

Second Chance!

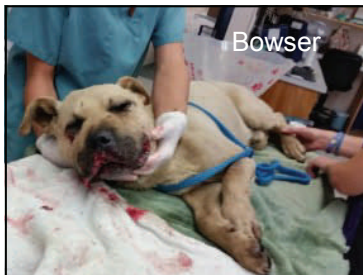
animal rescue society



Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—Summer 2014

560 lives saved so far during 2014

We are thrilled about how many animals we have helped so far this year at 560 as of August 30, but SCARS is currently in desperate need of donations. Many of the dogs that have come into our care this summer have required expensive surgeries. A few examples are dogs like Bob (11 teeth removed), Big Jimmy (tendon surgery), Yeats (femoral head surgery), Cody (shown right - surgery for multiple broken bones), Suzy (growth plate surgery), and Bowser (two surgeries so far to remove hundreds of quills). Please donate if you can. Every dollar helps and all donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt.



The soft hearted may find Bowser's photo difficult to view, but this was his reality when he into our care. You know how write-ups tell each dog's story and what they like or dislike... well Bowser's will say, not good with porcupines.

As a matter of fact... hates the creatures with a passion. Now, porcupines happen to be a very bad thing to tangle with and although everyone suspects he may have won the battle in the end, pretty much every quill the porcupine had ended up in his face and body.

Hundreds and hundreds of dagger like spears. He pawed at them and cried and tried to rub them out himself. Thankfully a community member saw his plight and got him to SCARS. He was a mess. His face was very swollen, his gums looked like ground meat, and his throat and neck were puffy and very painful. Originally it was thought he would lose an eye, maybe both. With further assessment it was determined he might be able to retain his sight so he is being treated to try and save both eyes. Paws crossed that things goes well. The quills will continue to migrate out of his body for months to come and there are many potential life threatening complications that are possible from infections, to the quills hitting vital organs. In other words,

he has more hurdles ahead. Right now he is more comfortable than he has been in days thanks to pain meds. The staff at Westlock Veterinary Centre are impressed with his great attitude. He hasn't snapped or been anything less than a gentleman since his arrival.

Cody was taken to the Guardian Veterinary Centre for emergency care after being hit by a car and then surrendered by his owners. He suffered from broken bones in his leg and hip and had multiple lacerations.



Thank you to Dr. Fowler for performing the lengthy surgery needed to repair his injuries. Cody is a two-year-old, medium size, sweet natured Shepherd cross that will soon be moving to a foster home where he can complete his recovery. SCARS would appreciate any support you can spare for these dogs from donations to your best wishes to sharing their stories or even adopting one of SCARS many great rescues. Thank you for whatever you can do to help SCARS continue to help pets like these.

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Wags and Wishes Fundraiser



Sammy

The first annual Wags and Wishes Fundraiser for SCARS took place at Legacy Park in Fort Saskatchewan on July 12, 2014. Almost 400 people attended and over \$1,900 was raised for SCARS. We also collected a truck load of donations including kennels, pet beds, blankets and cat food. There was also lots of interest from potential adopters and foster homes. Adopted SCARS dog, Hailey, posed with some of our donations. SCARS did interviews

with Shaw, Global and FORSASKONLINE. Here is the link to the FORTSASKONLINE story which includes taped interviews and lots of photos: <http://scarscare.ca/wags-and-wishes>.



Hailey

Canines & Cocktails 2014 "Alohpaws"

Save the date. Our annual Canines & Cocktails dinner gala with live and silent auction takes place on Friday, November 7 at the Palace Banquet Hall at 3223 Parsons Road in Edmonton.

For tickets and additional info, visit www.scarscare.ca. Early bird tickets are \$60—after October 15, tickets are \$65.



Canines & Cocktails Fundraiser
alohpaw

Friday November 7, 2014

The Palace Banquet Hall
3223 Parsons Rd, Edmonton
Cocktails - 6pm
Dinner - 7pm

Follow us on:
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Early Bird Tickets \$60
\$65 After October 15th

Dinner and silent/live auction benefit the animals of

Second Chance!
animal rescue society

For tickets contact www.scarscare.ca | 780-466-SCAR (7227)

Fry's Rescue Story

My name is Fry. A bit of bad luck in the form of parvo turned out to be the catalyst that gave me my second chance. The weekend of May 23-25, 2014 was the scariest and best weekend of my short life. Why, you ask? Well that's the weekend that the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force (and rescues like SCARS) visited the First Nations community where I was born. They were there to provide a pet wellness clinic intended to alleviate animal suffering and reduce the local pet overpopulation. By the end of the clinic, they spayed/neutered 192 animals and 67 relinquished or stray animals were transferred to partner rescue groups. I was one of the 67. This is my story.

No one knows where my life began or what happened to my mom, but I was all alone when I showed up at a rural acreage. They started to feed me so I decided to stay. I was just a little guy and really didn't know where I was supposed to be or who I was supposed to be with. I just knew I had to do whatever I could to survive.

