

# BARKS



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## BELMOPAN DAY SMALL DOG CONTEST WINNER "GORDO" BEST IN SHOW & CUTEST PUPPY

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRPERSON— Lilly Morison  
*A huge "Thank You" to the many volunteers that put together the Belmopan Day display booth and Small Dog contest. As befitting, it rained "cats and dogs" but that did not dampen the enthusiasm. Wonderful things happened that day and much love and education was shared.*

Thanks to Councilor Victor Perdomo for facilitating our use of the big "Coca Cola" tent on Belmopan Day for the following BHS activities:

- \*\*\*Free Rabies Vaccinations (courtesy of Western Reg. Public Health)
- \*\*\*Pet I.D. Tags, Pet Registration and BHS Information
- \*\*\*Sales of Pet Products (health and grooming)
- \*\*\*Bake Sale with an endless supply of scrumptious cakes, cookies, breads and cheesecake delicacies
- \*\*\*Tambola Tree and Raffle

\*\*\*A tent within a tent provided entertainment with educational games and fun prizes all day.

AND of course the Main Event of the Day – "Small Dog Contest"

### BELMOPAN HUMANE SOCIETY

PO BOX 338 BELMOPAN  
Ph. 822-0176

belmopanhumane@yahoo.com  
www.belmopanhumanesociety.org  
Cell phone 602-7947

### BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson Lilly Morison 822-0176  
Deputy Chair Dewey Morison 8220176  
Treasurer Graciela Diaz 822-0083  
Secretary Judith Ferrier  
Director Beverly Swasey 822-2270  
Director Peter Wolf 824-2509

### Welcome New Members

Andy Stockbridge  
Julie Stockbridge  
Naima Ra  
Lilly Prahauer  
Dr. Elsa Potter  
Joel Borland  
Sylvia Baumgart

New Corporate Sponsors  
ECO WORKS LTD.  
BIOMEDS LTD.

Next Board Meeting  
Sunday, October 7, 2007  
5:00 p.m.  
#8 Trio Street

## "small dog, DOG CONTEST" & FUND RAISER

By Lilly Morison

Our main fund raising project this year was focused toward fencing the BHS land. Hundreds of letters and emails were sent to the business community and our membership asking for financial or in-kind support and we took advantage of the Belmopan Day festivities to promote our activities. The mobile clinic was there and served us well transporting and storing everything needed for the day.

Though the day started off with thunder, streaks of lightening and heavy downpours, the following dedicated volunteers braved the elements.

Thanks to: Dr. Orlando Baptist, Alfonso Baptist, Jeff Perriott, Lindy Jeffery, Sue Williams, Leslie Kearns, Julie and Andie Stockbridge, Toni Baker, Judith Ferrier, Peter and Petra Wolf, Isabelle and Philippe Duval, Tuty Kalisek with helpers, Emily and Ingrid, Graciela, Francisco & Sofia Diaz, Tuly Zeledon, Jennie Patterson, Jessica, Dewey & Lilly Morison, Bev Swasey.



At 3:00 p.m. Philippe Duval set up his sound system for the Dog Contest, and as it rained even harder, people crowded in to witness some great small dogs and their companions.

The Tambola Tree sold out early and our raffle was drawn at 5:00 p.m. The prizes were courtesy of :

Hanna's Restaurant in San Ignacio; Roaring River Golf Course; Belmopan Bed and Breakfast; PC.Com; Heris Nursery; Birkenstock The Shoe Box; Celi's Gift Shop, Angel's Pizzeria and Restaurant, Peppers Pizza, Linda Lane, Jennie Patterson

I don't know how the judges of the dog contest (Dr. Baptist and Sue Williams) could possibly make a decision – every dog that showed up was a winner with the costumes very innovative and just too cute.

