



Newsletter

September 2010

Letter from Don Sharp, our President

The Canterbury earthquake has focused our attention, and our sympathies, and reminds us very forcibly that events such as these are not things that only happen in other places to other people.

TV News and newspaper articles have made us realise the great part our pets play in our lives and the efforts people will expend to rescue them. It is hardly possible to imagine the trauma our pets experience when a terrifying event, such as an earthquake, strikes. One joyful reunion was shown on TV when a beautiful cat was rescued from a drain due to the persistent searching of its owner who finally heard that moggie meow!

Apart from those pets who still remain lost, there are those very sad cases where houses have been destroyed and owners have no place for their pets. We must be very thankful that animal rescue groups have been able to step in and temporarily house them. It is to be hoped that should any cat or dog be found wandering, they will be taken into care or handed to a shelter until they can be reunited with their owners.

This type of disaster does highlight very dramatically the importance of registration and micro-chipping—and how much easier it is to locate owners and reunite them with each other when this is done. It demonstrates too the consequences of not doing it.

It is to be hoped that the Christchurch disaster does not throw up too many traumas and heart-aches. Reports say that animal rescue groups are able to deal with the situation.

We wish them all well.

Don Sharp

Note from editor: If you are aware of animals suffering because of the earthquake who are not getting the assistance they need please do contact us and let us know what is needed.

Your committee:

Don Sharp, Jill O’Keeffe, Heather Wade,
Johanna Brens, Trish Burke, Nicole Keller,
Don McKenzie and Fiona Seiffert,

The latest from Me, Trish, your editor.

As I write this the sun is shining; my plum tree is in blossom; the cats are all out wandering (*we can guess what they are looking for*) and the amalgamation of many areas into one greater Auckland is almost here. What will the future bring for us all? Personally I am hoping for many plums, few unwanted kittens and lower rates. I suspect I will be lucky to get any one of those.

As I look at the plum tree I consider that the Varroa bee mite has left us with far fewer bees than we used to have. My answer to that is to spray the fruit blossom with sugar and water. If you get a few days of fine weather it does make a huge difference to the amount of fruit that set. (*My tip for this month*)

As to the unwanted kittens, my thoughts are that prevention is better than cure in this instance. Spay and neuter our cats and dogs unless there is a real reason for not doing so. One of our prime purposes in Humane Society is to develop and expand our spay/neuter programme through promotion and by financially assisting in the de-sexing of pets in cases where there is financial hardship. If you, or your friend, neighbour, relation, work mate or acquaintance is concerned about the cost I have two suggestions that I believe can help.

First – ring around the local vets for prices and ask friends. In my experience the prices vary amazingly between different vets. It is really upsetting to discover after you have paid \$100 for an item that you could have had it for \$45. Yes, that is the difference that I have experienced between vets.

Second – make contact with the Humane Society for financial assistance if it is needed. You can ring the office (630 0510) to get the number of the Volunteer for the day and arrange the forms that way or go on line to <http://humanesociety.org.nz/desexing-your-pet.html> where you can download the form directly and send it in to us. Do enclose a stamped addressed envelope as it makes the process much smoother.

While you are at the web site you can have a look at what we are up to – what animals we have currently looking for new homes etc. I am always delighted to see them appear and then have ‘adopted’ recorded next to their photo. Each one is proof of the great people living around us.

And as to my last ‘wish’. Well, when do you ever see charges coming down! I can dream and I guess that is important too as if we were stuck in the bounds of reality all the time life would probably be very harsh. Our dreams enable us to hope and aim for something better for us, our animal friends and the earth around us.



Featured Foster of this Newsletter

One of the animals we have rescued since our last newsletter is Ned. He is approximately 18 months old and is a black and tan Huntaway. In the time he has been at his present foster home he has shown himself to be loyal, a quick learner, gentle and eager to please. You can see more about him at: [http://www.humanesociety.org.nz/webapp/597018/Hi, I'm Ned](http://www.humanesociety.org.nz/webapp/597018/Hi,%20I'm%20Ned).

Ned has been with us for a few months now and we would love to see him happy in his own home.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

This was held on the evening of the 22nd July. As usual we had a small but enthusiastic group of members and supporters present. Annual reports were presented, moved and passed. It was specifically noted that due to the changing financial climate our income from interest was down and the number of animals desexed was up with a corresponding increase in expenses. This was a great result for us as our aim is to help as many animals in need as we can.

