

AnimalTalk

Spring/Summer 2019

2018 FINANCIALS

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**2018
ANNUAL
REPORT
EDITION**

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OUR MISSION

To promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and suffering.

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AnimalTalk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The role of the board is to provide governance oversight for the Toronto Humane Society. The Toronto Humane Society board of directors is a volunteer board and no member of the board receives compensation to perform their board role.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The Way Ahead

Spring is a time for transition, for renewal. The thawing of the banks and rivers, the uncovering and the washing away. The bare, bent branches taking on, once more, a new life as their leaves bud a beautiful green. With the change seen all around us comes that old promise of new beginnings, fresh starts, renewal. What better time, then, to touch upon the major changes that have occurred in the world of animal welfare?

This year, by the end of June, the investigation of animal cruelty, and the enforcement of animal welfare laws in Ontario, will be in new hands for the first time in 100 years.

This is a momentous change, one that has already had far-reaching consequences throughout our province. There will be more consequences in the near future. But this change brings with it new opportunities, new ways of advancing animal welfare in Ontario. What are these exactly? It's impossible to know.



All I know is that, as one who led Toronto Humane Society through uncertain times of its own, the anxieties of sudden and major change are also what can be the spark for new beginnings. Indeed, the Toronto Humane Society understands, perhaps better than anyone, the incredibly positive impact that a top-down review and restructuring can have on an organization or, in this case a piece of legislation.

We have high expectations for the new animal welfare enforcement model, and will be providing the government of Ontario and other relevant stakeholders with our suggestions, guidance, and support as needed. The transition may have its rocky moments, but we are hopeful for smooth sailing just around the bend. During all of these strange, yet exciting changes going on, the Toronto Humane Society will stay the course.

We will continue to provide services that animals in need and their caregivers rely on, and expand on those services whenever the opportunity presents itself. We will continue to hire and train the best and the brightest in the field, and to form strong ties with other premier animal-welfare organizations. We will continue to expand our reach to help ensure that no adoptable animal is left behind. We will continue to work for the humane care and protection of all animals, and provide a voice to those without.

We will continue our efforts in broadening our role as an educative resource and community partner whose aim will be to empower, to inspire, and to drive action for good. Will continue to believe in the enduring power of the humane spirit, its inherent potential to change, inspire, and to make the world a better place for all.

The Toronto Humane Society is a part of the fabric of our community, it has been for over 130 years. Come what may, we will always be here.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, which appears to be "J. Messier", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Jacques Messier, DVM, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

A promotional graphic for the Toronto Humane Society's newsletter. It features a white rabbit on the left, a small brown dog on the right, and a ginger cat at the top. In the center is a sample of the newsletter, titled "NEWSLETTER" in green. The text on the graphic reads: "Want to keep up with what's happening at your favourite animal shelter? Sign up for our **free** weekly newsletter at www.torontohumanesociety.com".

TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY **BY THE NUMBERS**

We'd love to share some of our fantastic achievements from 2018 at the Toronto Humane Society!



Over 3,100 animals were brought into our care and found their forever homes.



Over 1,400 palliative, special needs and juvenile animals spent time in foster care.



We Spay/Neutered more than 5,500 animals –including the over 400 cat through our free Trap-Neuter-Return program with Toronto Street Cats.



Every year we try to increase our life-saving capacity by building and expanding partnerships with other communities and organizations through our Rescue Transport Program. This program continues to allow us to help other organizations decrease their euthanasia rate. In 2018 our Rescue Transport Program brought over 1,500 animals to the Toronto Humane Society! This number included our first rescue mission from China!



Together we improved the lives of over 15,000 animals.



Our Humane Education Program has had over 7,000 children participate since its inception in 2016



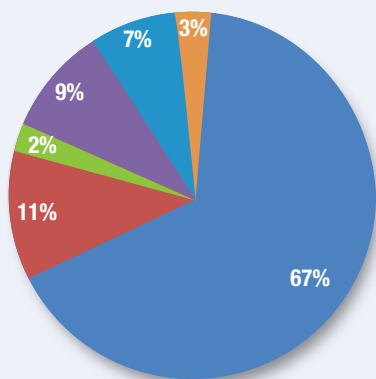
In 2018, our volunteers recorded an amazing 19,000 hours! That is over 2 years of hours volunteered to help the animals and with other day to day tasks at the Toronto Humane Society! Thank you Volunteers!



