Have You Seen our New Cattery?

Always striving to improve the quality of life of its four-legged residents, the Eastern Townships SPA, thanks to financial support of the public, has provided several improvements to the interior living arrangements of its feline residents during the past year.

Thanks to your donations, in the fall of 2012, the Eastern Townships SPA transformed a small office into a cattery. Furnished with perches, scratching posts, hammocks and stools, this room offers the cats an environment that is far more comfortable and much more natural than conventional cages; the cats can, indeed, walk around, perch, sharpen their claws, hide and even play with their “roommates”.

Despite its small size, this new physical layout allows the visitors to interact directly with the cats and to get to know better their true personality; this more intimate contact increases the chance that families looking for a feline pet will find that perfect gem! Restructured according to the new norms in force, this new space has proven to be a great success, and the Eastern Townships SPA wishes to transpose this cattery model to its new shelter.

**Metamorphosis of a cubicle**

By utilizing all the available space at its aging shelter, the Eastern Townships SPA also converted last winter a 30 square foot cubicle into an open play area for cats. Like the cattery, this spatial “metamorphosis” has greatly benefited the feline residents, who can now lounge in quiet comfort.

The addition of these two new areas means much greater comfort for the cats, which, without your generosity, would not be enjoying them. On behalf of all our feline residents, we thank you!

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**Randonnée des belles gueules : See You Next Year!**

The 11th edition of our traditional *Randonnée des belles gueules* will be held in spring 2014. The planning and organization of this important fundraising activity, which is very appreciated by the animal lovers, are on our “to do” list. We will keep you informed through our web site and our newsletters. See you soon!

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Your Donations Change and Save Lives!

Once again this year, your support allowed the lives of many animals in the region to be not only changed, but saved. To express our deepest gratitude for your generosity, we're sending this newsletter so you can know exactly what your support has allowed us to do. **THANK YOU** and enjoy your reading!
A New Beginning for Injured Orphans

For 35 years now, the Eastern Townships SPA has been rescuing every year thousands of abandoned, lost or mistreated animals. The organization also provides help to injured orphan animals, through its partnership with the Clinique vétérinaire du Vieux Village and the Clinique de stérilisation des petits animaux de l’Estrie.

Thanks to the volunteer implication of these two clinics and to the generosity of the public, injured and homeless pets can benefit, since a little over three years, from medical care and experience a new start once they have recovered. This involvement, which brings together people generous of their time and touched by these sad stories, opens up ways of thinking about solving animal suffering other than euthanasia, in an affordable manner.

Thanks to your donations, the Eastern Townships SPA contributes to this partnership by paying for the postoperative medication that is essential for the recovery of treated animals. Your generosity thus saves lives and offers these pets the opportunity to live once again in a loving family.

This good fortune awaited Suzy last fall. Upon her arrival at the Eastern Townships SPA, the little ginger female cat had a severe fracture of her right hind paw which also had the skin turned inside out like a glove. Because of the severity of the injury, amputation of her paw was the only possible surgical solution. Since Suzy had an overall healthy condition and was a gentle and affectionate cat, she had all it took to charm a future adoptive family. And this is what actually happened shortly after her surgery. Since that day, she lives happily with her new family!

Luck also smiled on Blanca, who was delivered from her collar after several days. Upon her arrival at the shelter, she had one of her front paw caught under the collar she was wearing. Blanca probably stayed many days in this awkward position, because the skin under her abdomen had started to close around the collar. The little white cat had to undergo a somewhat complicated surgery, but all went very well. Thanks to your donations, Blanca now lives with her new caring adoptive family.

To help more pets like Suzy and Blanca get a new start, please make a donation today. THANK YOU!

Mission of the Eastern Townships SPA

The mission of the Eastern Townships SPA is to protect animals and harmonize their relationship with humans. We work together with the public to develop respect for animals and sensitivity to their suffering in order to improve their quality of life.
Animals in Need Can Count on the Eastern Townships SPA

Thanks to your generosity, animals in need can count on the Eastern Townships SPA. Whether they’re homeless, lost or in poor shape, our team is there to provide help, comfort, and care and to allow them to start off on the right paw.

