feed to prevent disease and are euphemistically referred to as "growth promoters".

The necessity for such measures arose because of the crowded and filthy conditions inherent on modern factory farms. As John Neil, who works for the Chicken Farmers of Ontario, told *The Lancet*, "*The chickens are raised in their own excrement because that saves farmers the cost of having to change their litter during the 40 days they spend (in barns) before slaughter.*"

Pig production as well involves crowded intensive systems that provide breeding grounds for disease. Stress due to crowding (hundreds of pigs in one huge shed), poor ventilation (standing on

concrete with metal slats through which manure falls and sits, decomposing and emitting toxic ammonia) and psychological stress (intelligent, social animals kept in tiny metal crates in which they can barely move, much less perform any natural behaviour) provides an environment in which something extraordinary must be done to prevent disease.

Scientific studies now show that half the pigs so far tested in the US have MRSA, or Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus, the superbug that now kills more people than AIDS in the US each year.

The problem is based on the same science that has physicians warning patients to keep taking their course of antibiotics until it is all gone. If the bacteria are exposed to too little of the antibiotic, they develop resistance. Most antibiotics are fed to farm animals in sub-therapeutic doses that only make bacteria more powerful.

Globally, the medical community is also alarmed - Britain's chief medical officer stated in his 2009 annual report: "*Every inappropriate or unnecessary use in ... agriculture is potentially signing a death warrant for a future patient.*" The European Union has banned the use of antibiotics as growth promoters, as advised by the World Health Organization in 2003.

And in the US, despite government stalling on the issue, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association; in fact, nearly every medical association in the US is now opposed to this practice.

So in light of the evidence, you'd think that Health Canada would be aggressively pursuing a ban on the sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals. However, our government has only placed a warning

against off-label (unapproved) use on labels. It doesn't help that vital information about drug use in farm animals is a closely guarded secret - the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) collects the drug-use data from farmers, but will not release it to other government agencies, including the Public Health Agency of Canada. Industry considers the information proprietary, and apparently the CFIA agrees. In other words, if this data was released, it might affect industry's profits so it's best to keep quiet about it.

Keeping quiet is something Big Ag values, as one academic stated in a text book for agriculture students. "*One of the best things agriculture has going for it is that most people in the developed countries... haven't a clue how animals are raised and processed... For modern animal agriculture, the less the consumer knows, the better.*"





Photos © Lauren Martin

# Winston's Close Call

VHS office manager Lauren Martin and her boyfriend Steve Venegas recently had a harrowing experience with their dog Winston. Steve tells the story...

Winston is a three-year-old pug with a playful disposition and a smooshed-in face.

Everyday Winston wakes me up at 6:00 in the morning for his breakfast. Now, this may sound cute to most people, but having a 10 kilogram dog jump on your chest first thing in the morning isn't always the most adorable thing in the world. But that doesn't stop me from loving him.

He's my first dog and the best little pal a guy could ask for.

Last Labour Day, Lauren and I decided to get him a treat from the local pet store: A spring-shaped piece of rawhide intended to keep him happy and entertained for a little while.

Winston was very excited to get the gift and he tore into it right away. Well, not so much tore as gnawed and slobbered.

While our little buddy got to work on his new favourite thing in the world, Lauren and I were surfing the Internet, the laptop screen blocking our view of Winston, who was sitting only two metres away on his heart-shaped dog bed.

Then we heard a horrible hacking sound. It was Winston, he was heaving, he was writhing, and he was making a mess on

the carpet.

Anyone who has a dog knows that they are prone to regurgitating at the drop of a hat, so this was nothing new. But there was something different. He wasn't producing anything of substance, and he was starting to panic. I held onto him so that he wouldn't run around the apartment, and I noticed that he was weak-kneed and wobbly. He was trying to lie down, and his tail was straightening. He wasn't breathing. He was choking.

*"I have to take him to the animal hospital now!"* I said, as I picked up my rumpy-sidekick under my arm like a football. His tongue was turning white. He couldn't inhale, only wheeze out tiny coughs.

