



**Mission:** *To advocate for all animals through education & community outreach*

**Vision:** *A compassionate society that respects the innate worth of all animals*

**September 2018**

## CETACEANS IN CAPTIVITY UPDATE

A lot has happened in the last few years regarding cetacean (whales and dolphin) captivity in Ontario and Canada. Ontario has banned the owning and breeding of orcas as of 2015 (the bill is not retroactive). The federal parliament passed a bill that would greatly restrict cetacean imports for display but has languished in Senate. Bill S-203 which has the support of every party in Parliament, has been held up by Senate Whip Don Plett. This bill was introduced by Senator Wilfred Moore (retired in 2017) and is now sponsored by Senator Murray Sinclair. The bill does not ban existing captivity of cetaceans nor does it ban breeding. The Bill was up for its 3<sup>rd</sup> reading vote when Senator Plett used procedural motions to prevent the vote.

In local news, John Holer, owner of Marineland, died on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 83. It is unclear what this will mean for the ongoing operation of the facility. Marineland opened in 1961 and has housed orcas since 1971. Ontario's ban on owning or breeding orcas means the last remaining orca at Marineland is a female named Kiska. Marineland is thought to have about 50 captive belugas. Of these, about half were captured from Russian Arctic and Pacific waters. The other half were born in captivity. Since Marineland has begun displaying belugas 33 have died there.

In January 2018, the Vancouver Aquarium announced that it would no longer house cetaceans for display following a vote of the Vancouver Parks board against cetacean captivity. In February however, the B.C. Supreme Court determined that the Vancouver Parks board could not violate the terms of their current contract with the Vancouver Aquarium. This means that the Aquarium will continue to house several belugas and a lone dolphin until 2029 when the contract expires.

The Foundation Change for Animals is aware of 2,300 cetaceans in captivity around the world. Of these 2000 are dolphins, 200 are belugas and 53 are orcas.

*(continued on page 2)*



[niagaraactionforanimals.org](http://niagaraactionforanimals.org)



**niagaraactionforanimals & NAFAdoptables**



**905-682-4970**



**@CKKLP**



**@nafa\_adoptables**

## In Honour Of...

**NAfA gratefully acknowledges memorial and celebratory donations in honour of the following people and animals:**

Mrs. Quinsey in memory of her sister, *Mina Schnurr*.

Monica Gomis-Steele remembers *James Salvatore Lentinello*. RIP

Patti-Gaye Welch, in honour of *Jennifer Hayes & Sue Corcoran* who both have June birthdays and *Dean Wakil's* birthday in November.

In memory of *Baby Boy & Katrina*, feline friends of Nada Rodgers, from Patti-Gaye.

Paul Hamilton remembers *Willow*, Graeme and Tara's dog.

Miriam Gersho sent a donation... in honour of the new & wonderful [NAfA] website! And speaking of our new website ...

## Our New Website

Our new website has been launched—if you haven't already, take a look and see what you think. We are open to suggestions for articles and additions, changes or edits to the site. We also hope you will join the NAfA facebook page and check there for upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/24737990210/>

### **Cetaceans ....(continued from page 1)**

While attitudes towards cetacean captivity have changed markedly in Western countries in recent years, many aquatic zoos have opened in Asia, especially. Russia has been an eager provider of belugas and orcas to these facilities. One bright note, the Whale Sanctuary Project has identified two potential whale sanctuaries off the coasts of Nova Scotia and the state of Washington. The organization is in talks with communities and governments in both jurisdictions. by Paul Hamilton with sources from: *Animal Justice Canada, Globe and Mail*



**Animal Research:**  
*If they are like us what are we doing; if they are not like us, what are we doing??*



### **NAfA's Statistics**

From beginning of March '18 through 'til end of July '18 we found loving homes for **14** animals. We Spayed & Neutered **32** dogs/cats/rabbits and we aided with **38** 'distress' situations.