I was terrified of people and no one could get near me so they assumed I was feral. I hung out in a dense but narrow stand of trees between a quiet lake and the family's home. When people approached, I would run and hide. There was an old couch by a fire pit and I liked to sit on it as long as no one came too close. It was the only comfort I had. It isn't much fun hanging out on rotting logs and prickly bushes but I didn't know what else to do. At least now I had food. The family's children wanted to get close to me because I was so cute. I had these adorable ears that were almost taller than my tiny frame. I was just a baby, maybe 10 weeks old. But they made a lot of noise and moved really fast and that scared me even more.

Then the task force volunteers arrived that fateful day and asked the residents if they had any pets. They were offering a free trip to their clinic where pets could get spayed or neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and tattooed, and then returned home. The family didn't have any dogs of their own, but they mentioned that I had been hanging around. They said they didn't mind feeding me, but it would be OK if the task force tried to help me. Believing I might be feral, the volunteers set out to humanely trap me. They knew if they couldn't find a placement for me, I would be returned with a good supply of food and a phone number the family could call if I got hurt or sick. They said I deserved to receive a health check and to be neutered and vaccinated so I wouldn't contribute to the pet overpopulation in the community. It's not that the task

force didn't want to find a rescue that could offer me rehabilitation, the issue was that on this particular weekend there was very few spaces available for dogs, and even fewer for those that are feral.

So the trap was set and the volunteers patiently waited. At first I wouldn't go near it, but that didn't deter them. They had to leave and return to the acreage a few times.

Then finally I went inside and, SLAM, the trap door closed behind me. Boy was I scared but they covered the trap with a blanket to help calm me and then drove me straight to the clinic.

Then two amazing things happened. It turns out that I wasn't feral (just really scared). When they removed me from the trap, instead of being aggressive, I crawled into the lap of a volunteer. She comforted me, maybe for the first time in my life. Next, even though initially I didn't look sick, I was diagnosed with parvo. Ironically, this turned out to be my lucky break. Dogs with injuries and illnesses get top priority for placement with rescues. I was taken in by SCARS.

One of the people who helped trap me is a SCARS volunteer. She was so happy that I was safe and receiving medical care. She said I won her heart the moment she saw me. She said spotting my sad little eyes peering back at her as I tried to blend into the dense bush was like a depressing game of Where's Waldo. I didn't know those volunteers were there to save me. I'm so glad they didn't give up.

SCARS rushed me to the Westlock Veterinary Centre and that's where I stayed until they knew I was going to be OK. Then they moved me to a foster home. Now I'm living the good life and the rest is history. I'm a lucky little pup. I'm so grateful to the task force and to SCARS for my second chance. Helping pups like me is what rescue is all about. No pup deserves to be alone and afraid with an uncertain future. If you support SCARS, you will be helping pups like me. I was adopted during August 2014.



Corus Radio Puppy Pages

We are very grateful to Corus Radio for promoting SCARS in a new feature on their radio station websites called "Puppy Pages." Their stations include 630 CHED, C1SN FM, 925 Fresh FM and iNews880. They told us this new feature is designed to bring awareness and exposure to animal rescue agencies and provide their listeners an opportunity to visit station websites to get more info about rescue organizations.

The page currently features information about SCARS and six of our adoptable dogs (rotating to new ones every two weeks). We were also asked to write a blog for their "This Month's Featured Breed." Please visit any of their websites, such as www.630ched.com/puppypages, and let them know what you think. We think they are amazing for caring about animals in need. Here is our blog.

This Month's Featured Breed: Rescued

We know "rescued" isn't really a breed but it turns out that many Canadians call it their favourite. When Canadian Living Magazine asked their readers to share their favourite breeds, by far, the most mentioned was "any breed, as long as it is rescued." Why are rescues so great? We think there are many reasons but here are our top five.

