

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS!

Janis Champion and Gail McLaughlan are our newest Life Members! Thank you to Janis and Gail for choosing to renew your memberships at our most prestigious level! Your Life Membership is not only a strong message of commitment to the Shelter, it is also an important contribution to our animal care costs.

Did you know that it costs approximately \$30 to feed one cat for one month while in our care? Some of our friends need a special diet, and we always try to give our kittens the best start possible by giving them a high quality food.

That's why Life Memberships, along with your donations, are so important - these funds enable us to continue to provide excellent care for our four-legged friends.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY:

Student and Seniors	\$10.00
Individual	\$25.00
Family	\$35.00
Patron	\$125.00
Corporate	\$250.00
Life	\$500.00

WANT TO SEE FLUFFY, FIDO OR POLLY IN OUR 2005 CALENDAR?

Then just enter our 7th annual Pet Photo Challenge!!

Every entry has a chance to win a random Grand Draw Prize and there are other great prizes for the winners!! Get your camera ready to roll!! Enter your photo in one of three categories - "Cherished Pets", "Funny Antics" or "Best Friends". Send your picture along with \$5.00 for each entry. The Challenge kicks off on January 15th and runs until February 13th. Look for entry forms in the Chronicle Herald, The Mail

Star, all three locations of Carsand-Mosher in Halifax, Burnside Industrial Park, and Truro and at veterinary clinics throughout HRM.

Check out our website at www.bideawhile.org for upcoming contest details and see "Carsand-Mosher's Top Ten Tips for Photographing Your Pet."

Happy Snapping!

BAKE SALE

Come to the Bedford Place Mall on November 22nd and get a big head start on your Christmas shopping! Everything from cookies to jams and Christmas crafts to mittens! What a great

place to pick up your Bide Awhile 2004 Calendars -- a gift that really matters!



WATCH OUT FOR THESE ALLEY DOGS!

Bowling for Critters is always so much fun. This team was trained by Bob Ottenbrite of Lietash Canine Academy. Come out next year and howl -- we mean cheer-on the team!

"You will always be lucky if you know how to make friends with strange cats"

—proverb

PERFECT GIFT

— Including Bide Awhile in your estate planning can provide for the future of Bide Awhile while providing tax benefits for you.

Perfect Gift - Looking for a gift for the "hard-to-shop-for" pet-lover on your list? Consider making a charitable donation in the recipient's name, and we'll send them a special Christmas card on your behalf. It's the gift that keeps on giving, as your donation supports animal care at Bide Awhile. Just send your

cheque and mailing instructions to the Shelter, before December 16th for Christmas delivery within Nova Scotia.

Please make the envelope: Pet Lover's Christmas Gift, c/o Bide Awhile, 12 Eaton Avenue, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2X5. CDHA



BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY — NOVEMBER 2003 ISSUE
12 EATON AVENUE, DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, B2Y 2X5. PHONE 902. 469.9578
www.bideawhile.org

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

to be held December 7, 2003
from 1 – 4 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was Mark Twain who said, "The only constant is change." I'm sure you will agree with me that this has been especially true at the Shelter over the years. Some of you will recall the origins of this Shelter in a back room in Dr. Audrey Shaw's veterinary clinic in Spryfield in 1969. Three years later, a group of committed and dedicated volunteers took out a mortgage to purchase the then rundown old house on Eaton Avenue in Dartmouth. It became the Shelter's new home and has served us well for over thirty years. As the building went through one round of renovations after the next, it gradually took the shape it has today. I remember when I first started as a volunteer in 1995; the meeting room on the second floor still had a very large chimney in the centre of the room, making meetings of more than five people very awkward.

Over the years as well, the Shelter moved from being completely volunteer driven to hiring a Shelter manager and then animal care attendants. Our administration has moved from handwritten card files in volunteers' homes to an database that stores the Shelter's financial, volunteer and donor records. Our fundraising activities have changed significantly over the years both in terms of our approach and the nature of the events; some have had a

long run but many others have come and gone. While our financial situation has become increasingly more stable, raising sufficient revenues to cover our operating costs is becoming ever more challenging with every passing year as competition for donor dollars increases. However, one thing has not changed; that is the commitment and dedication of our volunteers.

As we move into our 35th anniversary year, we are a thriving, vibrant contributor to our community. Looking forward to the next five or ten years, we have two primary goals – moving into a larger facility and organizing a spay and neuter program that will significantly reduce the homeless cat population in Metro. There are about 150,000 homeless cats in HRM. Our ultimate objective is to reduce that number to zero.

To achieve our goals, we will follow the same path we have always followed – sensible change at a sensible pace. As we continue to build the foundation to realize our objectives, we will stay true to our core values of providing the same compassionate care for each and every one of our homeless friends.

Chris Hornberger
President

UNITED WAY

You can make Bide Awhile your charity of choice on a United Way payroll deduction plan! Some employers offer a "gift-matching program" too!

HUMANE SHELTER FOR LOST AND HOMELESS ANIMALS

A YEAR OF BIDE AWHILE BUDDIES

Here's a small sampling of the great photos found in the 2004 Bide Awhile Calendar – a wonderful collection of Pet Photo Challenge winners and Shelter animals.

As you know, our annual calendar is one of the Shelter's main fundraising events. The revenue from three calendars will buy food for one cat for one month; eight calendars will pay for the spaying of an abandoned female cat that we rescue and adopt to a new home.

Our goal: sell all 3000 calendars by the end of December. If you haven't already purchased your calendar, please visit us at 12 Eaton Avenue in Dartmouth, or go to our Web site at www.bideawhile.org

(under What's Up) for a listing of retail outlets around the municipality. Please help us provide protection and love for our homeless animal friends, help

us reach our calendar sales goal!

