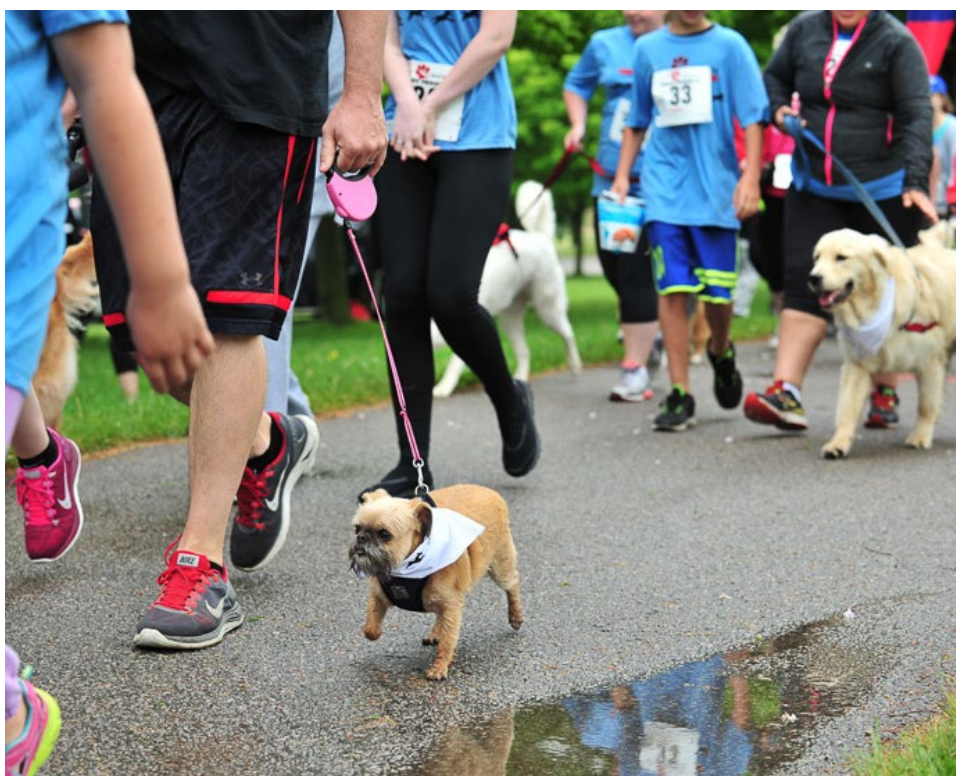


Please Support the Furry Friends 5K!



Speaking of Dogs Rescue has once again been chosen to take part in the Furry Friends 5K walk/run. We will be participating in both of their events, on June 3rd in Oshawa and on October 21st in Burlington, and we need walkers!

***You can walk at your own pace
and even bring your dog.***

Don't be disappointed if you can't walk or run. You can help raise much-needed funds for the rescue by pledging one of our walkers or even by volunteering

at the event. Visit ***Kim's pledge page*** or ***Lorraine's pledge page*** if you would like to make a donation.

Visit furryfriends5k.ca for more information, including details about how to register. Anyone interested in volunteering for the event is invited to contact our FF5K coordinator, Kim, at kim@speakingofdogs.com.

The Furry Friends 5K is always a fun day out, and the 12 dogs in our Forever-in-Foster program have significant medical needs – we can't let them down!

APRIL 2018

THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In this month's newsletter

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About Speaking of Dogs

Speaking of Dogs is a Toronto-based organization that launched in 2001 and is dedicated to educating and enlightening people about dogs through seminars, workshop forums, outreach and rescue. Our goal is to end cruelty, abandonment, mistreatment and homelessness of man's best friend.

Speaking of Dogs Rescue is the operating name of Speaking of Dogs Rescue Program, a Canada Revenue Agency—registered charity based in Ontario.

