



OF ST. THOMAS ELGIN



2002
ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	3
CAT REPORT	4
DOG REPORT.....	5
CENTRE REPORT	6
FUNDRAISING REPORT.....	7
INCOME STATEMENT.....	8
DIRECTORS 2001-2002	11

Message from the Chair

Greetings:

Animal Aide of St. Thomas-Elgin took on an awesome challenge in August 2001. The debt was approximately \$50,000. The organization was moving from a loose knit group of volunteers to a legal not-for-profit corporation. The cat adoption center had over a hundred cats, many of which were ill. We had over seventeen dogs, all boarded at great expense at a commercial kennel. The volunteer base had eroded to a dangerous level. A strong president had just left, with very bitter feelings towards the organization.

Since that time, a constitution was written and adopted at the 2002 Annual General Meeting. A board of directors or officers of the corporation was duly elected. The directors then elected an executive and defined responsibilities for each director. The not-for-profit corporation was finalized through the lawyers. The estate money, \$35,000.00 was secured and used to pay down some of our creditors. Talbot Animal Hospital received the largest portion of the money.

Since that point, Animal Aide has worked feverously to pay off the remaining debt, organize and set a visionary path, keep the cats and kittens healthy and adopted quickly to loving homes and stay ahead of the problems that plagued the organization in the past.

A concerted search for new facilities began in March 2002. Negotiations with the landlord at St. Catharine Street to allow time for the search for new facilities were successful. New facilities were found in June 2002. The rent was comparable and affordable. The board agreed that the location of 333 Talbot Street was suitable and preferable to others on the short list. A lease was signed by all directors in April 2002 on a two-year basis, with the option to renew for another two years.

Volunteers worked at top speed and total dedication to ready the new facilities. Walls were painted and flooring laid. Generous donors in the community such as White Street Flooring and Colour Your World made most of the renovations possible. The grand opening was held on June 21st, 2002 at which many people attended, including Mayor Peter Ostojic.

Animal Aide of St. Thomas-Elgin managed to survive and make progress through the true dedication and awesome commitment of so many volunteers and community partners who never gave up and kept on going. There were disappointments along the way. And, daily worries. If it were easy, everyone would be doing it. And they are not. Animal Aide manages to succeed where others have not even tried, and if so have failed.

Next year will be a year when, hopefully, stability and progress will prevail rather than turmoil and worry. Animal Aide has come a long way, but still has a long way to go. Fundraising, money management, communications, and cooperation amongst volunteers, members, and directors will be key issues. The burnout of our volunteers and directors is far too commonplace, and the chance of failing is still too high. Cooperation, teamwork, effective planning and dialogue are essential for the coming year.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have given so much. It has been an honour to be your chair for the year 2001-2002.

Yours truly,

Lois Jackson

Cat Report

Five years ago, under the cover of darkness, a few volunteers took 15 cats from the pound, cats destined to be euthanized because of Upper Respiratory. We treated those cats in a garage, all winter, 7 days a week, and, by late spring, had found homes for all 15.

Our numbers increased and we scouted for a larger location. The third floor of Quiggley's Bar, no electricity, running water, with 3 rooms, became our temporary home. We spent a very hot summer medicating Upper Respiratory in one room, a maternity ward in the second room and put adult cats in the other.

The place was sold and we moved to a garage on West Ave. A week later we were reported to the City and again under the cover of darkness, moved down the street to yet ANOTHER garage. We divided the cats among the volunteers and fostered them in our homes for the winter.

In the spring, 14 St. Catherines St. became Animal Aide's first Centre. Before too long our numbers were staggering and Upper Respiratory permeated the place. Making decisions with our hearts backfired! With an incredible amount of love and hard work, we adopted and fostered every kitten and cat into homes. It was a valuable learning experience.

Our new Centre at 333 Talbot St. opened in late spring 2001, and is our "pride a joy". We are blessed with an unbelievable team of dedicated volunteers. Love (of animals) really can move mountains!

