



Preparing for foster peak

Program experiences rush during busy summer season

While the OHS fosters animals year round, we see a dramatic increase in the number of animals in need of foster care from early summer through late fall. Of the close to 2,000 animals fostered each year, well over half receive care during this very busy season.

Last summer, staff struggled to keep up with the ongoing need to find more foster homes for incoming pregnant, sick or nursing cats and orphaned kittens, while at the same time supporting hundreds of dedicated volunteers. As many animals fell sick waiting to be placed into care,



OHS staff will place over a thousand animals, like this orphaned kitten, into foster care this summer and fall.

we created temporary foster space in administrative areas of our building. Regrettably, by the time many of our more vulnerable animals found a foster placement, many been exposed to illness in our severely overcrowded facility, which often seriously compromised their health.

Staff began early planning for this year's busy season, developing a new "express foster" protocol, which involves keeping at-risk animals better isolated from the point of intake until they can be placed into foster care. We have also provided stronger first aid training to help volunteers care for their small charges, and are supporting them through weekly phone and e-mail follow-up to ensure that any issues they have are quickly addressed.

Now with our busy season in full swing, our efforts seem to be paying off as animals are being "triaged," isolated and moved into foster homes more quickly. Unfortunately, we are still seeing many of our foster animals succumb to illness that they contracted during their brief stay at the shelter, a reality that simply will not change in our current building.

Regardless of these challenges, the fact remains that by the end of the season, well over 1,000 animals will have received a second chance, thanks to the tireless efforts of our dedicated team of volunteers and staff!



Campaign heats up!

New funding announcements good news for OHS



A fundraising thermometer now adorns the front of the OHS, allowing everyone to see the progress on our Breaking Ground Building Campaign.

Everyone at the OHS was excited to welcome two friends with announcements about our Breaking Ground Building Campaign. On April 14, Minister John Baird visited the OHS to announce \$1.8 million in federal infrastructure funding for the project.

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OHS NEWSLETTER

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If you have a story idea or comment, please contact editor@ottawahumane.ca via e-mail or by mail to the OHS Newsletter Editor. Submissions of pictures and articles are welcome; however, they may not necessarily be used. Articles may be edited for length and content.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

What a difference a year makes

At the OHS, we tend to think of a year as being April to March, rather than January to December, as most of our activities are framed by our fiscal year and not by the calendar. So here at the OHS, we are starting a new year, and with that, we look back at the last to learn and improve what we do for the animals and for our community.

It always amazes me how much can happen in just a year here at the OHS.

Following a fractious AGM in June, we experienced the busiest summer I recall in the nine years I have worked for the Society. From May to November, we housed and cared for over 450 animals almost every day. Since our current building's capacity is more like 200, this led to unprecedented overcrowding, cages in hallways and offices, cats in rabbit cages, and elevated stress for the animals and our staff and volunteers.

The winter brought a host of problems with our building including loss of heat and burst pipes, highlighting once again for us, the sad condition of our building and the urgent need to replace it.

At the same time, in the past year, the OHS had some of our biggest successes ever: the largest and most successful Wiggle Waggle Walkathon to date, the sold-out and truly fantastic FurBall gala, and the most money ever directed to the animals through the United Way Campaign.

Throughout the year, all of us at the OHS were kept very busy implementing the many initiatives planned for the year. Among the significant achievements were a complete overhaul of our always good, but tired-looking website to ensure that our community has easy access to

information about the many OHS services; participation in an international study to address upper respiratory infection in shelter cats, leading to improvement in our protocols; successful negotiation of a new three-year Collective Agreement with our union; agent training on important new animal cruelty legislation; both an internal and external review of our volunteer programs; introduction of formal cat behaviour assessments, to ensure that we are making the best possible decisions regarding their placement; and, of course, completion of the purchase of land for our new facility.

From a slow start of fundraising for our desperately needed new shelter, we have made tremendous progress because of the kindness of our community. In just one year, I have what feels like an entirely different job — spending most of my time now meeting with donors, architects, and the various professionals that will turn this dream into a reality.

Along with our review of the past, it is important that we look ahead. All of the initiatives of the past year should have tremendous payoff in the present. And, of course, we are continuing to look forward to a brighter future when the OHS and the animals in our care are in a new facility that meets their needs.




Bruce Roney
Executive Director

OHS clinic procedures on the rise

More surgeries being performed to benefit the animals

While many people think of the Ottawa Humane Society primarily as an adoption centre or a place to come to find a lost pet, the reality is that a lot of care is often required before an animal can be made available for adoption. The OHS in-house veterinary clinic plays a huge role in this. Our clinic is supported by one full-time veterinarian, three part-time veterinarians, and many veterinary technical staff.

