

animal

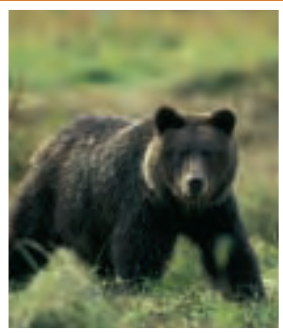
WRITES

www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca

VOLUME 53 FALL 2012



ID your CAT!
pg 6



Pipeline THREAT
pg 8



Don't FORGET us!
pg 11

Thank You!

VHS DONORS MEET THE CHALLENGE

A special thank-you goes out to all of you who donated to our **McVitie Fund**, allowing VHS to meet (and exceed!) a challenge to raise \$10,000 by September 15th. You are amazing!!! We now need to raise another \$10,000 by the end of January, 2013 to be doubled by the foundation mentioned below. I know you'll be there for the animals!

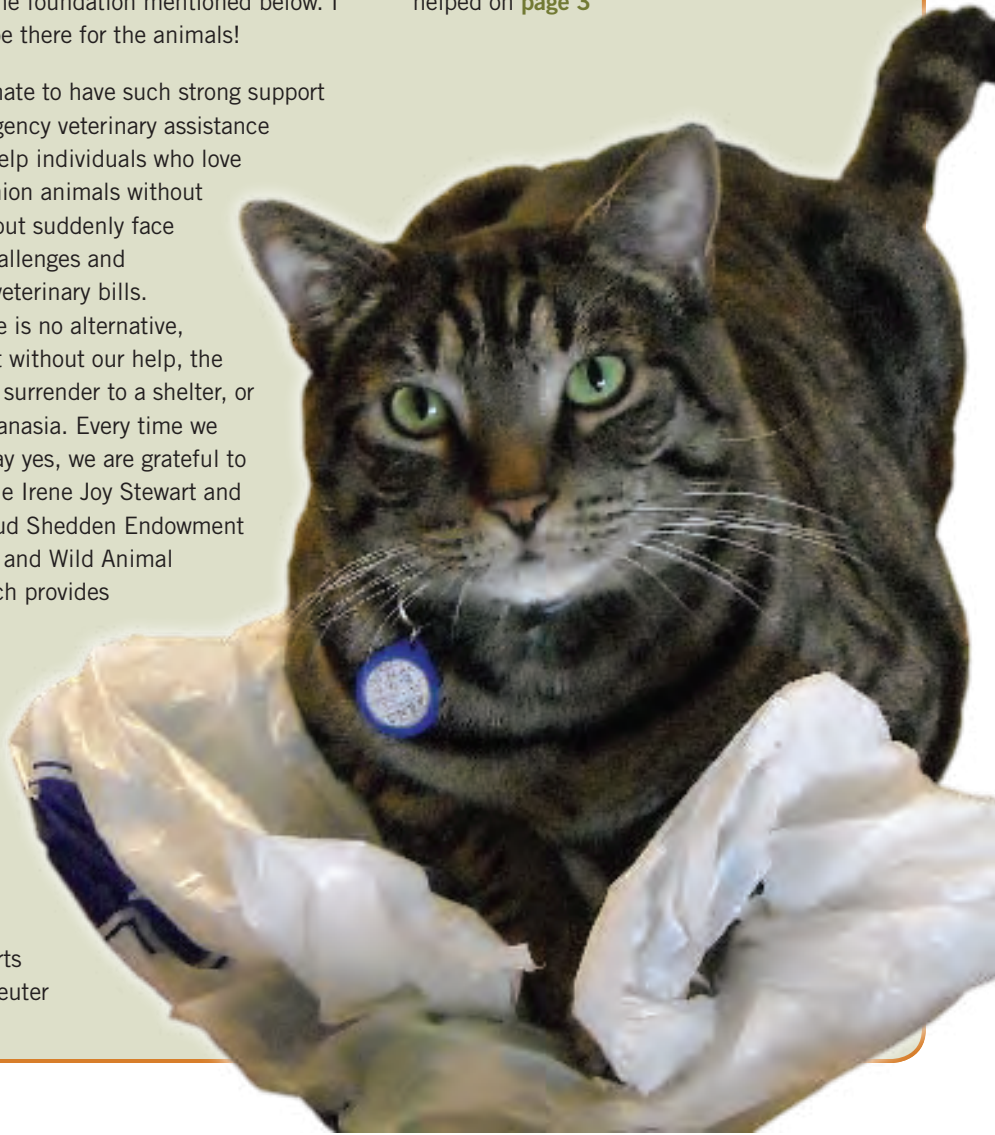
VHS is fortunate to have such strong support for our emergency veterinary assistance program to help individuals who love their companion animals without reservation, but suddenly face economic challenges and unexpected veterinary bills.

