



A charmed life of love for Rudy

Rudy the Beagle puppy has received more love and attention so far, than some dogs have in a lifetime.

But life started out rough for Rudy. His mother, three-year-old Bella, was picked up by bylaw officers on the outskirts of the city's west end, scared and alone and brought to the OHS. Very pregnant, she soon gave birth to seven puppies in the shelter, five of which survived.



Rudy—joyful survivor with lots of love to give.

OHS Registered Veterinary Technician Iona Guindon-Carson, fostered Bella and her puppies in her home when Bella and soon all of the puppies, became ill with kennel cough. Rudy was particularly sick, and was too weak to eat. Iona had to separate him from his litter mates to give him the individual attention and treatment he needed. She stayed up nights with him, feeding him from a dropper, giving him medication and all the love he needed to get better.

Ten days later, Rudy was fully recov-

ered and returned to be with his litter-mates. But the excitement of the reunion with his siblings caused Rudy, the most rambunctious of all the puppies, to accidentally sprain his leg.

Once again, Rudy was singled out for extra special attention as he recovered, wearing a splint for two weeks. "That splint didn't slow him down one bit," said Iona. Rudy stayed with Iona another month before moving to the OHS Adoption Centre, where his care was overseen by the OHS staff. Following medical treatment, including sterilization, he was ready for adoption.

It wasn't long before Rudy found a forever home with a wonderful family. Unfortunately, soon after he moved to his new home, financial circumstances for them suddenly changed. Their next decision was perhaps the most important of all for Rudy's future. They expressed their love for Rudy by putting his needs first and, as responsible pet owners concerned for their pet's future well-being, they returned him to the OHS.

Keeping Rudy in one place for very long was simply not to be. In no time at all, Rudy was matched with a great family, including two children. Rudy helped make the holiday season a magical time for his new family. One thing is for sure, Rudy will continue to bring joy and tail-wagging love for a long time to come. 🐾

Animal hoarding is not about love

Inspector Miriam Smith will never forget the sights and smells of suffering when she investigated her first animal hoarding case.

"It was disgusting. There were many dogs in small, filthy cages, and their fur was so matted with feces and urine, they could barely move. Many had infected eyes and were severely malnourished. A couple of them were so stressed that they repeatedly licked the front of their cages in an obsessive-compulsive fashion. Flies were everywhere. The air reeked of ammonia and we could hardly breathe. The owner actually thought her animals were fine and couldn't understand our concern. She said she loved them."

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Main	613-725-3166
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Lost & Found	613-725-9998
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Dispatch/General Info	ext. 221

Departmental Extensions:

Adoption Centre	ext. 258
Building Campaign	279
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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

Our bond with animals



In his Pulitzer prize-winning play, *Angels in America*, Tony Kushner reminds us that "...what you love will take you places you never dreamed you'd go."

Most of us have experienced this—many through our bond with animals. I never dreamed that I would one day be working for the Ottawa Humane Society. But I am. And I love the organization, I love its people and its work, and what it can—and does—achieve for the animals. Love is what we are going to talk about in this issue of *Our Best Friends*.

There is a lot of love at a humane society. Our staff and our volunteers are driven by a love of animals that is beyond what many of us experience. If you don't love working or volunteering here, you would find it impossible. There is not a lot of middle ground. Painful decisions are made daily, resources are always limited, and criticism comes by the truckload.

The people of the humane society truly know what it means to love animals and to devote their lives to them. A young staff member who spends a physically gruelling shift scrubbing kennels knows what loving animals means. A veterinary technician that provides the final kindness of euthanasia for sick, injured, and unsound animals on a daily basis knows what kindness is. A foster volunteer caring for sick kittens that in the end were too weak to survive, knows the pain of love.

A child's love for an animal is among the most moving and special relationships that any of us see. For a lot of us, this truly was our first love, and our first loss. Part of the job of the humane society is to promote this love, kindness, and respect for living things. Some children miss this,

much to their detriment. Our work with children helps to ensure that many children in

Ottawa have the opportunity to learn about and interact with animals, and that children that are suffering have the opportunity to heal with the help of the love of a dog.

Love for animals can overcome isolation and silence. The OHS Brightening Lives Animal Visits (BLAV), program allows seniors living in institutions to continue to experience the warmth and companionship of a furry friend. We have experienced seniors communicating for the first time in years with our visiting dogs and cats.

