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Chihuahua saves baby beaver from toxic waters

Pint-sized canine performs rescue mission on behalf of BC SPCA

Vancouver, BC — Leave it to a Chihuahua to save a baby beaver.

In a true story of pay-it-forward, the life of a disoriented baby beaver lost in the waters off Stanley Park was saved by Manuel the Chihuahua, himself a beneficiary of the BC SPCA Biscuit Fund which provides emergency medical treatment to hundreds of injured homeless and wild animals in BC each year.

According to Manuel's owner, BC SPCA staffer Kim Monteith, the disoriented little beaver was swimming 30 feet from the shore of Stanley Park – a dangerous prospect given that salt water is toxic to beavers and can kill them. She and BC SPCA colleague Charlie Leung were trying to coax the beaver back to shore with little success when Leung had an idea. "Go get Manuel," he instructed Kim.

"I wasn't sure I believed Charlie. However, after 30 years with the BC SPCA, I thought he knows what he's doing," said Monteith.

Leung told Monteith the beaver was looking for a companion to swim towards and Manuel was the perfect choice. Equipped in a Chihuahua-sized life jacket, Manuel was deployed to the edge of the shore to serve as a four-legged beacon for the other lost mammal.

Within a few minutes, the beaver began to swim directly towards Manuel, a crowd on the seawall cheering on the Chihuahua. Monteith, who was standing by in the water with a net, promptly scooped up the little beaver as he passed by her en route to Manuel. She put the beaver in a Vari Kennel and safely transported him to the Wildlife Rescue Association in Burnaby where he received immediate care and is recovering from his saltwater trauma.

Meanwhile, Manuel continues to reign supreme as a hero. Versatile to the end, the lifesaving Biscuit Fund "spokes-dog" recently launched his own clothing line to raise money for the Biscuit Fund called "Manuel Art" – t-shirts and tank tops decorated with colourful art painted by his own four paws!

Manuel has come a long way since his arrival at the BC SPCA less than a year ago after being abandoned at the Metrotown Skytrain station. A Good Samaritan kindly picked him up and brought him to the BC SPCA where he



received much-needed medical treatment. He has limited mobility in his back legs and problems with his bladder and required a MRI. The MRI revealed that he has a Dermoid Sinus, which is equivalent to Spina Bifida in humans. Thanks to the Biscuit Fund, Manuel received a very specialized surgery in order to prevent him from future infections, which would drastically shorten his lifespan.

To find out more about the Biscuit Fund and how to sponsor an injured homeless or wild animal, and even order Manuel Art shirts, call 604.681.7271 or 1.800.665.1868, or go to: www.sPCA.bc.ca/biscuit.

The Biscuit Fund launched a province-wide campaign earlier this year to raise the \$1.5 million it costs annually to save animals such as Manuel and the beaver and give them a second chance at life. 100 per cent of funds raised go directly to helping the animals.

About the Biscuit Fund

The Biscuit Fund was established in 2004, named after the wonderful dog that inspired the program. Biscuit was a stray wandering the streets when he was repeatedly stabbed by an unknown person and left for dead. The small dog managed to pull himself into a nearby garage where he was found by a family and rushed to a veterinarian. Biscuit was transferred to the BC SPCA where he was nursed back to health in a safe, nurturing environment. Despite his ordeal, Biscuit harbours no grudges. He is friendly and gentle, and thriving in the care of his new loving family!

Visit the Biscuit Fund website, www.sPCA.bc.ca/biscuit

The Biscuit Fund website not only shows one how to help, it also displays photos of the animals that have already been helped, and identifies the donors who have generously sponsored them.

Watch the Biscuit Fund rise by viewing the Biscuit O'Meter at:
<https://www.strategicprofitsinc.com/hosted/bcspca/biscuit/donate.php>

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The BC SPCA is a non-profit organization funded primarily by public donations. Our mission is to prevent cruelty and to promote the welfare of animals through a wide range of services, including cruelty investigations, emergency rescue and treatment, sheltering and adoption of homeless and abused animals, humane education, advocacy, farm animal welfare, spay/neuter programs, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.