

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

Cooper's surprising second chance after spending months outside

It is not easy being a stray cat, even though there are thoughtful humans who leave food outside and the weather stays warm for a good portion of the year.

It is especially hard to adapt to life outside if you once had a warm place to call home, but got lost somewhere along the way.

That was the case for Cooper, a twelve-year-old white cat with a sweet and gentle disposition. When he got lost, he made his way to the home of a kind woman in Halifax where, in the warm summer months and into the fall, he would show up regularly and she would ensure he had food and water.

But as time passed, the temperatures began to drop and Cooper was becoming more weathered and underweight.

One cool November day, he showed up at her home and she knew that food alone wasn't enough anymore - his coat was dirty and severely matted. He was becoming thinner by the day, and on this particular day, she noticed a large gash on his side.

So she scooped him up and brought him to Bide Awhile to receive necessary medical care and a warm, safe place to rest while being fed consistently and monitored by staff.

During his intake process, he weighed in at under seven pounds. His matted coat was shaved off, and he was immediately sent to



After shaving off the mats from his tangled coat, Samantha, a Bide Awhile Animal Shelter care attendant, weighs Cooper and checks his health as part of the intake process in mid-November.

the vet to stitch up the laceration on his side. He passed all of his initial health checks, and we started feeding him a high calorie diet while his wound healed.

Weeks passed and he seemed to be improving, until our care attendants noticed there was blood in his urine. The standard treatment of antibiotics did not work, so he was sent to the vet for further testing.

An X-ray revealed a large bladder stone that needed to be removed as soon as possible. It was a significant surgery given his age, weight and size of the bladder stone, not to mention the recovery would require he stay at

the shelter a few more weeks for special care.

Because of the generosity and support of our wonderful community, we were able to remove the stone and keep Cooper in our care until he was ready for adoption.

In late December, after Cooper had spent some time in the cat room waiting for his forever home, we received a phone call that changed everything for him.

His original owners had been scouring websites of local shelters and found him on our website's adoption page.

The next day, they were reunited, and we're told Cooper is doing extremely well.

Cat Yoga becomes a monthly event at Bide Awhile for just \$20 per person

After our pilot sessions back in November, we have been overwhelmed by the positive response to our Cat Yoga fundraiser.

It is exactly what it sounds like - our adoptable cats spend quality time with participants as they practice yoga, led by our board

member and certified yoga instructor, Allison Coffin. She has been volunteering her time and energy to make two back-to-back sessions happen each month at the shelter.

With no overhead costs, the \$20 registration fee comes right back to the shelter to

help us rescue and rehome cats and dogs in need.

Adults interested in attending can register at www.bideawhile.org/catyoga/ for \$20.

Please bring your own yoga mat and bottle of water as we only have a few available.



Casual Days

are an easy way to make a difference in the lives of animals in need.

Email PR@bideawhile.org to get started.



Spaying or neutering your pets is just one way we're working to reduce pet overpopulation

It is so important when kittens or puppies are born that they get the best chance for a long and healthy life. That is why, this year, we are offering to spay mother cats or dogs at no cost to the owner, providing their kittens or puppies are brought to Bide Awhile where they will receive the attention and care they need before they are ready for adoption. This includes vet visits, vaccinations, deworming, microchipping, and more. Of course, this also includes being spayed or neutered before they can be adopted.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

imals before they leave our shelter, spaying or neutering each cat or dog is significant because it helps reduce pet overpopulation in the community.

Too often, someone will call the shelter and ask us to take their cat and kittens; but when they arrive, there are no kittens because they have given them away to friends or family. In those cases, there is no guarantee that new litters are going to receive the medical care and attention they need. And, in a short period of time, they will likely have litters of their own, adding to the overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs.

Please do the right thing and bring us your kittens or puppies so they can receive the attention they require.

Together, we can give them the best chance at a long, healthy life.

On a separate note, I would like to thank the Nova Scotia Veterinarians Association for disallowing the declawing of cats in Nova Scotia. As the first province in Canada to do so, let's hope the other veterinarian associations across the country follow their lead.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who supports us in so many ways. The simple truth is that without you, there would be no Bide Awhile where, for over 49 years we have respected and worked for both cats and dogs (no, we're not just a cat shelter) to try to make their lives better.

