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Summer 2010

aim
animal issues
magazine



Saving Flicka: The Fight to End Horse Slaughter

The Responsible Animal Care Society

TR  CS

WANTED: A FEW GOOD HOMES

Being a Bunny Parent has great rewards, but also has great responsibilities. TRACS Rabbit Advocates has initiated a rabbit adoption program. To ensure appropriate placement in Forever Homes, adoption policies have been established. A pre-adoption questionnaire is required to use as a basis for adoption counseling and follow-up activities. TRACS rabbits will only be placed in carefully screened homes.

While there are many rabbits in TRACS' care, their caretakers note that rabbits have their own individual personalities. Also, some rabbits prefer to be alone, while others are bonded with other bunnies. Prospective bunny parents will be guided with as much information as can be provided when they meet the bunnies.

For further information on adoptions, please contact TRACS Rabbit Advocates "Forever Homes Adoption Counselors," Bob & Marie Sherman, 250.764.0775.



My name is Oscar and I am looking for a one bunny/one pet home. I do not like being with other bunnies. However, I do like my humans very much! I have a handsome butterscotch coat and I'm full of energy. I've had my neutering and health checks done, and am ready to be part of your family.



TRACS AGM & Potluck Dinner!



TRACS will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 24, 2010, with a potluck dinner to follow.

Please bring your favourite vegan* (plant-based) dish to share, as well as your own dishes and cutlery. A minimum \$2 donation is requested to cover the cost of facility rental.

Where: EECO Centre (Basement Room), 2363 Springfield Road at Mission Creek Park, Kelowna
When: Saturday, July 24, 2010
Time: AGM begins at 5:15 p.m.; dinner at 6:00 p.m.

*No meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey or gelatin, please. 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. An ingredient list to accompany your plant-based dish would be appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you there!

♪♪ Rockin' for Rabbits ♪♪

June 4, 2010 was Elvis night at Dakota's in Kelowna. Tribute artist DR Elvis (www.kelownaelvis.com/) charmed us with his amazing talents and raised over \$800 for the rabbits we've rescued. As clearly depicted in the photos, a great time was had by all, including Marie and Bob Sherman and Brenda Davis. Thank you to DR Elvis for his compassion and generosity, to Bob Sherman for being a super MC, and to all of our wonderful volunteers and attendees who made this event a success for the bunnies!



Notice:

Are you receiving our newsletter in hard copy? Please consider sending TRACS an e-mail to sign up for our electronic version. It's in colour and saves trees and postage!
Thanks from the TRACS team....committed to helping animals and our environment. Email TRACS at tracs@shaw.ca.

Saving Flicka: The Fight to End Horse Slaughter

(Document below courtesy of the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition)

On June 16, 2010, NDP Agriculture Critic MP Alex Atamanenko tabled **Private Members Bill C-544**, an act that would effectively shut down the slaughter of horses in Canada for human consumption: <http://alexatamanenko.ndp.ca/node/511>. The basis of the bill is the fact that horses are not food-producing animals and many are treated with drugs that are prohibited from entering the human food chain.

Canadians now have the opportunity to help this bill become law. Your efforts will be critical for this bill's success!

Bill C-544, "An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act (slaughter of horses for human consumption)" can be found at this link: www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=4633655&Language=e&Mode=1. (Click on the various sub-titles on the left of the document.)

A new petition has been created and is enclosed in this newsletter. This petition reflects the components of Bill C-544 pertaining to the amendments of the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act. Specifically, these amendments address the dangers to human health as horse-meat products are likely to contain prohibited substances.

The message to our MPs must be specific to Bill C-544. Mr. Atamanenko states, "The fact is that drugs which are prohibited for use during the life of any animals destined for the human food supply are routinely being administered to horses. It is irresponsible for Canada to allow the sale of meat from horses as a food item when they have never been raised in accordance with the food safety practices required for all other animals."

This summer is our key opportunity to reach out to our Members of Parliament, while Parliament is in recess, before they reconvene in the fall. Our target date to have petitions delivered to our MPs is **September 20, 2010**. Please commit to petitioning your Member of Parliament this summer. You may choose to collect names by going door to door, sitting at a table in a shopping mall, or by leaving petitions at supportive businesses. It is important that citizens sign petitions corresponding to the riding they live in, so if your community covers more than one constituency, make sure to offer a choice of several petitions with the riding/MP name at the top of each front page. Collect as many names as you can (minimum 25 names on a petition). **Please do this for the horses!**

Your MP's name and contact information can be found here: <http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainConstituenciesCompleteList.aspx?TimePeriod=Current&Language=E>.

Explain to your elected official that horsemeat may contain drugs that are unsafe for human consumption. Proof of horse-meat toxicity can be found in this recently released scientific paper titled "Association of phenylbutazone usage with horses bought for slaughter: A public health risk": www.equinewelfarealliance.org/uploads/Food_and_Chemical_Toxicology_FINAL.pdf.