Usually, there is no alternative, meaning that without our help, the animal faces surrender to a shelter, or worse – euthanasia. Every time we are able to say yes, we are grateful to you and to the Irene Joy Stewart and Florence Maud Shedden Endowment for Domestic and Wild Animal Welfare, which provides a matching challenge grant to VHS each year.

Thanks also to **Jamie Lee** and the **Punky Fund** which supports a spay and neuter

program in Surrey. The happiness all of you generate with your help is unlimited and many animals' lives are saved because of you.

You can see some of the animals you helped on [page 3](#)



VHS fights for farm animals

OUR CHICKENOUT! CAMPAIGN AIMS TO KEEP HENS OUT OF CAGES

VHS continues to make progress for caged hens and is working with several groups to help other farm animals. Here's an update:

OVERWAITEA EGG LABELLING UPDATE

As you may recall from previous newsletters, VHS has been working on a pilot with the Overwaitea Food Group (OWFG) to introduce improved egg label signage at two of its Save-On-Food stores in B.C. The signs are posted on the egg display case shelves and indicate the differences between eggs from caged hens and cage-free eggs (free-run, free-range and organic eggs).

Since the close of the pilot, OWFG has received further input from VHS and stakeholders in the egg industry. The wording on the signs will remain unchanged, however there will be some changes to the colours of the signs, replacing the red background for caged eggs to beige, but maintaining the yellow background for free-run and free-range eggs, and green for organic eggs.

OWFG is now ready to move forward with a roll-out to all of their Save-On-Food stores in the New Year. The labelling initiative is in keeping with OWFG's goals of educating consumers and giving them choice.

A UNITED FRONT FOR FARM ANIMALS

Recognizing the value in working together, VHS has been involved in several collaborative initiatives over the past few months with other leading animal rights and welfare organizations in Canada. Here are a few examples:

In June, the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals (CCFA) raised the idea of writing a group letter requesting clarity regarding the recently announced cuts to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and how they will affect farm animal welfare and transportation in Canada. VHS joined with Animal Alliance Canada, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS), Humane Society International/Canada (HSI/Canada), and World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) in contributing to and co-signing the letter, which went to Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, and was copied to CFIA President George Da Pont. To date, we have not heard back from either party.

In August, HSI/Canada initiated a joint letter with CCFA, VHS and WSPA to the National Farm Animal Care Council encouraging all members of the Pig Code Development Committee

to support a complete phase out of the use of gestation stalls in favour of group housing for pregnant sows, and for a swift timeline for doing so to be enshrined in the new code.

In October, VHS assembled the first edition of a joint newsletter – ***Farm Animal Welfare in Canada*** – that will be distributed to agribusiness and food retailers. The newsletter will represent the views and values of the collective membership of several organizations, including CCFA and WSPA. Our intent is to present a united voice and educate the food industry about our organizations' shared positions on agricultural and animal welfare policies.

ETHICAL EATING REACHING THE MASSES

On July 9, the Vancouver Sun ran a front page story titled *"Cruelty-free, ethical eating begins on the farm"*. VHS's Leanne McConnachie, was quoted extensively for the story. Columnist Randy Shore articulated the cruel reality for most animals that become food, and raised some excellent points about the ethical minefield consumers face when choosing what goes on their plates.





McVitie Fund saves lives

HAPPY ENDINGS FOR COMPANION ANIMALS WHO NEED OUR HELP!



SCOOTER

Scooter, a beautiful tabby, had already been to the vet to be neutered. It was recommended that he wear a cone so he wouldn't try to pull out his stitches, but the cone distracted him so much that he fell from his scratching post and dislocated his hip. The devastated family faced an expensive vet bill that, with only one parent working and three children to provide for, they just could not afford. VHS was able to help by not only providing funding for Scooter's surgery, but finding a vet that would do it at low-cost. Scooter's family asked us to say "thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!" to all of you who contribute to our emergency funds.



XENO

Xeno is the neighbourhood clown! A distinctly marked seven-year-old grey tabby, he brings pleasure to many, and loves to sit in his window to be admired by passersby. His guardian is on a disability pension and when Xeno developed a painful cyst on one of his toes, she was frantic with worry that it would be malignant. We were so glad to be able to help this happy fellow – his cyst turned out to be benign and was removed, and while he was under the anesthetic, VHS paid for some necessary dental work. Xeno is back in his window, happy to be home and once again up to his antics!



TRIGGER

Trigger is a handsome grey boy whose guardian is a single mom on social assistance. She took Trigger in from a friend who was moving and couldn't take him along, but he needed to be neutered, and the cost was beyond the reach of this small family. In almost every situation in which VHS becomes involved, the family is trying to do the right thing, but just needs a little help. Trigger now has a forever home with his best friend – a little blonde seven-year-old girl!



