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Edition #1: Spring/Summer 2011

On behalf of the City of Pickering, Animal Services section, we would like to thank you for supporting us this past year. Whether it be a dog or cat adoption, these animals received a second chance at life because of you. We thank you for that!

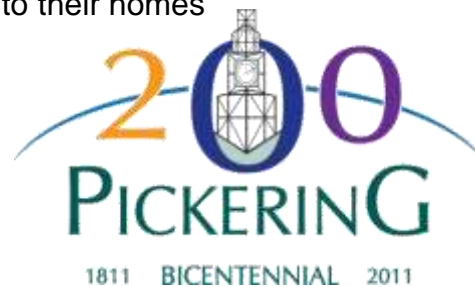
In an effort to stay in touch with our supporters we have decided to develop this newsletter which we hope you will enjoy.

## 2010 Animal Services accomplishments



Our Animal Services section is currently made up of 3.5 staff members; 1 supervisor, 2 full-time, and 1 part-time animal services officer. Throughout the day Animal Services responds to various calls ranging from injured wildlife, dog bites or lost dogs; just to name a few. Staff are also responsible for the care of all animals housed at our animal shelter. This includes medications, socializing and ensuring all of our animals are adopted into new and loving homes. Below are just a few of our 2010 accomplishments.

- 1,430 calls were received for investigation
- Officers responded to 1,003 field calls, not including regular community patrols, daily public education and instances where animals are returned to owners on the spot
- City staff received 139 reports of dogs running at large and 40 reports of animal bites. The number of dog bites reported each year has remained constant from 2006 to now
- In 2010, Animal Services saw a 96% increase in the number calls reported and investigated regarding wildlife in the City from the year prior
- Animal Services saw a 12% increase in the amount of animals impounded from the year prior
- 161 animals were adopted into new homes
- 70 animals were returned to their homes



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## Petapolooza 2011 was a huge success!



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Petapolooza tradeshow was held on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the Pickering Recreation Complex. This year's event included a dog cookie making competition and a Responsible Pet Ownership Coloring Contest. Everyone had a great time, even our guest judge, Rose Riesman, author of *The Art of Living Well*.



This year's event raised over \$3,700, a 21% increase from last year. All proceeds from this event are going towards building our own animal shelter in Pickering.



## Invisible Fence donates oxygen masks to our Fire Services



On April 27, 2011 Invisible Fence of Durham Region and Dr. Michele Travers from Claremont Veterinary Services supplied pet oxygen mask kits to our Pickering Fire Services.

Each pet oxygen mask kit contains three reusable masks appropriately sized for small animals (cats, small dogs, animals with short snouts such as ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs and birds), medium-sized animals (20-25 lbs) and large domestic animals (dogs 50 lbs and over). Claremont Veterinary Services will also provide initial training and ongoing support to Pickering Fire Services as required.



"Pets are often on the scene in emergency situations and like humans, they are susceptible to health risks arising from a fire," says Fire Chief William Douglas, City of Pickering Fire Services.

"After learning about the availability of pet oxygen masks through the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, we were eager to order kits for our community," said Dr. Michele Travers of Claremont Veterinary Services.

# Noahs Wish Disaster Response Training



We are pleased to host the 2011 Noah's Wish Disaster Response Training here in Pickering on June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at the Pickering Recreation Complex (1867 Valley Farm Road).

This training is designed to simulate the conditions that you may experience during a disaster. This includes sleeping at the training location and bringing enough food and water to carry you through Saturday and Sunday.

Some of the topics include hands on training with camelids (Alpaca, Llama) and with domestic birds (introduction to the basic nutrition care/husbandry, special handling and safety precautions). A Meteorologist from Environment Canada will also discuss tornado response. This is just a few of the topics. Visit our website for more information. Don't miss out, sign up today!

New Volunteers = \$125    Returning Volunteers = \$75    Students, Seniors = \$85

The "America's Favorite Shelter" Contest, sponsored by Care2, ASPCA, and Adopt-a-Pet.com, is a chance for animal lovers to support their favorite animal shelter. We have checked and this

## Help us win \$15,000

contest is open to Canadian shelters and voters. With your vote we could win \$15,000 towards building a permanent shelter here in Pickering. The top 20 recruiters will also get a \$50 gift certificate for pet products as a special thank-you gift. Help spread the word!

Go to <http://www.care2.com/animalsheltercontest/7740/3/> or click on the link below and place your vote today.



Adopt a Pet  
Com

# Success Stories

After surviving a collision with a moving vehicle, a Trumpeter Swan was treated and later released into the wild. On December 8, 2010, we responded to a call for a bird that flew into a Durham Region Transit bus that was travelling on Highway 2 in Pickering. The bird was transported to Millennium City Veterinary Hospital, where it was treated immediately, but hospitalized overnight for its minor injuries. The next day, the swan received a clean bill of health, and Animal Services officers happily released the bird at Frenchman's Bay.

