



The JAZZPURR JOURNAL

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Autumn 2003

First Canadian “Let-Live” Conference Rated a Huge Success!

“Thanks so much for doing this”

“I had a great time and a wonderful education”

“Excellent first conference!”

“The conference was great!”

“Wonderful!”

“Very informative.”

Those were just some of the responses we read in the conference evaluations! From Alberta to Prince Edward Island, from California to Pepperlaw - animal lovers and care givers gathered to learn, to share, to network and to organize the first national “Let-Live Canada” organization.

The conference was organized into three major themes: The “Why” of Let-Live - our spiritual connection to animals; new thinking about animals’ place in our world (that they own their own lives - WOW!); ways of changing laws to make this a better world for them. Then the prevention aspect of Let-Live: first, understanding animal behaviour for the education of adoption counselors and adopters, and secondly preventing and treating animal abuse. The third major theme was the “How” of Let-Live: how no-kill programs can be organized in your community; successful programs in other communities; trap/neuter/release programs including the special medical requirements. And finally, the value of our work - why we do it, why we have to do it. Abstracts will soon be available online at www.jazzpurr.org and complete videotapes and hard-copy conference proceedings will soon

be available for purchase. Please call (519) 258-9299 for further details.

We are very proud of the high caliber of presenters we were able to attract to this very first national meeting; conference participants rated all the speakers as “excellent”.

Many thanks go to the conference organizers: Basil Kingstone, Bee Friedlander (and hubby), Sharon McMahan, Nanci Soderlund, Lois Smedick, Dylan Brown, Dorit Girash - and - our main woman - Julia White. Thanks also to the Visitors and Convention Bureau and their wonderful Ambassadors, WENSnet, PETsMART, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Lesley Fox, Ben Rawles, Margaret O’Sullivan, Dolly Digou, Linda Jean Gubbe, Lynda Ellis, Linda Harper, Kat Chaplin, San Francisco SPCA, and LaBonte Signs. There now is a national organization of 23 members with a founding Board of Directors composed of: Dorit Girash, Windsor, ON; Dr. Susan Little, Ottawa, ON; Sue Donnelly, Canmore, AB; Linda Gubbe, Saskatoon, SA; Dr. Karri Beck, Toronto, ON; Greg McNab, Toronto, ON; Jennifer Forrest, Kelowna, BC and Jill Dennis, Kanab, UT. This association of individuals and organizational representatives will facilitate Canada’s evolution to a more compassionate national community that respects and saves animals’ lives and provides optimal care for them. The group will provide resources to improve the lives of animals across the country and facilitate the conversion of communities to “Let-Live”. It will consider developing national standards - perhaps accreditation - for no-kill shelters and addressing the problems that cause animal abandonment, neglect, and cruelty. It will build on the success of this first conference to hold national meetings annually across the country.

In order to do this very important work, it will develop professional fundraising projects and programs that include annual giving campaigns, planned giving opportunities, and corporate partnerships.

Animal lovers who wish to support this work are invited to send donations to “Let-Live Canada” c/o Jazzpurr Society for Animal Protection, 205 - 647 Ouellette Ave, Windsor, ON N9A 4J4

VACATION IN VANCOUVER!

Yes, “Let-Live Canada 2004” will take place in Vancouver, from July 7th to 10th. We have finalized arrangements with the Radisson in Burnaby, BC. Of course it will be a very informative educational program, but more than that - it will be a wonderful VISIT in VANCOUVER!

We’ve timed it so that you can make a true vacation out of it! Room rates are only \$79/night and that rate will apply two days before and two days after the conference itself.

So, bring your family. The hotel has both indoor and outdoor pools and an exquisite view of the mountains! Of course, there is an abundance of activities for all ages in and around Vancouver.

