



PAW PRINT

VOL 39 - ISSUE 1

On the eve of our 40th Anniversary, PAWS Volunteers ask ...
WHY DOES PAWS NEED A SHELTER?



RICKY - 15 years old - excellent health
 Looking for a loving forever home



TIGGER - FIV+ but otherwise in top form
 So deserving of being spoiled by a special family!



PEACHES & PAMMY
 Mother and Daughter - inseparable and must be adopted together



The PAWS shelter acts as a safe haven for between 100 and 150 animals at any given time. What would happen if this property didn't exist? How would PAWS Volunteers be able to continue to provide for the innocent beings already in our care? What about those who so desperately need us in the future? We shutter at the thought of not having this extraordinary place and we are reaching out to you and all of the animal lovers you know to help to secure this unique, life saving sanctuary.

PAWS
 Peoples Animal Welfare Society
"Bringing Pets and People Together... Since 1972"
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 Registered Charity No. BN 88916 55777 RR0001

Table of Contents

President's Message	Page 2
Rambo's Story	Page 3-4
Enclosure	Shelter Fund Brochure
	
	

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URGENT Message From The President

Thank you for taking the time to read and enjoy this issue of PAW Print.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend warm holiday greetings and best wishes to each and every recipient of this publication and to your families. The Gang at PAWS and I wish you the very best for 2012 and always. Be safe and enjoy!

It's been a while since our last issue of PAW Print. Much has transpired since our last edition. PAWS Volunteers are becoming increasingly concerned about the fate of our shelter and I ask that you bear with us as we make that the focus of our newsletter.

Without this one-of-a-kind safe-haven, there will not be a place for our rescues to live, to be warm, cherished, fed and for PAWS Volunteers to work diligently at finding them loving, forever homes. We also require an office and the space necessary to store our equipment, donated pet food (thank you Hill's!) and cat litter, items that make it possible for us to hold events – the list goes on.

Enclosed you will find a copy of a brochure that details the importance of your support at this time. Please be sure to read it in its entirety and give our request careful consideration.

2012 is a very crucial year for this worthy organization. PAWS has been providing care that is second to **NONE** since 1972, on a **NO-KILL BASIS** and without paid staff. How many other animal rescue organizations do you know that can attest to that? Few if any and we are confident that you will agree that securing our shelter is a TOP PRIORITY at this time.

Our goal is to raise a total of \$250,000 by March 31, 2012. **Every single dollar counts!** PLEASE give generously **today**. In addition to requesting your support, we are hopeful that you will network on our behalf by encouraging other animal lovers in your life to help PAWS in our time of need.

In a span of three weeks this past November (2011), **FORTY THREE LIVES WERE SAVED** from 2 high-kill shelters by PAWS Volunteers. All of these animals were 'marked' for euthanasia. All would have been destroyed had we not stepped in. Many were sick. More than half were not spayed or neutered. All are wonderful, deserving and innocent. **ALL OF THESE WONDERFUL CREATURES DESERVE TO LIVE!!!** This has been an expensive endeavor and one that has seen many challenges. As most of these facilities do not segregate their new arrivals, all end up sick with illnesses such as URV (Upper Respiratory Virus – cats) and Kennel Cough (dogs). Once these animals contract these illnesses it's even easier for the employees at these terrible places to justify the killings. **THIS MUST STOP!!!** Thousands upon thousands of animals are 'euthanized' through no fault of their own all across Canada each and every day. The statistics are staggering and devastating. Rescue people and organizations such as PAWS are scrambling constantly to save as many as we can. In the almost 20 years that I have been with PAWS I see things getting WORSE NOT BETTER. There is an epidemic of homeless/abandoned cats in Ontario. Thousands of our feline friends are living in *deplorable* conditions. They are lost, abandoned, stray, starving, freezing, **DYING**.

On September 30, 2011, I had the great pleasure of meeting Mr. Bill Bruce who is the Director at Calgary Animal Services. This man has inspired me greatly and I am pleased to announce that I will be visiting this state-of-the-art facility in Calgary later this month (at my own

expense). Bill has very kindly agreed to meet with PAWS Volunteers and I (coming in to his shelter on his holidays!) to give us a tour and to discuss the monumental changes that he has brought about. I strongly urge everyone to Google Bill in an effort to learn more about his accomplishments. I will also be sharing my findings with all of you in the near future. Bill has greatly reduced the rate of euthanasia in Calgary and is doing his utmost to encourage other cities and provinces (and others in the U.S. and abroad is my understanding). Due to space limitations herein I will leave you with the following quote but you have my word that we at PAWS are NOT just focused on OUR life saving work but on THE BIG PICTURE and changing the way things are for the greater good in Ontario and throughout Canada.