There is, of course, a dark side to people's love for animals. Many of the worst cases of neglect and even abuse are by those that protest the loudest how much they love their dogs or cats. The worst hoarders, those with dozens of animals housed in cramped, filthy conditions, describe with true emotion, their deep love for each animal in their home.

As you read our newsletter, I hope that you will take a moment to consider your love for animals and what they have meant in your life. The unconditional love that animals give and the love we return to them, improves our lives, teaches us as individuals how to give and receive love, and ultimately helps us to build a strong and caring community in which to live.

Bruce Roney
Executive Director

Animal Hoarding

...Continued from Page 1

The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium defines animal hoarding as:

- Having more than the typical number of companion animals
- Failing to provide minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter, and veterinary care, with this neglect often resulting in illness and death from starvation, spread of infectious disease, and untreated injury or medical condition
- Denial of the inability to provide this minimum care and the impact of that failure on the animals, the household, and human occupants of the dwelling
- Persistence, despite this failure, in accumulating and controlling animals

Animal hoarding is more common than people may think. Research indicates that there are thousands of animal hoarders across North America. Experts have identified three main categories of the condition:

Overwhelmed caregivers often take on the feeding of stray animals because they feel there is no one else to help. Their compulsion to collect animals may be triggered by a change in their life such as a death, disability or job loss.

Rescuer hoarders have a strong desire to save animals. They believe they are the only ones who can adequately “care” for their animals. They frequently deny adoptions and oppose euthanasia for any reasons. Rescue hoarders avoid contact with local authorities and have an unrealistic view of their situation, and are unable to find any fault with the care they provide or to admit that they need help.

Classic case of rescue hoarding

Miriam Smith recalls a 2003 case of a rescue hoarder in the Ottawa area. A mother and daughter lived with 15 rabbits and a few cats. Two years later there were 27 cats. Orders were issued and some animals were surrendered to the Ottawa Humane Society. The problem continued and OHS investigators returned again in 2009. Thirty-three cats were found living in unsanitary conditions; many were ill. The owners were evasive, and hid animals from investigators. Eventually, OHS laid charges for permitting distress and failing to provide adequate standards of care. The result was a two-year prohibition from owning, having care of, or living with any animals other than their two dogs. More importantly, the sentence included mandatory counseling for hoarding issues.

Exploiter hoarders are the most extreme category. They compulsively collect large numbers of items, including animals, to meet a personal need. These individuals lack empathy for animals and people and are unable to see the pain and suffering they cause as a problem.

Cases of animal hoarding are difficult for the OHS shelter as the animals that come in are generally under-socialized and stressed and bring illnesses into the shelter. Cases are complex and time and resource intensive for OHS investigators. However, we continue to work collaboratively with our partners in the community to educate and effect change in order that this real and increasingly common problem is effectively addressed.



If you love animals

Steps to responsible pet ownership

Having an animal companion to share your life with is a wonderful experience! But what does it mean exactly to be a responsible pet owner? These are the top four simple things you can do to be a responsible pet owner:

Identification: Identify your dog or cat with a collar and identification tag with your phone number, and a permanent microchip implant. These will help ensure that your animal can be returned safely. Call 613-725-3166 ext. 221 or visit www.ottawahumane.ca to find out the date of the next OHS microchip clinic.

Spaying/Neutering: Have your animal spayed or neutered. Sterilized animals are far less likely to roam and engage in unwanted behaviour such as urine-marking and fighting.

Spaying or neutering at an early age can also greatly reduce the likelihood of reproductive and prostate cancer.

Vaccination: See your veterinarian regularly to be sure your pet’s vaccinations are up-to-date. Diseases spread when pet owners do not have their animals vaccinated. Rabies vaccinations are mandatory in Ontario.

Legislation: Know the law. Abide by leash, licence and ‘stoop-and-scoop’ bylaws. Keep your companion animal under control at all times. Too many animals are injured and killed on our roads. Too many people injure animals that have become a neighbourhood nuisance. All cats and dogs must be licensed with the City of Ottawa.

You can license your animal at the City, pet stores, the OHS or at various veterinary clinics.

Be a part of the solution. Be a responsible owner and encourage your family, friends and neighbours to be responsible too.



A Tale of Two Volunteers

Giving a precious gift

They're completely different in almost every way except for one thing—their love of giving of themselves to the Ottawa Humane Society as volunteers.