Last year, the OHS saw a significant increase in its medical procedures, performing 3,747 in-house surgical, dental, X-ray and other procedures — to the benefit of thousands of animals! While most procedures were routine spay/neuter surgeries, clinic veterinarians also took on an increasing number of more complicated cases, including limb amputations and excisions (organ or tumour removal). We also continued to increase the number of pediatric sterilizations (kittens and puppies) we perform, so that we can ensure that all animals are sterilized prior to adoption without having to keep them in foster homes for long periods of time before they are old

enough (or big enough!) for surgery.

While being able to provide more complex treatment to animals in-house is



Thousands of surgeries are performed in the OHS clinic each year, helping more animals become adoptable. Outside of sterilization surgeries, our vets complete other procedures to benefit animal health, including dentistry, to clean teeth and removed any impacted fangs. Our clinic staff provide loving care so that animals can find new homes that much faster.

much more cost-effective for the OHS and has allowed us to save many more lives, it is also very time consuming and

was beginning to result in longer surgical wait times for animals in need. Because the stress of a noisy and crowded shelter environment can severely compromise an animal's health, it is important for us to minimize its length of stay as much as possible. To address the surgical wait time issue last summer when the challenge was most severe, we increased veterinary part-time hours, tried to keep animals in foster while they awaited surgery and relied on a small group of dedicated community veterinarians to help us keep up with our surgical load.

This year, anticipating an equally busy summer, we have added a Saturday rotation to our surgical schedule, as well as more support for our daily veterinary rounds, so that the veterinarian performing surgery can get through more surgeries during the day — and help place their furry patients into new, loving homes just that much faster. 🐾

Campaign heats up

.....Continued from Page 1

The following day, Provincial Minister Jim Watson announced \$500,000 in provincial funding. Both Minister Baird and Minister Watson are long-time friends of the OHS and the animals.

The funding announcements bring the total funds committed to date to over 65%, though with the federal funding comes an obligation to complete the project by March 2011. While this is possible, it will mean proceeding with

designing and constructing the new facility faster than initially planned. It will also mean that we need to raise the remainder of the funds quickly. If you have been considering a pledge to the campaign, this is the time! Please contact Anna Silverman at 613-725-3166, ext. 279 or annas@ottawahumane.ca, today to arrange your pledge. Remember that gifts of \$2,500 or more will appear on our donor wall and that room naming opportunities begin at \$10,000. Pledges can be extended over five years, making significant gifts affordable. Many of our

donors are naming rooms in honour of beloved pets and other family members. Others are soliciting donations from friends, family and co-workers, with the help of an easy to use toolkit that we have created. Together, we can build a brighter future for Ottawa's animals. 🐾



New Buddy & Belle fund helps animals in need



Supporters like you are helping us to care for thousands of animals each and every year. Over the past year, you've continued to care, but have asked for flexibility in how you give to the animals, and options on where your hard-earned money is going.

Armed with these requests, and taking advantage of the increased trend towards online giving and the recent re-design of our website, we launched the Buddy & Belle Fund, named after the cat and dog featured in our logo. The fund is set up so that donors can make an online gift to specific animals in need. Each animal has its own webpage with pictures and stories.

The fund aims to help animals like Abbey, a young Husky who was hit by a car. Abbey's owners weren't able to afford veterinary treatment to repair her broken leg, so they surrendered her to us, where we paid for surgery to have her leg pinned back in place. The surgery was pricey, but it allowed Abbey to keep her leg and will ensure many years of happy play for this friendly dog in her new home.

The fund also helps animals like Gizmo, a three-year-old Shih Tzu who was also given up because of conflicts with other animals. Gizmo injured his eye during an incident with another animal, resulting in its eventual removal. Even after

going through that surgery and receiving medical care for subsequent kennel cough and a nasty ear infection, Gizmo never lost his loveable and easygoing nature. Now his new owners delight in this sprightly dog's charming personality each and every day!



The Buddy & Belle fund helps specific animals like Abbey, above, who had surgery for a broken leg, and Gizmo, below, who had an injured eye removed in the shelter clinic.



Abbey and Gizmo are just two of the many animals that can be helped through the Buddy & Belle Fund. Contributing to the cost of their care is easy, as support can be directed through our easy-to-use online donation pages. If you would like to help please visit our website at www.ottawahumane.ca and click on the Buddy & Belle button. If you make a gift, your caring will be acknowledged right away with a convenient electronic receipt.

The Buddy & Belle Fund is just the latest addition to our donation portfolio, which includes one-time, tribute, and

pre-authorized monthly gifts. So whether you're looking to make a specific or general gift, we're here to help you help the animals.

For more information, please visit the "gifts to the animals" section of our website, e-mail development@ottawahumane.ca, or call our development office at 613-725-3166 ext. 252.