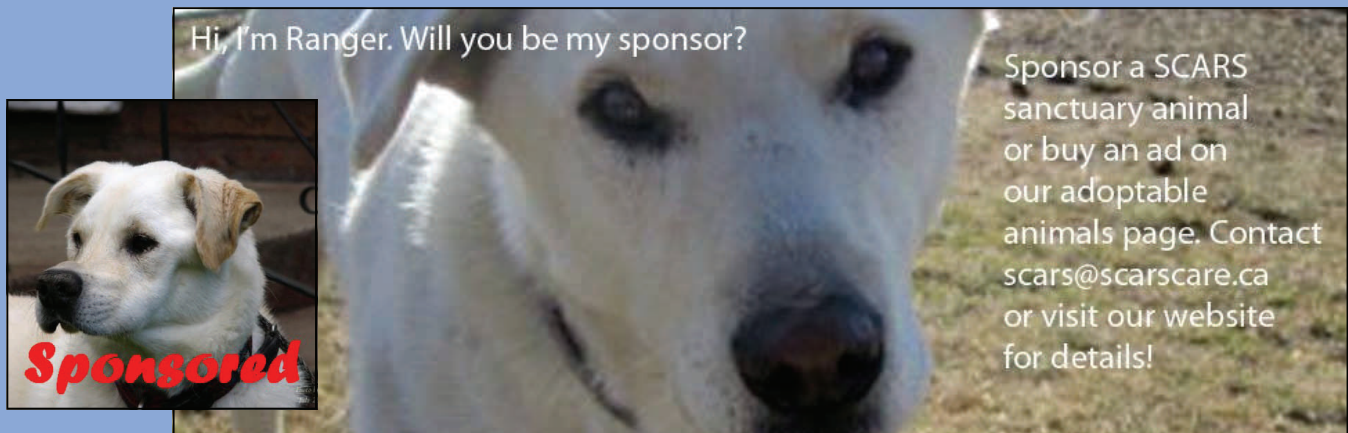
1. Your rescued pet is unique: We sometimes get purebreds but rescues are often a mix of several breeds so each dog is one of a kind. We assess behaviour and get to know their unique personalities while they live in our private foster homes.

There truly is no difference between the quality of a purebred and a mixed breed. All dogs can be great in the right environment or potentially dysfunctional in the wrong one.



2. We set you up for success: Adopters like that SCARS helps them choose a pet that matches their lifestyle and level of pet ownership experience. Sometimes, it seems like a rescue will choose us but should things not work out, even years later, we will accept an animal back into our care.
3. Adopting saves you money: Adoption fees are reasonable and include spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchip and health check.
4. You are literally saving a life: When you adopt, you are saving a pet from a terrible fate. Check out the rescue stories on our website for examples.
5. Adopting helps communities: SCARS works in communities to remove strays and reduce the number of unaltered owned pets. When you support SCARS, you are helping to improve the health and wellness of rural communities with severe pet overpopulation issues. We think many adopters truly enjoy that aspect. It's an easy way to make a positive impact to the world. When it comes to pets, please adopt instead of shop.

Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities



Hi, I'm Ranger. Will you be my sponsor?

Sponsor a SCARS sanctuary animal or buy an ad on our adoptable animals page. Contact scars@scarscare.ca or visit our website for details!

Sponsored

Third Annual Shambhala Tattoo Fundraiser



I know we've all been eagerly awaiting the final totals for our third annual Shambhala tattoo fundraiser. Over \$9,270 was raised for SCARS on July 6, 2014. A huge thank you to all the tattoo artists who came out and worked all day including Amy Miketon, Brent Smith, Chris Iwaniuk, Christopher McPherson, Jessie Jones, Meghan MacMillan, Richard

Hardig, Shawn Hedley and Zack Neigel. The wonderful folks at EIKON SUPPLY helped out with supplies for us to do over 70 tattoos!

We are so grateful to have some pretty incredible friends and neighbours who contributed items for our volunteers, silent auction and bake sale: Crave Cupcakes, Calvin Lock, Ashley Kuffler, Lis Davis, Sandy Staples, Kate Slemko – Salon Front and Knit for Brains, Melody Lapp, Sadie's K9 Stay and Play, Sadie's Pet Stop–Ellerslie, Second Skin Tattoo Removal, Atomic Zombie Tattoo, Shades of Grey Tattoos, The Celtic Knot, Julio's Barrio, Dadeo, Mars and Venus, Jupiter, Rowena, Lush Cosmetics Whyte Ave, Starbucks–McLeod Park, Orange Theory Fitness–Strathcona and Blitz Conditioning.

Thank you as well to The Whiskey Sheikhs for busking out in the hot sun, Mike, Laurel, Chris S. and all the other amazing SCARS volunteers who came out to help and support.

Much love to all of our talented bakers who slaved

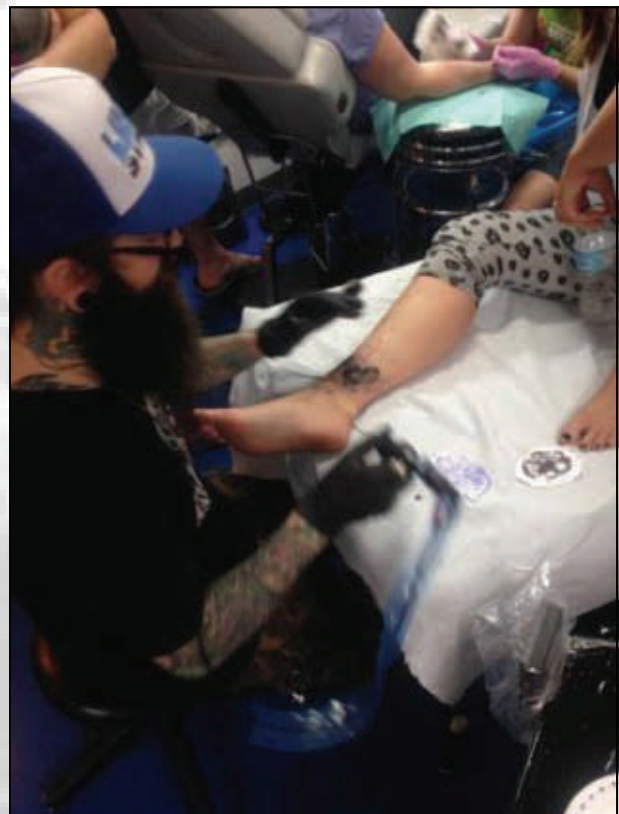
away over hot ovens, and to Jenn and Nikki for helping with the bake sale. Big thanks to Trish, Megan and Lonny for holding down the front end and making sure everyone got in for a tattoo!