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Newsletters

If you no longer want to receive our newsletter, email newsletter@speakingofdogs.com, with "unsubscribe" written in the subject line.

Dogs Looking for Homes

A friend in need is a friend indeed

Without a doubt, a dog is a real friend. Our dogs come in all shapes and sizes, but they have one thing in common – they all need loving forever homes. Open your heart and your home to a rescue dog. You'll be glad you did. For complete information about the adoption process, please visit www.speakingofdogs.com/adoption-process. For more information on each dog, simply click on their name.

Elliot

POMERANIAN MIX
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



FEATURED DOG:

Elliot is about 8 years old and 18 pounds. This Pomeranian mix is housetrained and eager to please. He loves his walks, and when the leash comes out it's the best day ever for him! He careens joyfully back and forth along the sidewalk in an effort to catch every possible springtime scent!

Elliot is the perfect dog for someone who wants to explore the world daily with a fresh eye and a new friend who never gets over how wonderful life is. The price of his love seems to be belly rubs, walks, and liver treats.

He is a very smart little dog, and the amount of change in his life has made him somewhat cautious. He barks at strange noises, strangers, and when his foster mom leaves on an errand, but he quickly settles down. As the weeks have gone by, he's settled in and his comfort level has increased – he now cuddles close to his foster mom and seeks attention.

Elliot would be a good companion for anyone who likes to get out and about, but we don't feel Elliot would be a match for a family with young children. He currently lives with two foster dogs. If you are interested in Elliot please email lorraine@speakingofdogs.com.



Hank

CATTLE DOG / BULLDOG MIX
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Chewy

BOSTON TERRIER / BOXER MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



Scooter

PEKINGESE / SHIH TZU MIX
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



Lester

BEAGLE / HOUND MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



Mercedes

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Phoenix

GERMAN SHEPHERD / LABRADOR MIX
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



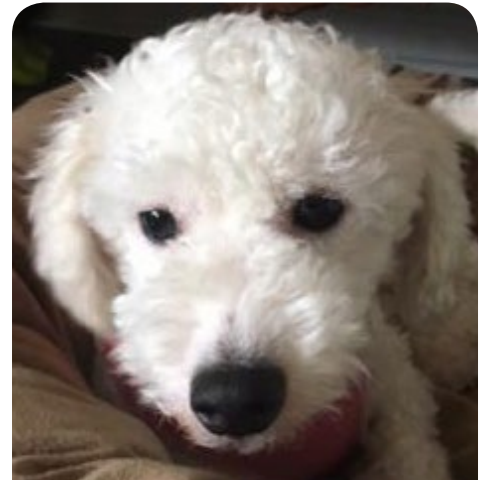
Tyson

BORDER COLLIE / SPANIEL MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



Munroe

BEAGLE / HOUND MIX
MEDIUM, YOUNG, MALE



Kya

BICHON FRISE MIX
SMALL, YOUNG, FEMALE

Can you lend a paw?

Although we have a partnership with a doggy daycare, we do not have a physical shelter; our dogs are in-home fostered by caring, loving volunteers. Because of the way our rescue is structured, the only hands-on volunteer position with our dogs is fostering. Can't foster but want to help our dogs? Consider donating new or gently used items for them. We are always in need of

- Gas gift cards
- Global Pet Foods or Pet Valu gift cards
- Kong or other treat-disensing toys
- Canned and dry quality dog foods
- Martingale collars
- Kuranda beds
- Thunder Shirts



The 2018 Breed Specific and All Breed Rescue Contacts directories are now available online!

https://www.speakingofdogs.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018_Directory.pdf



From: Jen and family
To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
Subject: Buddy (formerly Pudding)

Pudding is now Buddy, and he is doing well. His allergies have been an ongoing concern, but his current meds seem to be serving him well. His coat looks the best it has since we got him!

We attended obedience classes and learned quickly. He gets overstimulated whenever there are buses or garbage trucks going by and likes to meet new people on his own terms, but other than those few quirks he has been a great addition to our family. We continue to work on training techniques with him.