Dorit Girash Elected Chair of “Let-Live Canada”

Our own Jazzpurr Founder and President, Dorit Girash has been elected by the brand new national “Let-Live Canada” organization to serve as the founding chair. Dorit has been the one most instrumental in bringing the no-kill solution to first of all our own community of Windsor and Essex County, but now also to our entire nation. Speaking numerous times in front of Windsor City Council, she led the way to a number of life-saving initiatives:

- 1) Securing an exemption to the animal control by-law (which at that time limited the number of cats to two) for registered and Jazzpurr-supervised foster homes of abandoned cats and kittens.
- 2) Enhancing the number of cats legally adopted into the homes of Windsor residents by actively advocating for an increase in the number of cats allowed in Windsor homes. City Council responded by increasing the number from two to four, allowing a doubling of the number of cats adopted.
- 3) Strongly advocating against the “catch-and-kill” programs that were being promoted under the guise of cat licencing, and, with clear scientific evidence, dispelling the myths regarding feral cats’ zoönotic danger or impact on wildlife.
- 4) Operating, with the help of volunteer veterinarians and Clearwater Animal Hospital, Windsor and Essex County’s only Trap-Neuter-

- Return program. Not only have hundreds of cats been neutered through this free program, but inspired by Jazzpurr’s example and leadership, thousands more have been sterilized in regular commercial veterinary clinics and are being cared for by private citizens who have the resources to provide these services on their own.
- 5) Repeatedly proposing the no-kill solution to the problem of stray and feral cat overpopulation. As a result, the City of Windsor is now exploring TNR programs through its contracted agent, the Windsor/Essex Humane Society.
 - 6) Mediating and advocating on behalf of the compassionate people of Windsor and Essex County who participate in the no-kill solution by providing managed care to colonies of feral cats. As a result, Windsor City Council is at this time considering an exemption to the by-law to accommodate these responsible, supervised care givers of TNR colonies.

Congratulations Dorit. We know that you will lead us in making a significant difference in the lives of animals across Canada!

Looking For Human Companions!



Herbie



Pooky



Lucky



Trudeau

THE JAZZPURR JOURNAL

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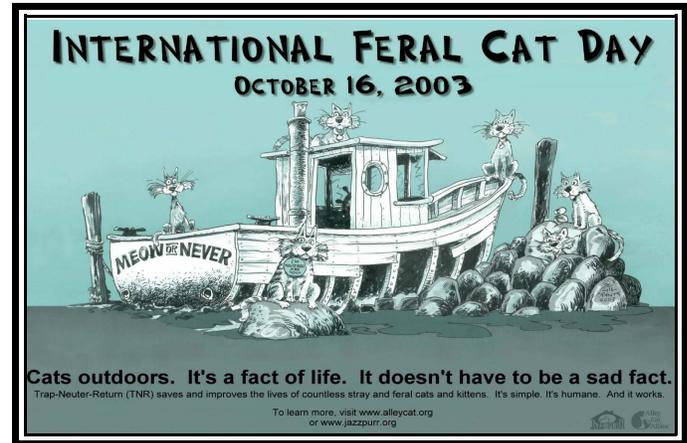
The opinions expressed by Journal contributors are their own and not necessarily those of the Editor, the Reviewers, the Directors, or the Society.

Jazzpurr Partners with the University of Windsor

Jazzpurr has begun working closely with students to find solutions to cat over-population problems in the neighbourhoods around campus. In celebration of Feral Cat Day, the students hosted a special display on October 22rd and 23th to promote Jazzpurr's TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) program.

Jazzpurr Society also had a display at Devonshire Mall on October 16th, 2003 for "International Feral Cat Day" in association with Alley Cat Allies. The International Feral Cat Day is a special day for those who advocate non-lethal feline population control. Jazzpurr provided information to the shopping public on issues related to abandoned and feral cats and solutions to these problems.

You can find out more information about "International Feral Cat Day" and stray and feral cat issues at www.jazzpur.org or www.alleycat.org



Politics

Have we had enough of it all? Actually, dear animal lovers, this is an important opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the animals in our community.

As we did three years ago for the Windsor Municipal Election, we again surveyed all the candidates regarding their positions relative to current animal-related issues. This of course, raises their awareness to the fact that there is a huge constituency that CARES about these issues, and it allows us to know their attitudes and report them to you. As a registered charity, we are not allowed to recommend or endorse any individual or party, but we can report to you their unedited responses to our questions.

