



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Should I Volunteer?</i>	2.
<i>Dear Dogs and Cats</i>	2.
<i>The Blind Dog</i>	2.
<i>A December Poem</i>	2.
<i>The Old Man, the Boy & the Dog</i>	2.
<i>Nemo Report</i>	2.
<i>Newlyweds</i>	3.
<i>Mobile Clinic Update</i>	3.
<i>Keep My Dog Safe</i>	3.
<i>Fundraising</i>	3.
<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	3.
<i>A Short Sad Story</i>	3.
<i>Senior Moments</i>	4.
<i>Pet ID</i>	4.
<i>Classifieds</i>	4.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Wishing all creatures great and small

A Happy Holiday Season and Peace for all

We have come a long way in just 1 year! Last year at this time a small group of us animal lovers were just formulating the ideas of the Belmopan Humane Society . We set goals for the Society in it's first year which we are happy to see have been achieved . We have a lot to do in the future growth of the Society and Belmopan but with you, the members advice and support ,these goals are achievable. Thank you members for all you have done and are doing now and into the future.

BELMOPAN HUMANE SOCIETY
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BOARD MEMBERS

James Saldivar 600-0543
Dewey Morison 822=0176
Lilly Morison 82-0176
Corie Banner 822-0121
Peggy Rasp 822-0369
Dr.Hugo Lambrechts 822-0862
Dick Rasp 822-0369
Jeffery Perriott 822-2503
Efrain Aldana 822-3067

Welcome New Members

Ursula Crossley
 Doris Cooker
 Candace Sumrall
 Shirley Smith & Family
 Ruiz Family

ANNOUNCEMENT

Next Board Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Wed. Jan. 4, 2006
 #8 Trio St.

Dog Training

By Peggy Rasp

The first introductory dog obedience class was held on Saturday, December 3 at Mauveline Gordon Park. Peggy Rasp demonstrated the way a well-trained dog works with her German Shepherd Nakoa. She also demonstrated the equipment needed for the class, which includes a training chain collar, strap leash (nylon or sturdy leather), approximately 15 foot lead or pliable rope for recall training.

Dog owners interested in joining the class should begin getting their dog used to walking on a leash calmly if they are not now. Peggy answered some questions about how to address behavior problems a participant was having with her dog. Peggy will be traveling until after the first of the year, so please send an e-mail to dickapeggy@bluebottle.com if you are interested and have questions. Plan for the first class to be Saturday, January

7 at Mauveline Gordon Park at 9:00 A.M. sharp. Bring your dog and the collar and leashes. Bring some water for yourself; water will be available for the dogs. Class will last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. There was no cost for the introductory class. Cost will be \$10 per class for non members, \$8 per class for members for the remainder of the classes. There will be six classes, the last being a competition to see who achieved the best results

SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?

Belmopan Humane Society like all service organizations relies on its membership and friends to fund the organization and also assist the organization in its endeavors to carry out its objectives and goals. Our membership is made up of all kinds of people who come from a diversified mix of backgrounds but have one important thing in common which is the love of animals! Some of course have preferences Cats, Horses, Birds, etcetera, whatever it is, this love and respect of the rights of animals is what brings us together. You may be involved in other organizations which require your time such as your church, Lions, Rotary or one of the many other Societies which beg of your time. Do you give it? If not, ask yourself why? Is it the philosophy of the organization or is it the way the organization is run or do you have a conflict with another member? If your answer is yes to any of these questions you need to evaluate your life and decide whether you should change or should you change the organization? Well, making a change in the organization requires you to get involved so you might as well volunteer some of your time and make your desired changes from within! You notice of course, I never gave you the "No option" to my questions as I assume your membership in the organization signifies your support. So please when called upon, lend a helping hand "VOLUNTEER"

DEAR DOGS & CATS

Submitted by Omitade Adediran

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to

turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years - canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog or cat's rear end. I cannot stress this enough!



