

PAWS E-MAIL OF MAY 14, 2010

AN URGENT UPDATE FROM PAWS – SPRING 2010

Dear Friends, Family and Fellow Animal Lovers:

Thank you for taking the time to read the following as it is very likely one of, if not the most important e-mails I have sent, in my lifetime to date.

FIRST AND FOREMOST ... WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS ...

We are proud to announce that PAWS has recently partnered with Hill's Science Diet®!!! Yes! Our pals at Hill's will be providing all dry cat and dog food for our shelter effective immediately ☺. PAWS has recently joined the "Hill's Science Diet Second Chance for Love Shelter Partnership Program" and we are so thankful to these wonderful folks for caring about the precious beings we rescue and enabling us to save that many more as we will literally be saving tens of thousands of dollars annually thanks to this program and the generosity of Hill's.



For more information on the Second Chance For Love Partnership Program

please refer to our next issue of PAW Print

♥♥♥ **THANK YOU HILL'S SCIENCE DIET®!!!** ♥♥♥

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It's been a while. Our last issue of PAW Print was distributed prior to Christmas. Being out of touch with our supporters is not something we choose. Somehow the weeks and months pass and before we know it, we are tardy in our updates. We also regret that occasionally we will fall behind administratively due to the need to prioritize our attention to the care of the animals ... we ask for your forgiveness in this regard but we know you will understand as this is the very reason you support PAWS – **the animals come FIRST.**

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Having been involved with the rescue of homeless animals since I was about 4 years of age and making PAWS my priority over the last almost 20 years, I have come to realize how easy it is to get so busy and to be so focused that one can even lose touch with family and close friends. This is never intentional. There are simply not enough hours in the day. The animals are worth every minute we devote and every dollar we spend. This is the most meaningful work I have personally ever done in my life and I absolutely plan to continue.

Our supporters are our lifeline and without YOU we can NOT continue to provide care that is *second to none*.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a 'tell it like it is' kind of person. I don't know how to be any other way. I am about to present to you an honest-to-goodness overall picture of how things are currently and how PAWS Volunteers and I dream of things being in the not-so-distant future.

First, please allow me to share with you this quote:

"A leader's job is to look into the future and see the organization, not as it is, but as it should be" ~ Jack Welch

I can't ignore the news of earlier this week whereby it is being reported that approximately 350 cats, dogs and other animals are being *killed* for contracting ringworm – an illness that is treatable and certainly not fatal. This, in my personal opinion, is nothing short of an unforgiveable crime.

PAWS spares no expense for any animal in our care and if there is anything at all that can be done to save his or her life – we do it. No questions asked. We often find ourselves face to face with Veterinarians who are encouraging euthanasia ... they will say things like 'with the numbers you have' or 'why would you spend the \$\$ on this one' – referring to a cat who is senior or perhaps 'feral' (afraid). Sorry folks – this is NOT how we operate. My good friend Shana recently said ... "when we rescue them, we become their representatives – their voice" – this is so true and it doesn't end until there is nothing more that can possibly be done for that individual being.

PAWS Volunteers and I hope that our future will see the purchase of acreage and subsequent construction of many buildings that will hold small numbers of animals (perhaps 10-12 per building) in order that should anything contagious occur (ear mites, colds and the like), it is much more manageable. As well, our Volunteers are always informed of the importance of hand-washing and common-sense procedures which will prevent unnecessary illness or the spread of same in a 'shelter' environment.

NEVER is an animal admitted to our shelter or any foster home without first being segregated for a minimum of 3 weeks. This has been our policy for as long as we can remember and it is not negotiable.

VETERINARY CARE AND THE URGENT NEED FOR YOUR HELP:

Anyone who has a cat or dog (or other beloved 'pet') knows how expensive it is to provide Veterinary care for our friends when they fall ill. Your cat or dog could be just fine one day and you wake up to find him or her in distress the next. This is exactly how things are at the PAWS shelter – multiplied by 96!! We have suffered a devastating time in our shelter in recent months. We have lost many long-term residents including our beloved Oscar and Katie and just last week two cats in the same day – Burt and Bianco. To say that our hearts are broken ☹ would be an understatement.

