



# Critter Care News

WINTER 2022/23 EDITION



## Bravo to Brinley!

Local student Brinley decided to organize a fundraiser to help families in need of help with their beloved furbabies. She chose to donate the money to LAFS!!

Brinley organized a lunch hour sock hop over two days so the kindergarten students were also able to participate. Brinley and her fellow students raised

\$274.00 to help the critters.

She also helped bake the homemade doggie treats that were available at our booth on Canada Day.

We can't express enough gratitude for our youths' efforts and continued support for LAFS. Great job Brinley, and thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our community!

## Introducing Logan!

Logan, our new helper is keeping the Dog Park in order and putting up LAFS information posters around town. Thanks for joining the team, Logan! In his own words:

*"Hi my name is Logan. I love all animals. I have 2 dogs. One is named Apollo and the other is named Max. I also have 2 cats. One is named Smokey and the other is named Monkey. I have 10 chickens and 1 rooster named Bill. I am responsible for feeding the dogs, cats, and chickens. I love working at the MacEwen Dog Park."*



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## Welcome to our new format of Critter Care News...

Lisa has moved on to new adventures - thank you, Lisa and the LD FC crew, for all the great work on past issues. Lakes Animal Friendship Society has an exciting new partnership with the LD News to deliver *Critter Care News* to the community – both as a supplement to the LD News and direct to local schools as we did before. We are so excited to work with Laura and Annamarie and the always helpful folks at Black Press!

We hope you enjoy this new format and if you have any questions or comments, please contact us: [info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca](mailto:info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca).



**Lakes Animal Friendship Society believes that happy, healthy animals are part of happy, healthy families and communities.**

# Carter Dog House

Some of you may recall our friend Toni Carter, whom we featured in the Critter Care News several years ago. Toni was one of the very first people to take the Hofer House design "international". She built houses for dogs in her community way down in Arkansas. The world lost a very kind soul when Toni passed away, but we are so proud of her husband Steve who continues her legacy!



Steve says, "Here's the first house donated to the Rogers, AR Humane Society. I'm on the left and Clay Morgan, the manager, on the right. Have eight more houses being built and should be done within two weeks." They made flat packs and delivered them to Bella Vista Animal Shelter. Steve has also shared our education materials with his local branch of the Best Friends Animal Society! Thanks so much, Steve and to all your friends who are helping keep the critters happy and healthy.



# What? There's a Dog Park in Burns Lake?

*Submitted by Lynn Synotte*

It was July 1st, the sun came out and it was finally time to officially open the MacEwen Dog Park in Burns Lake.

Although the event had been delayed for over two years, due to the COVID pandemic, about 50 people and their dogs came to celebrate the day when it finally came.

"The MacEwen's dogs were their children," according to a friend of the pair, George Magee, who, during the opening ceremony related stories about the love of dogs as the reason the money given to the Rotary by the MacEwens was used to construct the park.

The site, located on Francois Lake Drive, was originally the Dick Schritt Ball Park, not used for years due to the relocation of baseball diamonds to the Eagle Creek Fairgrounds. so there was a tribute as well to Rotarian Dick Schritt. Carla Carlson, daughter of Mr. Schritt, thanked the Committee for including a memorial sign in the park to honor her father.

Lynn Synotte gave a brief history of the park's construction, and acknowledged the many financial donors and volunteers who assisted with building the park. "3000 bags have been used since opening!" she laughed. She also introduced the Committee's new maintenance worker, Logan Mailoux. Committee member Tracey Payne explained how the signs purchased by local businesses posted on the fence paid for his wages and the bags. Dog Park Committee member Heather Anchikoski cut the ribbon held by members Ricky Dobbs and Nicole Gerow to cheers and barks of onlookers.

The rain held off for the two hour event, long enough to watch Julie Harrison put her three dogs through an agility demonstration and the obstacles stayed up for dog lovers to try their own pooches on the course. Julie also stayed and answered many questions of dog owners.



Spectators munched on watermelon and pooches snacked on free treats provided by MICHELS representative, John Hunt. Dog owners also walked away with free portable doggie bowls donated by the Village of Burns Lake.