THE BLIND DOG

by Corie Banner nee Johnson

I was walking down Libertad one day on my way to the university and decided to cut down Stann Creek Street. A little ways into the street I noticed some kids teasing a dog with some cat calls. Strangely I saw he was listening to them but not looking at them. I remembered someone telling me about a blind dog who lived in the area. I was coming up on him and decided to say hello to him. He perked up but couldn't find me. Studying the behavior of dogs, I knew it best that I not immediately touch him instead I stuck my hand to his cold, wet nose and kept talking to him. A few seconds later he began to act playful. He gnawed on my hand and jumped up in circles. He just wanted some attention.

He followed me halfway down the street. Unfortunately I had no treats on hand, but it made me feel like I had made a difference, not only by giving the dog a few minutes of love but by showing the people who were watching it is important and it is our duty to care.

Sometimes we do not properly read an animal's situation because just a month ago I had called the health department on the same dog thinking he had rabies cause of the way he swings his head when he listens for vehicles and bicycle riders.

A DECEMBER POEM BY an anonymous poet written in 1830

I like little pussy, her coat is so warm;
And if I don't hurt her, she'll do me no harm.
So I'll not pull her tail, nor drive her away,
But pussy and I very gentle will play.
She shall sit by my side, and I'll give her some food;
And she'll love me because I am gentle and good.

I'll pat pretty pussy, and then she will purr;
And thus show her thanks for my kindness to her..

But I'll not pinch her ears, nor tread on her paw,
Lest I should provoke her to use her sharp claw.

I never will vex her, nor make her displeased -
For pussy don't like to be worried and teased.

Submitted by Lilly Morison

THE OLD MAN, THE BOY & THE DOG

By Gertrude Velasquez
"Tales from Boom"

The boy came walking down the road,
In his hand was a piece of board
He was eating a piece of bread
As he continue to go ahead.

While walking he met a mangy dog
What he did to that dog just made me mad.
He handed the dog a piece of his bread
As the board came down on the poor dog's head.

The dog ran off yelling down the road.
He stopped and looked back at the boy with the board

He couldn't go anymore, he made one more yell

He turn around, two times on the ground he fell.

An old man who was standing by his window
Watching what the cruel boy did and wonder
How can that young boy be so cruel?

To that poor old mangy dog as he lay still.

He shouted to the boy for him to come
I have something for you my son.

The young boy went to see what he had
In his hand was a very thin rod.

He put his hand in his pocket taking out a dime.

As he handed it to the boy the rod came down in time.

Across his hand the rod came down
The boy spin round and round and round.

I didn't ask you for it old man, he said,
Neither did that poor old dog ask you for your bread;

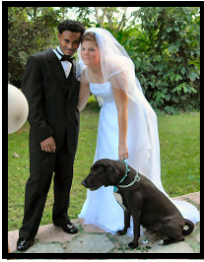
Take care of your animals; don't be cruel to Them,

For a dog is man's best friend.

Submitted by Jeff Perriott



Nemo's family report he is earning his keep as he caught his first RAT! Keep up the good work Nemo.



NEWLYWEDS MIKE &

CORIE BANNER nee JOHNSON

Congratulations Mike and Corie who on Sunday December 3 celebrated their marriage in the beautiful jungle setting of Banana Bank Lodge and Corie's dog Ellie did a excellent job as ringbearer



MOBILE CLINIC UPDATE

Our Mobile Clinic is still incomplete as expected materials have failed to materialize. Nevertheless interior modifications are ongoing. The Bus was invaluable for our Halloween fundraiser and put to excellent use by the Belmopan Cancer Society for a free clinic day recently in the Market area of Belmopan.

Keep my Dog Safe

Responsible pet owners of "Snow" a 14 year old Dalmatian fled the islands upon hearing of the approach of Wilma knowing the water taxis and planes have a no pet policy if a Hurricane evacuation is issued. This is why a Hurricane shelter in Belmopan is a must!! Fortunately the Belmopan B & B is also the Belmopan Humane Society office and all were accommodated . The owners gratefully made a donation to the BHS.



