



UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring is finally here, which means that two of the most important events in the FOAP calendar – our fundraising walk and the Annual General meeting – are coming up soon. Both these occasions are great opportunities for us to meet our members personally, so please do mark the dates below in your calendar.

Friends, Walking Friends FOAP's Ninth Annual Walk

FOAP's 2007 fundraising walk is scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd at the beautiful Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm. Please come out and walk with us. Bring your dog, if you have one, but a canine companion is not necessary to participate – there will be lots of dogs to watch and enjoy. This year's mascot is Cody, whose story is told on page 4 of this newsletter. Walkers will be remembering 2005 mascot Yogi, a gentle Rottie who lost a battle with brain cancer late last year. The 2007 walk is dedicated to Yogi's memory. We're also hoping that Blackie and Nu-Pup will make an appearance. These two Inuit sled dogs were rescued in Nunavut and brought to Ottawa with FOAP's support – their arrival in the capital last November was featured in the Ottawa Citizen.

Details of the walk are as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2007
Time: Registration starts at 8:00 AM;
Walk begins at 9:00 AM
Location: Arboretum, Central Experimental
Farm (Building 72)

CTV's own Chris Day (FOAP's Honorary Chair) will again be our MC for the event, and a barbecue will follow the walk; there will be great prizes for the top pledge-gatherers, lots of activities and information booths to visit as well. Registration forms are available from pet food stores and veterinarians around town or they may be downloaded from our website, www.foap.on.ca.

Fifteenth Annual General Meeting

FOAP members are invited to attend the next Annual General Meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, June 12th (see details below).

All members are welcome to join us and meet the people who work on FOAP's day-to-day activities – there will be reports on events over the past year and members in good standing are eligible to vote for the Board of Directors for 2007/08. Before and after the meeting, members can mingle, chat and enjoy homemade goodies. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2007
Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Old Town Hall Community Centre
61 Main Street, Ottawa
(corner of Hawthorne)

PET VALU

Second Annual Spring Charity Fundraising Day

FOAP volunteers will be at the PET VALU store on Beechwood Avenue on Saturday, May 12th to speak to customers about the group, answer questions and accept donations. By all means, drop by, say hello and meet a few of the wonderful pets currently available for adoption. There will be a draw to win either a cat or dog basket courtesy of PET VALU (approximate value \$50 each). Leashed pets are always welcome in the store.

DATE: Saturday, May 12, 2007
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: PET VALU, 170 Beechwood Avenue
(tel. 613-842-8769)

FOAP is grateful for the continued support of the Community Foundation of Ottawa. We have recently received a grant of \$9,250 to maintain the health of feral cat populations in Ottawa by spaying, neutering and providing veterinary care. This welcome contribution comes from the James P. Kenny Fund, administered by the Community Foundation.



Massive Pet Food Recall

As pet owners are no doubt aware from repeated news reports, many millions of containers of cat and dog food have been recalled. These products were manufactured by Menu Foods and sold under dozens of different brand names. Reports began to surface in March of animals dying from kidney failure after eating certain brands of pet food. It is still not clear how many pets have been affected. In April the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that it had found melamine (used as a fertilizer and in the manufacture of plastics) in samples of the pet food, as well as in wheat gluten used as an ingredient. The investigation continues as to how this could have ever happened.

Menu Foods have posted an extensive list of the affected foods on their website, <http://www.menufoods.com/recall/index.html>. If you have not already consulted it and checked your own household supply of pet foods, we urge you to do so now. And since the list continues to expand, we would recommend that you recheck the list regularly.



IN MEMORIAM

THIS 'PASSAGES' COLUMN CELEBRATES THE LIVES OF MEMBERS' BELOVED CATS AND DOGS. SHOULD YOU WISH TO COMMEMORATE YOUR PET IN THIS WAY, PLEASE CALL PAT WINTER AT 613-237-2416 OR SEND A NOTE TO FRIENDS OF ABANDONED PETS, P.O. BOX 67052, RPO WESTBORO, OTTAWA K2A 4E4.

Jennie (1993-2007) – Pat Winter is mourning the loss of her beloved calico cat Jennie. Jennie was beautiful, loyal and feisty. She will be very much missed by her furry friends Meg, Basil and Jim, and all the Winter sisters.