Judges saw many tricks, long tongues and tails in the in the fun contests and there were a lot of smiles as winners were awarded with dog toys and other prizes.

Contestants in the "Do You Look Like Your Dog" campaign waited patiently until the results of the

contest were announced. The 15 excellent entries received made it difficult to choose. But in the end, the \$100 first prize went to Tristan and Baxter, very cool in hats and shades. The \$50 Chamber Bucks second prize was awarded to Kieran and Goomba, who managed a look alike pose. Third prize of \$30 Chamber Bucks was won by Rene Crouse, Mindy and Echo who were all attired in black and white, and an honorable mention and \$20 worth of Chamber Bucks went to Liz, Frankie and Tesla who also wore sort of matching outfits!

# Donors Making a Difference!

## Camp collections add up!

The local pipeline camp, with workers from Michels, Coastal GasLink and Civeo have been doing monthly bottle drives in cooperation with the Burns Lake Recycle-It Recycling Depot to raise money for local organizations. This year they have generously donated \$4400 to Lakes Animal Friendship Society! We would also like to thank the Depot and our local community members who donate their refunds to LAFS throughout the year.

## Big hearts at the Real Canadian Wholesale Club!

Lauren and her team have been big supporters of LAFS and their donation drives have helped many low-income families through our SpayAid program. Once again, they collected donations from our local community members and raised over \$1000 to this very worthy cause. Thank you to our friends at the

Real Canadian Wholesale Club and to everyone who said "Yes, I would love to help the critters!" when they went through the till!

## Something sweet for you – and the critters!

We are so grateful to everyone who donates change to LAFS through our coin boxes around the community. Over \$1200 is collected each year, which is enough to cover a huge shipment of pet food to the Food Centre, or animal care and dog bite safety materials for 120 students. Every bit helps!

You can find our coin boxes at: Woodland Bakery, Chevron, Red Apple, Your Dollar Store, Pharmasave, Home Hardware, P&B Feeds-n-Needs, Subway, Tweedsmuir Hotel and Restaurant, Old and Bold Espresso, Lakes Artisan Centre, Fields, Bold and Cold Liquor Store and Wild Roots. Let us know if you want a box at your business, we would love to be there.

## P&B Feeds-n-Needs are friends indeed!

Thank you to P&B Feeds for giving us space to collect community donations of pet food and supplies. Look for the colourful box just inside the door!

## We value our veterinarians!

Thank you to our veterinary partners at the Burns Lake Veterinary Clinic, Bulkley River Veterinary Services and Vet-to-Pet Mobile Services. We are grateful for your support of our SpayAid program and so are all the animals, their families and the community.

## Another reason firefighters are "cool"...

Thanks to the Burns Lake Fire Training Society, we have a safe and secure place to store our equipment and supplies for whenever they are needed, including community emergencies like floods or wildfires.

# LAFS Connections – Ghana!



Karen Menczer is the founder of Animal Kind International, which believes "Kindness to Animals has no Boundaries". We are thrilled that Karen has shared our materials with Ulla (above), who runs an animal welfare group in Ghana, a country in West Africa!

For more information about AKI, check out [www.animal-kind.org](http://www.animal-kind.org).

## Pet Practice with Peaches the Pooch!



Thanks to Paula Garber from Cat Protection Council of Westchester (New York) for sending us a lovely note and photo. Classroom dog Peaches and her guardian Brandon helped volunteer Vanessa teach the kids of Roosevelt School about animal care and safety. Each student went home with a genuine LAFS Activity Book!

