AnimalTalk

Spring/Summer 2015



Planning a Birthday Celebration?





We are thrilled to partner with ECHOage, a birthday party website that helps kids give to charity while getting great gifts. The birthday boy or girl gets to choose any birthday gifts they want AND make a donation to the Toronto Humane Society. Your child's next birthday is the perfect occasion to give to others while getting birthday gifts they will always remember. And the best part? It's so easy - and fun - to give! ECHOage.com

Toronto Humane Society Vaccine Services



Is your pet protected this season against the many pathogens present in their environment? Help protect them by keeping their vaccinations up to date and keeping intestinal worms, fleas, and heartworm at bay! Prevention avoids unexpected expensive veterinary bills and ensures your pet lives a long and happy life. Please call or email us today to book your appointment! **416-392-2273 ext. 2** spayneuter@torontohumanesociety.com.

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

AnimalTalk

Contents

Page 04	Message from CEO A word from Dr. Jacques Messier
Page 05	Shelter Statistics THS by the numbers
Page 06	Engaging Our Community Reaching out to the public
Page 07	Spay Neuter Services Expansion Providing more support to our community
Page 10	Supporting Our Seniors Finding a home for the young at heart
Page 11	Financials Our year in review
Page 12	Gifts of Love Donations made on behalf of loved ones
Page 13	Ringworm in a Shelter Setting Early detection is the key
Page 14	Playgroups Enrichment activities for THS dogs
Inside back cover	





Remember, never leave your pets unattended in a vehicle!

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Message from the CEO

With a long and dreary winter behind us we at the Toronto Humane Society are excited that spring has finally sprung! Despite the previously dark and gloomy weather, spirits have been high here at 11 River Street because we are making grand strides to improve upon ourselves and animal welfare with each passing day.

We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our medical staff. Dr. Linda Jacobson recently received Maddie's Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine through the University of Florida. This prestigious certificate was completed by only 11 other veterinarians in 2015, making Dr. Jacobson one of the experts in the ever expanding field of shelter medicine. Our team also secured a \$15,000 grant from The Winn Feline Foundation to compare two different testing methods for the fungus that causes ringworm, the results of which could save countless lives throughout the sheltering system in North America.

Our Spay/Neuter Services team also deserves a round of applause. This April they celebrated their 10,000th surgery – quite an accomplishment for us, and for rescue organizations across the GTA who may have noticed a significant decrease in the surrender of unwanted litters this season.



Our fundraising efforts have been in full swing and very successful. For the first time ever we were a finalist in the Aviva Community Fund Challenge and collected a \$5,000 prize. We also went above and beyond for National Cupcake Day and raised almost \$9,000 for the animals in our care. Giving Tuesday raised over \$11,000 this year, and our campaign was highlighted as a success by the Giving Tuesday organization. Paws in the Park is of course coming up on August 23rd and as our largest event for the year is expected to bring in \$150,000 dollars which goes a long way towards keeping our doors open for animals in need.

Last year saw us take on a first in Canada – a mega adopt-a-thon that found homes for 585 animals over the course of one weekend. We are at it again this year, along with our organizing partner Toronto Animal Services and with financial support from PetSmart™ Charities of Canada. We'll take what we learned from our initial event and use it to make this year's Mega Pet Adoption Event bigger and better than ever before and we hope to find homes for at least 600 deserving pets.

We've all worked extremely hard to become one of the most respected animal welfare institutions in the country, and dare I say it, in North America. We are extremely grateful that you have stuck with us and shown us unwavering support as we have taken shelter medicine and animal welfare to new heights over the last several years, we could not have done it without you.

With that said, enjoy this issue of Animal Talk!



Dr. Jacques Messier, DMV, MBA Chief Executive Officer

Our Corporate Supporters

Through in-kind, financial support and volunteer programs corporations across Canada are helping us give animals a second chance.









