



PALS PRESS



Newsletter of Calgary's Pet Access League Society

Winter 2000

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Art Market | 1 |
| Santa Parade | 1 |
| Story | 2 |
| Emerging Viruses | 3 |
| Rescreening | 3 |
| Holiday Etiquette | 4 |
| Volunteers Needed | 4 |
| Entertainment Books | 4 |

Insert:

Membership Renewal Form

Dates to Remember:

- * PALS Office closed - Dec. 21 to Jan. 1 inclusive
- * Bingos - Dec. 27, Feb. 5, Mar. 17, & Apr. 26
- * Pet Screenings - January, March, & April

Another Successful Art Market

Way to go volunteers!!! PALS raised \$ 6,500 despite an overall decrease in the Art Market attendance and sales this year. Eileen's tremendous dedication, hard work, and hundreds of hours of planning, preparation, and support during the Art Market deserves our greatest respect and gratitude. Thank you so very much, Eileen!

The vendors appreciated our assistance very much and have extended a huge compliment and thank you to all our booth relief volunteers. Speaking from my own experience, I had

great fun working the different booths and was excited about every little sale I made. The PALS booth looked great and our cheerful and pleasant volunteers were attracting a constant flow of interested people. Our PALS pets were, of course, the stars again. They received lots of attention and hugs and even the odd treat. We received many compliments for their excellent behavior.

Again, thank you very much for helping make the 2000 Art Market a successful fundraiser for PALS.



Santa Parade

With a cheerful and excited crowd of about 25,000 and the 'weather gods' definitely being in a good mood, PALS had great representation with about 30 PALS pets and their owners. The animals looked great, some of them were dressed up in Santa suits, hats and booties, reindeer antlers, bells, and festive ribbons. After some yummy hot chocolate (thank you, Sandra!), a little 'thank you' treat for the PALS pets and after posing for a few group pictures, we waited patiently alongside bands, floats and horses for the departure signal. Everybody was pumped and ready to go. The children were lined up along the entire route stretching out their hands eagerly to pet the animals. The dogs did an outstanding job greeting and visiting hundreds of kids, licking faces, wagging tails, and bringing so many smiles to big and small. Thank you very much to the busy elves from Youth Volunteer Corps who carried our PALS signs and handed out brochures and candy canes. Along the route, comments were overheard from parents saying to their children, "These are the PALS animals, they are



very friendly and safe to touch". Isn't this what it's all about?

Thank you very much to all who attended and helped make the 2000 Santa Parade a great success.

If you would like a JPEG file of the group photo taken before the parade, contact the office.

See you next year!

And Now She's Home

by Ann Hunkeler

Many of you have heard similar stories to the one I'm about to tell you, but the end result is still the same, "Miracles do happen".

On Sunday, July 23rd, my little dog, Harmony, and I headed off to the airport to pick up my cousin, Angela.

After an enjoyable day and evening together we headed off to bed. I had to work the next morning, and Angela was leaving the next afternoon to go to Banff. I arranged her cab before leaving for work and asked her to let Harmony outside to go to the bathroom before she went to Banff. Harmony came down as usual to say goodbye before I left for work then headed back upstairs to nap.

At 4:35 pm that afternoon, I received a call from a neighbour telling me that Harmony was missing. I assured my neighbour that Harmony was at home. No he said, she isn't at home, she's missing!!! I rushed from my office, caught a cab, and raced home. Sure enough, Harmony was gone.

My neighbours and the kids in my townhouse complex headed out looking. Friends and co-workers, even a client showed up to help look. No luck. Over the next several hours, I discovered my cousin had let the dog out, but never let her back in. Within one hour of Harmony's disappearance, the SPCA, Calgary Animal Control, the emergency veterinarian clinics, the police, and all clinics in my area had been notified.

I searched that night until after 1:00 am and every day (5 - 8 am and 6 pm to about midnight) for the next three weeks. The first weekend of Harmony's disappearance, we did a blitz. Stores in northeast Calgary put up signs advertising her disappearance. We notified the police, fire department, food delivery drivers, ice cream sales persons, flyer delivery persons, postal workers, construction workers, landscape workers, garbage men, TV and radio stations. Friends banded together on the first Sunday morning and did a "sweep" by the alley and the road of two subdivisions hoping to flush out Harmony. We went door to door in those subdivisions as well. Emails were sent to all friends and contacts. All veterinarians in and around Calgary were sent a letter with a copy of the flyer asking for their help. Prayers were being said in BC, Ontario, and Calgary for the safe return of my little friend. Everything that could be done was being done. I never gave up!!!

Seven and a half weeks after Harmony disappeared, I flew to Ontario for a christening.

My friends in Calgary kept up the search and I phoned every day to the SPCA and Animal Control to see if there was any news. Lots of people gave up and to be honest, I can't blame them. After eight weeks, chances are pretty slim that I'll get my dog back.

