

HALTON HILLS ANIMAL CONTROL

Lost or given up, pet reclaims low



Joe Kirly and friend

Lost, full-grown black lab, answers to the name of Midnight...

Reward for Siamese cat, green eyes, wearing flea collar...

Ads like these appear daily in newspapers.

While a child tearfully mourns over his missing pet, chances are it's gently being rendered lifeless by a needle.

From Jan. 1 until June 30 this year, Halton Animal Control Services in Limehouse sent 174 animals to Guelph either for university research projects or to be put to sleep.

In the same time period, of the 305 animals impounded at the animal control centre, only 96 were reclaimed by their owners and only 34 were placed in new homes.

These statistics are for Halton Hills alone. Add on the number of stray pets found in the other places covered by the Halton Animal Control (HAC)—Milton, Erin and Erin township—and the figures jump considerably.

"Cats are free spirits—they're allowed to roam," HAC manager Joe Kirly said. "If a cat takes off for a few days, owners don't worry."

PICKED UP
Meanwhile, he added, the cat may have been picked up and placed in the animal shelter for the legal 72 hour period, then sold or shipped to Guelph, to be used for research or anesthetized. The owners may never suspect.

Kirly suggested cat owners buy an identification tag to place on the flea collar of their pet, for easier recovery.

Because few people do this, Kirly said "It's rare for us to track down cat owners."

People are more concerned about the disappearance of a dog, he said, adding that most people phone in to report a dog missing, but don't call back to see if their pet is found.

His advice to dog owners is to attach a licence tag to the dog's collar. Then, finding the owner is as easy as tracing the licence number in records.

He said there's no way anyone can lose their dog if they abide by the government law—keeping your pet "under control" (not necessarily leashed) 24 hours a day.

EXPLORING
"All one of the kids has to do is forget to shut the front door, and there goes the dog," he said.

Often a dog will go exploring, and be reported to the Animal Control centre by a neighboring property owner.

The cost of recovering a pet from the HAC shelter is \$7 for the first impoundment, \$10 for the second, and \$20 the third time. Added on each of these figures is \$2 daily for board.

Kirly said people who love their pets usually do not complain about the price of reunion.

However, not all stray animals are lost, Kirly said people drop off unwanted animals or puppies and kittens difficult to find a home for, in the bush or along country roads.

The result? Sometimes a farmer adopts the stray dog. Sometimes the animal control services gets a call to pick it up. Sometimes, the dog joins a pack of wild dogs which attack livestock, especially sheep.

LIVESTOCK
That's when the trouble starts.

Under the Livestock and Poultry Protection Act, any person can kill a dog injuring livestock or poultry. It's even legal to kill a dog trespassing on property where animals are.

Kirly said "most farmers are pretty good" and doesn't blame them for shooting an animal threatening his livelihood by harming livestock.

He said people don't realize the dangers facing domestic animals unaccustomed to fencing for themselves.

Although most strays are "in pretty good health," Kirly said occasionally they find an animal maimed from fights with wild animals or suffering from malnutrition.

"Quite a few animals are abandoned in the summer," Kirly said. "People figure since the weather is good, the animal will be able to take care of itself. That's not true, though."

DESERTED
Though more animals are deserted in spring and summer, the highest impoundment figures are recorded around February and March every year.

Kirly justifies this by saying that during the summer many people take their pets on vacation with them.

"We get less animals in here, but they get more up in the cottage country," he said. A year-round problem is rabies.

Foxes, skunks and raccoons are the most common carriers in this area, he said.

Animals suspected of being rabid are quarantined for 14 days, then euthanized.

If the animal is found rabid, any person who came in contact with it or whose livestock or pets were near it, are contacted and warned. Anti-rabies injections are suggested.

Under the Health of Animals Act, it is legal to shoot an animal on the spot if it displays rabies symptoms.

MYTH GONE
Kirly has done so many times; it's his job.

"The myth of the dog-catcher is gone," he believes. "We provide a public service not a nuisance service."

Established by George Harrington in Limehouse in 1963, Halton Animal Control employs three full-time animal control officers plus part-time staff.