MISSY

Missy is a shy little grey girl whose guardian found himself unemployed and without funds to spay her. VHS was glad to be able to help someone who was trying to do the right thing and not be responsible for contributing to the pet overpopulation problem.



FREAKUS

Freakus is the only companion of an individual surviving on a disability pension. A sweet grey tabby, he turned up at home one afternoon with severe injuries to his back and several puncture wounds. Although it was touch and go for a while as his injuries were life-threatening, with VHS's help he survived and is now happily recovering at home. He's no longer permitted to go outside, and he seems quite happy to watch the world go by through a window!

Humanism and animal rights

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL LIFE ON EARTH

By Ian Bushfield

Executive Director of the
B.C. Humanist Association
www.bchumanist.ca



Religions have traditionally approached the topic of animal rights in one of two ways. The more conservative religions state that God gave dominion to us over all 'lesser' species to do with as we please. Alternatively, some say we were charged with stewardship over God's creation, so we should reduce the harm that comes to God's creatures.

Yet today, more than one-in-three British Columbians are non-religious. Of this non-religious community, many atheists and agnostics put forward an ethical system called Humanism. Humanism is about being good without God by basing our worldview on reason, compassion, and hope. It gives us the ability to create our own values and ethics, while forcing us to be skeptical of all claims - including our own.

Humanists see evolution by natural selection as the best theory we have to explain the diversity of life on earth. This theory tells us that given enough time, simple self-replicating molecules adapted and reproduced, eventually giving rise to all of the plants, animals, and people alive today. We therefore recognize that we are not superior to other animals and that we are a part of

nature itself. We respect the rights of animals because it is a mere extension of the rights that we grant to other human beings.

Furthermore, as we learn more about the different species of life on earth, we are beginning to recognize that animals feel pain, fear, and suffering to different extents. The more an animal is like us, the more we identify with its suffering and seek to alleviate that.

All Humanists oppose torture and cruelty to animals. However, Humanism is a worldview without dogma, so our beliefs form a wide spectrum when applied to the real world. For example, some strongly oppose the existence of zoos and aquariums, believing that the animals would be better off in the wild. Others argue that the scientific and conservation benefits of these institutions outweigh those arguments. Many Humanists support animal research, provided it is done in a humane and ethical way, while others oppose it.

Where many religions have taboos on what foods may or may not be eaten (sometimes depending on the day of the week), Humanists use our own reasoning to decide what we each feel is ethical to consume. Some Humanists strongly oppose the eating of meat, as there are many alternatives to provide our required nutrients and there are many deplorable aspects of modern factory farming; however, many Humanists are not vegetarians, but try to choose more ethical and

sustainable food sources whenever possible. Few Humanists support the ritualistic slaughter practices of some religions which involve letting an animal bleed to death.

Humanism is a dynamic and progressive philosophy. What is considered moral and acceptable today will be put under a critical eye and may be rejected as barbaric in the future. By rejecting the authority of dogmatic tradition, we can focus on creating a better future for all life on earth.

Editor's note: VHS is interested in all ethical points of view relating to animal rights and welfare. We plan to publish more articles from different philosophical and religious standpoints in future newsletters.



VHS: quietly on the case for animals

Keeping an eye on animal welfare issues

While VHS often attracts media attention, we are also working out of the public eye on animal issues.

For example, we recently discovered that an animal rental agency in Langley, B.C., had taken a chained grizzly bear into a local bar – a clear threat to public safety and a likely violation of the provincial wildlife act. We reported the incident to the Conservation Officer Service, which has launched an investigation.

These agencies rent out captive animals to the film, television and advertising industries and are seldom subjected to scrutiny. We'd like to see an end to animals being caged, chained and exploited for entertainment.

Similarly, when we found out that the Gatti Circus was appearing in Chilliwack, B.C., and was charging patrons to have photos taken (using their own

cameras!) with a large exotic snake, we immediately contacted municipal bylaw officers. Chilliwack has a bylaw prohibiting exotic animal performances and the officers investigated the complaint. It is now likely that the venue, Heritage Park, will not be hosting such performances again. (The circus had left its elephants and other exotic animals at home.) Our aim is to discourage animal circuses from coming to B.C. at all.

Of course, we're also communicating directly on a regular basis with public officials, businesses and individuals about animal welfare. As reported in our recent letter to supporters, we intervened directly to save some pigeons trapped by a contractor's netting at a business in Surrey, B.C., and, of course, we are advising retailers on more humane choices for consumers (See page 2).

Writing to sponsors of events using animals is an especially important part of our work, and we encourage our

supporters to do the same. Currently, we are asking people who care about animals to write to General Motors Canada concerning its sponsorship of chuckwagon racing (See page 9).

