



PAWS FOR A WHILE...



Spring 2011

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Box 79016
1020 Sherwood Drive
Sherwood Park, AB
T8A 2G4

PH: (780) 992-0250

Fax: (780) 490-7261

www.nasap.ca

Charity #

86869-9679-rr0001

NASAP's Pound Cat Spay/Neuter Program

by Jenny Graydon

Lost and abandoned cats in the Beaumont and Leduc area now have a better chance of adoption and a longer, healthier life thanks to NASAP's new Pound Cat Spay/Neuter Program!

There are always far more adoptable cats impounded at NASAP's partner pound (Black Gold Kennels) than our organization could ever possibly take into foster care. While waiting for spots in NASAP foster homes, these cats remain at the pound and available for adoption directly to the public, free of charge. In 2009, members of NASAP cat intake recognized the potential for these unaltered cats to once again contribute to pet overpopulation upon returning to the community. Soon after, the NASAP board approved a pilot program to fund spay/neuter surgeries for adoptable cats at this facility that NASAP is unable to take into care due to being at full capacity. Each cat selected for the program is a friendly, adoptable animal whose adoptability is increased significantly by being spayed or neutered.

A huge advantage for the cats selected for this program is that each receives a health exam by a veterinarian immediately prior to being altered. Many of these cats arrive at the pound in rough shape after being outside for extended periods of time. Often, small (and sometimes even major) injuries or illnesses are discovered during the complimentary pre-op exam, and appropriate treatment can be provided quickly. Additionally, the cats all receive a complimentary identification tattoo, helping to ensure that they will be returned to their rightful home should they ever become lost again. Finally, each cat is tested for the FIV and Feline leukemia viruses, to prevent spread of these infectious feline diseases. This program is supported by two wonderful Edmonton area veterinary clinics, Calgary Trail Pet Hospital and Town Center Veterinary Hospital, who graciously lend their expertise to the program and help ensure its success.

Since the start of this program (April 2010), 44 pound cats have been spayed or neutered with 26 of these being adopted out directly to forever homes in the local community (Figure 1). 14 of these cats subsequently came into NASAP's care for re-homing and 4 currently remain at the pound waiting for homes or NASAP intake. The average number of cats fixed under this program every month is just over 3 and some months are busier than others (Figure 2). This program's resounding success thus far is a testament to the countless hours spent by volunteers who coordinate vet visits, provide transportation and hold "paparazzi" photography sessions for weekly adoption ads in the Beaumont newspaper (fees for these ads are kindly donated by the Town of Beaumont).

Unfortunately, like all other animal rescue organizations, NASAP has limited resources, placing a limit on the number of cats that can be selected to participate in this program. If you are a cat lover, be part of this important effort! Please consider making a targeted donation towards NASAP's pound cat spay/neuter program. Your generous donation will help NASAP give even more homeless cats in our community (Figure 3) a second chance at a loving forever home!

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NORTHERN ALBERTA SOCIETY
for **ANIMAL PROTECTION**

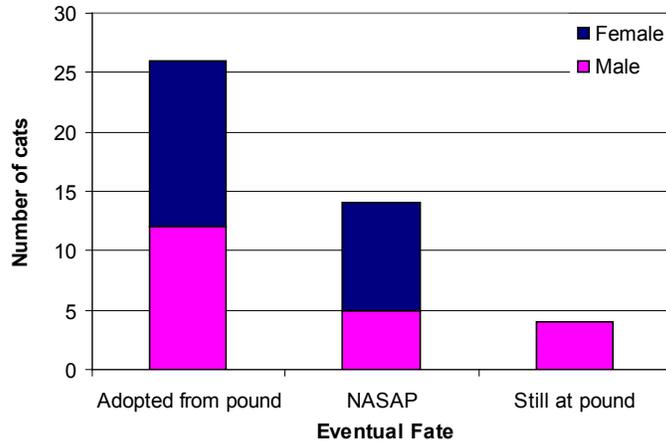


Figure 1: Fate of cats that participated in NASAP's pound cat spay neuter program between April 1, 2010 and May 1, 2011.

