

SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER



A note from Kate...

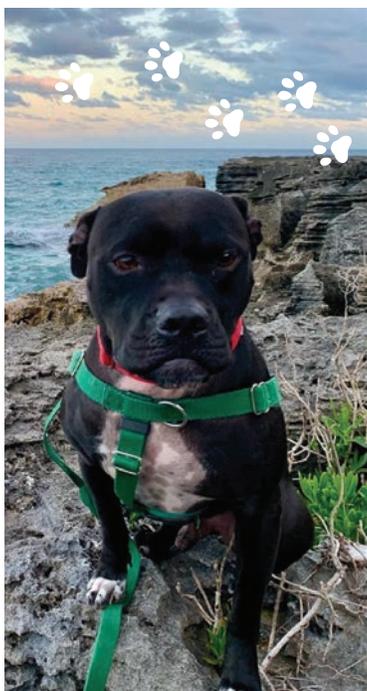
We love to hear from our former residents and how they are getting on with their families, we were so excited to hear from Gracie and her family, (read more further on) do you have a SPCA pet? Please share their story with us and we would love to feature them in our next newsletter. Our team, both staff and volunteers give their all to make sure the animals at the shelter have the very best experience whilst under our roof and seeing them settled in their new homes is truly one of the best rewards.

We were so looking forward to the first fundraiser in over a year but unfortunately we have been thwarted yet again by COVID, having believed we were through the worst of the pandemic and were ready to host our Paws to the Park fundraiser, we have had to cancel yet again. However in true Bermuda SPCA way, we have dusted ourselves off and are now working on a some really fun ideas for when we can finally hold this really popular event.

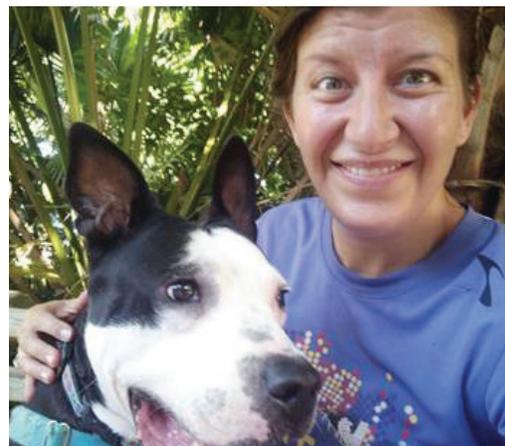
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ADAM & SAMMY...

Sammy and I have been volunteering at the SPCA for a couple of years now. we like volunteering cos we get to meet lots of cute and lovable dogs, go for walks, and give them cuddles. often the dogs that come into the shelter are pitbulls or other breeds that some people assume would be aggressive, but we've found this isn't often isn't the case. while some dogs may have been mistreated before they arrive at the shelter, it just means they need a bit more love, attention and patience to bring out their loveable side! the staff are always warm, friendly and really helpful. we love volunteering at SPCA would definitely recommend it; and also would recommend a trip there, first of all, if you are considering a furry addition to the family.

Cole is currently with a wonderful foster home, but he really does need a permanent family to call his own...



Have you seen our boy Cole? He is currently being fostered by one of our amazing foster families and living his best life! But Cole does need a family to call his own permanently... here is what his foster family said about Cole... Cole. 2 years old with very discerning features. You could describe me as "the quiet type", as I am not much of a barker. Hobbies include – long walks on the beach, love to swim, following my housemate (owner) around the house and cuddling on the couch also napping in bed when I'm allowed to. Bad habits – occasional snorer or so I've been told, destroying "indestructible" dog toys in a day and refusing to let people stop petting me, especially tummy rubs. Open to people of all ages. Not a fan of cats, chickens, cows or tractors – having said that a walk at Spittal Pond is always a fav. If you can give Cole a permanent home please fill out an application for on our website.



SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER



MEET THE TEAM...

This time in our “meet the team” section, we hear from Shalan Dennis who works within our inspectorate team...



Who wouldn't want to work with animals every day? Believe me it is one of the best feelings. Our animals have so much love to give and we are lucky enough to experience their love until they find their forever homes. I have been with the SPCA for four years now. I started with a part-time Animal Care position and was offered full-time a few months later. When an opportunity to move into inspectorate work came up I applied for the Animal Welfare Officer position. I have been in this position for the past three years. I investigate cruelty and neglect allegations and also carry out rescues and collections for sick or injured animals.

I have many memorable call outs and they don't always turn out as I expect. My most memorable call out has to be one I did in early October 2019. The call started off normal... a cat had been hit by a vehicle. I arrived at 5:50pm at the area which was farm land surrounded by overgrown trees and shrubs. I located the cat alive under a palm tree. The cat was badly injured. I rushed the cat to Endsmeet where it was determined that she was a female and that her injuries were too severe. She was euthanized on welfare grounds. To our surprise she was also lactating. Somewhere out there her kittens were now without their mother. I went back to ask the residents of the few houses that were in the area if she belonged to them and I was able to conclude that the cat was a feral that was living out in the bushes. I was going to need help to search the area in the dark. I enlisted the help of CATs Ltd. volunteer Carol.