We also accepted the nomination of and moved to bring on to the committee Fiona Seiffert who some of you may know from the Pets Picnic where she has, for the last two years, brought Oskar and his dog cart to provide rides to the under 2 year olds. We are delighted to have her on the committee.

Membership Subscriptions

Many of you have paid for the coming year over the last few months. Thank you. If you are still meaning to get around to it now would be a good time. If you can see a reminder on the mailing cover of your newsletter it appears that you have not paid yet. If you have a reminder and have paid please accept my humble apologies. I am human and do make mistakes.

Family membership is \$15. If you are a supporting member – eg helping on the phones, doing section checks etc. the fee is \$12. The Senior Citizen rate is \$8. For any member who is unsure whether they have already paid you can check by email to info@humanesociety.org.nz or phone and leave a message on 298-4875 and I will come back to you with the information.

Newsletters

The Humane Society is investigating the alternative of having newsletters available by email in place of hard copies for any members that would prefer that option. Our hard copy newsletters are printed in black and white while by email you would see the colour. Prices for printing and postage keep increasing as we issue more copies, quite apart from any price increases. Globally people are being encouraged to reduce their global foot-print. This could be one more small step along the way.

If you would be interested in receiving your newsletter by email please provide your details to: info@humanesociety.org.nz

From the Mailbox

Dear Humane Society

I wish to say to you a very Big thank you for your help to pay my vet's account. I can't forget my amazement that some one would help. My dearest old dog was going downhill rapidly and I knew that she should go to the Vet but was absolutely out of cash. Several people own me money but seem reluctant to pay it back.

I will say that you would not believe my joy and sense of relief at your gracious help.

Yours sincerely

XXX



We all, so appreciate it !!
Lotsa love,
Sally + many
desexed +
re-homed
maggies !!
oo oo

Dearest Jill,
a very belated
note to thank
you so very
much for all
your help you
offered me, +
the owners (or
lack thereof !!)
of all the various
cats + kittens
in Sandringham !!

Editors Note: We do love to receive your letters, not only of thanks but also those letting us know how 'our' animals are settling in to their new homes or the new adventures that they get into.

Not Your Normal Monday Morning

Contributed by Rhys and Jan

A couple of weeks ago a customer of mine, who works at the zoo, approached me to ask whether I could make up some flamingo eggs to be used in the way that china eggs are used with hens to arouse their hormones for breeding. Of course I said yes and then wondered just what I had let myself in for. Andrew arrived with an empty flamingo egg as a sample of the shape required and from which I took the patterns and dimensions. I also discovered that they needed to be 130grams in weight. I used totara for the wood and turned them up on my lathe but to my surprise they were underweight in their finished form and I had to drill a hole into them and ballast them with lead shot to gain the required weight.

On delivery day, Jan and I went to the zoo to meet up with Andrew and the keeper and after signing in we were taken into the flamingo enclosure where we talked for some 10 minutes or so about the birds and their breeding program. Several of the birds were very curious about their visitors and checked us out by nudging us and rubbing their beaks on us, finally just standing with us as though they were taking part in the conversation all rather special.



The keeper then led us to the back entrance of the lion enclosure and took us to the gate to meet up with the lions. Jan was given the task of feeding them little snacks through the netting which they accepted in a surprisingly calm fashion.

No snarling or agro at all while the two males calmly took their snacks from the end of a pair of tongs and then sauntered off.



Not your normal Monday morning!!!!

Rhys and Jan have been members of the Humane Society for 6 years. Rhys is a regular Phone Volunteer who has been accepting calls from people with animal problems or queries at all times of the day and night as we know that despite our request that people ring between 9 and 5 if often doesn't happen that way. He is also looking after all our pet listings on 'Petsonthenet' and does property checks when required. Thank you Rhys and Jan for all you do.

ANIMAL UPDATES

Spay/Neuter Fund

We are happy to report that the number of applications processed through our Spay/Neuter Fund continues to grow. A total of 309 have gone through since the end of June. These figures include many animals helped through campaigns in the Warkworth and Wellsford areas. Several private cat rescuers have been assisted plus a dog rescuer in Christchurch who is doing great work in her community by rescuing primarily puppies from her local shelter.

We continue of course, to process applications from the general public on a daily basis – our forms can be downloaded off the website, so we are now able to offer more assistance nationwide.