So rest assured, even if you don't see VHS in the headlines, we are busy making waves on behalf of animals.



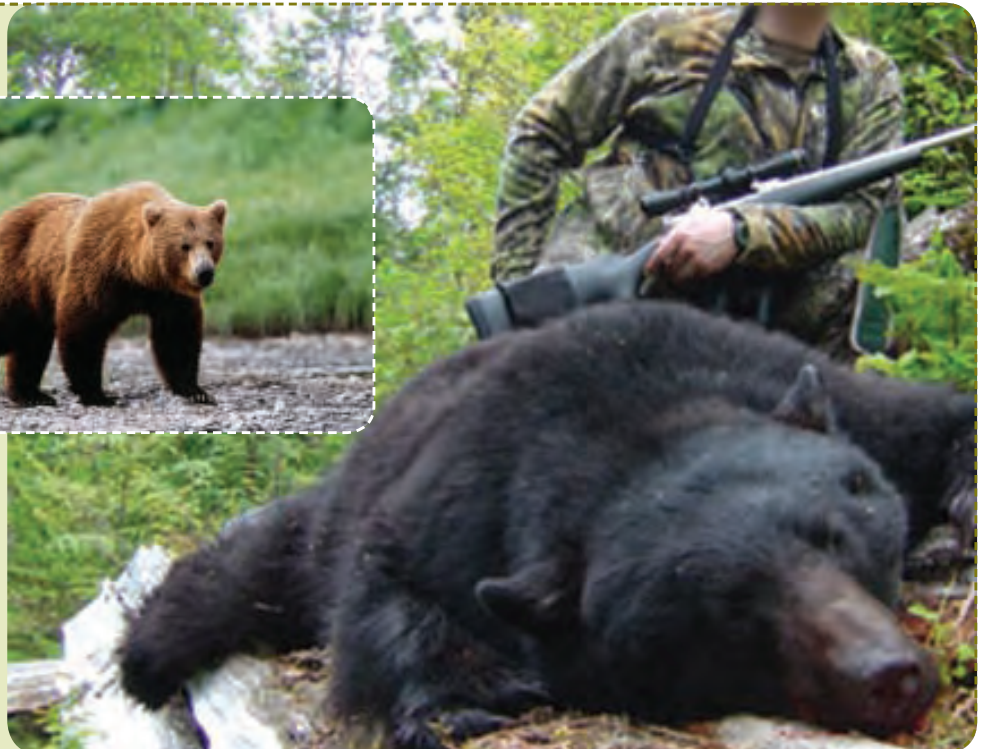
GLOBAL TV CANCELS HUNTING SHOWS

No more scenes like THIS

Global Television is cancelling all its hunting programs for 2013. As many Canadians find these programs offensive, VHS applauds this decision. If you agree please contact Global TV and let them know.

You can email:
viewercontact@globaltv.com

Thank you to all those who, like VHS, have complained to Global about these programs in the past.



Cat identification is essential!

GIVE YOUR CAT EVERY CHANCE TO BE FOUND

ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP!

By Debra Probert

Unfortunately, it's still the case that less than six per cent of cats turned in to shelters are returned to their guardians – and it's because the majority of stray cats have no identification. It's such a simple thing to do, yet people think that their precious cat will never go missing.

One of my rescued cats, Timmy, managed to get out one day and disappeared. He was gone for nearly 12 days and we were devastated. He has a big personality, and even though we share our home with four other cats and our wonderful rescued dog, Cooper, Timmy had left a big hole and we missed him terribly.

We did all the necessary things – we posted an ad on Craig's list, put an ad in the paper (which is free for lost cats – with a small charge for a photo) and called and visited the local shelter almost every day. But Timmy had seemingly disappeared.

On the morning of the twelfth day, we got the phone call we had been waiting for. Timmy was two long

blocks away and a kind person had been feeding him twice a day. As we suspected, he was playing hard to get and she had not been able to touch him, but she could see that he was wearing a collar and tag. The night before, she had coaxed him in with food and once inside he became the affectionate kitty we know so well. She called the number on the tag and we couldn't wait to pick him up.

There are three ways to ID your cat – collar and tag, microchip and tattoo. We suggest using all three! Tattoos fade, collars fall off and microchips migrate from their original position and are sometimes missed by scanners. Give your cat every chance to be found – they can't survive out there without help and if they have ID, the likelihood of being returned to you is maximized.

