

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

Books distributed across HRM to teach kids about proper pet care

The children's books are finally in! We are extremely excited to have 2,000 books distributed throughout Halifax Regional Municipality.

The books, titled *The Happy Tale of Two Cats* and *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs* by Cathy M. Rosenthal, teach children and families what it takes to be responsible pet guardians.

We don't want to give too much away about the story, but there are two books - one about a dog and another about a cat, who experience something similar to the adoption process here at Bide Awhile.

The first lucky few to receive copies of the books were organizations such as the Halifax Public Libraries, and libraries within the Halifax Regional School Board.

From there, avid readers who take part in Bide Awhile's Reading Circle will each receive copies of the books while they read to our pets, building their skills and self-confidence.

We will also be working with various after school programs and children's resource centres to get these books into the hands of



Bide Awhile Animal Shelter's Executive Committee members, from left, Nancy Mansfield, Paul Ryan, Stephanie Willan, Carolyn Lush Baker, Darrold Gould and Kate Peddle, show off the two books, *The Happy Tale of Two Cats*, and *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs* by Cathy M. Rosenthal, at 67 Neptune Crescent in Dartmouth.

other young students and animal lovers in our community. Plus, keep an eye out for give-aways from your local mall Santa this winter!

Details of upcoming readings and book giveaways will be posted on our Facebook page and website. Please feel free to join

us and spread the word on fair and ethical treatment of animals.

If you are part of a local group or organization that would benefit from our children's books, please contact Bide Awhile Animal Shelter at 902-469-9578, or by email at PR@bideawhile.org.

Bide Awhile lending a hand to Hants County's 9-Lives Cat Rescue

Sometimes the best way to make a difference is by lending a hand to an organization that does it best.

Where Bide Awhile is an active proponent of spaying and neutering pets to alleviate the issue of pet over-population, 9-Lives Cat Rescue, also actively promotes spaying and neutering, but works more directly with stray and feral cats by trapping, spaying or neuter-

ing them, then releasing them in their habitat (Trap, Neuter, Return, or TNR).

For years now, 9-Lives Cat Rescue, a CRA-registered charity based in Hants County, has been doing this work, and recently put out a call for donations to help purchase a number of squish cages.

Squish cages are a type of cage that humanely traps stray or feral cats to be spayed

or neutered, then returned. The cages help ensure the cats - and the humans - aren't harmed in the TNR process.

As their work aligns with our mission and values, to support them, Bide Awhile answered their call by purchasing ten squish cages to help them continue their excellent work. We will be presenting the cages in the near future. Visit 9-lives.ca for information.

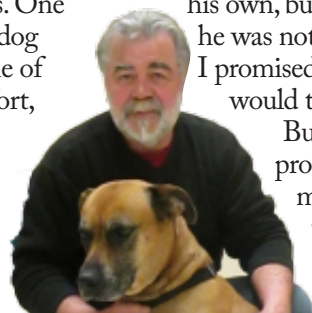


Pets and humans bring a tremendous amount of comfort to one another

Let's not ever forget the important roles dogs and cats play in our lives. One of those roles is that of a therapy dog or cat, helping people in their time of need. They give miraculous comfort, encouragement and healing to people who are suffering from physical or emotional pain. For 28 years, I have seen the comfort pets bring on a daily basis.

A number of years ago, an older gentleman named Joseph visited the shelter. Joseph was a man I will never forget.

He told me that he lived alone, but the time had come that he needed to go into assisted living. While we were talking, he started to cry; he had befriended a stray cat on the street and had taken it into his home. This cat quickly became a very important part of his daily life.



EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Joseph knew he could no longer live on his own, but couldn't imagine moving if he was not allowed to take his cat. So, I promised him, when the time came, I would take the cat at Bide Awhile.

But that didn't solve Joseph's problem entirely - he wanted to maintain some kind of contact with this cat, because, if the cat was adopted, how could he know if it was doing OK? In most cases, he couldn't have known.