The winners are:

**DOG COMPANION**

### Best Dressed

1<sup>st</sup> place Vanilla Sofia Diaz  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Kitty Vanessa Clarke

### Ugliest

1st place Chico Katelin  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Herah Lloyd Tinglias

### Most Talented

1<sup>st</sup> " Laila Esther Olsen  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Snuggles Stella Matthews

### Best Groomed

1<sup>st</sup> " Modie Kim Carpenter  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Sweetie Carrie Roberson

### Obedience

1<sup>st</sup> " Modie Kim Carpenter  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Snuggles Stella Matthews

### Cutest Puppy

1<sup>st</sup> " Gordo Sanchez Family  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Angel Seleni Escalante

### Best in Contest

Gordo - Sanchez Family

For photos of the Contest and the other activities see our web page [www.belmopanhumandsociety.org](http://www.belmopanhumandsociety.org) and to see some beautiful cropped versions of the winners see Leslie Kearns' web page [www.belize-affordable-web-design.com](http://www.belize-affordable-web-design.com) Photos from Leslie's web page may be ordered through Leslie Kearns email [amedeus13@hotmail.com](mailto:amedeus13@hotmail.com)

**The dog contest prizes were donated by the following:**

Biomed; Cardinals Shopping Center; BHS members' private donations,; Dr Jorge Alpuche and Dr. Orlando Baptist

Thanks for major cash donations from Eco Works, Cheers Restaurant and big ticket items that we were able to sell from Hummingbird Rattan and BTL.

There is a long list of all donations that will be recognized at the fence completion ceremony.

I am proud to report that the "Fence Funds" raised directly due to this fund raiser amounted to \$2,600. Thanks to Builders' Hardware's generous discounts, these funds will go a long way around the property.



## DOG CONTEST comments by SUE WILLIAMS

Belmopan Day Dog Contest came off really well despite the rainy day. The contestants (dogs & owners) were excited, confused and a little unorganized.

The fullest class was the best dressed competition and the hardest for Dr. Orlando and I to judge as all the dogs were well dressed and the costumes were very original.

The owners were as nervous as the dogs. Ms. Beverly Swasey did our announcing of the classes and the winners and entertained the crowd with questions and prizes to those who gave the right answers. Jessica helped hand out the prizes and actually helped Dr. Orlando and I to decide on one of the winners.

All in all it was a new experience for both of us, neither one of us having ever judged a dog contest before. We did give some advice on handling and grooming of the dogs while we were judging.

I think the owners had fun; though some of the dogs were frightened and untrained, they did very well too.

Hopefully next year we can actually have a real dog show for all size and breed of dogs especially our Belizean potlickers. If anyone is interested in working together to put on a dog show please contact me. Perhaps a free class for the general public on grooming and showing dogs would be well received in the community. Any comments email [suesbelize3@yahoo.com](mailto:suesbelize3@yahoo.com)

### AVAILABLE on LOAN

For use after surgery  
ELIZABETHAN Collars  
Various Sizes  
Contact the BHS office

"Women & Cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea"

- Robert A. Heinlein

# Property report

- Dewey Morison

The BHS property is undergoing slow but steady development, bringing it closer to the use we envision as a hurricane shelter for pets.

We have, to date, been spared a direct hit on our islands and coastlines but close calls make us realize how important this facility will be.

We have 5 pens with concrete pads & gates and three sides of the property are fenced. Next on the agenda is the north side fence. The boulevard strip in front of our property has now been chopped and cleaned by BHS and a few more trees and shrubs have been planted. If you have not yet visited the property take the time to swing by. Follow the road beside Builders Hardware to where it curves left but you take the "dogleg" to the right and there you are.

We are in constant need of any sort of building material, fencing, trees, shrubs, dog houses, picnic tables, plumbing and wiring material, gravel for walkways .

All donations, great or small, financial or in kind, your physical labor and ideas and material items will all help greatly.

Anyone wishing to assist with this ongoing project please contact Dewey Morison or Peter Wolf.

## "Rabies can Kill"

Prevent rabies, vaccinate your dogs and cats



"Treatment of any bite wound – The most effective rabies prevention is immediate and thorough cleaning with soap or detergent and flushing with water all wounds caused by an animal bite, scratch or abrasion. The wound should not be sutured unless unavoidable. " This message was copied from the Public Health Bureau Western Health Region pamphlet on Rabies Prevention.

The FREE rabies campaign has passed through the Cayo area.

Unfortunately because of the 2 hurricane threats the dates for the free rabies clinics had to be changed and it seems many people were not aware of the correct dates. Unfortunately the Belmopan Humane Society was not advised of these dates therefore no notice was sent out.

We have been reliably informed by the Chief Health Inspector, Mr. Javier Alpuche that you may call the Western Regional Hospital at 822-2263 and 2264, ask for the Public Health office to make an appointment to bring in your pet for a free rabies inoculation. If you have a number of pets that need inoculation and you can provide transport to and from, you can arrange to have the Public Health come out to your area to give the inoculation.