On September 21st, I arrived back home from work by 6:15. It was snowing, sleeting, cold, and ugly. All I planned to do was have a bubble bath and a hot cup of tea; however, there stood that bag of garbage I had forgotten to take out that morning. Back out I went to drop the garbage in the dumpster. I had to go around an illegally parked van to get to the dumpster. I noticed a little dog in the van going absolutely nuts, jumping up and down and staring at me. I looked twice and thought, bad hair day for the dog, it needs to get groomed badly. I headed back to my condo, but when I got to my door, I turned and looked back at the van. There was this ugly little dog still staring at me. I headed inside and was in the process of hanging up my coat when it dawned on me that this dog was acting quite peculiar. Back out I headed and as soon as I stepped outside my door, the dog started jumping up and down. I walked slowly by the van and checked out the license plate.

Like the good neighbour that I am, I knocked on the door of the condo three doors down from mine in front of which the van was parked. A young lady answered the door and I advised her that I thought her dog was in distress. She thanked me and when I asked if I could see her dog, she invited me to come with her to the van. Upon opening up the van, she handed me this dog, who immediately wrapped its front paws around my neck, stretched out down my torso with its legs fully extended, and started licking my face. This dog obviously knew me and boy was she familiar. I asked the woman where she got this dog and she told me her aunt had given it to her at the end of July. I laughed and said "I lost my little dog at the end of July and it looked an awful lot like this one". The woman immediately grabbed the dog from my arms, told me it wasn't mine and headed into the condo. I whipped home and called the police. The officer on the phone asked me if I was sure it was my dog. I responded that I was 99.9%, but I needed to see the dog's tattoo. The officer suggested that I go back over to this lady's place and ask to see the tattoo to ascertain if in fact the dog was mine. Off I headed, a little nervous but determined to find the truth. The young lady answered the door, and when I apologized for bothering her again and asked to see the dog's ear, that the dog

might possibly be mine, she told me that this was her dog and that it was my tough luck that I had lost mine. She asked me to leave and quit bothering her. Next thing I knew, she, her two children, and the dog left in the van.

I contacted my vet the next morning and obtained a certificate advising that the tattoo on Harmony's ear was registered to Harmony and I was registered as Harmony's owner. The police attended at my home the next evening, got all the information and headed off to find Harmony for me. I showed them how to check the tattoo and gave them a "quick" way of checking to see if it was Harmony. "Just snap your fingers and she'll drop".

They left my place around 6:45 pm and headed over to this woman's house. Half an hour later, the officers called to advise that no one was home but assured me they would continue to check. Around 9:15, my cousin arrived to wait out the vigil with me. At 10:30, I turned to my cousin and advised her that if Harmony didn't come home that night, I knew I wouldn't get her back. It was in God's hands.

At exactly 11:04 pm, there was a quiet little knock at my front door. There stood the two police officers on my doorstep, but no dog in their arms. The officer who was the last to enter my house, said, "Oh by the way, is this yours?" and opened his jacket. Out popped Harmony, but what a Harmony. They had shaved her to the skin trying to disguise her. She was cold, scared, and had the biggest eyes I had every seen in a dog. When she saw me though, it was all we could do to catch her before she flew out of the officer's arms into mine. After nine and a half weeks, she was home!

An hour later, Harmony was curled up on my knee, asleep, everyone was gone, the clock had struck 12:30 am and that's when I cried, realizing that all my prayers, and all the prayers of friends and family had finally been answered.

Within three weeks, Harmony was back working at the Bethany with PALS. A lot of good came of Harmony's disappearance. I met some really great people, renewed old acquaintances, lost 22 lbs, and my faith in human nature was renewed. With Harmony home, all is right in my world again.

For all of you who helped with the search and continued to call during those long months, thank you.

Harmony and I both wish you and yours all the best this season and a hope that all your prayers come true. Ours did. Keep the faith. It works!!

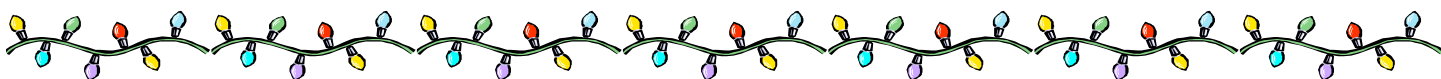
Emerging Viruses

Recently, PALS sent out information about the Santa Parade via the Internet. It was an attachment and it was clean. However, one of the volunteers we sent the document to had a virus called Navidad. This virus is self-propagating, which means it can send itself out to other computers using email addresses from the address book and old emails. To put it another way, any undeleted addresses that are in your computer including c.c.'s will receive a file containing the virus.