It was arranged that he could come to our shelter and visit the cat every week, and, to no surprise,

he came regularly, regardless of the weather.

Soon enough, the day came when I had to tell Joseph I found a home for the cat. While he was happy his cat found a new home, he was heartbroken that he may

never see his cat ever again.

But as it turned out, the woman who adopted the cat was kind enough to agree to let him to visit. Happily, he did.

A few years later, Joseph had to have both of his legs removed, and mobility became an issue. That meant he couldn't visit his cat any longer.

We arranged for one of our volunteers to visit him with Bud, our then-shelter cat, who was well-known to Joseph because of his regular visits to the shelter. Those were happy times and lifted his spirits greatly.

This is just one story about a man and his cat and how they both needed each other at different times in their lives. I could fill a book with stories of how cats and dogs have helped people.

When these animals need our help, we must be there. They are always there for us when we need them most.

Darrold Gould, Executive Director

Community building and outreach a huge part of our strategic priorities going forward

I am thrilled and excited to return for another year as President at Bide Awhile. With all of the major projects we have taken on in the last two years, it will be very rewarding to see many of these ventures come to fruition in the near future. However, not ones to rest on our laurels, we continue to develop new initiatives to further benefit our animal companions.

One example of what we have been up to is that the board members at Bide Awhile have been hard at work all summer with Strategic Planning. Our guiding vision will be to end companion animal homelessness in Nova Scotia.

To help us achieve that vision, we have collectively identified several priorities to which we will now set our compass and steer our ship.

We have come up with some wonderful new and unique ideas on how to help more

animals in our community, recognizing that sometimes the best way to help pets is to help the families that care for them. Making it easier for families to keep their pets at home is the best way to keep pets out of shelters.

Over the next several years, we will endeavour to help those with difficulties either financially or physically. We will investigate ways to help families in distress and help our community by cultivating awareness, advocacy and outreach.

Our other priority, as always, is educating the public on how to be responsible pet guardians. As promised, Bide Awhile has (finally) sourced a children's book and will be distributing them throughout HRM this coming year.

We believe with all of our hearts that ed-

ucation is the key to supporting good animal welfare. What better way to reach children with a message of empathy and responsibility than with beautifully illustrated books which we will donate?

So please remember that when you support Bide Awhile, you support your entire community. We work tirelessly for the animals and the humans who live with them, but our number one priority will always be their welfare.

With your continued support, we are able to not only run this safe haven for lost and abandoned animals, but we can support initiatives which will benefit animals for generations to come.

Stephanie Willan, President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GET IN TOUCH!

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NEUTER PROGRAM**

902-469-9578



We adopted Fiji, now named Luna, a week and a half ago. She's a sweet kitten who we adore. We also have an adult cat, Jack, who was unsure at first about this new addition, and there were definitely some tense moments between them.

I'm happy to say that now they play together and today I caught them sleeping together.

Luna is happy and thriving!

Laura

Calvin is doing great and living in luxury with my family and me! It was quite an adjustment (him being as tall as my counters and all) but he is learning the dos and don'ts quick! He walks and hikes almost every day and we have recently found out he has a great love for the water hose outside!

He may be geriatric, but he plays like a puppy! We are blessed to have him!

Bianca



I adopted Tucker (the sucker) last July. He still sucks on my neck! I adore this bundle of fun and fur.

Thank you for giving him and his mom such great care before I adopted him.

Sharon

On July 31, 2016, we adopted a sweet little kitten named Sal.

He's grown into the biggest sweetheart you could ever imagine.

He loves to terrorize his two sisters. We couldn't be happier.

We love him and couldn't imagine our lives without him.

Thanks to the great staff at Bide Awhile!

Scott



Three years ago, we adopted our ginger baby that we lovingly named Pumpkin.

He is the sweetest and most loving cat. We couldn't imagine our lives without him!

