



THE CAT CONNECTION

Spring 2007 Vol. 2

North Toronto Cat Rescue

Canadian Registered Charity No. 83607 9673 RR0001

AND WE TRIED SO HARD.....



Scruffy was abandoned in a wooded area in Toronto. His face had been severely bitten and scratched by another animal, and the wounds had become seriously infected. Scruffy's sweet nature allowed his foster mom to administer antibiotics and lots of TLC, and slowly his wounds began to heal. But bad news followed. A further examination by the vet found that the bones under the lacerations had been eaten away by the infection. Extensive surgery would be required to reconstruct his jaw so that he could eat properly. Additional testing then revealed that Scruffy was also FIV+. His compromised immune system would make surgery even more dangerous.

Scruffy didn't deserve this. He came to us lonely, abused and neglected, but through all of his suffering, all he wanted was to be loved and cuddled. He was someone's pet at one time. Maybe his owners didn't want the expense of feeding and neutering him...maybe they thought he was no longer cute and fluffy...maybe they moved away and dumped him...maybe they just didn't love him...obviously they just didn't care!

Scruffy died of his wounds. His short life was filled with fear and pain. He was only six months old. **(This picture was too shocking to print in colour.)**

Sadly, there are many other "Scruffys" out there. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP THEM!**

SPRING MEANS KITTEN SEASON!

When females go into heat, male cats come running! Warmer weather "kick-starts" the "heat" cycle of female cats, and their reproductive hormones go into "full gear". Kitten season usually starts in the early spring and lasts until late fall, resulting in more homeless kittens being born. Because of the vast numbers, most rescue groups reach full capacity very quickly.

THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Spay or neuter all of your pets.

- Neutered males will have less desire to roam, mark territory, fight, and be destructive, and will have lower chances of prostate gland or testicular cancer. (A male who fights is also more likely to contract diseases such as FIV or feline leukemia.)
- When unspayed females go into heat, which can occur very frequently, they are in extreme discomfort for about a week, yowling and pawing the ground. Spayed females will also have a lower chance of getting ovarian cancer or uterine infections.

Tell your friends to adopt pets from rescue groups instead of buying them.

- Adopting pets from rescue groups rather than buying them will save thousands of animals from being euthanized in shelters every day. In North America, an animal is killed every 7 seconds.

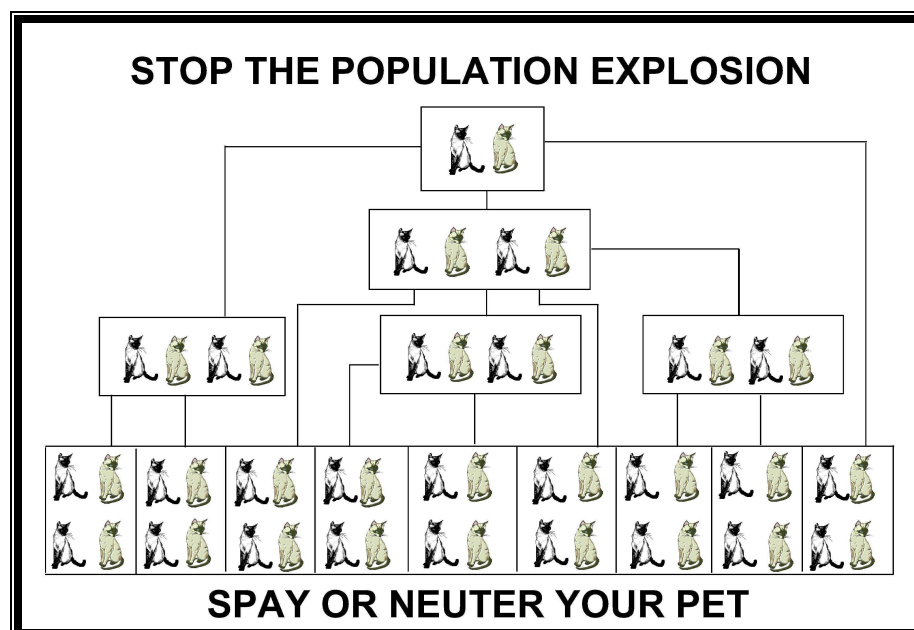
Teach your children to value pets' lives.

- Learning to value life begins at an early age. Studies have shown that teaching children how to stop the neglect and abuse of animals through early humane education stays with them into adulthood.

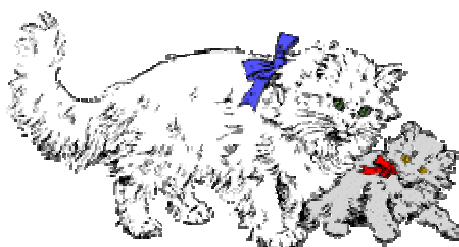
THE CRISIS OF ANIMAL OVER-POPULATION

Every year, 5 million cats and dogs in North America are euthanized, while countless others are abandoned, neglected and abused. With approximately 100 million cats in North America alone, 60 million are estimated to be homeless. This over-population is a direct result of not spaying or neutering pets. It is estimated that for every one human born, 45 kittens are born. For every 20 million pets taken to shelters every year, 15 million of them are euthanized -- 75% of them are cats.