Dr. Don Caldwell is a part-time volunteer veterinarian at the OHS, who also works for the federal government as well as the Orleans Veterinary Hospital. Approximately eight years ago, through word of mouth, he found out about the work of other vets at the OHS.

"I approached Dr. Downes (an OHS vet at the time), about doing some rounds and surgeries at the OHS, and right after that I started regularly volunteering in the surgery," says Dr. Caldwell.

Heather Cancilla and her 13-year-old Husky, Juno, are relatively new to the OHS volunteer team. Just three months ago they started together in the Brightening Lives Animal Visits (BLAV) program. Heather was mid-stream in learning dog training as a career when she decided to volunteer her free time. "I knew it would be good for Juno and me to watch people and dogs interact. I thought it would help with my training," says Heather.

They both soon discovered that volunteering at the OHS has become a passion.



Dr. Don Caldwell



Heather Cancilla and Juno

Dr. Caldwell volunteers at the microchip clinics and by doing rounds and surgeries one Saturday each month. "It's motivating for me to work with the people here. I feed off their dedication. They work hard and perform well as a team and it motivates me to continue to contribute," he says. He explains that he's most motivated to help investigations through post mortems, or in any other way he can.

Heather says that every encounter she has through the Brightening Lives program helps her understand dogs, people and their behaviours better. On her BLAV visits, she says she loves to see and hear seniors talk about the pets they had. "It's great to give them companionship and to share their joy when they see and touch a dog. It's immediate."

Both of these OHS volunteers see themselves continuing to give their energy and love for a long time. "I plan to contribute to the OHS by doing something useful here for as long as I can," says Dr. Caldwell. "The feeling just keeps getting better. I'd say to anyone thinking about giving their love, go to the Ottawa Humane Society. See the animals and experience it." Heather echoes the sentiment. "Giving back is a joy to experience. It's not a job or even a task. It's just something I love to do."

Santa Pet Pics — A Huge Success

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Santa Pet Pics another success. Events were held at Westgate, Lincoln Fields and Elmvale shopping centres and raised over \$5,700 for the animals. Our volunteer Santas and elves loved watching the happy animals and children as those moments were captured on film.

Thank you to everyone who came out, especially to all the volunteers who gave their valuable time to take part in this holiday event. We also appreciate the support of ZoomPhoto and all the participating shopping malls.

We are looking forward to adding another location for Santa Pet Pics next year – our new shelter. Watch for details in the new year!



Loving hands

OHS staff provide comfort, care for animals' last refuge

While the goal of every reputable animal shelter is to place all adoptable animals into new, loving homes as soon as possible, the sad reality of any open-admission animal shelter like ours is that many of the animals are simply not adoptable at intake, nor can they be made so, regardless of the intervention provided. We struggle with the heartbreaking task of providing comfort and care to animals whose stay at the shelter is their final destination.

The word “euthanasia” comes from the Greek word meaning “good death”, and refers to the practice of ending a life in a manner that relieves pain and suffering. At the OHS, we believe that relieving an animal of pain and suffering, when we have no other option available within our resources, is the kindest thing we can do for that animal and is an act that is undertaken with love and dignity.

Regularly, staff hear from visitors to the shelter that there is no way that they themselves could work in a shelter, given what their work must involve...it would just be too sad. But while yes, it is sad, more tragic still is

the ailing, elderly cat whose owner left it in a state of suffering for months because he could not afford veterinary care, the neglected dog that has been rehomed several times because of its unresolvable aggression, or the sick, stray cat whose owner has not come looking for it and whose health is rapidly declining in our current inadequate shelter facility, despite our best efforts. These cases, for our staff, are heartbreaking. Because no matter our efforts, the lack of responsibility shown by an owner at some point during the pet's life—whether overtly ignoring the animal's pain, not addressing significant behaviour or temperament issues or assuming that an outdoor cat will always come back—has led the animal down a path with no good outcome. Sometimes, in these cases, the kindest act of compassion that we can provide is euthanasia.


The OHS will always help owners who require euthanasia for their pets to relieve their animal's suffering, when they cannot afford the cost of veterinary care. While we will always advise clients that they should see their regular veterinarian, the fact is that many of Ottawa's residents who

turn to us have never had their pets to a veterinarian, for whatever reason. To deny them help would virtually guarantee that more animals in our community would be left in a state of suffering indefinitely—even left to die slow, painful deaths.