As time goes on and the cost of Veterinary Care continues to rise, the Toronto Humane Society understands how important it is to have accessible services for those who are on income supplementation. Providing care for these individuals, helps keep animals in their loving homes, and out of the shelter system. In 2018, we were able to offer over \$173,000 in subsidized care services for those in need.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Toronto Humane Society understands that we are accountable to each and every one of our donors. We remain focused on ensuring that as much as possible of every dollar received goes directly to improving the lives of animals. In 2018, fundraising and administration accounted for only 16% (7% fundraising, 9% administration) of our total expenditures. Organizations such as Charity Intelligence provide top ratings for charities with fundraising costs below 15% and administration costs between 2% and 12.5%



2018 Percent of total expense

- Animal Care and Shelter Services
- Spay Neuter Clinic/ Subsidized Vet Care
- Public Education
- General and Administration
- Fundraising
- Investment Expenses

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2018, with comparative information for 2017

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 935,035	\$ 1,768,053
Accounts receivable	774,689	1,011,420
Prepaid expenses	36,502	46,832
	1,746,226	2,826,305
Investments and marketable securities (note 3)	7,549,830	7,242,607
Capital assets (note 4)	5,229,784	5,187,643
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$14,525,840
		\$15,256,555
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 957,963	\$ 658,698
Deferred contributions	35,000	48,000
Current portion of long-term debt (note 6)	-	65,939
	992,963	772,637
Deferred capital contributions (note 5)	735,796	777,108
Long-term debt (note 6)		
NET ASSETS:		
Invested in capital assets (note 7)	4,493,988	4,410,535
Restricted for endowment purposes (note 8)	370,000	370,000
Unrestricted	7,933,093	8,926,275
	12,797,081	13,706,810
Commitments (note 10)		
	TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS AND NET ASSETS	\$ 14,525,840
		\$ 15,256,555

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended December 31, 2018 with comparative figures for 2017

	2018	2017
REVENUE:		
Fundraising, promotion and public education (note 9)	\$ 5,485,265	\$ 5,633,826
Legacies and bequests	3,898,142	6,951,450
Adoption of animal donations and related fees (note 9)	959,398	1,082,075
Spay/Neuter Clinic Income	839,595	937,816
Realized investment income (note 3)	375,376	295,046
Amortization of deferred capital contributions (note 5)	168,370	155,664
	11,726,146	15,055,877
EXPENSES:		
Animal care and shelter services	8,459,122	7,994,830
General and administration	1,129,792	1,098,467
Spay/Neuter Clinic expense	1,096,338	1,035,873
Fundraising, promotion and public education	942,618	970,943
Unrealized loss on investments	350,719	36,125
Subsidized veterinary care	301,000	225,558
Education programs	294,773	261,138
Investment expense	61,513	46,751
	12,635,875	11,669,685
	Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ (909,729)
		\$ 3,386,192

THE FOOLPROOF FUNDRAISING FORMULA

Toronto Humane Society's decades of fundraising experience, in a nutshell.

For some, fundraising comes easy. For others, not so much. Asking people to donate to your cause, even one you believe in, can feel awkward. For those who aren't fundraising naturals, and those who have had success in the past, these fundraising tips can help.

Personalize your fundraising page

Fundraising pages with a personal story will receive more donations than those without. Share a picture of you taking part in a similar activity or of an animal in the shelter that will benefit from the donation. Let people know why you are taking part and how their donations will make an impact both to you and to the organization you support.

Since most donors are likely to have a closer connection to you than the organization you support, consider adding a personal incentive. "If I raise \$1000, I will shave my beard." The more personal you get, the better.

Make a small donation to yourself

People are more likely to donate if they see someone else has. Making a personal donation also shows your prospective donors how much you care about the cause.