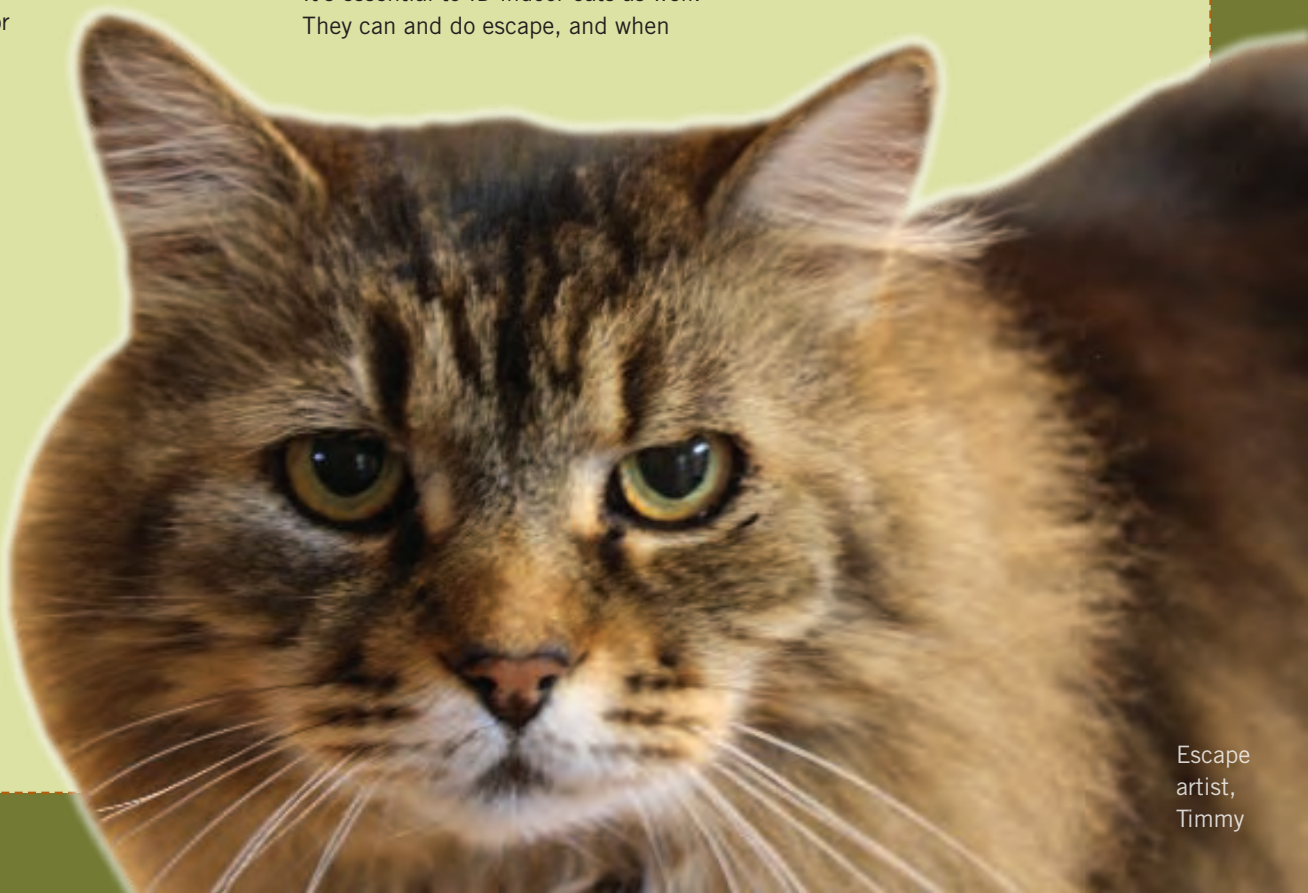
It's essential to ID indoor cats as well. They can and do escape, and when

they do, they often go 'underground', only appearing late at night, or when they're starving. They will find food if it's around and generally don't go too far, so leaving out food and putting out a humane trap often works.

We're glad Timmy's home (and so is his best friend, Nat!) and grateful to the kind woman who helped our friend return to his family.



A collar and tag is just one way to ID your cat



Escape
artist,
Timmy

Huge boost to VHS from Scotiabank run

CHICKEN RUNNERS TEAM RAISES \$25,000 FOR THE ANIMALS

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HELP THE ANIMALS

Thank you to all of you who either ran for VHS or donated to our **Chicken Runners Team** runners in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge 5K and half-marathon on June 24, 2012. It was a beautiful day, and with your help, **we raised over \$25,000 AND qualified to win a special prize of \$5,000 for fielding the team with the highest average amount per runner!**

VHS is so fortunate to be a part of this fantastic event. We could never administer the logistics of this on our own – Scotiabank handles virtually everything and we are deeply grateful to them for giving us the opportunity to join with more than 40 other charities for this, our largest fundraiser of the year.

Thank you, donors.
Thank you, Scotiabank!!!



Two VHS runners approach the finish line

Meatless Meetup a great friend to animals

Many thanks to the **Vancouver Meatless Meetup** group, who raised \$600 for VHS at a fundraiser held at the Po Kong restaurant on Kingsway in Vancouver in July.