Thanks to Charlene Clarke-Todoruk and to Carolyn Clarke for their amazing support.

And most of all an enormous and heartfelt THANK YOU to all who came out to support SCARS! Because of your

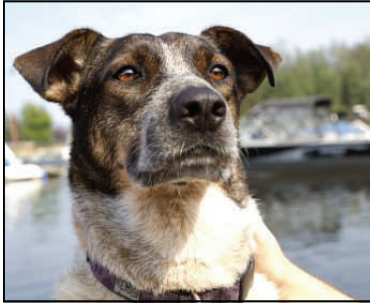
support and donations SCARS is able to continue doing the amazing work they do rescuing, housing, caring for and providing medical aid for homeless or abandoned animals in need. We can't wait to do it all over again next year!

- Alecia & Jessie



Look At Me Now

The SCARS website has a section called "Look At Me Now" which features happy ending stories. These stories are provided by the families who adopt from SCARS. Here are two examples:



Zsa Zsa Hello everyone at SCARS! We adopted our lovely Zsa Zsa in August 2011 at an adoption event in a pet store. When I came close to say hello to her, she leaned right into me for a snuggle and I knew we had found our girl! She is the perfect mix of playful and snuggly. She is just as content to have a cuddle on the couch as she is to play "chase me"



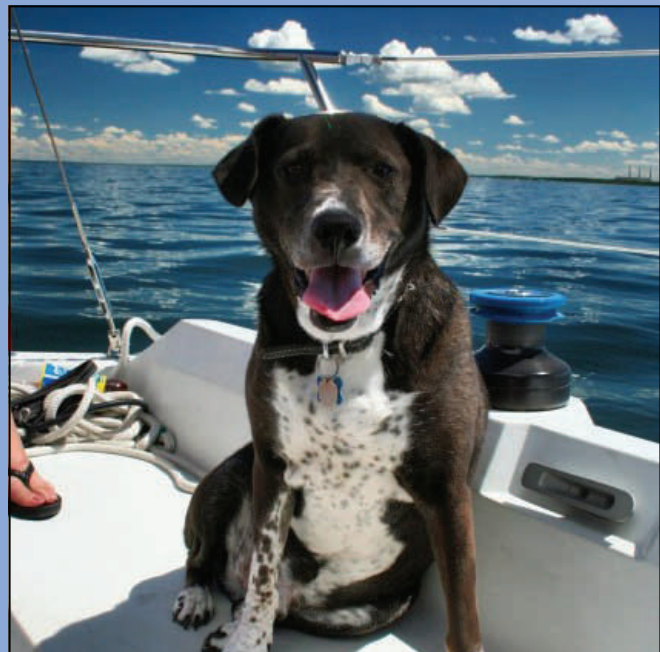
around the yard. While she's never fully grasped the concept of bringing the ball back during fetch, she is superb at running after the ball and pointing at it with a front paw. She is incredibly smart and was a natural at training. She now has an arsenal of tricks to pull out when treats are around! We also took her to agility classes where she did an excellent job and had a ball. She loves the off leash parks and her best pals Harley and Smokie (my best friend's dog and my in-laws' dog, respectively.) Most of all, though, she loves chasing bunnies! She even has a special high-pitched, bubbly-sounding noise that is reserved just for bunny chasing! (Thankfully, she has never actually caught up with one, she just loves to rip off after them!) Zsa Zsa came at the perfect time in our lives. My husband and I were coming to grips with infertility and she was like a great gift to us. She has really filled our lives with love, joy and laughter. I will be forever grateful for the day our sweet girl came into our lives! Thank you so much SCARS for the won-



Cyrus

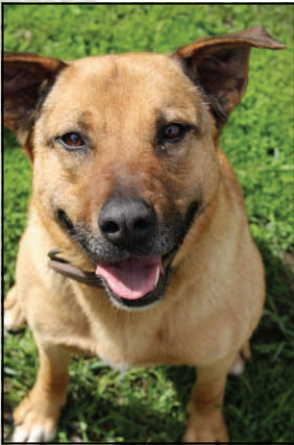
Hello wonderful SCARS volunteers! It has been quite a while since I have written in with an update on Cyrus, so thought I should let you know how his summer is going. We adopted Cyrus on September 6, 2008. He is now 8 or 9 years old but showing no signs of slowing down and is in perfect health. He has become known as "the dog that everyone loves" because when you meet him, you immediately fall in love with him. He is the perfect gentleman. That fur tuxedo was no accident! Cyrus spends most of his weekends sailing out at Seba Beach. (He's a pro!) He has many friends out there mostly of the two legged variety who love to drop by with treats and watch his many tricks. Thank you to all of you for the amazing job you do. Without it we would have lost out on a wonderful dog like Cyrus. I have included a photo of our handsome and very photogenic boy.