"We have to organize and become involved in well-coordinated action which will involve any means necessary to bring about complete elimination of the conditions that exist – it takes ACTION to get action" – Malcolm X

Did you know that Cuba has free spaying and neutering??? Yes. Apparently this is true. IS THERE ANY REASON WE CAN'T HAVE THIS IN ONTARIO? It's time – it's long overdue.

~~~~~  
My friends, it's time for all of us to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We can't and won't stop until the job is done and we finally have a shelter that will remain forever for the animals who so desperately need us.

I have proposed previously that we are in search of 250 donors of \$1,000. As indicated above all donations are greatly appreciated (more than you will ever know!) and every single contribution counts. I would dare to suggest that a \$1,000 gift represents \$25 for each year PAWS has been in existence – 40 years. As you make plans for holiday giving why not give the gift of life?

We ask that you also please keep our ongoing veterinary expenses in mind and we thank you so much for caring.

WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME! We need your help TODAY. Should we not have raised the monies necessary to secure this property by the end of March 2012 – the truth is, we have no idea where we will house these deserving beings. Surely there are enough people who care about PAWS to help make this happen ensuring this safe haven will remain **FOREVER**.

Pride in our past ~ faith in our future.



Kimberly Heys  
PAWS President



HUNTER - I have been adopted!

PAWS ~ all about the animals ~ since 1972

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK West Hill Animal Clinic, Beaches Animal Hospital, Pet Valu at The Donway West and Lawrence Avenue East and last but certainly not least Pet Valu at Lawrence Avenue East and Port Union Road all of whom helped with the above-noted FORTY THREE rescues and all of whom continue to help. We couldn't have done it without you. Please be sure to drop into one of these two Pet Valu locations to see some of the cats/kittens that PAWS has available for adoption.

## Another example of why the PAWS safe haven MUST remain ...

### RAMBO



For months I received calls from a man who lived in Toronto who said he had to 'get rid of' his cat. This cat was 'Rambo' who many PAWS followers are aware of. I will refer to his former guardian as 'John' (not his real name).

We tried and tried to help John to find a home for Rambo without having Rambo actually come to PAWS (we do this as often as we can with cats, dogs and other small animals).

One minute he wanted to part with his cat (whom he rescued in Cuba by the way and who he claimed to love for more than 4 years) the next minute he had changed his mind. He and his wife had a new baby on the way and John's wife insisted that she did not want a cat around her newborn (sadly this is a regular occurrence in life and in animal rescue).

There is a long story here but the long and short of it is that John called PAWS President, Kim one day in April of 2008 and said that Rambo's time was up. If we would not accept Rambo into our care at PAWS he would be euthanized the very next day.

This was Easter Sunday 2008 and PAWS President, Kim had just been released from hospital that morning due to ongoing back pain. In spite of this, she accepted John's call and absolutely gave the ok to bring Rambo to Huntsville.

John arrived with Rambo in his crate at around 11:00 p.m. that evening. He had tears in his eyes and Rambo was terribly distraught. John made a promise not only verbally but in writing to continue to support Rambo. This promise was not kept.

Rambo strongly disliked the other animals, was hissing and growling, it was a most difficult time for he and for PAWS Volunteers. In no time a wonderful woman from Scarborough decided she wanted to adopt Rambo. PAWS Volunteers delivered him right away. It was love at first sight ... but in no time Rambo fell terribly ill. He was diagnosed with diabetes. He could have died. We have no way of knowing whether or not John knew about the diabetes. Rambo was returned to PAWS as he was so gravely ill. Funding was tight with PAWS at that time so a caring PAWS Volunteer (the late Hella Heys who was one of our main caregivers and who is missed more than words can say) put Rambo's expenses on her credit card. More than \$6,000 was spent over time ... it was one heck of a rocky road.

Thankfully, Rambo got back on his feet and his diabetes was finally managed. This is a huge commitment under normal circumstances but in an animal shelter it is even more difficult to manage an animal with diabetes as it's tough to be in a routine as there are often emergencies and chaos due to the number of animals in our care.



PAWS Volunteers (from left to right): Margaret, Linda, Marilyn and Kim working diligently at The All About Pets Show in April of 2011 – yes, this is Rambo – another of the efforts that were made to find this special boy his special new family



RAMBO AND PAWS VOLUNTEER, MARILYN

Note how different the PAWS safe haven is from other "shelters"? Rambo was never caged or at risk of being euthanized. He was always loved and respected.

Soon it was clear that Rambo needed his own space so he was provided with his own room. It was essential that PAWS Volunteers monitor his intake of food in order to administer his insulin twice daily. Soon Rambo (his nickname from his former guardian) was thriving. In no time the other cats at PAWS realized that Rambo was being given wet food twice each day. This was exciting to them and Rambo began to have visitors in 'his' room. Before long he allowed other cats to enter his 'territory' and he became best friends with 'Peanut' – an adorable female orange tabby who remained after her three siblings were adopted. They ate together, cuddled, groomed one another – it was a match made in heaven.