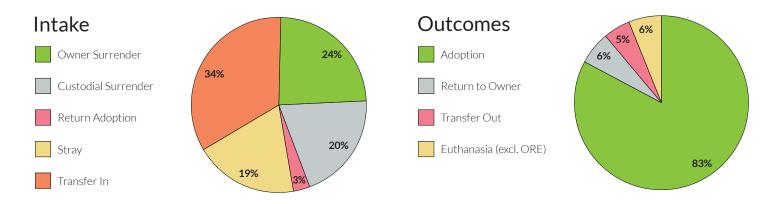








2014 Shelter Statistics



Toronto Humane Society by the Numbers



415,000 lbs

In one year, THS goes through 50,000 lbs. of food — that's 10 dump trucks full! We also hand out 365,000 lbs. of food through our animal food bank program.



11,000

Vaccines were given last year alone to immunize all our animals against rabies, kennel cough, distemper and influenza. This includes animals in our care and animals who've visited our public clinics.



29,000

Volunteer hours were clocked in 2014. Our volunteers help us care for, love and advocate for all our animals. We simply couldn't do what we do without them.



90,000

Dog walks last year. Regular exercise is a necessity for dogs, no matter the size, breed, gender or even age. Thanks to our dog walkers, all of our pooches get the exercise and enrichment they need to be healthy and happy.



13,000

Cat enrichment hours. Play is very important for all of our cats. Cats are naturally inquisitive, social, and playful, so playtime and general interaction can help keep their spirits up and give them a sense of purpose.



1,367

Animals placed in foster homes. By placing some of our animals in foster homes it frees up needed space at the shelter and helps the dog or cat by being in a natural and loving environment.



1,348

Animals were transferred to us for additional help, medical attention and care.

Engaging Our Community



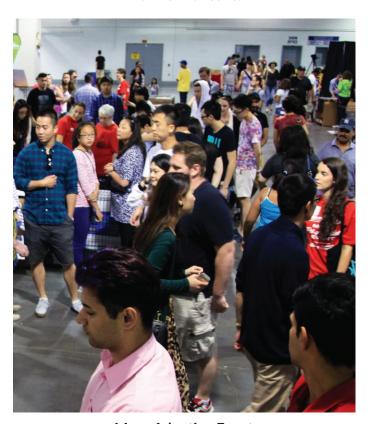
Paws in the Park



THS Open House



Pet Pics with Santa



Mega Adoption Event

Spay/Neuter Services Expansion

Providing More Support to Our Community

The Toronto Humane Society's Spay and Neuter Services has proven to be a life-saver, literally in numerous cases, for dogs and cats in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. Since opening our doors to the public in 2012, we have seen over 10,000 animals cross our doorstep. They came in able to produce the next generation of puppies or kittens, and left 'fixed' – unable to contribute to the pet overpopulation problem that results in so many tragic outcomes for innocent animals.

Some of the animals that we have seen were in poor medical health. On a more frequent basis than we would have hoped for, veterinarians began to operate on what they thought was a simple spay, only to find out the animal on the table had severe pyometra (an infection in the uterus), and would not survive without their immediate intervention. While our high-volume clinic is not geared towards emergency procedures, we are proud to have been able to help those animals and individuals who had no other option, and no one else to turn to in their time of need.

We only wish we could help more. At this moment we are able to house 29 cats on feline surgery days, and 15 dogs on canine surgery days. This allows us to provide services for up to 117 animals per week. It may sound like a lot, but we are often booked weeks and months in advance due to the overwhelming demand.

Recognizing that we were actually making a dent in the overpopulation issue - kitten intake numbers have been decreasing since our opening - we knew we had to find a way to ensure that all interested clients are able to access our services easily and in a timely manner. And that's when PetSmart™ Charities of Canada stepped up to the plate.

Thanks to a generous donation from PetSmart™ Charities we have been quietly working away on an expansion of our spay/neuter services for the last few months. With a second operating room and more animal housing areas we are pleased to announce that we will be able to double our surgical numbers once construction has been completed!



Our current operations have already allowed us to reinvest money into the clinic, providing subsidized surgeries for those on government assistance and giving us the ability to perform even more free of charge trap-neuter-release surgeries than ever before. We are very excited to see what possibilities will present themselves after this much needed expansion.

We anticipate that the newly expanded Spay/Neuter Services will be in operation by summer 2015.



Happy Tails

Our relationship with the animals in our care doesn't end after the adoption. We encourage all of our adopters to let us know how our friends are doing in their new forever home.



