

Dogs more likely to be claimed

When it comes to dogs and cats, there's a big difference in how many of the furry critters are returned to their owners.

Dog owners seem to be much more attached to their animal companions than cat owners, if the numbers are any indication.

Sixty two dogs from Whitchurch-Stouffville were brought to the animal control and adoption centre in Georgina in 2006. Sixty of them were retrieved by their owners or went to new homes.

Of the 98 Whitchurch-Stouffville cats brought to the shelter in 2006, only one owner bothered to contact the shelter to retrieve his furry friend.

About 30 per cent of the cats were adopted or transferred.

Shelter staff work in the best interests of the animals, Keith Saunders, Whitchurch-Stouffville's senior bylaw enforcement officer, said.

They go out of their way to find foster homes for dogs and cats.

Relatively few dogs come to the shelter, thanks largely to more people tagging or microchipping their pets.

The town is putting even more emphasis on the dog tag program for next year so lost pets can be more easily returned to their owners, Mr. Saunders said.

He advises people to contact the animal shelter within 24 hours of losing their pet.

- Hannelore Volpe

Lost pets getting an upgrade

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

If your pet becomes lost, the Animal Control and Adoption Centre in Georgina is the place to look.

Whitchurch-Stouffville council voted last week to have the town's animal shelter services again provided by the centre, which has also served East Gwillimbury and Newmarket since 2001.

The contract is for five years. Whitchurch-Stouffville is paying about \$66,000 yearly.

This year, however, the shelter needs to be upgraded at a cost of \$250,000. Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket will each contribute 15 per cent of that amount, which works out to \$37,500 each, over the five-year period.

Planned improvements to the shelter include an addition and upgraded central heating, air conditioning and ventilation. Funds will also be used for the purchase of new and replacement animal cages as well as covering other expenses.

The town has allotted an additional \$9,000 in the 2008

LOSE A DOG OR CAT? HERE'S WHAT TO DO

► For more information on the Georgina Animal Control and Adoption Centre, visit infopet.ca and click on Georgina Animal Control.

► The shelter is at 26815 Civic Centre Rd. in Keswick.

► Shelter hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon

► Call 1-800-898-8606 if you've lost your pet, want to adopt or want to help out the shelter.

partnered with PetFinder.com, an online searchable database of animals that need homes. It also lists more than 2,000 animal shelters and adoption organizations.

According to its website, infopet.ca, the shelter welcomes donations from individuals or businesses of dog and cat food, kitty litter, blankets, sheets or towels and basic medical supplies among other items.

If you want to adopt a pet, you can find photos and descriptions of cats and dogs on the website. Under a new program, adult dogs and cats will be vaccinated and spayed or neutered before they go home with a new owner.

The shelter asks the new owners pay the veterinarian fee.

When it comes to puppies and kittens, they can be adopted with a contract stipulating that the new owner have them spayed or neutered at six months of age.

If you love animals and want to help out the shelter, their staff are looking for foster homes for pregnant cats, those with kittens, or orphan kittens. The shelter will assist you with necessary supplies and information.

budget, compared to 2007, for the animal shelter services.

If you lose your dog or cat, it is best for you to contact the animal shelter as soon as you can and, preferably, come to the shelter to see if your pet is there.

Strays are held for a minimum of five days before being made available for adoption.

The towns have recently

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