Over the past year, the SPA has had to deal with unfortunate situations daily, but many of them, like Boucane’s, had a happy ending. Boucane (meaning “smoke”) got his name from SPA staff after a firefighter with the Sherbrooke Fire Department rescued him from a fire last January. This poor cat was very lucky that SPA technicians and veterinarians were there to give him the proper care. From the moment Boucane arrived at the SPA shelter, suffering from respiratory distress and hypothermia, he received all the first aid he needed. Once the toxins were removed from his respiratory system, as well as from his fur, he was kept under observation for one week before returning to his family who was very glad to see him on the road to recovery.

Victim of his own curiosity, Bob was found wandering in the woods last May, his muzzle covered in porcupine quills. Brought to the shelter by the good Samaritan who found him, this poor dog was suffering and had to be given general anesthesia so the veterinarian and animal care technicians could remove the 400 to 500 quills that were lodged in his entire muzzle, in the back of his ears and even beneath his skin.

He received proper treatment before being placed in a foster home for nearly two months so his health and appearance could improve. Once he had fully recovered and grown a new coat, the little pinscher was back to the SPA shelter, where his stay ended up a brief one; a family in search of a canine companion took one look at him and was hooked!

When he arrived at the Eastern Townships SPA last January, Chi-Chi, who was barely seven months old, had a very distinctive appearance. Following a veterinary examination, it became clear that the little pinscher was infested with demodex, a parasitic mite that causes skin lesions when an animal’s immune system is not, or is no longer, able to fight back. Since Chi-Chi unfortunately hadn’t received immediate treatment when the first symptoms appeared, the lesions had spread and covered nearly his entire body.

He received proper treatment before being placed in a foster home for nearly two months so his health and appearance could improve. Once he had fully recovered and grown a new coat, the little pinscher was back to the SPA shelter, where his stay ended up a brief one; a family in search of a canine companion took one look at him and was hooked!

Without your invaluable financial support, the Eastern Townships SPA could not intervene in situations like these. In the name of all the animals rescued, we THANK YOU! You can help your SPA help other animals by making a donation today!
Towards New Horizons

To offer a second chance to the largest possible number of animals it welcomes, the Eastern Townships SPA redirects, occasionally, some animals to other SPA/SPCAs, animal protection organizations, sanctuaries or specialized shelters. These animals are taken care of by people of expertise who treat with first-class attention their new borders! This partnership is possible through the volunteers’ invaluable collaboration, by assuring the transportation of these animals to these specialized organizations.

Over the past year, more than 50 animals, including of course cats and dogs, but also turtles, hedgehogs, an even a pig, were redirected towards diverse resources, which represents over 70 hours of voluntary transportation and beyond 6,200 traveled kilometers. Your generosity allowed us to pay the expenses in gasoline of this voluntary transportation. THANK YOU! Make a donation today, so other animals can also experience a new start.

Thousands of Happy Families and Pets!

Thanks to your generosity, the Eastern Townships SPA can offer, on a daily basis, shelter, food and medical care to animals in need, and make all the necessary efforts to find them a new family. Not only do your donations allow your SPA to pursue its mission, but they also change the lives of thousands of animals from our region.

During the past year, hundreds of cats and dogs were able to once again offer their love to many Eastern Townships families, who regularly express us the joy that their new four-legged friend has brought them.

It’s been a week since Becky joined our family. We are so fortunate because she is a real sweetheart! Many thanks to your team; you do admirable and very professional work. We really feel that the focus is being put at the right places to enable animals to remain in the care of their adoptive family. Well done! Your education campaigns really target topics of interest and propose very constructive approaches. Once again, THANK YOU!

Becky’s family
Message published on our Facebook page in February 2013

In May 2012, we registered as a foster family. Two days later, we received your phone call and welcomed Oscar, a beautiful 8 year-old Himalayan. Four months later, we were offered the opportunity to officially adopt him. I would like to thank the SPA team for its constant efforts shown at each of my visits. Thanks to you, we now have the chance to take care of an extraordinary cat, whose presence has become a daily source of joy. I sincerely thank you for your professionalism and devotion to the well-being of animals.

Oscar’s family
Message published on our website in December 2012