



June 2006
3rd Edition

The *pet chat!*

The Mississauga Humane Society Newsletter

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President's Message

After the long period of chilly and rainy days, summer has finally come. For the last month or so, we were able to organise a few fund raising events, the major one being the Walkathon on May 27 at the Mississauga Valley Park. It was a beautiful day and I am pleased to report a total of over \$4,000 has been raised! We hope, from now on, we will make this walkathon an annual event. Hopefully, as years go by there will be more sponsors and participants allowing it to become a major event in the city! In addition several garage sales have also been hosted. These newly raised funds definitely will help with the extra veterinary expenses due to the intake of stray mother cats/kittens during this time of the year.

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This year marks the 8th year of The MHS since its inception in 1999! We have learned and grown a lot, and I am proud to say that the number of animals we rescue is 10 times more than we did when we first started! We feel its time for us to recruit MHS MEMBERS.

I would now like to make a PLEA for you to join as a **MHS MEMBER**. By becoming a member, you show that you care deeply for our rescued animals, and that we have your ongoing support in our life saving mission. If you have children under 12, we encourage you to enroll your child/children as a **Juvenile Member** - or -- you can sign up your furchild/furchildren as a **MHS Fur Member** too! A MHS Member is special as you care about animals!

As a member, you have the privilege of automatically entering a **monthly draw** for a prize of a \$20 Petcetera Gift Certificate. There will also be an additional **MYSTERIOUS GRAND PRIZE** for the year-end draw! Our **Annual Membership** fee is only **\$20** for Adults and **\$5** for Juvenile/Fur Members!

MISSION STATEMENT

"We strive to SAVE as many Homeless Companion Animals as possible, regardless of age, health and behavioral issues, and find them FOREVER HOMES."

To encourage your support, the 1st RESPONDENT will receive a CERTIFICATE naming him or her as being the **FIRST PROUD MHS MEMBER**, plus a *Petcetera Gift Cert of \$20!* The 1st MHS Juvenile/Fur Member will also receive a CERTIFICATE and a *small stuffed dog/ a box of treats!* Please email us NOW for a Membership Registration Form at:

info@mississaugahumanesociety.com

May we count on you for your support? Our animals are eagerly waiting to say "Hello and welcome to the MHS family!"

Lily Chan
President

Rescue Story:

THUNDER



By Lily Chan

This rescue story is not typical, but I wish all rescue stories would end up like this one!

When Thunder's owner emailed us, saying that they had to give up their cat of 3+ years, arrangements were made for Thunder to be dropped off at our Adoption Centre at the Petcetera pet store. Thunder's parents had moved in with a family member whose allergy to the cat made this move a necessity.

I happened to be there that day to witness the surrender of Thunder. With him were 2 boxes of toys, pet beds and 2 carriers. One could tell the cat has been loved and pampered. Thunder was taken out from his carrier. He was scared as obviously he sensed something was going on in this little strange room. His emotional owners petted him, talked to him gently, and told him "It's going to be OK." In his little heart, Thunder knew it was not OK. The eyes of his owners were teary; so were mine. Sadness filled the room. Tears were shed as the owners said good-bye to the cat they had since adopting him as a kitten. Before they left, they took one last peep at Thunder through the glass window. Thunder was lying underneath a chair against the wall. Have you ever seen a depressed cat with eyes so sad that he could break your heart? I saw one that day (actually I have seen quite a few there).

On my way home, my heart was heavy. I felt sorry not only for Thunder, but also his parents. I had many "whys". Why there is this pain of separation in life...? Why there is such a thing called allergy? Why cannot these precious pets stay with their family throughout their life...? Why do they have to be bounced between places before they finish their journey on this earth...? Why do people give up their pet so easily ...? I said to myself: "I wish they would call me tomorrow and tell me they want to take him back."

Miracles do happen, sometimes, and my prayers were answered. The next morning, Thunder's dad called; he was already at the Adoption Centre visiting Thunder as they missed him so much. He said that they love him so much they could not part with him. They wanted to take him back! He said he would '**do everything in order to make things work**' so Thunder can stay with them. So, in less than 24 hours, Thunder was HOME again.

Although, this is not a real rescue story it does have a successful ending and I like it! Wouldn't the world be a better place if all "surrendering pet owners" were like Thunder's parents?

Cat Corner



Cats: Indoor, Outdoor, or Both?

By Tina Kendall, Cat Program Co-ordinator

To most people, an animal is a creature that can survive on its own in the wild. As a cat is an animal, it follows in their logic that, any cat should be capable of living in nature, on its own. These people are unaware of what is meant by the term “domestic”. While wild animals are born and raised to deal with life in the outdoors, **domestic** cats have been bred and modified to live with people ... and with people only.

I have personally run into a number of people who always ask me, “But... isn’t that like keeping the cat in prison?” My response is simple: “No.” Cats that spend a significant amount of time outside are susceptible to a number of illnesses or other related problems. A few of these are:

- a) **Parasites:** round worm, hook worm, mange, giardia, etc. are common. Outside cats get these from eating mice or birds, contact with other cat etc.
- b) **Fleas:** fleas, although falling under the category of parasites, are especially bad. Fleas can cause anemia. Digesting a flea will give the additional problems of tapeworm. Fleas multiply quickly and, after catching a ride into your home, will infest carpeting, bedding, and any upholstery.
- c) **Viral Infections:** common infections from cat to cat contact out of doors are Upper Respiratory Infection, Feline Leukemia, and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus [FIV]. Upper Respiratory Infection, display symptoms similar to a common cold but your pet needs veterinary care to overcome it. Feline Leukemia and FIV cannot be overcome. These latter two infections are for life and, although your pet may live many happy years while having them, **they should not be allowed to infect others.**
- d) **Trauma:** free roaming cats are often hit by cars, maimed in fights with other cats or wild animals, or find themselves physically injured without help.