Homes have been found for 484 cats and kittens.[from Sept.2001-Sept. 2002] There are 90 cats in the Centre and 15 in foster homes. The pound has been perpetually full all summer. The kittens have been pouring in with litters of 6 or 7 babies on average. It has been a 24 hr. a day, seven days a week summer, but SO gratifying. WHAT A TRIP THIS ANIMAL AIDE VOYAGE IS!

Director of Cats – Pat Fry
Co-Director of Cats – Dale Orr

Dog Report

When I was deciding what I wanted to communicate to the membership in this report, my first thought was to pass along a list of facts and figures, things like how many dogs did we take in, how many did we adopt to new homes, and how many dogs do we have in our care today. These facts and figures are important, but I want to take this opportunity to explain the somewhat mysterious and mostly unseen effort that goes on day after day in the care of our dogs.

I say 'mysterious and unseen' because the dogs are not as visible to everyone as the cats; we don't have a single dog in the centre (I'm sure the cats appreciate that, as do the people living above the center), so most of us never see them. Our dogs are either living in one of our wonderful foster homes or at a commercial kennel, or even boarding with one of our veterinary partners.

To become an "official" Animal Aide dog, you must first be surrendered to, or picked up by, St Thomas Animal Control. Once your allotted days at Animal Control are over, or earlier if you are sick or injured, you come under the care of Animal Aide. Sometimes, once you have received your medical attention, Animal Aide will return you to St Thomas Animal Control, so that people are able to see you and you will therefore be more likely to find your new home. Once a dog is moved to foster care or a kennel, they just cannot be seen as easily, and the adoption process can take much longer. It is only in special cases that the dogs are removed from Animal Control permanently.

In my role as Director of Dogs, I consider each and every dog at Animal Control to be an Animal Aide dog. Animal Aide is there, present in the building, to make sure that sick or injured dogs receive necessary medical attention. Several calls are received each year to Animal Aide from the Animal Control staff advising us of a dog that needs to see a veterinarian and we respond to these calls quickly. There are other times when the need for medical attention is not as obvious and it is not until one of our volunteers visits the pound that we discover a dog that needs to be removed. Other times, dogs that seem unmanageable while in the confines of the Animal Control adoptions rooms, need Animal Aide to speak on their behalf, and to work with these dogs, allowing their true nature to be revealed. Animal Aide is the advocate for these dogs and without this organization; many would *never* leave the Animal Control facility. And most often, the dogs just need someone out there working to find them homes, by advertising, using the internet, working the phones, and being in the building each weekend or making a special trip to unite the dog with its new family.

I consider it a great privilege to work with these wonderful creatures. Their resilience and forgiving nature in the face of adversity is truly amazing. Often left by their owners, not knowing why, they are still ready to love and be loved by the next person who comes along and shows them some kindness. Sadly, most of our dogs are un-neutered males, straying at large and picked up by Animal Control, with no one coming to claim them.

I want to personally thank each and every volunteer, individual or organization who donated time or money to this most worthy cause. And I invite and encourage each volunteer or member to visit Animal Control to see where the dogs and cats begin their journey with Animal Aide. Here is where you will see the most needy and most grateful of animals.

It has been a remarkable year in the life of Animal Aide and I truly believe the potential is here for even greater accomplishments in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Donna Fraser, Director of Dogs

Centre Report

The new center has been very busy since opening in June. Once things got rolling it has not only been busy with the upkeep, but also with a steady stream of walk in traffic.

We are constantly showing off the resident cats and kittens to perspective adoptees and curious onlookers. Many people have come in just to see our new facility and go out completely in awe of not only the cleanliness, but also the organization and professionalism of Animal Aide. Many of those same onlookers have returned with donations of money or supplies. Some are completely overwhelmed by the number of cats in the center. We also get numerous calls per day asking us to take in or rescue dogs and cats left on doorsteps or found wondering the streets. This is reported to be the worst year for the number of kittens in the history of Animal Aide and somehow we have managed to keep up to the demand. There have been as many as 107 cats and kittens at the center at any one time. There are presently 90+ in the center. Needless to say it takes many hours to clean and feed these every day.