Darrold Gould
Executive Director

GET IN TOUCH!

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In 2019, Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Society is



of rescuing and rehoming animals in need. Learn more about our history, share your adoption stories & photos, and find out how to get involved at www.bideawhile.org

Bide Awhile Animal Shelter continues to thrive because of our wonderful community support

There has been a lot of talk lately about Bide Awhile's 50th anniversary next year, and it got me thinking about our history and how far we have come in the past 49 years.

A lot happened in 1969. Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Woodstock hosted a concert - the likes of which has never been seen. The Boeing 747 made its debut. And Bide Awhile Animal Shelter began its legacy.

How many people have come through our doors? How many animals' lives have been saved? How many tons of kitty litter ... well, never mind that last one! But with the passing of the decades, and all the fads and politics that blow through with the winds of change, doing the right thing for animals in need has never gone out of style.

But why is that? Why is Bide Awhile still thriving as a leader in animal welfare after half a century? Easy. The key to the ongoing success of Bide Awhile, the one constant that has held strong like an invisible thread, is you - our supporters, our volunteers and our champions. It truly takes a village and we could not do it without you.

You have donated your time and your money. You have walked our dogs and socialized our cats. You have made brownies and cupcakes for our bake sales and run in the Blue Nose Marathon. You have held casual days at your work and bought calendars for family members.

You have retweeted and reposted on social media about the importance of spaying and neutering.

You have sat on our board and attended our open houses. And if you think that buying a ticket to a fundraiser is not going to help in a meaningful way, I am here to tell you it has actually made all the difference in the world.

When our community supports us, we are able to do wonderful things. We have rescued and rehomed thousands of lost, abandoned and mistreated animals because of your support.

We have been able to provide veterinary

care from vaccinations and serious surgeries to dental work on our furry friends. We have educated the children and helped to change the status quo.

Most importantly, you have opened your homes and your hearts to the adoption of these incredibly loving and grateful animals who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves in precarious circumstances.

Without you wonderful people who come to adopt, we would be nothing more than a warehouse. You are the answer to that abandoned cat's prayers. You are the gift of family to the

dog that would have been a statistic. You are the end of a sad story and the beginning of a happy one.

So thank you to all of you. Our story is your story.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stephanie Willan
President

PR and Education Committees join forces to boost awareness and outreach

Since the fall, Bide Awhile's Education Committee has been hard at work getting our children's books into the hands of youth.

After the books were distributed to the HRM schools and public libraries, we hosted a number of special events around the city.

In December, we were at Chapters in Dartmouth providing information to the public about the shelter, and giving more than 200 young children copies of our books. Then, we teamed up with Santa Claus at both Mic Mac Mall and Halifax Shopping Centre to distribute books and stickers to kids who were anxiously waiting to tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

We got to hear lots of stories from families who have animals at home, many of whom adopted their pets from Bide Awhile in the past! We also gave away more than 500 books over the holiday season!

Our team also stopped by the Discovery Centre to do a reading and books giveaway back in February, as part of their recent *Cats & Dogs* exhibit.

Books were also distributed to family



A local Sparks group shows off their copies of *A Happy Tale of Two Cats* and *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs* by Cathy M. Rosenthal they received following a reading and discussion about responsible pet guardianship in February.

resource centres, March break day camps and childcare centres across the region.

