



# PAWS FOR A WHILE...



Fall 2009

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## Silent Auction

On September 19, 2009 NASAP held its annual silent auction event at Average Joe's sports bar in Sherwood Park. NASAP received numerous fantastic items donated by generous individuals and local businesses. Items included an electric base guitar and amplifier, several Edmonton Oilers and Eskimos tickets, a barbecue, spa and massage sessions, and a laptop, among many others. Not surprisingly, many of these prizes were hotly contested throughout the evening and bidding was fast and furious!

We had an excellent turnout as tickets were sold in advance. Many of the regular bar patrons joined in the fun throughout the night. We also had several fun activities during the night including prize-filled balloon sales, a raffle for a gift basket, door prizes and a longest drive competition on the bar's golf simulator.

After everything was all said and done, NASAP raised in excess of \$6800.00, which makes this event our most important fund raising event of the year. This premiere event would not have been possible without the countless hours of work by NASAP's Board of Directors, the NASAP fund raising committee, many dedicated regular volunteers, donation contributors, and the wonderful staff at Average Joe's.

As a fully volunteer-run organization, it is exciting to know that money raised through events like the silent auction will go directly to improving the health and care of countless homeless cats, dogs and small animals.

NASAP sincerely thanks all of the people and businesses that donated items, and all of the volunteers that planned and worked at the event. If you would like to be a part of exciting and rewarding future fund raising

events like NASAP's annual silent auction, please email NASAP at [admin@nasap.ca](mailto:admin@nasap.ca) or call (780) 922-0250. It is never too early to donate an item for next year's auction or join NASAP's fund raising committee!



## NASAP Dog Wash Fund raiser

Sadie's K9 Stay & Play ([www.sadiesk9stayandplay.com](http://www.sadiesk9stayandplay.com)) played host to NASAP's Dog Wash fund raiser in support of the Northern Alberta Society for Animal Protection (NASAP) on Saturday, June 20, 2009.

Even though the event was scheduled to start at 11 AM, there was a long line up of enthusiastic clients well before that! For a \$10.00 donation, lucky canines were treated to a thorough scrubbing down with pet shampoo, a warm rinse and a towel drying by hand. The dogs all seemed to really love the attention and excitement.

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Turnout for the event was excellent! Several former NASAP adopters and their pets dropped by to enjoy the fun and festivities, and families enjoyed pop and hot dogs at the BBQ.

Not only was the dog wash a successful fund raiser with proceeds going towards care of NASAP's animals, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet with members of the local community (both human and canine), and to get NASAP's name and message out there!

NASAP would like to whole-heartedly thank Sadie's for hosting this event and all the volunteers that bathed and polished the dogs. Special thanks also goes to Kelly and Craig Edel for providing use of their BBQ, and assisting with preparation and sale of the hot dogs throughout the event.



## *The Furnace Company's Grand Opening*

On May 30th, NASAP held an adoption day at The Furnace Company's grand opening event. The adoption day was held outside and The Furnace Company hosted a BBQ. Many people attended this event and two of our NASAP cats, Lovey and Gypsy, met a wonderful couple who adopted them both. Thank you to The Furnace Company for inviting us to attend and help them celebrate their grand opening.



## *In Loving Memory*

### *The Colonel*

The Colonel was an orange tom cat that was found hiding in the garage of a dedicated NASAP volunteer (Ann Powell) back in the winter of 2001. He was almost frozen and after 2 to 3 days of coaxing, she was able to convince him to come into the house to thaw out.

His ears were badly frost bitten and when he did warm up, his personality began to emerge. At first he was quite wild and not very friendly as a result of his time on the streets. He was quickly neutered and his ears were fixed up as best they could be. He was quite a fright to look at, but yet so handsome at the same time.

In his loving foster home, he slowly but surely warmed up to Ann, and then to the other animals. He was used to being an outdoor/indoor cat and loved to spend time in the backyard, even in -40 °C weather! He never stayed out for too long or strayed far, as he knew he had a warm house and bed awaiting him. His favourite occasional treat was a piece of cheddar cheese.

The Colonel was diabetic for the last several years of his life and required two insulin injections a day.

Those who knew him had a deep admiration for him and fell in love with him. Fellow volunteer Colleen Steenson remembers back a few years ago when Ann took a short trip to Calgary, and she cared for him for 3 days. "I did his Insulin injections twice a day. When Ann returned I have NEVER in my life seen a cat that was so happy to see someone. He sat right at her feet and stared at her with such love in his eyes, until she picked him up and cuddled him. She loved him so much. There was such a special bond between the 2 of them."



The Colonel became a very sweet natured boy while in NASAP's care and he was even described most recently as a "cream puff". He was at least 12 years old when he had to be humanely euthanized due to complications related to his diabetes. We are extremely grateful to Ann Powell for caring for The Colonel for most of his life and to Les Hicks for looking after him during his last weeks with us.