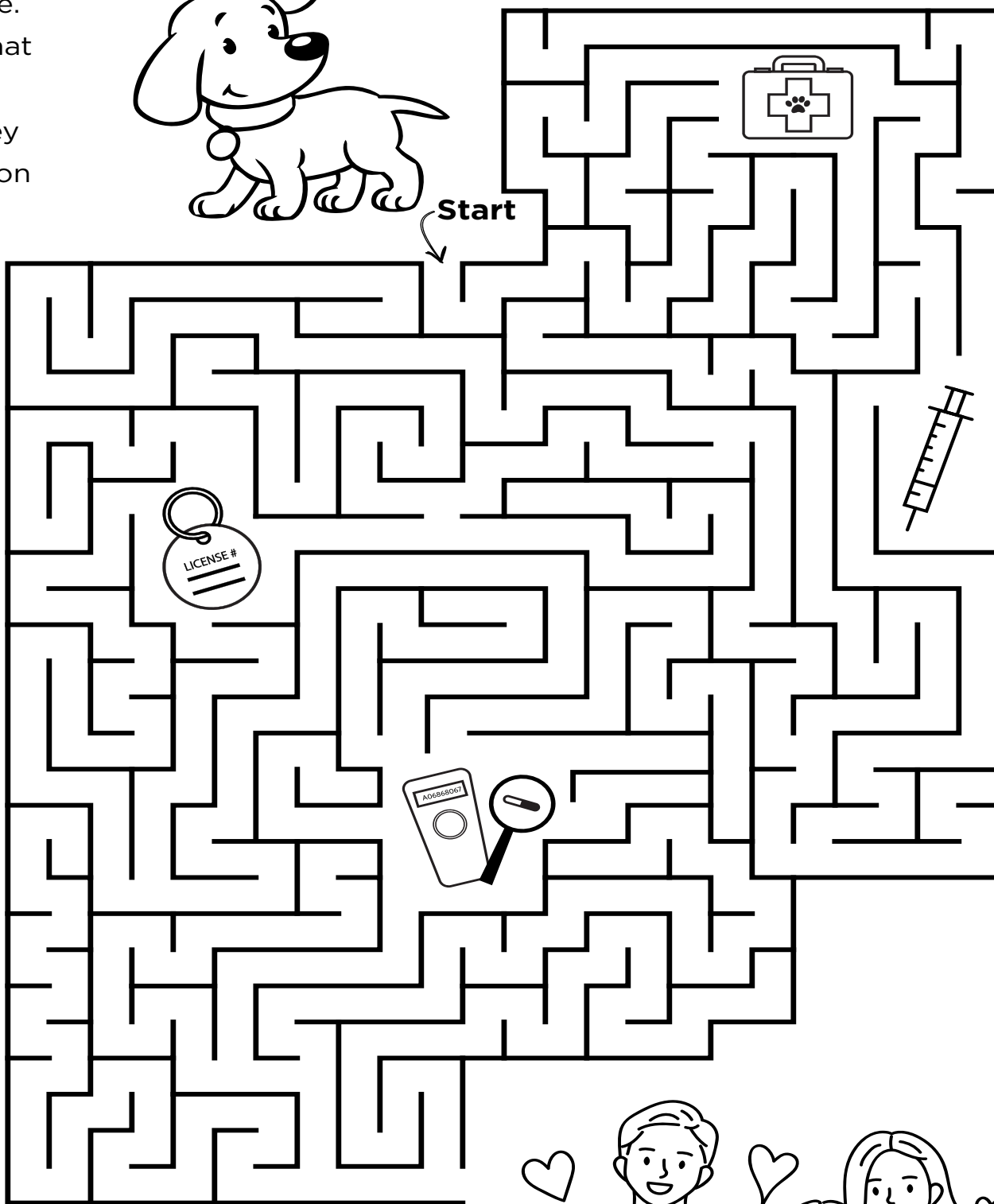
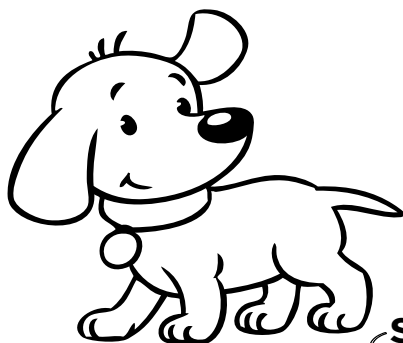
## A heartfelt message from Valerie, Alistair and Dusty!

"Thank you to the community for supporting us and LAFS since 2008. You have helped thousands of animals and hundreds of families. We may have moved, but **LAFS IS STILL HERE FOR THE COMMUNITY**. Now more than ever, we need donations to support SpayAid and our pet food programs. We need local volunteers to help with events and other rescue work. You can donate and contact us on our web site or email [info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca](mailto:info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca)."



