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Belmopan Humane Elects New Board



New Chairperson Patricia Zelaya Addressing Membership

The Belmopan Humane Society started operations a little over a year ago. Though still in its infancy stage, the Society has accomplished quite a great deal and boasts a membership of over one hundred members. In its quest to provide the kind of service that will be to the benefit of both the community at large and our beloved pets, the Society has engaged in the procuring of a parcel of land in the industrial area of Belmopan. This parcel will in the not so distant future house the first ever "pet" hurricane shelter in the entire country. This task will be the largest project that will be undertaken by the Society and will indeed require the input of all its members. Throughout this year, the Society will be hosting a number of activities to help in raising funds necessary to start with the basic landscaping. Members are therefore asked to contribute/support the events in helping us to make this shelter a reality. Your suggestions are most welcome.

Through this medium, I would like to thank everyone who attended the first AGM held in January 2006. A very special thank you to the outgoing Board of Directors who have so ably plotted the course for the society. To the new Board, let us continue the work started...our plate is full.

BELMOPAN HUMANE SOCIETY

PO BOX 338 BELMOPAN
Ph. 822-0176

belmopanhumane@yahoo.com
www.belmopanhumanesociety.org

BOARD MEMBERS

- Patricia Zelaya 822-3001*
- James Saldivar 600-0543*
- Dewey Morison 822-0176*
- Lilly Morison 822-0176*
- Peggy Rasp 822-0369*
- .Dick Rasp 822-0369*
- Jeffery Perriott 822-2503*
- Efrain Aldana 822-3067*
- Petra Wolf 824-2509*
- Beverly Swasey 822-2270*

Welcome New Members

- Jack Longstaff
- Kevin Reppuhn
- Howard & Wilana Oldham
- Jose Hernandez
- Lydia Coc

ANNOUNCEMENT

Next Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Thurs. Mar. 9/06
#8 Trio

AGM REPORT - submitted by Lilly Morison

The BHS Annual General Meeting was held Jan. 29/06 at the George Price Center. The National Anthem was sung by Michelle Rodriguez (thank you).

James Saldivar gave a short report on the Society's strides forward in our first year and the Treasurer reported that we have \$2906 cash on hand and \$10,000 in assets plus our 1987 GMC bus.

Elsie Alpuche narrated the Power Point presentation which entertained and educated the 40 people that attended. It explained our objectives and emphasized that the main goal of BHS is not to just take in and care for animals but rather to educate pet owners on how to responsibly care for their pet. Photo examples were shown of effective intervention with pet owners as well as placement of unwanted animals in loving homes.

Patricia Zelaya, the new Chairperson, gave the vote of thanks.

After the meeting during the social time, Peggy Rasp gave a short demonstration of dog obedience training. Light refreshments were served.

The meeting was conducted in a timely manner and from the donations, sales of coloring books, and membership renewals we were able to cover the cost of the room rental.

Dear Miss Kitty

I have a friend whose dog was killed when it was knocked down by a truck. The dog liked to chase vehicles. Is there any way to make a dog stop chasing?

Dear Questioner,

This is a very difficult problem, Luv. Though it is a natural behavior, some dogs are more inclined than others to engage in this annoying and dangerous activity. This problem can also be with joggers and bicycles. Your dog must first be trained to come to you when it is called. This is part of basic obedience training.

There is more than one method to breaking a dog of car (jogger, bicycle) chasing. Before exposing your dog to a situation where he will want to chase, you must train him in a controlled setting. It is important that you set up a situation where your dog can concentrate and understand the behavior you want. He must have the opportunity to perform the correct behavior repeatedly since up until now he has probably only had practice misbehaving.

Some owners have used a shock collar so I will describe its method of use. When the dog begins to chase the car give it a shock without the command "no!" so that the dog will associate the shock with the behavior, not your voice. Another method is done by using various people in cars your dog does not know. Have them armed with water balloons, which they lob at the dog as they slowly pass by in their car. I like this better than having the person get out of the car and act in an intimidating manner. That might put the person at risk with some dogs. The final and I think best method I will present starts the training indoors in your own home. Put your dog on leash and stand with him at one end of a room or hallway. Wave a tennis ball in front of him but don't allow him to touch it. Now, roll or toss it across the room or down the hall and tell him "LEAVE IT." If he starts to go after it, command "LEAVE IT!" and give him a firm tug on the leash. It's extremely important that you do not allow him to touch the ball or he will think that the words "LEAVE IT" mean for him to chase and get the ball. Practice this several times a day until he gets the message that "LEAVE IT" means don't go after the ball; i.e., don't chase. When he gets it right, praise him profusely and give him a special treat. When he seems to understand this new 'game,' repeat it in different rooms of your house. Practice in the garage and in your back yard. When it's clear to you that he really understands the meaning of "LEAVE IT," try it without holding onto his leash.