The task of euthanasia is not one that the OHS gladly takes on. It is one



Euthanasia is undertaken with love and dignity.

that, regrettably, is too often required in our community. The OHS continues to work at educating Ottawans about responsible animal ownership so that we can reduce the need for euthanasia, and work at enhancing our ability to provide higher levels of care for more animals. We are thankful for the commitment of our animal care staff, who always ensure that every animal, in its last days or, in some cases, hours, is treated with dignity, respect and love. 

Helping the animals on your special day


We are always deeply touched when couples in love choose to help the animals in our care on their wedding day.

James Ward and Zoe Khoe met and fell in love because of their dogs—two beagles named Boomer and Reuben. The happy couple showed their love of animals by asking their wedding guests to make donations to the Ottawa Humane Society in lieu of wedding gifts. The OHS worked with them to design a gift form complete with a picture of both dogs that was included with their wedding invitations. “Helping animals is important to us and we knew that our friends and family would support our idea wholeheartedly,” said the newlyweds. As

expected, friends and family came through for them, raising more than \$1,600 for Ottawa's animals.

When OHS board member Robin Coates and her fiancé Jim Everts were married, they too wanted to help our animals. Having already adopted three cats and a dog from the OHS, they also asked their guests to make a gift to the OHS. They collected cheques and cash and were able to donate more than \$1,800 to the animals in our care.

If you are getting married and would like to encourage your wedding guests to make a gift to the OHS, please contact Bertha Norvor at 613-725-3166 (263) or berthan@ottawahumane.ca.

We can work with you on a donation card for your invitations or set up a web page where your guests can go online and make their gifts securely via credit card. 



Jim Everts and Robin Coates asked their wedding guests to donate to the OHS.

COMMUNITY KUDOS

For the third year in a row, proceeds from the Stittsville holiday craft sale were donated to the animals at the OHS. Thank you to event organizer **Gord Caffery** for all of his hard work organizing this annual event, which resulted in a \$1,000 donation.



Gabrielle Opdam-Zeegers organized a neighbourhood dog show to benefit Ottawa's animals.

Meet Your Match, an annual dinner/dance held in Ottawa, took place in October, with the proceeds once again benefiting the animals at the OHS. Since 2005 the event has raised over \$10,000 for Ottawa's animals! Thank you very much to **Carol Gordon**, of Single Gourmet, for spending countless hours ensuring the success of this spectacular event!

A huge thank you to **Madame Miville-Déchéne's Fourth Grade French Immersion students** for raising an amazing \$435. For the second

year in a row, the Rockliffe Park Public School students, with the help of their teacher, organized a Halloween raffle for the animals. Congratulations on such a wonderful achievement!

Many thanks to **Gabrielle Opdam-Zeegers**, for organizing the third annual dog show in her neighbourhood. Gabrielle, 12, uses her pocket money to purchase prizes for the dog show. She also secures emcees and judges. Since 2007, the dog show has

raised more than \$500 for Ottawa's animals.

At the St. Martin de Porres annual Christmas Craft Fair, two sisters, **Nicola and Michaela**, decided to raise money for the animals at the Ottawa Humane Society. With the help of a family friend, they sold homemade dog biscuits and catnip toys. Together, they raised \$122 for the animals. Thank you for helping the animals!

Wags and purrs to the Ottawa Humane Society's youngest supporters:

- Alyx D**
- Anna C**
- Hannah H**
- Jade P**
- Katie**
- Madeleine J**
- Madelyn R**
- Matthew B**
- Sophie S**
- Barrhaven Public School**

Purrfect cat housing for healthier cats

Out of love for the cats we care for and a very real concern for their health, OHS staff researched the best cat kennel designs for its new building. We've seen firsthand how stressed cats are extremely susceptible to infections and illnesses and how all too often, they do not recover once they fall ill.

The more natural behaviours cats can express, the healthier cats will be. This includes having enough space to stretch, and to hide and perch. Cats are also finicky about cleanliness, so it's important that their kennels have a separate litter area. All these elements are included in the new kennel design.

We want our cats to have a place where they can thrive and get ready for their new, loving, forever homes. Our animals are worth it!

Our new facility is designed to accommodate 17 cat rooms within the cat holding area. Each cat room will be separately ven-

tilated, which will help prevent the spread of viruses cats experience in our cur-

rent, over-crowded shelter.

