



## You come into the kitchen to find the garbage has been ransacked. What do you do?

Almost 20 years ago, Speaking of Dogs started as an educational platform that offered dog-behaviour seminars and positive-training workshops in an effort to encourage the human/canine bond and improve communication between the two species.

As a dog-loving community, we have come a long way – but we still have a long way to go. For years, we (our volunteer rescue screeners and me) have been reading through pre-adoption applications and questionnaires that contain responses that are not only

shocking but, if the tactics described were actually applied, abusive and cruel.

Most of the hopeful adoptive families simply have no idea what they would be subjecting a dog to, while others follow a flawed wolf-based theory that behaviourists and science have debunked six ways to Sunday (regarding both dogs and wolves).

These problematic applications are not from many years ago; many of them are as recent as last week. As an example, one of our questions sets the scenario in  
*...continued on page 6*

## AUGUST 2018

### THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY 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

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# 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](http://www.speakingofdogs.com/adoption-process). For more information on each dog, simply click on their name.

## Dashie

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG  
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



### FEATURED DOG:

Dashie is a 5-year-old spayed female German Shepherd Dog who came into our rescue from a shelter as a shut-down dog. Now that she's in a foster home, she is starting to take steps forward, but she can still be withdrawn and uncertain. She has not shown any signs of aggression – in any situation – since she's been in foster care; if she feels overwhelmed, she will avoid, hide, or move away.

In her foster home, Dashie's "safe place" is the laundry room, where she can hear all that is going on from a distance. If her foster mom or dad attaches a leash and guides her out to join them in the family room she complies, but if they drop or remove the leash, she often goes back to her safe corner in the laundry room.

When Dashie first arrived, she would only eat overnight or when no one was around, but she now eats her meals when served in the laundry room with the door closed. She has never made a sound: not a whimper, whine, growl, or bark, but she recently picked up a stuffy toy and took it to the laundry room! What a great sign!

Dashie walks well on leash and is getting more confident as time goes on. She has become attached to her foster dad and walks close to him while out on walks. If new people walk, by she steps behind her foster dad, but does enjoy meeting other dogs.

She has no issues with handling or grooming and is housetrained. She recently went on a road trip and coped very well; she stayed close to her foster dad but interacted well with the resident dogs and took treats from a new person! Another milestone!

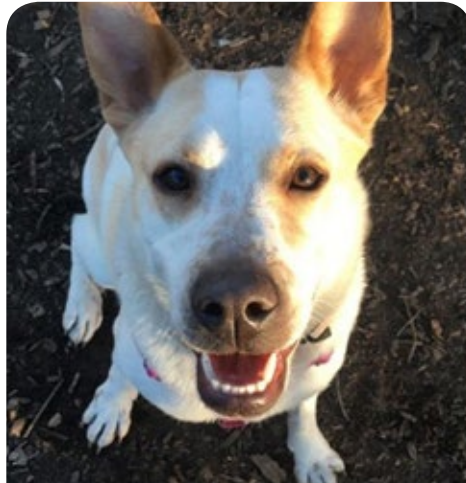
Dashie may have some baggage from her previous life, but she is ready to start the adventure of a lifetime with kind, patient, and understanding adopters.





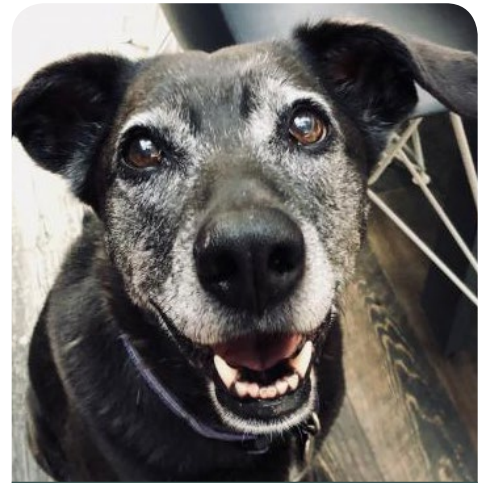
*Hank*

CATTLE DOG / BULLDOG MIX  
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



*Willow*

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Lola*

LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX  
MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALE



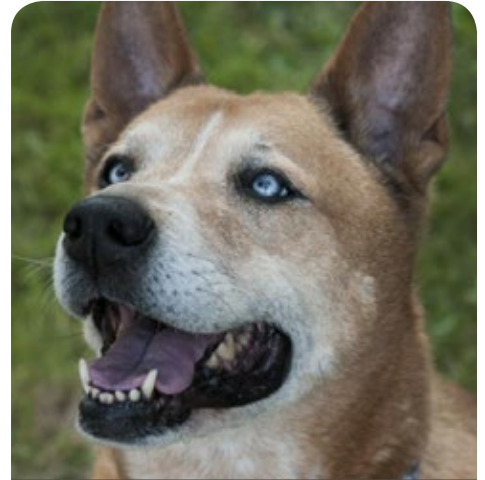
*Bailey*

BEAGLE / LABRADOR MIX  
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



*Tulip*

YORKSHIRE TERRIER  
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



*Gabby*

LABRADOR / HUSKY MIX  
LARGE / SENIOR / FEMALE



*Harriet*

SPANIEL / POODLE MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Lacy*

BOXER / LABRADOR MIX  
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



*Sierra*

GERMAN SHEPHERD  
LARGE, YOUNG, FEMALE





**Lilly**  
CHOW CHOW MIX  
MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALE



**Lemonade**  
BEAGLE MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



## FURRY FRIENDS 5K BURLINGTON

Speaking of Dogs Rescue is very pleased to have been chosen – for the second time this year – to take part in a Furry Friends 5K walk/run. The race is taking place on Sunday October 21st in Burlington.

