

# Action Volunteers for Animals NEWSLETTER Spring 2005



## ***Storage Overload!!!***

We currently find ourselves overloaded with donations of items for our garage sales and bazaar, largely due to the generosity of you, our members. Our storage unit is absolutely full; there is not room to cram in one more box. Unfortunately, we have been advised that we have to move everything to another unit (in the same building). Since we get the space for free, we can't really complain. **However, we desperately need help on moving day!** We have to sort, price and rebox everything before it is moved. (*We will also need plastic bags (for packing) and packing material - tissue paper, etc.*) It is going to be a huge job, and the more helpers the better. We will provide a lunch (*pizza maybe?*) and cold drinks. If you can help please call Carol at 416-438-1295 for information. The unit is in the Victoria Park/O'Connor area.

## ***Antique/Collectibles Auction***

We are organizing an antique/collectibles auction. This event promises to be a lot of fun, and a different way to raise money for the animals. We need a great many items to get a professional auctioneer to donate their time for us. We will catalogue a list on computer, with digital pictures, so you can hold onto items until closer to the date. Please contact one of the board members if you have something to donate.

## ***Garage Sale/Bazaar Donations***

Please keep your donations until closer to the date (end of May tentatively for garage sale) as we have absolutely no place to put anything. If you have Silent Auction or antique items, please let us know that you have them, but again please hold on to them for now.

## **Important Dates**

### **Sunday April 3: Annual General Meeting/Poor Tom Party**

1:00 pm, 110 The Esplanade. Please join us! This is your chance to meet other members and find out what's happening with AVA. We are trying to arrange for a guest speaker to discuss the stresses cats face in foster/crowded situations, and how we can help make it easier for them to adjust. Please bring a vegetarian dish for the Poor Tom party.

### **Saturday April 9: Storage Unit – Moving/Sorting/Pricing**

### **April 29-May 1: PetSmart Adoptathon**

Check our website for participating locations

### **May 14 & 15: Garage and Plant Sale in Hamilton**

Call Sherry for info: 905-547-2025

### **May 28 & 29 (tentative) AVA's Annual Giant Garage Sale in Pickering**

## **Reminder ...**

We are 3 months into 2005, and only 20% of our members have paid their \$20 membership fee. Part of this fee goes towards paying for the printing and mailing of your newsletter. Easter Bunny says, hop to it!



**ACTION  
VOLUNTEERS  
for ANIMALS**

PO Box 64578, Unionville ON  
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www.actionvolunteersforanimals.com



## Letters

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**Dear AVA,**

I know what excellent work your group does. I volunteer with another charity and we seem able to do much less, although we are so much better known! I have some of your brochures from the Cat Show, which I attended in order to contact people other than breeders, as I disapprove of the entire breeding industry. These leaflets will be very useful in answering questions posed to me by members of the public ... some of your leaflets are better than anything in our office!

Sincerely,

*L.N.*

**Dear AVA,**

Please accept this small donation on behalf of myself and my two kittens, Omanuel and Lily. Thank you.

*Laura Elliott*

**Dear AVA**

I would like to thank your group for helping my client and commend you on your great work. Special thanks to Shana for her support. My client would like me to send her personal thanks and will keep all of you in her prayers. For my part I will pass on your name to all the people I know who love animals and would like to help in any way they can. Keep up the good work.

*Susan Warner*

**Dear Shana**

Squeek is quickly recovering from the surgery, and we expect him to be as good as new very soon. Our family would like to thank you very much for the trust and financial assistance your group provided, without which our present circumstances would be considerably different.

I would like to be included on your mailing list, as prior to receiving your assistance I had never heard of your organization, and I would like to find out more.

Once again, thank you.

*Deirdre O'Brien*

**Shana**

This is a very late thank you for your help last October – we met at BirchDan Animal Hospital and you were so helpful with the feral cat I had brought in to spay.

Thanks again for your calm helpfulness.

*Jody*

**Janis and all volunteers,**

Thank you for setting up such a nice booth (at dog show). I hope your customers will help the cause with actions and words as well as dollars. Hope to see you in 2005!

*Sally*

**Dear Shana and Jenny,**

We hope you enjoy the pictures. Right from day one, Giselle was excited to explore and play. Thanks for helping us find her. You two take such great care of your animals and give them so much love and affection. We wanted to be able to give you something back and to let you know she is really happy. May your wonderful program enjoy many more years.

*Dawn and Blair, and Dash and Giselle*

**Dear Carol and Shana,**

I can't thank you enough for taking Buster into your Pickering location and showing such warmth right off the bat. You allayed the fears I had about the situation. I was pleased to see him settle into his nice quilted bed rather than huddle in the corner as I'd expected, with all he'd been through. You are deserving of much respect for all that you do for the animals and of course, for people also. I needed help and was so lucky to have found such a welcoming response.

Hopefully Buster will find a good match for his personality and "allow" a human to take him home.

Thank you, so very sincerely. I'm sure if Smudge could, she'd thank you as well! She's already been carried around the house to show her that Buster has left the building along with Elvis, and I swear I saw her smile. Now it's time to slowly decrease her meds and then I'm sure all will be well in her world. That will have to be done slowly, I'm told ... all in good time.

I hope the kindness you show others is returned time and time again. You all deserve it.