Each of the 17 cat rooms will have five "banks" (each bank consists of two stacked kennels) of the newly designed kennels. This is a much lower density of cats per room than we have in our shelter now.

If you have a cat that you love in your life, please consider naming a bank of cat kennels after your precious companion animal. This will change the lives of so many cats in our care for the better, and it's an opportunity for you to be a part of that change.

If you are interested in making a donation toward a bank of cat kennels, please contact Anna Silverman at 613-725-3166 ext. 279 or by email annas@ottawahumane.ca for details about how you can help.



Cat housing in the new OHS building will improve cats' lives.



COURT UPDATES

Completed Cases

Debra MacDonald: Charged in November 2010 under the OSPCA Act with permitting cats to be in distress and failing to provide adequate food and water after OHS inspectors executed a warrant and discovered two adult cats and a kitten alive, and three dead kittens. A veterinarian advised that the three dead kittens appeared to have died from dehydration and starvation. Ms. MacDonald pled guilty on December 9, and was sentenced to one year probation, fined \$200, and ordered to pay restitution of \$710 to the OHS. Ms. MacDonald is also prohibited from having any new pets for the duration of the probation period and must allow regular inspections during the probation period to ensure compliance.

Ryan Cheyne: Charged on Sept. 29, 2010 with causing distress to a cat, which resulted in its death. Appeared in court Nov. 18, 2010 and was sentenced to two years probation with conditions that include restitution of \$220, two years probation, counseling for anger management, and prohibited from owning, caring, or living with animals and must allow the OHS to randomly check compliance with the prohibition order.

Pending Cases

Sylvie Belanger: Charged on May 20, 2010 with four counts of animal cruelty against a number of cats. Further charges were laid on July 14, 2010 stemming from neglect of two

cats in her care, including one that died after allegedly being stepped on, and another that drowned in the bathtub. First court appearance was July 29, 2010. Trial is set for Feb. 22, 2011.

New Charges

Tammy Doucet: Charged on Dec. 8, 2010 with permitting an animal to be in distress and failing to provide food, water and general care to a dog after it was found in a filthy wire crate, lying in its feces and urine. The dog was emaciated and had to be carried out. First court appearance is on Jan. 6, 2011.

Matthew Richens: Charged Dec. 14, 2010 with permitting distress and failing to provide adequate and appropriate medical attention to a cat after it was hit by a car and left untreated for at least two hours. The cat was removed from the owner under the authority of the OSPCA Act and taken to a veterinarian for examination. Due to extensive internal injuries, the cat was euthanized. First court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 6, 2011.

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

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.



1-888-211-7555

www.humanewildlifecontrol.com



Did you know...

- ▶ The average length of stay at the OHS shelter is:
 - 20 days for cats
 - 9 days for dogs
- ▶ 4,183 children were reached through the OHS humane education program last year.



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Dear Ottawa Humane Society,

In November, before any snow arrived, a skinny black and white cat was seen at the bird feeders behind my house. I immediately went and brought out some dry cat food and went back into the house and observed him from my window, as he chowed down. Eventually, this skinny little boy became used to me providing food and calling to him and after a few days, he let me touch him. I was appalled at his condition – just skin and bones!

I was later able to scoop him up and take him into my house. I isolated him from my other cats and soon took him to my vet. I was advised to deworm him in case he had picked up any parasites. I understand that as a responsible pet owner I must report this found animal, and I have done that. I sincerely hope that “Beau” (the

name I gave him), has people that are seriously looking for him. I’ll miss him.

Sincerely,

Judy

Update: Beau, aka Darwin, was lost in October and reunited with his owner who had filed a lost animal report with OHS. When Judy was informed about the joyful reunion, she wrote OHS to say “What a wonderful ending! Merry Christmas to all and thank you for all the great work you guys do!”



Warm Hearts Raffle

Help the animals by buying Ottawa Humane Society Warm Hearts Raffle tickets. Prizes are great, the tickets are a bargain at \$10 each or three for \$25.

Prizes include a Caribbean cruise, trips to Miami and Las Vegas and an Apple iPad!

The draw is March 11, 2011. Purchase tickets by:

- Filling in the raffle coupon enclosed with this newsletter and mailing it back in the postage paid envelope.
- Coming to the Ottawa Humane Society at 101 Champagne Ave. South between 9:00am and 7:00pm.
- Calling 613-725-3166 (ext.252) for credit card purchases between 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday

More information on the Warm Hearts Raffle can be found on the OHS website www.ottawahumane.ca.