Nola

We fostered Nola when she was brought in with all the puppies from the reserve up north. My husband immediately fell in love with her, (the big dog he always wanted) as did the children.

I was blown away by how smart she already was when she got to us, and how quickly she learned what was expected of her.

She got along with our resident dog Lucy, and Cody was a bit jealous of her.

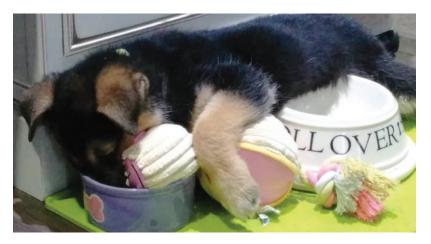
We adopted her officially on New Year's Eve, and she is happily settled in, and was very happy when we picked her back up.

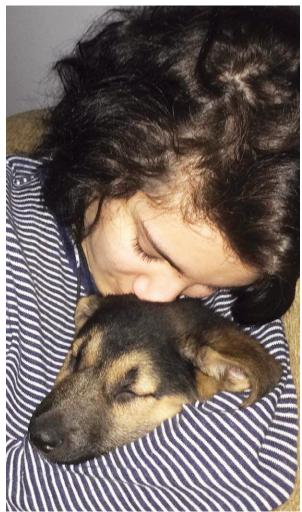
We now have 3 dogs, plus the cat and the rabbit!

Never a dull moment here!

Dawn









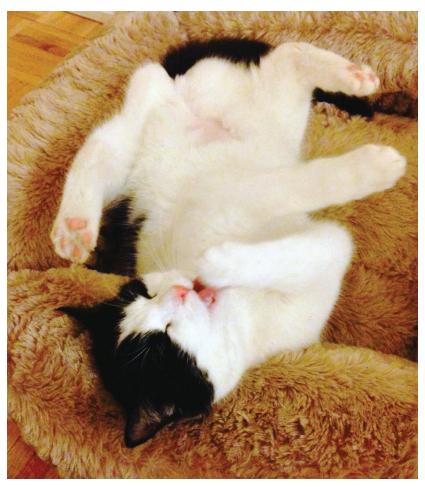
Luna

My name is Luna, I was adopted on Jan 17th, 2015.

Just in one month I got along very well with my daddies, I love my apartment, every day in the mornings after my breakfast I watch the birds through the window. Then I take a nap and when my daddies get home I like to play with my toys.

They bought me a bed but I love to sleep with them! I feel very loved in my new home.

Luna, Chris and Nelson.



Marbles and Scrabble

Hello THS and World!

We just want to give an update on Marbles and Scrabble, two beautiful dwarf bunnies that became a part of our family exactly 2 years ago! Over this time, our bunnies have filled our home with so much happiness. They love getting their vegetables in the morning and lounging all day in their pen.

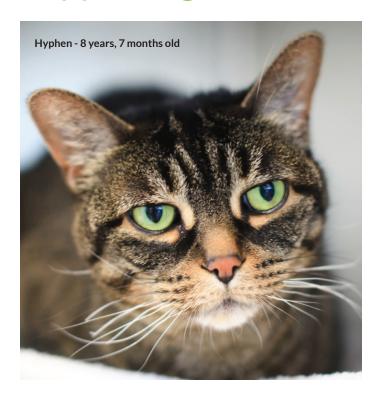
Playtime involves exploring the basement, sprinting, and doing sporadic bunny jumps. These bunnies are curious and mischievous especially when we are not looking. Marbles (white) is an absolute princess. She loves being pampered and cuddled. Scrabble (brown) is the daredevil of the two. Her speed and agility are unmatched. This bunny has got hops!

We want to thank THS for their wonderful work. We are definitely grateful for finding our bunnies through you!

All the best in 2015!

Sincerely, George and Eunice

Supporting Our Seniors



We are extremely grateful to our generous supporters who donated to our recent appeal, which featured the tales of Abel and Pooh – two very special animals with backgrounds that are not unusual in our line of work. Abel, a nine year old hound mix, was transferred to us from a rural shelter after he was found wandering alone on a freezing cold day in January. Eight year old Pooh was a much-loved member of his family, but he did not adjust well to a new baby and the owners made the difficult decision to find a new home for him through the Toronto Humane Society.