This summer's recess also coincides with new requirements from the European Union, being implemented on July 31, 2010, as a first step in the development of a comprehensive food safety and traceability program for the Canadian equine industry in an effort to protect consumers from tainted horsemeat. Here is a link to the CFIA announcement on this industry-changing program:

www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2010/20100129e.shtml.

The CHDC has researched the troubling issue of banned drugs commonly found in horsemeat, and has prepared this paper on what the European Union requirements will mean to North America's horse industry: www.defendhorsescanada.org/pdf/finaldisc100314.pdf.

For more information on how a bill becomes law, read here: www.defendhorsescanada.org/pdf/leg_proc_canada.pdf.

The CHDC would be happy to answer any questions or provide guidance in your efforts to gather signatures on your petition(s). We can be contacted at info@defendhorsescanada.org. Please keep us up to date on your progress. We will be in touch with our supporters over the summer months on this critically important legislation that can finally end the slaughter of our beloved horses.

--Canadian Horse Defence Coalition, www.defendhorsescanada.org.



On Parliament Hill in Ottawa: (L to R) Nikolas Gour, Campaigner for Humane Society International, Dr. Ray Kellosalmi, M.D; Sinikka Crosland, Executive Director for CHDC; MP Alex Atamanenko (NDP Agriculture Critic); Twyla Francois, Central Region Director for CHDC; Dr. Debi Zimmermann, veterinarian

A Crucial Program to Help Horses

In early 2009, with a generous grant from the Vancouver Foundation, TRACS launched our **Horse Protection Initiatives program**. We have compiled an online list of qualified equine rescue centres across Canada and have encouraged adoptions from these facilities so that more horses can be salvaged from the slaughter industry. We also have an active euthanasia program in place for ill or infirm horses at risk of being sent for slaughter. Our PSA, now playing on some community channels in B.C., can be viewed here: www.tracs-bc.ca/horseprotection.html.

Please help to keep the fund alive by donating generously to TRACS' Horse Protection Initiatives program! With Bill C-544 tabled and the possibility of an end to Canadian equine slaughter on the horizon, placement of horses into good homes and euthanasia of suffering animals will, as before, be priorities.



Horses and foals in a Canadian feedlot

Rabbit Rescue News

TRACS continues to capture, sterilize, and re-home rabbits under a City of Kelowna contract. Our organization now has over 700 bunnies beneath its protective wing! Please contact us if you can help with fostering, sanctuary care, and/or fundraising, or if you can offer land space for a large pen. Donations are welcomed also, as the city pays only for sterilizations. Cost of food, pen-building and other veterinary bills (for illness and injuries) are covered by TRACS.

University of Victoria rabbits have also made headline news this spring and summer. The following update/alert has arrived from Dr. Maidie Hilmo, who is involved in organizing help for the UVic bunnies:

"The University of Victoria plans to kill 1400 rabbits now living on campus. Please ask the local area Mayors to contribute land and ongoing funding to help establish a rabbit sanctuary, such as has been achieved in Kelowna, for the UVic rabbits. Tell them that you have heard of the Victoria problem even where you live, and this will only spread further and will damage the reputation of municipalities in the Victoria area if local councils don't take action and work together to support such a sanctuary. It is no longer just a humanitarian issue, nor even a UVic one because people have been 'rescuing' them and releasing unsterilized rabbits in all of the municipalities in the area, which is cruel to the rabbits and is a problem waiting to happen. So the mayors and council members need to be proactive right away to prevent an explosion of rabbits in their municipalities by working together to designate suitable land and to offer support for these rabbits who might live up to 10 years. By establishing a sanctuary as a humane solution to a problem, the reputation and image of the municipalities in the greater Victoria area would be enhanced as a place to visit, live, and do business."

Please take action to help the UVic bunnies! To access a list of e-mail addresses for relevant mayors and councils, visit: www.tracs-bc.ca/uvicbun.html.

In Loving Memory

Glenna and Kevin Bradford
Judy Werts
Helen and Robin Schiele
Cyndy Wasney
and Dick and Holly Jackson

Orangie, Blue & Jax
Schatzi
Vega
Robbin



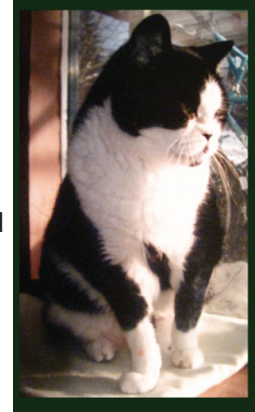
Robbin

Our deepest condolences are extended to everyone at Fur-Bearer Defenders as well as the family of Bunty and George Clements. Bunty and George will be sorely missed and remembered for their outstanding work in support of fur-bearing animals.

Our Harley

The phone rang. Our promise to foster a companion animal was materializing as TRACS Director Sinikka Crosland repeated what she'd just heard from a woman caller: "My husband said, 'Either the cat goes or you move!'" Sinikka asked if my son and I could take the cat in right away. Jer and I never hesitated.