I took a head-count the other day of how many animals in our care require one thing or another and there are 37 – yes, THIRTY SEVEN, who require either dentistry (extremely expensive), blood work/urinalysis due to weight loss/aging/is something else going on?, bladder stone surgery in the case of Sam – the list goes on and on. We **MUST ADDRESS THESE ISSUES IMMEDIATELY** in order that these situations do not become emergencies. We have been prioritizing and providing nursing care as best we can in an effort to keep our vet costs to a minimum but we have no choice at this time but to issue an **URGENT PLEA FOR HELP** to you our loyal supporters.

With the economy being what it is and has been and with the number of emergencies we have endured, Veterinarians are unwilling to offer PAWS any further credit ☹.

We owe approximately \$10,300 to Secord Animal Hospital, \$6,900 to Centennial Animal Hospital, nearly \$10,000 on our VISA (most of which is made up of expenses relating to vet care or the purchase of pet foods/cat litter or expenses to repair our truck) and the list goes on (obviously we require other good and services such as cat litter, wet cat food, telephone (cellular and at our shelter) and internet, stationery, postage and printing etc.)

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TODAY

in order that we can get back on track and move forward.

Our no-kill policy makes it impossible to budget. It's just that simple. Some months are better than others. Sadly, we have been dealing with an unbearable amount of illness in our shelter since August of 2008. No, this has not been contagious diseases or anything of the sort. Many of our residents are not adoptable for one reason or another and we have an aging population. Some are rescued, spayed or neutered and adopted quite quickly ... others remain indefinitely. All are treated with respect and kindness and our Volunteers and I are proud not only of what we do but how we do it.

As we approach our 40th Anniversary (2012) I'm confident that you will agree that the history of PAWS speaks for itself. Believe me *we are NOT going anywhere*.

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THE PAWS SHELTER

WE MUST KEEP A ROOF OVER THE HEADS OF OUR RESCUED ANIMALS!!

As many of you are aware, PAWS Volunteer Marilyn and I relocated most of the animals in the care of PAWS from Toronto to Huntsville in July of 2007 primarily due to the by-laws/restrictions imposed by the City. For the last almost 3 years these deserving critters (and many new ones who have come on board) have lived in a tranquil, comfortable and clean environment in a home that is approximately 3,300 square feet with 4.5 acres of land and out buildings used for segregation of new rescues, storage of our equipment, donated food etc. We have been very successful at recruiting caring and reliable Volunteers and it is my hope that we will remain in this location for years to come. That said and it might seem like a long way away ... the mortgage comes due for renewal in 2012 and Marilyn is planning to retire and is unable to commit to another 5 years. **THE ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP.** It is the dream of PAWS Volunteers and I to raise a minimum of \$200,000 in order that the home that is now the shelter for PAWS (neither Marilyn or myself reside on a full time basis in this location) will remain from 2012 to 2017 at which time we hope to relocate to a site that will remain forever and show other shelters in Ontario how it's done!!!

I'm very serious my friends. I am willing to give the rest of my life – as long as I am able – to PAWS and to the animals we rescue BUT I can't do it without your help. Period. **CAN YOU HELP?** Perhaps 200 PAWS Supporters would consider \$1,000 contributions each and make this dream a reality? Maybe there is someone out there who is willing to hold the mortgage with a reasonable rate of interest during this period of time? Were you considering bequeathing monies to PAWS that you may appreciate seeing the good it could do TODAY? I have many thoughts on the matter.

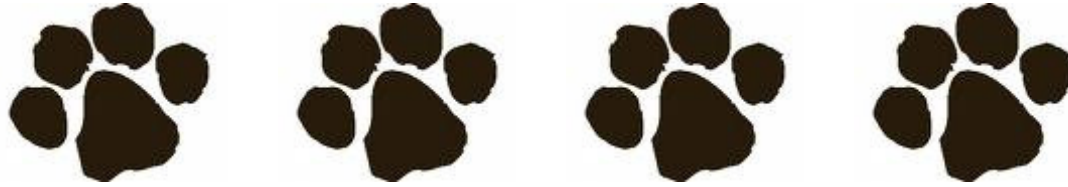
If you are serious about offering assistance – feel free to contact me today at 1-416-520-7995. THANK YOU. All contributors will be acknowledged at the PAWS shelter on a plaque that will remain as long as the shelter is in existence.