Both Pooh and Abel have spent a considerable amount of time at the shelter. Pooh's stay is coming up to 18 months – much longer than the average cat. The shelter environment has been difficult for Pooh, and our Feline Behaviour team is working closely with him to reduce his anxiety. Visitors to the second floor of the building will find Pooh spending most of his day in the behaviour team's office, or in his own room where he can be away from the hustle and bustle of the main feline adoption areas.

Last year almost half the animals brought in to our shelter were over seven years old. Older animals are notoriously more difficult to find new homes for than their younger counterparts, and most wait almost double the amount of time to be adopted. Potential adopters can be discouraged by their health concerns or the potential of having fewer years with their beloved new family member than they would like.

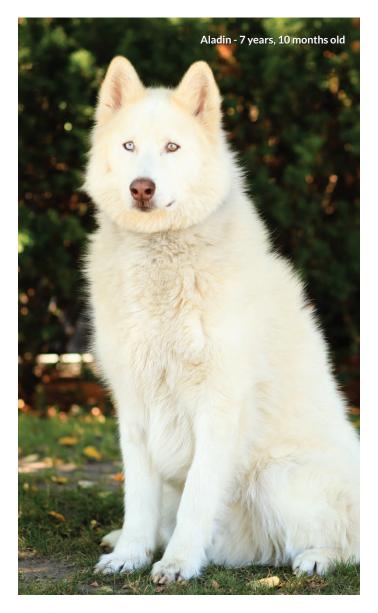
While it's true that senior animals are more likely to have health conditions, there is no reason why they can't enjoy a full and happy life with a new family. When our vets are examining a senior animal, they will look for things like osteoarthritis (in joints), organs starting to see insufficiency in function, and the most common issue – dental disease.

If the vet identifies any concerns, then the animal is given a specific treatment plan and in some cases have more diagnostic tests and monitoring. But some senior animals are healthy enough to be made

available for adoption straight away. Healthy seniors are put on "senior" diet that tends to have additional joint support supplement, less calories (as senior animals are less active) and a good amount of protein to support any muscle wasting. There are also specific prescription diets used to accommodate specific medical needs - such as underlying kidney or liver diseases.

Senior animals are generally less active and not as playful. Often, they just want more companionship and affection. A long stay at the shelter can take its toll on them emotionally, so our staff keep an eye not only on their medical needs but their emotional needs too. That's why we're lucky to have such a committed group of volunteers and fosterers who will step in and provide the companionship and care that our older animals need to feel safe and loved.

If you can open your heart and your home to a senior rescue, please come and visit us at 11 River Street, or take a look at the animals available on our website (www.torontohumanesociety.com). And if you can't take on a pet but you would like to help our seniors, you can donate online at www.torontohumanesociety.com/goldenoldies.



Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 624,252	\$ 156,764
Accounts receivable	373,774	513,475
Prepaid expenses	60,374	72,081
	1,058,400	742,320
Investments and marketable securities	3,687,296	2,635,690
Capital assets	5,647,135	5,913,900
	\$10,392,831	\$ 9,291,910
Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Net Assets		
Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:	A (00 ====	4
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 628,575	\$ 597,891
Deferred contributions	56,700	79,000
Current portion of long-term debt	47,843	43,143
	733,118	720,034
Deferred capital contributions	1,200,699	1,164,065
Long-term debt	165,790	213,633
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	4,560,798	4,749,835
Restricted for endowment purposes	370,000	370,000
Unrestricted	3,362,426	2,074,343
	8,293,224	7,194,178
Commitments		
Commitments Contingencies		

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2014 with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Revenue:		
Fundraising, promotion and public education	\$5,059,372	\$ 5,181,581
Legacies and bequests	4,324,047	3,592,075
Adoption of animal donations and related fees	691,277	483,571
Spay/Neuter Clinic Income	524,993	355,478
Realized investment income	227,859	126,368
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	131,766	116,069
Unrealized gain on investments	22,393	97,049
	10,981,707	9,952,191
Expenses:		
Animal care and shelter services	6,631,043	5,970,576
Fundraising, promotion and public education	1,147,295	1,610,566
General and administration	1,110,324	1,043,174
Spay/Neuter Clinic Expense	641,848	288,125
Education programs	176,307	202,065
Subsidized veterinary care	146,815	64,711
Investment expense	29,029	28,436
	9,882,661	9,207,653
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 1,099,046	\$ 744,538

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.