At noon a young woman brought a kitten she introduced as "Harley". As the lady quickly turned and left, I saw tears running down her face and called after her, "You may come and see Harley anytime."



This puss was a short-haired, black and white male, part Siamese, part Bengal, with a tiny mouth, button nose, and a pushed-in-face. He was born in Westbank, B.C., on May 27, 1997.

Seven days later Harley contracted a serious respiratory infection. It took a week of vet visits, medication, home steam treatments, and eye-dropper-feedings before he was well and eating on his own.

Jerry suggested exercise was best and began bouncing a tiny, soft ball off his bedroom wall. Harley soon became a professional catcher! That ball was the only one he'd ever carry in his mouth. Others he only swatted about or kicked with his hind feet.

Harley was neutered early on. Much later he was diagnosed with a thyroid problem for which he was on two pills a day. When he had a vet appointment I always took him in sitting on my walker. No one in the place could believe what an obedient kitten he was.

I did take Harley to one adoptive home but they wanted a purebred Siamese so we left in a hurry. Another couple came to our place when I was out one day. They too left without him. Why? Later, I discovered that Jerry had quite discouraged them. Suddenly, I KNEW SOMETHING! I phoned Sinikka to tell her we loved Our Wee "Sprite" and he weren't goin' nowhere...He was ours now... HAPPY DAYS!!

We tried a leash and harness on Harley next and took him on walks everywhere. When kitty was tired of walking he rode on Jerry's shoulders. Once some guys passed in a convertible and yelled, "Hey, that ain't no dog you're walking!"

Jerry passed away in Kelowna General Hospital Christmas Day of year 2006. The poor cat cried for days and strangely enough would never venture into his room again. Four years later Harley's kidneys were failing and a large tumor in his abdomen caused serious bowel problems. He was gently put to sleep this April 8th, 2010, and lies in a little cardboard box covered in his favorite pink, woolen afghan, atop a beautiful print lining given to him by our pastor's wife, Carol. The grave is beneath some stately fir trees surrounded by pastures green.

I wrote and rewrote this article, finally deciding I have to put Harley's life into story book form. He was one of the most intelligent "fellows" I've ever met and also understood a wide vocabulary and loved to help "Mum". Harley's spirit is together with Jerry now. They are with God and walk on streets of gold.

--by Joan Currie

2011 Rabbits of Kelowna Calendar

Our 2011 Rabbits of Kelowna Calendar is hot off the presses and ready for purchase. Perfect for early Christmas shopping needs!

**Be an Early Bird!
Get one now!!**



Limited Numbers in Print so order early!

To get your calendar, please mail the enclosed order form with cheque or money order to:

**TRACS c/o
204-735 A Cook Rd
Kelowna, BC
V1W 3G6**

or

email fundraising@tracs-bc.ca for information on where you can purchase one.

Shocking Statistics: According to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: 93,812 horses were slaughtered in Canadian plants in 2009. Horsemeat is sent overseas for human consumption. An Ipsos-Reid poll conducted in 2004 revealed that 64% (2/3) of Canadians are opposed to the slaughter of horses for this purpose.



Join TRACS....

Help us continue our crucial work for the animals—become a member and receive our quarterly newsletter.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

e-mail: _____

I am enclosing the following (please check):

_____ \$15 for Individual Membership

_____ \$20 for Family Membership

_____ Donation \$ _____

Return to: TRACS, P.O. Box 26097, Westbank, B.C.
V4T 2G3 Canada

Thanks from the animals!

Support Bill C-544

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned Citizens of Canada draw to the attention of the House the following:

THAT horses are ordinarily kept and treated as sport and companion animals;
THAT horses are not raised primarily as food-producing animals;
THAT horses are commonly administered drugs that are strictly prohibited from being used at any time in all other food-producing animals destined for the human food supply; and
WHEREAS Canadian horse-meat products that are currently being sold for human consumption in domestic and international markets are likely to contain prohibited substances;

THEREFORE, YOUR PETITIONERS call upon the House of Commons in Parliament assembled to bring forward and adopt into legislation Bill C-544, an Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act, thus prohibiting the importation or exportation of horses for slaughter for human consumption, as well as horsemeat products for human consumption.

NAME (printed)	ADDRESS (printed)	POSTAL CODE	SIGNATURE
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Please submit **ORIGINAL SIGNED PETITIONS ONLY** to your Member of Parliament before **September 20, 2010**, and send photocopies of those petitions to: Canadian Horse Defence Coalition, P.O. Box 26097, Westbank, B.C. V4T 2G3
PHONE: 250-768-4803
Email: info@defendhorsescanada.org Website: www.defendhorsescanada.org

2011 Rabbits of Kelowna Calendar Order Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Evening Phone Number _____

Email Address **

of Calendars _____

Pick up Calendar (\$15) _____

Receive in Mail \$17.50 (\$2.50 shipping) _____

Chq amount enclosed \$ _____

*Please make all cheques payable to TRACS and mail to:

TRACS C/O
204-735 A Cook Rd
Kelowna, BC
V1W 3G6