After 20 of the longest floors, I ran out of the elevator and onto the street. I kept telling him that he was a good dog and that everything was going to be okay. He still wasn't breathing, but he was wagging his curly tail. He was excited to be outside. I wanted to tell him to take the situation seriously, but I'm pretty sure he didn't grasp the gravity of the moment.

Out of breath, I burst into the Vet's office.

*"Dog. Choking. Help!"* was all I could say, nearly passing out from the physical effort of sprinting the five blocks.

They took Winston from me and to the back room from where I could hear the barks and whines of other neighbourhood dogs.

Then I sat and waited. I waited for news. I waited to see if my little buddy was going to go to dog heaven.

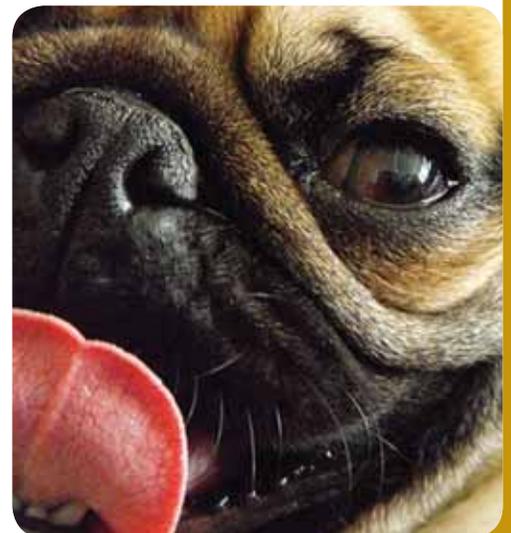
Lauren arrived just as the vet emerged from the back room to tell me that they would need permission to give Winston a shot to put him under as they tried to see if they could remove whatever it was that was blocking his airway. We gave permission and the vet left.

And again we waited, trying our best to comfort each other, knowing that we might lose our special little guy.

After what felt like hours, the vet came out again with a happy pug in tow. We were ecstatic. Winston seemed to have no idea anything bad just happened.

We were taught a lesson that afternoon:

*Always watch your pets when they're having a chewy treat. You never know what could happen.*





## Terra Breads goes Cage Free

*Continued from Front Page*

Terra Breads turned to VHS to help them find a source for liquid cage-free eggs and we connected them with Richmond-based Rabbit River Farms. Rabbit River produces both Certified Organic free-range and BC SPCA Certified free-run eggs and is a leading supplier of cage-free eggs for the retail market.

Steve Easterbrook, owner of Rabbit River Farms, has been a leading advocate for cage-free production for the past 15 years. *"Our advancement into supplying value-added cage-free egg products such as whole liquid egg and hard-cooked peeled eggs enables us to serve*

*the bakery, restaurant and food service market for ready to use egg products,"* said Easterbrook.

Terra began trials with Rabbit River's new cage-free liquid egg product this August. *"We mix quality ingredients — many of them organic — to make our breads"* said MacKay. *"The eggs supplied by Rabbit River are a beautiful golden yellow from the rich yolks that are developed from happy chickens. We are thrilled to be able to now bake with cage-free eggs."*

*"We commend Terra Breads for making the switch, and are so pleased that Rabbit River has increased the availability of cage-free egg products"* said Leanne McConnachie, Director of VHS's Chicken OUT! campaign in a press release. *"Their leadership and cage-free products will encourage and enable many more right-minded retail and food service companies to eliminate the use of eggs from battery caged hens".*

In other news...

### Capital City Campuses go Cage-Free

The new school year has started off with the addition of two cage-free campuses

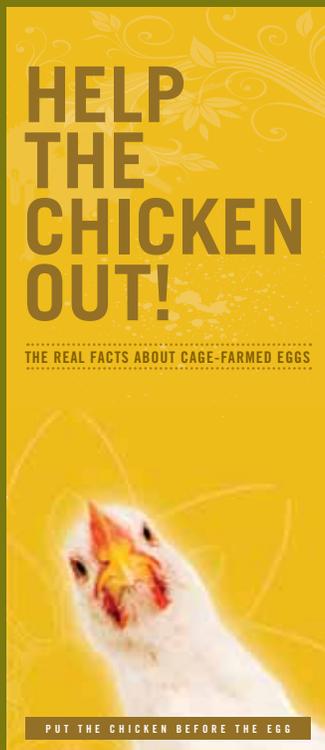
in two capital cities – Victoria and Ottawa! That now brings the total to 15 campuses across Canada that have made the switch from caged to cage-free egg purchasing policies.