In Memory

A Father, Father-in-law and

Grandfather

Ann Elizabeth Domik

Ann Rayner Anna Bujak

Asia

Bandit Sigrist

Ben Bert Buddy Calla Janes Celia Counahan

Charlie Chloe

Christopher Smith

Cleo Coco

Daniel Joseph Kerekes

Diane Barless

Dina

Dora Himlin Edwin Jory Robertson

Elaine Baur

Elisabeth Vanderniet

Etelka Feit

Frank Joseph Anthony

Freddie

Frederick John Mean

General Eaton Georgie Gordon Family

Harley

Harvey Newman Helen Barclay Helen Gibson Hugo Trushon Inez Beatrice Hillen

Jake

Jenny & Lewis Newman

Jess & Alec Jim Rafferty Joan Livsey Joanie Warren Johanna Carter John Zadow June Aitken

Karl-Heinz Zindler

Kramer & Mish Leyden-Rooney

Larry Trudel Lefebres

Leone & Jack Callander Lillian & Donald Crawley Margaret Dowling Mary Cooke Matthew Kirby Maureen Jane Smith Memphis Goodman Michelle Derlis

Mike and Lori Bawcutt Monkcom Family Canada

Mrs. H Briers Muriel Morgan

Muschi, Mitzie & Princess

Nellie Almeida Nugget

Oliver "Ollie" McCharles

Oresta Muz Oscar Osborne Patricia Walters Penny & Blackster

Pino

Ralph A. Zingaro Ralph Loader Rob R, Zero & Sami Rocky Newman Roger Sturge Rusty Samantha Sasha

Sepideh Asgharifar Sheila and Eugene Sheila Katz Shirley J. Hughes Shirley Wigmore

Shirley Wiltschek Sophie & Widget

Sox Stanley Stella Bryant Stephanie Steven Hannah The Pack Pals

The Shcherban Family

Thelma So Thor Tobi
Todd Pointer
Tonka
Toshiko Shimizu
Trevor Smith
Tyler
Val
WeeOldCat

WeeOldCat
William FitzPatrick
Xanthippe

In Honour

Allen Baldwin Barbara Woodward Bipen & Sonia

Bunny Cameron & Lizzy Cecilia Downey Chris Nighman Colin & Becky Connor

David Brickman
Deborah Vickers
Diane Barless

Doug & Thelma Beatty Eric & Danielle Gordon Gillian Bowes
Hugo Trushon
Jacob Dare
Janet Holder
Janice Chan
Jess & Alec
Judy Boyer
Kazumi Fukushima
Kieron McGibney
Kristina Balaam
Lefebres

Margaret Robertson Mary Petrie

Matthew Vardy & Jordan Piper

Max & Stella
Michael Anderson
Mike and Lori Bawcutt
Monkcom Family Canada
Nanci Steinberg
Nick and Jenny Blacklock
Ralph A. Zingaro
Scott & Luanne Murray
Sepideh Asgharifar
Sheila and Eugene
Sheila Purdy
Simone & Amelia
The Aass Clan
The Gordon Family

The Heagle Family
The MacMillan & Fraser
Wedding
The Murphy Family
The Pack Pals
The Pink Family
The Shcherban Family
Tracy & Guy
Travis Agresti
Valerie Marshall
Ziggy & Roc

Ringworm in the Shelter Setting

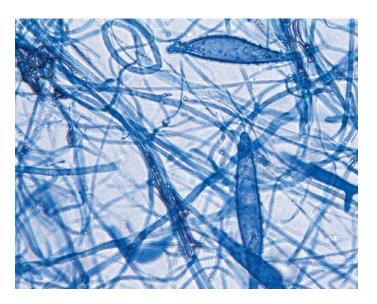
Ringworm is just one of the diseases that those of us working in the shelter medicine field come across on a frequent basis, the trouble is that it is easily transmissible and difficult to cure. But here at the Toronto Humane Society we have ringworm control down pat. We are also helping to determine the most efficient way to confirm the presence of ringworm in shelter animals by carrying out a research project on testing methods.