Whether it's a film night, a parents meeting, a dog event, a potluck or a restaurant dinner, all events at **Vancouver Meatless Meetup** have a food focus. They describe themselves as "foodies with an environmental conscience and a concern for animal welfare." While food at all events is vegan, members themselves range from omnivore to vegan. It seems that anyone interested in lowering their carbon footprint, even if they are not

planning to go fully veg, has found the right group!

Meatless Meetup is run cooperatively by a committee. They cite Bruno Massé's statement as a good summary of their views: *"The whole point about the case against meat is this: as a species, we have to eat less meat, and drastically so. Even if we don't want to see it, we are responsible for the well being of each other, the planet and the life forms that still inhabit it. That's a fact. Moralizing, demeaning or ridiculing people who have different ideas and practices than you is generally not the way to*

help them or further the cause of the Earth."

Whatever approach people feel works best for them, Meatless Meetup hopes to inspire them to transition as much as possible towards a plant based diet.

Vancouver Meatless Meetup's fundraiser for VHS at Po Kong restaurant. Pictured, R to L, are VHS director Rebeka Breder, Carolyn Cornell and her husband, VHS communications director Peter Fricker.



photo: Jay Davé

Pipeline threatens wildlife

GRIZZLY BEARS DEPEND ON THE UNSPOILED GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest is home to an abundance of wildlife. Kermode bears (spirit bears), Grizzly bears, wolves, whales, salmon and many other species depend on the forest and its pristine waterways and coastline for their survival.

The proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, which will cut through the Rainforest to deliver oil to giant tankers plying B.C.'s rugged coast, puts the welfare of those animals at risk. For that reason, VHS supports the efforts of environmental groups opposed to the pipeline. We urge our supporters, other animal welfare groups and animal lovers everywhere to do the same.

Some organizations opposing the Northern Gateway pipeline:

Pacific Wild: www.pacificwild.org

The Dogwood Initiative: www.dogwoodinitiative.org

Greenpeace Canada: www.greenpeace.org/canada

Raincoast Conservation Foundation: www.raincoast.org

Living Oceans: www.livingoceans.org

Sierra Club BC: www.sierraclub.bc.ca

West Coast Environmental Law: www.wcel.org

Forest Ethics: www.forestethics.org

Nature Canada: www.naturecanada.ca

Pipe Up Against Enbridge: www.pipeupagainstenbridge.ca



Gardein offers tasty alternatives to meat

You'll notice that with this newsletter we've included a coupon for some delicious products manufactured by the company Gardein, which is based right here in B.C.!

Gardein's veggie products are not only popular with vegetarians. Meat-eaters are increasingly turning to meat replacements, for oh-so-many reasons. And once you taste Crispy Chick'n or Beefless Tips, you'll see why once they switch, they don't go back! They're made from natural ingredients like soy, wheat, ancient grains and vegetables. They contain as much protein as premium lean meat, without any of the animal fats, cholesterol or even trans-fats that so many other foods contain.

Gardein continues to rack up industry praise, winning the 2012 Product of the year award at the BC Food Processor Association for its teriyaki veggie chicken strips. Their **Mandarin Orange Crispy Chick'n** and **Zesty Marinara Crispy Chick'n Filets** won gold at the Retail Council of Canada's 19th Annual Canadian Grand Prix New Product Awards.

VHS staff favourites are crispy chick'n, crispy fingers, and crispy tenders. These, along with several others, can be found in the freezer department of most supermarkets. Others, like chick'n scallopini and beefless burger can be found in the vegetable section.

Remember, chickens are the most abused animals on earth. The most effective way to help animals is to stop eating them. Start today, with Gardein!



Photo:
Ian McAllister, Pacificwild.org

Support grows for fight against rodeo cruelty

VHS'S AD ATTRACTED NATIONAL ATTENTION

VHS would like to thank everyone who supported our campaign against rodeo cruelty at the 2012 Calgary Stampede.

The campaign attracted massive media attention, creating a national debate on the treatment of animals at the Stampede and other rodeos. Despite the fact that the Stampede spent millions of dollars (including \$5 million from the federal government) to promote its 100th anniversary, the concerns over animal welfare cast a long shadow over the celebration.

Before the Stampede even started, VHS used its contacts in the animal protection movement to alert television legend and animal advocate Bob Barker about a Stampede prize package being offered by The Price is Right show (which he famously hosted for many years). Bob immediately condemned the prize and the Stampede rodeo's animal cruelty in a statement that drew national media attention. He repeated his condemnation when the Stampede was underway.

