



*Saving just one dog won't change the world...
but, surely, the world will change for that one dog..*

No Hot Pets!

There's no excuse for leaving a pet unattended in a vehicle during the summer. Even a few minutes in a stationary vehicle without air conditioning can be life threatening to a dog. Parking in the shade and leaving a window open are not enough to keep your pet safe. Even on mild days, parked cars can quickly reach deadly temperatures.

If you can't keep your pet with you at all times while out and about, leave them at home, where they'll be safe and comfortable.

If you see an animal left in a vehicle in Ontario, report it by calling the OSPCA at 310-SPCA (310-7722) or your local police service.

Visit nohotpets.ca for more information and to take the No Hot Pets pledge!

IT'S NOT TOO
HOT FOR ME

I WASN'T GOING TO
BE GONE LONG

I LEFT THE WINDOW
DOWN FOR HIM

JULY 2018

THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In this month's newsletter

Dogs looking for homes	2
Forever in Foster pupdate	5
Ask the trainer	6
Bits & Bites	7
Event recap	8
Recent adoptions	9
In memoriam	10

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.

Contact Speaking of Dogs

P.O. Box 8058, RPO Hurontario
Collingwood, ON L9Y 0H1
Phone: 705-444-SODR (7637)
Email: info@speakingofdogs.com
Web: www.speakingofdogs.com

Newsletter Team

Editor: Nancy Foran
Design: Cathy Vandergeest at www.gawck.ca
Contributors: Nancy Foran, Lorraine Houston, Margaret Pender, and Kim Gladding

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.

Bailey

BEAGLE / LABRADOR MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



FEATURED DOG:

Bailey is a 9- to 10-year-old lab/beagle mix who had one owner for his entire life, but she was unable to keep him due to life changes. When he first arrived in his foster home, Bailey cried and whined and seemed to be looking for his long-time owner. Now that he's a bit more settled in, he's learning to adapt to his new family and surroundings. His foster mom has been focusing on his biggest joys in life: walks, balls, sticks, and water. He never tires of retrieving!

Bailey is a gentle soul who is housetrained and is not destructive or a big barker. He is friendly with new people and good with other dogs, and he has an overall happy personality.

He used to be somewhat reactive on walks, but he's much better now. He gets excited and initially pulls, but that generally peters out as he tires. He would, however, benefit from some leash training.

Bailey has been to the vet and does have some arthritis, but he is as eager as a pup to play and explore the world. Climbing stairs can be challenging for him, so a bungalow or apartment is preferred. Bailey has not been tested with cats, but we can have him assessed if a great family with resident cats would like to adopt him.

Bailey is waiting for that special friend who agrees that age is just a number – don't keep him waiting!



Hank

CATTLE DOG / BULLDOG MIX
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Sherry