Ringworm, despite the misleading name, is not actually a sort of wriggly creature at all. It is in fact a type of fungus known as a dermatophyte with two main genera (Trichophyton and Microsporum), and several different species. Our pets are not the only ones that fall prey to ringworm infection, Athlete's Foot and Jock Itch are also dermatophytes. People or animals that are infected by a ringworm species are properly labelled as having a dermatophytosis.

Dermatophytes feed on the outer layer of skin, hair and nails in infected people and animals and one of the tell-tale characteristics of the disease is a red circular lesion. In animals this is usually accompanied by hair loss. Not everyone who comes into contact with ringworm will become infected, generally it is people or animals with a weakened immune system that end up becoming symptomatic. Those who do not actually have the disease themselves can still act as carriers of ringworm and can spread the fungi to other hosts.

The Toronto Humane Society starts ringworm control measures right at the moment of intake. All new arrivals to the shelter are screened using a Wood's lamp. This ultraviolet light causes certain frequently encountered strains of ringworm to fluoresce. Any signs of fluorescence will mean our new shelter resident will be sent to a quarantine area while a sample of their skin and fur is tested to confirm infection. The suspect animal will also undergo treatment immediately in order to reduce their length of stay should the results come back positive. The same protocol is enforced if any suspicious lesions are noted on the skin.





Previous to the study all skin and hair samples were cultured in house to determine if the animal was ringworm positive. Culturing requires the sample to be incubated on a special nutrient base for at least two weeks and then monitored for fungal growth. Therefore all suspect animals must be held in isolation for a minimum of two weeks. If the initial culture is negative the animal is released for adoption. If however, the initial culture is positive the animal must be treated until we receive two negative cultures, this means a minimum of one month in isolation while being treated.

Treatment itself consists of regular dips in a lime sulphur solution to prevent the spread of fungal spores as well as oral antifungal medication. The oral medication must be given for 21 days, or until a negative culture has been received.

Since beginning the research project we also submit a PCR sample to IDEXX Laboratories while we concurrently culture in house. The THS was awarded a prestigious grant from the Winn Feline Foundation to fund the study, and IDEXX laboratories provided testing free of charge for the first two months. A PCR is polymerase chain reaction – in layman's terms this test amplifies the amount of DNA present in a small sample. It can be used to isolate and amplify ringworm DNA in a hair or skin sample in order to detect the presence of infection. While the testing is still relatively expensive, results are back to the shelter within three days.

As you can tell, the isolation and treatment of ringworm animals is a space, time and labour intensive process. Additionally, even though we have reduced costs through culturing the samples in-house, it is not inexpensive. For these reasons many animal shelters without the required resources euthanize ringworm suspects and positive animals despite the fact that this disease is not painful and non-lethal.

We hope that our contribution through this research project will make the detection of ringworm faster than at the current time. This will reduce the amount of time an animal has to be held in isolation, reduce the amount of medication given to suspect animals, and thus overall reduce expenses. This could have a huge and positive impact on preventing the euthanasia of animals that are suspected to have a ringworm infection or are known positives in animal welfare institutions across Canada.

THS Playgroups



At the Toronto Humane Society we continue to search for new and improved ways to provide the best care for the animals who rely on us every day.

In October 2014, Aimee Sadler, a nationally known trainer, came to help us learn how to conduct new enrichment activities for our dogs. Aimee Sadler started out as a marine mammal trainer and has worked with exotic animals. In 1998 her focus shifted to working specifically with shelter dogs. The goal of Sadler's program is to help these dogs better adjust to life in the shelter and in turn become more adoptable.

While visiting the Toronto Humane Society her focus was on introducing our staff to playgroups. According to Sadler, there are several benefits playgroups present: mental and physical energy being exerted, decreased territorial behaviour, decreased on-leash reactivity to other dogs, increased attention and focus in training sessions and staff time-resource is maximized.

