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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 8, 2013, 10 am to noon
Bide Awhile Animal Shelter
67 Neptune Crescent, Dartmouth

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER – SPRING 2013 ISSUE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

"There are many reasons animals end up in shelters ... but the underlying cause really is about a sense of responsibility and commitment to a life for life."

Last October I had the opportunity to attend the "No More Homeless Pets" conference hosted by Best Friends Animal Society. It was an extraordinary experience - 1400 "pet" people from across the US, Canada, the Caribbean and several European countries all coming together to share their experiences and quest for knowledge.

The experience was highly motivational and energizing— to be surrounded by so many people from many different walks of life – ALL UNITED by their passion for the animals whose world we share – and yet I was horrified to learn the American Statistics for their homeless animal population and rates of euthanasia. I wondered how we as Canadians fared in comparison.

According to Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) in 2010 nationally:

	DOGS	CATS
Admitted to Shelter	42,834	90,841
Adopted	52%	45%
Returned to Owner	28%	3.8%
Euthanized	14%	46%

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies National Shelter Statistics 2010

Frightening numbers indeed!

THE PROBLEM - that so many pets end up in shelters each year! Many do not make it to a shelter at all because they are already full. The kennels at Bide Awhile are always full, 100 felines are housed at all times- relative to the 40 we were able to house in the old shelter - and still we turn away 30-40 animals each and every day – due to space constraints.

There are many reasons animals end up in shelters – many of which tie back to significant life changes of the pet or its human – but the underlying cause really is about a sense of responsibility and commitment to a life for life.

Pets become a part of our lives and our families through our own personal choices – thus, we willingly accept responsibility for that life. Responsibility in pet ownership begins with an informed decision – which pet is a fit with your family; knowing realistically what the lifespan is and determining if that commitment is appropriate for you; managing pet health care through its life and having a plan for your pet

should life circumstances occur that would preclude you from looking after it.

It is our responsibility and mandate to empower and educate future generations of pet owners – so they have the tools to make informed decisions that honour the human-animal bond and respect the lifetime needs of their furry companions. This will be the principal goal of educational programming and content to be developed by the shelter.



Nancy with Slim

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Bide Awhile is seeking energetic, talented and creative individuals for its Board of Directors and Committees. If you love animals, have leadership abilities, are a team player, and can give 5 to 10 hours of your time to Bide Awhile every month – we'd love to hear from you.

We're looking for volunteers with a background in any of the following areas: public relations, marketing, business development, entrepreneurship, organizational development, finance, fundraising, webdesign, strategic planning, human resources and education. Previous board or committee experience would be helpful but is not necessary.

If you're interested in using your talents to help homeless animals, please contact Darrold Gould at 469-9578 or email darroldgould@bideawhile.org for application information. The deadline for Board of Directors applications is May 1, 2013.

Where would we be without our friends!

Our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors:

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DARROLD GOULD



Darrold with Cassie

What can I say that I have not said before?

I wish I could say that there are no more stray and unwanted animals out there looking for homes, that everyone is spaying and neutering their pet, that no animal is being abused and that our shelter did not see any animals who lost their ears and tails from frostbite again this year. Sadly, I can't say any of those things. Our shelter continues to deal with these problems on a daily basis.

What I can say is that we wouldn't be able to carry on without the commitment of our members, donors, board of directors, volunteers, sponsors, and a very dedicated staff. I have seen Bide Awhile grow over the years and, with every passing year, be able to do so much more because of the people who believe in and support what we do. I want to thank each and every one of you. Without you there would be no Bide Awhile.

We must never tire of this worthy cause and we must continue to work on behalf of the animals who are in need our help.

In closing, I must say this again... Remember, if you do not spay and neuter you are part of the problem.

Darrold R. Gould, Executive Director

"...we must continue to work on behalf of the animals who are in need our help."

TRIO'S PLACE GARDEN

"The place to honour a two or four-legged loved one"

Later this year Trio's Place will be one year old, and what a first winter we had for the plants and trees to survive! It was an especially colder than usual December and January and we are anxiously looking forward to seeing the garden come to life again as spring is just around the corner. Unfortunately, there are often casualties with perennials every year. For anyone that dedicated a living item that may have not survived, the plants will have to be replaced. Of course this is an expense, and funds will have to be raised annually for the winter casualties.

Funds were raised at the grand opening garden party in September 2012 when plants, trees, rocks, pergolas, birdbaths and fire hydrants were dedicated in memoriam of loved ones. These funds are earmarked for the annual garden maintenance costs, but it

is anticipated it won't be enough to do what is actually needed.