Sincerely, Lilyia, Greg & Cyrus

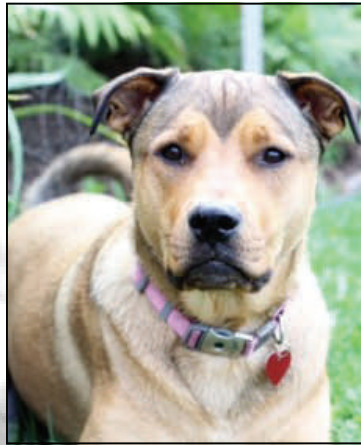


Adorable and Adoptable

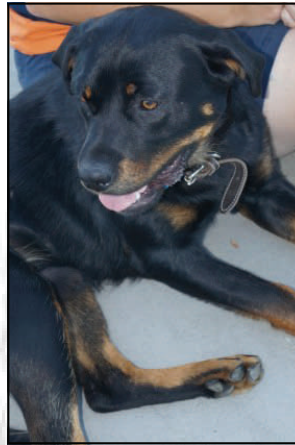
Here are a few examples of adoptable pets. To see more, visit www.scarscare.ca. There are approximately 175 companion animals of all ages, types and sizes currently in our care. The adoption fee is only \$300 for dogs and \$150 for cats and it includes health check, spay or neuter, first vaccinations and a microchip.



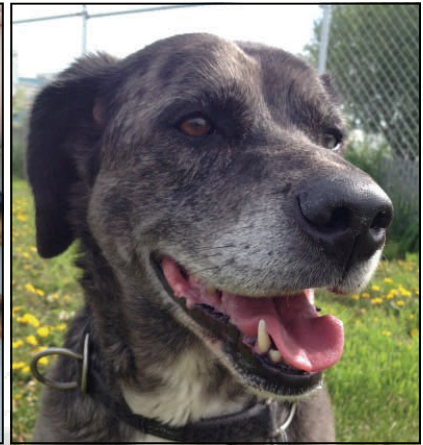
Shiloh is a 3-year-old Mastiff cross



Roxie is a two-year-old female 90 lb. mixed breed



Rocko is one-year-old male Rotti cross



Becky is an 11-yr-old Catahoula/Rotti/Lab mix

SCARS Needs Foster Homes!

Please consider fostering for SCARS. As a foster home, you will provide temporary care for an animal until we can find it a suitable permanent home. Becoming a foster home is easy and there is absolutely no cost or long-term obligation. Foster homes are vital to our success. Simply put, they save lives. Sadly, every day in Alberta there are hundreds of dogs and cats waiting to be rescued. Our goal is to make the fostering experience as enjoyable as possible for you and your family.

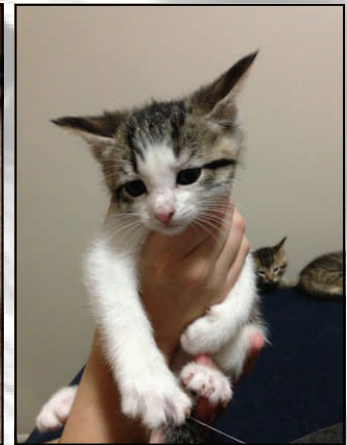
We especially need foster homes for cats and kittens. There are two types of cat foster homes:

- Temporary foster care where cats and kittens are kept in your home for about two weeks. During that time, they receive the veterinary care they need before we move them to our partner pet stores where they are often adopted out.
- Longer term foster care for cats that don't do well in the stores or have special medical needs.

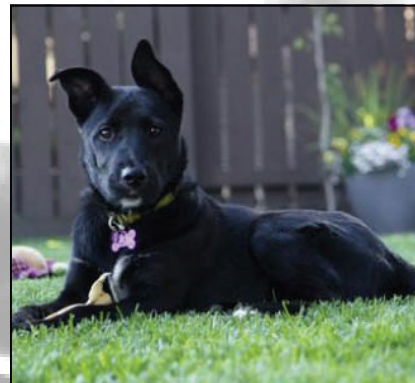
Please email to fosterprogram@scarscare.ca if you would like more information. Thank you!



