

# Keeping cats safe, homed

Team working to manage healthy felines populations in western P.E.I.

The P.E.I. Humane Society (PEIHS) works with partners across P.E.I. through the Companion Animal Welfare Initiative to address cat overpopulation and health and to ensure that the best possible care is provided to animals in need. Recognizing that our physical location in Charlottetown means that some people cannot afford the additional travel costs to bring in cats that need to be re-homed, we look for creative ways to connect with Islanders in every corner of the province.

**Marla Somersall**  
Animal  
Talk



There is very little regulation of cat populations, and every effort that we can make to care for unwanted cats is a step toward a healthier and more manageable population. An average cat has one to eight kittens per litter and two to three litters per year. During her productive life, one female cat could have more than 100 kittens. A single pair of cats and their kittens can produce as many as 420,000 kittens in just seven years.

### Getting in touch

— **Surrender Days:** Contact the PEIHS at [info@peihumane-society.com](mailto:info@peihumane-society.com) or call 902-892-1190.

— **PEIHS working cat program:** Go to [peihumane-society.com/adopt/cats/working-cat-recommendations-and-requirements/](http://peihumane-society.com/adopt/cats/working-cat-recommendations-and-requirements/).

— **P.E.I. Cat Action Team:** Go to [cats-pei.ca/](http://cats-pei.ca/) 902-566-2012.

— **SpayAid P.E.I.:** Go to [spay-aidpei.com/](http://spay-aidpei.com/), 902-892-5373.

— **Keeping Cats Homed P.E.I.:**

Go to [keepingcatshomed.com/](http://keepingcatshomed.com/) 902-439-4398.

Fortunately, there are several groups on P.E.I. working to reduce cat overpopulation. The PEIHS ensures all cats are spayed or neutered before adoption. The P.E.I. Cat Action Team works with veterinarians and funding partners to trap, neuter and return hundreds of feral and barn cats every year. P.E.I. SpayAid assists owners on reduced incomes to spay or neuter their pets.

Historically, the PEIHS has offered Surrender Days in Western P.E.I. to provide an opportunity for owners to bring in animals in need of our attention, without having to bring them all the way to the shelter. The fee to surrender a cat is \$25, which covers one day of care.



VESSEY STUDIO/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Simon Howl arrived at the shelter as an injured stray. He received care through a partnership program with the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the AVC, and has since been adopted.



P.E.I. HUMANE SOCIETY/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Reese Perreault, PEIHS adoption intake co-ordinator, works with a stray cat that needs socialization.

For three or more cats the fee is \$60.

So, what happens? Owners who wish to participate contact the PEIHS, providing as much

information as possible about the cat's history and, ideally, health records.

We encourage bringing favourite blankets, toys and any

### Happy adoption



DAN AITKEN/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sandor, shown with Arya, was adopted as a seven-month old kitten in December. Says his owner, "Sandor is happy and healthy and keeps Arya company. He is very vocal and considers himself quite the food critic."

medications. Knowing the cat's food preference is helpful as well.

Fees can be paid at the time of registration or at the surrender location.

Once the cat is registered, owners will be given the location and time to meet animal protection officers and shelter staff to transfer the animals to our care.

Cats need to be secured in a carrier for transport to

ensure their safety.

The focus is on cats that can be successfully rehomed, either to homes through our regular adoption program or to our working cat program.

The working cat program is for cats that are not suited to indoor living, but are healthy and not completely feral.

These cats are neutered, vaccinated, and adopted out to farms as barn cats.

See ANOTHER, B4

# Another western P.E.I. option

## FROM B4

Another option that now exists in western P.E.I. is Keeping Cats Homed, a group of volunteers that fosters kittens and young cats, with the goal of finding permanent loving homes for them.

The PEIHS saw an increase in serious infectious illnesses in most of 2016.

And we continue to work with communities and partner

organizations to improve the health of cats everywhere on P.E.I.

Marla Somersall is executive director of the P.E.I. Humane Society, one of the member groups of the P.E.I. Companion Animal Welfare Initiative (CAWI).

Animal Talk is a monthly column in The Guardian produced by CAWI, the goal of which is to improve the welfare of owned and unowned companion animals on P.E.I. Other members of CAWI are Spay-

Aid, Cat Action Team, P.E.I. Veterinary Medical Association, P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and Forestry, P.E.I. 4-H, and Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at AVC. For more information, see [gov.pe.ca/agriculture/CAWI](http://gov.pe.ca/agriculture/CAWI).

Readers may send questions related to the well-being of owned and unowned companion animals to [askcawi@gmail.com](mailto:askcawi@gmail.com).

**Next month in Animal Talk:** Changes with P.E.I.'s new Animal Welfare Act.