The 2004 Bide Awhile Calendar makes a purrfect gift and supports a great cause!



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

By Alison Chubbs, Chair, Fundraising Committee

Every charitable organization has a fundamental dependence on its volunteers and donors to carry out its work. Despite the amazing efforts of Bide Awhile's volunteers and the generosity of our supporters, the Shelter's net revenues have declined in recent years. And like everyone else, our expenses have only increased. In a very competitive fundraising world, our volunteers have done an exceptional job of making our events successful. The revenues from these events, however, are no longer meeting our operational needs. We know that additional sources of funding are needed to ensure a secure and dynamic future for our Shelter. To diversify our revenues, we have added a full-time fundraising position to our staff team. Monica Wyman, our fundraiser, will be growing our corporate sponsorship, our new membership base and will be seeking

grants from foundations. Some of you may have spoken with Monica over the summer, and many more of you will get to know her in the coming months as she gets to know you and shares your thoughts about Bide Awhile.

By way of introduction - Monica has more than six years of fundraising experience, as well as a degree in Public Relations. Most recently, Monica was employed with the Canadian Red Cross for four years doing donor relations and major gift fundraising. Monica co-chairs the Leave A Legacy™ Committee in Nova Scotia and is a member of the Society of Fund Raising Executives. She has two cuddly cats: Baby and Licorice, who are six years old.

Our annual event-based fundraisers will continue to be volunteer driven. This includes our 12th annual Bowling for

Critters, which took place on October 25th and was once again a huge success raising more than \$12,000.00. (Check our Web site for complete details and pictures). In addition, our Bake Sales, Sobeys' Tape Program, Pet Photo Challenge and Calendar will continue to be run by volunteers and remain an essential ingredient in Bide Awhile's success.

Please look through this newsletter for additional information on our Calendar and the other great efforts of our volunteers, or visit our Web site www.bideawhile.org and click on What's New!

The Shelter's Fundraising Committee welcomes Monica and will be working very closely with her to develop a long-term fundraising strategy to see Bide Awhile well into the future.

spay and neuter program (Spook's Memorial Kitty). Please visit our Web site for more information about this important new program

SPOOK'S MEMORIAL ALBUM

Many of us know the heartbreak of losing a loved pet. It's often difficult to express the loss and not everyone understands the need to grieve. Because we understand, we thought we could help. Bide Awhile is creating a memorial tribute on our Web

site to remember the lives of those we've lost. Spook's Memorial Album is not only an opportunity to share your story, it is also a way to ease the suffering of those animals less fortunate. All funds raised from this Memorial Album will support our

THE TRADITION CONTINUES...

Bide Awhile invites all of our friends to join us for our annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 7, 2003 from 1-4 p.m. Tour the Shelter, enjoy some Christmas goodies, and spend time chatting with other animal lovers, including many of our dedicated members and volunteers. There will be a craft table and raffles, including a special draw for those who purchase a membership at the Open House. This is our opportunity to say "thank you" to all of those who have supported us during the year - we hope to see you there!

BANDIT - THE HERO. ONE ANIMAL HELPING ANOTHER.

It was early in September, a perfect Nova Scotian Fall day. I was taking a pleasant lunchtime walk along the deserted logging road that runs near the Kearney Lake Road. With me were two good friends, Bandit, my ten-year old malamute mix, and Dakota, my Siberian husky/shepherd. I hadn't been along this route for a good six months, and the three of us were enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of the woods.

Both Bandit and Dakota are Bide Awhile alumni. They came to the shelter two and eight years ago, respectively, from broken homes and now share one home with five cats and me. Obviously, these are dogs that have learned to live with and love other animals. I think they know how lucky they were to go to Bide Awhile and are grateful for their good fortune.

At an intersection with the old watershed road Bandit became very interested in something in the underbrush. Her agitation grew and she refused to continue our walk. Something was there. "It must be a woodland creature," I thought, and got in closer for a peak at wild nature. But it wasn't a raccoon Bandit had spied; it was a tiny tabby cat, about six months old. This poor little creature could not have gotten into this spot by herself, and for a moment I speculated about what could have happened. She was awfully thin, and appeared injured.

Bandit helped keep the kitten in sight while I carefully got in to her, wrapped my sweater around

her, and gently took her out. Now I could see that one of her legs was either broken or dislocated. The toes were scraped and sore from where she dragged her foot. I believe she was also in shock.

With Bandit leading the way, we walked back to the car. The kitten didn't struggle or complain once as I drove, with her on my lap and two very large dogs in the back seat, all the way into my vet's in the city.

I'd like to tell you this story had a happy ending and the little cat is now in a happy home, but it's not so. She had to be put to sleep due to her injuries. But the one source of comfort is this: she would have died a long, painful and lonely death in the woods if Bandit had not found and rescued her. In her own way, Bandit helped that unknown cat with the only favour she could – she ended the suffering.

This story was submitted by Helen Watts Hurlburt, long-time Bide Awhile volunteer and board member.



Bandit – looking out for others.

HAPPY TAILS



"Thanks for nursing me and my 7 littermates back to health from that nasty upper respiratory illness!" says Jaden. "And best of all, thanks to everyone at Bide Awhile for finding me a great home!"



"Sure, I'm not a little kitten anymore, but I've got a lot of lovin' years left in me," says Ginger, just one of the older cats we've got who are looking for a home.

A WORD OF THANKS...

Hurricane Juan left the Shelter without power for a few days but thankfully did not harm the Shelter or any of our guests. A very special thank

you to our animal care attendants, Starr and Melanie, for maintaining the highest level of care under such adverse conditions.

ON A MORE COLOURFUL NOTE...

Our thanks go to Harold Corbett and PPG Canada Inc. for brightening our walls with 11 gallons of donated paint.



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.