Below is a picture of the main building on the current PAWS property. The ‘Muskoka Room’ is where many of our kitties enjoy spending time and we are looking forward to possible construction of an outdoor enclosure in June/July (this depends on a donation of fencing that we are crossing our fingers in hopes of receiving and of course on capable/handy Volunteers).



Perhaps I have overwhelmed you in this e-mail. The PAWS Volunteers and I are not unrealistic people. We know there is only so much that one person can do – some of our supporters are more comfortable financially than others. The bottom line is ... if we work **TOGETHER** – we can change the lives of the homeless animals who find their way to PAWS **forever**. I am inviting you to be a part of this important, life-saving endeavor. I am also asking that you kindly network on our behalf. Please tell all of the animal lovers you know about PAWS and how we plan to change things for homeless animals *forever*.

**** After proposing the above recently to several visitors (and Volunteers) to our shelter we are thrilled to report that 9 people have already committed to contributing \$1,000 towards the purchase of the above property in the last few days – LET’S DO THIS!!****



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VISITING THE PAWS SHELTER IN HUNTSVILLE ?

It might sound like it’s a long way away but many of our Volunteers and I make the trek on a weekly basis and it’s approximately 2 hours door to door from the 404 and Finch.

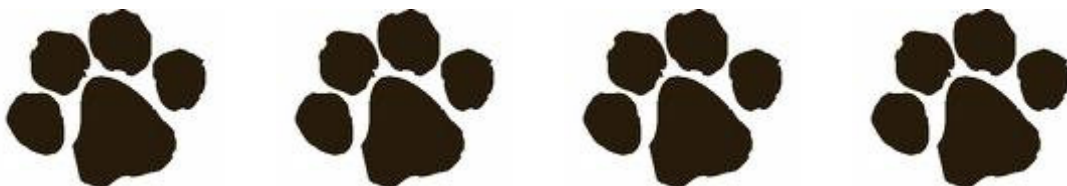
We invite you to join us on

JUNE 5, 2010 in Port Sydney between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at 43 Bridgedale Crescent
as PAWS will have a table at the annual Community Yard Sale

We will be offering unique auction items, however, in place of used goods this time around. Feel free to come out, enjoy the day in the beautiful north, make a donation to PAWS and perhaps even take a short 40 minute drive to Algonquin Park to see the moose who are actively patrolling highway 60 at this time of the year. They are awesome to see. If you do make the trek, we remind you to drive carefully, be alert and watch for wildlife.

Yes, we are still actively collecting silent auction items. Please feel free to contact us if you have something to donate (tickets to sporting events, concerts or theatre – in Toronto is just fine – many people from the north enjoy time spent in The Big Smoke - gift cards, new items, whatever you feel would be suitable).

FALL OPEN HOUSE – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED – come and witness the spectacular Fall colors in Muskoka, meet The Gang (the animals in our care AND our dedicated Volunteers) and enjoy some delicious treats. This is an excellent opportunity to see our shelter and to enjoy and appreciate our good work. Besides which, the animals are excited about meeting you!!



Thankfully at almost 40, I have youth, excellent health and determination on my side. Many will entrust their own cats or dogs to PAWS down the road and I am determined that we will have a place for them should the need arise. We require your help to make this dream a reality!! My personal promise to each and every one of you is that I will not quit and I will do my utmost to encourage the other Volunteers also.

In closing, I would like to introduce you to some of the cats in our care who are waiting for veterinary care (these are only a select few and are not in any particular order):

DAINTY

This adorable little girl who was abandoned by her 'owner' needs a sponsor for her spay, viral test and vaccinations. It has become VERY obvious why we do not use the services of a 'discount' spay clinic as we will NOT take a chance of bringing ringworm or other illnesses into our shelter after being as careful as we are.



MAX

This sweet senior kitty requires a follow up appointment – we hope he has an infection but our Vet suggested a possible tumor in his jaw – this can't wait ... please help us with Max today.



SAM

Sam was rescued quite some time ago when she was pregnant. All kittens found homes and Sam has remained. Sadly, black cats are not always popular (PAWS Volunteers adore our black kitties). This deserving feline requires bladder stone surgery ASAP before she becomes blocked. Please help.