Then telecommunications giant Bell Canada revealed it would no longer sponsor rodeo events at the Stampede, a decision that also drew national media attention. VHS had held discussions with Bell in 2011 about our concerns and had urged the public to ask Bell to end its sponsorship of rodeo. We were thrilled to hear that the company will now only sponsor non-rodeo activities at the Stampede.

On the eve of the Stampede, VHS ran a full-page ad in a Calgary newspaper, highlighting the fact the calves as young as three-months old are abused in the rodeo's calf-roping event. The controversy over the ad generated more media coverage about the issue.

Meanwhile, VHS wrote to Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi, asking him to urge the Stampede's board of directors to eliminate the calf-roping event. We also encouraged people to email the mayor about the issue – and more than 3000 people did so. So far, he has politely declined our request but we will continue to press him on this issue.

We were impressed by the dedication of animal advocates from the **Calgary Animal Rights Effort (CARE)**, who held a number of well-attended anti-rodeo protests in the city that were extensively covered by media. VHS supported CARE with promotional materials, including posters, stickers and buttons.

On July 13, a tragic but predictable chuckwagon crash took place, causing the death of three horses. VHS immediately issued a statement calling for the event to be suspended, which was quoted by virtually all the media that reacted across the country. Thousands of Canadians, were outraged that, once again, horses died in this event. More than 50 have been killed in the race since 1986.

All this negative attention has put the Stampede under immense pressure to improve animal welfare. Last year, they made a number of changes to improve animal safety. These do not go far enough and clearly have not made the chuckwagon race safe enough, but the changes indicate the Stampede does respond to public pressure.

With the huge amount of negative publicity the Stampede faced in 2012, we are certain that unrelenting pressure on its board

and management will yield further changes. VHS is determined to continue our campaign and we hope you will continue to support us.

Your support will not only address the abuse of animals at the Stampede. Encouragingly, we have been contacted by animal advocates in other Canadian towns with rodeos – and they are planning to start their own local campaigns. What happens at the Stampede has an impact on rodeos across the country. With your help we can end the suffering of thousands of animals throughout Canada. That's a goal well worth fighting for.

TAKE ACTION: General Motors

Canada continues to sponsor deadly chuckwagon races at the Stampede and across Canada. Please complain to:

Mr. Kevin W. Williams
President and Managing Director
General Motors of Canada Limited
1908 Colonel Sam Drive
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 8P7



Just 3 months old

Would you abuse a baby to entertain a crowd?

BAN CALF ROPING
www.vancouverhumaneociety.bc.ca

DONATIONS & THANK YOUs

In memory:

Cecilie, in memory of Splato and Charli;
 Rita and Rudy Khoo, in memory of Tom Lo;
 Diane Armstrong, in memory of Toby Fouks' Mother;
 Judy Werts, in memory of Sasha;
 Dale Stromberg, in memory of Otis;
 Jacqueline Weiler, in memory of Polo;
 Julie Saunders, in memory of Sparky and Kayo Saunders;
 Muriel Roberts, in memory of Shannon Hocking;
 Keith Aasen, in memory of the three horses killed at the Calgary Stampede;
 Gary Magee, in honour of the three horses killed at the Calgary Stampede;
 Anonymous, in memory of Gypsy;
 Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, in memory of William Cuthill;
 Judy Werts, in memory of Cole;
 Colleen Barnett, in memory of Captain;
 Diane Ferrell, in memory of Joni Hill and Mr. Peepers;
 Valerie Adams, in memory of George.

Thank you to the following businesses that contribute by carrying our donation boxes:

Nutraways Vitamins (www.nutraways.com);
Finlandia Pharmacy (www.finlandiapharmacy.com);
Highlands Veterinary Hospital (www.carepetwellness.com);
UPS Marpole;
Karmavore Vegan Shop (www.karmavore.ca);
Pet Solutions in Surrey.

And to those businesses who support us by direct donations, matching donations, or in-kind:

TELUS and TELUS Employees, with Team TELUS Cares (TELUS matches employee donations);
Kama Natural Soap;
Indesigns;
Slickity Jim's Chat & Chew;
Urban Impact Recycling.

United Way

Many donors contribute at their place of employment through the United Way. We often do not receive the names of individuals, but if you're one of these special people, please know that we're very grateful. Thank you to: Debbie Fong; Lisa Walzak.

Thank you for donations in honour of that special someone:

Stewart Fine, in honour of Debbie;
 Danielle Hrditschka, in honour of Shelley Hrditschka's birthday;
 Kyla Hrditschka, in honour of Shelley Hrditschka's birthday;
 Chelah Horsdal, in honour of Midnight Rider cast and crew;
 Darla Briggs, in honor of Jiwon Park's birthday;
 Darla Briggs, in honor of Terri Anne Welyki's birthday;
 Gabrielle Schroeder, in honour of Jenni Woytowich;
 Jennifer Chen, in honour of Jay Dave;
 Kris Hans, in honour of Barb James;
 Oliver Rappard, in honour of Heather Fay.

