

NEW PRIVACY LEGISLATION AND BIDE AWHILE *by Lisa Richards*

New federal legislation governing privacy and personal information use came into effect in January, 2004. The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act governs the collection, use, disclosure and retention of personal information by non-government organizations.

At present, it appears that the Act will not be applied to non-profit organizations such as Bide Awhile. However, in keeping with the spirit of the legislation, we want our supporters to know our policies on dealing with their personal information.

Bide Awhile cares about your privacy and does its best to protect your personal information.

Bide Awhile does not sell our database information or share it with anyone else.

All Bide Awhile employees and volunteers who have access to personal information have signed a confidentiality agreement, agreeing to protect your information from illegitimate disclosure or use.

If you wish to know what information we have in our records about you, would like to be removed from any of our contact lists, or want us to stop using or to delete your information, please contact the Shelter at 469-9578, and we would be happy to accommodate your request.

CANADA CELEBRATES ITS FIRST BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies has created the country's first national Be Kind to Animals Week – and we're celebrating from May 2-May 8.

The celebration is long overdue. Sadly it comes too late for the cat recently killed in Dartmouth. It's suspected that the poor tortie was beaten to death by a group of children with rocks. The horror is threefold: that anyone could so deliberately harm an animal, that any child could be so filled with hate, and that this kind of brutality could become commonplace in our society.

Unfortunately, the horror is even greater. Research indicates that violence against animals is directly linked to violence against people. Clearly, it's time to turn the tide.

Be Kind to Animals Week offers us an important opportunity to bring issues around animal cruelty to light – and to make it clear we will not tolerate these atrocities. Our lawmakers and legislators must be compelled to protect those who cannot speak to protect themselves. Tougher penalties for offenders and stronger legislation will make a difference. And we should support these efforts at every chance.

As a member organization of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Bide Awhile welcomes the awareness that Be Kind to Animals Week can generate. It encourages us to create a culture of kindness in our community – that will last long after the week has ended.

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Any member interested in serving on our Board of Directors is invited to submit a volunteer application or resume to Darrold Gould, Executive Director.

We are seeking support in fundraising, marketing, finance, information technology, event planning and human resources.

If you can commit 10 -12 hours a month and have experience in any of the above, we'd love to hear from you.

Please mail or fax (463-6173) your application before the deadline, May 14, 2004.

EMERGENCY APPEAL UPDATE

The weather has been pretty challenging for everyone this past year – including Bide Awhile.

Juan 's clean up effort, unusually high heating costs and snow removal expenses have all meant an unexpected, additional strain on the Shelter's operating budget. We also worked harder to accommodate

more animals because of the extremely cold temperatures.

We appealed to our supporters for help in these unusual circumstances and we were overwhelmed by your response and your generosity - \$10, 470 in donations. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who helped in our time of need.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"

– Gandhi



35TH ANNIVERSARY

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY – SPRING 2004 ISSUE
12 EATON AVENUE. DARTMOUTH. NOVA SCOTIA. B2Y 2X5. PHONE 902. 469.9578
www.bideawhile.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on June 12, 2004
from 10 – 12 noon at the Findlay Centre,
26 Elliott Street, Dartmouth.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As of February 11, 2004, I have effectively been banned from entering the Municipality of the District of Guysborough while in the company of my dog. My dog is a Rottweiler and her breed has now been added to the list of 'fierce and dangerous' breeds, which the municipality has outlawed. Just what does that mean to those of us who own so-called dangerous breeds?

In the case of Guysborough, it means, I could be fined up to \$600 just for owning her. More importantly, it means that a police or animal control officer may impound and destroy her or destroy her on sight, even where there has been no complaint against her or me. The Municipality of the County of Richmond has a similar law, but there she would be considered 'fierce and dangerous' only if she is not muzzled and under my effective control while in a public place.

Allstate Insurance no longer considers me a desirable customer because of my dog. The company's new underwriting policy discourages them from selling homeowners insurance to me as long as I am the owner of a Rottweiler. It seems that the potential liability of owning a 'vicious' dog has become prohibitive and the solution is to stop insuring homes like mine.

We all know that banning breeds or discriminating against owners of certain breeds

is an ineffective way of dealing with what is fundamentally a lack of responsible ownership. Such laws are often unenforceable, costly and simply drive the problem underground where it becomes much more difficult to manage. Unfortunately, those of us who are responsible owners find ourselves subject to the same ludicrous laws as those who are not and sadly, it is often the dog who pays the ultimate price.