We tried and tried to find Rambo a home to no avail. No one would accept the responsibility of a diabetic cat. Let's face it, PAWS Volunteers know all too well that finding a friendly, healthy animal a home is hard enough (due to the overpopulation problem!) never mind trying to find a cat with 'special needs' his or her forever home. So Rambo and Peanut remained with PAWS.

All the while calls were placed – messages left, e-mails and letters were sent to John who decided not to get back to us. The last time PAWS President, Kim managed to reach this 'gentleman' (by blocking the call!) he made it clear that Rambo was, in his words, "OUT OF SIGHT – OUT OF MIND". To say that we were disgusted was an understatement!!! Lest we forget John's commitment that he would support Rambo financially and that was apparently before anyone knew our boy was diabetic!

PAWS Volunteers never gave up on Rambo. He remained in our care from April 2008 to November 2011. We always made sure that he was taken to our Vet for regular blood tests. We did our best to administer his insulin twice daily. We bought him all of his favorite foods (he was occasionally finicky) and provided him with love, warmth and all the attention we could possibly provide while he lived in our shelter.

PAWS friend, Harley suggested that we contact Animal House Calls as many reputable rescue organizations appear on CP24/Animal Planet to promote their rescue efforts and their animals for adoption. Kim called and PAWS was invited to appear on November 8th. A decision was made to take Rambo along in hopes someone special would see him and realize how awesome he truly is.

Meeting Ann Rohmer and the Staff at CP24 was a true pleasure! Ann is clearly genuine in her love of all animals and we look forward to **our next appearance on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7 p.m.** If you are interested in seeing past episodes of Animal House Calls - simply Google "Animal House Calls Episodes" and refer to the dates of either November 8, 2011 or December 13, 2011 to see the appearances by PAWS President, Kimberly Heys.

3 people called to inquire about adopting Rambo. Caller number one was very much not suitable. The other was a woman who lived in a small apartment with 16 cats (one of which was diabetic and this woman was very kind but she already had trouble with her Landlord). And then we received a call from Lorraine. Lorraine and her husband Dave adopted Niles and Spook (now known as Gizmo) from PAWS over 13 years ago. Sadly, Niles lost his battle with cancer in June of 2011. This was devastating to Lorraine and Dave. Gizmo had developed diabetes around the same time that

Niles passed on. When Lorraine saw Rambo on Animal House Calls she decided that "it would really be no big deal gearing up two syringes of insulin twice a day versus one" (what a wonderful attitude!). The rest is history. Several PAWS Volunteers were on hand that wonderful evening when Rambo was delivered back to Toronto and to his new home. GUESS WHAT!? His best pal Peanut also made the trek - forever together they will be!



Our goal ALWAYS at PAWS is to find homes for our rescues where they will have wonderful human beings to care for them, keep them safe and to treasure them for the rest of their days. Words can NOT express how thankful we are to Lorraine and Dave for their kindness and their continued support of PAWS.



Animals are intelligent. They have feelings. They love and they remember. How is it possible that so many human beings believe it's ok to dispose of them like they are garbage??? Rambo would have been killed long ago - through no fault of his own but very simply due to the selfishness and ignorance of the humans he ended up with.

*"Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all - the apathy of human beings" - author unknown but these words are so true.*

PLEASE remember Rambie's story when you make your plans for holiday giving or just when you are trying to decide if you can help to secure THE PAWS SHELTER at this time. Our safe haven MUST REMAIN for those who need us today and in the future.



## STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES IN THE NEW YEAR INCLUDING EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2012

### PLEASE HELP PAWS VOLUNTEERS TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS

Occasionally PAWS updates are sent to our supporters by e-mail but rest assured we certainly have NOT forgotten our friends and supporters who are not online. If you are not available by e-mail but wish to receive copies of our updates by mail, please send us a note to advise of same and we will make sure you are kept abreast of the goings on at PAWS (we would be pleased to mail you copies of our e-mail updates).

In an effort to update our records we are asking that each and every recipient of this newsletter kindly contact us today with an update. For example, you can send us a quick e-mail or send a note by mail confirming the following (our contact info is found on page 1):

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123 Apple Lane  
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416-291-XXXX - Home  
416-291-XXXX - Cellular

annesmith@\_\_\_\_.com - Personal E-Mail  
annesmith@\_\_\_\_.com - Business E-Mail

As many people change internet providers or employers, our e-mail list quickly becomes outdated. If you have a Hotmail/Gmail or Yahoo account - please provide same.

EXAMPLE

**THANK YOU ONE AND ALL FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO SAVE THE INNOCENT BEINGS WHO ARE SO DESERVING!!**



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