As spring has now sprung with daffodils, erlicheer, freesias and wisteria bursting into bud, the kitten season will soon be upon us, so if you know of anyone requiring assistance with desexing their family pets or local strays, please refer them to the website or phone us to have a form posted out.

Animal Adoptions

Hopefully the worst of the rain should soon be history – the wet winter months meant slow placement as far as dogs and puppies were concerned, with the smaller pawed cats and kittens going to new homes more quickly. We have placed 32 dogs/puppies since the end of June, with many of these being relatively recent placements.

As always, our foster homes have done a wonderful job in caring for all our waifs and strays – those extra sets of muddy paws through the house and ploughed up lawns certainly make a lot of extra work for them but they all carry on and keep smiling!!

Large and small, we've had them all - Husky x and Shepherd x puppies, a Neopolitan Mastiff, Norwegian Elkhound, Dalmatian x and Labradors in the larger breeds; There were several Jack Russell and Foxie x, a number of Poodle x Bichon or similar, a Miniature Poodle, Affenpinscher, Shih Tzu, Cocker Spaniel, Chihuahua x Papillon and a rabbit in the smaller sizes, plus the mid-sized British Bulldog.

A recent placement was a Schnoodle (Schnauzer x Poodle) who had been bought sight unseen at 7-8 weeks old from a breeder by an older lady on Great Barrier Island. By the time she was 6 months of age, it was obvious she was too much for her, so we were approached about taking her into foster care. She was put on a plane and flown from Great Barrier to Auckland Airport where she was met by Tina – definitely a first for us, but another happy ending, as she has now gone off to a new beach-side home in Northland.

As always, our heartfelt thanks go out to our wonderful foster homes, which fortunately have increased in number of late with most of the enquiries coming through our website.

We couldn't do it without each and every one of you and all the other volunteers who answer phones, check properties and so on.

So what Breed is your Dog Really?

Now it may be possible to find out. Did you know that BITSA™ (Breed Identification Through Scientific Analysis) uses a simple cheek swab to collect a sample of your dog's genetic material. This DNA is cross referenced against an extensive genetic database to provide a breed signature unique to your dog.

As at the Autumn 2010 issue of 'Care Vets' BITSA can currently identify 62 breeds and other breeds are being added all the time. By knowing your dog's ancestry you can be more aware of the behavioral traits and potential genetic health problems of your dog. 'Care Vets' suggest that if you want to know more you should talk to your Veterinarian.

Kids Corner

Q. What did the pony say when he had a sore throat?

A. Excuse me, I'm a little hoarse!

ComParrot
by Bonnie J. Malcolm

Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



Solution: 1. Hair on right is missing. 2. Snow on mountain is missing. 3. Pack pocket detail is missing. 4. Top of nut is missing. 5. Stripe on pocket is longer. 6. Tree knothole is colored in. 7. Toe on boot is colored in. 8. Flowers have moved. 9. Bush detail above boot has moved. 10. Stick is longer. 11. Stump knothole is flipped. 12. Pack flap is longer.

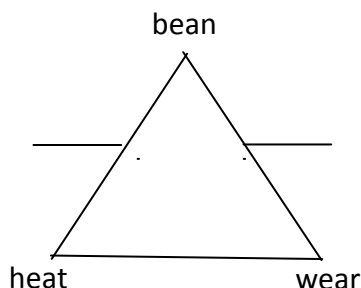
Q. How do fleas travel from place to place?

A. By itch hiking!

Can you move from one word to the next, one letter at a time, with each being real words?

Examples:

Cat Dog
Rat dot
Rag rot
Dag cot
Dog cat



Q. Why did the lady spray her clock

A. Because it had ticks

How many words using 3 letters or more can you make from:

EARTHQUAKE

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Aim for 25 or more

Q. Why do all the animals go to the Grizzly for answers?

A. Because he has the bare facts!



FOLLOW THE DOTS

Walking the Dog - Find these Words

M	H	E	A	D	H	R	U	M	A
T	A	L	F	T	R	E	A	T	N
S	L	R	U	N	E	W	S	P	E
W	T	S	T	E	O	A	S	L	X
A	E	S	L	I	P	R	E	A	E
P	R	O	N	G	N	D	N	Y	R
C	I	E	X	T	Y	G	R	W	C
O	F	A	C	O	L	L	A	R	I
C	O	N	T	R	O	L	H	L	S
C	N	C	H	O	K	E	E	Y	E

CHOKE

PAST

COAX

PAWS

COLLAR

PLAY

CONTROL

PRONG

EXERCISE

RACE

FLAT

REWARD

FUN

RUN

HALTER

SLIP

HARNESS

TREAT

HEAD

WALK

MARTINGALE

Can pets really detect cancer?

