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From the desk of Executive Director Jay DesRoches

The Niagara Falls Humane Society is dedicated to providing compassionate care and shelter for abandoned, abused and injured companion animals. A safe refuge and temporary home is provided until a loving, permanent and responsible home can be found. NFHS also provides community education, animal control services and a vibrant and varied volunteer program. NFHS is fortunate to have the support of pet stores Global, Paulmac's, Petcetera and Petsmart who all provide satellite adoption sites for cats. Cats are also available at Niagara Square's Adoption Centre (thanks to Niagara Square's generous donation of space) which is open during mall hours. The shelter's open adoption rooms also provide the opportunity to spend time choosing the right cat for your family.

Donations of cat and kitten food and kitty litter are urgently needed at this time. There is also a wish list of needed items on the website. Check out the website at www.nfhs.ca for more information about all of the animals and upcoming events. The next NFHS Bingo is December 12 at 9:30. Watch for Home to Stay on TV Cogeco from Thursday to Sunday and PetSearch in every Friday's Review. The shelter is located at 6025 Chip-pawa Parkway and is open from 10 am til 4:30 weekdays and 11-3:30 on weekends. 905-356-4404.

Upcoming Events:

- * December 4, NFHS Holiday Bazaar at the Cat Adoption Centre, Niagara Square, 10 AM
- * Trivia Night—Details to be announced.

Welcome to our new newsletter. We hope this newsletter will be a new way to reach out to our community, to keep you informed, and to educate the public about animal issues and the needs and workings of the shelter. I encourage you to visit the shelter and the satellite adoption sites. Remember that adopting a shelter animal can be a great experience for your family. Our shelter depends on your help and support.

How can you help?

- Donate cat or dog food, or something off the wish list found on the website
- Sponsor a dog kennel or cat

- cage
- Volunteer your time
- Host an event with proceeds going to help the animals
- Order your wedding favours from NFHS



Adopt a pet for your family
This holiday season, purchase a mug with shelter

dog Angus, pictured here. Mugs are available at the Adoption Center starting December 4th.

Reminder

Every dog in Niagara Falls must have a dog license. They are available now, please get yours soon. Remember, your dog's license is his best ticket home if he gets lost!



Adoption Center News

by Bernie Laraemie, AC Volunteer

We see a lot of cats at the Adoption Centre, all different breeds and colours, a wide range of temperaments--cats that need to be slowly coaxed out, cats that want nothing more than to snuggle up to everyone who comes into the encl-

sure and everything in between. Some of our cats get adopted out the same day that they come in, and other cats are with us for a much longer stay--the special cats, the ones that need that much more extra care in finding them a perfect

forever home. It is hard for the Adoption Centre staff to place restrictions on cats and even harder when the cat is black because black cats are the least likely to be adopted.

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Introducing Our Staff

My name is Jen Wanless and since this is my first column in our new newsletter, I'd like to give you a bit of insight about myself. Growing up around animals, it was pretty easy to decide what I wanted to do with my life.

Currently residing in my home is my family-husband Greg and children Emma and Ethan. And of course, our menagerie-Gracie, our stubborn English bulldog, Virgil, my curious ferret, Sparkleworks and Raspberry Fuzzball, the kids' hamsters, and Beta fish Kungfu Panda and Chubby Cheeks.

I graduated from St Lawrence College in Kingston in 1995 and became a Registered Veterinary Technologist. I have worked in a pet store, veterinary

clinic and in animal research, but my heart is in shelter work. I have also provided foster care for many animals, mostly sick and orphaned kittens.

I started working for the NFHS in September 2000 with just a few staff members, a lot less animals, and little direction for animal care and standards. I was able to work together with the staff and local veterinarians to set up procedures and protocols for the welfare of the stray animals at our shelter. Being involved with day to day situations in the shelter has been a real eye opener but the greatest experience in working in the animal field. I have seen a lot of sad circumstances but also so many happy end-

ings. It is truly worth the time and effort to be able to care for an animal that is sick or injured and to help them regain their health and find a good home.

I am proud to be a part of the NFHS and all the new initiatives. Educating the public on animal welfare is one of my key goals. Every year the number of animals coming into the shelter increases. We are a non profit organization and we rely on the community to help by donating money and supplies.

In future columns I will provide helpful information about animal diseases, basic animal care, real life stories from the shelter and its critters, big and small.

Adoption Centre News Continued...

Manuche is certainly one that comes to mind. First kept in a small cage in our main enclosure, the staff tried time and time again to socialize her with other cats with no success.

After a while with us, looking like she might stay at the Adoption Centre forever, Manuche suffered an injury to her leg--one requiring surgery, and placing yet another restriction on her, that she must be kept from jumping from moderate to excessive heights. Many of us at the Centre felt that when Manuche came back she'd never be able to leave, with such a long list of things preventing her from finding her a family.

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and generous donations, we were able to purchase a larger cage for her that would allow her more space during her time at the Adoption Centre. (Our cages are small since they are intended for short stays.)

Soon after she returned to us, with her

long list of restrictions, a home was offered to her--no children, all one level, no stairs, no other cats, and a devoted pet owner that only wanted to give our little lady a chance. We were sad to see her go, after having had her around for so long, but there were also many grateful smiles that Manuche could go to a home where she would be loved just as much as we loved her.

The Adoption Centre celebrated their most successful adoption month so far in October. 33 cats found their furrever homes!

Manuche's Place, as we have since called her spacious cage, has been home to other special cats. After Manuche, it was home to a special tortoiseshell cat, Cameo. Having suffered a car accident, Cameo had much the same restrictions as Manuche.

It took months, but eventually a spe-

cial family came into the Adoption Centre, interested in bringing Cameo into their home. A lot of people had expressed interest in our black and caramel little lady, certainly, but there was always something that made it impossible. But sure enough, all those months of our volunteers doing their best to find her a perfect match paid off, and Cameo was finally able to go home.

And so, it is a very sincere thank you, to so many people. To those that tried to find room in their own homes for Manuche or Cameo, or a cat like them, to those that talked to friends to find somewhere, to the volunteers that made them happy and comfortable during their stay, and to the guests that gave our special little friends the attention so many cats crave. It's always hard to find a perfect home for our special cats, but the feeling we all get when they finally go home makes every effort absolutely worth it.