



PAWS Peoples Animal Welfare Society

NOT FOR PROFIT ♦ NO KILL ♦ SINCE 1972



April 2013

Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking the time to read this important update. Spring has sprung, the days are longer, new life and renewed hope and belief in GOOD are upon us ...

PAWS Volunteers and I look forward to the daffodils that bloom each year around this time on the property at our shelter in Huntsville ...

Where do I begin!? There is always so much going on at PAWS that it's never possible to include it all in an e-mail update or an issue of PAW Print (our newsletter). I keep wishing I could make the time to run with an online blog as each and every day brings new ups and downs. So much good (and so many challenges) that really should be shared with you – but the days are long and exhausting in animal rescue.

Please allow me to start by saying THANK YOU. *Thank you* to every single person who makes saving the innocent beings that we rescue possible. *Thank you* to everyone who contributes - our devoted Volunteers and our generous supporters. To the animals for being intelligent enough to realize that they CAN forgive and that they will be treated with love and kindness. They deserve that and more ...



I am thrilled to announce that our 40th Anniversary Celebration was a great success with smiles and compliments all around. A total of \$2400 was raised at this event but more importantly, people came from miles around, whether they had just learned of PAWS or had actually **FOUNDED** this irreplaceable animal rescue organization.

Friends in life and animal rescue from left to right ... PAWS President, Kimberly Heys, Former Vice-President, Helen Pilicoski, Animal Rescuers and long-standing supporters of PAWS, Josephine Black and Diane Parent – 4 dedicated ladies who have saved hundreds if not thousands of innocent animals in their days of rescue – and who continue to do so!

Did I happen to mention that in her 91st year, our pal Helen out-danced all of us! I kid you not!! I have the video to prove ... what a memorable afternoon!





Further, we must thank our new friends, Daniel, Annie and their Team who worked so hard to organize their own event for PAWS at the Arts Market whereby \$2,200 was raised for the animals. It was a lot of hard work by very dedicated Volunteers ... and a great time was had by all!

**** Pictures of both of these enjoyable events to follow in our next issue of PAW Print ****

OUR MOST SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE THESE EVENTS POSSIBLE!!!



I would like to take a moment to introduce you to one very special cat and my pal ... his name is THOR.

Thor came to PAWS in January 2013 from a high-kill shelter in southern Ontario. His future was questionable at best as he had been viciously attacked by other cats in the 'colony' where he lived homeless, terrified, freezing and starving. In spite of his larger size, he was and is a very gentle boy. You see, the temperament of unaltered animals is often VERY different before they are spayed and neutered; they are competing

for mates, territory and food. Thor was in terrible shape with lacerations to his face and body and his white fur was filthy. The staff at Animal Services believed he should be tested for FIV and FeLeuk (feline aids and feline leukemia). Anyone who is familiar with PAWS knows that we are one of very few rescue organizations who will accept such cats into our shelter (as they are not highly adoptable which is truly unfortunate and just plain silly). PAWS has been testing for these cat 'diseases' since 2000 and we have discovered that the results of these tests are NOT always accurate! That is a story for another day. The bottom line is cats like Thor deserve to LIVE.

Thor was neutered and viral-tested a short time after arriving at the PAWS shelter (once he recovered from his URV (Upper Respiratory Virus – caught at Animal Services).

His tests revealed that he was in fact 'positive' for 'feline leukemia'.

Thor was a big healthy boy, eating well and enjoying life at PAWS. ☺

Of course life throws all of us curve balls and Thor was about to catch his. I was working late at the shelter on February 23rd when I realized his breathing was not right. I immediately worried that perhaps it was a heart condition as we had just recently lost our dear Millie to heart failure (the morning of our 40th Anniversary Celebration – indeed animal rescue is a roller coaster ride of emotion and sadness). I rushed Thor to the

emergency veterinary hospital in Barrie as it was now Sunday morning – fully expecting to lose him. I pulled over part way believing he had slipped away – he had not – he moaned and pleaded with me with his beautiful eyes. My heart was pounding, I was crying; I drove as fast as I could ...