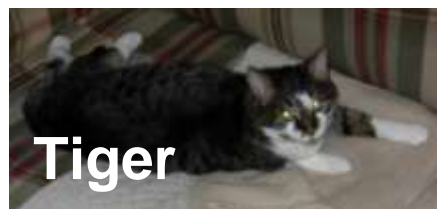


## Here's what we've heard.....



On November 12, 2010, I adopted a dog named "Wally" from your shelter. I'm just following up to let you know that he is doing very well, and has adjusted to his new life. He is a wonderful dog, pretty smart and a joy to have around. Thanks so much for all your help that day and for taking care of him while he was with you. I have renamed him to Pip, and it seems to suit him well.

"I just wanted to drop you a note to let you know how I am doing since leaving the shelter. This place is great! They have central air, and I have discovered the joy of sleeping in all sinks throughout the house".



Feel free to send us photographs and stories for our next edition.  
Email to [animalservices@cityofpickering.com](mailto:animalservices@cityofpickering.com)

# Poisonous plants for your pet

Dogs and cats are curious animals and they get into places they're not supposed to, and eat things they shouldn't. To help keep your pet safe through the summer months, you need to be aware of the plants that are harmful to your pet. Below is a list of common poisonous plants you may come across this summer:

Chrysanthemum	Poinsettia
Creeping Fig	Weeping Fig
Arrowhead Vine	Malanga
Boston Ivy	Marble Queen
Caladium	Mother-in Law Plant
Calla or Arum Lily	Neththyis
Dumbcane (Difffenbachia)	Parlor Ivy
Elephant's Ear	Pothos or Devil's Lily
Emerald Duke	Peace Lily
Heat-leaf (Philodendron)	Red Princess
Jack-in-the-pulpit	Saddle Leaf (Philodendron)
Majesty	Split Leaf (Philodendron)
Amaryllis	Bulbs
Asparagus Fern	Nightshade
Azalea	Pot Mum
Birds of Paradise	Ripple Ivy
Creeping Charlie	Spider Mum
Crown of Thorns	Sprangeri Fern
Ivies	Tomato Plants

If your pet comes into contact with any of these plants, please notify your local veterinarian. For other plants, trees and shrubs that are toxic to your pet please visit our website at [cityofpickering/animals](http://cityofpickering/animals).



Azalea



Red Princess



Spider Mum



Creeping Charlie



Peace Lily

# Did you know we had a leash free park?

The City of Pickering now has a designated leash free area where dogs will still comply with the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law while being off leash. The leash free area officially opened in the spring of 2010, and is located in Grand Valley Park on the Third Concession, west of Valley Farm Road. The designated leash free areas are signed, and dog park rules are posted. A dog waste diversion station has also been provided adjacent to the parking area.



## Spring Tips for pet owners

With spring finally here it is common for your pet to come into contact with many parasites. Parasites are commonly contracted through contaminated soil, food/water, mosquitoes, fleas, birds and rodents. Once contracted, these parasites are found in areas such as your pet's stomach, small and large intestines and the colon. These parasites can cause problems such as weight loss, anemia, failure to thrive, intestinal compaction, blockage, or diarrhea.

The parasites that your pet may carry can also be transmitted to us. In humans, this can cause vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain/cramping, blindness, and in extreme cases organ damage. In order to stop these parasites from entering your pets system your pet should be de-wormed on a regular basis. Contact your local veterinarian to arrange a spring checkup. Some of the most common parasites and worms are;

- **Roundworm and hookworm** (found more commonly in puppies and kittens)
- **Whip worms** (Dogs and adult pets are more commonly found with this parasite)
- **Tapeworms** (more common in cats)
- **Coccidia** (a single cell organism not a worm, more common in dogs and cats)
- **Giardia** (a single cell organism, can damage the lining of the intestine and reduce the absorption of nutrients from the food your pet eats)



Roundworm



Tapeworm



Whipworm



Giardia

# Toys and predatory play for your cat

It doesn't take long for a cat toy to soon become predictable and boring. To help challenge your cats senses, new items should be brought into the home on a regular basis. Items such as cardboard boxes, paper bags, items such as old socks filled with cat nip, or a homemade scratching post are excellent for cats to play with. Place these items in various locations around your home so that your cat can decide when and how to explore.



# How to keep your cat safe and healthy during the summer

Unlike us, cats wear their winter coat all year long. During the summer months it is essential that your cat keeps cool and hydrated. Heat stroke and dehydration are risks we take for the hot months, unfortunately so do our cats. Some of these tips can help to keep your cat cool for the summer:

- give them cool rooms such as living rooms, bedrooms and rooms with tiled floors
- don't confine your cat to one room, particularly in a room with hot air
- putting ice cubes in your cats water bowl will keep them hydrated
- use air conditioning or ceiling fans to help keep your house cool
- your cat must have fresh cold water available at all times.



**Email us, let us know what you thought of our first edition!**

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