If you have room for one more companion animal in your home, visit our Petfinder page at [pefinder.com/shelters/ON11.html](http://pefinder.com/shelters/ON11.html)

In addition to our adoption centre at Fitch St., Pet Valu in Welland, we now have one at Global Pet Foods on Portage Rd., in Niagara Falls. Come visit a new

## E-Waste/Metal Recycling



In May 2015 Steve Kurtic-Lentinello took over collecting & selling E-waste and scrap metal from a program started by NAFa. The proceeds are split between NAFa and Urban Wildlife Care. Thanks Steve! Most recent collection raised \$140 for NAFa. If you want to learn more about this program or to donate your scrap metal or E-waste visit:

[www.slpcomputerrepairs.com/e-waste-fur-animals.html](http://www.slpcomputerrepairs.com/e-waste-fur-animals.html)

## Yard Sale Helpers

Pictured, some of the many volunteers who have helped with yard sales for NAFa over the



years. Our first one this season was busy ... but we all seem to be smiling! We raised \$267 at May's yard sale. We hold sales regularly, through-out the summer, in front of the NAFa house. We welcome volunteers! And always need donations that are clean, not chipped or broken and with all their parts. For more information or to arrange a drop-off time, please contact NAFa.

## Thanks for Being There!

We received a very nice card from Eva Cathcart of Welland, who 'thanked us for being there!' In September 2014 NAFa helped her financially to spay a feral female (Bell) who had made her home in Eva's neighbourhood. Bell previously had 5 kittens; 4 found homes and Eva kept the last kitten and Bell herself. Eva says "I have always wanted to thank Niagara Action for Animals for helping us to get Bell spayed to stop further litters of feral kittens in our neighbourhood. Both Bell and her son Tux are now indoor cats and Bell thoroughly enjoys her 2-3 times lengthy, daily play sessions to keep her happy and she is in very good health.

**NAfA**  
**94 Welland Avenue**  
**St. Catharines, ON**  
**L2R 2N1**

We raise funds with UPC bar codes from **Natural Balance** 'pet' foods (dry bagged or cases of cans only). The UPC's must be sent in to us with the matching cash register tape(s).

We also welcome **Canadian Tire** money to buy items for events or administrative needs, as well as live traps for ferals.

**Animal  
Emergency**

Be prepared to help an injured stray or wild animal by keeping a kit in your car; muzzle, leash, blanket, pillow case, cardboard carrier, heavy work gloves, pliers, 1st aid kit, flash light, high - visibility vest. Ask us for more info on this topic.

**NAfA does not condone the use, abuse or exploitation of any animal for any purpose!**

**Please Share or Recycle this Newsletter.**

*Founded in 1989, NAfA is a registered charity. We receive no government funding. NAfA is run strictly by volunteers and relies on local fundraising events and your support to continue our various programs.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about volunteering [  ]

Please send me an educational package on animal-related issues [  ]

Charitable #85868 3188 RR0001. Tax receipts issued for donations of \$10 and over. Annual Membership Fee is \$15.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

In an effort to be environmentally (& fiscally) responsible, please call 905-682-4970 if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter. Opinions expressed in this edition are not necessarily the views of Niagara Action for Animals unless expressly stated as such.

**TAKING ACTION FOR ANIMALS ...**

**Thanks once again, to all of our volunteers who go out of their way to make this world a better place for all animals!**

Our Bingo earnings for March '18 were \$2140; April-\$1513; May-\$1268; June-\$1078 and July-\$1500. Thank you to our coordinator Bob Moore, Bingo volunteers and of course Delta Bingo & Gaming on Bunting Rd. and Ontario Lottery & Gaming.

Many, many thanks to Brigit at Fitch St. Pet Valu in Welland. Not only do they help by show-casing our animals for adoption, but NAfA is once again the recipient of their 'Paws Campaign' in the amount of \$3378.