The email containing the virus was not sent by PALS; however, the email contained reference to Pals so a few people may have unwittingly opened the attachment. Most were fully protected by their virus programs and others were lucky enough not to read their mail until after I had sent out the urgent mes-

sage telling them to delete, delete, delete! Luckily, only one person (to our knowledge) actually got this virus.

Computer viruses are a fact of life and there seems to be a whole subculture of people dedicated to developing new ones every day. It is imperative to have a good anti-virus program but that still doesn't ensure you can stay clean. So far they have not developed a virus that can be transmitted other than in an attachment and you are the one who decides if that attachment should be opened. If you don't fully trust who sent you the attachment, if the attachment is forwarded from somewhere, or if you are not sure for any reason don't open the attachment. So you miss a few jokes or the chance to become an instant billionaire — at least your computer will still function.



Did Someone Say Rescreen?

Rescreening provides an objective evaluation of pets already in the program. This is not a new initiative as formal rescreening policy dates back to 1990 when pets were rescreened every 3 years and seniors every year. Today PALS rescreens all pets every 5 years and seniors every year. When we read through old records we discovered that some things never change and that, when we fail an existing pet, feelings are occasionally hurt. Yet, even with the risk of alienating some very committed and supportive volunteers, no PALS Board has ever set aside the policy that the screening procedure is the same for both new and existing pets. Impartial rescreening helps maintain the integrity of the program and ensures that continuing to visit does not compromise the health and well being of the pet.

So what can you expect when you bring your pet in for a rescreening. First, you will notice that staff does not greet you with a high degree of familiarity. Staff attend screenings so continuity exists, procedures are followed and to look at new PALS animals with placement in mind. The reason why your current status remains undisclosed to the screeners is so they can make an objective evaluation and knowing anything personal might place unwarranted influence on them. If, during your wait in the main room, your pet shows any behaviour such

as fear, aggression, lack of control, or a number of behaviours which would make your pet no longer suitable for visiting, you will be asked to leave. Concerns regarding oral hygiene and grooming may also be addressed anytime during the screening.

Following a wait in the main area, you will proceed into the individual screening areas. There the screeners will evaluate your pet using our standard pet-screening test. The screeners will know that your pet is a 5-year or age rescreen but that will be the extent of the information they receive. Their job is to evaluate whether your pet can tolerate both the normal and unexpected things that can happen on visits. We have all had our experiences with fire alarms, over zealous residents and many other adventures that could fill a book and it is at that time that you want your pet's reaction remembered as just another anecdote not something regretful.

If your pet does not successfully complete the rescreening it does not dishonour them or invalidate all they have accomplished. It means that the animal has served PALS well and faithfully but now requires and certainly deserves the peace and quiet of retirement.



Man has great power of speech, but the greater part thereof is empty and deceitful. The animals have little, but that little is useful and true; and better is a small and certain thing than a great falsehood – Leonardo Da Vinci, circa 1500



Holiday Etiquette for Dogs



1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so here are some things you need to know:
 - a) do not pee on the tree;
 - b) do not drink water in the container that holds the tree;
 - c) mind your tail when you are near the tree;
 - d) if there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, do not rip them open;
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:
 - a) not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans;
 - b) do not eat off the buffet table;
 - c) beg for goodies subtly;
 - d) be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa;
 - e) do not drink out of glasses that are left within your reach.
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:
 - a) observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses (4a is particularly important);
 - b) respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house;
 - c) tolerate children;
 - d) turn on your charm big time.
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from

your fireplace in the middle of the night. **DO NOT BITE HIM !!**

Author Unknown

Entertainment Books

PALS still has 9 entertainment books that need to be sold. They are \$40 each and can be picked up from the office. Also, just a reminder that the current campaign ends on December 15 so please ensure all payments are submitted to the office by that date.

Thank you.



Volunteers Needed

Yes, once again we're looking for volunteers. We are always very thankful to those who are able to help out.

If you can help out at the Dec 27th Bingo please call Elsie at 283-2229

PALS requires volunteers to coordinate or help coordinate our special events/fundraisers over the next year. If you are interested in helping out in any or all of the following areas please call the office.

- Casino - planned for summer of 2001
- Santa Parade - Dec 2001
- Pet Walk & Fun Day – May 2001
- Hullabaloo – April 2001
- Public Relations Booths – 2 to 3 times during the year



Charitable Registration # 10781 1879 RR0001

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Natalie Myers
Vice President: Gus Van Heusden
Treasurer: Jocelyn Trimble

DIRECTORS

Lynn Dorsay
Irene Phillips
Millie Pratt
Paul Rintoul
Denise Ronsky
Mike Rosser
Sheryl van Otterloo

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sandra Johnston

ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Regula Lewis

PET ACCESS LEAGUE SOCIETY

3019 - 21 Street N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 7T1

Telephone: 250-PALS (7257)

Fax: 250-9273

E-mail: info@palspets.com

Website: www.palspets.com

Newsletter Editor: Mooréa Gray