We'd like to thank foster parents Tammy and Lou, Christa and Geoff and Dr. Waisglass, dermatologist, for making a huge difference in Buddy's life!



Ask the Trainer

WHAT IS POSITIVE DOG TRAINING?

You may have heard the terms: positive-reinforcement training, rewards-based training, force-free training, clicker training, motivational training. But what do we mean when we talk about positive training methods?

At their most basic, positive training methods involve rewarding behaviours that you want your dog to display – such as sitting, staying, or rolling over – to encourage him to repeat those behaviours. The reward is usually associated with a cue, such as saying “sit,” raising your hand and/or clicking a clicker.

The idea is that your dog will repeat and learn that good things happen when he exhibits those particular behaviours upon being given a particular cue. Positive training methods also involve ignoring (but not “correcting”) any behaviours you don’t want your dog to display.

Is Food the Only Effective Reward?

Food is probably the most common reward, as most dogs are very food motivated, but it’s not the only one you should consider. Some dogs find a toy, a good game of tug-of-war, or chest and belly rubs to be very motivating rewards. Try to tailor your reward to your dog.

So Is It Just About Rewarding?

Rewarding is only an element of the training, not its sum total. The desired behaviour still needs to be taught. For example, if you want your dog to stop jumping up on visitors, what you’re really looking for is an alternate behaviour, such as a calm sit-stay or keeping “four on the floor.”

You need to reward your dog for not jumping up (and sitting quietly), thereby reinforcing that sitting or keeping all four

paws on the ground is a “rewardable” behaviour. Simply ignoring the jumping is not going to achieve the goal – it’s important to communicate with your dog what behaviour you want (a quiet sit-stay).

This is why positive training methods also usually involve establishing a routine and appropriately managing your dog’s environment. Consulting a qualified trainer will help give you the tools and methods you need to successfully train your dog.

What About a Balanced Approach?

Some dog trainers claim to use a “mixed” or “balanced” approach that involves both rewards and punishments. This often seems reasonable to dog owners, as it so closely mirrors our own experiences. We raise our kids by doling out both rewards and punishments, and our working lives are invariably a mix of incentives and deterrents (for example, we’ll get pay docked if we’re late for work, and while we don’t get extra pay for arriving on time, we may get a raise if we’re consistently punctual and productive).

However, dogs aren’t children or employees. Even when alternating with rewards, punishing your dog creates an atmosphere and relationship of instability and mistrust.

But Won’t “Bribing” My Dog Prevent Me from Being the “Alpha”?

The so-called “balanced” approach can seem appealing since it capitalizes on the effectiveness of a rewards-based approach while also allowing the owner to be the “alpha.” The notion that dogs are driven by a constant desire to dominate is so entrenched it can be difficult to set it aside. However, the dominance theory has been debunked – both in dogs and in wolves.

Seeking to intimidate, dominate or otherwise boss around your dog will

harm your relationship with your pet, not improve it. (See the suggested articles below for a more complete discussion of dominance theory.)

Think of It as a To-Do List

There’s a reason that, for our own goals, we think in terms of a “to-do” list rather than a “not-to-do” list. Imagine if every day you had to write down all of the things you shouldn’t do in order to figure out what you needed to get done. That’s what punishment-based training can be like for your dog.

In order to figure out what she should be doing, your dog has to go through a very long “don’t-do” list, and the consequences of accidentally ticking something off that list can be scary, stressful, and painful.

If you instead approach training as giving your dog a to-do list and then recognizing and rewarding her whenever she ticks something off that manageable list, you help establish parameters you can both work within to succeed.

Training should be a fun and intimidation-free zone!

Want to Learn More?

There is a true wealth of information on the Internet, but unfortunately not all of it is well researched or accurate. If you are struggling with your dog’s behaviour, the best place to start is a consultation with a qualified and accredited trainer who uses only positive training methods.

