



Spring 2003

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### Dates to Remember:

- \* AGM/TL Meeting - May 3rd, 2003
- \* Bingo - Apr 20, May 30, Jul 9, Aug 18
- \* Pet Walk - May 25th
- \* Casino - June 6th & 7th
- \* Calaway Park - August 9th & 10th
- \* Pet Expo - Sept 27 & 28



# PALS PRESS

Newsletter of Calgary's Pet Access League Society

## Sighs of the Heart

"We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks since we started all of this." The woman told the volunteer.

"What is it your daughter keeps asking for?" she asked.

"Puppy size!"

"We have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for."

"I know. We have seen most of them," she said in frustration.



Just then the young child came walking in the office.

"Well, did you find one?"

"No, not this time," she said with sadness in her voice. "Can we come back on the weekend?"

The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed. "You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a fresh supply," the volunteer said.

The young child took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. "Don't worry, I bet we'll find one this weekend," she said.

Over the next few days both Mom and Dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. "It's this weekend or we're not looking any more," Dad finally said in frustration. "We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either," Mom added.

Sure enough they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now the young child knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs. Tired of the routine, Mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted. The young girl walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, "Sorry, you're not the one."

It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer. "Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it!" she screamed with joy. Mom, startled by all the commotion, came running. "What? Are you sure? How do you know?" she asked.

"It's the puppy sighs!"

"Yes, it is the same size as all the other puppies you held the last few weeks," Mom said.

"No, not size...sighs. When I held him in my arms he sighed," she said.

"So?"

"Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you told me 'Love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sighs!'" The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug her child she did a little of both. "Mom, every time you hold me I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms," she said. Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said,

"Mom, he loves me. I heard the *sighs of his heart.*"



## Have You Looked in Your Pet's Mouth Lately?

The bacteria that lurk in a pet's mouth may be the cause of bad breath and more. Bacteria accumulation can lead to oral disease and increase the risk for disease in other organs, such as the heart, liver and kidneys. The American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS) reports that 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age three.

**How can you tell if your pet has gum disease?** If your pet will allow it, open its mouth and look inside. Look for the warning signs of gum disease – bad breath, red and swollen gums, a yellow-brown crust of tartar around the gumline, and pain or bleeding when you touch the gums or mouth. Oral disease begins with a buildup of bacteria in your pet's mouth. Bacteria, combined with saliva and food debris between the tooth and gum, can cause plaque formulations that accumulate on the tooth. As bacteria grow in the plaque and as calcium salts are deposited, plaque turns to tartar. If tartar is not removed from the teeth, pockets of infection may appear along the gum line and further separate the teeth from the gum, which allows more food and bacteria to accumulate. Without proper treatment, this plaque and tartar buildup may cause periodontal disease, which affects the tissue and structure supporting the teeth. Your pet needs dental care – regular, professional care from your veterinarian, as well as care at home from you.

**3 Step program to dental health:** 1) a dental exam and, if needed a dental cleaning by a veterinarian 2) a home dental care routine that includes regular brushing and a nutritious diet 3) regular follow-up veterinary checkups.

### Dental Facts:

- Kittens have 26 temporary teeth that begin to erupt at about two to three weeks of age. They have 30 permanent teeth that erupt at about three to four months.
- Symptoms of periodontal disease in cats include yellow and brown tartar buildup along the gum line, red inflamed gums, and persistent bad breath.
- Cervical line lesions are the most common tooth disease in domestic cats. Studies show that about 28 percent of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.
- Puppies have 28 temporary teeth that erupt at about three to four weeks of age. They have 42 permanent teeth that begin to emerge at about four months.
- Symptoms of gum disease in dogs include yellow and brown build-up of tartar along the gum line, inflamed gums and persistent bad breath.
- Broken teeth are a common problem, especially among outdoor dogs. According to veterinary dental experts, aggressive chewing on hard objects, such as commercially available cow hooves, is a primary cause of broken teeth in dogs.

\*Information excerpted from [www.petdental.com](http://www.petdental.com)

## National Volunteer Week - April 27th to May 3rd, 2003



This year National Volunteer Week is celebrating the spirit and energy of volunteers with the theme: *The Value of One. The Power of Many.* This theme describes how one person's individual actions can make a significant difference. When this single effort is multiplied by those of 6.5 million other people in Canada who volunteer, the world is changed in very real and significant ways.

Personally though, I find too many zeros on anything make it somewhat difficult to comprehend. I mean I am a person who, until a few years ago, truly thought that the bad guys \$1 million dollar ransom "in small unmarked bills" could actually fit in a briefcase. So a favorite exercise of mine is to invert the equation and reduce it to its most simple experience.