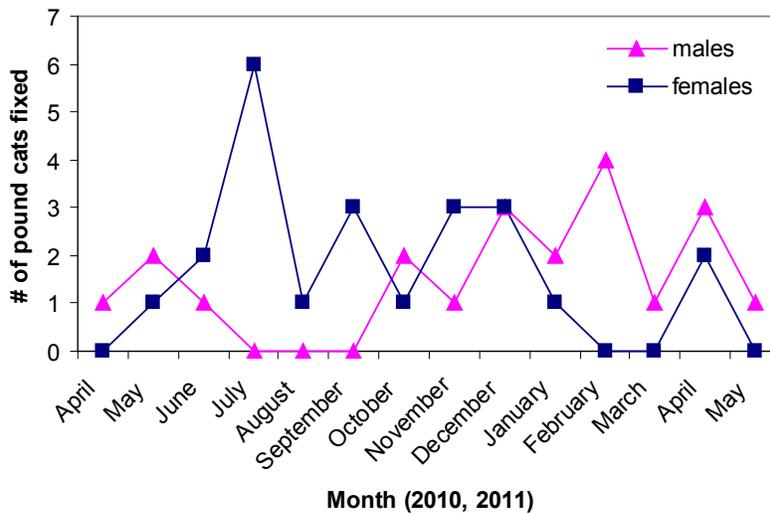
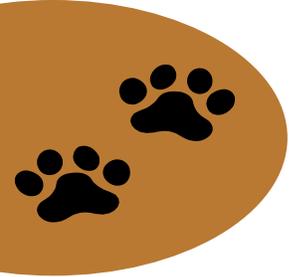


Figure 2: Number of male and female cats fixed each month since inception of the pound cat spay neuter program.

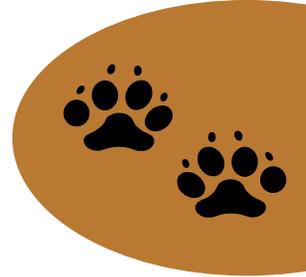


Figure 3: Some of the lucky participants in NASAP's pound cat spay/neuter program over the past year.

Thank You NASAP!! Meow!!



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FOSTER TAILS

Chloe

On April 5th Pat Mash (a member of the cat intake group) was out at Black Gold Pound. When she was there she was introduced to a brand new cat who just arrived at the pound with eight tiny baby kittens. The kittens were so small that their eyes were closed. NASAP prioritizes pregnant cats and moms with new born kittens and tries to get them into care as soon as they can. An email went out to Jill Chorney, one of NASAP's cat foster homes, to see if she could foster the new cat family. Jill was able to do so. She picked up mom and kittens on April 6th and then took them to Calgary Trail Pet Hospital so that mom and babies could be examined. The mom and kittens were all healthy and eating well. Chloe, the mom, has been able to nurse all the kittens so they haven't had to have any supplements.

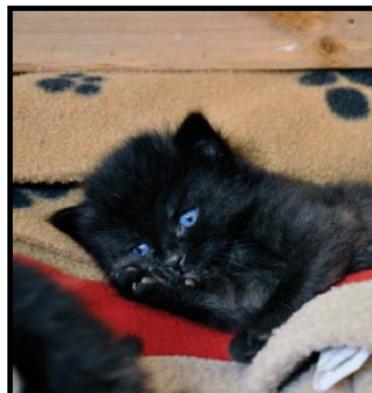
Comments from Jill:

The whole family is doing very well. We named the mom Chloe and it's taken some time, but we have finally named all the kittens. When we first picked Chloe up she wasn't eating, probably because she was stressed at the situation she found herself in. We started to worry that the kittens would suffer. We weighed them twice a day to make sure they were all still gaining. It took quite some time and lots of different types of food, but, we finally found a food that Chloe would eat and the kittens flourished. Chloe is a wonderful mom and does a great job feeding and cleaning everyone as well as teaching them their manners. She's working on litter training them now.

The kittens are now 4 weeks old and starting to play and explore. They change daily and each of their personalities is starting to come out. Each kitten is a little bit different. There is a bossy one, a playful one, a shy one, and a really sucky/loving one and everything in between. As they get a little older we will introduce them to our resident cats and dogs to expose them to as many situations as possible to make them more comfortable in their adoptive homes. The kittens will be available for adoption in the beginning of June.