The University of Victoria's Food Service Department will only be using 100 per cent cage-free eggs – both shell and liquid eggs – in its campus food venues. The decision to eliminate the use of any eggs from caged hens will affect 12 separate businesses on campus, including the University's two main cafeterias, residence dining halls and catering service.

In Ottawa, Carleton University committed to serving only cage-free shell eggs, and hopes to add cage-free liquid eggs as soon as they can find a supplier.

Brock University in St. Catherine's Ontario has also followed through on their promise to implement a 100 per cent cage-free egg purchasing policy by September. As a matter of fact, because Brock was unable to find a supplier of cage-free boiled eggs, they decided to boil their shell eggs themselves in order to honour their policy.

**Now that's commitment!**



## Chicken OUT! Preen after Makeover

Thanks to funding from the Vancouver Foundation, Chicken OUT! got a complete makeover this summer. The revisions began with a brand new web site, which not only enhances the campaign's image, but provides improved content and easier navigation for our viewers. We then coordinated the new look with some much needed updates to our old event signs and banners, our **Chicken OUT!** brochure and our egg label shopping guide.

The egg label guide is now available as a convenient wallet-sized tri-fold brochure so you can carry it with you while grocery shopping.

We even translated the brochure and the egg label guide into Mandarin! Visit our new web site at [www.chickenout.ca](http://www.chickenout.ca) or call the office if you'd like copies of the new English or Mandarin brochure and guide: 604 266 9744.

# No Summer Vacation for Chicken OUT!

It was a very busy summer for VHS staff and volunteers as we attended farmers' markets and events throughout the Lower Mainland all summer long. In all, we attended 20 events between June and September, but the highlight was our first ever float in Vancouver's Pride Parade on August 2nd.

VHS supporter Tevie Smith offered VHS his 1947 Chrysler Town and Country "Woodie" as the float

vehicle. Staff and volunteers spent hours decorating Tevie's "Termite Taxi", turning it into a work of art! Our battery cage hen mascot "Henny" donned a pink boa and was perched atop the roof, while driver

Tevie mastered the wheel.

VHS staff and volunteers walked the 3km Parade route, handing out leaflets and candies to the crowd. With over 600,000 people in attendance, the Parade served as an excellent opportunity to spread our message, which was "Stop closeting the truth: cages are cruel, and Henny just wants to come OUT!"



Photo © Tristen Petton

## Coming to a backyard near you...

You may have heard that Vancouver City Council voted to allow backyard chickens in residential areas. You may have hoped that this was an urban legend. Unfortunately, it's no legend, and the urban chicken may soon be moving in to a backyard near you.

VHS spoke out against the City's plans to reverse the animal control by-law prohibiting the keeping of backyard hens. VHS cited concerns of proper disease recognition and treatment, inhumane slaughter practices, abandonment of unwanted hens, inadequate protection from

predators, and the inability of the City to enforce any humane keeping guidelines it might create.

Despite our opposing arguments, Council unanimously voted to approve the reversal pending approval of appropriate care and handling guidelines currently being developed by City staff.

Both VHS and the BC SPCA were invited to provide input to these guidelines, and a draft policy was presented at the September 9th Food Policy Council meeting. City staff did incorporate many important animal welfare considerations, particularly concerning chicken coop design, the number of hens allowed,

and restricting chicken keeping to single residential dwellings (i.e. no coops on condo balconies). However, we were disappointed that they did not make attendance at chicken keeping workshops a requirement of obtaining a permit, and that they have no plans or funds set aside for enforcement of the other guidelines.

For more information, visit the Community Services Social Planning section of the City's website at [www.vancouver.ca/COMMSVCS/socialplanning/initiatives/foodpolicy/projects/chickens.html](http://www.vancouver.ca/COMMSVCS/socialplanning/initiatives/foodpolicy/projects/chickens.html).