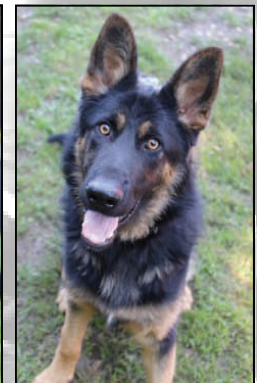
Fresca is a 1-yr-old female mixed breed



Homer a male mixed breed kitten



Sookie is a 1-yr-old female border collie cross



Seven is a 1-yr-old male shepherd cross

Canada Day Parade

SCARS participated in the 2014 Canada Day Parade in Athabasca. Here are a few photos from the event.

We were pleased to show off our Ford Transit Connect that is a donated two-year lease from DK Ford in Leduc. For our volunteers, the best part of the day was hearing the crowd cheer and clap for SCARS as they passed along the parade route.



Farewell to three Sanctuary Animals

SCARS is very sad to announce the passing of three of our beloved sanctuary animals. During the course of summer 2014, we had to say goodbye to Beau, Blacki and Miss Kitty. For information about our program, visit <http://scarscare.ca/long-term-animals/>. Our program allows difficult to adopt pets to live out their lives in comfort and dignity. Here is a final update by Terra MacLean on these special dogs. Terra runs one of the SCARS facilities where we keep many of our sanctuary animals.

Blacki—It with a sad heart and mind that I am writing this. Blacki, who had her fair share of health issues, passed away due to a fluid build up on her heart. Blacki was adopted out as a pup, and returned one year later for behavioral issues. Blacki was great while at her



home with her people. If a school bus came to do a field trip, she would be the first one at the door to greet them. But take her off the property, or away from me, and she was extremely anxious and fearful. While diagnosing her with her pancreatic disorder, Blacki had to go through months of blood tests and trial medications. She took it like a trooper (no fondness for the vet mind you) but she had lost a terrible amount of weight until we finally figured out her condition and got her on the meds that worked. Combining Blacki's health issues with her medical issues it was decided she would be a sanctuary dog. She lived her life being my daily companion, she worked with me and the dogs every day. She enjoyed the freedom of farm life and I believe she had a good life. She started showing signs of illness a few weeks ago. Given her dislike of the vet and clinics we tried to adjust her medicines before going through the stress of the clinic visit. When that didn't work we started trying to diagnose her problem. Sadly by the time we found she had fluid on her heart and likely from the combination of the stress on her heart, she passed away in my arms. Honestly, she couldn't have stayed at the clinic without me so I had been taking her back and forth. She was happy with me, so I am glad I could be there for her. It came as a shock, we had just put in her IV and I was taking her home on intravenous meds when she looked at me with that look that told me she was not OK. She leaned into me and crawled into my arms and shut her eyes and that was about it. It's hard to lose a companion, especially one that counted on you as much as Blacki counted on me. She was special. I love all my foster dogs no different than my own so it's hard to accept that she's gone, and I miss her greatly.

Miss Kitty—When you foster old dogs you know their time with you is limited. You go into it with the most optimistic of hopes. Their personalities and character are well set. Yet being dogs, the most dignified of creatures, they adapt but in an unyielding



way. Their core personality is set; they adjust to what life has brought them or rather where it has brought them. A rescue and at a ripe old age, I think deep down they even know it's wrong. All the old dogs I've fostered I have come to love like family. Kitty was no different. She adapted to living in a rescue with multiple dogs and people that weren't her own—but she had to tolerate it. She even came to thrive, gained weight and called the shots with all the other dogs. I'm happy we were able to give her a comfortable life and offer her dignity and love. With your support she was able to live out her days. She passed away of natural causes. I will miss her, she had such a special place in my heart.

Beau—It's hard to find the words to begin to explain, it's with sadness and an overwhelming sense of loss that I tell you Beau passed away. Beau had a fluctuating patella, which is fancy for the ligaments in his back legs wouldn't hold his knee in place. After discussing it with the vet



we decided Beau was a candidate for corrective surgery, and thanks to financial support from Beau's sponsor we could afford it for him. Beau went through surgery like a trooper. We thought he was well on his way to recovery when he took a turn for the worse. Beau passed away five days after surgery due to a rare bacterial infection that went undetected through his system and was fatal. He was such a funny odd dog it's hard to believe he's gone. I miss his quirkiness every day. He used to sleep like he was in a coma. He made me panic and think he had passed away so many times. He'd be sun bathing or asleep on his bed and not lift his head when I approached. I would start yelling and run to him and then he'd sit up like "what's all the fuss about." I can't believe I don't have to have those panic attacks anymore, I actually miss it. Thank you for all SCARS supporters for your kindness, I am sorry to have to bring such sad news.

Forever Home: Now What?

By Nomi Berger

Be an informed adopter and make your new dog's entry into your world as pleasurable and stress-free as possible. Establish yourself with a vet if you are a first time dog owner before bringing your new dog home, or register your new dog with your established vet. Then apply for all of the appropriate licenses, etc., required in your area. Remember that a dog's true personality may not reveal itself until he/she has been with you for several weeks.