We first sent a survey to all provincial candidates in the ridings of Windsor-West, Windsor-St.Clair, Essex and Chatham-Kent/Essex. We did not report the results to you in time for the election, because ONLY THREE CANDIDATES RESPONDED: one PC and two Green Party candidates. No one else answered our questionnaire - either by fax, email or regular mail.

We did receive a better response for the municipal elections. Here we surveyed all the candidates for mayoral and councillor positions in Windsor and all the municipalities of Essex County. We have prepared two results sheets - one for all the city responses received and one for the county responses. You will receive the one appropriate to your home address. If you wish both response sheets, please call us and we will send them to you. We will also try to get them on our web site in time for you to make a decision.

Thank You, Mayor Michael Hurst



SAVE-THE-STRAYS



Are You Looking After Stray and Feral Cats?

Congratulations! You are one of the thousands of compassionate “Good Samaritans” of Windsor and Essex County.

Fortunately, no one who has utilized our Free Feral Fix program has ever been the subject of a complaint by their neighbours to their respective city/town administration. That means that you are all doing an excellent job!

However, there are complaints (but not about any of our people). As such, Windsor City Administration is looking into creating exemptions to the by-law restricting residents to four cats per household for people who are looking after outside stray and feral cats. Below are the “Standards of Practice” for feral colony managers. They are designed to provide optimum care for the cats while keeping the neighbours happy. Please note that these criteria provide just a broad overview; we have a number of information sheets to cover a number of individual aspects of feral cat care.

Feral Colony Management

Criteria for Success: An Overview

- Food:** Specific feeding stations must be set up. Cats must have access to fresh cat food and water daily. Dishes must be washed daily. Areas around feeding stations must be kept clean. Where other wildlife can pose a problem, mechanisms to solve the problem must be in place (e.g. removing food after feeding time).
- Shelter:** All cats must have access to shelter - garage, garden shed, dog house, sub-porch or an especially built cat shelter (plans are available). There must be insulation and protection from winter winds. It must be monitored, kept in good repair and cleaned periodically as necessary. Bedding must be replaced and if litter boxes are kept in it, they must be cleaned daily. All areas around the shelter must be kept clean.
- Excrement:** Where cats have covered litter boxes, these are to be scooped daily and replaced weekly. If not covered, sand is the best material. If cats use the outdoors, then exposed fecal material must be cleaned up by the care giver.
- Medical Care:** If not already neutered, cats must be on a neutering program. All cats must also be on a program to receive rabies vaccination and identification.
- Record Keeping:** Care givers will keep a log for each cat - stating its source and date of arrival, condition upon arrival, all medical treatment and general progress and events.
- Neighbours:** The cooperation of neighbours will be sought through information-sharing, personal visits, joint problem-solving, and if necessary, professional mediation.
- Relocation:** Certain locations with suitable resources will accept cats that need to be relocated.



MAKING FERAL CATS WELCOME IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT THE NEIGHBOURS DON'T KNOW, YOU MUST TELL THEM

Most of the people in your community probably don't know the facts about feral cats or the benefits of managed feral cat colonies. They don't know:

- # *The cats are regularly provided with food, shelter, and veterinary care.*
- # *The cats could have lived in the area for many years and have surely developed a strong bond with their home territory.*
- # *The cats have developed a strong bond with each other and the people caring for them, but are not tame and cannot be adopted into homes.*
- # *The cats pose no health threat to humans or other animals.*
- # *By sterilizing and then managing colonies of healthy feral cats, you can reduce and effectively control the number of cats in the area.*

As a feral cat caretaker, your job is just as much to address the concerns of neighbours as to trap, sterilize, and care for the cats. A caretaker can forestall many problems by establishing and maintaining a friendly dialogue with people living near a feral cat colony. Present information in a reasonable, professional manner and you will give them confidence that you know what you are doing

