

TRACS

*The Responsible
Animal Care Society*

PO Box 26097
Westbank, BC
Canada V4T 2G3
Ph/fax: 250-768-4803
tracs@shaw.ca
www.tracs-bc.ca

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aim

**animal issues
magazine**



For the Love of Theo

President's Message: The Gift of Compassionate Action

During the season of giving, animals deserve to be remembered, too. Of course, we know that our own non-human family members will not be forgotten, but what about the countless worthy beings "out there" who cannot be individually reached, fed, and comforted through the power of our love? How can we help?

Please consider giving the gift of compassionate action to the animals this holiday season. We have included two inserts in our mail out that need widespread public support in order to be effective. By taking action now, you can contribute to the welfare of those who have no voice to speak in their own defense.

Both inserts are in the form of petitions:

- Stop Animal Cruelty, created in response to the cruel beating, duct-taping and dragging of Daisy Duke, a recent canine victim in Didsbury, Alberta; the revised deadline for this petition is December 30, 2006, whereupon MP Myron Thompson will present all collected copies to Parliament
- Don't Be Fooled (A Call for Mandatory Egg Labeling), a project of Vancouver Humane Society.
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Also, if you enjoy hands-on work with animals, please give TRACS a call at: (250)768-4803. We are always looking for compassionate, experienced people to join our foster team.

Thank you for caring! May peace and joy light your hearth over the holidays and warm you throughout the New Year. Season's greetings,
Sinikka Crosland

TRACS Directors

President: Sinikka Crosland *Vice-President:* Linda Janicki *Treasurer:* Anna Schmidt
Secretary: Louise Adams *Director of Nutrition & Food Animal Issues:* Brenda Davis
Directors of Youth Programs: Cory Davis & Carmen Crosland
Directors-at-Large: Michael Hooper, Alice Hooper, Brent Forder, Courtney Murray, Joan Smythe, & Lauren Gaglardi

Newsletter Editor:

Carmen Crosland

A Message for All Time:

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time [we stand] up for an ideal, or act to improve the lot of others, or strike out against injustice, we send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

"Few are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change.

"All of us will ultimately be judged and as the years pass we will surely judge ourselves, on the effort we have contributed to building a new world society and the extent to which our ideals and goals have shaped that effort. The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who can blend vision, reason and courage in a personal commitment..."

Senator Robert F. Kennedy (1925-1968), "[Day of Affirmation](http://www.jfklibrary.org/ro60666.htm)"
(<http://www.jfklibrary.org/ro60666.htm>)

Good News: Private member's bill calls for ban on toxic antifreeze

Victoria Times Colonist, Nov. 10, 2006:

Scott Fraser, NDP MLA for Alberni-Qualicum, has called for a commercial ban on the most toxic types of antifreeze. He has drafted a private member's bill that will control the sale of ethylene glycol-based antifreeze. It's the first bill of its kind in Canada and most of the U.S., where only California has a law banning certain kinds of antifreeze.... "It takes about a teaspoon to kill a cat, so even a cat walking through a puddle and then licking it off can be fatal," said Fraser.

For the Love of Theo

Theo was born into the veal calf industry, where escaping from the dark confines of a bovine infant's prison and succumbing to an early death could be viewed as unlikely as slipping through the eye of a needle. But this fortunate calf, only because of his comparatively young age, had proven to be a nuisance for the farmer who had not to this point separated Theo from the older calves. Precariously tiny, Theo was at risk in the area where he was penned with bigger, stronger animals. The farmer was willing to strike up a quick deal with two kind-hearted passersby who offered to buy Theo and to take him away to a large animal sanctuary. Highly stressed from the effects of forcible separation from his mother as well as having been trampled by his pen mates, Theo was spirited away and into the back seat of a small car. Exhausted, he did what babies often do in cars—he slept.



One of Theo's benefactors had this to say: "The poor little guy is only days old and is skin and bones and can barely walk...this calf was recently snatched away from his mother, placed in a pen with at least 30 other calves, deprived of proper food, and stuck in a manure pile....I asked [the vet] if he could be on fluids for a few days and be monitored. It was very hard explaining to a livestock vet that this animal will not be food and spending \$500 to save his life is worth it. I would rather try than just have him killed....One vet laughed and said, 'Looks like its calving season.' Please keep this little guy in your thoughts, and hopefully he will come through. He is the most adorable creature I have ever seen. He sat in the back seat with [my friend] and sucked her fingers much of the way."