## Cardinal Shopping Center

34/36 Cardinal St.  
Belmopan  
822-2119



### Some additional PERKS AND BENEFITS of belonging to the BHS

You may now use your current 2007-2008 membership card for something other than marking your place in a good book.

The following Corporate Sponsors and Veterinarians have agreed to give discounts to members showing a current membership card.

CARDINALS – 5% off on all dog and cat food

BUILDERS HARDWARE – 5% off on all pet products

Dr. Eduardo Tesecum

Dr. Orlando Baptist

Dr. Jorge Alpuche

These three Veterinarians have all agreed to give 20% off on their spay and neuter procedures.

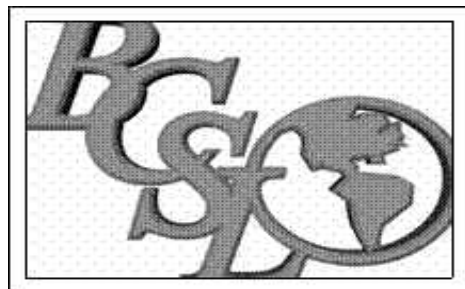
Their individual prices for spay and neuter are listed on our web page [www.belmopanhumane.org](http://www.belmopanhumane.org) click on "Pet Products"

Biomed (Pet health and grooming products) – see the special discount prices for soaps, shampoos, worming medication, vitamins on the web page

When using your BHS membership card to obtain discounts please advise the cashier of your intention before they begin entering your transaction into the cash register and have your card available.

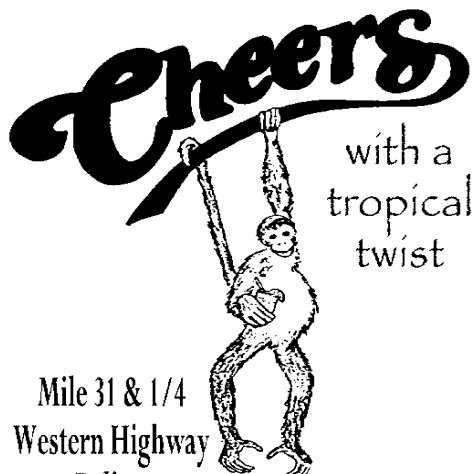
Since acquiring the clear plastic Elizabethan post operation collars we have assisted a number of residents in the Cayo area by loaning them out. Also, we have loaned out our dog crate to assist a dog to return to Placencia after Hurricane Felix and a cat carrier for a long trip to the Vet.

These acts of assistance to date have been free of charge though a donation is always appreciated to cover the wear and tear of the items.



### 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. Your name and the description of the animal is kept in our database. Anyone finding a pet can contact the office and we contact the owner immediately. This great service is available for a mere \$5.00.



Mile 31 & 1/4  
Western Highway  
Belize



\*\*\*\*\*

### Do Animals have "Soul"? by

Naima Anika Ra

Soul – spiritual or emotional warmth, force, etc. or evidence of this – Webster’s New World Dictionary

I do not pretend to enter into a debate about what qualifies as “Soul”. Let the theologians and religious zealots argue the case. This is only my very personal opinion based on being graced with the companionship of a few very loving beings who just happen to be non-human. Let me tell you this, no person has ever given me the loyalty and devotion that I have received from these fine creatures.

King was a mutt but also the brother that my 3 sisters and myself had always wanted. King saw no difference between himself and his human siblings. He sat patiently in his chair at the dinner table until mum said her blessing. King would bury his nose between his paws, which were placed on top of the table, until the prayer was completed. He would then take his place under the table to catch the crumbs that we made sure fell his way.

Mom insisted that he go with us to the playground because he would herd us like cattle making sure no one was left to stray. King’s joy was following us up the slide and going around on the carousel. He never let one of us out of his sight. Once, my sister got hit in the head with a swing. King leaped in to action by running home to notify mom. She followed his lead to the rescue.

We were forced to leave King with our father when the rest of us moved to another city. We thought he would be sent to join us shortly. King died on a chicken bone not long after our departure. The guilt I felt over leaving him behind was overwhelming. Years later, as a teenager, I was listening to the radio in the living room when a familiar bark caught my attention. A vision of King slid around the corner from the dining room skidding on the hardwood floor. As I reached to embrace him, he vanished. To this day I’d swear it was his way of saying goodbye.