Challenge yourself

Set high goals that can still be met. If you get close to your target — raise it. This will encourage more donations.

Rally the troops

Everything's better with a friend. If your fundraiser allows you to work in teams, get some friends and family in on the action. It'll be more fun. Plus, a little competition never hurt anybody! Always approach those closest to you first. Your initial success getting donations from your inner circle will help build your personal momentum. Success leads to more success.

Get personal

Meet with potential donors face to face. You'll get to talk to them directly about your fundraising initiative and they will be able to see and hear your passion for the organization

Emails-emails-emails!

Moving from your inner circle to your acquaintances; now is when you start sending out those emails. Explain the cause and why supporting it is so important to you. Share what the organization has done, is doing, and what will be done. This shows potential supporters how their donations will be put to use. Don't dance around the issue, make it clear that you are requesting a financial donation for your cause and be sure to include your donation link.

Get social! Social media that is

Move on to sharing your fundraising efforts on social media after you have sent out your initial emails. Tag people who have already donated without asking anyone else to participate. These posts will be visible on your timeline and the tagged friends' timelines as well. This lets friends know about your fundraising without directly asking for donations. It also demonstrates that others have already shown their support. Don't just focus on the ask, share inspiring stories about the organization or event.

Follow up

Many people will have meant to respond to an email but have simply forgotten. A little reminder won't hurt. Include a progress report in your follow-up so people can see how much you accomplished since you last reached out.

Be thankful

The end of the event is not the end of the fundraiser's efforts. Make sure to thank everyone that supported you, and be sure to include the result of everyone's combined efforts.

Most importantly, be yourself

Drop the "request formula" if it feels forced. Your supporters don't want to read a generic copy/pasted script. They want to hear from you, the person with a passion. By letting yourself shine through, you'll bring the cause.



MEET THE TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY

Highlighting the “who” behind the organizations life-saving efforts.



Beverley McKee, CPDT-KA, ACDBC, Fear Free Animal Trainer Professional, Assistant Manager, Training

Beverley holds training certifications through the Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers, Fear Free Pets, and the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants. She is also a Canine Training Professional member of the Pet Professional Guild. She is recognized as one of a select few IAABC members to achieve certification level in Ontario, and is one of the first Fear Free Certified Professionals to complete and achieve Animal Trainer Certification Level.

Prior to joining Toronto Humane Society, Beverley was the owner of a boutique dog walking and dog training company in Toronto and was a founding partner and instructor in a dog walker continuing education initiative called EduCanine. In her spare time, she enjoys trick training her two Australian Cattle Dogs, Travis and Petunia.



Christina Giordmaina, RVT, CCRP

Registered Veterinary Technician, Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner With a background in Kinesiology focusing on physical activity for special populations, Christina’s lifelong passion for animals led her to attend the Veterinary Technician program at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology. She has worked as a Registered Veterinary Technician at the Toronto Humane Society for more than three years.

Both her academic background in human movement and her devotion to animal welfare inspired her to focus her efforts on those most vulnerable, which led her to complete the Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner program through the University of Tennessee. Christina developed and is currently implementing the physical rehabilitation program at the Toronto Humane Society, advocating tirelessly for the animals in her care as they transition to their forever homes.



Dr. Jacklyn Ellis, MRes PhD

Manager of Feline Behaviour, Enrichment, and Rehabilitation

From investigating the correlates of stress for wild male olive baboons in Nigeria, to working as a Behaviour Scientist at Nestlé Purina’s Product Technology Center, Jacklyn’s passion for the behavioural sciences has led her in a few different directions. But it was at Toronto Humane Society that she was able to bring her research and her passions together. She has helped reduce shelter stress and inappropriate elimination in thousands of homeless cats over the years. Not only improving their quality of life, but helping them get adopted as well.

Her work as a feline behaviour specialist has been widely published in peer reviewed journals and she is a regular speaker at animal welfare conferences, both national and international. She is currently in the process of writing a chapter on feline behavioural assessment for a new edition of the leading textbook on the behaviour and welfare of shelter animals.