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## *Happy Tails*

### *Life with Toby*

*By Charmine Hammond, Toby's owner, author and professional speaker*

We knew that adoption involves a period of adjustment for both the dog and the owner. Toby settled in well, however, after three months some interesting and quirky behaviours began to surface. Toby, a Chesapeake Retriever adopted at the age of five and now eight, began to display interesting and unusual habits such as emptying hall closets, nudging the shower door three times at every meal, and closing doors and locking himself in rooms. In fact, Toby's dad, Christopher, had become well known at the local building store for frequently buying toilet tank lids to replace the ones that Toby broke. This interesting, loyal and lovable dog would teach us a lot about life. After what we refer to as the "incident of all incidents" where Toby knocked over the water cooler, moved furniture, broke plant pots, cut his paws on a knife in the knife block (and apparently tried to call for help as the phone was bloodied), we took Toby to the vet and an animal behaviourist for help.

Maggie, from Capable Canines, provided us with a range of suggestions and helpful strategies to utilize with Toby. The most profound however, was her observation that Toby was uncertain of his role in his new family and that he needed a purpose.

Wow! What an incredible "ah ha" learning moment. Just like people need a purpose, so do animals. So began the journey to find Toby's purpose. We knew his purpose must involve people, toys and play. We explored the potential to become a volunteer team so that Toby could volunteer as a pet assisted therapy dog. The Chimo Project, a well respected Pet Therapy Program in Edmonton, Alberta tested Toby and found him to be very suitable, and placed him at Alberta Hospital Edmonton, almost two years ago.

Wednesday afternoons are definitely the highlight of Toby's life. The moment I put on Toby's special harness and bandana and bring out the Volunteer Bag (a knapsack used solely for his volunteering), Toby's non-stop barks of excitement begin... all the way to the Alberta Hospital Edmonton. Each week, when the door to the hospital is opened, and especially the unit we volunteer on, Toby lives his passion and purpose. He greets every individual with a gentle curiosity, acceptance and joy. What we find so interesting is that he clearly seems to know his purpose.

When visiting with patients, he attempts to engage them in the way that seems needed at the time. With some individuals Toby is playful while with others he is more timid and gentle. With some he is openly expressive with affection. Sometimes when sensing a patient needs space, he is quiet and respects their need for distance. Every week Toby participates in activities with patients and includes patients taking him for a





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### *Toby con't*

walk or to playing fetch outside. Patients also help Toby with training and learning new tricks.

Wednesdays have become therapy for the therapy dog. As I observe our dog each Wednesday, the growth and change in him becomes more and more pronounced. Since volunteering, we have noticed that Toby's barking is less of an issue and he is more confident in new situations. Slowly, his separation anxiety is less of a concern, and he is more comfortable being away from my husband and I.

The story I wrote about Toby called "Volunteering From The Heart" is featured in the new **Chicken Soup for the Soul —what I learned from the dog book**. Toby has been a guest of honour at several events including the opening of a pet training centre, has participated in several book signings and will assist me with my inaugural presentation of my new workshop "Working on Purpose." Watch for Toby's new book "**On Toby's Terms: A Story of Life, Love and Purpose**", a 2010 release. You can also visit Toby at his website and blog at [www.tobytales.com](http://www.tobytales.com) and visit his Facebook page [toby@tobytales.com](http://toby@tobytales.com).

## *Foster Tails*

### *Charlee*

Charlee is a beautiful Australian Shepherd Cross who came to us after being left at a vet clinic when he was approximately 5 months old. Not too long after being in our care he was adopted to what we thought was his forever home. Unfortunately the home was unable to handle his herding instincts and high energy and sadly, a few months later, he was dumped at the City Pound where his original foster home went to collect him.

Poor Charlee was in a very bad mental state when he was returned to us, and was unable to trust people fully. He was also terrified of the leash.

He has been with his foster family for a good 6 months now. They have lovingly worked with him and he's made huge strides in his trust of people, and now loves his leash walks. Charlee is a well trained, very loving, affectionate boy and is highly energetic.

There is no good reason for Charlee to still be with us and

we are surprised that his forever home is taking so long to arrive. It's true that this great young dog needs a family who is used to the herding breeds and understands their energy level and strong instincts and need to be able to fill that basic requirement in his nature. Because he can jump quite high and climb chain link fences he does require a tall wooden fence and someone who is willing to keep him busy and tired so he'll not be interested in what's on the other side of it!

It's also true that, to the untrained eye, Charlee can appear aggressive toward other dogs when meeting and wrestling but in fact, if monitored closely and kept in check Charlee is actually playing very well, albeit a bit roughly, and honestly enjoys the rough and tumble with other dogs. Having said that, he is a herding breed and wants to instinctively herd and boss other animals so he'll not get along with every dog because of that behaviour. Finding the right playmates for him is also key to his social development and good behaviour.