She came out right away to assist. We walked around but the area was massive. Those kittens could be anywhere. It was now pitch black and we had not luck. We were walking back down to our vehicles when we heard it. A tiny squeak of a meow but it wasn't going to be easy to locate. The kitten was somewhere in the overgrown thicket. We pinpointed the area as best we could. I took my flashlight and hedge trimmer out of the van and climbed over the fence and started cutting a path to what we hoped was near the kitten. Bermuda had experienced a hurricane just three weeks prior so there was a lot of trees and vegetation in my way obscuring many foot hazards. The fallen trees were too big to cut so I had to crawl over or under them. Then in the light of the flashlight I saw movement. There was the little kitten but I couldn't make a path the last few feet to grab it. I started to crawl under the branches and the little kitten crawled through the branches from his side to my outstretched hand. I had him! Carol and I inspected him and put him to be about three weeks old. Mom would have been either heavily pregnant during the hurricane or trying to care for newborns. Carol took him to one of CATs Ltd. fosterers. I went back alone the next morning in the rain just to be sure and there it was.... a tiny squeaky meow. I got my hedge trimmer out of the van and hopped the fence again and started off in a very different direction to the one I was on the night before which told me that the litter was separating trying to find mom. I cut a new path to another fence and while I was trying to figure out how to get over, under or through the fence I saw him. A very wet little grey kitten was crawling towards me. I reached through the fence

and he pulled himself to my hand. I couldn't be certain but I could swear I could hear another kitten out there somewhere. I would have to come back later though. Carol came back with me after work to look for the possible third kitten. If it was out there it wasn't making any more noise. I had returned earlier in the day and had no luck locating it but I was able to make a wonderful path through all the trees. We went to the area where I found kitten number 2 and hoped that if there was a third one it would make itself known. Well wouldn't you know it we found a third kitten that made its way towards Carol. Another boy! In 24 hours a litter of orphaned kittens were found and placed in a safe environment. They returned to the SPCA a few weeks later ready for adoption. Kittens 1 & 3 were adopted together and kitten 2 went to a home full of awesome animal siblings to play with. They are all thriving in their homes.

We have an amazing team at the SPCA and we work closely with CATs Ltd and the Animal Wardens. No two days are the same around here. One day you're untying goats from boats and trying to put them into your van to keep them safe till you can locate their owners and then the next day you're trying to wrangle a stray turkey into your van. I have learned so much about animals from a lot of amazing people. The vet practices that we work with are fantastic and so patient with me when I ask them questions. Each day I become a little more confident in myself and my abilities and I owe it all to the wonderful team I work with and the many volunteers that give up their time to assist us around the shelter.

SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER



Q & A

HERE WE ANSWER SOME POPULAR QUESTIONS WE ARE OFTEN ASKED ABOUT OUR MINIMUM DONATIONS WHEN ADOPTING ONE OF OUR ANIMALS...

WHY DO YOU REQUEST A MINIMUM DONATION?

This is a question we are often asked, why are we asking for a minimum donation when someone has been kind enough to adopt an animal from us, surely we should just give them away?

There are many reasons why we ask for a minimum donation and we will cover some of these below:

Your animal has received a full vet check and has a clean bill of health. Every animal that comes into the shelter is immediately triaged and has any medical needs attended to, they are closely monitored by our team and we have our vet visit the shelter on a weekly basis. All animals are up to date with worming, flea treatment and standard inoculations as applicable before they leave the shelter.

Your animal has been spayed or neutered. It is the SPCA's policy that all animals are spayed/ neutered before they are re-homed, you may be interested to know that the cost of this can range from \$500 for a rabbit spay/neuter to over \$1000 for a larger breed dog spay/ neuter

Your animal has been socialized and in the case of our dogs at the least received basic training and in more complex cases, could have undergone months of rehabilitation to prepare them for a home environment. From hamsters to large breed dogs, all animals in the shelter have regular interaction with our team and our wonderful volunteers to ensure they are well handled and socialized. Our dogs all receive regular basic training which is overseen by our in house dog specialist which will also follow through this training with families and provide additional support as needed. Our cat care follows the "cat friendly homing" principles to ensure the cats live a meaningful existence with plenty of human interaction where appropriate.

In addition to the above, your animal has been housed, fed and cared for by our fully trained team who are employed by the SPCA, therefore they are paid a wage which is funded by donations, in order to keep the shelter open and continue to serve a valuable resource to the community we rely on being funded by donations.

WE LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT HOW OUR ANIMALS ARE GETTING ON IN THEIR FOREVER HOMES, SOMETIMES THEY END UP MIGRATING OUTSIDE OF BERMUDA, WE WERE THRILLED TO HEAR FROM GRACIE, WHO IS NOW LIVING IN HOLLAND...

I adopted Gracie from you in November 2010, it was 'love at first sight' and we have been best friends since then. I'm not sure if, after all these years, anyone remembers her, but also thought it might be nice in any event to know that she is well and thriving.

Gracie moved with me from Bermuda to Holland 8 years ago, we now live together in Haarlem after a few years in Amsterdam. She is the most cuddly, friendly and (in my eyes) beautiful cat and I just love spending time with her. She is very much a 'lady' and wouldn't dream of going outside if there is even so much as a puff of wind; she is very much an indoor kitty and I am grateful for that. She adores her food, which does show a bit.....but is also playful and active.

I hope we have many more happy and healthy years ahead (she must be around 11 years old now) and wanted to thank Bermuda SPCA for my feline soulmate and for your wonderful work in general.

All the best and warm wishes
Esther and Gracie



SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER



**POSTPONED
NEW DATE COMING SOON**

Register for
or call 236 7333.
which will be drawn live
prize.
es:
co voucher
brunch for 2 at the Loren
• \$100 voucher to spend at Pet Stop
• And many more fantastic prizes!

If you cannot attend Paws to the Park you are still able to enter our prize draw, please enter via our website, selecting "prize draw only".



GIVE A BIG SHOUT OUT TO ST. GEORGE'S PREP FOR THE WONDERFUL DONATION! THANK YOU!



OUR AMAZING TEAM AT THE SPCA!



CLICK TO DONATE TODAY!