They are on-call to pick up animals throughout a 253 square mile area, and have a 24 hour emergency service.

Twice a day, whichever of the 20 pens occupied are scrubbed down and disinfected, then covered with newspaper. Pets are fed once a day and watered as necessary.

Kirly said his job demands a liking for both people and animals.

"You can't be scared of animals," he said, "and you have to know how to deal with people."

"It's really rewarding."

The Halton Animal Control Services number is 877-6225.

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GEORGETOWN WEST (Moore Park)	9:15	10:25	11:40	\$1.80	\$0.90
GEORGETOWN EAST (Georgetown Market)	9:20	10:30	11:45	\$1.80	\$0.90
NORVAL (Ken's Lunch)	9:25	10:35	11:50	\$1.60	\$0.80

LAST BUS HOME LEAVES THE EXHIBITION BUS TERMINAL (AUTOMOTIVE BUILDING) AT 11 P.M. OR RIGHT AFTER GRANDSTAND SHOW

Howitt "flabbergasted" at firehall renovation

Coun. Dick Howitt is "flabbergasted" that cost of an addition to the Maple Street works garage will cost \$35,000 to house volunteer firefighters.

The total package, for the housing of both the fire department and the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service, is \$370,000 but only \$310,000 has been budgeted for this year. The remaining renovations will be carried out in 1977.

Coun. Howitt urged the presentations of final plans for the project before tenders were called and argued that the building must now be large enough to meet the needs of the firefighters.

Ab Tennant told council the drawings are being completed

"within a few days" and are being prepared following detailed discussions with fire chief and the GVAS.

Coun. Ern Hyde, head of the committee for the development of town property and buildings, told council the Maple Street facility requires an addition across the front and an air conditioning system for heating and air conditioning.

Coun. Howitt, however, argued that neither he nor council had seen drawings of the addition and urged that "if we don't want the addition, we'd better say so now."

Meanwhile, the repairs to the roof of the nine-year-old structure have been carried out, Mr. Tennant said. Coun.

Harry Levy said he could not understand why a nine-year-old building had a leaking roof.

Coun. Ric Morrow told council he can support the addition to the facility because the fire department has had inadequate cramped quarters for several years.

Corn Cob Capers at Mountsberg

Corn Cob Capers 1978, Halton Region Conservation Authority's fall interpretation program, runs from Aug. 28 to Sept. 26, Saturdays and Sundays, at Mountsberg site Centre.

Following this theme, the fall interpretation will be a demonstration of utilizing corn mulcher, which produces a protective mulch. Visitors can enjoy corn-on-the-cob, cooked in a large iron kettle.

A genuine apple cider press will be in operation, and cold apple cider will be available. Horse drawn wagon rides through the conservation area will enable visitors to view the changing colours of leaves along a wooded trail.

On the outdoor platform, demonstrations will be given in square dancing, fiddling, bird banding and birds of prey. The fall interpretive program is highlighted by film and slide talks held regularly in the exhibit building.

To see a bit of the old-fashioned way of life visit Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, three miles west of Campbellville on the Milton townline, north of 5 Sideroad.

Road closed

Maple Avenue will be closed from Delrex Boulevard to Main Street Sept. 12 for the annual Georgetown Motor-sport Club soapbox derby.