POODLE
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



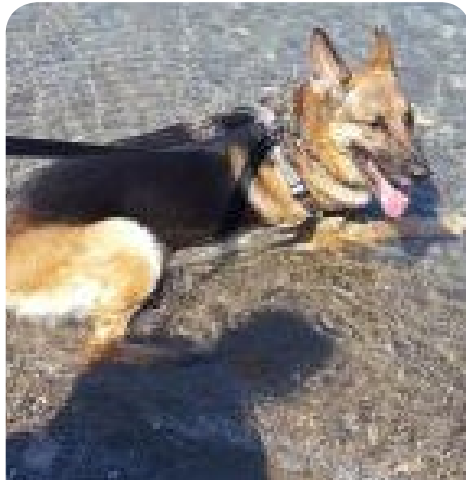
Dashie

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Stella

TERRIER MIX
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Mercedes

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



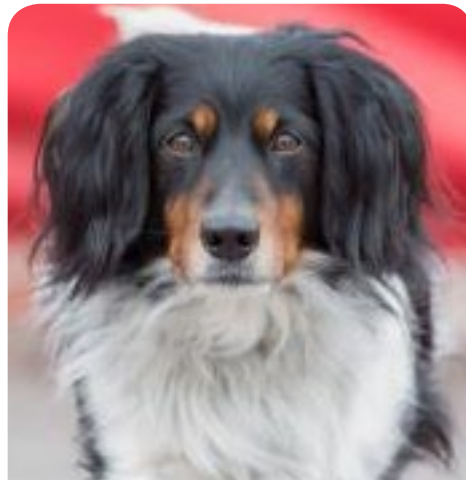
Georgie

BORDER COLLIE MIX
MEDIUM, YOUNG, MALE



Daisy

SCHNAUZER / POODLE MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE



Milo

DACHSHUND
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



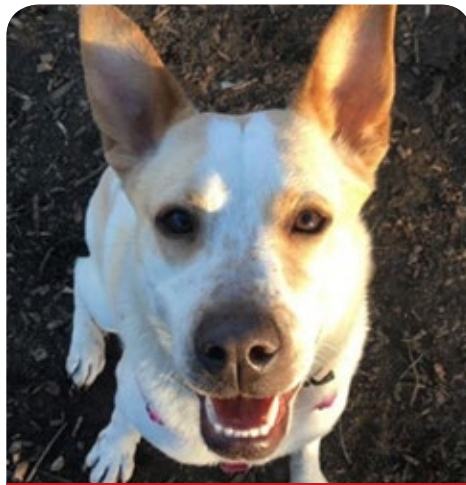
Max

CHIHUAHUA
SMALL, YOUNG, MALE



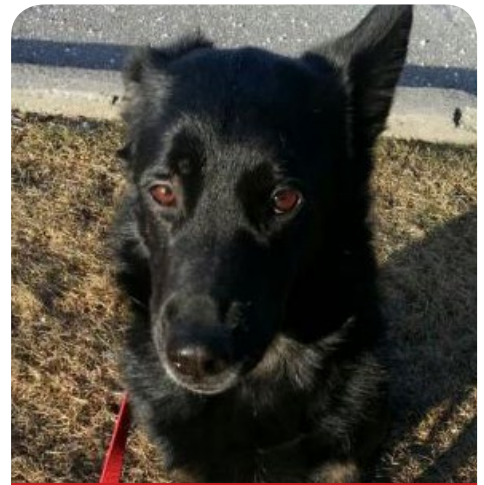
Lucy

LABRADOR / AMERICAN BULLDOG MIX
X-LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Willow

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



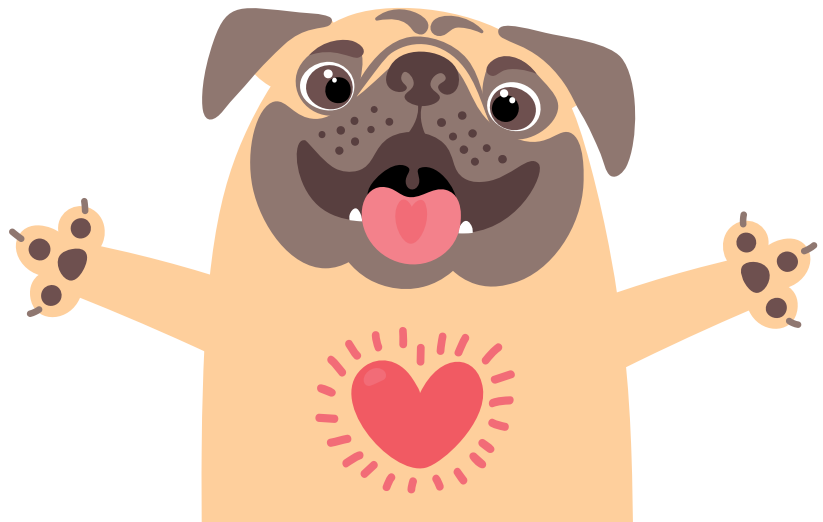
Lily

COLLIE / GERMAN SHEPHERD MIX
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Zack

BEAGLE MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Share Your Summer Fun with Us!

When you're out having with your furry best friend this summer, don't forget to capture some of those special moments! We'd love to include a photo of your dog having fun in the sun in the 2019 Speaking of Dogs Rescue calendar. Ideal photos don't include people but can include a four-legged friend. Photos should be 300 dots per inch (DPI) and at least 5 inches by 7 inches in size. Photos can be colour or black and white. Please email your favourite pics to lorraine@speakingofdogs.com.

Forever in Foster Pupdate

MEET MINNIE!

Minnie was picked up by a shelter as a “stray” before becoming a part of Speaking of Dogs Rescue. She joined her Forever in Foster home in June 2017, as a temporary foster while she dealt with an antibiotic-resistant bladder infection. Shortly thereafter, she was diagnosed with a number of other medical issues, and the rescue felt she should go into the Forever in Foster program.

She walked into her foster home like she already owned the place, helping herself to the basket of toys and letting everyone know she wasn't planning on going anywhere else – Minnie had landed!

Terrier through and through, Minnie loves an adventure. Hikes in the forest, boat rides, visiting with family and friends. She also loves to go on home visits for potential Speaking of Dogs adopters, and she makes sure every house is dog friendly and has treats in the pantry. Despite her spunk, she is extremely affable and is always on her best behaviour at the vet clinic and groomer.

Minnie's driving force, however, is food. But Minnie is also super smart! When the weather is particularly unpleasant, her foster family rotate through her collection of treat-dispensing toys and her food puzzle to keep her busy. That food puzzle is a special treat for Minnie, and she picked it up right away. It has to be stored completely out of her sight, too – if she suspects where the puzzle is being kept, she asks for it repeatedly!