Consider one of our “Ask the Trainer” columnists:

- Emily Fisher,
Scratch and Sniff Canine Services
<https://scratchandsniff.ca>
- Lucinda Glenn, Canine Campus
<http://caninecampus.ca>

Continued on page 6...

Bits & Bites

Simply click on a summary to be whisked away to the internet page where you can read the full story.

- More info about the use of rewards in positive-reinforcement training, from Yvette Van Veen.
- Central Ontario has been hit with an outbreak of dog flu.
- More information about the H3N2 canine influenza.
- The Toronto Humane Society provided another update and further information about the H3N2 canine influenza outbreak.
- An interesting article about the (sometimes) vast differences in the prices of veterinary services.
- Dr. Karen Becker discusses what, in her opinion, are some of the best – and some of the worst – dog treats.
- An editorial by Debra Probert: “Treatment of Sled Dogs Is Morally Indefensible.”
- A fascinating interview with Fern Levitt, whose documentary film *Sled Dogs* sought to expose the often cruel world of sled dogs, most notably during the Iditarod and Yukon Quest.
- Pet illnesses suspected to be caused by jerky treats produced in China may no longer be making headlines, but they have not stopped happening.

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

Click on a recall to be directed to further information online.

- Blue Ridge Beef
- Steve's Real Food
- Tucker's raw frozen dog food
- Redbarn dog chews
- Radagast free-range chicken and free-range turkey recipes
- Milo's Kitchen dog treats
- Darwin's Natural Selections and ZooLogics



Continued from page 5...

- Marlo Hiltz, Welfare of Our Furry Friends (Wooff)
<https://www.wooff.ca>
- Mirkka Koivusalo, Mindful Behaviours
https://www.karenpryoracademy.com/Mirkka_Koivusalo
- Dorothy Litwin, MSc., Animal Behaviour Specialist
<http://www.animalbehaviour.ca/ab2/do.php?target=index>
- Margaret Pender, DogGone Right! Inc.
<http://www.doggoneright.ca>

The following are some useful articles that help explain positive-based training and its benefits (as well as the pitfalls of punishment-based methods).

- “Positive Reinforcement” by Victoria Stilwell
- “Traditional Dog Training vs Leadership Without Force” by Dr. Sophia Yin
- “A Surprising Look at Balanced Training” by Laurie Luck
- “Dogs: Positive Reinforcement Training” by the Humane Society of the United States
- “Outmoded Notion of the Alpha Wolf” by L. David Mech



Photo recap

SPRINGTIME WAGS AND WIGGLES!

It was a successful weekend at the Spring Pet Expo, with lots of foot traffic at the Speaking of Dogs booth. Many thanks to our volunteers: Marianne, KC, Katie, Ana, Cyndy, Kathy, Jo-Ann, Dixie, David, Gabe, Lorne, Megan, Catherine, and Lorraine.



Happy Tails

MARCH ADOPTIONS:

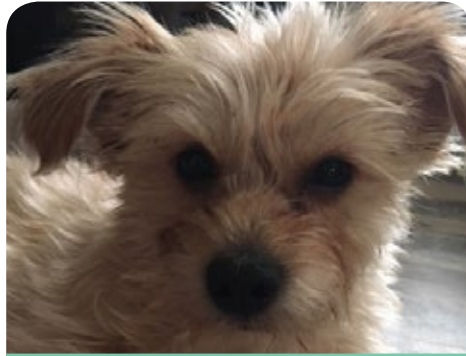
A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



Abby



Beatrice



Cashew



Darcy



Henry



Hank2



Lucy



T-Shirt Fundraiser!

We've joined with multiple rescues to create the Group Tee Fundraiser! These are excellent quality, Fruit of the Loom t-shirts, and every sale helps rescues across Canada. Please share with family and friends and animal lovers in general. When you buy your t-shirt, Collie Rescue Network receives \$1.00 of the sale. When you choose Speaking of Dogs as an additional rescue, we will receive \$5.00 for every shirt sold! The more we sell together, the more we can change lives in rescue groups across Canada.

