



## TRACS

*The Responsible  
Animal Care  
Society*

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Animal Care Society

## RESCUED !

"**Honey**" (pictured here with trainer Gary Smith) is one of the local feedlot horses who has not yet found a home. Someone out there with time, expertise, and a heart full of kindness and patience will win the trust of this shy, beautiful animal. In the meantime, Gary continues to make progress with **Honey**...and we are looking for a sponsor to cover her maintenance costs until a special home is found.



credit Kim Meyer

Readers will remember **Promise**, the young mare rescued from a local feedlot, featured in the Fall 2003 issue of AIM. **Promise** has congenitally deformed front legs, but was declared pain-free and fit for sanctuary life by her veterinarian. We are pleased to report that **Promise** is thriving in her new home with caregivers Kim and Michele, as well as an equine buddy. Kim reports that **Promise** has "no problem bucking", placing weight on her front legs. Thanks, Kim and Michele, for giving her a loving home....and way to go, **Promise!**



credit Kim Meyer



## A Message from Vice-President Madelon Keij

It has been a great privilege for me to be on the TRACS board, and to be part of such a committed and compassionate group! Committed to doing as much as they possibly can to reduce the plight of all animals. Compassionate to any and all kinds of animals.

Because of a geographical move, I must resign my position on the Board, but I know that this wonderful organization will continue to strive for justice for all animals!

My personal wishes for the animals of Kelowna?

- that they be seen as animals, NOT food
- that they be treated with dignity, not be hunted for 'sport', boiled alive, caged or abused in any way
- that they be left peacefully in their territory, NOT be expelled by ever-expanding new subdivisions
- to have our City Council place a ban on feedlots, rodeos, live animals in pet stores (other than rescued or abandoned animals)
- and, last but not least, to finally convince our justice system that animal abuse should be punished severely

May we live to see the day that Cruelty to Animals will only be a very bad memory from the past...

Good Luck TRACS, and may all your hard work achieve exactly that!

## New Arrival!

Congratulations to Buttercup, our wild Appaloosa mare, who was rescued from a local feedlot last summer. Finally, this tough little range pony has given birth to a fine, healthy, and very inquisitive colt!

## Bunny Love

Rabbits hopped their way into the news and into the hearts of Kelowna residents this spring. Seen in abundance along Enterprise Way, the little animals were constantly in danger of being hit by fast-moving traffic in that area. But suddenly, just as TRACS and another animal protection organization were about to launch a spay/neuter/release program for Kelowna rabbits (TRACS received about 60 calls from area residents willing to volunteer their help), the numbers began to diminish noticeably. We remain uncertain about where the rabbits have gone.

*What you can do:*

Phone TRACS at 250-768-4803 if you have any information at all about these rabbits. One theory is that (with more spring grass available), they left pavement behind and simply moved up into the hills of Dilworth. Let us know if you notice rabbit numbers in city limits proliferating again. If they do become numerous, TRACS remains poised to live-trap, alter, and release them into a protected refuge on the Westside.

## Horse Rescue

This February, with the generous help of organizations such as the Vancouver Humane Society, Horse Protection Society of B.C., and the American SPCA, TRACS launched a PMU horse rescue program. Our sincere gratitude is extended to these wonderful groups, as well as to numerous private donors and the Stewart-Shedden Fund, for their compassionate assistance. As a result, we had enough funds to rescue eleven two-year-old draft-cross PMU horses from an Alberta equine feedlot, and to rehabilitate and train them. These animals were basically past the point of rescue...they had left the farms and had gone through the auction process, with the next stop being the slaughterhouse. *Our only regret was the 200-300 equally beautiful animals left behind...but with funds procured through adoption fees, we hope to soon bring more horses safely home.*

We warmly thank the Booth family (Trinity Acres) for opening up their paddocks to the horses, and for giving these animals all the TLC that they so desperately need. But young horses also need training, and we are extremely grateful to Gary Smith, whose expertise in this area has proven invaluable. Congratulations to Gary also on his early retirement--taken, we understand, so that he can spend time doing what he loves--training horses!

The next step after training is to find good, responsible homes. So, readers, please spread the word! We need to re-home about five more horses before we can send for another load. Hands-on farm help is also needed, as well as donations of building materials for fences and shelters.