Opening her heart and home

Barb Labelle, foster volunteer

The story of how Barb Labelle began fostering with the Ottawa Humane Society is a common one: she found an abandoned cat with kittens and wanted to do everything she could to help them find a home. Barb and her three boys, Stuart, Justin and Alex, started fostering animals in 2005 after Barb found the cats under a tire shed at work. After two hours of moving tires and crawling around to retrieve the mom and her kittens from under the shed, she brought them to the OHS.

Today, Barb fosters pregnant and nursing cats, as well as orphaned or sick kittens. Fostering is a very rewarding experience for her. It can be emotional at times dealing with sick cats, but knowing they will get a good start in life with the love and attention they need, continually moti-

vates her. If the cats come to her home sick, they have a quiet, warm and loving place in which to recover. In fact, Barb converted half of her basement into a cat foster room. Barb and the boys provide love and comfort to the cats, administer medication, and help socialize them so they can be adopted into loving homes.



Pumpkin's kittens

Barb's most memorable fostering moment was in September 2009. The family took in a pregnant cat named Pumpkin who was due to deliver around Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving came and went, and with no kittens. Pumpkin got so big she could not walk far without stopping to rest. Finally, in the first week of November, Barb brought her to the OHS where a veterinarian decided to give Pumpkin a C-section. Pumpkin had 9 kittens, but unfortunately lost one at two days old. The 8 remaining kittens grew up to be healthy, energetic bundles of joy.

Barb says she's honoured to help the animals through the OHS foster program, and is dedicated to ensuring neglected or abused cats/kittens get a good start in life.



Returning to his first love

OHS Inspector's career comes full circle

Tim Brown is an OHS Emergency Animal Protection Services (EAPS) Inspector, with an undergraduate degree in animal science and a Masters degree in animal breeding. But for ten years, his career path led him first to computer systems, private consulting and data conversion in the public and private sectors. We asked Tim how he came to the OHS and what brought him here.

Q. How and when did you start working at the OHS?

I started volunteering: dog walking, humane education in the classroom, that sort of thing for about 6 months. A part-time position in emergency services opened up in 1999—working midnight and weekend shifts, and I applied for and got it. I worked part-time until 2004, then I became a full time OSPCA agent, then an inspector in 2006, which is what I've been doing since.

Q. Why did you decide to volunteer, and then work at the OHS?

My love for animals. I wanted to work with animals; I just didn't know in what capacity that would be. I felt the need to get back to working with animals which was my original training—it was drawing me back. So, I started with the volunteer work and

then jumped all over the part-time position as soon as it opened up.

Q. What did you think of EAPS work initially?

My first call was to a house where the owner had just died, and the body was still in the house. It was a suspicious death. There were three cats in the home too and my job was to remove them and that was my introduction—animal rescue and a possible crime scene at the same time. But you know, I loved it right from the get go! There's an adrenalin rush when the phone rings and you know you're going to help an animal in distress.

Q. Why do you continue?

This job changes everyday. Every day I learn from myself, from my colleagues or from the animals—in a good way! It's important to me to talk to animal owners and through that, change their beliefs and habits and hopefully, they'll educate their families, neighbours and friends and it goes out from there. I tell new officers that no matter what you do, you've made a choice that's good for the animals. It's always rewarding because I'm always contributing to people, animals or both.

Q. What have been the highlights for you?

The highlights in this job are extreme—either very good or very bad. There have been cases where I've allowed myself to open my heart to an animal that has been rescued or removed. I've given it that extra love while it's here, spending extra time with it and knowing that while here, it finally



OHS Inspector Tim Brown says he loves working at the OHS and making our community a safer place for animals.

received the love and attention it deserved. For our team, the ultimate joy is seeing an animal rescued from a bad situation and then go to a new, loving home. We'd love to do that every time.

Q. Why should people consider giving time, money, or their skills to the OHS?

It takes so little effort to make a difference in the life of an animal. When you realize the difference you make by even a small action, it's encouraging. Even advocating responsible pet ownership is an act of love and of giving, and it's easy to do. The reward is immediate and it's addictive!

p.s. Tim has two dogs: Belle, a dog he fostered and who participated in the OHS Leadership Education with Adolescents and Dogs (LEAD) program, and Indy, a stray dog that was picked up with a note pinned to her collar saying her owners could no longer care for her. Indy participates in the OHS Brightening Lives program.