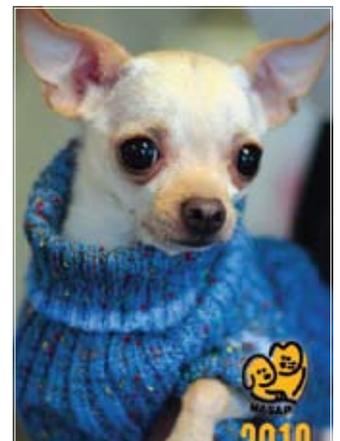
Charlee currently lives with kids and cats. He's come such a long way since he's been with us and we really want to see him have the happy new life he's entitled to.

## *NASAP 2010 Daytimers*

NASAP 2010 Daytimers are now available!

NASAP's daytimers make great gifts and stocking stuffers. They are available for \$15.00 each or 3 for \$40.00.

Please email [admin@nasap.ca](mailto:admin@nasap.ca) to arrange to purchase yours today!





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## *Upcoming NASAP Events*

### *Pet Photos with Santa*

NASAP's annual pet photos with Santa will take place at Salisbury Greenhouse, 52337 Range Road 232, Sherwood Park on Saturday November 21st and Sunday November 22nd between 1:00 and 3:00 PM. \*\*Please call the greenhouse at (780) 467-5743 to book your photo time. The cost of the photos is \$15.00 per booking with proceeds going to NASAP. If you need further information, please call Anna Pandos at ext. 105.

### *Adoption Days*

Please come down to Sadie's K9 Stay and Play, 8521 Argyll Road, the first Saturday of every month between 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM to meet wonderful dogs, puppies, cats and kittens that are available for adoption through NASAP. NASAP clothing items and daytimers are also always available for purchase at our adoption days. Please come down and join us!

### *Christmas in the Heartland Adoption Day*

On Saturday November 29th, members of the Heartland Community will once again join forces to create the ultimate in rural holiday experiences. Participants are invited to the Heartland area Northeast of Edmonton to enjoy traditional country activities throughout the day including Christmas markets/craft fairs (cash only), choosing and cutting your own Christmas tree, a local art exhibit, ice sculptures, miniature horses, a country bake sale, a nutcracker display, sleigh rides, adoptable animals from NASAP and SCARS, a Christmas nativity display featuring over 300 nativity scenes and a 60' Christmas tree light up at the Heartland Hall tower.

"We are very excited this year as Christmas in the Heartland has expanded to include the Good Hope Hall location" explains Jennifer Brosseau, Christmas in the Heartland spokesperson. This year's addition to Christmas in the Heartland brings a Nutcracker display, country bake sale, and a unique partnership with the Northern Alberta Society for Animal Protection (NASAP) and the Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS). Rescued dogs from NASAP and SCARS will be onsite at the Good Hope Hall location, 21076 Township Road 542, between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM, for those interested in adopting or learning more about adopting rescued animals.

"Many participants from last year not only enjoyed touring the Heartland with their friends and families, but they also enjoyed shopping for wonderful gifts, precious holiday baked goods, preserves and sweets" continues Brosseau.

Between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM, participants will experience authentic Christmas activities at the various locations in Northern Strathcona County. At 5:00 PM everyone is invited to the Heartland Hall for the big Christmas tree tower light up. Admission to Christmas in the Heartland is free. Holiday arts, crafts, baking and refreshments will be available for purchase (cash only) at the various locations. Round trip bus transportation to the Heartland locations, departing from Sherwood Park is available. Adult \$20.00 + GST, children (under 14) \$10.00 + GST, family (4 individuals) \$50.00 + GST. For those who wish to drive the route, a free driving map of the area is available at [www.strathconacounty.com](http://www.strathconacounty.com). For information call (780) 410-8511.



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## *Thank You's*

### **NASAP would like to sincerely thank:**

All individuals and businesses that made generous donations of items and services for our recent silent auction. Our supporters continue to make this annual event fun, exciting and extremely successful!

Les Hicks and Angela & Kerri Hunter for repeatedly transporting large, heavy and awkward items, and picking up donations.

Ken Kendall for his generous ongoing donation of cat litter.

Devoted dog foster parent Mike Taylor for picking up Roadie and Trucker, and driving them from Spruce Grove to Tofield. Apparently Roadie enjoyed a seat on Mike's lap for the entire trip!

All our veterinary partners for the wonderful care that they give the NASAP animals. This season, we especially thank Hermitage Veterinary Hospital for their donation of four large dog kennels, Town Centre Vet for selling our daytimer and Westbrooke Vet for the donation box proceeds. Calgary Trail Pet Hospital helps homeless animals and the environment through the sale of their reusable shopping bags with proceeds going to NASAP.

The staff at Sadie's K9 Stay and Play for Hosting our monthly adoption days, and for all their help and support.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Government of Alberta for their ongoing support through their Community Spirit Program. The goal of the Community Spirit Program is to increase individual charitable giving to help support Alberta's charitable organizations.

The program is donor-driven, meaning it recognizes and encourages Albertans to support their favourite Alberta-based charitable organizations. These grants have enabled NASAP to continue our work towards helping homeless animals on many fronts. These funds allow us continue educating of the public about the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals and expand our foster home and volunteer network and our membership and supporter base.