ADDRESSING SPECIFIC CONCERNS

There are straightforward solutions to most concerns about feral cats. Enact these solutions before situations get out of hand and the cats will be viewed in a more positive light:

- # Neighbours are often bothered by nuisance behaviours associated with breeding, such as roaming, fighting, yowling, spraying, and the birth of endless litters of kittens. The only solution is to humanely trap and sterilize the entire colony. This is the keystone of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and the single most effective way to eliminate nuisance behaviours. If during the TNR process you place the tame strays and socialized kittens into adoptive homes, the number of cats will be immediately reduced, often by half.
- # Keep the cats' feeding stations or areas clean and trash free. Many caretakers build attractive but inconspicuous shelters and feeding stations. When painted dark brown or green, these structures blend into the environment. "Out of sight - out of mind" is a good policy - place the shelters in inconspicuous areas so as not to attract attention.
- # Never put out more food than the cats will finish in

and care about their interests. Explain tactfully that the cats have lived at the site for a long time, that they have been (or will be) sterilized, which will cut back on annoying behaviours, and that a managed colony will be stable and healthy. Also explain that if the present colony is removed, new, unsterilized cats are certain to move in and the problems will recur.

Address individual complaints by listening patiently and asking questions that uncover the specific problem. In most cases, when a neighbour demands that all the cats be removed, it is because of a single, resolvable situation involving just one or a few cats. Maintain a constructive, problem-solving attitude in order to uncover the real objection.

Feel free to give your neighbours any and all of Jazzpurr's literature on TNR programs. If the neighbours express interest, arrange to show the videos on Trap-Neuter-Return at Jazzpurr Society. These short training videos fully explain where feral cats come from, what TNR is and why it is the best solution, and what action you (and hundreds of thousands of people) are taking to improve living conditions for the cats while controlling their population and solving a community issue.

On the other hand, if your complaining neighbour is one with whom you've had other problems, consult us about assistance in resolving these issues.

one meal. Remove what they don't eat after 30 to 45 minutes and always clean up the area. This will discourage wildlife from showing up to eat the leftovers and forestall complaints about unsightly feeding stations.

- # Cats can be discouraged from climbing on cars or other private property by gradually moving their shelters and feeding stations away from these areas. The cats will follow the food and shelter.
- # If fleas are a problem, have your veterinarian treat for fleas when the cats are spayed or neutered. Change the bedding material or hay in the cats' shelters regularly. Some herbal products deter fleas. Sprinkling mint, dried pyrethrum flowers, or a non-toxic herbal flea powder beneath the bedding may work.
- # When cats are using gardens as litter boxes, build one or more sheltered litter boxes or place sand or peat moss in strategic areas for the cats to use as litter. Cats prefer sand or peat moss to garden soil and will use the litter areas you provide. Scoop regularly to alleviate odours and flies. Be prepared to scoop more often in hot weather. Volunteer to remove all droppings left on neighbours' properties.

There are many safe, low-tech methods to discourage feral cats from hanging out where they are not wanted, such as in the neighbours' gardens, yards, porches, or vehicles. Always offer to provide and apply these methods at your own expense. Consider pooling resources with other caretakers, if possible, to cover the cost of such items.

SITUATION: CATS DIGGING IN A GARDEN OR LOUNGING IN A YARD OR ON A PORCH

Strategies:

Embed wooden chopsticks or 10-inch plant stakes into the soil every eight inches.

Cover exposed ground in flowerbeds with large attractive river rocks to prevent cats from digging (they have the added benefit of deterring weeds);



Plant the herb rue to repel cats or sprinkle dried rue over the garden.

Obtain Cat Scat, a non-chemical cat and wildlife repellent consisting of plastic

mats that you cut into smaller pieces and press into the soil. Each mat has flexible plastic spikes that are harmless to cats and other animals, but discourage digging.

Scatter fresh orange and lemon peels or spray with citrus-scented spray.

Cayenne pepper, coffee grounds, and pipe tobacco repel cats. Other suggestions include oil of lavender, lemon grass, citronella, eucalyptus, and mustard.

