



Kaya the Shelter Dog

My Companion, Protector and Best Friend Forever

For the lost, surrendered or abandoned animals at the OHS, the journey to happily ever-after begins the moment someone says "I do" and brings them into a caring and safe forever home. And, it's a two-way street - the love, companionship and just plain fun these furry friends bring with them can enrich and change our lives forever. Former OHS volunteer dog-walker Diana Leck feels she hit the jackpot when she adopted Kaya - a golden cattle dog mix. In fact, she credits Kaya with not only changing her life, but with saving it.



Kaya and I met in 1996 when I was a volunteer dog walker at the OHS. She was a stray dog who had been put up for adoption. By the time she came home with me, she'd been at the shelter for some time, but soon became 'one of the family'. Kaya accepted my two cats and she and my teenaged son quickly became best friends. Within her first week at home, she had already earned her keep when, in the middle of the night, her loud barks scared a would-be intruder away.

Several years later - when Kaya was eight years old - she kept me going while I underwent treatments for cancer. I had to walk her every day despite being overwhelmingly tired. Without her there I probably would have remained indoors and slept. Kaya pushed me to exercise and to get better.

One day, I decided to push the boundaries a bit, and I took Kaya for a walk to one of her favourite places - a wooded area a couple of miles away. By the time we got there I was exhausted and had to sit down. I let Kaya go exploring while I tried to get my energy back. Soon after, an ominous-looking man appeared on the path a few feet in front of me...he didn't say a word, but his intense silent glare was threatening. Honestly, I was much too tired to be afraid, even though I should have been.

Suddenly I heard the rustling of bushes and Kaya- exploded from the underbrush, fur standing on end from the back of her neck to the base of her tail. She went after the man with teeth bared and chased him away from the area, then she came trotting back to me, wagging her tail and grinning.

Normally, she greeted everyone with her famous huge grin, but this was the one and only time in her life that she ever did such a thing. I truly do believe she saved me from what could have been a very bad outcome.

I lost Kaya in 2012, just shy of her 16th birthday. She was the best friend (and soulmate) anyone could ask for, and she touched my son and myself deeply. I've known a lot of dogs in my life, but Kaya - the "shelter dog from the Humane Society" - was the most amazing animal companion I've ever been blessed to have met. I miss her every day, yet she is in my heart, always. 🐾

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Adoption Centre ext. 258
Lost & Found 223
Fostering 255
Administrative Assistant 233
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If you have a story idea or comment, please contact ohs@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

Animal Welfare in Ontario is Broken



Most days, I really like my job. The people I work with are great, and I see the difference the OHS is making in our community; not

just for animals, but for people too. There are only a very few things that get me down; the state of animal cruelty investigations in Ontario is one of them.

In May of this year, the Ottawa Citizen detailed a case in Perth that is challenging the validity of the Ontario SPCA Act and of OSPCA itself. Of course, everyone at the Ottawa Humane Society read this

article with keen interest. I was alarmed at the potential erosion of some of the powers under the Act, but applaud the challenge to the OSPCA itself.

As to the powers in the OSPCA Act, without commenting on specific actions of the OSPCA, I believe that special powers are required to intervene in cases of animal cruelty and neglect. These cases are not about recovering a stolen television. Officers are intervening to protect a living, breathing creature, who is suffering and whose life may be at risk. Time is frequently of

the essence and the Act reflects this.

As to the OSPCA itself, it and the whole system in Ontario, badly need reform. In April 2016, the sitting board of the Ontario SPCA, without notice or cause, suspended every one of its member's affiliations, and then "passed" new bylaws saying that only the sitting board members would be the only voting members of the OSPCA.

The Ottawa Humane Society was one of seven member humane societies in the province to call foul. Amongst

Since the OSPCA took over investigations in Ottawa, services have eroded. Animals are put at risk.

ourselves, we have talked for years about wanting to work together to build animal welfare in the province, cooperatively, with good communication, good governance, and mutual respect.