## Check out our New BLOG

The Vancouver Sun has granted VHS a blog on its "Community of Interest" web pages, which allows selected bloggers to comment on current affairs. The VHS blog, authored by VHS communications director Peter Fricker, focuses on animal issues.

The blog provides an opportunity for readers to submit comments on each post. VHS would welcome such comments, as this helps draw attention to animal issues.

The Community of Interest blog is at [www.vancouversun.com/opinion/community-of-interest/Peter+Fricker/1817380/story.html](http://www.vancouversun.com/opinion/community-of-interest/Peter+Fricker/1817380/story.html) Or click Opinion on the Vancouver Sun website, then Community of Interest.

See an example of our blog articles below.



The screenshot shows a web page from The Vancouver Sun. At the top, the newspaper's name "THE VANCOUVER SUN" is displayed in a large, serif font, with "Division of Canwest Publishing Inc." underneath. To the right, there is a logo for "vancouver 2010 OFFICIAL SUMMER" and "REGIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER". Below the masthead is a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Opinion, Business, Sports, Entertainment, Life, Health, and Technology. Underneath that is a secondary menu with links for Blogs, Letters, Columnists, Editorials, Op-Ed, Editorial Cartoon, and Community of Interest. The main content area features the name "Peter Fricker" in a large font, with the date "JULY 21, 2009" below it. There are two tabs: "STORY" (selected) and "PHOTOS (2)". A small portrait of Peter Fricker is shown on the left. To the right of the portrait, a short bio reads: "Peter Fricker is the projects and communications director for the Vancouver Humane Society. He has worked in communications for a number of non-profit organizations and companies, including the United Way, BC Hydro and the Hyack Festival." Below the bio is a link "More images >". At the bottom of the bio section, it says "Photograph by: Submitted, Vancouver Sun" and "You can read his latest posts here." On the right side of the page, there is a "STORY TOOLS" section with links for "E-mail this Article", "Print this Article", and "Share this Article", along with font size controls. Below that is a "RELATED STORIES FROM AROUND THE WEB" section with a link to "Elliott Smith Trib". At the very bottom, a copyright notice reads "© Copyright (c) The Vancouver Sun".

## Our Selfish Love of Zoos

*This article was carried on the Vancouver Sun's Community of Interest Blog on August 6.*

Earlier this week (Aug. 3) an Ohio family made news for visiting 52 zoos in 52 weeks. They "really, really love zoos," said press reports.

People who go to zoos often say they "love" animals, but as psychologists and life experience would tell us, loving something and having its best interests at heart are not always the same thing.

The problem with zoos is that they are not really about the animals, they're all about us. Animals, especially exotic ones, are undeniably fascinating and our desire to see them up close is understandable. But satisfying that desire requires zoo animals to give up the life evolution intended for them. While we gain entertainment they lose space, the ability to engage in natural behaviours and the environments they are biologically suited to - in short, their freedom.

Zookeepers argue that they are all about conservation and education now, and it's true that some zoos have come a long way from the 'concrete and bars' model of the past. But in fact conservation work remains a small part of zoos' activities and is largely ineffective. Public display of animals for our amusement is still their *raison d'être*.

As for education, there is simply no credible evidence that visiting a zoo is educationally superior to conventional study involving books, television, film, field work and the Internet. That's not surprising. A tiger in a zoo, since it can't behave like a tiger in the wild, is just a facsimile of the animal. You can watch it all day but you won't learn anything about real tigers.

Yet zoo fans feel entitled to see animals from Africa or Asia sitting in an enclosure on the west coast of North America, regardless of the welfare of the animals. It's a selfish love that must have its object captive and under its control. If that love were balanced with respect, perhaps people would be willing to forgo the thrill of seeing captive animals up close.



There is a line in W.H. Auden's poem *Address to the Beasts* that goes:

*"What a joy to know,  
even when we can't see or hear you,  
that you are around..."*

It's a pity that that's not enough for those who say they love animals but need to see them behind chain-link fences.