OHS Inspector Tim Brown frequents the courthouse regularly to ensure animal abusers are brought to justice.



Practical advice for companion animal owners

Dear Buddy and Belle,

I'm a nine-year-old German Shepherd. I always enjoy my daily walks, but not so much in the winter anymore. Do you have any advice for my humans on how to make those cold walks and winter days warmer, safer and easier on me?

Sincerely,
Jake

Dear Jake,

Just because you have a fur coat doesn't mean you're immune to a Canadian winter. We suggest that your humans limit your time outdoors in the cold and always wipe your feet for you after your walks to be sure the salt is removed.

We also think it's really important that you stay away from ponds, rivers or lakes. Thin ice could break through easily and that would be a disaster if you fell into the frigid water!

It's dark early now, so when you're on your walk you should wear a reflective collar or a light—your humans should be wearing reflective clothing too! And, of course, you should wear an identification tag on your collar, with

current information year round.

After your walks, if possible, your humans should wipe off your paws so that you don't accidentally ingest salt, antifreeze or other harmful chemicals.

Wags and purrs,
Buddy and Belle



Limit time outdoors in the cold for animals to keep them safe and healthy.

Support comes from all types of animal lovers

It's safe to say that Ottawa Humane Society supporters love animals! They help us day in and day out by donating money and in-kind gifts that enable us to care for more than 11,000 animals every year. It's also safe to say that many of our supporters also love their own companion animals—often animals from the OHS. But what about individuals, couples and families who do not have an animal of their own? Do they care about the work the OHS does and do they support us as well? The answer is yes and yes, and I am one of them.

I started working at the OHS more than eight years ago in the fundraising office and did not own an animal. With busy jobs and a young daughter who was allergic to dogs and cats, my wife Debbie and I were unable to have an animal in our home, although I always wanted a dog—a large, lively



Whether you have a companion animal or not, there are many ways to show your support.

one, to accompany me on long runs. Now, I get my fix by helping and playing with the dogs belonging to friends and family. Maybe one day I'll adopt a Husky from the Iqaluit Program!

When I discovered the incredible work that happens here at the OHS, I began

to appreciate the important role it has in the community and I started making monthly donations as part of the PAW program.

I am not alone. I speak to more and more supporters who, for whatever reason, cannot have a companion animal. They give to the OHS in memory of a treasured pet who is no longer alive, or they donate because they live in a residence that does not allow animals. I also meet walkers without dogs who attend our annual September walkathon just to "see all the amazing and different breeds".

If you love animals—we need and appreciate your support.

*Rob McCulloch
Director of Development
Ottawa Humane Society*



For the love of pets

OHS supports owners facing difficult decision to surrender a beloved pet

A frequent question from visitors to the OHS Adoption Centre is, “Who could possibly have given up this wonderful animal?”, and “Who would do such a terrible thing!” In reality, while it is certainly not the case for all of the 2,300 animals surrendered by their owners to our care every year, an animal’s arrival at the OHS may represent the last and most difficult loving act its owner could make for it.

Two growing reasons that people surrender their pets to the OHS are that they have too many animals or cannot afford the costs associated with owning their animal (12% and 5% last year respectively). Along with the ongoing top surrender reasons of “allergies” and “moving”, we also regularly see people give up their pets because they simply no longer have the time to properly care for them (7% last year).

Ours is not to judge how any owner came to be in their present situation. The fact is, over the course of a decade—easily less than the average lifespan of a cat or dog—many people will face significant changes in their lives, changes that may limit their ability to properly care for their pet. For example, nobody plans on having a baby with allergies, or losing their job.

As a humane society, we must support any owner who has taken the step to surrender their pet and to make the best decision they can for that pet. We would certainly prefer not to see an animal kept in a situation of less than adequate care: a cat being housed with too many other cats in a situation that is becoming out of control; an ageing animal in decline, going without necessary ongoing veterinary care; a young dog left crated for endless hours each day. Sadly, too many owners push aside even the most basic needs of their pets and wait too long to do something about it. Those who truly love their pets will not. And while these loving owners recognize that the OHS cannot guarantee a positive outcome for their pet, they place their trust in us to do the best for their pet when they no longer can.