# Adoption is the Best Option

When you adopt a pet from a shelter or rescue, you pay an adoption fee. This fee includes many benefits that are important for the health and safety of your pet. Learn what they are as you help Lyla collect them on her journey through the shelter to her new family. Check the box as you collect each one!



 **Spay or neuter surgery**

 **Vaccinations**

 **License**

 **Microchip**

When you adopt a pet, you open up a spot at the shelter to help another pet, and your adoption fee goes to help the shelter care for even more animals! You are a hero when you choose to adopt a pet!



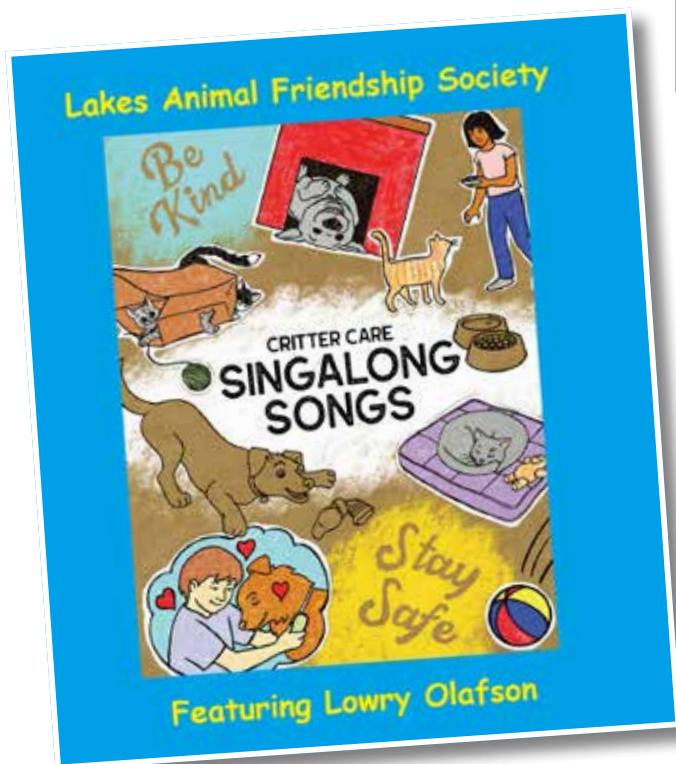
**Thanks to our friends at San Diego Humane Society for this activity sheet! Check out local adoption options on the back page.**

**[sdhumane.org](http://sdhumane.org)**

# Hear Our Songs, and Sing Along!

In the summer of 2012, singer / songwriter Lowry Olafson and a host of local animal lovers (and even some dogs) came together to create a theme song for LAFS. The song was called "Teach My Person How to Love Me". The original on-the-spot recording even includes a "yip!" from one of the dogs when we sang about how the vet will "give me all my shots". Now that was some good improvisation!

We thought it was awesome, and Lowry did too. Lowry created a fantastic professional studio recording complete with session drummer and backup singers. The studio and live versions went onto a CD (remember those?) complete with kids' art on the sleeve. Each of our local students got a CD, and instead of business cards, LAFS handed out those CDs for years.



As we worked on our major re-do of all our education materials during COVID, songs were a must. We once again asked Lowry to help us get them out in a fun and effective way. Lowry helped us to rework five of our existing animal care and safety songs. We also created a brand-new interactive song called "My Dog Scruff". All of our new "Critter Care Singalong Songs" turned out great, just as you would expect from a performing pro like Lowry.

To make the songs accessible (including "Teach My Person How to Love Me"), they are free on our web site, and they can also be found on the major streaming and digital music services. You can find them under "Resources" on our web site or click on our album page to listen to all the songs:

Lakes Animal Friendship Society - Critter Care Singalong Songs ([lafs.hearnow.com](http://lafs.hearnow.com))

Classroom volunteer and friend of LAFS "Ms. Suzie" loved the songs but asked if there were instrumental versions to help kids sing along on her class visits with her sidekick Beanie. So, we now have karaoke versions of the songs, complete with videos on our YouTube Channel. If you want to check out the karaoke videos and sing along, they can be found here:

[www.youtube.com/LakesAnimalFriends](http://www.youtube.com/LakesAnimalFriends)

We hope that you enjoy them. Feel free to use the songs to make your own critter care-positive videos, and share the videos with us!

