

Kitty sanctuary

Abbotsford couple rescues cats, seeks to expand service

Kathy Knight and David Rogers are looking to expand their Abbotsford pet shelter service, 9th Life Rescue and Sanctuary, building on their motto of "ending cruelty and abuse to animals, one at a time."

Kathy started a rescue service for animals out of her home about 10 years ago, and was amazed how quickly it filled up with not just cats but birds, mice, dogs, turtles, rabbits and raccoon. At times she and David, her fiancé of five years, find homes for cats and dogs they have rescued.



"Generally, when we get an animal it is so sick and beat up it literally will not live unless given lots of care and love," she said. "By the time these animals are healthy, David and I are so bonded with them we have a hard time giving them up."

The house is filled with 25 success stories in the form of healthy cats, many of which were brought back

from the brink of death. Unfortunately they are not able to save every animal they rescue, and the lost ones have been buried tenderly in the front yard of their small home on N. Third Ave. in Abbotsford.

During a recent interview in their living room with several curious cats involved in the discussion, Kathy recalled how difficult the last four months of 2006 were for them. As part of the recodification of city ordinances, the Abbotsford city council decided to pursue a new ordinance which would have allowed residents to keep only four animals of any kind in their home.

She fought hard and eventually, on a 7-1 vote with Ald. Bob Morrow voting no, the city council granted her a special license as a true rescue and sanctuary facility.

Stipulations include having all cats neutered. All must have shots, including distemper, and the residence must remain "livable." City officials can come in and inspect the premises at any time.

With the license hurdle behind them, the cat-saving couple has decided to hire an attorney, at a cost




CAT CARETAKERS- Kathy Knight and David Rogers hold four of the 25 cats they provide shelter for at their licensed Abbotsford home, 9th Life Rescue and Sanctuary. The couple is looking to expand their operation, moving to a rural setting.

of about \$500, to draft and file papers classifying 9th Life Rescue and Sanctuary as a non-profit corporation similar to a Humane Society


shelter. Contributions to the non-profit corporation would then be tax deductible, she explained.

"We have huge veterinary bills,


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