Therefore, these first few weeks require an atmosphere of calm and patience, not of anger or punishment. Knowing your new dog's established schedules for meals, potting, walking and exercise beforehand are essential to maintaining his/her sense of continuity. Once you arrive home, bring your new dog to his/her designated pottying place. Spend time allowing your new dog to get accustomed to the place, and if he/she potties, reward him/her with warm praise and a treat or two.

Repeat this as an exercise (whether your dog potties or not) to reinforce it, but be prepared for accidents. Even a housebroken dog will be nervous in, and curious about, new surroundings. Your new dog may also pant or pace excessively, suffer from stomach upsets or have no appetite at all due to the sudden changes in his/her life. If you already own a dog, you know how he/she behaves around other dogs. What you DON'T know is how he/she will react to your new dog. Some may adapt easily to

sharing their space, while others may not. It's important then to introduce them on neutral grounds – outside your home. Both dogs should be leashed and allowed to sniff each other. If one of them urinates, let the other dog sniff the puddle, as urine tells dogs a great deal about one another. If any tension (growling or bared teeth) develops between the dogs, separate them immediately and wait for them to calm down. If you own more than one dog, introduce the friendliest one first so as not to overwhelm your new dog. With your new dog garnering most of the attention, it's important to spend extra quality time with your existing dog(s) to keep them from feeling excluded.

Give your new dog the same food that he/she ate before. After 30 minutes, remove the food whether it's been eaten or not. Do not allow your new dog to "graze." (If you want to switch brands, wait a week. Begin by adding one part new food to three parts of the old for several days. Then add half new to half old for several more days, followed by one part old to three parts new until it's all new food and the transition is complete). Learn the commands your new dog already knows and don't attempt to teach him/her any new ones for awhile. Walk your new dog slowly through your home allowing him/her plenty of time to sniff around and become familiar with all of its sights and smells.

March 2015 Norwegian Cruise for SCARS



Planning a vacation during Easter break 2015? Why not support SCARS at the same time. Join Steve & Heather aboard a great ship designed for all ages as they sail the Eastern Caribbean. For every cabin sold on this group Escape TravelPlus will donate \$50 (inside cabin), \$75 (outside cabin), \$100 (balcony) and \$500 (Haven Suite) to SCARS. Here are the starting prices for cruise only. They can work with you to match up Airmiles, Eeroplan, and so forth or they can price air from what ever city you prefer to fly from.

NORWEGIAN GETAWAY Sailing March 28, 2015

- Inside Staterooms Starting at \$720* plus \$330 tax per person
- Ocean View Staterooms Starting at \$870* plus \$330 tax per person
- Balcony Staterooms Starting at \$1042* plus \$330 tax per person

Prices are in CAD based on two sharing. Third and fourth passenger prices available upon request. For more info, visit www.escapeforscars.ca or <http://scarscare.ca/7-day-norwegian-getaway-cruise>.

To book or if you have any questions contact Heather at: Heather.folkins@travelplus.ca, 780-939-5865 Ext 101, 780-349-3155 Ext 101, or 1-888-839-8936 Ext 101.


FUNDRAISER CRUISE

25 March to 4 April, 2015

Up to \$500 per cabin/suite
will be donated to SCARS

**Bonus Air Miles earned if booked
before 30 September 2014**

www.escapeforscars.ca

Proudly sponsored by: 

(Continued from page 10)

If needed, teach your new dog proper house manners from the start — calmly and patiently. Reward good behaviour with praise and treats for positive reinforcement. Introduce your new dog to the other members of your household one by one. Unless you know that the dog enjoys approaching new people, instruct everyone to sit, silent and still, on a couch or chair and ignore him/her. Allow your new dog to approach them, sniffing, whether it takes several seconds or several minutes. Only when he/she is relaxed should they begin to pet him/her lightly and gently. Children in particular should be closely supervised to ensure that they follow these same guidelines. Show your new dog his/her place to sleep and place a few treats around the area as added incentives.

Give your new dog some quiet, alone time to get used to his/her space while you remain in the room for reassurance. For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your new dog, allowing him/her to settle in comfortably while you become familiar with his/her likes and dislikes, quirks and habits.

If you want to change your new dog's name, begin by saying his/her new name and giving him/her an especially good treat (chicken works well) or a belly rub. This will teach your new dog to love the sound the name and respond to it. Repeating this numerous times a day will speed up the process. (Most dogs learn a new name within a few weeks, some after only a few sessions).

Limit your new dog's activities to your home, potty and exercise areas, keeping away from neighbours and other dogs, public places and dog parks. Invite a relative, friend or neighbour over, one at a time, and introduce your new dog to them. Hand them treats and tell them to be calm and gentle in their approach and touch — unless, of course, your new dog happily but calmly approaches them first.