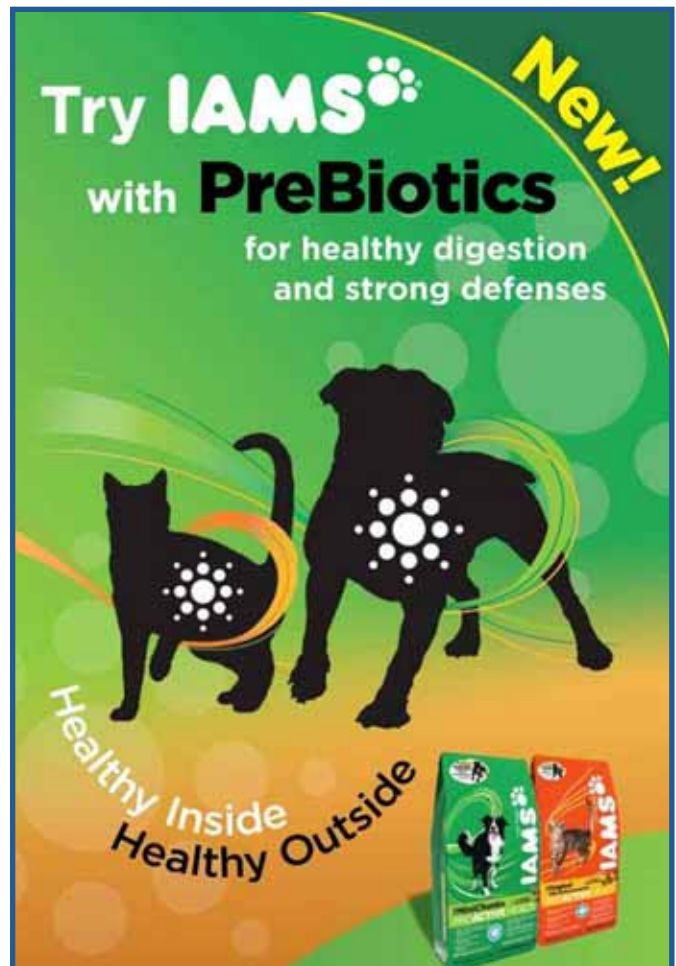
We would, of course, ideally love to work with all families to help them avoid having to make the difficult decision to give up a beloved family pet. We provide counseling by phone to owners whose companions’ behaviour issues seem insurmountable, or who are facing specific issues such as not being home enough for their pet. But not everyone has



Surrendering an animal may be the last and most difficult, loving act an owner can make.

the time or resources to address the problem they’re facing, whether it’s seeking enhanced training, hiring a dog walker, or consulting with a veterinarian. In our experience, those who truly love their pets have already exhausted all options by the time they contact us to talk about surrendering their pet.

The OHS will continue to educate our community about how to be responsible pet owners, including always advising people to ask themselves the most important question of whether they are ready to add a pet to their life—and whether how they see themselves in a decade would change that. But when owning a pet becomes impossible, we will always be here to support the owners and animals in need—and to thank them for making that last, loving decision to do the best thing they can do for their pet.





The holiday tradition continues

Five Ottawa families received a new pet this Christmas, thanks to the holiday delivery program from the Ottawa Humane Society (OHS). Staff and volunteers from the OHS made special visits early on Dec. 25 to drop off animals to their new homes. The animals, including one dog and four cats, were all pre-adopted by parents wishing to surprise their children with a new friend on Christmas morning.

Traditionally, the OHS, like most humane societies, has restricted adoptions over the holiday period. The concern was that animals may be given as gifts or acquired with little thought to the long-term commitment involved. And while that may sometimes be true, many people do think for a long time about adopting, and many choose to spend a quiet holiday at home, mak-



Jaelen Richards snuggles with Coco who arrived Christmas morning via the OHS holiday delivery program.

ing this a good time to introduce a new pet to the family. There are simply so many adoptable animals in need of new homes over the winter season that the OHS last year felt it was time to try something new to find more homes for our animals. The program was such a success that we did it again!



Gap in funding shortfall closes thanks to donors like you

A gap in OHS seasonal fundraising, experienced in mid-December 2010, was closed thanks to supporters like you. An initial 40% funding shortfall was attributed to a supplier problem that resulted in the delay of a major campaign mailing. Using a different supplier in an attempt to save money, did not work as planned and the mailer to 25,000 households was not

received in time for the holidays. Following a public plea for funds to lessen the impact on the animals, OHS donors and supporters responded immediately to get us to the goal!

Thank you!

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