Dr. Jacques Messier, MBA, DVM

Chief Executive Officer

Starting out his career as a large-animal vet, Dr. Jacques Messier has gone on to become an important leader in animal welfare. Before arriving at the Toronto Humane Society, he was the Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the University of Saskatchewan, and before that, the CEO at The Semex Alliance, a partnership specializing in the development and marketing of high quality genetic technologies, products and services to benefit livestock producers around the world.

Toronto Humane Society has flourished since Jacques took on his role eight years ago. Revenue doubled, allowing for the expansion of existing programs and the creation of new ones. Of these is the new SafePet program, providing help to survivors of domestic abuse. The organization has also grown to become an educational source under Jacques’ leadership, with a new focus on outreach in the community.

As the 2014 recipient of the Canadian Animal Health Institute’s (CAHI) Industry Leadership Award, Jacques has influenced animal health policy within Health Canada and throughout the animal care industry. His lifelong work has come full circle at Toronto Humane Society, by promoting humane care, and the protection and prevention of cruelty and suffering of animals.



Dr. Karen Ward, DVM, ASPCA UC Davis Shelter Medicine Fellow (2012-13), Low Stress Handling Certified-Silver Chief Veterinary Officer

Dr. Karen Ward's passion and dedication to animal welfare has helped drive the Toronto Humane Society's life-saving team of veterinarians and has helped develop our world-class veterinary practices. Thanks to her efforts, the shelter has been consistently recognized as an industry leader in the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of animals in need. Outside of THS, Dr. Ward is an University of California Davis Shelter Medicine Fellow Alumna. Along with UW Shelter Medicine Staff and fellow alumni, she mentors veterinary students, shelter medicine interns and residents through didactic learning as well as shelter consultations. Dr. Ward is also an active volunteer. After an influenza outbreak at Animal Care Centers of NYC, Dr. Ward volunteered her time on the ground to help improve welfare and decrease disease by modifying cat housing. She also volunteers with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, acting as an expert witness in a complaints case as well as a mentor in a discipline case. Since 2016 she has been a Peer Advisor in with the college, supporting veterinarians through the Quality Assurance program.



Dr. Linda Jacobson, BVSc MMedVet(Med) PhD, Maddie's Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine Senior Manager, Shelter Medicine Advancement

Dr. Linda Jacobson is one of Toronto's most recognized voices in progressive sheltering, infectious diseases and animal hoarding. She is a Companion Animal Veterinarian with a specialist degree in Companion Animal Internal Medicine, a PhD in Veterinary Infectious Diseases, and 30 years of clinical experience.

She has not only worked in private practice in shelter medicine and as a veterinarian since 2010, she has also been actively involved on the academic side. Her paper, "Medical Conditions and Outcomes in 371 Hoarded Cats from 14 Sources: A Retrospective Study (2011-2014)," was recently accepted for publication in the prestigious Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. She is also co-founder and current President and Treasurer of the Ontario Shelter Medicine Association. She serves on the Practice Advisory Panel of the Ontario Veterinary Council and on the advisory committee for the Humane Canada Shelter Accreditation Standards.



Melissa Shupak, CPDT-KA, SBA Assistant Manager, Training

Melissa Shupak joined the Toronto Humane Society Behaviour and Training team in July 2017. Melissa started at Toronto Humane Society as an Animal Care Worker (ACW) in 2015 and later took on the role of Canine Enrichment ACW. This position enabled her to further educate and expose herself to the world of canine behaviour and training. This led her on her current path of studying to become a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CCPDT) and to her position as an Animal Trainer at THS.

Melissa strives to continue to educate herself in the most current humane, trust building methods of training. She is in the process of receiving her Fear Free Animal Trainer certification and is a supporting member of the canine and shelter divisions of the International Associations of Animal Behaviour Consultants (IAABC). Melissa shares her home with two rescue cats, Russo and Calcifer, a turtle named Lucy, a one-eyed bearded dragon Darla – a THS alumni! – and a senior rescue beagle, Molly



Phil Nichols, RVT, CAWA Chief Operating Officer

Beginning as a veterinary technician with a strong passion for animal welfare, Phil quickly rose through Toronto Humane Society's ranks after leading the development and expansion of the Public Veterinary Services (a program arm that now serves more than 12,000 animals annually). He was involved in, and soon became the force behind, the organization's rebuilding efforts over the last 10 years.