For the last 5 years, we have held semi-annual sales at the Fairview Mall. This spring we had help from a very colourful banner loaned from the OLG (Ontario Lottery & Gaming) and of course lots of assistance

from our regular crew of volunteers. Thank you to NAfA friends who continue to donate beautiful new, nearly new & collectible items for these sales. Pictured from left: Helen Tilley, Maggie Bridges, Catharine Ens & Lynda Gordon—4 of the many volunteers at the spring sale. This time we raised \$905—a best for this event to date.





## Fluffy

Fluffy is 11 years old. Her adoption fee is \$50 and NAFa recently had Fluffy vet checked, spayed, vaccinated (including rabies), de-wormed, and flea+tick prevention medication applied – she is all ready to go!

Fluffy was surrendered to NAFa by her 'owner' due to a devastating change in family circumstances. Her family wanted a better, stable life for Fluffy that they could not give her.

When Fluffy first came to NAFa she was scared, shut down and would hide from anyone and everyone, often going days without coming out for food or to use the litterbox. Fluffy would hiss and growl at anyone that tried to get near her. She felt abandoned and terrified.

After several weeks and some vet visits to ensure she was healthy, Fluffy has made a complete turn-around. Fluffy's foster mom cannot believe the change in her personality. She no longer hides, she is out-going, she seeks out attention, and she is eating and using her litterbox regularly. However, Fluffy's foster mom

has 2 big dogs who do not do well with cats, so Fluffy is confined to a spare room for right now, which is not ideal for her. She wants to explore and be free to roam around at her leisure (and to be around her humans!).

Fluffy is in desperate need of a comfortable home for her retirement and someone who is willing to give this sweet girl a second chance at the life she deserves. The ideal home for Fluffy would be a quiet one; likely not with any children (or at least not young children) as she could become startled very easily. Our preference for a home for Fluffy would be someone who has experience working with under-socialized cats, or at least who understands and respects Fluffy's boundaries. We do not know how Fluffy would be with other animals as she has always been an 'only child'.

Fluffy has not had much stability in her life and we are so happy she has finally settled into her foster home. Our hope is that when we find the perfect forever home for Fluffy that she will be given the time and space to adjust and settle in, and that her new family will respect that she may never be a 'lap cat'. We are confident that Fluffy's perfect forever home is out there and are dedicated to helping her find it!

If you believe you could give this sweet senior girl the second chance she deserves, please complete our adoption application at:  
<http://niagaraactionforanimals.org/adoptions/apply-to-adopt/>  
A volunteer will be in contact with you to follow-up and set up a meet-and-greet!

***Please help us find Fluffy a home by posting this flier at your place of work or your vet's office!***

# Marshal and Mackey

**They are siblings and great friends and it would be wonderful if they could find a home together.**



## Marshal

Marshall is a short-hair male. He is house-trained and up to date with vaccinations, neutered, de-wormed and micro-chipped. He is about 4 months old at time of writing.

Marshal is a loving kitten who enjoys cuddling and being held. Marshal is active and likes playing with his siblings and toys. He likes an adventure. Marshal appeared to be okay around his foster mom's dog too!

Marshal is at Pet Valu now, at Welland (Fitch St.) if you would like to meet him for yourself!



## Mackey

Mackey is everything his brother is! Short-haired, house-trained and up to date with vaccinations, neutered, de-wormed and micro chipped.

Mackey is very loveable; he likes to be held and cuddled but is full of energy too. He loves playing with his siblings. He's also amused by water. Mackey has very little fear of anything and appears to be ok around his foster mom's dog.

Mackey is at Pet Valu now, at Welland (Fitch St.) if you would like to meet him for yourself!

You can also fill out an adoption application for Marshal & Mackey at: <http://niagaraactionforanimals.org/adoptions/apply-to-adopt/>

## **HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES**

There has been a lot of media in Niagara around the horse carriage issue. A local group AWfAN (At War for Animals Niagara) has been organizing regular mini-demos and one much larger event since November '17, to bring awareness to the issue of horse carriage rides in Niagara-on-the-Lake and NAfA friends & members have supported their efforts.