## TRACS Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, May 29, 2004

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** EECO Centre, 2363 Springfield Road at Mission Creek Park, Kelowna

We're hoping that everyone can stay for a mouth-watering feast, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Here's your chance to sample some wonderful vegan (plant-based) cooking, and discover that healthy, humane, and environmentally-friendly food can also be tasty! Some of the fare will be catered by the talented previous owners of King's Restaurant in Kelowna....and the food is absolutely *delicious!* Bring: your own plate, cup, bowl, serviette and utensils, as well as a vegan dish if possible (no meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or gelatin, please), along with an ingredient list.\*

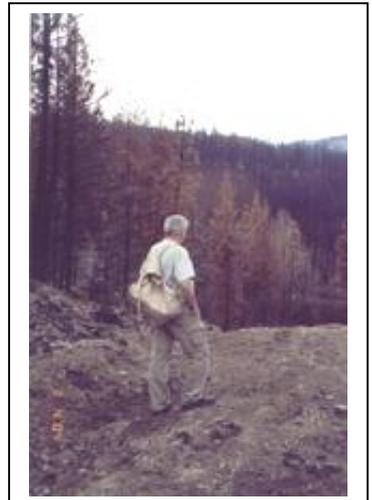
**Cost:** \$5.00 per person (to help cover room rental and catering)

\*Check ingredients for whey powder or casein, often found in margarine or even "non-dairy soy cheese". This policy helps to ensure that everyone can share in the food.

Don't miss this great opportunity to meet others who share your love for animals and our beautiful planet!



Buttercup



## Volunteers, Bouquets, and Stewardship Opportunities

TRACS is very grateful to a number of hard-working volunteers, whose dedication to our non-human friends has been nothing short of outstanding. These individuals need to be recognized for their compassionate stewardship as they "live their message" and strive to make good things happen for the animals.

**Roland Houle** has done hours of hands-on work at Trinity Acres, our foster home for horses. Roland's fence-building skills have been invaluable...not only that, but he even found time to be active with FAWN, our wildlife feeding project. *Thank you so much, Roland!*

**Helen Schiele** has spent more hours at TRACS garage sales and display tables than we can count. She works tirelessly for the animals, and we commend her from the bottom of our hearts for her commitment, and for the time and energy that she has donated.

Many public awareness opportunities and fundraisers could not have happened without **Louise Adams**, our volunteer coordinator. Louise's organizational skills are a wonderful asset to TRACS and, as a result, numerous events have come together under her guidance. On that note, Louise tells us that more volunteers are needed....so please commit to spending an hour or so per month, on a regular basis if possible, for the animals. *They need you! If we all work together, so much more can be accomplished!* Please consider helping at display tables, fundraisers, on the phone committee...or if hands-on animal assistance is your forte, we need foster homes and farm help as well! Call TRACS now....250-768-4803.

Thanks are extended to **Betty Potter** for her help at our recent garage sale, and to the **Mahoney family** for the use of their property for this event.

Recently, an anonymous TRACS volunteer embarked on a spay/neuter project involving homeless cats in her neighbourhood (see her article in this newsletter). TRACS is funding the campaign, while the volunteer is trapping, transporting, and fostering. Can you help? Homes are urgently needed for these cats (some of whom are quite friendly and adoptable), so please spread the word. Our volunteer could also use some assistance with hands-on tasks...phone TRACS if you'd like to become involved.

Hats off to a special 11-year-old angel named **Nicole Tourigny**! Nicole took action when she heard about the plight of displaced PMU horses, and raised \$100 for these animals by going door-to-door, collecting donations, and by selling cupcakes. We arranged for her to visit Trinity Acres so that she could meet the horses helped by her hard work and compassion. *Keep it up, Nicole...you are setting a wonderful example in our community, and we are so proud of you!*

Here's a glowing example of creative energy and compassion working together...a million thanks to artist Jitske Kamphuis, who donated the proceeds from the sale of two of her horse paintings to TRACS!

Are you wondering who has organized the popular and delicious plant-based feasts (complete with speakers and entertainment) that have taken place regularly at the EECO Centre? **Lauren Gaglardi** deserves a giant bouquet for time and energy spent putting these fun, informative events together. *Thanks so much, Lauren!*

Kudos to Youth Against Animal Abuse volunteers for their information table and greeting help at the April potluck. **Nadine Hansen, Brooklyn Daigle, and Carmen Crosland** also obtained signatures on postcards protesting the commercial seal hunt in the Maritimes. *Awesome job, girls!*

We further appreciate the help of many others in our organization who have helped with letter-writing, leafletting, and various types of outreach, educational, rescue and rehabilitation work, including the FAWN (Fire Affected Wildlife Needs) project.

Last but not least...a huge thank you to our kind and generous **donors**, who make it possible for us to continue assisting animals in so many ways!