Rounds are completed daily to make sure the health of each animal is checked and dealt with in a speedy manner if any sign of illness should be noticed. There is always the need for cages to be set up and ready for incoming cats. Also as new arrivals come in a careful record is kept on each as to history, background, health, temperament, etc. Many cats come in that are very difficult to handle and need a great deal of time, care and understanding to prepare them for adoption. There have been many feral cats come in seemingly impossible to handle who have learned to accept and trust humans. This is no easy task. We have several dedicated volunteers who take a great deal of pride in working with individual cats to socialize them.

We have many volunteers working at the center and have been very fortunate to have the Ontario Works and Community Service along with Co-op Students keeping in touch and actively participating in offering their services to us in the form of volunteering hours at our center. There are also volunteers from the fund raising committee and from the board of directors and just plain animal lovers who give up their time to come in and help at the center. Also as of September 20th Animal Aide has been registered as a member of Volunteers Elgin which is another excellent source for people who want to get involved in the community to possibly choose us as an organization to dedicate their spare time to.

Every day is a challenge and each day Animal Aide accepts that challenge head on and with the hope that the efforts made will make some difference in the lives of these animals. It truly shows, in just the short time at the new location, that all efforts made are in the best interest of these loving animals. It takes constant cooperation between everyone connected with Animal Aide to keep it running smoothly. If the past few months is any indication of things to come Animal Aide will continue to improve its reputation as a dedicated and caring organization and in doing so show that it is a definite asset to the community.

Sharon Harbaruk
Volunteer Co-Ordinator

Fundraising Report

I would like to thank the members of the Fundraising Committee for their never ending time, enthusiasm, faithfulness and hard work during the last year. We have been involved and participated in many events, activities, raffles, dinners, charity bingos, venues and on-going projects, with all members "stepping up to the plate when needed". We have generated a substantial amount of monies for Animal Aide, always keeping in mind we are here for the animals.

Our first year as a committee has been a growing experience, with many successes and ideas brought forth. As a team we have learned a lot, shared a lot, experienced many ups and downs, but always striving toward our common goal.

In conclusion, we as a committee are looking forward to another successful year of fresh ideas with endless possibilities. The Fundraising Committee ("The Dream Team") will tirelessly forge ahead with every opportunity to carry out its commitment to help provide for the animals in our care.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lou McCuaig

Director of Fundraising

Overview of Last Year's Fundraising Activities:

- Charity Bingos - all bingos held at Bingo Country
- Raffles - Spring Fling, Shelley McVittie Print, Hand Knitted Shaggy Dog & Basket
- Venues - Briwood, IGA, Walmart, Elgin Mall, Shoppers Drug Mart, Zellers, Saans (at these locations we sold raffle tickets, crafts and distributed information regarding Animal Aide)
- Events - Fire Muster, Two Yard Sales Sparta & Old Centre, Ribbon Blitz at LCBO, Dog Show, Pet Photos with Santa at Fantasy of Lights, Gift Wrapping at Walmart, Bingo Palace Ribbon Blitz, Have a Heart Coffee Break at Valleyview Home, Dog Days at Vanir's, Two Clipping Clinics at Lyle Cook's, Easter Bunny Pictures at Elgin Mall, Dog Walk- A -Thon, Storm Baseball Team Booster Night for Animal Aide at Emslie Field
- Craft Shows - Valleyview, Caressant Care, Port Stanley, & Senior Citizen Centre
- Dinners - Chili Dinner (Dec./01) and Ham & Scalloped Potatoe Dinner (March/02) both at Salvation Army
- Barbecues - Canadale Nurseries, Zehr's, IGA & Beaver creek Animal Hospital
- Project – Ribbons, Dog & Cat Ornaments, Calendars, Memo Pads & Donation Boxes

Income Statement

Animal Aide of St Thomas Elgin
Income Statement
for the Year Ended August 31, 2002