Fundraising by Lilly Morison

The Belmopan Humane Society joined with the Belmopan Rotary and Rotaract Clubs for a Halloween Dance Fundraiser. It was held in an abandoned rice mill building on the Hummingbird Highway. With everyone joining their talents, energy and ideas the building was transformed into an incredible spooky forest . There were approximately 250 people in attendance, about 80% in costume. It was a closed party with prepaid tickets and teenagers were encouraged to attend with their parents. Everyone had a great time with the DJ playing overtime until 3:00 a.m. No problems, no arguments, no drunken theatrics. Even though there was not a heavy emphasis at the bar, we still made \$970.00. I believe the goodwill and fun generated at this party outweighs the potential profit we could have made had we had the doors open to the general public. Many thanks to the members who supported this successful event by building, working or attending.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our first official Annual General Meeting at which we will install the first elected members of the Board of Directors will be held in January, 2006. Venue and date to be announced in the New Year. Please think about who you would like to see on your Board and take a moment to put forth their names. Please make every effort to attend the meeting as there will be an informative and educational itinerary put together by some very hard working, dedicated volunteers.

A SHORT SAD STORY

By Efrain Aldana

"Animals possess conscious awareness and exhibit emotions such as fear, anxiety, grief, well-being, rage, distress, loss, depression, joy, anger and other emotions that they share with humans. " excerpt from the BHS Educational Program Rationale

This is a heartbreaking story about Chico and Piti, brother and sister of the same litter of puppies born in September 1992 at my house in Belmopan.

Both pups grew healthy around the house and on a farm at a nearby village. Although they were toy dogs (Pekinese x Dachshund) they did all the chores any dog would do around the house. That is, no dogs, cats or opossum were welcome. When we had to put the cattle in the corral at the farm, they would help in this tough job. At the end of a hard days work and

a good meal, they would fall asleep making body contact with me.

Their life was full of fun, work and play until age catch-up with both of them (13 1/2 years). The first to succumb to old age and disease was Piti, the bitch. She died last month and although I did everything to conceal her demise, Chico kept looking for her until he found where I had buried her.

The effect was traumatic for Chico and his reaction was quite touching.

He isolated himself from the pack, (three more in the pack) and went to the kitchen where he would call me and opened his leg so I could scratch his belly. I would do this until he would close his eyes, then I would leave him. Ten minutes later, he would wake and call me again where I would repeat the process for at least five or six times in the night.

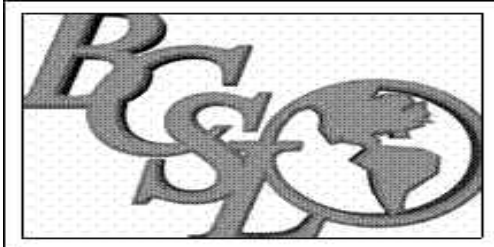
This affected Chico until he gave up eating. I called the Vet who examined and claimed that Chico had a heart problem.

Chico died exactly 30 days after Piti.

Pet Photo Calendar Contest

Don't give up – we still need more entries so let's strive to put together a really great 2007 Calendar. See the Web page www.belmopanhumanesociety.org for details or call the office

Reimers Feed Mill
 Constitution Drive
 Belmopan



Cardinal Store
 34/36 Cardinal St.
 Belmopan

bh BUILDERS' HARDWARE
 HOME IMPROVEMENT WAREHOUSE
 Constitution Drive Belmopan
 Tel: 822-1071 & 822-0501 Fax: 822-1458

SENIOR MOMENTS THE PET ! - NOT YOU

Understanding behavior changes in aging pets.

As pets get older, they may develop new, undesirable behaviors.

The behavioral effects of disease and aging can be manifested in the way a pet eats, drinks or sleeps and in his activity level and personality.