Tiffany was a very aloof, snobbish cat. She seemed indifferent to human contact. At the time of our friendship, I was going to college and working full time. The stress was intense but tolerable until I was erroneously diagnosed with breast cancer. Tiffany would sniff my face where the salty tears had left their tracks. She would plant herself on my shoulder, the back of my chair or even on my pillow if I were in bed. Nothing could budge her until my

tears had dried. She did this for weeks until the emergency was over. I was forced to be brave so she could take breaks to eat and sleep. Tiffany was there for me when no one else could be. She is gone now but our souls will meet again someday.

Sid chose me. He was on the other side of a very busy street. He almost killed himself getting to me. He was determined to be mine. After canvassing the neighborhood for his owner, I allowed this tiny black ball of fur to follow me home. A couple of years later, Sid fell in love with a mean little Chow that I had rescued from an abusive home. She attacked everything that moved except me and Sid. As soon as her first litter was weaned, she attacked them also. To my surprise, Sid, now 100 lbs. of black Labrador, took his kids into his doghouse. He never let them go near their mother. He kept watch over his nine little babies until all but one found a good home. The last one, Chico, is grown now and is Sid’s best buddy.

Upon learning that Sid, Chico and I were moving to Belize, a friend of mine begged me to let her adopt Sid. Unbeknownst to me, she had been talking to Sid every morning on her way to work. She said he would cock his head, left one ear and listen to her so earnestly that she swore he knew exactly what she was saying. He gave her great comfort. If she was crazy, so am I because I have also bared my heart to him. Many people do not have the compassion for others that I have seen in Sid’s big brown eyes.

Let the egocentric pontiffs declare that only those forms of life which look like themselves have the everlasting fires of the soul burning within. Those of us who have been graced by the love of our pets know better.



### Back in the middle of August.....

Lindy Jeffery spotted a little puppy abandoned on Haulover Street. She scooped it up just in time to save it from being run over. She checked all over the neighborhood for a nursing dog missing one pup but no luck. After contacting the BHS office a foster home was found with Judith Ferrier. She kindly took in the tiny puppy and her two dogs Sable and Retsi happily took over teaching the puppy the valuable lessons of becoming a dog. At first the puppy’s name was Beauty as she was so pretty with beautiful markings but very

quickly her name was changed to Shadow as she followed Judith’s every step.

A wonderful family of 5 were returning to live in Belize after an absence and were in need of a puppy and a kitten. Cheer’s Restaurant and Monkey Bay steered them in our direction and “the rest is history”. They also took one of the 5 kittens we were helping a lady adopt out.

Shadow was the first overnight “rescue” guest in the new dog pens on the BHS property. It thundered and poured all night and the property caretaker, Naima, got up 4 times throughout the night to give her comfort. In the morning, Shadow was so happy to see her new family, especially her new mistress, Hyla (see the photo) she was on her best behaviour all the way to Bladen Reserve down south



This is the email message we received a week later to assure us that all is well.

“Hi Lily, Shadow was wonderful in the car during our trip south. She sat on the seat between Hyla and Shaman and didn't make a peep. We stopped a few times and let her walk around and offered her water. Sofia's cat, Janey, did great in the box. She had a couple of moments when she wanted out, but after she calmed down, Sofia opened the top and pet her most of the trip. Both animals have adjusted very well. Shadow is sleeping on our upper porch until we get a dog house and run built for her. Unfortunately she has been doing her business on the porch too, but hopefully that will all be solved soon. The cat is very well trained to use the litter box. She loves to explore the house, attacking toes, and bugs whenever she finds them. We're hoping she'll move up to hunting rodents when she gets a little larger. :) Thank you so much for helping us find such wonderful pets. In the future we'll want to get another pup, so keep us in mind. And thank you for all of the time, energy, and love you are putting into the Humane Society! I think it's great and so important. Continued success Kelly”



### Hello from Monkey Bay

I have a hint for dog owners if you choose to put it in the newsletter.

As some may know, my little dog Chica (miniature jack Russell who is no more...) had been miss-diagnosed and miss-treated for eclampsia.

I just learned from a friend who lived in P.G that her litter of puppies died also with what seems to be the same condition. Eclampsia is something that can happen to cattle ,dogs & cats. I'm not sure which other mammals more....

It is a sudden attack of severe shaking often times accompanied with fever. Small animals and hyper breeds are even more susceptible to it because they already have a very fast heartbeat.

The litter of puppies were taken to a vet in P.G also and he didn't know what to do either.