Minnie has a special relationship with all the other animals in her home and loves to snuggle with Jeffrey the chihuahua, chase after Tungsten the canaan dog, and tug toys with Mona the greyhound. At night she will even share her pillow with Kristofferson, the cat who is about twice her size. Luckily Minnie's medical conditions are currently well controlled, and we hope she will be keeping her foster family on their toes for many years to come.

*With thanks to Minnie's foster family:
Ashley, Mike, Ian, and their zoo.*



Speaking of Dogs Rescue focuses on compassionate care for senior dogs. When these beloved dogs come into our rescue, they often have needs that are beyond the scope of adoption. Still others are up for adoption for months without finding a forever home, and they eventually become attached to their foster parents. At that point we often feel that it is not in the best interest of the dog to be uprooted and put into a new home. And so, we keep some of our senior dogs in our Forever in Foster program, which has been running since 2005 and has seen many dogs live out their last chapter in a loving, caring foster home, cherished until they cross over to the Rainbow Bridge. Speaking of Dogs Rescue cares for these dogs financially for the rest of their lives, covering their vetting, food, and grooming costs.

Ask the Trainer

“LEAVE IT!”

There are many excellent reasons to teach your dog to “leave it.” A good “leave it” could save your dog’s life one day. Think of dubious-looking treats laid out in a local dog park, human medication accidentally dropped on the floor, or a chicken drumstick that was thrown away and is now sitting by the side of the road.

Some of the other reasons are that it’s fun to teach, it’s fun for your dog to learn, and it can help you build a wonderful bond with your dog.

I like to teach “leave it” in stages.

Stage I

Before starting to teach a formal “leave it,” teach your dog to resist the urge to mug your hands when you have food in them. You know mugging: when your dog focuses only on the treat in your hand and not on you.

Start by holding a few treats in your hand and show them to your dog. Close your hand into a fist and place it on the ground. Your dog will likely start to lick, paw, or nibble at your hand. Don’t say anything!

The moment your dog removes their mouth from your hand, mark the action with your clicker or a verbal “yes!” and deliver a reward. Do this either with your other hand or drop the treat on the floor slightly out of your dog’s reach, so they have to get up to retrieve it. Dogs don’t generalize well, so having them move out of position to get the reward acts almost like a reset button. This gives you time to move your hands into a different position so your dog can try again.

Repeat this exercise many times and in many different places, both inside and out. You can also put the treat under your foot if you don’t want to use your hand, but make sure you are wearing shoes! No open-toed sandals or flip-flops for this exercise.

Your dog will soon learn that mugging your hand or foot will not get them what they want. Waiting patiently away from you is the only way to get the reward.

Continue to mark and reward your dog for not paying attention to the treat in your hand or under your foot. Remember: you want your dog to ignore the treat, not first look at the treat and then turn away or look at you (and not your hand or foot).

Stage II

Once your dog is consistently ignoring the treat in your hand or under your foot, show your dog a treat or toy without covering it, but make sure you can quickly cover it if they start to move toward it. Mark and reward when your dog moves away from the treat or toy on the floor.

Repeat this exercise many times and in many different places around your home.

Stage III

Have you noticed I haven’t yet mentioned the words “leave it”? Don’t add the verbal cue until your dog is consistently leaving the uncovered treat or toy alone. Once they are doing that, you can start saying “leave it” just as you are placing the treat or toy on the floor and then reward immediately when your dog leaves the treat or toy alone.

Now start moving the treat or toy around during the exercise, using rewards of different value.

Repeat this exercise many times and in many different places, both inside and out.

Stage IV

Now that your dog is consistently leaving the treat or toy alone on the floor, you can add some complexity to the game. Let’s start getting ready for real life!

You will want to have your dog on leash when first attempting this stage of the training.

While you are standing, have a treat or toy in your hand and “accidentally” drop it behind you, slightly off to one side. If your dog starts to move toward the treat or toy, don’t grab the leash right away. Instead, block your dog by sidestepping in front of them or by covering the treat or toy with your foot and saying “leave it” in a calm voice. There is no need to raise your voice.

Continue to block your dog from the treat or toy, and your dog will eventually figure out they can’t get what they want, and they will either sit or lay down and look at you. Once you have eye contact from your dog, mark the behaviour and reward it by tossing a different treat or toy in the opposite direction of the item on the ground. This will encourage your dog to move away from the distraction and come back to you.

Repeat this exercise many times – 10 sessions per day with one or two reps per session – in many different locations until your dog is consistently leaving the treat or toy.

Stage V

Now you are going to help your dog further generalize this behaviour, adapting it to everyday life.

Try setting up real-life scenarios with forbidden objects you won’t be able to cover with your foot. You will want to keep your dog on leash so you can restrain them when first practising this exercise. (At this time, you don’t want your dog to be able to access the treat or toy.)

