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Cat owner asks: Who shot Panda?

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

A Georgetown woman is warning area cat owners to keep a close eye on their pets after her cat was shot with a BB gun.

Merna Prete of Rexway Dr. said one of their cats— one-year-old Panda— got out of the house accidentally Saturday, May 14 and returned home the next day.

It wasn't until Monday they noticed he was limping on his front paw.

She said she looked at his leg and found what she thought was a scratch, but on further inspection found he actually had a round hole in his leg.

She took the cat to the vet who told her that Panda had been shot with a BB. The BB was left in his leg, and Panda was put on antibiotics to clear up any infection, with the hope they won't have to remove it.

"If it continues to be a problem the vet might have to take it out," said Prete.

Prete figures Panda was shot nearby because she didn't think he would have gone very far, but no one in the family heard any gunshots.

She said there are a lot of feral cats in the area, maybe 50 to 60 of them, and a neighbour had been feeding them.

She worries for their safety and other cats in the neighbourhood.

"I don't want to see any other cats get shot," she said.



Nine-year-old Adrianna Prete couldn't believe that their cat Panda was shot with a BB gun recently. The Rexway Dr. family is concerned that other cats in the neighbourhood could also become victims.

Photo by Lisa Tallyn

Town to fund portion of hospital work

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

Calling it "absolutely fabulous", Georgetown Hospital officials were ecstatic over an unanimous decision by Halton Hills council to grant \$2.682 million to kick-start the hospital's \$12.196 million expansion and renovation project.

Outside the council chambers with Laurent Thibault, president of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation, Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) President and CEO John Oliver called it, "absolutely fabulous, fabulous news and a wonderful decision by council. I know the nurses and the doctors at the hospital are just going to be ecstatic with this support coming from council."

He said council's leadership and caring concern for their community on this issue was really quite remarkable.

One by one councillors threw their support behind the project from Councillor Bryan Lewis, who said his eyes were opened on a recent tour of the diagnostic services in the hospital's bowels, to Councillor Joan Robson, who talked about her daughter recently being in a car accident and had to be sent to Milton for a CT scan, to longtime health professional Councillor Moya Johnson, who talked about the challenging space and privacy conditions in the emergency room and diagnostic services compared to other hospitals.

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