It's long been known dogs can detect smells that humans miss. Scent-tracking dogs have been used throughout the ages, and the skills of sniffer dogs in detecting contraband is undeniable. From the latest research it seems our canine companions' detection skills are possibly even more incredible than we first thought.

There have been reports by many pet owners of their pets alerting them to illness by 'sniffing' them out. One British lady claimed her chihuahua detected her breast cancer on no less than three occasions. This amazing sense is shared by cats. At a nursing home in Rhode Island, a cat, Oscar, is known for seeking out patients who are dying.



British animal behaviour expert Jaqueline Pritchard says the explanation is biochemical rather than psychic. 'There's little we really know about it, but as the body's shutting down, I would hypothesise that the cat is sensing and smelling organs shutting down,' she says.

The reports of canine pets detecting cancers prompted a ground-breaking 2004 study by Dr John Church. Six dogs were successfully trained to discriminate between urine from healthy patients and urine from patients with bladder cancer.

While dogs have not yet been formally used to detect cancer in samples, their olfactory skills have been used to support people with epilepsy for some time. They can detect seizures well before the patient. One epilepsy patient confirmed that her golden retriever licks her hand at least 40 minutes before a seizure.

"Ever consider what dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul—chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we are the greatest hunters on earth!" Anne Tyler

Spider, Spider Spinning Secretly

Weight for weight, a spider's web is six times stronger than steel. The theory is that if spider silk was as thick as a pencil we could tow an ocean liner with it. Imagine then, if it could be replicated, how valuable it would be.

Different cultures, since early times have used spider webs for medicinal purposes. Today medicinal research companies are trying to duplicate the spider's way of producing the totally biologically friendly silk for use in wound dressings, bone grafts and ligament repairs.

"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him" Dereke Bruce, Taipei, Taiwan

Humane Society Merchandise Available

Orders should be sent to: Humane Society, PO Box 29060, Auckland 1347

A Water Bowl to take with you \$10



A Handy little Gift Pack - Just \$4



Humane Society Key Ring \$2



Humane Society Pen \$2

Watch this Space

New item coming

Keep your Drinks Cool for just \$10

Order Form

Item	Quantity	Amount
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please send to: _____ Post and Packaging 4.00

Name: _____ TOTAL \$ _____
ENCLOSED

Address: _____

Donation Form

**The Honorary Treasurer
Humane Society of NZ Inc.
P O Box 29 060
Greenwoods Corner
Auckland. 1347**

☐ **Donation**

I enclose a gift of _____ to help the service to animals rendered by the Humane Society of New Zealand, and for the progression of educational public awareness programs to highlight the necessity for responsible ownership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ **Form of Bequest for Humane Society of New Zealand Incorporated**

To those benevolent individuals who may wish to become benefactors by Will to this Society, the following form is respectfully suggested:

I, _____ bequeath to the Humane Society of N.Z. Inc. the sum of _____ free of all duties payable at my death and the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Society shall be sufficient to discharge for such legacy. (If it should be desired that the legacy should be expended on some particular phase of the Society's work, a direction to this effect may be added to the form of bequest)

CAUTION: All Wills or Codicils must be in writing signed by the Testator and attested by two witnesses in the presence of the Testator and each other.

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF N.Z. INC.
P O Box 29 060,
Greenwoods Corner,
Auckland 1347
Ph. (09) 630 0510**

☐ **Membership or Volunteer**

Please register me as a member for the year commencing 1 July 2010

ENCLOSED:	\$12.00 (Supporting Member)	I am interested in helping the
		Society with:
	\$15.00 (Family Member)	WEEKEND PHONE VOLUNTEER
		WEEKDAY PHONE VOLUNTEER
	\$ 8.00 (Senior Citizen)	DOG FOSTER HOME
		DOG PLACEMENT CHECK

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE _____ PHONE _____



A Subscriber
PO Box 29 060
Auckland, 1030