Apply cat repellent (available at pet supply stores) liberally around the edges of the yard, the top of fences, and on any favourite digging areas or plants. The repellent called Reppers is highly recommended.

Install an ultrasonic animal repellent or a motion-activated water sprinkler, such as the Scarecrow (Contech)



SITUATION: PAW PRINTS AND/OR SCRATCHES ON VEHICLES



Strategies:

Discourage cats from climbing on cars or other private property by gradually moving their shelters and feeding stations away from such areas.

Purchase an appropriate cover for the car or other vehicle. This has been known to put an immediate end to complaints.



Safety Issues:

- *If cats are around automobiles, ask all drivers to honk their horns or pound on the hood of the car before starting the engine; cats frequently go up inside the engine compartment of cars to keep warm.*
- *Make certain that cats have no access to antifreeze. It is very attractive to them, but deadly.*

ADDRESSING FURTHER CONCERNS

Some neighbours may fear that feral cats could pose a risk to their children or health, or to local wildlife. Explain diplomatically that feral cats are naturally wary of people and will not approach humans they do not know. Feral cats will not attack anyone unless they are cornered. The neighbours can avoid any risk by never touching the cats and by washing their hands after gardening, if they think the cats have been in their garden.

Also advise neighbours to teach their children not to approach or touch any animal that is not their own. Children should always ask an adult for help if they think an animal may be trapped, sick, or injured, or if they find a baby animal.

Although the probability of a feral cat harboring the rabies virus is virtually negligible, no risks should be taken with this potentially deadly disease. Until a cat has been vaccinated against rabies, no one should touch a feral or otherwise unknown cat.

In general, cats are poor hunters of birds. Even the most skilled among them take very few birds compared to small rodents and insects. Other animals such as raccoons, foxes, and opossums get along with adult cats in their own fashion. Kittens, however, are at risk because wild animals may consider them to be prey.

IN CONCLUSION

As a feral cat caretaker, you are the cats' guardian and public relations agency. You are their only source of help, should unhappy neighbours or property owners complain to animal control. This is why you must always maintain current, accurate health records, including vaccination data and photographs, for all the cats in your colony or colonies. It is also why establishing a friendly, open relationship with the humans living in proximity to feral cats can forestall problems and make the environment happy, healthy, and safe for all the residents. ■



With grateful acknowledgement to Alley Cat Allies

Jazzpurr's 12th Annual Banquet

It's the...

Age of Aquarius

Silent and Live Auction
of Unique Holiday Gifts

*Just in time for
the Holidays*

Harmony and understanding
Sympathy and trust abounding
Teach the whole Canadian nation
To share the land with all creation
No more thinking lives are throwaway
Indifference has got to go away
Aquarius! Aquarius!

*4th Annual
Biophilia
Award*

**Kingsville Golf and
Country Club**

**November 23, 2003
at 5:00 pm**

\$80 / person
\$72 / member
\$600 table of 8

Tickets are available at Jazzpurr or by mail.
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Herb Gray Centre for Non-Profit Excellence
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Windsor, ON, N9A 4J4 (519) 258-9299



Members and Friends...

WE NEED YOUR HELP

YES, I Will Help

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Street Address: _____

City/ Town: _____ Prov/ State: _____ Postal/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

I would like to:

- Donate \$ _____ . _____ In a lump sum (Enclosed)
Monthly (1st Month Enclosed)

- Become a member:

- \$20 Annually for a Single Membership
 \$30 Annually for a Family/ Group Membership
 \$10 Annually for a Jazzpurr Junior (Under 19 yrs of Age)
 \$200 Foster Parent (Tax Receipt)
 \$400 Clinic Sponsor (Tax Receipt)
 \$1000 Lifetime (Tax Receipt)

- Volunteer (We will send you an information package)

Method of Contributing: _____ Cheque _____ VISA _____ MasterCard
(Please do not send cash!)

Name on Card: _____

Account Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

THANK YOU!