So... how can you give your cat a taste of the outdoors and keep it safe?

Some people will leash train their cat with a harness. This is acceptable but it takes time and patience! Many cats do not take to this well. Some owners would put their cat on a tie-out, this also requires constant supervision on the owner’s part, as the cat may manage to escape from this, get tangled up or, or even die from choking or heat prostration.

A better alternative is **an outdoor enclosure** which allows a taste of the outdoors with an indoor type of safety. These can be wire mesh enclosures, homemade or professionally done. One thing must be made clear, however. Unlike dog fencing, cats must have no open areas above. Dogs jump but cats climb – and squeeze through openings of the common chain link fence.

If possible, the professional installation is the preferred method. I endorse the system sold by **The Cats’ Den**. [www.thecatsden.net]. This system can be custom designed to fit any situation. Even apartments can be fitted with balcony enclosures.

Thank You!

Our SINCERE THANKS to all the volunteers who helped in our recent fund raising events – the Walkathon and the Garage Sales!

A BIG VOTE OF THANKS to Dorothy Avery of Mother Knows Best Dog Obedience School, and Ola Zalewski, who provide weekly training sessions for our ‘challenged’ dogs, on a complimentary basis.

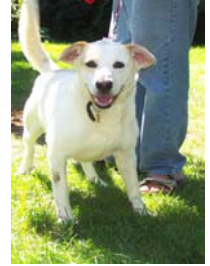
Special thanks also for her offer to provide 6-8 FREE training sessions to the adopters of our dogs, if needed.

We would like to thank Fiesta Barbeque Grills for their generous donation of a Barbeque Grill as a prize of our Raffle Ticket Draw

Doggie School

By Dorothy Avery, Mother Knows Best Dog Obedience School

BRINGING UP A PUPPY



Puppyhood is the most important and critical time in your dog's development. What you do and do not do right now will affect your dog's behaviour forever. **I firmly believe that making the difference between a good dog and a great dog is early socialization and training.** Even if you decide against taking the newest member of your family to a formal training school (which I hope won't be your decision), socialization is a priority. Take that inquisitive missel of energy everywhere possible with you. Through early exposure to people, sounds, and other dogs, the easier it will be to get his attention later on in training as well as the more secure and confident he will be in the future. When introducing him to new situations, take care that each experience is pleasant and non-threatening. Do not force or rush your puppy. Let your puppy. Let your puppy take things at his own pace. Your job is to provide the opportunity.

Spend time with your puppy, establish that great bond, but just as important and vital is to take care not to make him too dependent on you. At times during each day, he should spend time alone in a safe place, such as his crate, to encourage independence. If not, make no doubt that you are well on your way to training your dog to be shy, anxiety ridden, and a fearful monster – you just might be creating the worst type of biter – a fear biter. An un-socialized dog is untrustworthy, a liability, and one who cannot adapt easily, if at all, to new situations. He often ends up wanting to fight with other dogs, barking, lunging, and generally unpleasant to be around.

One of our biggest mistakes with our puppy training is labeled inadvertent training. Let me explain by example. It is quite natural for some puppies to be shy. Shy dogs often bolt when frightened, endangering themselves by perhaps running blindly into traffic. Although well meaning, many owners actually reinforce their puppy's shy or timid behaviour. In effect, the owner inadvertently trains the dog to be more fearful. Our protective instincts cause us to reassure the dog by talking soothingly, petting, or even picking up the dog for a hug. These are all praising actions and we, therefore, are inadvertently praising our pup for undesirable behaviour. When frightening situations arise, I lovingly call these "party" times. Clap your hands, and say in a somewhat excited voice, "whow, wasn't that a bang", "look at that"!!!! Since dogs take their cue from you, and by you showing there is nothing over which to be frightened, your dog will soon start to consider a once thought fearful event as a "non event". Turn that negative into a positive. On the other hand, if you laugh and giggle when your pup charges and attacks the vacuum cleaner, you are encouraging and rewarding aggressive behaviour.

A properly socialized dog is well adjusted and makes not just a good companion but a GREAT companion. He is neither aggressive nor frightened. Be careful of the seeds you sow. Make it easy for yourself and your dog by influencing him positively – the results will justify your efforts!

Upcoming Event



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

To express gratitude to our foster parents and volunteers, without whom we cannot operate, we are going to have a **Volunteer Appreciation Party!** This is scheduled to be held on August 26, 2006. This party will give us an opportunity to thank all our volunteers as well as giving them the chance to meet and chat! Please set aside this date on your diary – details of location and time will be advised in the next few weeks!

 **VOLUNTEER** and make our animals **HAPPIER** 

Wish List

- ❖ Foster or Adoptive Homes for rescued animals
- ❖ Donations of Cash and Canadian Tire Money
- ❖ Volunteer Drivers
- ❖ Dog Food – Canned, and dog treats
- ❖ Cat Food – Dry or canned, and cat treats
- ❖ Cat Litter
- ❖ Boston Pizza receipts

Classifieds  **My WISH is to have your CHERISH** 

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