Today, Theo is doing fine in a temporary foster situation, and will soon be moved to a permanent home. TRACS has assisted by paying for some of his rehabilitative costs.

And for the love of Theo, we wouldn't have it any other way.

Holiday Safety

With Christmas just around the corner, it is easy to forget how important it is to keep our pets safe from many of the hazards that arise in this festive season. Here are a few pointers.

Christmas trees are a beautiful addition to every home but can pose some hazards to our furry friends. A tree skirt is an excellent way to cover up a tree stand so that our animals can't drink the water. Stagnant water can make a pet very sick. It is also a good idea to tape the electrical cords from the tree to the wall so that animals don't chew on them. As well, tinsel can be dangerous because many animals are attracted to these glittery strings. If ingested, they can cause complications. Make sure you dangle tinsel high enough so that an animal cannot reach it.

Holiday plants, such as poinsettias and mistletoe, are beautiful but can be dangerous if ingested. Eating this foliage can cause a drop in blood pressure, as well as vomiting and a swollen throat and mouth. It is best to place these plants in areas where pets cannot reach them.

Although Christmas is the time for sweets, make sure they stay on the table and not with your pet. Chocolate, especially, can be highly toxic for it contains a chemical known as theobromine which is extremely bad for animals.

Lastly, as the weather gets colder it often means new antifreeze is added to the family car. Certain types of antifreeze contain ethylene glycol, which causes rapid and serious kidney damage to our beloved animals. Watch out for this toxic stuff!

Just taking a few extra steps will ensure that both you and your pet will be safe over the holidays. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-- Anna Schmidt, TRACS Director



Hot Off the Press

Party for the Animals gains 2 parliamentary seats in the Netherlands

Amsterdam, 11/23/2006, <http://www.partijvoordedieren.nl/content/view/129>

On Wednesday, November 22, the Dutch political Party of the Animals gained 2 seats in the 150-member legislature in The Netherlands. This makes the Netherlands the first country in the world in which a party for animal welfare is elected into a representative body of the people.

European Union proposes a ban on imports of cat and dog fur

Associated Press, November 21, 2006

The European Union proposed the ban in all 25 member nations, saying cats and dogs were being kept in cages and slaughtered in cruel and shocking conditions for their fur.

Elli Kohnert wins Barriere's Citizen of the Year

Volunteer Centre, Barriere, B.C., November 1, 2006

"We are proud to announce that Elli is Barriere's Citizen of the Year for 2006. Elli is well respected by her community for all her dedication to the humane rights of animals." TRACS is also proud of Elli. Her commitment to animals is indeed exemplary, and she has shared some wonderful articles with AIM readers.

News from Humane Society of the United States, November 8, 2006

Michigan voters stepped up for mourning doves, crushing Proposal 3 on the ballot and restoring the 100-year tradition of protecting the state's official bird of peace from target shooting. **The vote was 68 percent to 32 percent.** The Humane Society of the United States spearheaded the effort to protect mourning doves, from garnering more than 1,000 endorsements to relentlessly canvassing the state in support of the issue. Michigan voters listened, and the gentle backyard songbird will remain safe from target shooters.

In Arizona, humane treatment of farm animals won the day when voters cast their ballot in favor of Proposition 204, which bans gestation crates for breeding pigs and veal crates for young calves. Agribusiness and other special interests spent \$2.5 million to defeat Proposition 204. It is the second state in the nation to ban gestation crates and the first state to ban veal crates. **The vote was 61 percent in favor and only 39 percent opposed.**

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, December 9, 2006** at 5:30 p.m.: Come and join the fun at our holiday potluck dinner at the EECO Centre, 2363 Springfield Road at Mission Creek Park (Springfield Road and Durnin). Please bring a vegan (plant-based) dish to share, as well as an ingredient list and your own eating dishes and cutlery. There is a \$2.00 entry fee (to help cover the EECO Centre rental cost) and \$7.00 if you do not bring a dish. Visit www.crueltyfree.ca for more details and recipe links. After-dinner speaker will be Brenda Davis, registered dietitian and TRACS Director. Brenda is home now from the Marshall Islands, where she worked as the Nutrition Director and Health Educator of a diabetes research intervention project.
- **Tuesday, February 20 and Wednesday, February 21, 2007**, in Penticton and Kelowna, respectively: The Okanagan Health Forum returns, along with highly-acclaimed speakers Dr. David Jenkins, Dr. Joel Fuhrman, and Brenda Davis, R.D. The 1st Okanagan Health Forum drew over 100 physicians, 100 allied health professionals, and 1000 members of the general public. Please visit www.okanaganhealthforum.com for more information. TRACS supports the Okanagan Health Forum and its message about the positive benefits of plant-based nutrition, which is the very best for animals and the environment, too!

