

Press Release – Ottawa, Wednesday, July 7, 2010

Alert – Domestic Cat Shot In Vanier Neighbourhood
[A day in the life of an abandoned cat]

It is illegal to shoot animals with a BB gun within the city limits. In the past year however, a young house cat named Milo was shot twice in the vicinity of Charleswood Avenue in Vanier. Last year Milo was shot in the abdomen, rupturing it and requiring intensive surgery to repair the internal damage.

In the summer of 2010 Milo was shot again, this time in the chest. Either that bullet, or the first bullet, is now lodged near his hind legs.

This is a particularly sad case given Milo's history. Shortly after being shot the first time, Milo's owner gave him away. The second owner later moved and left Milo behind. Around Christmas of 2009, a neighbour who feeds stray cats found a note on her door asking her to feed Milo since he kept returning to his old home. Milo spent the winter outdoors, hanging around the neighborhood trying to get people to take him in or feed him. He was allowed to wander in and out of at least one house, but nobody gave him a home.

Milo became the neighborhood vagabond. Some people liked him but many did not. Those who did not called the Ottawa Bylaw Department or simply shot him. The Department visited the people who fed stray cats and ordered them stop 'harboring cats' or they would be fined. The feeding stopped.

Milo was hungry, cold and desperate. He followed people home like a puppy, walked with them around the neighbourhood, and even jumped into their cars. But everyone ignored the quiet desperation of the innocent, friendly animal.

The criminal that shot Milo did so at point blank range probably while calling out to him to lure him closer. Friendly, trusting, unsuspecting Milo would have happily trotted up to the person who shot him.

Milo was found lying on the ground and almost dead beside a house where the owners asked that the cat be taken off their property. Milo was taken to a local veterinary clinic by HHWCC (Hungry & Homeless in the World's Coldest Capital), a rescue group associated with the Cat Rescue Network.

Milo's wounds formed abscesses and the infection spread throughout his body through his blood and lymphatic system. He was in excruciating pain and cried out when moved. He was unable to walk or stand on his own.

Milo spent days in hospital connected to an IV drip, and was given antibiotics and

painkillers. He had X-rays, an ultrasound, and multiple blood and urine tests.

HHWCC and the Cat Rescue Network are currently searching for a good home for Milo. If you would like to adopt Milo or contribute towards his veterinary care, please contact HHWCC at 613-231-6839 for information.



A very sick Milo at a local veterinary hospital



Milo undergoing an ultrasound to determine the extent of his internal injuries