# DONATIONS

## Memorial

Frances Devereux in memory of Beth Gloyd;  
Tracy Kohinski in memory of Marija Loncaric;  
Dale Stromberg in memory of Angus;  
Wendy Fouks in memory of Spencer;  
Catherine Morton in memory of Misty;  
Anne Stanley in memory of Casey;  
Dorothy Clarke, in memory of Norman Seaton;  
Elizabeth Jarvis in memory of Tibby;  
Billie Hennessey, in memory of Bill;  
June Humphreys in memory of Luigi;  
Anne Stanley in memory of Suki and Flicka;  
Roberta Olenick in memory of Grey;  
Betty Lou Close in memory of Marcus Close;  
Gwendy Williams in memory of Rosie;  
Sharyn & Bill Elder in memory of Boots.

## Birthdays and Celebrations

Kim Capri celebrating the birthday of Olive;

Jake O'Kennedy celebrating his birthday;  
Isolde Hager celebrating the birthday of Christine Schneider.

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

Kama Natural Soap;  
Indesigns;  
Elan Records Canada;  
Clearly Green Design;  
Three Dog Bakery.

## Businesses Carrying our Calendars

Amherst Veterinary Hospital;  
In the Raw...Food for Dogs and Cats;  
Kingsway Veterinary Clinic;  
Alpine Animal Hospital;  
Lincoln Animal Hospital;  
Cambie Animal Hospital.



## 2010 VHS Calendar Now Available!

You won't want to miss this one!! Our 2009 calendar was so popular we decided to do it again! Every month has a beautiful photo and story about an animal rescued by RestQ Animal Sanctuary on Mayne Island or saved by the Vancouver Humane Society through our emergency medical help funds.

Don't wait too long - we ran out last year, so get yours now! It makes a great Christmas gift, especially for that child on your list!

Cost is only \$20.00 including shipping. Call or email the VHS office today!

Tel: 604 266 9744

Email: [lauren@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca](mailto:lauren@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca)

# Building a Better (and kinder) Mousetrap

Mice are a common home invader. As cute as they may be, many homeowners worry about their ability to carry disease and spread airborne allergens. Though they are a nuisance for many people, they still feel pain if caught in traditional mouse traps. Most traps used to catch mice cause pain, lengthy suffering, and death. For example, glue board traps are one of the cruellest devices used to capture mice. Once a mouse is stuck to one of these traps, it can suffer for days. It will starve to death, suffocate, or even chew off its own limbs to try and free itself. Glue traps, snap traps and poisons are not only harmful and inhumane for mice; these methods can also be hazardous to children and family pets. Humane mouse traps are an alternative to these cruel and dangerous devices.

Humane traps for mice have recently become more popular. There are several available that have different means of capturing these intruders. Locally, the Victor Live Catch Display trap is available for \$6.79 each at Home Depot and is an example of a safe, humane way to capture and release mice without having them suffer needlessly.

The humane mouse trap is a better and safer alternative to the more traditional traps for mice. Using this friendlier method will ensure a healthier and safer home along and save animals from unnecessary suffering. It will also set a good example for children and others.

For information on Victor humane traps, please visit:

<http://www.victorpest.com/store/rodent-control/product-family/live-mouse-trap>



## Curious Cat Cards for Sale!

Don't forget to order our Curious Cat greeting cards, custom-made for VHS by internationally established photographer Jon Bertelli. Buy them for yourself or as a gift for someone else! T-shirts are also available. A percentage of proceeds will be donated back to VHS. FREE BOOKMARK with every purchase!



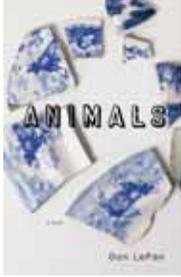
Photo © Leanne McConnachie

## Thanks Jake!

A special thank you goes out to Jake O'Kennedy. At his 5th birthday party this summer, Jake (left) generously requested donations for VHS in lieu of

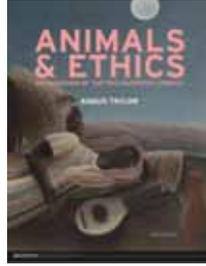
presents for himself. Office dog Robbie made sure both Jake and his younger brother Keaton received copious doggy-licks in gratitude!

