

# BARKS



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**Tell Your Friends About The Belmopan Humane Society**

Juniors (under 17)	\$10
Adult	\$20
Family	\$40
Patron	\$150+
Corporate	\$150+
Donation .....	

**Welcome New Members**

Jacqueline Greer  
 Ross Blumentritt  
 The Mena Group  
 of Companies.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Next Board Meeting will  
 be held July 25/05  
 Morison Residence 7:pm

**Message From The Chairperson** *JAMES SALDIVAR*

I thank all members and invited guests that attended our General Meeting held May 15 at the Oasis Riverside. We now have over 100 members. Our first Board meeting was held on 7/12/04 and a protem committee was formed to plan and direct the work of the Society in achieving its objectives. The Society is duly registered under the Companies Act. Since the Society's formation, we have set up a temporary office, an e-mail address and a website ([www.belmopanhumanesociety.org](http://www.belmopanhumanesociety.org)). A laminated identification card is issued to registered members and a newsletter is published quarterly.

There are many challenges facing us today, one of which is the eradication of dogs using strychnine poisoning. On our part, we have provided some recommendations to the City Council for consideration. The Society needs to come up with an alternative so that we can work along with the City Council to control the stray problem. To this end, it means we must start by getting our legislators to enact laws that would enable the Society to achieve our goals and objectives.

I once again invite us to become acquainted with each other through the upcoming social events and fundraisers as we look forward to holding general election of Board members in November. I appreciate your participation in making the Society a success and thank you all for your generous support.

**GREATNESS OF A NATION** *JEFF PERRIOTT*

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahatma Ghandi

If you reflect on this quotation you will accept and realize that we Belizeans indeed have a long way to go with regard to proper and humane treatment of our animals, particularly dogs.

Walking around Belmopan, it is very depressing to see how many people

keep their dogs tied up in their yards 24/7, exposed to the sun and rain, and sometimes on very short ropes. The ideal situation is that all dog owners should have their yards properly fenced so that their pets can be afforded some freedom. Failing this, at least you should ensure that your pet is secured on a running leash and that he is properly fed, watered, and exercised daily. I know of a dog who drags around a tire rim he is tethered to and of another

whose yard is well fenced but the owner still keeps him tied perpetually. This type of cruelty is as bad as overt cruelty where dogs are gratuitously kicked and beaten by kids and even by adults from whom they take their cue. Please, try to be compassionate and realize that dogs and other animals - cats, horses, birds etc. etc. have feelings too - they are not plants. Let us try to achieve some moral progress and greatness as a nation

## Eradication of Belmopan Dogs

*Dewey Morrison*

The Belmopan Humane Society, after meetings with city council regarding the eradication of dogs, agreed to monitor the process presently used by the city. The Chairman had sent in a proposal whereby the residents with lots of advance notice of the eradication being carried out would hopefully confine their animals while a marking process would be carried out. We had suggested that we mark strays with paint for a couple of days and the residents would see if their dog had been marked it could just as easily have been one of the unfortunate dogs put down. We misunderstood what exactly they considered the problem as in our preliminary census of sick animals we found there to be relatively few dogs in this condition. Unfortunately the city did not consider our plan feasible at this time and decided to use their original method of strychnine bait to eliminate stray animals. We still considered it our duty to monitor the procedure and for two nights, first James then myself went along as observers. On my night of observation I was picked up at 9:30 pm by a city employee and the public health officer and we then went to the police station to pick up a police officer . Baits laced with strychnine were prepared at the public health office and off we went. Our first area of inspection was Los Flores where it seems everyone has at least 2 or more dogs and as there are very few fenced properties and few people took notice or were unaware of the eradication it was not too difficult to start the killing. There was no need to leave the vehicle as these dogs all of which appeared healthy, sitting on the street, gobbled up the liver bait as it was tossed to them. We never waited around to see them die so I was spared that nightmare. The Los Flores area yielded four animals then off to San Martin and Salvapan by

way of Hummingbird Avenue where a few dogs that hang out near a Chinese market got the bait. Only one dog was baited in San Martin then all of Belmopan got a thorough going over with only one animal in Co-hune walk and a market dog and a poor animal on Culvert drive getting the bait. As only ten baits were prepared, we were down to one left so back to Los Flores where one more dog was eliminated. Any and all dogs on public property are considered stray and the only exceptions were mother dogs who appeared to be with pups or ready to give birth? It was not my position to criticize or question their operation or method and kept my mouth shut which was a very hard thing to do. These guys are getting paid to do a job and gallows humor seems to immune them from their grizzly task so please do not think unkindly of them. I got home about 1:30am and spent the rest of the night reflecting on what I had witnessed. The Society has a lot of work to do with the community and we as a group I believe can accomplish all of the things we have as our vision and hopefully this barbaric elimination will soon be a thing of the past.