Given the success of the opening day we decided to make the garden party an annual event. The reasons are twofold. The first purpose is to celebrate the life of Trio and our loved ones. The second is a way to raise funds for the annual maintenance of the garden. A date for Trio's Garden Party and memoriam is tentatively set for Saturday, September 14, but look for confirmation on our website. In the meantime remember our (your) garden and treasure the memories.

We hope to see you at the party this year!



Rogue, the last dog adopted from the old Eaton Bide Awhile location

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."

Josh Billings

**“Any glimpse
into the life of an
animal quickens
our own and
makes it so much
larger and better
in every way”**

John Muir

WELCOME FIONA, OUR NEW SHELTER CAT

As many of you know, Trio, our shelter cat for 23 years, passed away last year. It was very difficult to say goodbye, but in her own special way she was able to make room for another cat in need that would be difficult to adopt.

It didn't take too long before another little soul came into our lives at Bide Awhile. We have a new resident cat, Fiona! She was deemed not adoptable as she has a degenerative eye disease that will likely render her blind eventually, and so her permanent residence will be Bide Awhile for her entire life. Her failing vision doesn't seem to slow her down, though. She can quite often be

seen sailing over the front counter and tearing down the hallway. She is affectionate and inquisitive. She shares some of Trio's traits as she joins us at board meetings and also prefers drinking out of Mary's glass instead of her water bowl. So, remember to say hi to her on your next visit. Welcome Fiona!



Fiona

PET VISITATION PROGRAM

In our Fall Newsletter we informed everyone that a pet visitation program was starting called the William and Corinne Hopgood Pet Visitation Program. Here we are about 6 months later and things are going quite well. Currently, there are 21 volunteers that visit 5 different seniors facilities in HRM each month. Both residents and volunteers are enjoying the visits. Here is what one volunteer had to say:

“The visitation program is really enjoyable, especially for anyone looking to make a difference in both the animals and

seniors' lives. At one home, we took kittens and the staff closed off a room for the residents to visit with them. There were stairs available for the kittens to play on and I think it was the first time they had ever seen stairs. They ran up and down and all around...and fully entertained both us as volunteers and the residents. I am sure that many residents had pets earlier in their lives and even if they don't want a cat on their lap, they love to watch them play - I think it breaks up their day.”

Tracy, Visitation Volunteer

AN UPDATE ON HARLEY



Harley

We adopted Harley on October 28th, five days after losing our little buddy Tiger to kidney disease. We thought the best way to honour Tiger was to provide a good home to another furry buddy! We

didn't want to rush into getting another cat, but thought it didn't hurt to meet the animals at Bide Awhile, and whenever we found a good match, we'd know. We had spotted Anthony/Harley on your website a few days before, but I didn't think we could get a medium haired cat, as I am allergic (Darrold Gould kindly explained that whether a cat is short haired or medium haired would make little difference to my allergies). When we went to the shelter, we spotted Harley right away, perched on top of the cages. We spent a few minutes with him, and when he was in my arms (trying to eat my hair!) we knew we had found our new boy. We filled out the paperwork right away, and brought Harley home the next morning. He's settled in really well, and has been a great addition to our little family. He loves to play (with anything and everything), and perch on top of our kitchen cupboards to get a great view of everything around him. He especially loves to play in the bathtub. Darrold indicated he was probably the kind of cat who would love chasing a laser light, and boy was he right!

Thank you, Bide Awhile, so much for the service you provide to animals in need. We're so happy having Harley in our lives, and know that the animals in your care will bring as much joy to their adoptive families as Harley has brought to us.

Sincerely, The Baker Family

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Looking for something fun to do this fall, something that helps Bide Awhile – plans are getting underway for our annual bowling and golf events. Check out www.bideawhile.org in the coming months for more information.

BRAND NEW WEBSITE

Watch out for our new website! We are currently in the development stages but we're hoping to launch the new site in the summer of 2013.

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER'S 2013 PET OF THE DAY CONTEST

**Buy a Day, Win a Month
March 1-April 30, 2013**

All Pet of the Day orders are eligible to win one of the following prizes:

- A weekend pass for two to Brier Island Lodge including two whale watching passes
- A \$200 gift card compliments of Mic Mac Mall

Buy a day for your pet in our 2014 calendar and you could win Pet of the Month. Entry forms are available in your local veterinary clinic or favourite pet supply store or online at www.bideawhile.org.

Winning entries will be published in *The Chronicle Herald* and the *2014 Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Calendar*.

Entries must be postmarked by April 30, 2013 to be eligible for the contest.

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM IN OUR KLUB!

Thousands of names, faces and stories have passed through our doors over the last 43+ years – sad stories turned hopeful and new beginnings found for so many animals in need.

You know some of their names - Moonbeam, Trio, Katie, Buck, Slim – so many stand out in our memories and stay in our hearts.

Moonbeam was the start of a legacy – the first cat taken into the original shelter in 1970 – neglected and abused; she was with us for a year before being adopted into a loving home. We'll always remember Trio who lived most of her 23 years with us at Bide Awhile after suffering the loss of a leg. Katie - the first cat taken into our new shelter and who very shortly afterwards gave birth to the kittens adorning our shelter brochure. Buck, Slim and so many others, kept safe and sound while waiting for their second chance.

The faces have changed but throughout it all, the support from our friends has remained. It's your compassion for these homeless

animals of our community that drives our efforts. Without you, it simply can't be done.

Some of you choose to make a monthly donation through our Kennel Klub and we are so grateful for that support. It's an easy donation option for you and it helps us so much – just like in your own household, it's a lot easier to plan your spending when you know what to expect!

Please consider joining our Kennel Klub and making a monthly donation that is within your means. We'll send you an income tax receipt once a year with our thanks.

If you've ever wanted to join something that makes you feel good – there's always room in our Klub!

No matter what method of support you choose the many faces of Bide Awhile thank you for your kindness.

"It's your compassion for these homeless animals of our community that drives our efforts."

EDUCATION (AND EARLY NEUTERING) SAVES LIVES!

You don't have to wait until your kitten is six months old before he or she can be neutered. This is one of several spay/neuter myths that exist today. Times change, veterinary medicine advances and pediatric or early spaying/neutering has been the norm in many Canadian cities for over 25 years.

Neutering is the only effective way to reduce the number of unwanted cats in our community. Kittens can be neutered before they start puberty to prevent unplanned pregnancies. Many kittens will have already had their first "heat" by the age of 6 months; the result is that kittens are having kittens. It is a terrible cycle of catastrophe for these animals.

Generally, pediatric neutering can be performed when the male and female cats, and male dogs, are between 8 to 16 weeks of age. The weight of the animal may also be a factor in addition to age (veterinarians use their best medical judgement in deciding at what age spay/neuter should be performed on individual animals).

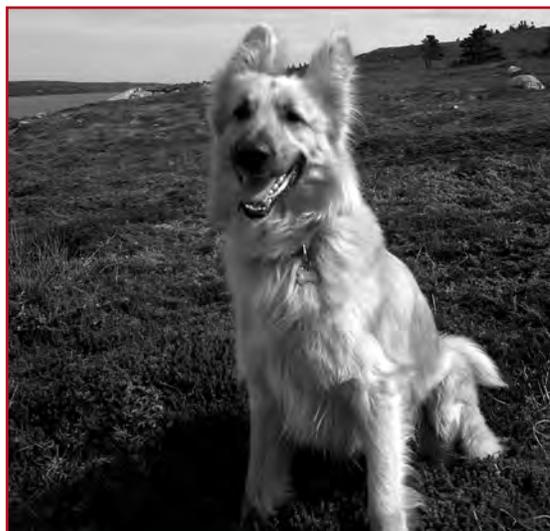
This knowledge may be useful in circumstances where that earlier time window works better for some owners and may be the difference between neutering and not.

Save a life and consider neutering your pet early. This can help reduce overpopulation and unwanted animals.

HI FRIENDS,

Just wanted to let everybody I am doing well. My new mom and dad love me a lot. I have 2 sisters. Brittini is almost 15 so dad says I have to be gentle with her. Myself and Mollie the collie walk twice a day. There is a big trail next to the ocean. I am allowed to run free now that I don't run away. There is lots of squirrels and birds in my yard that my mom feds. I am learning to watch them instead of chasing them. I love all the new sounds of all the critters. I have taken over the spare bed. Mom and Dad said its okay. I tried to get on their bed but they were not having it. I am meeting all the dogs in the neighborhood. I am very gentle with them. I am learning to stay in the yard. Mom has run around the neighbourhood a few times in her house coat (hehe) but I am doing much better. I even get to roam free in the house when they are at work. They tell me I am a very good boy.

I hope everybody is well. Thanks for taking such good care of me.
Love Rocco xoxo



Rocco

Thanks to our good friends for their continued support and generosity!