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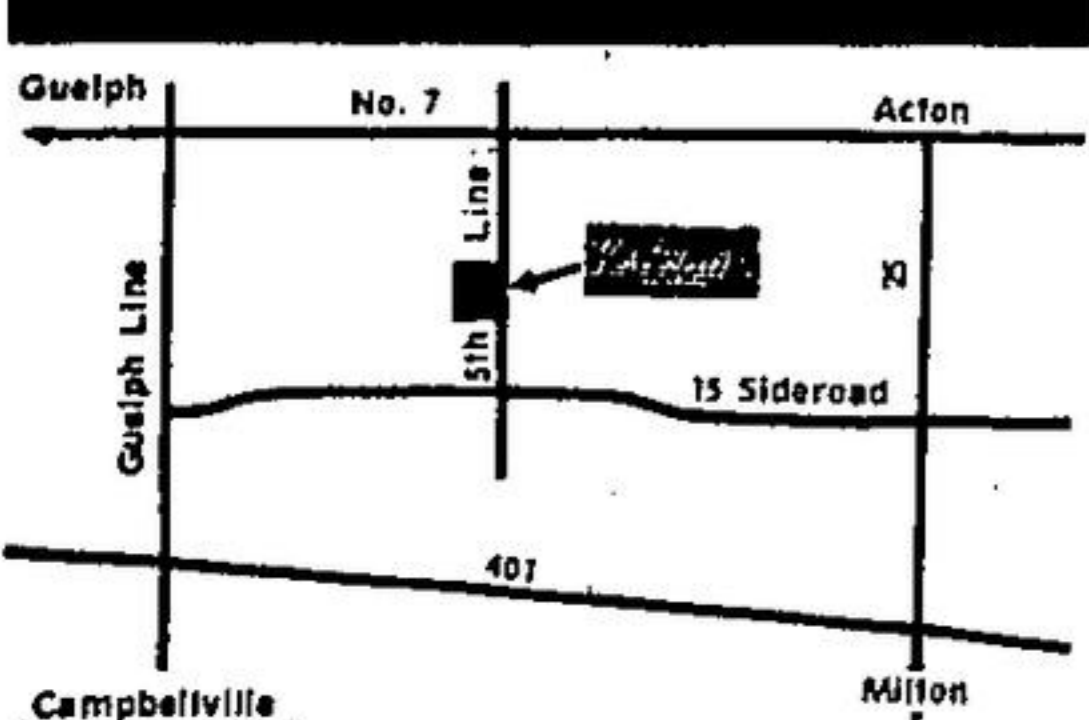
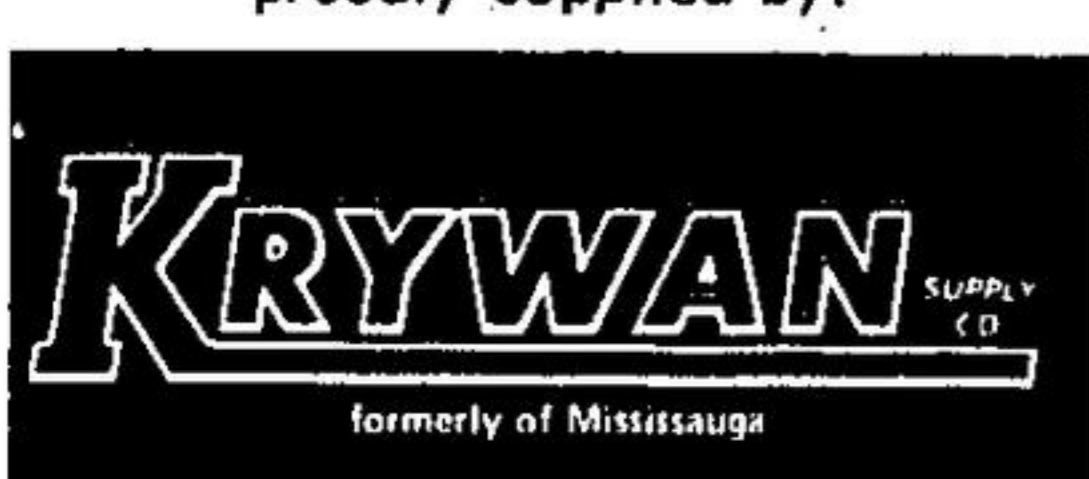
16 TORONTO AND AREA LOCATIONS:

2725 Jane Street, 900 Alton Road, 3770 Lawrence Avenue East, 2499 Eglinton Ave. East, Square One Shopping Centre, Sherway Gardens, Dufferin Plaza, Fairview Mall, Agincourt Shopping Mall, 3 Queen Street North (Streetsville), Bramalea City Centre (Bramalea); 222 Guelph Street (Georgetown); Sheridan Mall (Pickering), 8051 Yonge Street (Thornhill); Hillcrest Mall (Richmond Hill); Upper Canada Mall (Newmarket)