For Adoption

Okanagan Collie Rescue has 3 new collies available for adoption.

For details, e-mail OCR@telus.net or phone Janet at 765-6015.

- **Tri male, smooth coat**. Six years old. Neutered and shots up to date. Dental cleaning just completed. This is a very gentle and loving dog. He would do best in a quiet adult home where there is a stay at home person to give him lots of love and attention.

- **Blue merle female, rough coat**. Five years old. Recently spayed and shots brought up to date. This girl is very loving, beautiful and graceful but needs a compassionate home to see her through this time of readjustment to a new life. She is used to being a house pet and craves human attention. She seems to be more relaxed with ladies.

- **Sable and white female, rough coat** (like Lassie). Recently spayed, teeth cleaned and shots brought up to date. This is a very animated and intelligent collie. She is bold and inquisitive and would be a dream come true pet to the right home. She has true potential as a free style obedience or agility dog. Her blood line has also done well in herding. This collie is just as happy as can be. She is full of mischief and fun.

Just How Serious is the Urban Rabbit “Problem” in Kelowna?

Concerned that Kelowna City Parks might turn to lethal “rabbit management” tools, TRACS met with the department’s urban forestry supervisor, as well as a maintenance official for parks, in October 2006. Before that point, the department had taken preliminary steps by consulting with a rabbit breeder/catcher and by examining some of the alleged “problem” sites in the Dilworth/Enterprise Way areas. According to the breeder, Kelowna’s rabbit population has the potential to soar to uncontrollable levels unless steps are taken in the near future to decrease their populations. It is our impression that neither City Parks nor the breeder/catcher has ruled out lethal means to address urban bunny issues.

A TRACS representative visited one of the areas where extensive tunneling had purportedly been observed. She had this to report: “...I saw no more than four bunnies hopping about, some scattered rabbit droppings, and a bit of bark mulch strewn in one corner of the [urban] property.” No evidence of tunneling could be found.

TRACS has been in communication with other humane organizations in the province with regard to pursuing non-lethal rabbit control methods. We are anticipating the launch of a petition that would ask our city legislators to address the root of the rabbit problem by curbing the easy availability of bunnies on the market. The concerns have been well-summarized by the Vancouver Rabbit Rescue and Advocacy Society: “Rabbits bought on impulse at pet stores with little or no knowledge of the care and commitment involved leads to significant numbers of these pets being neglected, confined to tiny cages, abandoned to the outdoors, or surrendered to rescue groups and animal shelters. This often results in the unnecessary euthanasia of healthy, adoptable, domestic rabbits.”

Please phone TRACS at (250)768-4803 if you have some time to help with a petitioning effort. We support the concept of the community working together on sterilization and adoption initiatives, rather than promoting the breeding of rabbits.

Okanagan Regional Goose Management Committee Sets Sights on Canada Geese

As this issue of AIM goes to print, we are rolling up our sleeves in defense of Canada geese. After weeks of negotiation, we have been informed by a Kelowna City Parks official that the department will *not* meet with experts from the U.S. and eastern Canada in order to work out viable, short and long-term solutions for goose control. Ian Wilson, urban forestry supervisor, cites public health concerns as a basis for the goose committee’s “action plan”. He states, “...the City is

conducting a study to better understand the sources of fecal contamination to ensure we address all contributing factors to decreased water quality including goose feces.” When asked if the results of the study will be available prior to the late February/early March target date for the shooting of up to 200 geese to begin, Mr. Wilson responded: “I don't know the exact delivery date of the study (it is being headed by our Environment Manager) but I do not believe it will be available prior to March. I'll find out.”

We are left to speculate why the geese are being blamed for poor water quality when all of the facts are not yet on the table. If using lethal “management” against these beautiful birds is of concern to you, please take action and phone Kelowna City Parks at: (250)717-2757.