As your dog develops a solid “leave it,” you can practise the exercise off leash in your home and yard. When out on walks, practise “leave it” regularly, particularly where there are distractions.

Teaching your dog a solid “leave it” is incredibly useful and important for their safety. It means “Whatever you are thinking about picking up, don’t do it.” It could be anything from a box of chocolates under the Christmas tree to a half-eaten chicken leg you pass on the sidewalk during your walk to a tennis ball that belongs to another dog at the dog park. The possibilities are endless!

“Leave it” is straightforward to teach as long as you, the trainer, take it gradually and don’t move on to the next stage until your dog is fluent at the current stage.

*Margaret R. Pender, owner,
DogGone Right! Inc.*

Bits & Bites

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

Planning a trip this summer? Check out this travel checklist for your dog!

Check out this list of “10 Scientific Benefits of Being a Dog Owner.” (Although we think there are also benefits to owning cats and other pets of all types and kinds!)

Do you find your dog isn't very food motivated during training sessions? The Toronto Centre for Canine Education is offering a free web-based course called Food-Motivation 101.

Vet visits probably aren't the highlight of any pet's year, but some cope better than others. Here are “10 steps for fear-free vet visits.”

Has your dog or cat had ever had their kidney function tested? If so, you may be familiar with the term “creatinine.” But what is creatinine, and what does creatinine level indicate?

The Province of Quebec has abandoned its plans to ban “pit bulls” across the province, but it will be introducing stricter rules for dog breeders and stronger penalties for animal abusers.

Scientists have proven the benefits of therapy dogs for patients, but do the dogs themselves enjoy the work? *National Geographic* reports on recent research.

Ticks are becoming ever more common in Ontario, including in and around Toronto, and vets are seeing more and more tick bites on pets. This is a concern,

as ticks can carry Lyme disease. Find out what you can do to keep your pets safe.

The City of Montreal has begun a new program whereby people ticketed for having their dog off leash in a public space can go to an information session about pet safety rather than pay the fine.

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- Dave's Dog Food
95% Premium Beef

From: Kerry, Ross and Sira
To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
Subject: Daisy

It will be nine years ago this July that we adopted Daisy from you; she was six years old at the time. In April of this year, Daisy turned 15! She has lost her hearing and her eyesight has deteriorated, but she is still happy and as sweet as ever.

Daisy is truly a super dog! She's had some medical issues, and each time, like an incredible trooper, she's remained upbeat and determined. She is our role model on how to deal with illness and aging!

Hope you are well. It is wonderful to see that you are still doing such amazing work.



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.

Event Recap

FURRY FRIENDS 5K SUCCESS!

The Furry Friends 5K walk/run in Oshawa was extremely successful, with about \$14K being raised!

Many thanks to the following people for collecting pledges, sponsoring, helping out, and/or walking: Kathy, Ruth, Claudia, Sue, Wanda, Catherine, Janet, Angela, Shelley, Gael, Katie, Linda, and Lindsay.

Special thanks to our top fundraisers, Lorraine and Gabe and Lorne. (We're very sorry if we've missed anyone – please let us know if we have!)

We are truly grateful the organizers of the Furry Friends 5K – Allison Hansen, Caron Shepley, and Judy Tresise – for all their hard work and for inviting us to participate. In fact, they've also invited us to participate again this fall, at the Burlington event!

Sorry you missed all the fun at the Oshawa Furry Friends 5K? Join us in Burlington! We need walkers and runners, and don't worry if you're not a top athlete. You can walk at your own pace and even bring your dog! We'll also need volunteers at the event and to help us spread the word beforehand. If you're interested in volunteering, please email Kim at kim@speakingofdogs.com.

For more info about the Burlington Furry Friends 5K, please visit furryfriends5k.ca/burlington.



Happy Tails

JUNE ADOPTIONS:

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



Buster



Cosmo



Buddy



Kingsley



Roxy



Sierra



Snooky
FOREVER IN FOSTER



Theo



In Memoriam



Jasmine "Jazzy"

LOVED BY VIOLET AND ANNA TURNER
ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2005
PASSED JUNE 2018



Miss P.

(AKA MISS PRETTY, FRY, FANCY FLAT FACE)
LOVED BY DAVID, MEL AND ALL THE "GOLDMAN BOYS"
ADOPTED OCTOBER 2008
PASSED MAY 2018



Tessa

LOVED BY BETH D. AND FAMILY
ADOPTED MARCH 2016
PASSED JUNE 2018

In Memoriam



Moji

LOVED BY CHRISTINE K.
ADOPTED MARCH 2014
PASSED JUNE 2018



Lila

LOVED BY COURTNEY, IAN AND FAMILY
ADOPTED MAY 2017
PASSED JUNE 2018



Lucky

LOVED BY IAN, PAT AND KATARINA
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2017
PASSED JUNE 2018