## In The News

Did you know that....

...the prosperous Italian town of Reggio Emilia now has an animal rights bylaw that bans boiling live lobsters, and calls the practise "useless torture"? Also under the bylaw, "sociable" birds such as budgerigars and parrots must be kept in pairs. Birdcages must be at least five times the bird's wingspan in width, and three times in height. The bylaw also makes it illegal to keep a goldfish in a round glass bowl. Anyone who breaks the law faces a fine of up to \$495 (£325)....

...in an historic vote, the Barcelona City Council officially declared Barcelona, Spain, an anti-bullfight city?

...the Ken Turcot Memorial Gopher Derby is not taking place in Saskatchewan this year, despite previous threats by the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation to expand its scope to other provinces? As predicted by animal protectionists and environmentalists, weather patterns have had an impact on the populations of Richardson's Ground Squirrels, resulting in fewer numbers this year. Thanks to those of you who took time to oppose this cruel event by way of letters and phone calls!

## Beavers

Canada's national treasure, the beaver, has suffered once again because of misinformation and poor planning in our community. Three resident beavers lost their lives this spring when the Kelowna City Parks Dept. decided to combat flooding problems with lethal intervention (trapping). Upon receiving this news, TRACS contacted the city and provided them with an information package on humane beaver management. We informed the parks department about the cruelty involved in using drowning sets to kill beavers, and encouraged them to contact us for further help. Two years ago, Friends of Wildlife (a branch of TRACS) spent hours wire-wrapping trees in a Kelowna regional park. Our efforts to educate city officials also resulted in a viewing platform and water flow devices being installed in the same park. Therefore, we were shocked to hear that Kelowna had regressed to using cruel, archaic beaver control methods once again. We feel that this could be due largely to changes in management and a lack of strong policies against wildlife abuse.

*What you can do:*

Contact Ted Sophonow with Kelowna City Parks: phone 250-862-5580. Reinforce the concept that when three beavers are killed, three more move in, so nothing is gained by trapping them. Encourage Mr. Sophonow to contact TRACS or other animal protection organizations if community beavers become problematic. Leg and body-hold traps used on sentient animals are nothing short of inhumane, and alternatives to killing do exist...in fact, humane management is always more readily accepted by the public, and carries the advantage of teaching children and youth basic principles of compassion.

## Warm and Hearty Thank-Yous

With respect to the research and educational components of our horse campaigns, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sahali Fund (P.R.U. Stratton) and CETFA (Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Food Animals) for their generous contributions. The Sahali Fund has also made a wonderful donation to TRACS for other programs and general expenses, including website improvements and assistance for Big Julie's Rescue Ranch in Fort Macleod, Alberta.

Please see the update on Big Julie's in this newsletter on Page 7.

## Memberships

Just a friendly reminder: In order to remain on our TRACS mail-out list and receive a quarterly copy of AIM, **please** take the time to renew your membership. This helps us to cover the cost of printing and postage. Thanks!

## Farewell

Our Vice-President, *Madelon Keij*, is moving to the coast....and her energetic presence on the TRACS board will be deeply missed by all who have had the privilege of knowing her. However, we are confident that Madelon, with her sincere love for animals and commitment to improving their world, will find ways to continue her work in the Lower Mainland. Keep in touch with us, Madelon, and all of our finest wishes to you!

We will also miss the dedicated work of *Grant Rice*, who has indicated that he must leave the board for the time being. In addition to helping us steer the organization, Grant has created our newsletter (AIM), as well as our website ([www.tracs-bc.ca](http://www.tracs-bc.ca)). *Your help, advice, knowledge, and talent have been invaluable; Grant...and we look forward to your return.*

## TRACS Seeks Help for Kelowna Cat Colony

Each of the 15 or so cats who live in the alley behind my Heritage house has a story. It might show in a missing eye, a limp, or a patch of missing fur. Not only do they need medical care, but they are now in the throes of mating, assuring kittens around the bend soon.

My husband and I contacted the SPCA last spring, this past fall, and again recently to ask for help with this colony. Each time, we were told that the SPCA has no funding to deal with stray cats. This spring when I called, they suggested that I write a letter to City Council about the overpopulation problem, which we mailed today.

In the meantime, TRACS has graciously offered to help my husband and I where the SPCA and the City of Kelowna could not assist. TRACS agreed to pay for the spaying and neutering of the colony of cats if we could trap them and transport them to and from the vet.