A special thank you:

Goes out to the members of **Vancouver Meatless Meetup** (www.meetup.com/MeatlessMeetup/) and organizer Nancy Callan, who held a fundraiser for VHS at Po Kong Restaurant in Vancouver and raised \$600 for the animals!



Don't miss OUT!

We have a few of our beautiful holiday cards left, but they're going fast. They're going at a fire-sale price of \$4.00 per pack of four (mixed or single type) plus postage.

Just call Debra at the VHS office: 604-266-9744.



Giving outside your species

ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP!

By Debra Probert

This article was originally published on Senior Living magazine's website in 2011.

Did you know that only four per cent of us here in British Columbia have planned bequests in the event of our death? And that less than two per cent of all charitable donations in Canada are directed to animal protection organizations? These are sobering statistics for the charitable sector and downright depressing ones for animal charities.

Animals and their suffering matter to me. They're not able to speak for themselves – and in every instance, they're at the mercy of humans and their activities. That's why I have provided a bequest to the Vancouver Humane Society in my will. And I hope that some of you will consider doing the same – bequeathing a part of your earthly estate to a cause that matters to you. Here's why.

At the Vancouver Humane Society, we depend on bequests for about one-third of our revenue each year. In fact, it was a bequest that provided the means to hire program directors rather than relying on one underpaid employee and overworked volunteers to manage the many issues that animals face in BC. This has meant a huge boost in productivity – the successes we've had are many. But our future is still dependent upon the generosity of those who think ahead, beyond their lifetimes, when the animals will still need their help.

Some people hesitate to give to

animal charities (or any charities). How do you know if an animal charity does what it says it does? You have to do your research. The name of an organization is not enough to make a decision – it doesn't provide any information as to how effective the organization is at carrying out its mission. For that kind of information, you need to dig a little deeper – by looking at the organization's website, annual reports (including yearly financials), newsletters and other resources that can and should be readily available.

Another good source of information, particularly about how much money charities have and what they spend it on, is the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) - www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/menu-eng.html. Charities' information returns are posted annually and reveal, among other things, how much money was spent on fundraisers and the range of salaries for employees.

Although there seems to be quite a bit of information in the information return, some of it can be misleading. For instance, management and administrative expenditures are somewhat loosely defined by CRA and many expenses, such as salaries, can be considered administrative or program expenses. Even if a charity spends a major portion of its expenses on salaries, it's wise to remember that charities need people to develop and carry out programs. Of course there are thousands of volunteers who generously give their time to help others. However,

volunteerism is becoming increasingly difficult to fit into busy lifestyles, especially as families often need two wage earners to make ends meet. The right paid staff is invaluable and provides stability, consistency and effectiveness.

The bottom line is that donors, including those who provide for charities in their wills, need to do their homework. Phone the charity; speak to the executive director; ask what achievements have been accomplished, not only recently, but in the past. Read, listen and ask. Then call your lawyer, and extend your compassion – not only beyond your lifetime, but also, I hope, to the other species that share this wonderful world with humans.





CHARLIE
looked healthy.

**But the
breeder LIED!**

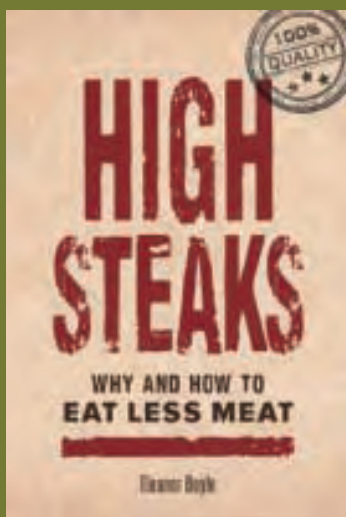
**In fact, Charlie was gravely ill.
He needed help and we were there.**

**Help us be there in the future
REMEMBER VHS IN YOUR WILL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

call Debra Probert at 604.266.9744

VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY
303 - 8623 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5A2
www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca



HIGH STEAKS: A must-read for all of us

WHY AND HOW TO EAT LESS MEAT

There's something we can all do, every day, to strengthen animal welfare, the environment and public health. We can eat less meat. We can also consume more carefully when it comes to animal products, and urge our governments to require that livestock be raised compassionately and sustainably. It's all outlined in the new book **High Steaks: Why and How to Eat Less Meat**. Author Eleanor Boyle offers powerful scientific evidence that large-scale livestock production and meat consumption are undermining ecology and human well-being. She shows that everyone can contribute to solutions, whether or not they eat meat.

For more info see: www.newsociety.com/Books/H/High-Steaks



www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca

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