In the fall of 2017, Phil achieved the highest level professional designation for animal welfare professionals, Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA). The CAWA designation represents skill areas such as Organizational Governance and Management; Organizational Communications, Advocacy and Fund Development; and Animal Management that animal welfare leaders must possess to bring best-practices and effective leadership to their organizations. A designation that acknowledges expertise and the accomplishments of non-profit and municipal executives across the US, Canada, Australia, and other parts of the world.

Phil is also a sitting board member of the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians, an organization with a vision to enhance the health and welfare of animals and a mission to define a legislated scope of practice for RVTs as regulated professionals and respected animal healthcare providers to promote team excellence.

17 YEARS. \$1.1 MILLION IN SUPPORT A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HEALTH OF PETS

How PetSmart Charities® of Canada has helped shape the Toronto Humane Society into an international leader in animal welfare.

It's 11:00 pm on a Sunday evening in May and more than 50 cats are arriving at the Toronto Humane Society from a recent hoarding situation. Some are sick, others are pregnant, all are scared. Scrambling to reallocate resources, rearrange spaces, confirm this, verify that, and reach out to as many foster parents as possible, everyone at the Toronto Humane Society is doing their best to prepare for this large intake of cats. But no matter what, it's going to be a very long night at Toronto Humane Society.

Emergency situations like this — where decisions, despite an almost constant state of uncertainty, have to be made quickly — are as stressful as they are rewarding. But without the proper funding, the outcomes could be very different for the pets affected.

As one of the nation's leading funders of animal welfare, PetSmart Charities of Canada has granted more than \$19 million to change-making organizations to help transform the lives of pets and those who love them. They have worked with nearly 250 registered Canadian charities and have helped nearly 300,000 pets find loving homes through pet adoption. They're also a valued supporter of the Toronto Humane Society.



Since 2002, PetSmart Charities of Canada has provided \$1.1 million in grants and in-kind support to Toronto Humane Society to support our ongoing efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome abandoned, stray and surrendered pets.

In 2014, it was a PetSmart Charities of Canada grant that funded the construction, equipment and the staff training for Toronto Humane Society's on-site spay/neuter clinic. Based on Humane Alliance's self-sustaining model — low cost, high-quality, and high-volume — the clinic has now served thousands of animals. Most notably, it has helped contain the high number of community cat litters in and around Toronto, alleviating the suffering of so many homeless cats and their kittens.

And just last year, another grant from PetSmart Charities helped to launch Toronto Humane Society's SafePet program. This program provides temporary foster care for pets of victims of domestic violence. Once they know their pet is safe with a foster parent, victims can more easily find safety at a GTA-area Violence Against Women (VAW) shelter. Toronto Humane Society's large foster network is now, thanks to this recent grant, at the ready to help those in need.

And in 2019, the Toronto Humane Society received generous funding for our Rescue Transport Program, where animals are rescued from tropical disaster zones, faraway dog meat markets, overcrowded southern shelters and over-populated remote communities to the greater Toronto area where the demand for adoptable pets often outweighs the number of pets available.

These are just a few of the grants PetSmart Charities of Canada has provided to Toronto Humane Society over the past two decades. Their support has helped to expand the services we offer, it has shaped the strategic direction of our organization, and has enabled us to become more than a local shelter, but a major educative resource and community partner with the aim of empowering, inspiring, and driving action all under the mission of a humane spirit.

It's 11:00 am on a Thursday in May and over 50 animals at Toronto Humane Society are leaving destined for an adoption event where they hope to find their new forever homes. All are healthy and happy. Thanks to a partnership between the Toronto Humane Society and PetSmart Charities of Canada.

BEING A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

A look at Toronto Humane Society's recent advocacy efforts

Many are not aware of the many different functions the Toronto Humane Society undertakes in order to promote the humane care and protection of all animals in our society. One of these is through our advocacy efforts.