Hence , the puppies ( except one) died. Eclampsia is nothing more then a calcium deficiency and can be solved with a calcium shot or sometimes even with a calcium tablet.

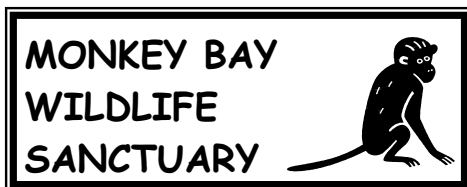
Make sure when you have a nursing bitch and /or puppies that they get sufficient calcium in their diet.

Small hyper dogs who use a lot of their energy just being themselves lose a lot of calcium while nursing their puppies, especially when the litter is large and the puppies are more then the mothers body weight.

If you love your dog, puppies and other animals who might be affected by this phenomena, ask your vet; if he seems at a loss, ... to give the calcium shot....it can't hurt!!

You might be able to save your best friend!!

In Stewardship,  
Marga Miller



**!!!! PLEASE TAKE NOTE !!!!**  
An up to date directory of all members and their email addresses has been emailed to everyone. All 2007-2008 paid up members should have their membership cards. If you do not have either of these please contact the office.  
**\*\* BHS CELL PHONE 601-7947\*\***

### September 21, 2007

**INDEPENDENCE DAY** saw the BHS Mobile Clinic all decked out in Red, White and Blue. Thanks to Michelle Rodriguez for the loan of the big flag and all the little banners. Volunteers Naima Ra, Elsa Potter, Dewey & Lilly Morison, Francisco Diaz, Sofia Diaz, Bethany Ferrier and Christian Mendez showed up at 8:00 a.m. to decorate. Andrew Ferrier, Oscari and Bianca Sanchez jumped on board to help hand out goodies.

David Ferrier once again maneuvered us through the crowds safely. The rain showers half way through were welcomed by the students marching but ran in Patriotic ribbons down the body of the mobile clinic. Nevertheless, all the goodies donated by BHS, Cardinal Shopping Center, Ruiz Family and Sanchez Family were happily distributed to a damp, enthusiastic crowd. Our theme "Belize, Independent and Free, healthy pets fi all a we" .

PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWSLETTER  
WITH NON MEMBERS IN THE  
HOPE THAT SOME MAY CARE TO  
JOIN OR HELP.

\*\*\*\*\*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

<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>		

### Dog Fighting by Dewey Morison

By now everyone is aware of the case against Michel Vick the NFL stupidstar. We applaud all the people and their efforts to bring this reprehensible individual and his cohorts to the light of day. Dog fighting and other forms of animal fighting has been going on forever without the assistance of humans as animals and humans alike establish territory and superiority by overcoming the opponent. I for one have no problem with individuals who beat their brains out in the ring or on the field to achieve this status of biggest ,baddest or strongest. In fact world leaders still invade, conquer rape and pillage as we witness in the everyday news. Here in Belize and in fact Belmopan and surrounding areas this dog fighting activity is taking place with regularity and wagers placed on the outcome. A favorite method of training the dog is to beat it if it does not show sufficient aggression and kittens or cats are used as the bait which of course are ripped apart in the process. These aggressively

conditioned animals have attacked police in their line of duty and bitten citizens and other animals. Sooner or later someone, quite likely a child, will be seriously injured or even killed in an attack. So what are we to do? The laws of Belize have provisions to bring the persons responsible for animal fighting to justice but it requires us as caring citizens to report these crimes. If you have knowledge of dog fighting please do the right thing and report it to the Police or our office.



We're cute, clean, and lots of fun. We promise not to make any kittens.



Please share your home with one or both of us These two female kittens need a home TODAY! Current owner is leaving the country. Call 822-0176

Many thanks to Paul Lane and the British High Commission for the donation of a wonderful mahogany computer desk.

### FACTS ABOUT "CHAINING" OR "TETHERING" DOGS

These terms refer to the practice of fastening a dog to a stationary object or stake, usually in the owner's backyard, as a means of keeping the animal under control.

Dogs are naturally social beings who thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals, a dog kept chained in one spot for hours, days, months or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive.

(continued on page 6)

## CHAINING CONTINUED...

In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores, the result of improperly fitted collars and the dogs' constant yanking and straining to escape confinement. Dogs have been found with collars embedded in their necks, the result of years of neglect.

