

The First Ever in Canada!

By: Basil D. Kingstone

Yes, on June 4 - 7, 2003, Jazzpurr will hold a Canada-wide conference - **the first ever in Canada** - on the subject announced by the title:

ALIVE in Canada, Converting to a Let-Live Nation

**ALIVE is an acronym meaning "Animals' Lives are Inherently Valuable and Exceptional."*

The topic, in a nutshell, is to help Canadian cities and other authorities adopt no-kill or let-live policies towards animals. That is to say, one in which every effort is made to encourage people to adopt companion animals who need homes. One in which strays are caught, checked and treated for illness if they need it, and then released back to their colonies, with a human being keeping watch and providing such help as they will accept. But not before being spayed or neutered. That way they still occupy their territory, no new animals move in and no new kittens are born. It works!

All of this change is possible. Plenty of cities in the United States have been able to find homes for any pet who is not incurably ill. The San Francisco SPCA has been so successful that their shelter is half empty and they are offering their services to neighbouring counties. We want to work to bring about the same happy state of affairs in Canada, and the conference will be the first important step. We are inviting experts from all across the continent to teach us how it's done.

Needless to say, we have long been pushing the City of Windsor towards being a pioneer in this more humane treatment of animals - and people - as it has been a pioneer in so many other ways.

I want to thank all the people who are working on the many different aspects of this conference project, to make it a success. If as many people came forward to work on all Jazzpurr's projects, we would be happy indeed. We have not only a local committee but also a national one,

all hard at work. We are inviting participants from animal shelters, veterinary clinics and other interested fields from all across Canada, and we would like to see a good-sized local contingent attend as well. **Including, of course, all our members.** Mark your calendars now!

Picture Purrrfect !



We've grown a bit since these pictures were taken, but we're still as sweet and lovable.

We need a home to call our own... call Jazzpurr today if you have a space in your heart that needs filling.

President's Message:

Reflections on the Past:

The year 2002 marks the 10th anniversary of our incorporation as a non-profit. We were granted this status in October of 1992 and in 1993 we became officially approved as a registered charity by what was then Revenue Canada. Although our official tenth anniversary celebration will be held at our annual banquet in November, a little bit of reflection on this milestone just cannot be helped at this event.

In preparation for this report, I glanced through all the past annual reports to you, the members and noted some interesting items:

- First of all, how quickly the years have passed. When I read the very first annual report that I wrote to you, it seemed like just last year. Perhaps it's because it was the first, and - if I'm being honest, perhaps the best - or at least the biggest - annual report that I wrote for this organization, that it is so prominent in my memory.
- I looked at the list of members in that 1993 and felt a real lump in my throat when I realized that a significant number of original members are still with us today.
- Finances - in budgetary terms, we started small and we are still small. Our first annual budget was \$9,300; this rose gradually to about \$50,000 in 1998 when we opened the spay/neuter clinic. At that time we were doing it weekly. In the last few years, we've been doing it monthly, and our annual budget is in the neighbourhood of \$45,000. This is a very small organizational budget - but OH what we do with it!

Just by our steadfast presence, we have saved the lives of thousands of animals and prevented the birth of many thousands. Were it not for us and our unrelenting advocacy on behalf of the animals of our community, we have no doubt that this city would now be trying to solve the overpopulation problem by catching and killing all "unlicensed" cats. This will not happen in the City of Windsor. Instead, there is and will continue to be a program of reproduction control and community cooperation in the care of animals that do not live inside people's homes. And Windsor will be at the fore-front of the Canadian "Let Live" initiative through the conference we are organizing for 2003.

Clearly, our strength is not in our financial resources. It is overwhelmingly in our Human Resources.

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THE JAZZPURR SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION

is a Not-For-Profit Corporation and a Registered Charity dedicated to improving the lives of domestic cats through shelter, reproduction control, adoption, support and education.

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"Children and Cats: What a wonderful combination. This is an early photo of our dear friend, Mary Barron, given to us by her wonderful widowed husband, Walter. Your love lives on, Mary, Thank You!"

Our Major Models:

When Jazzpurr Society was founded (actually 12 years ago), it was in response to two events - first my having visited Denver, Colorado in 1989 and learning of a no-kill cat shelter there called the Denver Cat Care Society and, secondly, a stray kitten coming to my house a year later and our unwillingness to take him to the Humane Society to be killed. With the encouragement of Dr. Chuck Fuerth and the help of a lot of other people, Jazzpurr Society was founded in 1991 to provide a no-kill shelter for homeless cats and kittens. In the meantime, the no-kill philosophy took hold in the United States. I have been attending no-kill conferences for a number of years now, and earlier this year, I was privileged to visit the organization that really provided the strongest leadership in this movement, the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

This 134 year-old organization has, through the leadership of Richard Avanzino, and more recently Ed Sayers, solved the problem of pet overpopulation. Their shelters are now half empty. Even in prime kitten season, the numbers have drastically dropped. How did they do it?

In 1989, after nearly a 100 years as pound keeper, the SF/SPCA decided to concentrate on saving animal lives, rather than doing the municipality's animal control. In 1994, they forged their historic Adoption Pact with the Animal Care and Control Agency, guaranteeing a home for all adoptable cats and dogs. Since then, every adoptable cat and dog has been transferred from Animal Control to the SPCA and adopted out. In more recent years, the adoption pact has also included "treatable" as well as "adoptable" animals, thereby further reducing the euthanasia rate at the Animal Control agency. Their program has been so successful, that they are now opening it up to neighbouring counties to reduce the rates of euthanasia there. Simultaneously with this outreach program, the San Francisco SPCA is currently putting its efforts into building a state-of-the-art veterinary specialties' research hospital.