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### PET ADVICE Peggy Rasp

**Problem:** Your cat has been urinating and defecating in the house. This is the number one problem cat owners complain about. It is the most common reason for cats being turned in to pounds and shelters. Let's see if we can understand the toilet issue from a cat's perspective and learn what your cat needs. While we may be able to sit and read while doing our "duty", cats' ears will twitch and their eyes will cast about while doing theirs. The position assumed when defecating puts a cat in a vulnerable position for predation. Not only this, uncovered feces

would be a dead giveaway of the cat's presence to a predator. Therefore, cats need a place they feel safe—a low traffic and easily accessible area. They need to have a litter box with an easily raked substance for covering and hiding their feces and urine. Since cats are naturally clean animals, the most common reason for a cat not to use his litter box is because he perceives it to be dirty. Ideally, litter should be scooped every time the box is used. Sometimes this is not possible and some cats are not bothered by a pile or two, while others are more fastidious. If, for instance, you work during the day and your cat is indoors all the time, you may find it necessary to have two litter boxes (placed in different parts of the home). The litter must be absorbent, unscented (cats dislike perfume), soft to the touch and familiar. Declawed cats require a fine-grained scoopable litter. Since kittens often ingest litter, a clay based, non-clumping litter is recommended for kittens under 4 months of age. The quality of litter makes a difference. A poorer quality litter should be scooped daily and dumped at least twice a week as it is impossible to remove urine from these litters. The clumping litter should also be scooped daily but only needs to be dumped when the litter box itself needs washing. If you know you are not going to be able to find the same brand of litter you have been using, try introducing your cat to a new litter slowly by putting a box of the new litter in the same room as, but not right next to, the old litter. Prime the new litter with a tiny clump of fecal and/or urine material from the old box. Remember, cats like what is familiar. When washing the litter box, use only hot water and dish-washing liquid. Bleach or other strong chemicals leave a scent, your cat should still be able to detect his own unique scent. This will cue the cat to return to this location the next

time nature calls. The depth of litter and size of the litter box are also important. For most cats a litter depth of about three inches is satisfactory. With this amount of litter the urine usually does not stick to the bottom of the litter box. Some cats find too much litter disturbing—kind of like sinking into quicksand.

Many of the commercial litter boxes are too small, especially if you have a cat the size of my feline friend, Smudge. In the wild a cat would not defecate close to the last place she used. Your indoor cat needs room to turn about and defecate at least six inches from the last spot used. If your cat often misses the box or flings kitty litter all over the floor, try finding an acceptable substitute—like a large plastic storage box without the cover. Cut enough of one side out to make it easy for kitty to get in and out and leave a 6-inch high “wall”. The high sides will keep the litter and poop inside the box. Another reason for missing the box—is the room completely dark at night? Cats see very well in low light, but not in total darkness. If you have a cat that was using its litter box and suddenly is going all over the place (or any pet problem), I invite you to write to another of my feline friends, Miss Kitty, for advice. Miss Kitty is from England and I know you’ll love her. You can write to her care of the Belmopan Humane Society, P.O. Box 338, Belmopan or [belmopanhumane@yahoo.com](mailto:belmopanhumane@yahoo.com). She’ll answer your letter as soon as possible, then your letter and her answer will be posted without your name in the next newsletter.

## FUNDRAISING – LILLY MORISON – call me (822-0176)

The Pet Fair was our first big fundraiser and also introduced the Society to Belmopan and the surrounding areas. Feedback states that it was a success and that is all due to great cooperation among you, the members. I will be happy to head the Fundraising Committee for now, and I need enthusiastic volunteers with different ideas. We really need two committees for fundraising – One for external (foreign) fundraising – letter writing and internet research to access foreign contacts. This is an important avenue to focus on as there is a huge population with funding (monetary or in-kind) outside of our borders that would be very supportive of our efforts here in Belize. Anyone having any contacts anywhere, lets compile the information and find the members that have the expertise to reach out to them. The other committee we need to strike is for internal fundraising and awareness programs.

We need fresh ideas and a small group of people willing to channel their energy towards putting together some fun events. I am hoping that we can have a small fundraiser of some kind every two months so the general public will connect having fun with supporting the Belmopan Humane Society. This is where the importance of the committee comes in, to get together and throw ideas around. Once we have a good idea, just like with the pet fair, the membership will join in and support it. If we can each do just one thing – together we can reach all our goals and beyond.

We plan to represent the BHS at Belmopan Days, at the beginning of August and the City Council have asked if we would put on a dog show who wants to help???