COMMUNITY KUDOS



A big round of applause to **Stephanie Duffy and the McCann Team** from theguywiththedog.com for hosting a client appreciation event and donating \$366 to the OHS. Well done!



Thank you to **Melanie Walker from Pet Bed and Breakfast** who made a donation of \$200 in honour of the winner of her monthly art contest. Find out how you can help the animals through the contest at www.petbedandbreakfast.ca



A big thanks to the staff at **Zellers Store #028 in Kanata** for all of their hard work in asking customers to donate their HBC rewards points to charity. We received a \$200 HBC gift card to benefit the animals!



Thank you to the students at **Viscount Alexander Public School** for selecting the OHS as the recipient of their bake sale funds. The animals at the OHS give you two paws up!



Wags and Purrs to some of our youngest donors:

Kristine B	Clara H
Natasha B	Sierra H
Shayna D	Catherine H
Lila F	Valerie L
Edie F	Julia T
Mirielle H	Danielle V
Violet H	

From worst to first

New provincial legislation helps define authority of local inspectors and animal rescue agents

The past year has brought several important changes to the world of animal cruelty legislation, keeping our Emergency Animal Protection Services (EAPS) team busy.

In April 2008, updates to the federal Criminal Code of Canada changed the terms of offences to allow for longer jail terms, higher fines and lifetime bans on owning animals. That same month saw Bill 50 tabled in the provincial legislature, which marked an important milestone in fighting animal cruelty. The changes to the OSPCA Act included the most comprehensive amendments since the legislation's inception in 1919.

The newly named Provincial Animal Welfare Act was finalized in November 2008, and on March 1, 2009 became law in the province, bringing Ontario from the worst in Canada to the first in taking a tough stance on animal abusers.

EAPS agents and inspectors have been busy being trained on the changes as they relate to animal owners, veterinarians and even the provincial crown attorneys, who will now be responsible for handling animal cruelty cases in the provincial court system. The changes and new associated regulations will affect the way OHS rescue staff conduct investigations in the future.

Among the more significant changes at the provincial level are a new standard of care for all animals, making it an offence to harm a law

enforcement animal, or to cause or permit distress to an animal. The fines are increased and can go up to \$60,000, and there's also a new stipulation allowing judges to impose a lifetime ban on owning animals where warranted.

What hasn't changed with this new legislation is the responsibility for all animal cruelty agents and inspectors — if anything it has made their authority clearer. Now OHS agents are able to address criminal issues with consequences that more effectively penalize the actions of the accused.

One potential challenge with the new legislation is that it forces veterinarians to report cruelty and neglect where it is suspected, where before they were bound by patient-client privilege. This will be a balancing act for all of us to first try to educate those pet owners in our community who may not be fully aware of their responsibilities, and provide the needed education, before

enforcing the new laws.

Going forward, OHS agents and inspectors will pursue more animal cruelty cases at the provincial level and help make Ontario a safer place for all animals.

Ultimately, with increased options available, we can be more effective educators to ensure a better, and more caring, future for wild, stray and owned animals in our community — and beyond.



The past year brought significant changes to animal cruelty legislation in Ontario, giving agents and inspectors stronger tools to perform their work.

COURT UPDATES

Pending Cases

David Cain: Charged Feb. 23, 2009, with three counts of animal cruelty for causing a fractured jaw and other head trauma to a cat. Scheduled to appear in court on June 26, 2009.

Jamie Lee Frizell: Charged with two counts of animal cruelty and neglect in October 2008 for allegedly abandoning two cats and three kittens in distress, and leaving them to perish from starvation and dehydration. A bench warrant for her arrest was issued on June 2, 2009.

Abir Hamade: Charged on Jan. 27, 2009 with two counts of animal cruelty after a dog living in the residence where she was staying was stabbed to death. Judicial pre-trial scheduled for June 18, 2009.

Completed

Jesse Duhaime: Charged in December 2007 with two counts of animal cruelty after a kitten was presented with head trauma and signs of strangulation. Plead guilty on June 8 and was sentenced to five months in jail and 18-month probation, and is prohibited from owning animals for a period of 10 years, and is also prohibited from living in a dwelling with animals during that time.

Tim Tuepah: Charged in December 2008 for allegedly trapping and drowning skunks in the course of his duties as a licenced wildlife remover. Agreed to an absolute discharge in February and was required to make a donation of \$1,350 to any wildlife rehabilitation facility. He is prohibited from practising any form of private wildlife control service until April 2010.

Although legally mandated to enforce the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada and the Ontario SPCA Act, the OHS does not receive any government funding, or funding from any animal welfare group, to perform this essential work.

(Results of some of these court appearances were not available by press time.)