Comments from Chloe:

My name is Chloe and I was brought into the Black Gold Pound with my 8 newborn kittens. I'm a medium haired, beautiful brown tabby. I am very affectionate and my foster mom tells me that I'm a very good mom. I'm looking forward to being spayed so I don't have to go through being a mom to such a big litter again. I'm very talkative, I like to chirp and talk to my foster mom when she visits me and my kittens. I love attention and I love to have my ears and chin scratched. I also like to show my affection with a light head butt to whatever part of you is closest to me. I will be available for adoption once I have been spayed and my babies have all been weaned. Please watch the kitten page for updates on my litter.

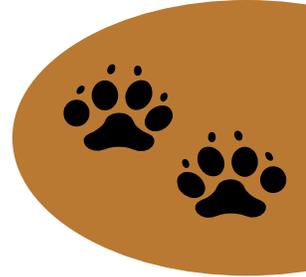
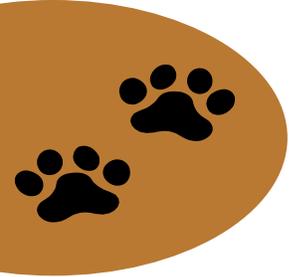


Mom Chloe Resting After A Hard Day

Bear at 3 Weeks

Jasmine at 3 Weeks

Lucy at 3 Weeks



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FOSTER TAILS (con't)

Kiki

Kiki came to live with us as a foster cat sometime back in 2010. She is my eighth foster cat and has been with me the longest.

It's sometimes unbelievable how calm and patient Kiki is. With the first sound of my waking up she would hop towards her food bowl and sit patiently until I fill it up with her favourite moist food. In no time she gobbles it all up. It gives me a chuckle to see how slyly she would toil on trying to cover up her left over food, if any. Those are our mornings, with Kiki following me everywhere in hopes of getting a pat. The strange thing is, when we are leaving for work, Kiki does not come to see us off. Maybe she does not like to see me leave her for the whole day.

One thing I am sure of, she thoroughly enjoys herself when home alone! It was an easy guess for me as I am welcomed with her toys all around the living room area. Also because she has catnip toys and that's something that Kiki is crazy about.

But I have to mention here that Kiki has a very shy personality. It took her a long time to be like this around me. But now that she is, I think she can be the best companion. She loves it when you want to hold and cuddle her and is perfectly o.k. when you are not around all that much. I must say, if there were awards for cats, I would have given her the 'Most Well Behaved Cat' award! Till then we will be waiting patiently for a loving forever home for Kiki.

And while I have been writing this article, Kiki decided to sneak in by my side and purr as loudly as she could!



FOSTER HOMES

"Actions and words are the windows through which the heart is seen."

Anonymous

On this note, we would like to thank and appreciate all the volunteers and foster homes that have been associated with NASAP presently or in the past. It takes great determination to open ones heart and home for an abandoned animal and to love and care for it until it gets adopted by a suitable forever home.

We are in constant need for more foster homes to be able to save cats and dogs from being humanely euthanized. If you want to contribute to this cause by fostering or volunteering, please visit our website at www.nasap.ca.

HAPPY TAILS

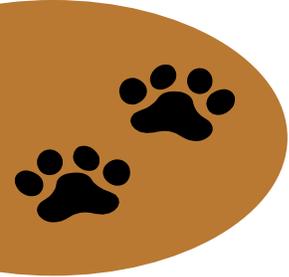
Mitzi's is a sad story with a very happy ending. She came to us from the pound after being seized in early February by the Alberta SPCA along with her companions Anouk, Sarah and Trixie from a neglectful situation on an abandoned property.

After spending some time in the pound it was soon discovered that both Mitzi and Anouk were pregnant and about to give birth within a couple of weeks! NASAP put out a call to their foster homes and Mitzi, Anouk and their companions soon found placements with us.

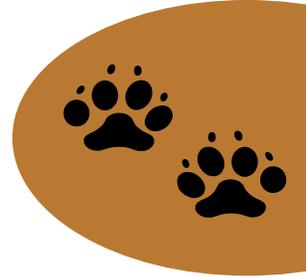
Anouk gave birth in her foster home to seven lovely babies in mid February while Mitzi's seven beautiful pups were born in foster care on February 27th. Mitzi was very proud of her puppies and was happy to show them off to all who came to visit. She was a wonderful mom with a great disposition and took fabulous care of her babies.

