

# BARKS



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## 2008—2009 Board of Directors

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Thanks to everyone who came out on a stormy wet Sunday to show their support and welcome in a new slate of officers for our society. My fellow Directors have shown their faith in me by placing me in the Chair position, a task I will endeavor to do to the best of my ability. The Belmopan Humane Society is growing quickly along with the rapidly expanding city of Belmopan and we need to use every means at our disposal to keep pace. Many issues were brought up by members at the AGM but two of the significant ones I propose we focus on this coming year are *Education* and *Animal Control*. BHS has a volunteer who has prepared a program which will be offered to schools in Belmopan to bring pet care awareness to children. Our clinics and the educational material we have compiled will also be made available to the general public. The animal control issue needs to be addressed and becomes more evident with the rapid growth of the city. You may have seen or already signed the petition which is being circulated throughout the city regarding animal control. Please do your part and sign it and ask for a copy to circulate yourself as numbers cannot be ignored. Once again thank you for your support.

Dewey Morison—CHAIRMAN

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 Ph. 822-0176  
 belmopanhumane@yahoo.com  
 www.belmopanhumanesociety.org  
 Cell phone 602-7947

### BOARD MEMBERS

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Chairperson  | Dewey Morison 620-6014    |
| Deputy Chair | Dr. Baptist 620-1099      |
| Treasurer    | Graciela Diaz 822-0083    |
| Secretary    | Lilly Morison 822-0176    |
| Assist. Sec. | Naima Ra 620-1985         |
| Director     | Lindy Jeffery 822-3009    |
| Director     | Julie Stockbridge 8223056 |
| Director     | Judith Ferrier 822-0641   |
| Director     | James Saldivar 600-0543   |

### Welcome New Members

Fred Vom Lehn  
 Chuck Beaty  
 Olga Myers  
 Norman & Hannah Mora  
 Yasmin & Saida Espat  
 Enid Powell  
 Paula Oler

### Welcome Back

Michelle Rodriguez  
 Gabrielle & Rebecca Hulse  
 Pat Farley

### *AGM report by Lilly Morison*

A passing downpour did nothing to dampen the spirit of the meeting. 32 people and 7 dogs attended. A big Thank You to the outgoing Board; also to Gabrielle Hulse, who sang the National Anthem; Bev Swasey our MC; Yoli Mendez donating the sandwiches; Patricia Solano (Bio Meds) handing out pens and key rings. We took in \$92.00 in sales and donations. Special mention goes to Peter Wolf for continuing to maintain our web page. Thanks to Tropical Vision (channel 7) for the free TV ad. After all the reports were presented, there was a general discussion which involved animal health and abuse concerns, the fact that the current laws need updating and the age old question of how can we get the existing laws enforced. The AGM minutes are available to all members upon request

Next Board Meeting  
 Sunday, April 13/08  
 2:30 p.m.  
 BHS Property

Since our last newsletter “Walter” who loved being with people more than dogs was adopted by a wonderful family who play with him and take him on long walks in the woods. He in turn protects them and theirs.

“Scamp” is happily living at the beautiful Black Orchid Resort, Burrell Boom, and is now called “Princess Sophie”. This photo shows her with her adopted mum.



For those of you that have been following the story of “Oscar”. He has turned into a gentle, playful, 45lbs and growing bundle of joy. His name is now “Asher” and he has become a house dog living in a beautiful Placencia setting on the beach. I hear he is behaving as well as a one year old can. Here he is saying goodbye to his buddy, “Crunchy”.

At this moment we have a lovely little female (approx 7 months old) named



“Crunchy”. She is extremely gentle. She has incredible markings and needs to be seen to be appreciated. She is ready for adoption

A perfect match was made for “Sheepo” with a young family that were looking for a mature female poodle.



Our latest rescue is Chi Chi, named after Inspector Chi of the Belmopan Police Department. This tiny male puppy (approx 8 weeks old) had been surviving in the parking lot near the Police Station. He is happily living with his three foster mums, one



human (Judith Ferrier) and 2 dogs, Retsi and Sable. His improvement will be documented and shared in emails as he goes along.



Each rescued dog costs approximately \$150 to become ready for adoption; medications, spay/neuter, vaccinations, collar, ID tag, leash, food. Thank you to the kind adopting parents who donate so that we can continue rescuing.



**“THE GREATNESS OF A NATION AND ITS MORAL PROGRESS CAN BE JUDGED BY THE WAY IT’S ANIMALS ARE TREATED”:**  
**A SOCIAL COMMENTARY**  
*by Armeid Thompson*

These great words of wisdom by Mahatma Gandhi, may help direct the fate of nations who are blessed to still have an abundance of natural resources to admire and explore. Through its network of tourism and conservation alliances, Belize has been highlighted as pristine country of diverse cultural and biological ecosystems between human and animal. Meanwhile as Belize jettisons fast forward into the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century where catch phrases such as “organic”, “eco”, “dolphin safe”, “cruelty free”, etc are finally being put to the test, the question that all should consider is where is the balance between developing civilization and being civilized?

The average tourism statistics boast that cruise and overnight visitor tourism is on the increase; an obvious strategic benefit for Belizeans and the nation as a whole. Not only is the ability to profit from this development evident, but Belizeans are able to bridge the world through their individual interactions with guests who frequent this country.