Revenue:

Adoption Revenue:

Cats Super Pet	\$	15,151.00	
Cats Center & Other		20,027.15	
Dogs		2,701.50	
Total Adoption Income:			\$ 37,879.65

Estate 33,154.30

Membership Revenue 522.00

Donation Revenue:

City of St Thomas	\$	5,000.00	
Receipted Donations		30,230.78	
Miscellaneous Donations		10,806.15	
Donation Boxes		1,655.51	
Total Donation Revenue:			47,692.44

Nevada 16,848.60

Other Revenue:

Fundraising Revenue	\$	19,447.66	
Santa Raffle		1,775.35	
Garden Show		336.70	
Individual Donation		175.83	
Abbeydale		157.58	
City Hartz Basket		50.00	
Filing Cabinet		600.00	
Bell		61.15	
Individual Donation		5,800.00	
Manulife Financial		500.00	
Beaver Creek Animal Hospital		250.00	
Total Other Income:			29,154.27

Bingo Revenue 34,187.52

Total Revenue \$ 199,438.78

Animal Aide of St Thomas Elgin
Income Statement
for the Year Ended August 31, 2002
con't

Expenses:

Rent Expense		\$	6,313.00
Veterinarian Expense:			
Elgin Animal Hospital	\$	43,550.02	
Beaver Creek Animal Hospital		12,037.59	
Talbot Animal Clinic		34,848.26	
Aylmer Veterinary Clinic		1,000.00	
Abbeydale		443.14	
London Emergency Clinic		102.95	
Sears Animal Hospital		48.15	
Total Veterinarian Expense			92,030.11
Kennel Expense:			
Vanir Kennels	\$	10,538.61	
K9 Concepts		9,454.50	
Just 4 Paws		2,969.35	
			22,962.46
Other Expenses:			
Yurek Pharmacy	\$	528.70	
Pet Value		6,134.05	
Centre Supplies		4,965.23	
Office Supplies		2,263.40	
Advertising		3,112.97	
Digital Camera		425.00	
Personal Loan Repayment		500.00	
Siskinds Law Firm		150.00	
Meeting Facilities		494.41	
Fundraising Expenses		4,864.31	
Refund of Fundraising Expense		61.41	
Santa Expense		230.00	
Crystal		100.00	
Flowers		138.24	
Dog Licenses		25.00	
McBain Sign		97.50	

Animal Aide of St Thomas Elgin
Income Statement
for the Year Ended August 31, 2002
con't

Adoption Refunds	229.00	
Internet Expense	90.31	
Transportation Costs	160.00	
Nevada	<u>6,047.05</u>	
Total Other Expenses:		\$ 30,616.58
Bingo Expense		30,630.82
Utilities Expense:		
Bell	\$ 566.43	
Union Gas	\$ 1,301.07	
St Thomas Energy	\$ 3,050.09	
Green Lane	\$ 1,448.35	
Insurance	<u>\$ 1,461.62</u>	
Total Utilities Expense:		7,827.56
Bank Expenses:		
Copies	\$ 4.50	
NSF Cheque	\$ 100.00	
Bank Charges	\$ 155.50	
Cheques	\$ 112.35	
Total Bank Expenses		372.35
Miscellaneous Expense		<u>1,877.15</u>
Total Expenses		\$ <u>192,630.03</u>
Net Revenue		\$ <u><u>6,808.75</u></u>

Outstanding debt as of August 31, 2002

<i>Waite's Printing</i>	\$ 952.96
<i>Aylmer Vet</i>	708.22
<i>Advertising Account Payable</i>	<u>5,000.00</u>
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ 6,661.18</u>

Directors 2001-2002

Lois Jackson
Chair

April Donaher
Treasurer

Pat Fry
Director of Cats

Dale Orr
Co-Director of Cats.

Donna Fraser
Director of Dogs

Mary Lou McCuaig
Director of Fundraising

Lisa Nutbrown
Secretary