As a completely independent not-for-profit organization, Toronto Humane Society can stand-up for those without a voice of their own. Over the last several months, these efforts have ramped up significantly, and the organization will continue to actively promote causes and principles that we and our supporters believe in throughout 2019 and beyond.

Breed Specific Legislation

The Toronto Humane Society is opposed to Breed Specific Legislation and has joined forces with like-minded people to repeal this unfair and unjust ban based on misguided fears and disinformation. Several social media and e-mail based campaigns have urged supporters and lovers of the 'bully' breed to sign an approved petition to have BSL revoked within the province.

Bill C-84

Bill C-84 makes all sexual assault of animals illegal, requires those convicted be listed on the sex offender registry and makes all forms of animal fighting illegal. We reached out to you and our other supporters to tell their MP's not to let this Bill stall. Our efforts together worked! Thanks to supporters like you, Bill C-84 was tabled and went to the next step. To help keep momentum going on this Bill or any other Bill, reach out to your MP and let them know it's important to you!

Cat Declawing

The cruel and unnecessary act of declawing cats has been banned in a number of countries around the world, as well as by the majority of provinces in Canada. In fact declawing is currently only permitted in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

Of the four provinces without bans currently in place, only Saskatchewan and Ontario are not making moves towards making these surgeries illegal. The Toronto Humane Society has asked both the College of Veterinarians of Ontario and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association to consider banning declawing in Ontario. Even though the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association advises against the practice, our province has not seen fit to comply with the wishes of the majority of Canadians.



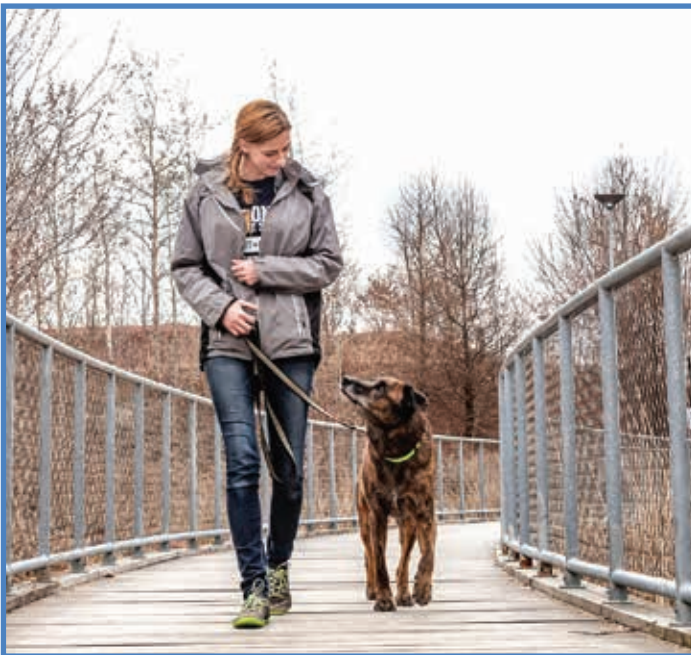
Bill S-203

Working alongside organizations such as Humane Canada, the Toronto Humane Society educated supporters on the issue of marine mammal captivity and incited action by providing letter templates and contact information for relevant Members of Parliament to help ensure the much-needed Bill was passed successfully. Thanks in part to our efforts Bill S-203 made it through the House of Commons without need for amendment and will be soon be receiving royal assent. Once officially in place it will be illegal to hold whales or dolphins captive in Canada.

GETTING ANXIOUS AND FEARFUL DOGS OUT FOR WALKS

With their high-tech walking shoes, treat pouches, and the 4 or 5 furry friends attached to their waists at any given time, professional dog walkers are a common sight in the city. It's no wonder. With people getting busier, apartments getting smaller, and animals being increasingly seen as family members, professional dog walking has become a big business. So when Toronto Humane Society introduced a Dog Walking service of its very own, it wasn't just going to be more of the same.