Please visit www.collierescuenetwork.com/grouptees.html to order your tees.

Happy Tails

MARCH ADOPTIONS:

A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



Minkus



Paws



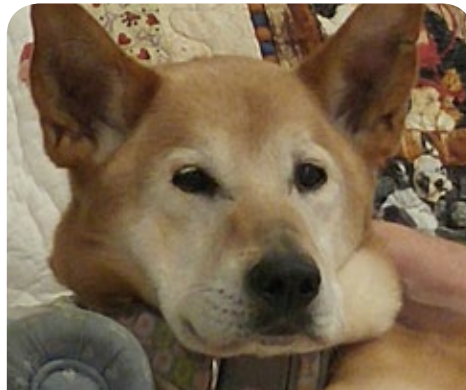
Robin



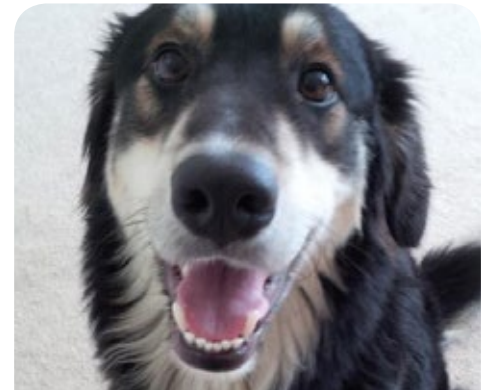
Ruby



Shadow



Willow



Zorro

Woofstock Is Next Month!

Woofstock is back to its original time of year and usual location. It will be held on Saturday May 26th and Sunday May 27th at Woodbine Park in Toronto. Speaking of Dogs will have a booth, so please come out to support the rescue and the dogs in our care. It's always a fun day out for dogs and dog caregivers alike!

VISIT WOOFSTOCK.CA FOR MORE INFO.

In Memoriam



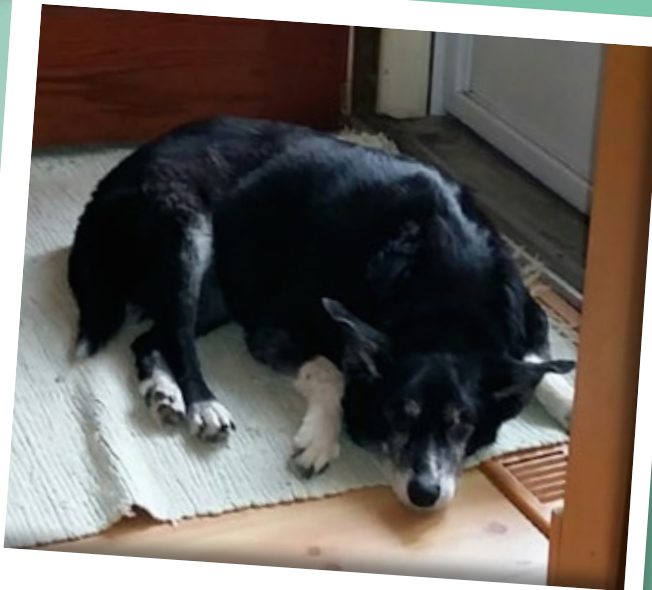
Bacon

LOVED BY MANDY AND DEAN
ADOPTED JULY 2013
PASSED MARCH 2018



Fluffy

LOVED BY NICOLINE, ALL OF NICOLINE'S PIANO
STUDENTS, SHEILA, AND THE STAFF AT
DOGGIE PLAYLAND
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2011
PASSED MARCH 2018



Mimi

LOVED BY PATRICIA
ADOPTED JANUARY 2005
PASSED MARCH 2018