In loving memory of Shadow – December 21, 2006. **Shadow** was a grey tabby domestic short hair cat abandoned in the fall of 1999. I was fortunate to have the chance to adopt him and share his life for seven years. Among his endearing idiosyncrasies was a love of television, especially hockey games. One of his favourite shows, however, was *The Simpsons*. Shadow will always be My Special Little Guy (as Marge Simpson once called Bart), a friendly and gregarious little fellow, a great buddy and a very brave cat who, in his final month, endured physical setbacks with great dignity and courage. – John Shields

Our condolences to Shannon, Mike and Logan Barkhouse on the passing of **Brownie** Ferdinand Cat. Brownie (who was black, not brown) is grieved by his favourite brother, Fiddle, as well as his other brothers, Pumba and Button. His loud purrs and soft, soft fur are especially missed at night by his human family.

Another Note from the Treasurer

If you have recently made a donation to FOAP, you may have noticed that the tax receipt and thank you letter you received in the mail have a new look. I am pleased to say that, after many years of doing things manually, I have finally implemented a new computerized database. This program will keep track of our members' renewal dates and total dollar amount of donations, as well as generating printed tax receipts.

All of this would not have been possible without the tremendous work of Richard Michaud of MyComputerGuy (www.mycomputerguy.ca).

I want to personally thank Richard for his time and efforts and for creating a database that is easy to use and extremely efficient, allowing me to process receipts much faster than in the past. So I hope you enjoy the new tax receipts and, as always, thank you for your ongoing support and generosity

Linda Marcoux, Treasurer

Many thanks to Margot and staff at Pilot Insurance Co. for their generous donation of dog & cat treats, food, toys and litter. They are being put to good use.

FOAP lost two great animal ambassadors in 2006:

Our sympathies to Jinny Slyfield and Bill Grant on the passing of **Dancer** (who was featured in the spring 2005 issue of "Pet Talk"). Jinny and Bill took Dancer with them when they sold crafts on behalf of FOAP, and they found that Dancer often collected donations equal to the craft receipts. Dancer had previously spent two years living in Switzerland "learning French" while Bill taught school there. This wonderful little dog was 18 ½ when he had to be put to sleep.

We join with Gaylinne Robert in mourning the tragic passing of **Yogi**, an amazing young Rottweiler who served as the mascot for FOAP's 2005 walkathon. Yogi became ill shortly after the 2006 walk (in which he actively participated); he went blind but his new disability barely slowed him down. He quickly resumed all his activities including rambles through the woods wearing special goggles to protect his eyes. But it was discovered that he had a brain tumour and Gaylinne lost him in December. His life, far too short, will be celebrated by the participants in this year's walk.

The Bouviers



Four Bouviers are looking for loving homes. Their lives were very traumatic until about a month ago, so it will be some time before they adjust to a normal routine. There are two 10-year-old males – Blaze and Chase, both a lovely fawn colour. Then, there are the

brindle-coloured four-year-olds, William and Tulip (the only female)

Our involvement with this quartet began when one of our volunteers received an e-mail from a lady in Hawkesbury. The lady was frantic. Her ex-husband had recently passed away and left the four in her care. The dogs were living on a dilapidated farm with no heat or running water. Each day she travelled to the farm to feed them, but they were alone and in terrible shape. She could not keep the dogs so she asked for our help.

We suggested, first of all, that she contact the Bouvier rescue group, which she did. They searched out people who were interested in the breed. There was almost instant support from the group, along with many helpful hints about Bouviers. (Unfortunately, not everyone is the right candidate to adopt a Bouvier.) Also, the group collected donations to help defray the veterinary bills and boarding fees. Because the dogs have not been cared for properly over an extended period, the medical expenses will be considerable.

Once the lady from Hawkesbury had signed the Bouviers over to our organization, our first priority was to find a place for the dogs to stay. The frightened dogs were sent to a kennel in Russell (Dogs & Company). They desperately needed to be cleaned and clipped, but they were too upset to be transported by van. The groomer (Deborah Wiebe of Debonair Dogs) came to the kennel to groom the dogs, and what a job it was! Because their coats were so filthy and matted, it took the groomer 4 ½ hours to do the job.