## Our relationship with Animals - Some books to make You think!



**Animals: A novel**  
by Don LePan.  
Esplanade Books.  
\$18.95.

Set in a future in which virtually all non-human animals are extinct and have been replaced with semi-human "mongrels," this book explores our relationship with other creatures in a powerful and profound way. Philosopher Peter Singer has praised *Animals* as "an engaging story that asks deep and challenging questions." Moreover, the story is one that hooks readers early on and keeps them engaged through good storytelling and compelling writing. An important and provocative book for our times – one that will make readers change the way they think and that may well change the way some of us live.



**Animals & Ethics**, by  
Angus Taylor.  
Broadview  
Press. \$28.95.

Now in its third edition, *Animals & Ethics*, is considered one of the best texts on animal ethics available. Covering a broad range of material with great expertise, Taylor guides readers through the key works of the world's thinkers on the ethical consideration of non-human animals. It explores crucial philosophical questions such as: Can animals be regarded as part of the moral community? To what extent, if at all, do they have moral rights? Are we wrong to eat them, hunt them, or use them for scientific research? Can animal liberation be squared with the environmental movement? A vital book for animal rights readers and researchers.



**Why Animal Suffering Matters**,  
by Andrew Linzey.  
Oxford University  
Press. \$35.95.

Andrew Linzey is an Anglican priest, theologian and one of the world's foremost thinkers and writers on ethics, theology and animal welfare. This, his latest book, has been described as one of his finest works. It argues that the inability of animals to give or withhold consent, their inability to represent their interests, their moral innocence, and their relative defenselessness all compel us not to harm them. Linzey's powerful arguments make this book a useful piece of ammunition for those wishing to counter the arguments of the other Christian school of thought that insists our "dominion" over animals gives us licence to exploit them.

# 4 Good Reasons

why you should remember animals in your will



1

Helping sick and injured animals.



2

Speaking out for animals in captivity.



3

Working hard to get chickens out of cages



4

Publicly opposing the cruelty of rodeo.

**AGAINST ALL ANIMAL CRUELTY!**

Please contact our office for more information.

**VHS**  
www.vancouverhumansociety.bc.ca



# Happy Endings



## Bella...Thrown Away in a Dumpster

A homeless kitten has eight of her nine lives left, thanks to the kindness of an alert Good Samaritan in East Vancouver. Bella was found, skinny and listless, in a plastic bag inside a dumpster by a local resident who heard her faint mewing and came to the rescue. The resident, who is on a low income, has also given Bella a home. VHS is helping with Bella's veterinary costs, including spaying and vaccinations. She's gained weight and is now full of energy – especially when it comes to playing in boxes or with shoelaces!



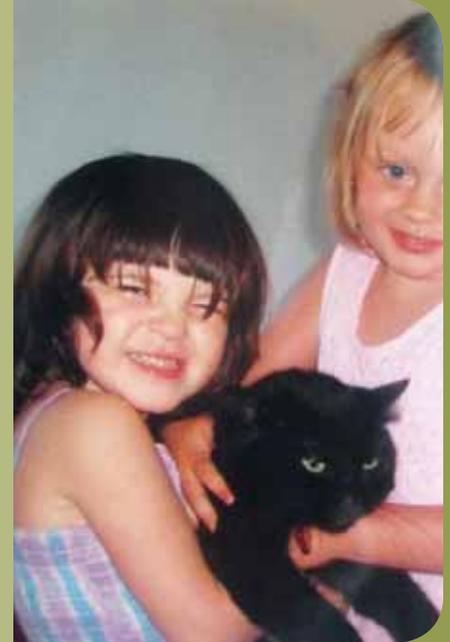
## Smokie's Relief

Smokie, a young downtown eastside cat, was given a home by his current "mom" when his previous guardian could no longer take care of him. Unfortunately, he had developed a serious urinary tract problem that needed expensive treatment. VHS contributed to the cost and Smokie got the necessary vet care. Now he's fine and relieved to be healthy and back home.

## Luna's Dangerous Fall

Luna, a five-year-old indoor cat was injured after a fall from a door. She needed a hernia operation but her guardian could not afford the veterinary bill. VHS agreed to help with the costs and Luna had successful surgery.

She's doing fine now.



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