A survey of literature on the subject strongly suggests that the best way of dealing with the problem is to lobby against breed-specific legislation before it is an issue. Reacting once the by-law is actively being considered is often too little too late. While HRM does not currently have a breed-specific bylaw, it seems that just such a bylaw may be under consideration. Now is the time to educate our members of council so that our laws are fair and equitable to us all – and most importantly, to our canine companions.

According to the Canada Safety Council, "Breed bans should not be used as a quick fix. The solution lies in a combination of effective animal control measures, reputable breeders, responsible owners, public education, backed up with enforcement and based on reliable data."

*President
Chris Hornberger*

LEAVE A LEGACY™ WEEK – MAY 2-8

LEAVE A LEGACY™ Week is a public education initiative of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners. Their hope is to encourage Canadians to plan for their futures, and to consider including their favourite charity in those plans. Bide Awhile is again pleased to have registered as

a participating charity with LEAVE A LEGACY™ - Nova Scotia. If you would like more information on "leaving your legacy", and helping Bide Awhile, please contact the Shelter at 469-9578. You can also visit www.leavealegacy.ns.ca or www.bideawhile.org for more information,

HUMANE SHELTER FOR LOST AND HOMELESS ANIMALS



FROSTY



Do you remember Frosty? He's the handsome tabby who came to Bide Awhile during the worst days of winter. When his kind rescuer brought him to the Shelter, his feet, tail, ears and nose were showing signs of frostbite. Sadly he suffered through the loss of his ear tips and his poor tail had to be amputated.

So we're happy to report that Frosty has recovered and he and his adoptive family are doing just great. They even

have a new "Big Screen TV"!

Here's what happened. Our longtime Shelter volunteer Valerie Griffiths became smitten with this great little guy as she fostered him back to health. She really wanted to adopt him but wasn't sure that her husband John would feel the same way. She thought a little "buttering up" couldn't hurt so she bought him the new TV. Little did she know that John understood her special bond to Frosty and had already made arrangements with our Executive Director to adopt Frosty as a very special surprise for Valerie.

So everyone came out of this one a winner, especially Frosty who doesn't watch much TV, but got the best surprise of all, a loving home!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our 7th annual Pet Photo Challenge had another great year raising \$3,795. All 759 entries were amazing, the judges faced quite a task in selecting the winners. A special thanks to everyone who submitted photos. Our gratitude also goes out to all of our great sponsors including Nestle, Carsand Mosher, The Chronicle Herald, Brier Island Lodge, Eastlink, Helly Hanson, and the C100 radio station.

Congratulations to all the winners!! Check out these great photos at www.bideawhile.org.

Our 2004 calendar raised a whopping \$18,810. A hearty thanks goes to everyone who purchased our calendar and helped with sales efforts. A very special thanks to the volunteer team that

worked so hard to make this calendar such a great success.

Watch for the 2005 calendar displaying this year's fabulous Pet Photo Challenge winners, on sale in the early fall.

It's been another great year of "Cooking for Critters". Our twice yearly Bake & Craft Sales at the Bedford Place Mall have been a great success, thanks to Helen Watts-Hurlburt, her many volunteers and the mall staff who've always been so helpful.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Making your donation is now a lot easier! Look for the CanadaHelps.org option on our website to use this safe and convenient method of giving.

CELEBRATE SPRING AT OUR OPEN HOUSE

Come celebrate spring at our very first "Spring Open House", on June 19, 2004, from 1:00 – 4:00pm, at the Shelter. Our Open House theme is "Bring A Friend" – and we invite all of our members and supporters to bring a friend – or two or three. Come celebrate the great work you support! As an added bonus, any

member whose guest purchases a membership at the Open House, as well as those who purchase a membership during the months of May and June, will be eligible for a draw for two Via Rail tickets to Montreal.

See you on June 19th – and bring a friend!!

A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER - GEORGE THOMSON

George Thomson remembers exactly what he was doing 35 years ago! And that's because in 1969, George became a part of something very special.

George has always loved animals, so it was natural that he'd want to help when his sister in law, Grace Burfitt and her co-founders, began to talk about creating an animal shelter in this community.

In the beginning he, his wife Hilda and their fellow volunteers worked long hard hours providing care for animals in a facility with no running water and few amenities.