- Unspayed females can go into heat as early as 6 – 7 months of age
- A fertile cat can produce 3 litters in one year
- Each litter has approximately 4 – 6 kittens
- Over 7 years, one cat and its offspring can produce 420,000 kittens



Spread the word that when acquiring an animal,
you assume sole responsibility for it.
Much like children, animals depend on us
to keep them happy, healthy and safe.
Be part of the solution,
instead of part of the problem.



THE TRUTH ABOUT FELINE DISTEMPER (PANLEUKOPENIA)

Feline distemper is a highly contagious, often fatal, viral disease. It is properly known as Feline Panleukopenia, which means a decrease in the number of white blood cells. It is most severe in kittens and infects bone marrow, lymph tissue and the intestinal tract. The virus is so widespread that virtually all cats are exposed to it within their first year of life. A cat can become infected from contaminated bedding, food dishes, litter boxes, fleas, water from puddles or even shoes.

While cats of any age may be infected, young kittens, sick cats and indoor cats that have not been vaccinated are most susceptible. Kittens less than 16 weeks of age may die at a rate of about 75%. Pregnant females that contract the disease will most likely miscarry or give birth to kittens with severe brain damage.

The first symptoms include high fever, appetite loss, dehydration, diarrhea and/or vomiting. Diarrhea may be watery or bloody, and vomiting of bile continues even after there is no more food in the cat's system. The kitten will sit with its head hanging over the water dish. Many rescue groups see widespread evidence of the disease in the spring, when the weather gets warmer and many kittens are being born. The disease can sweep through entire communities, killing litters of kittens *within days*.

The primary prevention against feline distemper is vaccination. Booster vaccines (FVRCP) given at 2, 3 and 4 months of age provide immunity, and should be continued at least every 3 years.

Like most viral diseases, there is no treatment that can kill the virus. Dehydration and shock are life-threatening components of panleukopenia and intravenous (IV) or subcutaneous (sub-Q) fluid therapy and intense nursing is critical to control them. The secondary infections that usually occur are treated with antibiotics, and drugs may also be given to control vomiting and diarrhea.

If you think that your kitten has been exposed, and is exhibiting these symptoms, RUN, do not walk, to your veterinarian. Although veterinarians may be reluctant to treat a kitten with feline distemper on their premises because it is so contagious, IV or sub-Q fluids are imperative. If this is the case, your vet may be able to provide you with the supplies and detailed instructions on administering sub-Q fluids at home. **Don't give up! Keeping your kitten hydrated for the duration of the illness may be the difference between life and death.**



NORTH TORONTO CAT RESCUE'S UPCOMING EVENTS

CAT ADOPTION DAYS: Every Saturday we are at the Pet Valu in Aurora, on Bayview Avenue, north of Wellington, in the Home Depot plaza, between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Be sure to stop by and see the beautiful cats and kittens available for adoption.

ANIMAL HOUSE CALLS ON CITY TV: Hosted by Ann Rohmer, we frequently get a chance to appear with a few of the many kitties available for adoption, as well as educate the public on various cat-related issues.

ALL ABOUT PETS SHOW: We will be back at the 14th annual pet show from April 6-8, 2007! Come and see us at booth #523 at the International Centre in Mississauga. Check out: www.allaboutpetsshow.com



North Toronto Cat Rescue

"Cats leave paw prints on our hearts"

LOOKING FOR FOREVER HOMES



Dolly is a sweet, playful 6-month old female white tabby.



Tika is a loving, cuddly 10-month old female Siamese-cross tortoise-shell.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

SHELTER SPACE: Our foster homes are wonderful, but our space is limited and our hours of operation are restricted by the schedules of our care-givers. With more room, and dedicated volunteers, a shelter would provide opportunities for many more homeless cats. If you own a building or property that could accommodate a shelter, please contact us by phone (905) 940-CATS (2287) or e-mail at donna@northtorontocatrescue.com.

DONATIONS

CREDIT CARD: We are desperately in need of financial donations. You can make one-time or monthly donations by going to our website and clicking the PayPal or Canada Helps link. We are a registered charity (No. 83607 9673 RR0001) and can provide annual tax receipts.



**Yes! I'd like to make a contribution to North Toronto Cat Rescue.
Tax receipts available for \$20 or more.**

- **I would like to contribute \$_____ for food and litter.**
- **I would like to contribute \$_____ for veterinary care including spay/neuter.**
- **I just want to help. A donation of \$_____ is enclosed.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Send this form with your cheque to:
North Toronto Cat Rescue, 28 John Stiver Crescent, Markham, Ontario L3R 9A8

Yes, I need a tax receipt _____ No, I don't need a tax receipt _____