Dogs tethered for long periods can become highly aggressive. Dogs feel naturally protective of their territory; when confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their fight or flight instinct. A chained dog, unable to take flight, often feels forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who unwittingly wanders into his or her territory. Furthermore, a tethered dog who breaks loose from his chains is likely to chase and attack unsuspecting passersby and pets.

In addition, dogs forced to live on a chain make easy targets for other animals, humans, and biting insects.

Rarely does a chained dog receive sufficient care. Many suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care, and extreme temperatures. During rain storms, these dogs often have no access to shelter. During extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun. Also, because their often neurotic behavior makes them difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely given even minimal affection. Chained dogs may be "part of the scenery" and can be easily ignored by their owners.

Animals who must be kept on a tether for short periods of time should be secured so that the tether cannot become entangled with other objects. Collars should be comfortable and properly fitted; choke chains should never be used. Restraints should allow the animal to move about and lie down comfortably. Animals should never be chained during natural disasters.

A chained animal is caught in a vicious cycle; frustrated by long periods of boredom and social isolation, he becomes a neurotic shell of his former self—further deterring human interaction and kindness. In the end, the helpless dog can only suffer the frustration of watching the world go by in isolation—a cruel fate for what is by nature a highly social animal.

Lets help educate our friends and neighbors who may not even be aware of how their animals are feeling.



## HELPING - ONE DOG AT A TIME

This dog was brought to the Belmopan Day Rabies Clinic for Veterinary advice. Here is the story from the young Junior BHS member, Joel Borland, that rescued him.

"I saw this dog in a yard. He was a nice looking white pit bull by the name of Rocky. When I first met him, Rocky was in very bad physical condition and his personality was of a very sad and miserable dog, not to mention he was malnourished, starving, underweight, full of fleas and ticks and you could have seen all his ribs and bone structure. And on top of all this misery, Rocky had an old injury on his right back leg from a hit and run car accident he had suffered about 1 1/2 years ago. His previous owner had never taken him to seek medical attention. Since then he had been walking on only 3 legs, and the injured joint on his forth leg was broken and infected and it was permanently painful. I felt very sorry for him and wanted to take him home, so I asked the previous owner for him who agreed to give him away to me. With my parents permission, I took Rocky home and began to give him the proper care he deserves. First I bathed him thoroughly with a flea and tick solution; this alone made him feel a whole lot better about himself. Then we wormed him completely. After that my mom and I took him to see Dr. Baptist and Dr. Tesecum, both members of the Belmopan Humane Society, who provided medical attention to his foot. At first we thought they would need to amputate his foot but Dr. Tesecum said the injury was too old and a complicated procedure. Instead, they gave him a series of antibiotic treatment to heal the infection that for so long had been making him suffer so much. At the end, they were not able to heal his foot completely. Especially when the weather changes he is in pain and I can tell this because he cuddles up in a corner and licks his injured foot. I feed him everyday just like I do my three other dogs and I have been giving him the vitamins which the Humane Society provided for him. I have been taking care of Rocky for only 1 and half months now, but he has managed to gain back his healthy looking weight size. Sometimes he even tries to make an effort to walk on his

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forth leg, he is a very happy and obedient dog, and a good bodyguard too. I am happy to see him doing so well. I wish everyone would take care of their dogs; all they need is a little bit of love and care. Joel Borland



This is Rocky able to stand on all four legs finally. Happy Days!

**The Humane Society Office still desperately needs a 2 drawer file cabinet.**

**Anyone able to help call 822-0176**

## Biomed's Ltd.

7292 George Price Blvd Belmopan  
822-3274 fax 822-2675

**"DOGS are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole"**

**A Cat's prayer**—Although I am too proud to beg, and may appear to be a very independent creature, I ask for your loving care and attention. I rely on you for my well-being much more than you may realize.

**I will not be a burden nor will I demand more of you than you care to give.**

**I will be a quiet peaceful island of serenity for you to gaze upon, a soft soothing body to caress, and I shall purr with pleasure to rest your weary ears.**

**Allow me a warm sheltered place where I can rest peacefully and feel secure. Provide me nutritious foods and fresh water daily.**

**Please protect me from the humans who would hurt and torture me for their own amusement, I am accustomed to your gentle touch and am not always suspicious, nor swift enough to avoid such malicious acts.**

**In my later years when my infirmities become too great to bear, help me gently in my pain and passing. My fate depends on you.**