Now that we've got the trap, the transport, and the funding for the surgeries, we'd love to ask for your assistance in the following ways:

### How you can help:

- Donate money to TRACS to help cover the cost of the surgeries
- Provide foster care for a cat or cats during the 2 day recovery process after his or her surgery
- Foster a cat or cats long enough to determine if they are adoptable
- Help to find homes for adoptable adult cats.

Please contact TRACS at [tracs@shaw.ca](mailto:tracs@shaw.ca) if you would like to assist, or phone TRACS at 768-4803. Thanks again to TRACS for taking immediate action on this pressing issue.

## Memorials

Several beloved Windybrae Sanctuary residents have left us recently.

**Bandit**, our adorable 9-year-old dwarf cross rabbit, passed away earlier this spring... followed by **Owl**, a special cat with wondrous eyes and the loudest purr you could ever imagine.

This month we also lost **Shyba**...the snowy-white terrier/poodle cross who used to bounce soft balls off his nose like "Air Bud" and loved to fetch sticks thrown into the lake. These animals were seniors, with the exception of **Owl**, who died in middle age of kidney failure. Once again, the sanctuary experiences a great void....

On that note, as we struggle to come to terms with these losses, Emily Stuparyk's writings on grieving over the deaths of companion animals have helped us.

Below we share her poem, "Everywhere", excerpted from the book:  
When Only the Love Remains: The Pain of Pet Loss (Emily Margaret Stuparyk, Copyright (c) 1998).

Emily's website can be found at: <http://home.merlin.mb.ca/~stuparyk> .

### Farm Animals Require a Caretaker

#### URGENT NEED!

**Caretaker** for Big Julie's Rescue Ranch in Ft. Macleod, Alberta. \$150/month CD for one year, plus free accommodation provided in exchange for feeding, watering, and other animal care duties (dogs, horses, cattle). Two-bedroom mobile home on property, and use of farm vehicle. This opportunity would be perfect for a retired person or couple who *loves hands-on work with rescued animals and is in reasonably good physical health*. 2-3 hour daily commitment.

Please contact **TRACS** at: [tracs@shaw.ca](mailto:tracs@shaw.ca) or phone (250) 768-4803.



### Poems to the Editor

#### Everywhere

Not anywhere,  
Yet everywhere,  
An empty red throne,  
Curled up and sweet.

A spot by the window,  
Her ghost lays quietly,  
At times, moves stealthily  
Through the room,  
Searching for me.

I look no longer;  
She's in every animal  
I love,  
In every animal I see,  
Every animal I touch.

Living all the rest of my days,  
Without her, seems forever;  
Optimism lies on the wings  
Of a dove,  
To carry me safely home.

#### 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 in your will, and your compassion will help the animals in years to come....

# Horse Slaughter

Federal government statistics reveal that in 2003 more than 61,000 horses were slaughtered in Canada for human consumption or shipped out of the country for the same purpose. Further, a preliminary Ipsos-Reid poll done by TRACS this month showed that 58% of Canadians are opposed to the act of slaughtering horses for their meat. Our research continues as we strive to obtain a clearer picture of the equine slaughter issue, and how citizens in our country feel about this controversial industry. We are following with interest new developments surrounding a federal bill in the United States to ban horse slaughter. States Vivian Farrell, President of Texas-based The Fund for Horses: "We consider the inhumane transportation and what horses are forced to endure once at the slaughter facilities, where they are euphemistically described now by the slaughterers as 'processed', the ultimate act of betrayal. Often the assembly lines move so quickly that a proportion of them are bled out and butchered while still conscious. It is a cruel and brutal industry. Thankfully, a federal bill entitled *The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2004* is now pending before Congress. This will ban slaughter and export for slaughter once and for all in the United States. Hopefully when Canadians learn the facts about horse slaughter, even more will be against it."

We continue to study the impact that the downsizing of the Pregnant Mare Urine industry has had upon numbers of displaced and slaughtered horses, and estimate that the casualties have already been in the tens of thousands. Unfortunately, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the company that has profited from this industry through sales of the hormone replacement drug, Premarin, has taken very little responsibility for the lives of the horses they have used. Readers interested in contacting Wyeth are invited to visit a new website originating in the U.S. and designed to address the problem: <http://www.stopwyeth.org>.



## TRACS Membership Form

Join with a local group of animal loving people!  
 Help TRACS continue its work by becoming a member and receive our quarterly newsletter as part of your membership.

**Mail to :**

**TRACS  
 PO Box 26097  
 Westbank, BC  
 V4T 2G3**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing the following for annual membership:  
 (pls. check)

\$ 15 for Individual Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 20 for Family Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

I am further supporting your  
 work with a donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_