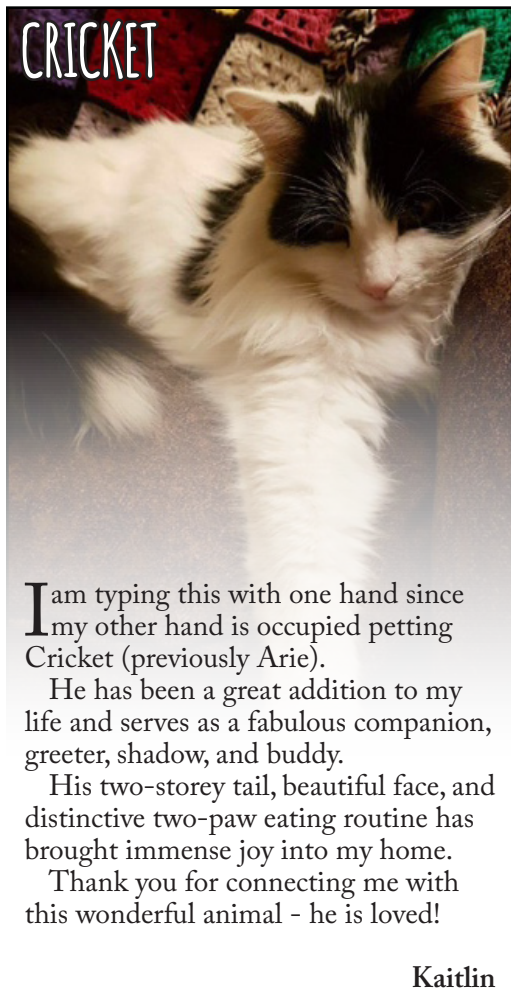
While our whirlwind tour to promote responsible pet guardianship has come to an end, we do have a small number of books left over if you have not received one yet.

Finally, our Education group has recently joined forces with the Public Relations committee, and our combined efforts will now be referred to as the Shelter's Communications and Community Outreach (CCO) team.

We have started work on our next big project to bring to the community in 2018. Ideas include an expansion from the book and sharing more videos on our social media pages.

For the CCO team, our main objective is to have the Bide Awhile name become more recognizable across HRM. This will enable us to help more animals through our spay and neuter program, and prevent animal abandonment.

ADOPTION UPDATES FOR BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY ALUMNI



CRICKET

We've had Chloe, originally named B.W., for four months now, and want to let you know that we're thankful for this wonderful addition to our family.

She's doing very well and seems to love her new home. Chloe's favourite things to do are getting groomed, getting lots of head scratches, looking out the window and playing with her toy mice (which she brings to bed every night).

Thank you for connecting us with Chloe, we love her very much.

Ann and Kent

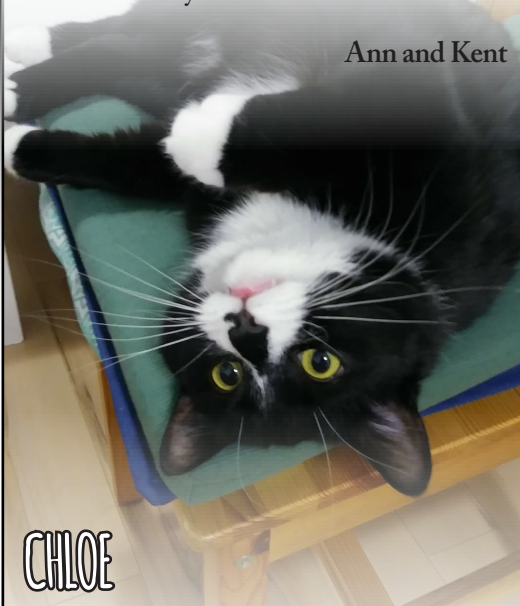
I am typing this with one hand since my other hand is occupied petting Cricket (previously Arie).

He has been a great addition to my life and serves as a fabulous companion, greeter, shadow, and buddy.

His two-storey tail, beautiful face, and distinctive two-paw eating routine has brought immense joy into my home.

Thank you for connecting me with this wonderful animal - he is loved!

Kaitlin



CHLOE



TRIXIE

Dear Mr. Gould and the Bide Awhile staff,

We would like to thank you for the wonderful care your provide to all of your fur babies before they are adopted.

Trixie (aka Trix/Trickster) joined our family a month ago, and we are so thankful for her.

She keeps us on our toes with her rascal-ly antics, and shows us lots of love with her warm soft snuggles.

We are so appreciative!

Thank you for all you do!