Upon arriving at emerg in Barrie I was greeted by professional and efficient staff and doctors (I can't remember the last time I was at an emerg clinic as fortunately, one of our main veterinarians, Beaches Animal Hospital, have wonderful hours – they are open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days per week!) – I mentioned that I believed this may be a heart condition and in no time the doctor returned to inform me that, thankfully, this was NOT a heart condition but in fact a treatable condition called 'Haemobartonella'. Space in this publication does not allow me to provide all of the medical information surrounding this illness. However do feel free to Google this if for no other reason than to educate yourself if you have cats. The gist of it is that it is caused by a parasite which attaches to the red blood cells, leading to anemia. It is very likely that Thor was badly infested with fleas while living as a 'stray' cat – he was of course treated for all parasites prior to admission to the PAWS shelter.



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Thor spent the night with the kind folks at the emerg pet hospital in Barrie and by 7 a.m. the next morning I had to move him to Beaches Animal Hospital in Toronto (where he continued to receive only the very best of care). Today he shares a room in our shelter with other feline leukemia positive cats and he continues to thrive. He is on various medications and requires further testing to monitor his health status, bloods etc. but he is a GEM and well worth all of our efforts and investment.

The bad news is that this unexpected emergency proved to be incredibly expensive when all was said and done (a total of close to \$2,700).



Having a legitimate NO-KILL POLICY does not mean we are in a financial position to write a blank cheque for each and every animal who enters our shelter. Thankfully, most who come to us are admitted, spayed or neutered and adopted to very carefully selected families.

That said, one must bear in mind that PAWS Volunteers never forget about the 'underdog'. Those whom none of the other rescues would even consider rescuing – such as Thor. 'What kind of life does he have at your shelter' some might ask? A very GOOD life I would answer. He lives in a clean, indoor, warm, tranquil environment, filled with love and kindness. He is well-fed (this includes a special diet of i/d which has helped greatly with his diarrhea) and has fresh water 2 to 3 times daily. Our Volunteers hug him, pat him, brush him and speak kindly to him. The room he currently resides in is known as our 'mud room' where there are many windows and scratching posts to climb and explore. He enjoys watching the birds and chipmunks outside. He loves his kitty friends and we are all hopeful that someday someone special WILL step up and adopt him – or perhaps a pair of feleuk+ cats from our shelter. In addition to assistance with his veterinary expenses, we are hopeful that someone might be thoughtful enough to sponsor Thor on a monthly basis.



PLEASE HELP WITH OUR MOUNTING VETERINARY EXPENSES – TODAY

We know you care and we are so grateful. Donations can be made directly to Beaches Animal Hospital by calling 1-416-690-4040. Please advise us of any donations made in order that your tax receipt can be issued.

Alternatively, donations are very gratefully accepted securely online via our web site at www.pawscanada.org

or

You can mail your gift TODAY to PAWS – 2300 Lawrence Avenue East, Box 73039, Toronto, ON M1P 2R2

PAWS Volunteers and I cannot thank you enough for caring about the animals we rescue.
With kitten season upon us we need your help most urgently PLEASE.



This beautiful cat now known as ‘Bliss’ was rescued by PAWS early in 2013 after having been turned into a high kill shelter in southern Ontario. Badly matted and SHOT WITH A BB GUN! (who would do such a thing??!!)

She has since found her loving, forever home ... (thank you PAWS Volunteers!!)

PET VALU – PET APPRECIATION WEEKEND **April 19 to 21, 2013**

Please come out and visit PAWS Volunteers and me and some of the awesome cats we have available for adoption!



Zeppelin is one of several cats who can't wait to meet you!