**Big thanks to Lowry, and also to Ms. Suzie, Pat Castellano, Carol Everett, Stacy Hurley and the 'Cuse Pit Crew for their help and inspiration.**

You can find more about Lowry on his web site: [Lowry Olafson - lowryolafson.com](http://LowryOlafson.com)

## Summer Camp at the Rec Centre



LAFS helps Julie and Lyssa had a great time with the kids at the Village Recreation Summer Camp.

"We brought Peach, and the kids were able to each do a trick with Clive. It was lots of fun. We handed out some books, pencils, and craft supplies. The kids made 'kindness cards' to spread the love around town!"

# Big Friendly Clive Helps Bring Smiles to Seniors!



Big Friendly Clive visited Tweedsmuir House, Carrol Cottage and Heritage Manor in November. He brought smiles to the residents and it was wonderful listening to their stories. Clive showed off his tricks and had a great time!

## *Fun at the Fall Fair*



LAFS volunteers had a fun time at the Fall Fair. In the Kids Corner, Julie and Clive did demos of dog tricks and training. Cheryl and her little helpers sold treats and trinkets to raise money for the critters. And the kids got to do a lot of art, activities, and hanging out with Clive. It was a hot but happy day!



### **HEY KIDS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS!**

Got critter news to share? Sweet adoption stories? Cool critter art? Poems? Pictures of safe fun with pets? Email them to: [info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca](mailto:info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca) or send us a message on [Facebook.com/LakesAnimalFriendship](https://www.facebook.com/LakesAnimalFriendship).

# Dr. Jane Goodall, Bean, and the BESS Blanket

When we finished our "Kindness Collection" this past winter, it was a great feeling. We could finally bring hundreds of copies out to our local students and schools, and give "Kindness Kits" to all the individuals, groups and businesses who have supported us over the years. What a celebration of animal care, compassion and safety!

Some of our "Kindness Kits" went to other groups who work to make lives better for animals, families, and communities. It was a way for us to say: "thanks for what you do!". We sent a kit, complete with one of the famous recycled material dog blankets made by the students of BESS, to the Jane Goodall Institute, started by Dr. Jane Goodall. Jane is most famous for her work with chimpanzees, but she now spends much of her time promoting efforts to conserve both communities and their natural environment.

You can imagine our shock and absolute thrill when we received a personal email from Dr. Jane Goodall herself!



As cool as it is to receive a personal note from someone you greatly admire, we took it to heart that no matter how busy you may be, take the time to reach out with kindness. The world can always use more kindness.

We have been encouraging local schools and groups to get involved in Roots and Shoots for the past several years. For more info on the Roots and Shoots program in Canada, here is the link:

<https://janegoodall.ca/what-we-do/canada-programs/roots-and-shoots/>

Jane included a photo of her rescue dog Bean (a 16 year-old whippet) enjoying the blanket. Our thanks to Claire Quarendon of JGI for the picture of Jane and to Judy Waters (Jane's sister) for the photo of Bean.



*First I want to thank all the students at Babine Elementary Secondary School who made the beautiful blanket. I think you already have a photo of me when the blanket arrived. Congratulations to all of you.*

*And what a wonderful box of gifts, including Out of the Cold – a fantastic project described in this book. Thank you so much.*

*I am so grateful to the Lakes Animal Friendship Society (LAFS) as well as the students of Babine Elementary Secondary School (BESS).*

*I know a wonderful little dog called Bess – and my grandmother was known as Bessie!*

*Do you know about Roots & Shoots? It is very strong in Canada and does a lot of work with First Nation children.*

*In case you have not heard about it, R&S is a programme for young people, kindergarten through university, who choose project to make the world a better place for people, animals and the environment. It is now in 65 countries, and growing. Hundreds of thousands of young people, all determined to make this a better world. My greatest hope for the future.*

*Thank you again  
Peace and love  
Jane*

## DOG thoughts vs CAT thoughts

Bark at Everything! Bark at Nothing! FOOD!  
Human Leaving?! FOLLOW them! Stare at human!  
FOOD! Roll in Stinky Stuff!  
Sit on my Human! Take up ENTIRE Bed!  
Work on Sad Eyes! BALL! STICK! FOOD!  
Enjoy every single Moment to the FULLEST!



Wake humans at 3 a.m. to remind them how Magnificent I am.



# Stand Like a Tree

See a loose dog that you don't know?

Don't run. Dogs love to chase!  
Don't stare at the dog. This can make the dog feel threatened.

Have a bike?  
Stand behind  
your bike.

Stand like  
a tree.

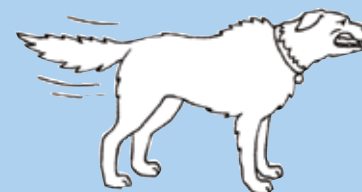
Knocked down by the dog?  
Curl up like a rock.

Eating or carrying  
something? Toss it  
away for the dog.  
Then walk away slowly.

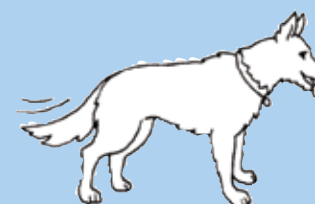
It can calm your own dog if you stand like a tree when they're getting too frisky!

### How are these dogs feeling?

- Excited
- Scared
- Angry
- Playful
- Happy



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. Excited



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_

A dog shows us how they are feeling with their whole body. Look carefully at their ears, mouth and tail.

1. Angry 2. Scared 3. Happy 4. Excited 5. Playful

## WE LOVE TO KEEP KIDS KIND AND SAFE!

To find out about getting LAFS into the classroom at your school, or speaking with other groups of kids, email [info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca](mailto:info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca).



# Ms. Suzie and Beanie – the Adventure Continues!

Friends of the kids and critters, Beanie and Ms. Suzie are back in the classrooms in Moore County, North Carolina. They are using LAFS materials and songs in their wonderful programs.

*We are back in the schools again and starting yesterday we do not have to wear masks. Last week I was able to hand out the wonderful activity books you sent, and the kids were thrilled. I also put 2 bookmarks, a box of colored pencils, sharpeners, erasers, and a few other goodies in their bags. I know you can't read the sign, but it says "Ms. Valerie, Thank you for our activity books. They are great!"*

*Ms. Moore (the teacher) is standing in the back row left; and back row right is my husband Al. I'm sure you recognized me and Beanie.*

*Thank you again so much for helping the kids learn more and more about pets. Yesterday a class wanted to know about the songs. I guess I better tune up my vocal cords and lead them in a chorus or two of "Love, Love, Love your pets".*

*We love you,  
Suzie and Beanie*



Congratulations to Ms. Suzie and Beanie for getting a well-deserved "Engage Inspire Succeed" award from Moore County Schools!

## Keeping Critters Cozy This Winter

A warm "THANK YOU" to Katie and the folks at The Good Haul who made a fantastic care package of donated food and goodies for LAFS and our friends at the LINK Food Centre! Thumbs up right back to the volunteers from Trinity Plumbing who donate their time to wrap pallets for distant communities.

This time we even got a stack of cozy and adorable doggie jackets. Our community really appreciated them:

*To the person who donated the jacket to our community, your kind gesture is very much appreciated, we don't have access easily to the stores for pets and we are very grateful for your help. You have helped a 16 year old multipoo who is very much loved and adored and we thank you for this kindness to our family.*

-C.H.-



# Bringing Vets to Local Pets!



For our 2022 Community Animal Care Event, Dr. Kim Hunter and the team from Vet-to-Pet Mobile services returned to Burns Lake. Thanks to our hosts, the Southside Economic Development Association and the Burns Lake Public Library, we could bring vet services to where they were needed most.

Close to 100 dogs and cats got check-ups and were spayed, neutered, and vaccinated to keep them happy, healthy and safe.

Thank you to all the donors who support the spay neuter program, including the Village of Burns Lake, as well as the volunteers who helped care for the vet team, the animals and their families. And thank you to the guardians who trusted us with their furry family members. It couldn't have happened without you!