MINNIE

PAWS Volunteers and I are VERY concerned about Minnie who is no longer the size she was in this picture. She has lost weight and has terrible diarrhea. We MUST get this precious older gal into our Vet for a full exam, blood work, urinalysis etc. She has many pals in our shelter (she is like a Mom to many of the 'ferals') ... please don't let them down ... they need Minnie and we love her dearly.



SMOKEY

Our little 'mokey-bear' as she is affectionately known is one of our oldest cats. She will be 15 in August. She lost her caregiver to cancer and has remained in our shelter since. She and her Brother, Sandy, would love to find someone special to adopt them but both require senior wellness profiles. Smokey has lost some weight but we have been doing our utmost to keep her hydrated and to monitor her consumption of food.



RAMBO

Rambo has diabetes. He has had one heck of a rough ride (as have PAWS Volunteers) with his health over the last 2 years but he's doing wonderfully today. His former 'Owner' no longer returns my calls – I can't tell you how disappointing it is when someone makes a promise, in writing, to support an animal they surrender to our shelter, and they let us down. His words during one of our last conversations were 'out of sight – out of mind'. Shame on you "Mr. P"!!! This man drove Rambo to us at 11 p.m. on Easter Sunday – all the way from Toronto – with tears in his eyes – swearing up and down that he would continue to support Rambo until a special new home could be found (a new baby had come on the scene and Rambo became disposable). Rambo requires a permanent home but if this seems overwhelming and you are unable to adopt him – why not sponsor him? He's a wonderful boy who urgently requires expensive dental care and we need special food, insulin and syringes for him. THANK YOU FOR CARING. Tid bit – this wonderful little guy was rescued from Cuba! He also has a best pal named 'Peanut' (an adorable orange tabby) who would love to be adopted with Rambo.



SQUIRT

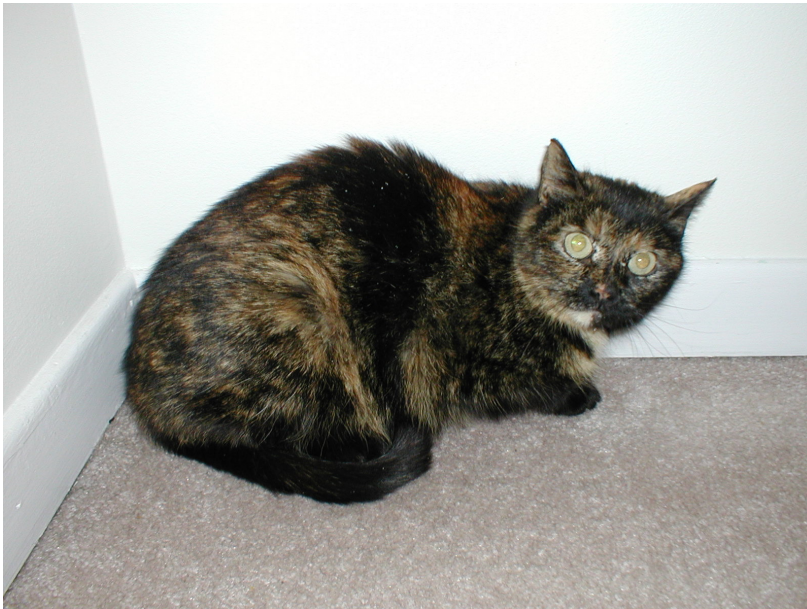
Squirt was rescued from a 'pound' in the Hamilton area quite some time ago. Sadly, this facility is known to have one of the highest 'kill' rates in Ontario. Squirt has recently been under the weather (diahrea, runny eyes, slight weight loss etc.) and is anxious to visit our vet. Can you help?? She would love to find a sponsor – or more importantly a wonderful new family to love her forever. She is very affectionate ☺.



SHELLEY

Shelley is ANOTHER Mommy cat who came to PAWS several years ago. All of her kittens (except 'Trouble' who looks just like her Mom) have found homes. Shelley would normally be considered feral BUT let me tell you a little secret ... Shelley and I have become great friends recently. You see, Shelley stopped eating. I was terrified that we would lose her. I was also afraid that the Vet wouldn't see her (Vets are not always willing to deal with 'feral' cats) so I took it upon myself to administer sub q fluids and to syringe feed her. In no time, I got her back on her feet and somewhere along the way – she learned to trust me! She loves to be brushed and even rubs her head on my chin ... I am so happy that she found PAWS as I would expect that most others would have misunderstood her shyness and 'put her down'. Shelley is certainly available for adoption but she is also welcome to remain in our shelter for the rest of her days, as necessary. Perhaps someone would like to adopt Shelley AND Trouble? This is an old picture, by the way, from the time we first rescued her – the fear in her eyes is gone 😊.