NASAP is happy to say that all of Mitzi's and Anouk's puppies have been adopted to wonderful new homes and so have Mitzi and Anouk. We want to thank our very special foster homes for taking on the challenge of fostering and caring for a pregnant, then nursing mom with so many puppies until they were old enough to be adopted. We are very proud and so pleased to have such dedicated foster families in our organization.





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DECLAWING CATS

Scratching comes naturally to our feline companions. Cats typically scratch to mark territory or file their nails. Scratching furniture and carpets can be an inconvenience for some owners, causing them to turn to the procedure of declawing (Onychectomy). Below we describe this procedure and offer humane alternatives.

Did you know that declawing does not mean just removing a cat's toenails? The anatomy of a cat's claw is such that it is very close to the bone. When the claw is removed during the declawing procedure, part of the bone has to be surgically removed as well. Declawing is a painful process and the cat's discomfort does not end with surgery, but also continues during recovery.

We all know that cats spend a lot of time grooming themselves. Part of their grooming ritual involves scratching themselves. With amputated claws and an unaltered instinct to scratch, cats are left with no other choice but to strain the healing claws while they recuperate. Similarly, using the litter box during the recovery process can be extremely painful. Sometimes cats will associate this pain with the litter box itself and they will begin to relieve themselves in inappropriate places in an attempt to avoid discomfort.

All surgeries can have complications and declawing is no different. Complications can be physical, psychological or behavioral. It is often observed that cats can show altered personalities after undergoing this procedure.

NASAP believes that our feline friends should be allowed to enjoy the wild instinct of scratching. Consequently, NASAP cats cannot be declawed following adoption. Instead, we suggest several humane alternative options available to pet owners to encourage scratching in appropriate places:

It is a good idea to trim your cat's nails on a regular basis. When clipping your kitty's nails, notice the pink tissue on the inside of the claw. It is important to avoid this tissue, called the 'quick', when you trim the nail. Accidentally cutting this tissue can cause bleeding.

Scratching posts should be made available to cats at all times. Most cats will use scratching posts or pads instead of furniture if given the chance to learn how and positive reinforcement. Sprinkling a pinch of cat nip where you want them to scratch can work wonders! You can also cover furniture with double sided sticky tape to deter scratching there.

Vinyl nail caps are a new alternative that are quite popular too. These are nail covers that are affixed to the claws with nontoxic glue. These can be applied at home or at the vet clinic. They eventually fall off as the cat's nails grow and

must be re-applied every 6 weeks or so.

Medical details from www.wikipedia.com

COFFEE MORNINGS AT NASAP OFFICE

The NASAP board members decided to gather together with all the NASAP members, including the foster homes and any one and everyone who is interested to find out more about our organization.

These meetings take place one Saturday every month so that people can come together and share their stories and experiences and contribute their creative ideas for us to work upon. So far there has been a few meetings and already the 'out of the box' ideas are pouring in.

We would like to invite you to our coffee meetings. Please bring your pet friends along and share with us, if you have any concerns with NASAP or just come for a morning chit chat.

If you want to be a part of NASAP, this is a perfect opportunity to get to know us better and ask any questions that you may have.

See you at the next coffee meeting on June 11th, 10 AM to noon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NASAP will be participating in the upcoming Rock the Square Event at Churchill Square on Saturday, June 18th beginning at noon. Come down and visit our table and learn more about adopting, fostering, volunteering or donating! Check out this site for more information about Rock the Square: <http://www.rockthesquare.com/>

NASAP is currently accepting donations for our upcoming silent auction which will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2011. Watch the events page on www.nasap.ca for details. Please email admin@nasap.ca to donate an item and support NASAP's work!

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to Amanda Brown for taking photographs of the NASAP cats, and to Armand Ludick who recently took pictures of the NASAP puppies. Dr. Scott at Crestwood Veterinary Clinic for performing orthopedic surgeries and providing post-operative care for the NASAP animals. Town Centre, Lakeside, Sifton Park and Calgary Trail Pet Hospital for providing veterinary care for the NASAP animals.