Operation Leviathan: The Plan for 2006

Courtesy of: <http://www.seashepherd.org/leviathan/>

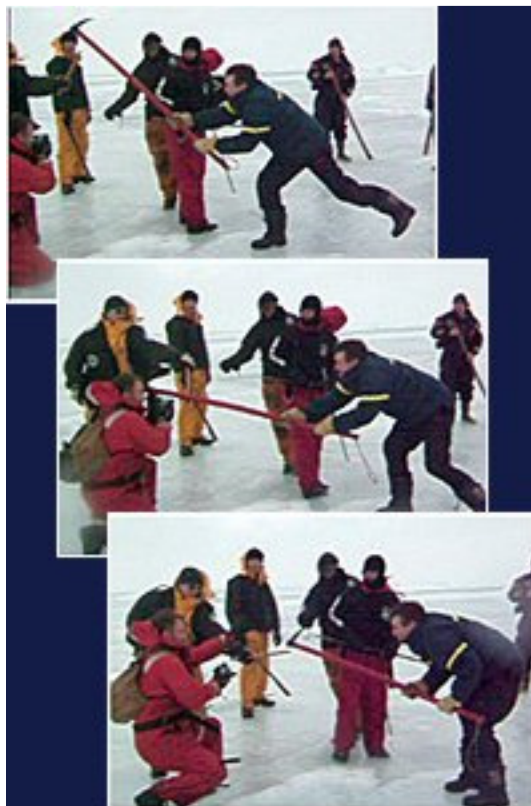
“In December 2006 & January 2007, the Japanese whaling fleet will begin to illegally kill 1,000 whales in the Antarctic Whale Sanctuary. Fifty of these whales will be endangered humpbacks and another fifty will be endangered fin whales. Although the Japanese claim research as their motivation, the only research they are undertaking is product development and marketing of whale meat – to turn their illicit whale flesh into dog food, cosmetics, and sushi dishes they make huge profits. The killing of these whales is a gross violation of numerous international treaties and regulations including the U.N. World Charter for Nature and the Antarctic Territorial Treaty – commercial whaling is outlawed and it is illegal to hunt endangered species in an international whale sanctuary.”

To contribute to Operation Leviathan, please use the “Donate Now” option on the above webpage.

“In December we will sail into history and into harm's way on a journey of mercy and intervention in an effort to remove the violent human stain that so befouls the Southern Oceans with the murderous massacre of the harmless Leviathans. I beseech you for your support because your encouragement for this campaign gives us the means and the motivation to send so many volunteers on a marathon quest to defend the lives of non-human species. This is a leap in the human evolution for the exercise of selfless acts of kindness.” --Captain Paul Watson

Violence on the Ice: What's the Real Crime and Where's the Justice?

Even as the European Parliament voted to ban imports of seal products, and various seal-slaughter-based boycotts of Canada escalate, the Canadian government is busy firming up plans for more slayings. Its strategies have included a possible ban on the hakapik for “aesthetic reasons”, as well as a more aggressive courtroom attack on Captain Paul Watson and some members of the Humane Society of the U.S. The seal defenders involved have been charged with the crime of being too close to baby seals as the animals were being bludgeoned. In contrast, the justice system has ignored sealer assaults on peaceful observers:



Shocking Statistics: At least 354,344 seals were clubbed or shot in Canada in 2006—almost all of them babies as young as 12 days [hsus.org/protect_seals].

May I Go

I know you're sad and afraid, because I see your tears.
I'll not be far, I promise that, and hope you'll always know,
That my spirit will be close to you wherever you may go.
Thank you so for loving me. You know I love you too,
And that's why it's hard to say goodbye and end this life with you.
So hold me now just one more time and let me hear you say,
Because you care so much for me, you'll let me go today.

Excerpt from poem by Susan A. Jackson

In loving memory of Bambi and Brigette Mahoney
&
Dundee Keij

Caring For Their Future

Animals need long-lasting protection, and TRACS has a proven history of acting staunchly and valiantly on their behalf. Please consider making a bequest to The Responsible Animal Care Society and your compassion will help the animals for years to come....

"Animals are more than ever a test of our character, of mankind's capacity for empathy and for decent, honorable conduct and faithful stewardship. We are called to treat them with kindness, not because they have rights, power or a claim to equality, but in a sense, because they don't. They all stand unequal and powerless before us."
--Mathew Scully (author of Dominion, The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy)