

Pacific Animal Foundation

W W W . P a c i f i c A n i m a l . o r g



Beautiful logo called "The Paw", designed for SNAPPS and donated by First Nations Award Winning Artist, Jody Broomfield.

Leading the Way

By Lana Simon

The Squamish Neighbourhood Animal Partnership & Protection Society moves forward

We have some exciting and wonderful news. Groundbreaking, actually we think! We want to introduce SNAPPS to you!

For nearly 20 years, Pacific Animal Foundation (PAF) and other rescue groups have been responding to calls from compassionate nation members on the Squamish Reserve (North and West Vancouver) who have told us about animals in distress. Over the years, hundreds of cats (both tame and feral) have been spayed or neutered by the groups, and hundreds of kittens have been socialized and adopted out to new homes. No formal rescue group, operated by nation members, existed. But all that has now changed!

About 18 months ago, PAF was invited to attend and speak at a Squamish Nation Band Council meeting. We provided the Council with lots of information about our efforts on the Reserve over the years and how our PAF Trap/Neuter/Return (or "TNR") program had been responding to requests by nation members. We supplied the Council with some facts and figures on the number of calls and how we had helped stop the constant reproduction of endless litters of kittens by the feral cats. We also told the Council that we had been working with some very dedicated nation members who wanted to formalize a partnership with PAF and start a new Society, which would be run by nation members.

The idea received strong support from the Council and over the past year and a half both PAF and a core of committed nation members have worked together to help reserve animals and create a new structure called - "Squamish Neighbourhood Animal Partnership & Protection Society" (SNAPPS). We are currently in the incorporation stages and will apply for Canadian registered charity status.

Lorrie Cole, who is the point person for SNAPPS, approached First Nations Award Winning Artist and Carver, Jody Broomfield, and he designed and generously donated a beautiful logo called "The Paw", for our program.

The group has been extremely active in many different ways within the community. SNAPPS has been trapping feral cats through the TNR program, engaging and assisting nation members in addressing owned pet issues, including spaying and neutering, and developing educational materials. In October 2011, SNAPPS was invited to set up a table, under the Community Operations Department, at the Chief Joseph Mathias Recreation Centre on "Community Day". We passed out all kinds of helpful tips and educational materials on pet ownership and our TNR program.

In December, the Squamish Trades Centre, built 10 wooden feral cat shelters for us to give feral cats on the Reserve a dry place to sleep and eat through the winter months. Once the shelters were off the production line, Lorrie and her husband, Robert, painted them black and added the SNAPPS logo on the boxes. Seven of the shelters are now around the community protecting the little ferals.

The Elders Centre has been supportive and at their Christmas Craft Fair a donation box for SNAPPS provided a good start on funding.

January has started with a bang, and the spaying and neutering of owned and unowned animals has begun. So has the fundraising. On Feb. 3rd, Lorrie, along with several other nation members, made hot fried bread (at the Elders Centre) and then the group headed to the Band Council offices and the Esliha7án Education Centre to sell it for \$2. a piece. All monies have gone towards SNAPPS. We have lots of other ideas to raise funds and tons of enthusiasm.

We are hopeful that other reserves around BC and Canada will initiate their own Societies and programs, to be run by nation members in their own communities. SNAPPS would be more than pleased to share our set-up information and educational materials with any other group. Please visit us on Facebook at S.N.A.P.P.S. Our website is <http://www.snappsociety.org>



One feral shelter station is stuffed with straw for warmth; the other station contains the feeding dishes.



SNAPPS at work - we all have magnetic car signs to advise residents and Peacekeepers when on site.