This was not that. So, we sent a joint letter to the board of the OSPCA: reverse this or we will take collective action in court.

The OSPCA board's response? Suspend the OHS, and suspend their investigators for no cause other than for disagreeing with its actions.

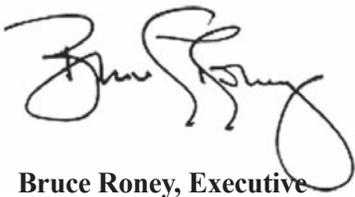
In fact, the chief inspector wrote to our investigations employees on their suspension, "This suspension is in no way related to your performance as an Ontario SPCA agent."

Court proceedings took an exceptionally long time, and spanned three judges. The first ordered the OSPCA board to hold an annual meeting if it wanted new bylaws, noting in writing that “Many of these (OSPCA) decisions were taken without regard for procedural safeguards and contrary to certain statutory and regulatory provisions.” He further noted in his comments that the suspension of OHS, “needs to be acknowledged by all parties that it was wrong.”

In the end, an annual meeting was held and new bylaws passed by the voting of one member. The third judge eventually denied the application of the seven affiliates. And so with that, the last vestige of real oversight of the OSPCA is gone.

Since the OSPCA took over investigations in Ottawa, services have eroded. OHS provided rescue and investigation into the night, 365 days a year. OSPCA is a nine to five operation, Monday to Friday. Animals are put at risk.

It is time to introduce accountability and transparency into the actions of the OSPCA. It is not acceptable that there is a private police force operating in the province without oversight. This needs to change. But we believe this can be achieved in a way that allows for the protection of vulnerable animals. 🐾



Bruce Roney, Executive Director

It's Tick Season... Is Your Dog Safe?

They're black, tiny and latch on to skin and fur like superglue. They dig deep and the damage they cause can shorten and, even claim lives. Ottawa Public Health has reported that more than 20 per cent of ticks tested from the Ottawa area last year were positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease.

A few years back, the unwelcome arrival of the Black-legged tick into our yards, parks and forests prompted Ottawa Public Health authorities to declare the nation's capital a Lyme disease at-risk zone.

The pervasive disease can cause potentially life threatening illness in dogs, and precautions should be taken to help prevent infection of our four-legged canine friends. The most important thing you can do is to prevent Lyme disease before it happens.

Here are some Do's and Don'ts to help you deal with these dangerous parasites.

DO

Protect your pet

There are multiple veterinary products that you can give to your pet that will help prevent tick bites. Ask your veterinarian what options are best for you and your pet.

Check your pet – carefully!

When you return from a walk in wooded or grassy areas, check your pet for ticks. Look carefully in areas where there is less hair, such as armpits and thighs.

Ticks can vary in size depending on their age and species and can be tiny, and very difficult to see if young. Once a tick starts feeding, it grows in size and becomes more noticeable. If you feel a small hairless bump that you have not noticed before, this may be a tick. If you look

closely at the attachment site, you may be able to see the eight legs and brown head.

Remove ticks – properly!

Correct removal of the tick involves removing the **entire** tick. The tick has embedded its head into your pet's skin so it's important to remove it properly.

Tweezer method: Using a pair of sharp tweezers, grab the tick as close to the skin as possible, and pull straight out from the skin. Once you have removed the tick, check to ensure that the head is attached to the tick and has not burrowed itself into the skin.

Tick removal tool: Slide the prongs over the tick so the head is between the prongs. Gently twist the tool around in a circle and slowly pull up. Some tools have slightly different designs, so refer to the instructions provided with the tool.

Preserving and killing the tick

Once the entire tick is removed, place it in a leak-proof container of rubbing alcohol. You may want to have the tick on-hand to discuss with your veterinarian if any further tests need to be run on the insect.

Cleaning the bite site

After you have removed the tick, clean the bite site with antibacterial soap and water. Monitor the site over the next week for any redness or swelling that may suggest an infection.