PALS volunteering is about that single smile, or the look of recognition on a resident's face when a pet enters their room. It's about a child's laughter drowning out the sounds emanating from their IV tower. It's about an entire team visiting an elderly lady just to wish her a happy birthday. And, it is about the feelings of sadness when someone passes away and the knowledge, that in the end, only time has value.

So, to our volunteers, I would like to say thank you for giving your time as a visitor with your pet or as a volunteer who supports the PALS program in other ways. Together you have made a difference in the lives of many Calgarians.

Thank you.

Sandra

**PALS Pet Access League Society**  
**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, May 3rd, 2003**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of the Pet Access League Society will be held at the Alberta Children's Hospital 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Solarium, on Saturday, May 3rd, 2003 from 11:00 a.m. to noon, for the purposes as detailed in the following agenda. Members who are unable to attend are encouraged to make their views known on agenda items by completing the proxy form below.

Dated at Calgary, Alberta, February 10, 2003

By Order of the Board of Directors

**INVITATION**

All PALS volunteers are invited to attend the AGM. However, only members in good standing are allowed to vote or enter into any discussion that arises.

At the AGM, every person who at the time of the meeting is entered on the records of the Society as a *Member in Good Standing* shall be entitled to vote by attending such meeting in person, or by proxy. By-law 10.07

If an eligible member is unable to attend, he/she may send their proxy (clip-out or photocopy proxy below) to the PALS office.

Written proxies will be accepted at the AGM. Any person holding proxies must present them as evidence, to the recording clerk, prior to the official commencement of the meeting. By-law 10.08.

At least 20 members must be present at the meeting to constitute a quorum. We hope to see all of you there. It's a great opportunity to meet other PALS people.

**PROXIES CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE PALS OFFICE OR BROUGHT TO THE AGM.**

**AGENDA**

(Please note that this agenda is your only copy, please bring it with you.)

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of agenda.
3. Approval of minutes of 2002 AGM.
4. Approval of financial statement and budget.
5. Election of new directors.
6. Adjournment.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following Directors will let their names stand for re-election at the AGM: Paul Rintoul, & Dr. Irene Phillips.

Gus van Heusden, Lynn Dorsay, Natalie Myers, Mike Rosser, Brian Jack & Jocelyn Hastie are into the second year of their terms

The nomination of a new Director must be submitted by two PALS members and an acceptance letter by the nominee must be received at the PALS office by April 28th, 2003.

**PALS PROXY FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, PALS Member,  
hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_, PALS Member,  
as my proxy, to vote for me on my behalf at the  
PALS Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday, May 3rd, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## This & That

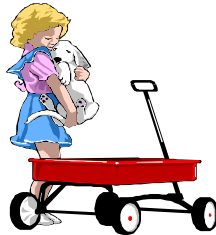
### Casino

We still need count room volunteers for Saturday shifts and back-up for evening shifts on both Friday and Saturday. Please contact the office at 250-7257 or email us at [info@palspets.com](mailto:info@palspets.com), if you can help out.



### Pet Walk

Can you believe we are holding the **6th** annual Pet Walk this year? This year's event will be on Sunday May 25th at Glennfield Picnic Area in Fish Creek Park. Get your four-legged friends together along with your two-legged friends and family for a day that promises to be full of fun. Check the Pet Walk brochure insert for full details. Proceeds from this event go towards the operation and expansion of the PALS program.



### Team Leaders Meeting

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Solarium at the ACH. The meeting begins at 9 am. Our Guest Speaker this year will be Dr. Todd Shury, DVM who is a Wildlife Veterinarian, Banff National Park and he will be giving a presentation on: "A Year In the Life of a Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarian".

Team leaders please refer to the enclosed insert for agenda information.

Note: there will be a limited number of seats available to volunteers who are not team leaders. So, if you are interested in attending Dr. Shury's presentation, please contact the PALS office.

### Membership Dues

Did you forget to pay your membership dues? Just send a cheque or call the office with your Visa or MasterCard number.

Annual membership is: single \$20. Family \$30.

### PALS in the News

- © Look for Lucky Donselaar in the Summer issue of the Pawsitive Times
- © The Healing Paw is featuring an article on PALS in the July issue. [www.thehealingpaw.org](http://www.thehealingpaw.org)



Charitable Registration # 10781 1879 RR0001

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Paul Rintoul  
Past President: Natalie Myers  
Vice President: Gus van Heusden  
Treasurer: Jocelyn Hastie

#### DIRECTORS

Lynn Dorsay  
Brian Jack  
Irene Phillips  
Denise Ronsky  
Mike Rosser

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Sandra Johnston

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