Warmest thoughts,

*Deborah*



**In memory of  
sweet Katie, from Sherry Pavey  
and Shana Mortimer-Gibson.**

They will not go quietly, the dogs who've shared our lives,  
In subtle ways they let us know their spirit still survives.  
Old habits still make us think we hear a barking at the door,  
Or step back when we drop a tasty morsel on the floor.  
Our feet still go around the place the food dish used to be,  
And, sometimes, coming home at night we miss them terribly.  
And although times may bring new friends and a new food dish to fill,  
That one place in our hearts belongs to them ... and always will.



## MEMORIALS

**In memory of my cat Tommy 2, from Maija Ziepnieks  
In memory of Katy B, from Eva and Zygmunt Jancelwicz  
In memory of Mary Robertson,  
from Dorothy Barrett.**

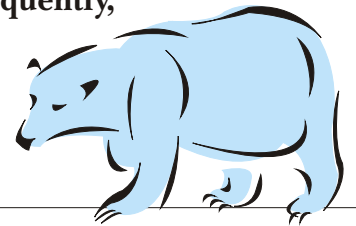
### HBC Rewards Points

You can help AVA get items for our fund-raising events by donating your HBC points to us. We are always in need of new items for our sales and this is a great way to utilize this program. You can use your HBC card at Esso, Thrifty, Zellers, The Bay, Home Outfitters, CIBC, Travelodge, DealsOutlet.ca.

You can use your own card and donate points to our customer number, **8393196**, or you can get a card with our number on it. Please go to the website at [www.hbc rewards.com/community](http://www.hbc rewards.com/community) for information on how to donate your points, and sign up today!

### New Phone Number

In order to give the board members a break from constantly answering calls, we are implementing a new phone system where we will take "shifts" picking up the messages. Our new number is **416-439-8770**. Please call this number for AVA business and you will be given four lines to choose from depending what your call is about. **Calls will be checked and returned frequently, with emergency calls taking priority.**



**Food/Litter Drive:** In order to keep our expenses down, we usually ask our foster homes to pay for food and litter themselves. However, when someone is taking 25 kittens or keeping cats for 6 months this becomes a bit unreasonable. We are therefore having our own "Food Drive" for the foster animals. If you can help with a donation of food or litter, please call the new phone number, above. We will see that your donation goes where it is most needed.

### Please Help!

- Send me more information
- Membership \$20. per year
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We issue charitable receipts.

Registered Charity # 11877-7408-RR0001

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer to help with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## POOR TOM'S OWN NEWSLETTER

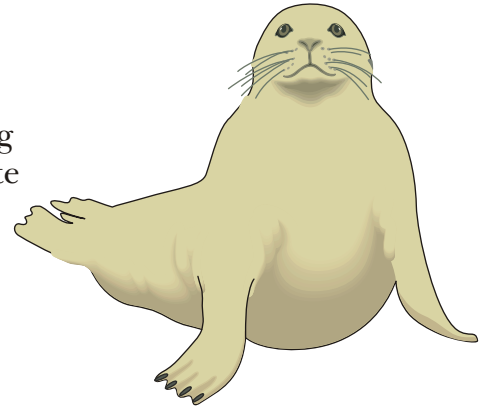
*Proudly part of Action Volunteers for Animals*

### Dear Friends of my Friends,

Time again for our newsletter, a welcome time to reach out to all of you, old members and new. The annual meeting is nearly here, a time where we can renew our friendships in person instead of by telephone or by mail. Please plan to attend as there will be voting, shared information, speakers – and food! (always an inducement, especially in winter).

### The Seal Hunt Goes On

This Spring almost half a million seals will be slaughtered off the coast of Newfoundland. World opinion forced a ban on the killing of nursing and baby seals, so the “hunt” was put off until the white coats could reach the next stage in their growth cycle, and be “legally” killed. **Truly, this Government-blessed barbarism is Canada's shame.** On March 15, 2005, WISPA kicked off a Canada-wide protest with a demonstration in Dundas/Yonge Square, attended by those who could manage to get away from work. (It was interesting to see that Bridgette Bardot, gallant fighter for animal rights, was also doing her best for the seals.)



It is important that letters of protest go to: your local member of Parliament; the Prime Minister; and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Hon. Geoff Regan, House of Commons, Wellington St., Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6. No postage is required for any of these. No need to go into a lot of technical bufflegab (as Farley Mowat said) – just protest the cruelty and the waste (of animal lives and taxpayers' money) in your own words. Keep it simple. **But do it!** Surely the seals are worth it? Animal Alliance is mounting a boycott of Canadian fish products, joined by several prestigious US groups. For more information on this, call Animal Alliance at 416-462-9647.

You may wonder why Poor Tom is devoting so much space to something that has been covered year after year, with victory as far off as ever. But remember how long women had to fight to get the vote, and for how many years Blacks had to suffer before even a semblance of equality was achieved. Progress moves snail-like, almost imperceptibly, which is why the struggle must never be abandoned. We would betray the animals if we gave up just because it all took so long.

My Human was saddened to hear of the death of Frances Raynor at the age of 93. Much of her life was devoted to the cause of animals, principally in the area of municipally-operated spay/neuter clinics. She served on the board of PAWS, one of our sister groups. We will miss her.

*Love from your own Poor Tom*

A large, stylized handwritten signature that looks like a capital letter 'X' with a flourish.