**Reimers Feed Mill**  
Constitution Drive  
Belmopan

## Treasurers Report

*Dewey Morison*

As of May 15 /05 the Society has on deposit in the Belize Bank \$2679.38

A small amount of receivables amounting to approximately \$80 is expected from Pet Fair sales and returns.

The society has quite a bit of assets and equipment which we have acquired since our formation amounting to many thousands of dollars in value. The values given are my own approximations of worth.

Pentium 4 Computer \$1500.00. Printer HP DeskJet \$300.00.

Sharp Photocopier \$1500.00. Cannon Scanner \$200.00

Toshiba PowerPoint projector \$3000.00

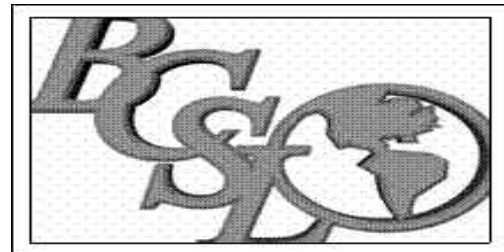
Various other office essentials \$500.00

Medical Equipment \$ 3000.00.

87 GMC Bus \$450.00

GE A/C unit \$350.00

Asset value \$10,800.00



### Cardinal Store



34/36 Cardinal St.  
Belmopan  
822-2119

Monkey Bay  
Wildlife Sanctuary



### DON'T FORGET OUR PHOTO CONTEST,

The winners of which will be featured in our 2006 Belmopan Humane Society Calendar. The deadline is **June 30** and the applications are in your Pet Fair newsletter or go online to the website.

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

**BELMOPAN HUMANE SOCIETY  
PO BOX 338 BELMOPAN  
BELIZE**

**BELMOPAN HUMANE SOCIETY**  
PO BOX 338 BELMOPAN  
Ph. 822-0176  
[belmopanhumane@yahoo.com](mailto:belmopanhumane@yahoo.com)  
[www.belmopanhumanesociety.org](http://www.belmopanhumanesociety.org)

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairperson

*James Saldivar 600-0543*

Treasurer

*Dewey Morrison 822-0176*

*Corie Johnson 822-0266*

*Peggy Rasp 822-0369*

*Dr. Hugo Lambrechts 822-0862*

*Dick Rasp 822-0369*

*Jeffery Perriott 822-2503*

*Efrain Aldana 822-3067*

**Comments on the May 15 General Meeting** by *Lilly Morrison*

The meeting was held at the Oasis Riverside in Belmopan. The weather cooperated though it was very hot until the breeze came up at 3:30. In attendance were 30 adults, 4 juniors and 1 dog.

People socialized, met new members and enjoyed lunch. The food and drinks were very nice and we thank Magda and Enrique Alpuche for allowing us to use their facilities for our meeting. We had a one hour productive meeting and committees were struck for 4 general areas. They are:

- (1) FUNDRAISING (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)
- (2) EDUCATION
- (3) BUS CONVERSION
- (4) STRAY ANIMAL CONTROL / HURRICANE SHELTER

If you can help in any of these areas in any capacity please call the office at 822-0176.

8 more dogs were voluntarily registered (we now have 24) and we signed up one new member. Peggy Rasp took the minutes of the meeting and they are posted on our web page. If you cannot access the web page and want a printed copy please call the office.

You should have received your copy of the roster of current members as of May 15. Please add the new members as they are welcomed into the Society through the upcoming newsletters. An updated, revised roster will be sent out once a year. Any questions, call the office.

**CLASSIFIED**

**Dogs ready for adoption**

The PAWS program at Hattville prison has 9 puppies and 1 young male dog available right now for adoption. The dogs are all mix breed and photos of them are on our website. If you want one of these dogs which are free of cost contact the Humane office and we will assist you.

**KITTENS**

I have two hand raised kittens that need a home. They are indoor cats. The female is mostly black with white tips and the male is white with patches of black stripes. They are very attached to humans as their mother died when they were 4 days old. I also have a kitten that was rescued from a couple of guys that were using her for soccer practice. She has gained weight and has a beautiful calico coat, even her skin is calico. These kittens need homes fast as I am no longer able to keep them. Please call Corie Johnson 822-0266

**DOGS WANTED**

I am interested in acquiring a female German Shepard as a house guardian and for breed purposes. I have a gorgeous male with outstanding character to breed her with. He is black so a dark color female would be preferred. Please call Phyllis Dart 820-3002

**KITTENS**

I have 2 female 8 week old kittens ready for adoption. I am looking for a good home for them. Call Simone Engeln at the Belize Jungle Dome Belmopan. Ph 822-2124

**DOGS WANTED**

My husband and I are looking for either a couple of female Doberman or Great Dane pups. If you know where we might get these dogs please call me. Susan Shaffer 824-4948