"We identified a real need for those dogs who might not be ready for the group walk service that so many dog walkers offer," said Beverley McKee, the program's head and Toronto Humane Society's Assistant Manager of Canine Training. "Our focus on private walks will give those fearful or not-too-sure dogs more one-on-one attention."



While the program itself is new for Toronto Humane Society, the inherent need for professionalism in caring for someone else's animal, is not. Especially not for Beverley. As the program's head, Beverley is bringing her experience to the team. She is a CCPDT, Fear Free Pets and IAABC certified trainer and behaviour consultant. Beverley's focus is on what lies ahead for the program, the team, and for the animals soon to be in their care. "This program is all about providing these animals with individual care. Whether it's a simple leashed walk or a training walk with one of our trainers or training assistants, we are giving these dogs the one-on-one attention they need and deserve," Beverley said. As the new program strides into summer, Toronto's dogs—and their owners—will be in good paws.

KITTY STEPS

Toronto Humane Society's best practices for socializing community cats



The majority of kittens who arrived at Toronto Humane Society in 2018 were mothered by "community cats". Born outside the comforts of a home, with little to no human contact, these cats must be properly socialized before they find forever homes.

Socialization?

That's the process of preparing a pet to become comfortable with other animals, people, places, and activities. Exposing a pet to as many positive experiences as possible when they are young (between 3 and 9 weeks of age) means they will be less fearful and more receptive to human contact. The most effective method for socializing a community kitten is called **desensitization and counterconditioning**. These are techniques to reduce an animal's fear associated with something by exposing them to it gradually and by consistently pairing it with something they find enjoyable, usually food.

At the Toronto Humane Society, kitten socialization is undertaken by specialized feline training staff, experienced volunteers, or eager foster parents.

After spending their first few days under the careful observation of staff or volunteers, an experienced caregiver will sit in the housing area and offer the kitten food. With time, the kitten will begin eating around the caregiver and even warm up to being touched while eating.

Once they are comfortable with these two steps, the next is to make them comfortable with being picked up. When the kitten is eating contentedly at one bowl, the caregiver will softly lift or scoot them over to the second bowl. From there, they will gently pick the kitten up while still allowing them to eat.

Finally – the socializer can attempt to pick them up when there is no food around.

Before they are ready for adoption, the kitten is introduced to a larger space (at the Toronto Humane Society they're brought out to the adoption area; in foster care, additional rooms are opened up to them). If they respond well to this, they are ready to find their forever homes.

TO OUR DONORS

Thank You

Thank you for helping Corin, the helpless, homeless little kitten with a severe eye infection. You helped him find his way to us and get the surgery that saved his life. Thank you for being there for the senior dog Woody as he continues working with our trainers. Thank you for providing him a warm blanket, a comfy bed, and all his favourite toys as he waits for his family. And thank you for helping Cookie, the palm-sized puppy who was slipping away from us. You helped provide us with the tools and the team to diagnose and treat him. Thank you for giving him his life back.

Thank you for being there for the hundreds of cats rescued from desperate hoarding situations, for giving us the resources to bring them in, care for them, and adopt them out one by one. Thank you for helping us pull off the long and complex rescues from China's meat market to tropical disaster zones. Thank you for welcoming these animals to Toronto with so many toys, treats, and finally, loving homes. With you at our side, we plan on rescuing far more in the coming years.

Thank you for standing by every sick or injured animal as they work through our rehabilitation program. Dogs unable to walk have learned to run. Cats unable to sleep have mastered the nap. Under the belief that animals deserve the same quality of rehabilitative care as humans, our amazing team of experts have performed miracles. All thanks to you.

Thank you for being there for survivors of domestic violence and their pets. With your support, survivors can find a safe place to stay while their pets remain in the temporary care of a foster.

Thank you for being there for remote communities as they struggle with animal overpopulation. With little to no spay/neuter resources to contain them, free-roaming animal populations have exploded in rural and remote areas of Ontario, posing dangers for members of the community. Thanks to you, we can make the long trip there and provide them with free spay-neuter services, food deliveries, and veterinary care. We can also, when asked, bring these groups of animals back with us to Toronto to find homes. All thanks to you.