In March 2015, five of our staff members went to visit the Longmont Humane Society (LHS) to further build on the training we received from Aimee Sadler in the fall. While in Longmont, our staff members were able to witness and take part in the playgroups LHS runs daily. Our staff learned different distraction techniques, how to assess dogs that have

not participated before, how to assess the type of playgroup they are dealing with (rough and rowdy or calm and slow), understanding which dogs can go into which type of playgroup and how to assess what dogs work well together. Overall, this trip was a great opportunity and very insightful for our staff.

Since the trip to the Longmont Humane Society, we have made some changes to our playgroups process. Prior to the trip playgroups were run once a day, with 2-4 dogs, 2-3 staff members, and only in one dog park at a time. We have now made adjustments to run playgroups twice a day, using only 1-2 people in the park and 2-3 runners to bring and take back dogs all while utilizing up to all three of our dog parks at once.



With the adjustments to our playgroups, we have already been noticing positive changes amongst the dogs participating! Overall, the dogs are calmer since we have implemented playgroups twice a day. We have noticed our dogs are less reactive in their runs and while they are on walks. The playgroups have not only helped the dogs but they have also given us the opportunity to further understand the dogs in a barrier-free environment. This additional knowledge gives our adoption staff a better understanding of the dog when placing them with their perfect forever home. Implementing playgroups at the Toronto Humane Society has provided a great enrichment opportunity for our dogs and gives them a new light in the eyes of potential adopters.



PuppySwap Gets Them Talking

And Thinking About Animal Abandonment in Canada

The Toronto Humane Society's newest PSA has taken the animal welfare and advertising world by storm.

Within moments of its release PuppySwap was generating a huge amount of traffic on social media networks such as Twitter and Youtube. Celebrities, other animal welfare organizations, and your 'Average Joe' were all commenting on both the presentation and the message contained within.

PuppySwap used a bait and switch element to emotionally engage viewers to the fact that over 180,000 thousand animals are left in Canadian shelters each and every year. The piece began as what appeared to be an advertisement for a subscription service that allowed people to 'swap' out a puppy for a new one when the one they hand on hand got too old, or they were simply bored with it. It ended with the message that while PuppySwap wasn't real, pet abandonment is, and directed viewers to the Toronto Humane Society website.

PuppySwap can be viewed on a number of local GTA TV stations, the PuppySwap website (http://puppyswap.ca/) and on Youtube where we are closing in on 350,000 views.



GRIP Limited produced PuppySwap for the Toronto Humane Society completely pro bono, and we are very grateful for their efforts on our behalf. We are also proud to note that PuppySwap has been nominated for three different Marketing Awards (Public Service Online, Public Service Branded Content, Public Service Integrated).

Put Your Best Paw Forward

at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon



Join Team THS in our first year of being an official partner of the Scotiabank Charity Challenge!

The Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon takes place in downtown Toronto on the 18th October 2015. Described as 'flat, fun and festive', it is a must-do in any athlete's running calendar!

You don't have to be an elite runner to participate! You can choose to participate in the full marathon, half marathon or 5K race and raise funds and awareness for the animals at the Toronto Humane

Society! Whether you choose to run, jog or walk in the event, every step you take will be another step towards saving the life of a homeless animal in Toronto.

As a member of Team THS, you will enjoy:

- A discount on your race entry fee
- A free Toronto Humane Society t-shirt to wear on race day.
- Training and fundraising support.
- Promotion of your training and fundraising commitment on our social media pages.
- Volunteers and staff from the shelter will be there on the day to cheer you on!

To join Team THS and receive your discount pin code please email Rosie at rblanning@torontohumanesociety.com. Include your full name, telephone number, t-shirt size and whether you will be participating in the marathon, half marathon or 5K event.

For more information on the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon visit http://www.torontowaterfrontmarathon.com.

Release your inner pup!

Sunday, August 23rd 9am-2pm Go to www.pawsinthepark.com to sign up today!



You Can Make a Difference! Join Our

Save The Animals Team

With your help we are able to continue to feed, shelter and provide veterinary care for the animals until they are adopted into a loving home. For less than a dollar a day, you can be there for animals in need and provide the loyal support they count on.



Please join today with a gift of \$18 a month (only 60 cents a day)



SAVE THE ANIMALS TEAM