DEAR BUDDY AND BELLE

Practical advice for companion animal owners



Dear Buddy and Belle,

My parents and I recently came to the OHS to adopt a cat. There were lots of nice cats, but we found an orange one that we wanted. My mom and dad talked to a nice lady wearing an OHS shirt, and she asked us a ton of questions about our house and other animals. It was so boring! I just wanted to take my new cat home and start playing with her! Why can't families just come in and get a cat right away?

Madigan P.

P.S. We ended up adopting the orange cat and I called her Tangerine.

Dear Madigan,

Congratulations! We both agree that Tangerine is a super name for a cat.

We know it must have seemed like a long wait for you in our adoption lobby, and we know you tried your best to be patient. It's obvious that you and your mom and dad care a lot about ani-

mals and you'll give Tangerine a good home. But not everyone is as awesome a match as you and your family are for your new cat.

Do you remember all the other cats you saw when you came to adopt Tangerine? They didn't appear out of nowhere. Some of them weren't treated very well by humans. But most of them just didn't fit into their old homes — at least not well enough to have their owners keep them forever. That's why your mom and dad had to answer so many questions. We ask questions because we want to make sure that humans and animals are happy with each other forever — so that cats like Tangerine don't end up back here at the OHS. Does that make sense?

Thanks for waiting, Madigan, and thanks for giving Tangerine a happy, loving home.

Wags and purrs,
Buddy and Belle



1-888-211-7555

www.humanewildlifecontrol.com

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613-256-0500
HEATHER & JOHN GRIFFITHS

An obvious love

Ottawa couple's donations ensure a bright future for community's animals

Cats rule the roost in Larry and Isabelle Capkun's Ottawa home. The two public servants share their lives with Cookie and George, a pair of affable, though decidedly different cats, both adopted through one of the Ottawa Humane Society's pet store adoption locations.

"They're the centre of our lives," says Larry, 41. "We plan our schedules around them, and each night, when we come home, they greet us at the door. To us, they're like furry, adopted children."

While Isabelle grew up with cats and spent many years working in an animal hospital, Larry had never been a pet owner prior to meeting his wife and her two felines.

Larry proved a quick study in learning how to care for animals. When Isabelle's cats eventually died at the ages of 20 and 21, she was heartbroken and didn't think she'd ever have cats again. But just three months later, Larry had other ideas.

"It looked like Isabelle was missing something after the death of her cats, and I wanted her to have that back," says Larry.

"Even though I came in at the ground level of learning to love pets, I'd grown close to them, too. That's when we decided to see if

there were any cats out there who needed a good home."

It's nice to be able to give to an organization that does the kind of work that we ourselves would like to do — help animals in need.

First to be adopted into the Capkun clan was precocious Cookie in the fall of 2001, followed by George, in the spring of 2002. "Getting a cat from a shelter was important to us," says Isabelle, 50. "We wanted to go through an organization that invests in animals, so choosing

the OHS was a natural decision."

The Capkuns' support of the OHS goes beyond bringing two homeless cats into their lives. Both Larry and Isabelle have left bequests to the Society through their wills. They've also planned for Cookie and George's future by enrolling the animals in the OHS Pet Stewardship program.

"We're fortunate to be comfortable, to have everything we need, and to have sufficient disposable income to enable us to make donations," says Isabelle. "Whenever there's a project that comes up that we can contribute to, we do."



Isabelle Capkun with Cookie and Larry Capkun with George. The Capkuns have left money to the OHS in their wills. Last year, the OHS received more than \$740,000 from bequests. To learn more about leaving a gift in your will, call Monique at 613-725-3166 ext. 268 or e-mail legacy@ottawahumane.ca.

The Capkuns' love of animals is obvious — from the way they speak about their own cats, to the steps they've taken to ensure a future for the community's animals with a gift to the new OHS building campaign.

"Animals are an emotional thing for us," says Isabelle. "It's nice to be able to give to an organization that does the kind of work that we ourselves would like to do — help animals in need."

An advertisement for the Ottawa Citizen Pet Guide. It features a close-up of a golden retriever's face on the left. The text reads: "OTTAWA CITIZEN PET GUIDE", "Look for our Pet Guide daily in the Classified Section.", "For more information please call 613.829.9321 or e-mail classified@thecitizen.canwest.com", and "PROUD SPONSOR OF THE OTTAWA HUMANE SOCIETY".

AUXILIARY UPDATE

The OHS Auxiliary held its second Blooms & Berries event on May 24 and raised over \$2,400 for the animals!

Please check www.ottawahumane.ca for details on our fundraising garage sales this summer.

Our monthly meetings will resume on Thursday, Sept. 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Real Canadian Superstore on Richmond Road. We are always looking for new members. For more information, please contact Nancy Hazen at 613-825-1621.

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