There is no magic to their program - we all know the answers. It was and is dedicated reproduction control combined with sound adoption programs and phenomenal community support. No licencing laws, no pet shop restrictions, no mandatory neutering regulations were implemented. Instead, success was achieved through incentive programs. One cannot purchase a dog or a cat in a pet shop in San Francisco. They have all voluntarily stopped selling these animals in their stores in favour of the SPCA. In turn, the SPCA sells no pet supplies. Instead of mandatory neutering of companion animals, people were offered incentives - bring your cat in for neutering

and earn \$5.00. This program is no longer necessary; however the SF/SPCA still offers low-cost neutering to residents on social assistance. Feral cats can be brought in at any time for free.

Another component of their program is aggressive and sound adoption practices. In 1998, they opened Maddie's Pet Adoption Center, a beautiful building with individual light, airy and furnished rooms where dogs and cats awaiting adoption can be seen and visited.

Keeping animals in their homes is another feature of their program. They have a staff of behaviorists to teach and assist residents who are encountering problems with their companion animals. In addition, these professionals work tirelessly in rehabilitating animals who come with a history of problems or abuse to prepare them for adoption into a new family.

Proper veterinary care is financially impossible for many people. The San Francisco SPCA Veterinary Hospital provides this at low or no cost to thousands of people each year.

And of course, education is a major component. Visits to schools, visits to the shelter, and summer camp programs all help to make this city a shining testimony to the legacy of St. Francis.

Position Openings

Adoption Counsellors

We have part-time openings for both paid and volunteer adoption counsellors - a most delightful job that matches shelter cats with prospective adopters and provides counselling and support for the lifetime of the adopted cat(s). This professional responsibility requires a minimum of a BA in one of the social sciences or a BSW and a passion for helping animals.

Events Volunteers

Been itching to get involved in something really worthy and fun? Help us put on special events - annual banquet, no-kill conference. From data/word processing to envelope stuffing to hosting celebrities - all kinds of volunteer activities are available.

Just give us a call or go to our website at www.jazzpurr.org and sign up!

The Story of Tchaikovsky (Chucky)

Meet Tchaikovsky - a very sweet and loving, two-year old tom-cat. We first met him in late March of this year - when he was brought to Jazzpurr House for post-surgical convalescence. He has been through a horrid time

Two Jazzpurr members were driving home from a lovely Saturday evening concert featuring the music of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. Riverside Drive was closed due to



construction so they had to take Wyandotte East. They were driving past the Albert Weeks Pumping station when they spotted a black blob on the west-bound lane. The black blob raised its head and two glistening eyes cried for help. They turned around, stopped the traffic, picked up and placed in their car a barely-alive black cat. Except for a few very pained wails, he was totally quiet in the car. They rushed him to the Walker Road clinic and Dr. Adam DeLuca went to work resuscitating this badly injured tom cat. The full gamut of emergency clinical procedures - including intubation, cardiac shock - several times ---- had to be used - and he revived.. Then X-rays, diagnostic tests, etc - they learned he had a badly broken pelvis. Orthopaedic surgery definitely will be needed.

They did not know if this was a domesticated cat or a feral.

He was clearly an intact big male tom cat - and he needed a name. Since the music of Tchaikovsky was still in their minds when they picked him up, they gave him that very famous name.

The surgery had to be done in London (the choices were London, Southfield, MI, or a local veterinarian who was on vacation at the time). Three days in London, and then he came to Jazzpurr House. They made a commitment to cover all of his medical expenses, if Jazzpurr would care for him.

It has been a lengthy convalescence but Tchaikovsky has turned into a sweet, playful, totally delightful "buddy". His nick-name is Chucky and he loves playing with the little kittens. He still has some medical problems, but the worst is over.

Appropriately, he is terrified of cars. He growls at them through the window. Smart cat.

Dear Friends: This is the story of a rescue of a badly injured cat. At this stage in its organizational development, Jazzpurr Society does not have the financial resources to do these types of very expensive rescues (over \$7,000 for Tchaikovsky) and must rely on its members and friends to pay these costs (tax receipts are available for such donations); however, we do have the physical facilities and human resources for caring for such cats during their convalescence. In the beginning, Tchaikovsky lived in a big double cage that allowed him to walk a little bit; then he had a whole room within which he could walk, but not jump. Now, he can run and play in the whole facility.

Jazzpurr Wins the 2002 Non-Profit Excellence Award!

Every year, WENSnet (The Windsor/Essex Non-Profit Support Network) recognizes non-profit organizations who have shown excellence in the management of their resources in the realization of their goals. We are very proud to have been chosen to be one of the recipients of the 2002 award!

The criteria for selection included:

1. *Maximized all available resources including the Board of Directors, professional staff, volunteers and funding sources.*
2. *Identified long and short term goals and have utilized innovative management strategies to realize these goals; and*
3. *Effectively maintained excellence over the long term as demonstrated by overcoming significant challenges.*

WENSnet is the wonderful organization that purchased the old Woolworth Building and converted it to the Herb Gray Centre for Non-Profit Excellence, in which we are very proud to be a tenant along with other non-profit and charitably agencies. Take a look at the big banner hanging on the front of the building - all the recipients of last year and this year are named on it.



Basil Kingstone, Ken Coulter and Dorit Girash