Leave his leash on, dragging on the floor so you can grab it or step on it quickly should he forget what "LEAVE IT" means. When he has mastered this, try it completely off-leash, but still in your own home and yard.

Now it's time to practice with a car (jogger, bicycle). Enlist the help of a friend to drive slowly by. Stand with your dog on leash and have your friend go by repeatedly while you repeat the "LEAVE IT" exercise as you did with the tennis ball. Be sure your dog performs perfectly on leash before you try this off-leash and use a quiet street where there is not much traffic. Always use good judgment. If the real situation seems too tempting, too distracting or too stressful, don't ask your dog to perform miracles. Practice with him daily and with every opportunity that arises. Praise him profusely every time you say "LEAVE IT" and he obeys. If he disobeys, give a strong tug on his leash, command "LEAVE IT!" and realize he needs more practice. Whichever method you choose, don't wait until your dog is in full chase before doing something. Success is most likely when you use "LEAVE IT" as a preventative command. If your dog has a strong predisposition to chase, it is your responsibility to be alert for his safety and others. If you feel you cannot pay attention to the environment around you when you're with the dog, simply do not let him off-leash. You will need to refresh with practice from time to time. Depending on several factors, you will have varying degrees of success. A dog that has spent many years chasing will naturally be more difficult to change.

Miss Kitty

Please e-mail questions for Miss Kitty to Belmopanhumane@yahoo.com with "Question for Miss Kitty" as the subject, or send letters to Miss Kitty c/o BHS, P.O. Box 338, Belmopan. Questions are welcome from non-members as well.



REMINDER

*Renewal of membership is due
May 1, 2006*

<i>Junior</i>	<i>\$ 10.00</i>
<i>Adult</i>	<i>20.00</i>
<i>Family</i>	<i>40.00</i>
<i>Patron</i>	<i>150.00</i>
<i>Corporate</i>	<i>150.00</i>

Thank you for your support !!

Dog Obedience Classes



The BHS is offering basic dog obedience training classes. The first class has graduated and sign-up has commenced for the next class, to begin March 4 and continue to the final class at the Pet Fair on April 8, when you will have a chance to show off what you have learned. Classes are held at Independence Park (behind Brodies) on Saturday mornings at 9:00 sharp for 6 weeks. Cost is \$7.50 per class for BHS members and \$10.00 for non-members.

Contact Peggy @ 822-0369

Notice to all members

Plans are being made to organize a race for dog/man teams. If you would like to help with ideas, prizes, etc, please call or e-mail Peggy Rasp at 822-0369 or dickandpeggy@bluebottle.com. Be advised, unauthorized e-mail may sit in the pending file for a few days before we check it, but we do eventually.

*Congratulations to
Peter & Petra Wolf
Happily married
DEC. 31
2005*



MOBILE CLINIC UPDATE

.On Saturday February 18th a number of us got together at the Capital City Raceway property to give the Bus a much needed washdown! The months of never ending rain had turned the exterior into a dirty grey colour. With the help of junior and adult members the job was completed in record time and the Raceway management treated everyone to lots of fun Go-Cart racing. The BHS then treated everyone to lunch at the Oasis Creekside Grill. Thanks to Carrillo Family, Lexi Walling, Efrain Aldana and Dewey & Lilly Morison



Mr. Bones Safe in His Home

This cute little guy was snatched from the jaws of a dog by member, Tershia Lambrechts. The BHS took him in and he was lovingly fostered over the Xmas season by member Corie Banner. When he was old enough, he was neutered and adopted by Jack Longstaff who is now our newest member. All costs were absorbed by the rescuer, adopter and vet. A happy story, thanks to everyone.

Life With The King

Submitted by Ursula Crossley

Greetings from Thailand. A very happy 2549, the year of the Dog, acc. to the Chinese and Thai calendar.