DO NOT

- Attempt to force the tick to release by burning it with a flame, a chemical or puncturing its body.
- Grab the end of the tick's body and pull.
- We don't recommend these methods because the tick can 'vomit' into the skin and/or the head can be detached and left in the skin, both of which can cause skin infections. 🐾

Meet Tom Shirriff

Tom Shirriff has been a long-time supporter and foster volunteer for the OHS. Recently, he became an OHS Steward through our Pet Stewardship Program, which allows pet owners to leave their pets to the OHS in their Will. The program provides owners with peace-of-mind that their pets will be cared for should their owner pass away.

As a Steward, Tom is caring for two cats in the program who, sadly, lost their owner two years ago. Since becoming an OHS Steward, Tom has enrolled his own pets into the Pet Stewardship Program.

Tom tells us he first became involved with the OHS after retiring. He was initially interested in walking dogs at the shelter but, after doing some research, Tom decided that fostering might be a better fit and so enrolled to become an OHS Foster volunteer. Since that time, Tom has fostered over 165 cats and kittens, giving them a second chance for a forever home.

After turning sixty, Tom was updating his affairs and started thinking about his



Tom and one of his beloved cat, Max.

own cats and who would take care of them if he were no longer able. Instead of expecting family or friends to take on the responsibility of his pets, Tom selected the Pet Stewardship Program as a more appropriate option for his situation. It eased his mind to know that his pets would always be living the happy and comfortable lives they have come to expect.

When asked if he would recommend the Pet Stewardship program to others, Tom was quick to respond: “The Pet Stewardship Program is good for anyone with pets who doesn’t have someone that they trust to take them on. It really is important to plan for your pets.”

While participating in the Pet Stewardship Program as a Steward, Tom continues to foster OHS cats and kittens. Thank you, Tom, for all you do for the animals!

To learn more about the Pet Stewardship Program, please contact 613-725-3166 ext. 268 or e-mail legacy@ottawahumane.ca. 🐾



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OHS Specialized Foster Volunteers Linda Lucker and Scott Ferguson

Many of these cats are beautiful little puzzles

Did you know that the OHS currently has more than 240 foster homes who, last year alone, have fostered a total of 1457 animals? The OHS depends on the support of foster volunteers to provide temporary, in-home care for animals not yet ready for adoption.

Linda Lucker, and her partner, Scott Ferguson, joined our specialized foster program in 2015, and have been helping cats ever since. **To date, they have given more than 760 hours of their time to helping 15 cats on their journey to adoption.**

We asked Linda and Scott why they continue to give their time to this lifesaving program and here's what they had to share, "We will foster any feline the OHS matches us up with, but our favourites are from the *Behaviour Modification Program*.

Many of these cats are beautiful little puzzles, who only require a little bit of thought, patience and attention. Most of our foster animals have needed trust building, a job (working for food), a regular routine, redirecting behaviour, positive reinforcement and, most often, just a comforting home."

Each of our foster animals purr a little more joy into our lives.

Linda and Scott also take in cats to monitor and record their litterbox habits—helping to make them more adoptable. In 2016, the OHS introduced specialized feline and canine programs to help fearful/shy cats, cats with litterbox issues, canines with handling sensitivities and canines with global fear. OHS foster volunteers attend special training workshops, provided by our Coordinator: Feline Services and Coordinator: Canine Services, to tackle these behavioural issues in their homes.



Have you considered becoming a foster volunteer? The OHS is in need of 40 more homes to help us through our busiest season. Training, food, medication, veterinary care and support are provided to foster volunteers on an on-going basis. If you have questions about foster program commitments and requirements, or if you're interested in getting involved, please contact our foster department by email at foster@ottawahumane.ca.

Thank you Linda and Scott for being the positive difference in the lives of so many cats in our community. 🐾

My Forever Friend

Share cherished memories of your beloved companion in a personal pet memorial.