However, not only do transient tourists visit Belize daily, weekly or short term, but Belize draws the interest from volunteers, students and interns who come to research, study and immerse themselves into the fabric of Belizean society to their best extent possible.

Both in the academia and tourism sector, each and every person who interacts with our guests to this country is an ambassador of peace and hope in teaching, and enlightening others to the way of life here in Belize. But the most prominent aspect that jumps out to visitors is that in every major city, district or village is the abundance of stray dogs seemingly afflicted by various ills which run the streets eking out a meager existence.

While there is no one such solution to curb this issue, as humane citizens we can act in a humane manner towards these stray animals. In particular I question the very ethics and “humanness” of poisoning dogs. Whether it is instituted as a medical health tactic to stop the spread of “various ills”, or simply as a lazy minded, cowardly tactic to mark ones personal territorial jurisdiction in a community, the poisoning of dogs degrades the social fabric of a society as it hardens the soul, and teaches a horrific example of the brutality of a human being to another one of the Earth’s many creatures to children.

And as you read this you may wonder where I am going with all this and what does this matter to me. Well dear reader, I draw your attention back to the first few lines when I asked the question about developing civilization or being civilized. I may have even mentioned about the guests and visitors to our country and how important and necessary it is to have frank and truthful discussions with them. As a “social” ambassador of this country I loathe the fact that when revisiting tourists to our resort look for familiar human and animal faces, that with a remorseful but hopeful tone I will tell them that a wicked person with a soul as black as a faceless void, and a heart frozen with the torments of its own malice poisoned our dogs, a part of our family, Chewy and Sparktoo. I remain hopeful and confident that through public shame and humiliation, deeds such as these are exposed and the perpetrators scorned and shunned for their actions... both to our guests from abroad and to one another who live in Belize. *(continue to page 3)*

**AVAILABLE on LOAN**  
**For use after surgery**  
**ELIZABETHAN Collars**  
**Various Sizes**

**“THE GREATNESS OF A NATION”**  
*continued*

The true badge of being civilized while developing and cultivating a society gearing towards protecting the animal and natural resources, is to practice being humane with one another and especially towards our animals, our cats, and our dogs.

Through the cruelty of ill-tolerant actions, the same people who poison animals hypocritically welcome visitors to their facilities as a location in harmony with nature. These bogus, arrogant and misleading claims are designed to simply fatten corrupt pocket-books with the overseas consumer concern of promoting “eco” and experiencing “local”.

As we enter another year, let us dare to be bold, and hold frank and truthful discussions not only on politics and matters of society, but also how to keep tourists and guests coming back to Belize with tales of how beautiful its coral reefs are, how lush its tropical jungles are, and how “Belizeans are no longer cruel to dogs”.

It is this beacon of light that will erase the darkness of wicked deeds for generations to come, and the greatness of it all is that it starts with you... today...

**IN MEMORY OF** 



**CHEWY**

**SPARKTOO**



**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.



**FUND RAISING**

**Donation Cans—Just a Buck Can Change Their Luck!**

**Sofia Diaz & Yasmin Espot— one day door to door collection yielded \$85.00!!**

- (cans are at the following establishments)  
**Crunchys Consignment**  
**Black Orchid Resort**  
**Cheers Restaurant**  
**Reimers Feed Store Bmp.**  
**Heri's Nursery**  
**Ian Andersons Adventure Tours & Lodge**  
**AVAILABLE FROM THE BHS OFFICE**

**Donations from loans of Elizabethan Collars and Pet carriers**

**COMING ATTRACTIONS!!**  
**ALICE IN WONDERLAND TEA PARTY** sometime in JUNE

**PUTT FU WE PATLIKAS—**  
**Golf Tournament at Roaring River Golf Course** sometime in NOVEMBER

**JUMBLE SALE**   
**all year long.....**

If you find stuff laying around the house or business that you could donate to the Humane Society throughout the year, drop it at **CRUNCHY'S CONSIGNMENT**. Eventually it all sells and the proceeds go to the BHS. **PLEASE!!** No adult clothing or shoes. Children's clothing and shoes OK. All items must be clean and in working order. **Questions? call 620-6014**



**Cardinal Shopping Center**

34/36 Cardinal St.  
Belmopan  
822-2119



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

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**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> |



**PROPERTY and more**

Here are Sid, Chico, Oscar & Crunchy enjoying the freedom and safety of a fully fenced acre of land. The picnic table is one of two donated by Cheers Restaurant. A few of the junior members enjoyed the grounds on Baron Bliss Day playing with the dogs and flying kites. We encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the park. Call Naima Ra at 620-1985 or Lilly 602-7947 if you would like to exercise your dog on the property. Soon we will have open hours posted. **OUR NEXT PROJECT TO BRING CITY WATER TO THE PROPERTY.**

\*\*\*\*\*THANKS TO\*\*\*\*\*

BTL, HUMMINGBIRD RATTAN, CHEERS RESTAURANT, ECO WORKS  
 Jennie Patterson & Paul Martin, Lindy Jeffery, Dr. Courtney Gibbs, Dewey Morison, Yannik Cam  
**FOR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMPLETION OF THE FENCE.**  
**Thanks to the vision of former Mayor Chanona, we had a fence to complete.**