On New Year's Day, all Thai newspapers carried a picture of His Majesty the King together with Khun Tongdaeng on the front page.

You might wonder who this Khun Tongdaeng is? Khun Tongdaeng has been the King's loyal companion for many years. Her life and her adventures have been published as a book which was written and illustrated by the King.

Bangkok is a city with approx. 10 million inhabitants. There are many loved but many more unwanted dogs, dogs in need, sick dogs, dogs who would make terrific pets if there would be a nice human to take them in. These unfortunate mutts are called 'soi dogs'. A soi is a small lane. All these homeless critters tend to settle along these lanes. They look for a little attention and food from residents. In general people put out food and water and often take care of a sick or injured animal. Acc. to Bhuddist faith we shall not only be nice to our own kind, but to all living creatures. Regrettably, as Thais become richer, Bhuddist teachings play a lesser role in their lives.

The Thai royal family is setting a great example for the people of Thailand. Every member of the royal family has a number of dogs. Most of the royal pets are dogs which, at some stage in their life, needed a home. Pedigrees are not required.

Khun Tongdaeng (Khun = Ms or Mr in Thai) was a stray who struck it lucky.

The royal family is encouraging people to adopt animals from pet shelters rather than to buy imported and pedigreed dogs.

PET FAIR

Hard to believe a whole year has passed! *The date for the 2nd Annual PET FAIR is Saturday, April 8 (11 a.m. until 6 p.m.)*

Anyone having any donations for the Flea Market & Bake Sale or would like to display a product or host a game or activity please contact the office or any board member.

We need crews for set up, decorating, break down & cleanup.

The community is looking forward to this Fair, lets exceed their expectations and raise some funds!

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



Cardinal Store

34/36 Cardinal St.
Belmopan



BELIZE NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Lilly Morison

Members of various animal welfare societies and those involved in animal welfare met in Belize City, January 18, 2006 to explore opportunities for furthering the work that we all do in animal welfare.

The focus of the informal meeting was to see if the various organizations throughout the country could work together to the benefit of all of the organizations.

The meeting was very well attended with representation from all the Humane Societies, BAHA, Police, Veterinarians from all over the country and many other concerned individuals. After general discussion, the consensus was that there was a place for such a group working together for the benefit of all animal welfare organizations but that it should concern itself only with those issues that affect animal welfare nationally (for example, National Hurricane Shelter, Police Awareness and Response, National Legislation for animal control); local organizations should continue to supervise, fund and manage their own local affairs. One national goal was to have all the Veterinarians and Animal Welfare groups on the Web.

Tony Rath of Naturalight will provide this service for the country.

At a follow-up meeting held Feb. 15 it was agreed that the Hurricane Shelter being proposed to NEMO by BHS was the first project the committee would start with.

There will be once a month meetings and Jeff Perriott will be representing BHS with Lilly Morison as backup.

We will continue to update the membership by email on the further developments of this committee.



HAVE A GOOD FUNDRAISING IDEA FOR THE PET FAIR ???

CALL ANY BOARD MEMBER AND THEY'LL GIVE YOU A HAND!!

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.

CLASSIFIED

Reimer Feeds on Constitution Drive, Belmopan has a huge inventory of pet supplies. Besides a large variety of food for dogs & cats, birds, rabbits, and many other pets, they sell treats, toys, carriers, cages and medicines. They also offer everything you need for livestock, horses, cattle etc. Check it out!!

(for a small fee)

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CALL 822-0176



Abandoned Dog Gets New Lease on Life

This little female was abandoned in the Cohune Walk area and luckily found herself on member Lindy Jeffrey's doorstep. After 2 weeks of fruitless advertising for her owners, she was to be put up for adoption. An evaluation of her general health determined that she suffered from TVT a non life threatening condition that nevertheless needs to be cleared up before she can be spayed or passes it on to another dog. Before we could put her picture up for adoption, a wonderful couple, Janet and Bernard Dempsey appeared out of the blue and hearing that there is a Humane Society in Belmopan took the trouble to

For an ever increasing variety of pet supplies check out **Builders Hardware**

While shopping at **Cardinals Supermarket** for your groceries you can also pick up dinner for your favorite feline or canine.

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

Monkey Bay
Wildlife Sanctuary



THE MENA GROUP OF COMPANIES

CHEERS RESTAURANT

BELIZE JUNGLE DOME