Thank you for helping us transform our special species room with state-of-the-art housing. From turtles to lizards, bunnies to rats, each species needs specific types of housing. Glass-front units will give each of them an enclosure designed for their specific needs. Thank you for allowing us to build a dog park where boys like Sesame can stretch their legs and work on their social skills, where girls like Juliana can stay fit and happy until the moment their new family walks

Thank you for helping our organization grow, expand on its old programs while introducing new ones. Thank you for helping us strive for more, for better. Thank you for sharing in our vision, our passion, thank you for trusting us with your generosity and your time. We could go on, and on, and on. We could go back years, decades even, recounting the many more thousands of animals, the hundreds of programs, the long list of events and life-saving initiatives and partnerships you have given life to. But that kind of thank you would require more than a simple magazine.

Just know that thousands upon thousands of lives have been changed thanks to you and your generosity. You have filled that missing spot in someone's home. You have showed others that there is good in this world, that there are still things worth fighting for. You have been a crutch, an answer, a dawning light for those in need. After a life of cruelty and neglect, of pain and loneliness, you have been the helping hand, the second chance.

You have impacted more lives than you could possibly know.

Thank you.



AND HE LIVED **HAPPILY EVER AFTER**

Odie's dream, after 4 years of shelter life, has come true

After 4 years of living as a shelter dog, Odie was just about ready to give up.

He had been homeless for as long as he could remember. Apart from the scattered scenes of yelling and fighting, hunger and panic, his puppy years were a blur. His life was all about running away. Running away from all that fear and that pain. Running away and not looking back.

So when he arrived at Toronto Humane Society in 2015, he was so excited. This was where boys like him found their homes, where he could get a second chance at life. With a bounce in his step and a smile on his face, he knew he could leave his past behind him for good. He just needed to focus on the future with a new family.

To his absolute joy, he was adopted.

But then he was returned, almost immediately. Apparently the adopter had made a mistake and didn't have the time to help a boy like Odie move on with his life.



A few days later he was adopted again. After the first return, Odie was so worried he'd be returned a second time. So when his new family left the house for an hour, he assumed the worst. He thought they were gone for good. The fear he had been running from for so long crept back over him. He panicked and acted out his fears.

Three weeks later he was back at Toronto Humane Society. His heart broken.

That was it. Despite sharing his story far and wide, despite his good looks and charming personality, despite him making so much progress with trainers and behaviour staff, no one seemed to be coming for Odie.

He would spend 4 years in Toronto Humane Society's care. Staff and volunteers did all they could to keep him stimulated and in bright spirits. But a shelter cannot replace a home. It cannot replace a family. Watching dogs come and go one after the other began to take a toll on Odie's spirit. He was becoming more and more detached, more isolated. He was losing hope.

But just when Odie was at his lowest point, something amazing happened.

A former canine training employee, Antonia, who had worked closely with Odie, reached out. Since moving out to B.C., she and her husband hadn't been able to stop thinking about him. She started at Toronto Humane Society just as Odie was brought in. They clicked right away.

So with a large property of her own, and Odie still without a family, she made the decision to bring Odie back into her life -- this time for good.

He is now living his best life out west with three other dogs on a large, wooded property. His days now consist of group walks by the local stream, early morning trail adventures and long naps on the couch. Living under the care of someone who truly understands him, he knows he will never be abandoned again. He knows he no longer needs to be afraid.

For those at Toronto Humane Society, it was hard to say goodbye to such a special animal. He was the source of so much joy. So much love. That kissing-giving snuggle bum, who left a wake of smiles everywhere he went, was beloved by all. There wasn't a dry eye the day he left. But they were tears of joy, knowing full well that, after 4 years of living as a shelter dog, after running away for so long, living in fear for so long, Odie is now right where he belongs.

GIFTS OF LOVE

We gratefully acknowledge the donors who have given gifts of \$80 or more in honour or in memory of a special person or pet. Tribute gifts are a thoughtful and meaningful way of acknowledging a loved one's memory, expressing your good wishes or commemorating an occasion.

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