For example, pets that are in pain from arthritis or dental disease may be more irritable, more aggressive, more fearful, less active or less hungry. Pets that begin to lose their hearing or sight may be less attentive, sleep more soundly and startle when approached.

As the body ages, so does the brain. Changes in the brains of older dogs and cats are similar to changes in elderly people. Recent studies of dogs indicate that, as in humans, the effects of aging on the brain range from no effect at all to severe dementia. This can occur as early as eight to nine years of age in some dogs, while others retain healthy brain function throughout their lives. In cats, signs associated with brain aging generally emerge at a slightly older age.

There is a wide range of signs associated with brain aging, including:

- Disorientation – your pet might be disoriented if he gets lost in familiar places, gets stuck behind furniture, or shows decreased responsiveness to sights and sounds.

Missing Brown and white Pit Bull named Butch. Disappeared on Sat Nov. 12th. Very friendly. Reward for finding him. contact 822-2800 ask for Sue. If I don't find Butch may need a replacement dog preferably a mature one if the humane society needs a home for one.

Veterinary, Dr. Jorge Alpuche is offering a discount on his regular rates to Belmopan Humane Society members showing their ID card. Rates are posted at his clinic - 59 Orange St. Belmopan Telephone 605-4915

- Activity changes – pets may begin to sleep more and play less. As cognitive function declines, there may be an increase in activities such as restless pacing, licking, or repetitive barking.

- Sleep cycle alterations – your pet may experience restless, unsettled sleep or waking at nights.

- Changes in social interactions – your pet may become less interested in greeting or social play with familiar people or pets. Some pets may become more irritable.

- Apathy and depression – your pet may have less interest in people, other animals, toys, eating and grooming.

- Anxiety – signs of anxiety include fear of sounds, people, or environments; a desire not to be left alone as much; and an increase in irritable aggression.

- Learning and memory – the ability to adapt to new environments and learn new tasks may be greatly impaired. Dogs may no longer respond to some of their previously learned commands, be less able to perform tasks learned in agility or obedience training, or be less able to function in the work for which they were trained. House soiling may also be a sign of declining memory in both dogs and cats.

YOUR VETERINARIAN CAN DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THESE PHYSICAL SIGNS BY COMPLETING A PHYSICAL AND NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSTIC TEST

CLASSIFIED

REIMERS FEED MILL on Constitution Drive, Belmopan offer a 5% discount on all pet supplies to Belmopan Humane Society members showing their card. This offer is good until December 31, 2005

The Humane Society desperately needs a 2 drawer file cabinet. If anyone has one to donate please call the office 822-0176

In addition to medical therapy, you may need to make some alterations in your pet's environment. For example, if your dog has renal failure or diabetes, he may need to make more frequent trips outdoors or need a doggie door. Cats might need to have their litter boxes cleaned more frequently, need a larger litter box or require a litter box that is more easily accessible if they begin to have failing sight, develop arthritis, or become weak.

Keeping pets physically and mentally active may improve cognitive function. Exercise your pet daily, play games with him frequently, review simple obedience commands during his daily walks and plan, and occasionally provide new toys. And, of course, be sure to give your pet lots of love and attention during his golden years.

Source – AAHA pamphlet

The Good They Do

A dog might keep the doctor away. Recent studies show that dog owners need less medical care for stress, perhaps thanks to dogs' unconditional love. Elderly pet owners make fewer trips to the doctor and eat more, says Mary Becker, DVM, author of *The Healing Power of Pets, Dogs* (and other companion animals) also help reduce blood pressure and cholesterol levels, relieve depression and pain, and encourage better exercise habits.

PET IDENTIFICATION

If you haven't yet, you may want to get an identification tag for your dog. The Belmopan Humane Society has available ID tags that give the phone number of our office and the description of the animal is kept on our data base. Anyone finding a pet can contact the office and we can contact the owner immediately. This great service is available to members for a mere \$5.00.

Monkey Bay
Wildlife Sanctuary



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COMPANIES**

CHEERS RESTAURANT

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