Invite friends and family to help animals in our community by donating to the OHS in memory of your forever friend.



www.ottawahumane.ca/foreverfriend

PAW Monthly Giving Saves Lives!

Meet just a few of the many animals' lives you have turned around because you care.



Cricket, an adorable three-month-old Maltese, arrived at the OHS lethargic, suffering from diarrhea and not eating or drinking. PAW monthly donors made it possible for Cricket to get urgent medical care and find a loving forever home.



Minou, a sweet 6-year-old gal, arrived overweight and in desperate need of a pyometra spay because of an infected uterus. A special diet, antibiotics and seven vet check-ups later, this beautiful kitty has a new lease on life in a loving, forever family.



Tucker, a four-month old Shepherd-mix, had been hit by a car and broken both his front legs. He was in excruciating pain. An OHS veterinarian and clinic staff rushed to give this little guy critical care he couldn't get anywhere else. They relieved his suffering with strong pain medication, put splints on his broken legs and then casts. Tucker was lovingly fostered and recently found his forever home.



Icarus was found lying on the ground struggling to breathe and unable to walk due to a shattered leg. The OHS veterinarian suspected this adorable two-year-old cat had fallen from a balcony, sustaining serious injuries to his chest and legs. Over the course of many weeks and many surgeries, including amputating one of his hind legs, Icarus happily found his forever home.



With nowhere to go, Daisy and her five puppies arrived on the coldest day of February. But the lives of this sweet canine clan soon warmed up when they were given some foster family TLC! They were also spayed and neutered for adoption and now, Daisy and all of her puppies are in responsible and loving homes. (Pictured are Ginger and Rhonda).



Daisy, a 7-year-old calico, arrived with a long-list of problems including feline lower urinary tract disease and early chronic kidney disease. Daisy was treated for both diseases and also had the x-rays and dental surgery she required. Once on the mend, and in spite of her health challenges, Daisy was welcomed into her new forever home.

At the Ottawa Humane Society, no animal is ever turned away. **And thanks to loving PAW monthly donors, approximately 10,000 animals receive care by the OHS every year.** Only you can rehabilitate, reunite and rehome these innocent friends who cannot speak for themselves. PAW monthly giving saves lives! You can save lives too. Join the PAW monthly giving program.

www.ottawahumane.ca/savelives or call 613-725-3166 ext. 254

Community Kudos



Maya & Dhara

These cool kids held a bake sale to raise money for the Ottawa Humane Society. They sold cupcakes, cookies, muffins and Arnold Palmers – which were very popular! Through their event they were able to raise over \$200 for the animals. Thank you Maya & Dhara!



Cassidy

For the last two years, Cassidy has chosen to collect donations for the Ottawa Humane Society, in lieu of birthday gifts. She has donated over \$500 worth of food, litter, collars, treats and toys. Thank you Cassidy!



Sydney, Elsa, Jayden & Cameren

This group of Humane Heroes raised money over the past year hosting lemonade stands, selling art work, raking lawns and holding car washes! All of this because they love animals and wanted to help those in need at the OHS.



Abigail

Through doing chores and small jobs for her neighbours, Abigail raised \$63 for Ottawa's animals. She also made blankets which she donated to the cats at the OHS. Congratulations Abigail!

To see other Ottawa Humane Society heroes, please visit www.ottawahumane.ca/communitykudos.

Saving Animals Every Single Day of the Year

By joining our PAW monthly giving program YOU can ensure that Ottawa's vulnerable animals get the life-saving care they need.

www.ottawahumane.ca/paw



You make it
PAW-sible!

Events Calendar



Capital Pride Parade – August 26



OHS Microchip Clinics – August 12, September 16, October 14 & November 4 at the OHS



Wiggle Waggle Walk & Run presented by Escape Manor – September 9 at Lansdowne Great Lawn



OHS Auxiliary Fall Craft & Bake Sale – September 30 at the OHS



Bingo – Every Sunday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Overbrook Bingo Palace

Visit our website at www.ottawahumane.ca for more information



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