Tanya & Liam

How is your pet liking their new home? Email your updates to PR@bideawhile.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Cat Yoga Sessions are now a regular event at Bide Awhile. For just \$20 per person, you are invited to get your feline fix while practicing yoga in our community room. Pre-registration is required, and you can sign up at www.bideawhile.org/catyoga/. The next sessions take place on May 26 at 1pm and 2pm, June 16 at 1pm and 2pm. Keep checking our website for more dates.

The 15th annual **Blue Nose Marathon** is taking place the weekend of May 18 to 21. This year, we've set a goal to raise \$15,000 and we need your support to get there! You can join or support Bide Awhile's **Tails in Motion** team at www.bluenosemarathon.com under Charity Challenge.

Goodwill Bot Pet Meetup & Trivia Night at Good Robot Brewing in Halifax will take place from 5pm to 8pm on Monday, May 28. For every pint sold that day, \$1 will be donated to Bide Awhile Animal Shelter.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Saturday, June 9 from 10am to 12pm, followed by our **Summer Open House** from 1pm until 3pm. It's an excellent opportunity to tour the shelter, meet our animals, and purchase baked goods and crafts in our community room.

Boyne Clarke Trivia Night is taking place on Thursday, November 8 at the Lower Deck in Halifax. The entry fee is \$10 and there will be a 50/50 draw.

THANK YOU

Next Level Fitness and Nutrition Training in Bedford has been leading the Tails in Motion pack with twice-monthly training sessions at the shelter, and providing nutrition and fitness tips with our runners on social media.

CanFel Foundation named Bide Awhile a recipient of a \$5,000 grant to help expand our spay and neuter program.

R & R Pools team members joined us at our Annual Holiday Open House and presented us with a cheque for \$1,000.

Boyne Clarke hosted weekly Casual Days during the month of March and raised \$801.63.

Retailers who hold our Cat Banks and sell our Calendars play a key role in some of our fundraising initiatives, and we thank you all, so much, for your continued support.

Bide Awhile does not receive any government funding, so fundraising is a huge part of how we keep our charitable organization running. Your generosity and support allows us to continue finding forever families for lost and abandoned animals. Here's an idea of where your valuable fundraising dollars go. It costs, on average:

- \$350 to get one animal ready for adoption, including spay/neuter, feline leukemia testing, microchipping, deworming, vaccinations and more
- \$450 each month to provide litter for our cats
- \$1,750 to care for a mother and newborn kittens, and prepare them for the adoption process.

Are you interested in hosting an event or fundraiser in support of Bide Awhile? Contact us at 902-469-9578 or email us at bideawhile@bideawhile.org.

CASUAL DAYS

Bide Awhile Animal Shelter's **Casual Day Program** is an easy, comfortable way to make a direct impact on the lives of animals in need.

Whether your school, workplace or group wants to host a Casual Day once per week, once per month or even once per year, we are excited to help you get started!

Here's how it works: As a group or organization, it's totally up to you how many times you would like to host a Casual Day in support of Bide Awhile - maybe it's Casual Fridays or the third Thursday of every month. Pick a date, and let us know how many people want in on the fun.

Then, a representative from Bide Awhile

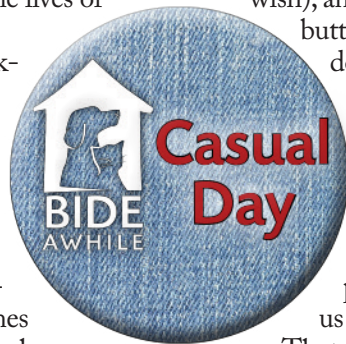
Animal Shelter will stop by, speak with your group about the work we do (if you wish), and distribute the Casual Day buttons. We will also leave a

donation container for you to put the donations in; that way, you can share your initiative with visitors and customers, and maybe even boost your fundraising!

Don't forget to take pictures and share them with us on social media and email!

That way, we can post them to our website and social audiences, too!

When your Casual Day is over, we will pick up the donation container, or replace it with a new one, so you can do it all over again!



PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR
SUMMER OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, JUNE 9 FROM 1 TO 3PM