Remember, our spay / neuter program is available every day of the year!!! You don't have to wait, check out the information in this newsletter or contact our friends at the Burns Lake Public Library or the LINK Food Centre (Food Bank).

## *We Love our Library!*



We are so lucky to have a library full of great books, fun features and a super staff. The Burns Lake Public Library invited us to celebrate the opening of the MacEwen Children's Library. Clive and Julie were very excited to be there.

Clive, who passed his Level 3 Therapy Dog Training, loves the Library's "Reading with Clive" program. He can't wait to see what books the children will choose to read to him!



# Low Income Pet Guardian in the Lakes District?

Here's how to save a **TONNE** of **MONEY!!!**

## GET YOUR PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED ("FIXED")!

Low income families can get their dog or cat fixed for \$50\*

Email [info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca](mailto:info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca) or talk to our friends at the Burns Lake Public Library or the LINK / Food Centre for more information.

**You'll save hundreds of dollars on the normal cost!**

**AND If you have a dog in the Village Animal Control area, you will save \$40 EVERY YEAR!**

If that's not enough – how about less stinky marking and spraying? Less wandering and getting into trouble and hit on the road? Less yowling and crying? Sounds good to me!

Helping keep everyone happy, healthy and safe - and saving money? That's what we call a good investment!



**Don't delay – spay or neuter today!**



## Check out Bark!

Our friends at the BC SPCA produce a great magazine for kids called Bark! The Fall 2022 issue has a most excellent dog care guide. Even if you are not a member of the BC SPCA Kids' Club, just search online for "BC SPCA Bark". It is the first link that pops up, and you can read for free!



## Critter Care Resources for the Burns Lake Area

### Assistance with Pet Food, Dog and Cat Houses, Supplies

- The LINK / Lakes District Family Enhancement Society | 250.251.1466

### Dog jumping up? Pulling on the leash? Cat won't use the litter box?

- Pets aren't born knowing the rules! A little training goes a long way. Check our Facebook page (LakesAnimalFriendship) for information on training.

### Shelters & Rescue Organizations

Try these organizations for adoption and rehoming options. You can also try this Facebook group: Burns Lake Lost and Found Pets. Post "Pet needs a new home" or "Looking to adopt". THIS IS FOR REHOMING ONLY, NO BREEDERS ALLOWED.

- **Burns Lake Veterinary Clinic (CATS ONLY)**  
Simonds Sanctuary/  
Mother Millie Cat Sanctuary  
250.692.7476 | Facebook: Misty Simond
- **Prince George Humane Society**  
princegeorgehumanesociety@gmail.com  
250.640.7415 | www.pghumanesociety.ca
- **Prince George Animal Rescue**  
pganimalrescue@gmail.com  
250.981.8458 | www.pganimalrescue.com
- **Luv Northern Animal Rescue, Prince George**  
applications.luv4paws@gmail.com  
250.617.1419 | Facebook: Luv4PawsRescue
- **Northwest Animal Shelter, Smithers**  
info@nwas.ca | www.nwas.ca
- **Northern Animal Rescue Alliance, Terrace**  
northernanimalrescue@hotmail.com  
www.northernanimalrescuealliance.com
- **Kitimat Humane Society**  
www.kitimathumane.org  
kchs@citywest.ca | 250.632.7373
- **Terrace Animal Shelter**  
shelter@terrace.ca | 250.615.4031
- **Thornhill Animal Shelter, Terrace**  
dogcontrol@rdks.bc.ca | 250.638.1565
- **BC SPCA North Cariboo, Prince George**  
250.562.5511
- **BC SPCA Prince Rupert**  
250.624.2859

**Reporting Cruelty** If an animal isn't getting proper care, or is being abused, don't ignore the situation. TELL SOMEONE.

- **BC SPCA reporting hotline:** 855.622.7722  
or email [callcentre@spca.bc.ca](mailto:callcentre@spca.bc.ca)
- **RCMP:** 250.692.7171 • **BC Crime Stoppers:** 800.222.8477



[www.lakesanimalfriendship.ca](http://www.lakesanimalfriendship.ca)

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