Next they were visited by a veterinarian, who took blood samples, etc. They had many health problems including wounds from dog bites; two of the dogs have thyroid problem, all have parasites.

Some of these health problems, we believe, were caused by the neglect of these lovely animals by the owner. However, the latest word from the veterinarian is that the animals are showing real improvement after four weeks in their new environment.

All four Bouviers are very friendly but still a bit nervous. FOAP has arranged for a young volunteer to go out to the kennel to help socialize Chase, Blaze, William and Tulip.

We have a possible future home for the brindles but are still looking for homes for the two older dogs (the fawns). Please give FOAP a call at 613-729-9820 if you would like to talk to a volunteer about an eventual adoption.

And it goes without saying that any donation you can make towards the Bouviers' medical expenses would very much be appreciated. A donation form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Our thanks to the organizers of the Dogtails and Cocktails party at the Rockcliffe Community Centre. FOAP was chosen as the animal-related charity featured at this year's popular event - some generous donations have been received as a result, and more are anticipated.



www.foap.on.ca

Kudos to Jeremy Gershberg, FOAP's webmaster, for his vital but often unacknowledged work keeping the website up-to-date. We also want to thank Cathy Kent of Kent Graphics for her help and expertise in a recent revamping of the website. We think it looks great, and hope you like it as much as we do.

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Friends of Abandoned Pets
P.O. Box 67052
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Editors: Pat Winter, Jean Burns

Beginning with this issue, we will do our best to ensure that the last page of each newsletter is devoted to “happy endings” – stories of cats and dogs that came to FOAP in varying states of desperation, were cared for, fostered and finally adopted into loving, permanent homes. This last year especially has brought us a steady stream of letters and e-mails from proud adopters, with heartwarming progress reports and some wonderful pictures. We want to share these reports with our members and supporters. What better story to begin with than that of Cody, our 2007 walkathon mascot. Cody was found running loose on a golf course outside of Ottawa; he had been caught and was locked in a shed, quite literally facing extermination, when FOAP volunteers rushed to save him. A year later, he has an idyllic life, as is obvious from the letter and photo below ...

Last year, when our beloved Labrador-shepherd mix Milou passed away at the age of 12, after being diagnosed with cancer, my husband and I, along with Maya, our three-year-old female Golden Retriever, were devastated by his loss.

Our dear Maya came into our life at the age of six weeks and was always by Milou’s side. As such, the decision of getting another companion would be the best thing for Maya and we were ready and eager to give a lot of love and a great life to another dog in need.

I was amazed when I saw the picture of Cody for the first time on the FOAP website, after one of the volunteer told me about him. Cody was found lost on a golf course during the winter of 2006 but his resemblance with MILOU was amazing!

After meeting with FOAP people, we arranged to see Cody at PetsMart on Merivale Road (April 1st 2006). There was no doubt in my mind that this skinny off-white shepherd mix was anxious to have a good home and that he would be a great companion for Maya to play with. When I saw him, I fell in love with his beautiful soft brown eyes. On that same day, he came home with us.



Cody and Maya – the best of friends!

Cody found himself at home the minute he arrived at our place. He is now 1½ years old (the vet estimated his age), and he truly enjoys living in the country, and running on a two-acre fenced lot near Aylmer. Cody and Maya are inseparable. They play constantly together and they sleep one beside the other. Indeed we can say that this is a case of love at first sight!

Suzelle Saab

FOAP has received a grant of \$500 through Bell Canada’s Employee Giving Program. Many thanks to Dawn Solosky, Bell employee and FOAP volunteer, for making this happen.

Update on Blackie and Nu-Pup

These two Inuit sled dogs were rescued in Nunavut and flown to Ottawa for a chance at a new life with FOAP’s help. You may remember seeing an article about them last November in the Citizen. We are delighted to report that they have stayed together and both dogs are doing very well – they were spayed and given clean bills of health soon after their arrival and then moved to a foster home. Their foster recently signed the papers to adopt them permanently. Our thanks to everyone who contacted FOAP after reading the Citizen article to express support for this unique rescue story.