### ***What's the problem with horse-drawn carriages?***

Our society does not need horses (or any other animals) for entertainment. By nature, horses are designed to spend at least 16-18 hours a day moving around freely and grazing on grasses and shrubs on a fairly forgiving surface of ground. But when harnessed to the carriage, the pavement on which they stand does not absorb the impact of their foot fall and sends damaging concussive forces up their legs. This can result in musculoskeletal injuries throughout the horses' feet and legs. Also, since they might not take in a normal amount of roughage and feed, throughout the day, it puts them at a higher risk to develop ulcers and other stress-related health problems.

### ***Aren't horses meant to work hard?***

The common belief that horses are meant to work hard has no basis in any serious understanding of who horses are and what their complex social and emotional lives tell us.

### ***But, aren't these animals treated well?***

Whether horses are treated well or not, doesn't give humans the right to exploit them for profit. The actual issue at hand is the use/exploitation in itself. It is past time that we extend our notion of justice and compassion not only to humans, but also to non-human animals such as horses.

### ***If the horses weren't pulling carriages, wouldn't they just be killed?***

Firstly, the real problem here, as it is for many other domestic animals; is there are too many horses being bred....and there is money to be made right down the line. When the novelty wears off or when the horse is not good enough, or fast enough, or clever enough, they are sold-on into a downward spiral of care, with the last step often being the slaughter auctions. (For 2017, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada reports that 33,494 horses died in Canadian slaughterhouses and 32% of the horses slaughtered originated in the U.S. where horse slaughter ended in 2007 but exports still continue.) The answer is not to find a way to exploit the horses further by purchasing them at the slaughterhouse – surely the answer is to find a solution to the problems of over-breeding, so that horses are NOT SENT to slaughter in the first instance. Secondly, even if horses are bought at auction, the carriage industry does not save those lives, as those same animals are often sent to slaughter when they have outlived their usefulness to the carriage operators. And finally, by putting money into the hands of the bunchers/buyers and the slaughterhouses, the problem is merely being perpetuated.

### ***Don't the horses enjoy pulling the carriages?***

By portraying the relationship between us and the animals as consensual, we are misled into believing that they don't mind being used against their will. If we took a feral horse off the plains and tried to hook it up to a carriage, we would see instantly, that they would not enjoy pulling carriages.



**Like any form of 'amusement' that uses animals, horse carriage rides are fraught with problems for the animals:**

- **Horses are forced to pull heavy carriages in extreme weather conditions, such as freezing-cold streets when it's snowing out. And in many documented cases, horses have even dropped dead from heatstroke after working in scorching summer heat and humidity.\***
- **They have to dodge heavy, dangerous traffic on loud, busy streets, with cars going in every direction. Horses are extremely sensitive to loud noises and unexpected sounds—and busy city streets have plenty of both.**
- **Horses and people have been seriously hurt—and even killed—when horses have become spooked and run amok. There have also been countless incidents in which carriages have been hit by impatient or careless drivers.\***
- **These gentle animals often suffer from respiratory ailments because they breathe in exhaust fumes, and they develop debilitating leg problems from walking on hard surfaces.**
- **When horses grow too old, tired, or ill to continue pulling heavy loads, they aren't always retired to green pastures and loving homes, as many people are led to believe. Instead, many worn out horses are slaughtered and turned into food for dogs or for carnivores in zoos, or shipped overseas to be killed for human consumption.**

**\*(see <https://secure.mediapeta.com/peta/PDF/horse-drawn-carriage-accidents.pdf>) Although this listing is of horse carriage incidents in the U.S., there are many reported incidents in Canada as well – google: horse drawn carriage accidents in Canada**

**People around the world are increasingly recognizing that it's the carriage industry—not just the horses—that are taking them for a ride. Never patronize carriage rides, and explain to your family and friends why they shouldn't, either. Urge your legislators to propose laws that will ban them.**