Jaime



Quattro came into the shelter when she was only six weeks old with seven other kittens in her litter.

Her hind legs were very weak and went whichever direction they wanted, making her the smallest and most dirty out of her siblings. Quattro also had to struggle to get a chance to eat, and at minimum, she was being bathed four times a day. That's when I decided to take her home on my days off to monitor her and eliminate the risk of faecal scald.

My entire household quickly fell in love with her, and she became part of the family. Then, at ten-weeks-old, she lost the ability to control her bladder and bowels - which is very common for an animal in her condition. I learned how to express/stimulate her on my own.

At first, all five vets who had seen her believed it was spina bifida, when, in fact, it was three hemivertebrae in the thoracic region of her spine causing issues. This is a genetic disorder she was born with, and despite the limited use of her hind legs, she has gained muscle and shown hopeful improvements with each vet visit.

Quattro is not in pain and will be able to grow and live a happy life. She's a great little kitten who loves playtime, cuddles, and eating like a piggy. She enjoys hanging out with her two dog brothers and is very interested in the kitties who also came from Bide Awhile.

Janice, former Bide Awhile Animal Care Attendant



How is your pet liking their new home? Let us know. Email your stories and photos to PR@bideawhile.org!

SAVE THE DATE

2018 Calendars are now available for purchase at various locations around Halifax Regional Municipality - including at the shelter - for just \$10! Please contact the shelter if your workplace is interested in becoming a vendor.

November 28 is Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving. After the sales of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday is a time to celebrate and encourage activities that support charities and non-profits. Visit GivingTuesday.ca for more information.

Our **Annual Holiday Open House** will take place December 10 from 1pm until 4pm, at the shelter, located at 67 Neptune

Crescent in Dartmouth. There will also be a **Bake Sale** during the Annual Holiday Open House on December 10 from 1pm until 4pm.

Grafton Street Dinner Theatre is happening again! Join us for a night of delicious food, laughs and fun April 8, 2018. Tickets will be available at the Shelter.

Bide Awhile's **Tails in Motion** team will be back at the **Blue Nose Marathon** again in May. We will be putting out the call for team members early in the new year!

Cat Yoga will be a regular event in 2018. Visit www.bideawhile.org for dates.

PLANNED GIVING

As you think about your charitable donations for the holiday season, please consider Bide Awhile Animal Shelter.

Monthly contributions from our **Kennel Klub** members allow us to plan and budget our annual resources. We issue tax receipts in January for the total of your monthly contributions. Join Bide Awhile's Kennel Klub at

<https://bideawhile.org/kennel-klub-form/>.

Or, if you contribute to the **United Way** through your workplace, you can direct funds to Bide Awhile Animal Shelter. Reference our charitable number 889459095RR0001 on your contribution form.

Bide Awhile also benefits from **bequests**. Please consider us in your estate planning.



We are seeking new members for our BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deadline for applications is April 30, 2018
Contact darroldgould@bideawhile.org or 902-469-9578 for more information.



Get to know Bide Awhile a little better!

www.bideawhile.org

THANK YOU

Blue Nose Marathon Tails in Motion team raised more than \$13,000!

Princess Auto - Dartmouth hosted three barbecue events for us this year, raising more than \$1,150!

Portland Street Superstore hosted a wonderful barbecue in support of Bide Awhile this summer and raised \$833!

Krave Burger created a burger & fries combo in July, where a portion of sales were donated to the shelter, raising \$878!

Tito's Vodka for Dog People hosted a Dog Park Party in late July at Shubie Park raising more than \$1,000!

Jack Astors at Dartmouth Crossing hosted a M'Astors of Flairtending event this July, raising \$1,312!

Bide Awhile does not receive any government funding, so fundraising is an enormous part of how we keep our charitable organization running. Your generosity and support allows us to keep doing the work we do: 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, deworming, up-to-date 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.