Amber – young healthy declawed and spayed



Matilda – I may not be as photogenic as Amber but I am just as loving and deserving ...
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCkMCVb9wuk>



Must find either an only cat / quiet household or have a room of her own which she is very content with
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGW3jrkMgGE>

CAT CITY

PAWS Volunteers and I would be so pleased if you would join us for the documentary screening of this informative documentary (54 minutes in length) brought to us by Red Queen Productions and Justine Pimlott filmed in Toronto. This film will take our viewers into the heart of the issue of cat overpopulation by going to the frontlines of the crisis in Canada, following grassroots activists, shelter workers and independent cat lovers as they work to rescue these lost and abandoned animals.

Please bring a friend or your family. Admission is only \$10 and we will be offering eats and drinks as well as a silent auction in an effort to raise much needed funds for ongoing veterinary expenses and spaying and neutering for the cats PAWS rescues.

When: Sunday, May 26, 2013 - 2 p.m.

Where: The Algonquin Theatre - Partners Hall - 37 Main Street East, Huntsville, ON

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ARE STILL BEING COLLECTED - Please give us a call today if you have something to contribute

Tickets will be available at The Algonquin Theatre

If you require further information or would like to Volunteer on this day, please contact me today -
kim@pawscanada.org / 1-416-520-7995

DID YOU KNOW?

The PAWS shelter is located approximately 30 minutes from the west gate of beautiful Algonquin Park. I don't get a lot of time off from the shelter but one of the things on my 'must do' list each Spring is to visit and this is why! I took this picture last Spring (2012) and could not believe how many moose we had the pleasure of respectfully viewing that day! (along with a fox, wild turkeys, a turtle – the list goes on).



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2012



Please join me in wishing Ms. Kayla Fisher a belated HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY (March 23rd) ... Kayla has been Volunteering for PAWS for over 2 years. She has helped to save so many. She has learned to syringe-feed sick animals, medicate and has even taught other PAWS Volunteers about caring for HER animals which include very interesting beings such as GOBBLES (her turkey – see the picture herein), a variety of other farm animals including ducks and chickens, small animals (guinea pigs, rabbits and hamsters), birds, 4 dogs – the list goes on! These are all her ‘pets’ – not to be used for any other purpose.

Kayla is, by choice, vegetarian, believing in kindness to ALL animals. Many have a lot to learn from her discipline. Kayla is working diligently with a goal of becoming a licensed Veterinary Technician. She is currently in grade 9 in Huntsville, ON and, along with her parents and older Brother, volunteers regularly at the PAWS shelter.

Kayla and ‘Blaze’ – incredibly this adorable tabby cat named ‘Blaze’ was to be euthanized at a high kill shelter. She was terrified and hissing (truth is – she still hisses from time to time as she clearly has not been treated well by humans). It is always interesting to me that our feral and semi-feral cats (or those with trust issues which they come about honestly) have no problem trusting Kayla. Mingo & Sultan are two other cats whom no one else at PAWS can handle except Kayla. She is not only able to pat and offer love and affection to these cats but she can actually medicate them when it has been necessary!



Kayla created the following video (and others that you can enjoy via YouTube if you search PAWSCANADA) for our 40th Anniversary. It’s a little long (there were soooo many precious little people we had to introduce you to!) but we know you can spare 7-8 minutes to enjoy it. Thank you Kayla – for all you do. HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUNG LADY.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hq6vV7k5IDk>

PAWS IS A REGISTERED CHARITY
2012 MARKED OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY – WE PROVIDE ASSISTANCE THAT IS SECOND TO NONE
TO HOMELESS ANIMALS ON A NO-KILL BASIS ~ WE HAVE NO PAID STAFF

PAWS
PEOPLES ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY
2300 Lawrence Avenue East, Box 73039, Toronto, ON M1P 2R2
1-416-520-7995 ~ kim@pawscanada.org ~ info@pawscanada.org - www.pawscanada.org
Registered Charity Number ~ BN 88916 5577 RR0001

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO SAVE THE INNOCENT BEINGS WHO ARE SO DESERVING!!