Life eased somewhat when the Shelter moved to its present home on Eaton Avenue. However older buildings need considerable up-keep and over the years George has pretty well repaired or replaced

everything in our Shelter.

He's also helped with almost every fundraiser, served on the Board of Directors and greeted many visitors to our annual Christmas Open House. He's an inspiration to every volunteer, no job too small and no challenge too big. Our Executive Director, Darrold Gould says "George is a part of our foundation, I can always depend on his help and his wisdom".

From all of us, "Thank you George for 35 great years!"

The spirit of volunteerism is thriving at Bide Awhile. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the many volunteers who've played such an important part in the life of the Shelter over our 35 years

STAY IN TOUCH

If you'd like to be added to our list of supporters who receive regular email updates about Shelter activities, please send your email address to Wendy at bideawhile@eastlink.ca and ask her to "Please Add My Email Address to your List".

BUILDING

The Building Committee here at Bide Awhile is continuing in its efforts to locate a suitable property for our future Shelter. Finding an appropriate piece of land and erecting a building is a long process and an expensive undertaking. We have moved forward in defining our needs and have had some early consultations with WHW Architects. Our challenge now is to find the right piece of land. We will keep you posted!



WAL-MART

A hearty thanks goes to our good friends at Wal-Mart, Bayers Lake for their incredibly generous donation of \$4000.00 in Iams dog and cat food products. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Bounty Print generously donated the paper and printing of this newsletter. Bounty's support is greatly appreciated by all of us at Bide Awhile.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Membership in Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Society is all about a love for animals and making a difference in their lives. We're always thankful for the generosity and support of our membership and in this issue, we'd particularly like to express our gratitude to our Patron and Corporate Members.

The following have initiated or renewed a membership at the Patron level (annual fee of \$125), or Corporate level (annual fee of \$250), and have kindly given us permission to thank them in this newsletter:

JOIN OUR KENNEL KLUB

\$1 a day! \$30.00 a month! That's the average cost of feeding one cat in our Shelter. By joining our Kennel Klub and donating \$30.00 each month (or whatever amount you can manage), you'll help reduce our expenses. Forms are available at the Shelter (and soon to be online), which enable you to donate by credit card on the 15th of each month. You can also send post-dated cheques. For more information, please contact Wendy at 469-9578 or visit our web site.

NEW BENEFITS FOR BIDE AWHILE MEMBERS

Bide Awhile's Membership Committee is pleased to offer the following new benefits for our valued members:

- Members are entitled to a free memorial for a deceased pet in "Spook's Memorial Album", our online tribute to dearly loved furry friends who have passed on. Please contact Wendy Grant at 469-9578 for details or visit our web site.
- Members will also be entitled to a reduced admission to our upcoming 35th Anniversary

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A PARTY, OR TWO

On October 14, 2004, Bide Awhile Animal Shelter hits middle-age. We're officially 35 years old – and we're going to celebrate. Part of that celebration is sharing the memories.

We'd like to hear your stories about the shelter. Did you adopt your pet here? Do you have a funny tale about your cat? A heart-warming story about a puppy? Were you involved as a volunteer? Can you

PATRONS

Pauline Allsop; Ronald Baker; Helen Cianfaglione; Coco and Charlie (Janet Rowe); Barbara Corbin; Linda M. Diczku; John Robert Dunn; Debbie Gill; Anne Marie Lake; Shelley Lawley; Katherine Love; Darlene MacRae; Nancy and Raymond Maxwell; Helen M. McCallum; Brad and Brenda Ruggles; Patrick Seetharamdoo; E. Jane Turner

CORPORATE

Halifax Insulators Ltd.; Innovacorp; The Chickenburger; The Cutting Zone



Proud new mom Rainbow with Shelter's first births of 2004

Education Series. The first in our series will be held in the Nantucket Room, at the Dartmouth Sportsplex, on June 19, 2004. This half-day event will feature veterinarians and other experts speaking on various pet care and animal welfare topics. An Open House at the Shelter will be held the same day - a great chance to visit the animals and learn more about Bide Awhile. This entertaining and informative event is a must for all animal lovers. Watch for more details on our website and at your local vet or pet supply outlet.

tell us a little something about our early years as an organization? We'd love to hear from you – and to share your memories in our special Bide Awhile 35th Anniversary newsletter edition coming this fall.

Please send your stories to our mailing address or email us at info@bideawhile.org

Let the celebration begin.