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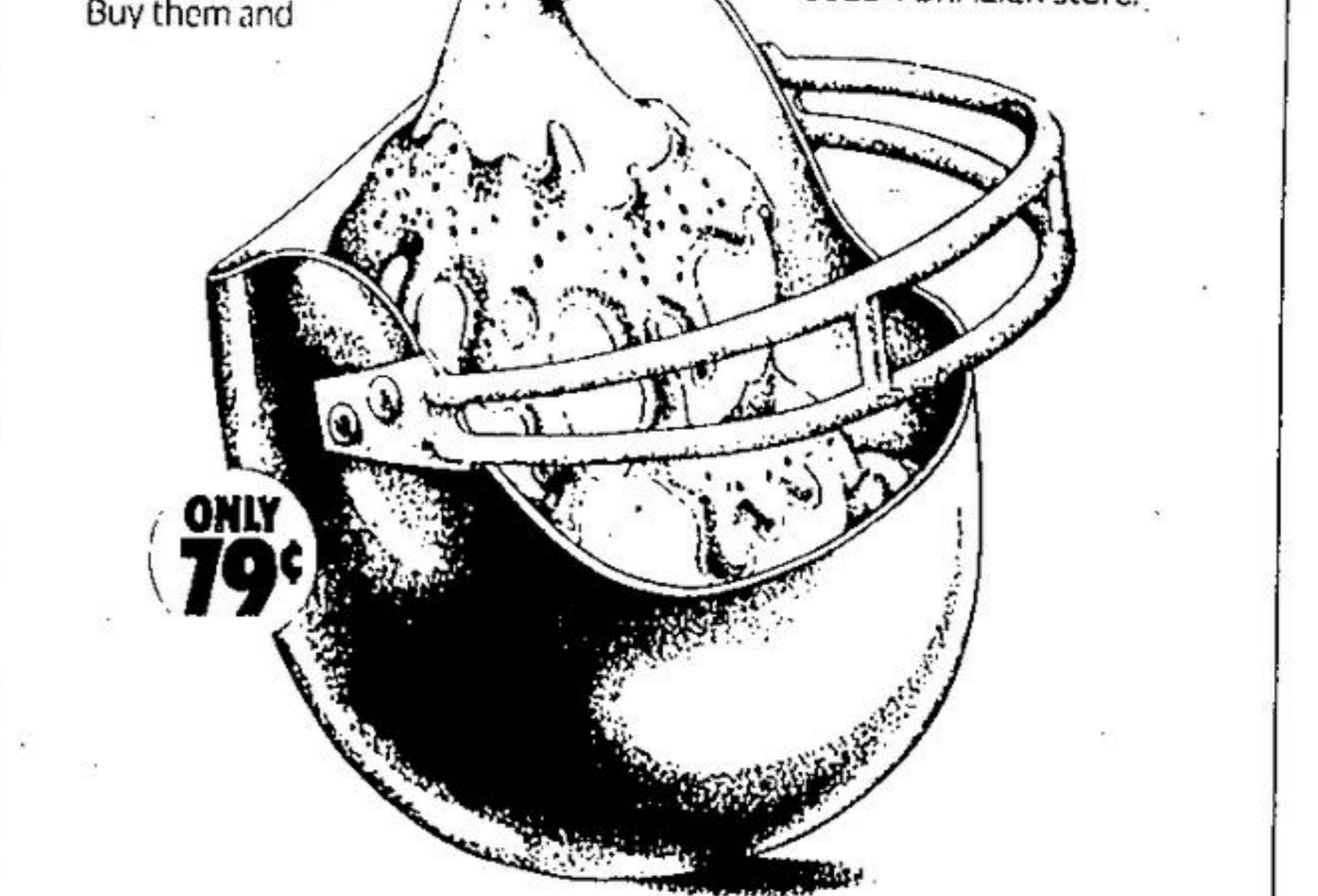


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