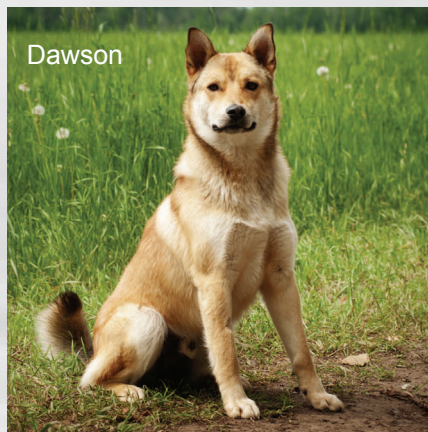
Before answering the door, however, know where your new dog is and ensure that he/she cannot bolt once the door opens. If your new dog isn't already trained to "sit" and "stay", put on his/her lead before opening the door. And if he/she becomes overly excited around visitors, warn them ahead of time to ignore the dog (no eye contact, talk or touch) until he/she settles down.

Begin the routine you want to establish (according to your own lifestyle) for your new dog's potty, eating, walking, playing and alone times, and maintain it — calmly but firmly. Initial resistance is to be expected, but remain firm — without impatience or anger — while

your new dog gradually becomes accustomed to his/her new schedule.

To make the process as pleasant and reassuring as possible, spend quality time with your new dog, stroking him/her or brushing his/her coat, while talking gently and soothingly to strengthen the bond and trust between you. Gradually accustom your new dog to being alone by leaving your home briefly then returning, repeating this several times over a period of a day or two and gradually increasing the alone time from a few minutes to a half hour to an hour. This way he/she won't feel abandoned. When you return, walk in calmly and don't fuss over your dog until he/she has settled down.

If your new dog whines or cries, don't cuddle or console him/her. It only reinforces this behaviour. Instead give him/her attention and praise for good behaviour, such as resting quietly or chewing on a toy instead. And treats always work wonders. Slowly begin introducing your new dog to your neighbours and other dogs, closely monitoring his/her reactions, especially towards the dogs. Allow your neighbours to familiarize themselves with your new dog so that they can easily recognize him/her in the event that he/she ever gets loose or goes missing.



Bring your new dog to the vet, to introduce them to each other, to address any health or behavioural concerns you may have, and to get a new rabies certificate. Take your new dog with you in the car to as many places as possible. This will help both with his/her socialization and in NOT associating car rides with possibly traumatic visits to the vet or groomer.

For any behavioural issues you can't resolve on your own, either contact the rescue (if you adopted your dog through one) or ask your vet for the name of a professional to help you. Most importantly, remember that making your new dog the newest member of your family is a process, with frustrating steps back and fulfilling steps forward. Remember too that patience, although sometimes difficult, is vital, and that consistency is the key. Your reward? A long, loving and happy life with your new dog, and the satisfaction of knowing that you have saved his/her life.

This article was posted with permission from Nomi Berger. Nomi is the bestselling author of seven novels and one work of non-fiction. She lives in Toronto, Ontario with her adopted morkie, Shadow. Nomi now devotes all of her time volunteering her writing skills to animal rescue organizations both in Canada and the USA.

What We Do and How to Help

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) is a non-profit, registered charitable organization dedicated to reducing the number of homeless animals in Northern Alberta, Canada. Since 2002, SCARS has rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed thousands of companion animals.

Our mission is to promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and suffering. We believe there is a suitable home for all homeless animals: young or old; large or small. We provide veterinary care and foster homes until permanent homes are found. Our foster homes provide the animals with warm shelter, food, exercise and tender loving care—something that so many of these animals have never experienced. We also promote responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying and neutering, and community awareness. We rely solely on money raised through memberships, donations, grants, sponsorships and other fundraising efforts. Because we have no paid staff and use private homes for fostering, we can only take in as many animals as our resources will allow. Here are some ways you can help:

Donate or sponsor—our veterinary expenses are enormous. Please consider donating to our rescue efforts. We issue tax receipts for all donations of \$20 or more.

Foster an animal—we rely on our volunteer foster homes to provide temporary care until we can find suitable permanent homes. There is no cost to becoming a foster home. We will provide everything you need.

Volunteer—help with fundraising, adoption events, animal care and transportation, and our daily operations. As a volunteer, you will become an integral part of a team that saves animals' lives.

Adopt an animal—provide a needy animal with a loving, permanent home. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit www.scarscare.ca.

Share the message—ask your family and friends to spay/neuter, microchip and vaccinate their pets. And remind them that all pets need food, water, shelter, healthcare, exercise, love and attention.

Buy merchandise—purchase SCARS calendars, clothing, totes, leashes, lunch bags, or one of our “Gifts from the Heart” certificates. Visit our website for more information.

Watch us on Global TV Edmonton every Saturday morning at 9:50 a.m., subscribe to our e-Newsletter at www.scarscare.ca, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We welcome feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:

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