

Vanier cat just keeps coming back

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Milo lived on the street for six months until he was found by Ms. Froud. OHS reports that 4,389 stray cats and 1,976 stray dogs were brought in last year.

EMC News - This is one cat that's taking advantage of its nine lives. Milo was left by his owners a week before Christmas in 2009, shortly after arriving at a new home. His previous owners had to pass him on, after allergies prevented them from keeping him.

Between then and the following June, Milo the cat was shot twice, before he was found by a woman named Valerie Froud.

Milo is two years old and in fine shape, aside from the complications from the wounds that he sustained from BB gun shots. When Ms. Froud found Milo, he had an open wound on his chest, his back legs were paralyzed and he was stiff.

"I thought he was dead at first, his body was rigid he had blood on him," said Ms. Froud who runs an organization that helps stray animals, Hungry Homeless in the World's Coldest Capital (HHWCC).

Ms. Froud said she had met Milo on June 19, when he was spry and even jumped into her car. But she wasn't looking for Milo that day, she was looking for one of her own cats that had disappeared.

"I could have taken him home that day and helped find him a home," said Ms. Froud.

Eventually, she took him to an animal hospital that can't be identified due to the veterinary surgeons code of ethics.

At the hospital they found that Milo's chest wound was horribly infected and that he had at least two BB gun wounds. One BB pellet is still lodged in Milo's hindquarters but he was too weak to survive a surgery to remove it.

He remained in hospital for over two weeks because of a severe fever due to blood poisoning caused by the infection of his chest wound. He was put on intravenous fluids for this period in time.

"His lymph glands were hugely swollen, his neck was three times its normal size and he was anemic," said Ms. Froud

Milo's story is harrowing but unfortunately, it's not unique.

"Last year we received 4,389 stray cats and 1,976 stray dogs," explained Tara Jackson of the Ottawa Humane Society (OHS). "Many are abused or injured."

Yet, she explained, those figures only reflect the number of animals reported to OHS, and she expects there are many more wandering the city streets.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there were 1,000 cats in Vanier alone," said Cindy Groulx a volunteer with the Cat Rescue Network. "Across the city, there is no way to know. It isn't the city's fault either, they don't have the manpower to handle the enormous problem of stray animals in Ottawa and its rural boundaries."

Today, Mr. Froud has been caring for Milo as she continues to look for a new home for him. His health is much better, she said, and he can now jump, run and play.

A donation box has been set up at the Critter Jungle in the city's west-end to help pay for at Milo's hospital bills and his continuing care.

For more information on Milo contact Ms. Froud at vfroud@global.net.