It is important that we get her to the Vet to ensure that all is well with her – bloods and urine is the way we do this – she must have gone off her food for a reason and we have to be careful this doesn't happen again OR if something is going on – we have to know. I am suspicious of her mouth – she may require dentistry which is very costly. Please help in anyway that you can.



TABITHA ~ Bitter Sweet ...

Our beautiful, even-tempered, affectionate friend, Tabitha finally found a loving forever home this past January with Dianne and her husband of 50 years Don of Huntsville. PAWS Volunteers and I were THRILLED. It was love at first sight for Dianne and Tabitha. We had never seen Tabitha react as she did when she met Dianne. Tab spent many years in our shelter ... she was a Mom and all of her babies found homes ... leaving this Momma Cat in our shelter which happens far too often (obviously from the other cats we are telling you about in this e-mail).

A week after taking her home, Dianne called me to say she had found a lump on Tabitha. My heart sank. We scheduled an appointment at Centennial Animal Hospital in Bracebridge which is who PAWS deals with most often these days for Veterinary care.

Dr. Claire announced that Tab had mammary cancer and we immediately decided to remove the lump(s). Tabitha went home the same day and recovered remarkably fast. All who love her were so pleased.

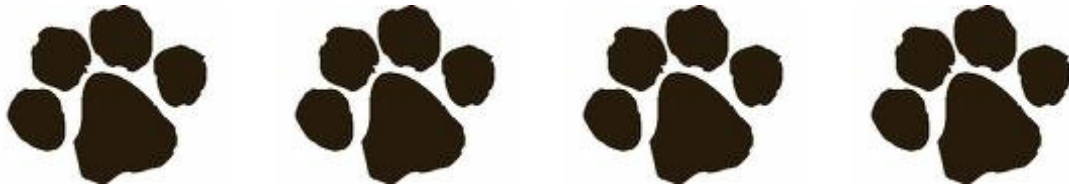
Sadly, a few short months later, those darned lumps have returned. There will be no further surgery or treatment. A collective decision has been made by Dianne, myself and Dr. Claire to provide Tabitha with as much time as she has left and to spoil her rotten. The truth is, Tab is doing very well and is as happy as any cat could be. PAWS Volunteers and I can NOT thank Dianne enough for caring for Tabitha as most would have returned this cat not wanting to deal with the illness or heartache of the future. Dianne and I will see this through, together, and when Tabitha is ready ... she will cross the Rainbow Bridge ☺ We sure hope this is not for a long time to come – our fingers are crossed. I would like to also thank Dianne for being a loyal Volunteer and helping with the rest of The Gang when she isn't busy spoiling Tab.



Dianne and Tabitha after Tab had her surgery on February 1st



It breaks my heart that Tabitha spent so many years in our shelter only to now be diagnosed with this terrible disease. Rather than dwelling on the negative, however, Dianne, Don and I have opted to dwell on the positive and we are going to stay strong for Tabitha for as long as she chooses to live.



THANK YOU for taking the time to read (and hopefully to share with others) this lengthy update and urgent plea for assistance.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY in this our time of need.

I thank you in advance on behalf of those who are so innocent and deserving.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Heys

President – PAWS

HOW DO I MAKE A DONATION YOU MIGHT ASK?

PAWS accepts donations (securely) online at <http://www.pawscanada.org/donate.html>

(this includes monthly sponsorships which can easily be arranged by credit card)

or via ‘snail’ mail at:

PAWS

c/o 2300 Lawrence Avenue East, Box 73039, Toronto, ON M1P 2H2

1-416-520-7995

1-705-788-3161

www.pawscanada.org

IF YOUR DONATION IS MEANT FOR THE ‘SHELTER FUND’ – please specify same on your cheque or when making your donation online.

We will keep you updated on our progress ...