Are you looking for a way to help our rescue? Consider registering and collecting pledges. Past events have been a lot of fun and very well organized. And don't worry if you're not a top athlete.

You can walk at your own pace and even bring your dog!

Participating as a walker or runner will only take a few of hours of your time, but it will make a world of difference to the dogs in our care. Simply register on the Furry Friends 5K website, send your friends and family a link to your pledge page, and let them know what a great cause Speaking of Dogs Rescue is!

We also need to provide a few volunteers to help out on the day at the event, as well as volunteers to help distribute

posters in the Burlington area. If you can assist with this or need help setting up a pledge page, please email Kim at [kim@speakingofdogs.com](mailto:kim@speakingofdogs.com).

How else can you help? Please share info about this event through your social media channels and come out to support our racers. Our dogs desperately need funds to get the second chance they so deserve, and we can't let them down!

For more info about the Burlington Furry Friends 5K, please visit [furryfriends5k.ca/burlington](http://furryfriends5k.ca/burlington).

# Forever in Foster Pupdate

## MEET EVE!

This pretty, 10 years young girl came into the rescue very sick, and because of her age and medical challenges, Speaking of Dogs decided to place her in the Forever in Foster program so she could comfortably live out her golden years.

Not only is she completely blind, soon after Eve came into the rescue, we found out she is also diabetic. She was only 40 pounds, her blood sugar was out of control, and she was losing weight at an alarming rate. But Speaking of Dogs Rescue was committed to saving her, and foster mom Wanda stepped up to make that happen. Eve and her foster mom even have something in common: her foster mom has type 1 diabetes.

When Eve arrived at her Forever in Foster home in January 2018, she had begun getting insulin shots and a new diet was helping her gain weight, but there was more work to be done. She was still quite thin, and her sugar levels had not yet been stabilized.

Courageous Eve was able to map out the configuration of her new house fairly quickly and started to make herself at home. For many months, she had vet appointments every two weeks, to check her weight and blood sugar curve. She now gets two insulin injections every day, every 12 hours. That's quite a tight schedule, but it's necessary – and it's getting results! It took five months, but we finally got the best news ever: Eve is over 60 pounds, and her blood sugar is within normal range!

Dedicated foster mom Wanda feels blessed to have sweet Eve in her life. She's even started to check her own blood sugar more often and is trying to eat and do her insulin right along with Eve. They take three walks a day, and both are feeling better than ever! Wanda's not sure who's helping who more, but we know our girl Eve needs all the help she can get, and she's gratefully soaking up all of the love and support coming her way.

*With thanks to Eve's foster mom, Wanda.*



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

*...continued from page 1*

which the adopter has just arrived home to see the garbage strewn all around the kitchen. The question: How do you respond? Some sample responses: “Look the dog in the eye and sternly, with a low voice, say NO!”; “Take the dog by the collar over to the garbage and make him smell it”; “Pinch his ear, look him in the eye and growl “NOOOO!”; “Put him in the crate for the rest of the day without a treat”; “Be the alpha, stand over him, point at the mess and stare him down.”

To this day, when I read answers like these my heart sinks and I experience such an extreme emotional response, as I envision a dog trying to make sense of why she or he is being blind-sided, berated, and physically assaulted. In an effort to defuse the angry human, the dog may offer appeasement behaviours such as lying on her side, blinking, rolling over, looking away, or pulling her lips back. The angry human then thinks the dog is saying “sorry” or is pleading guilty to the crime of strewn garbage, so they feel that the punishment they dished out effectively shamed the dog and corrected the behaviour, ensuring it won’t be repeated.

From the dog’s point of view, he was initially so excited to see his human friend home and ran happily toward to greet him. At first the human seemed happy too, but then suddenly became angry and unpredictable. Confused, the dog likely thinks “Maybe next time I won’t happily run toward my human when he comes home because that was happening when he got mad at me.”

Rolling over sideways, looking away, and blinking made the madness stop, so I’ll remember to repeat that.

Tragically, scenes like this probably play out frequently in the lives of dogs. Equally tragic is the fact that the dog has no idea that the strewn garbage was even remotely involved. Also equally tragic is that the human thinks the dog will not get into the garbage again.

And around and around we go, and where it stops nobody knows. But why use punishment in the first place? It doesn’t work, it has inadvertent consequences, and it is a sure fire way to ruin the trusting relationship you had hoped to have with your newly adopted dog.

Dogs generally learn through associations, so they don’t learn the same way that humans do. Therefore, applying the same learning theory to a dog as you would to a child isn’t going to be successful. Dogs are dogs, not children.

For example, explaining to your dog that she will get a roast beef dinner if she is nice to all of the dogs at the park is not something she can understand. Dogs are constantly learning, whether we are in a training session or just hanging out on the couch, and sometimes they are learning what we don’t necessarily want them to: barking non-stop gets a game of ball started, jumping up on the counter gets me a delicious chicken sandwich, and running out the door means I can chase squirrels.

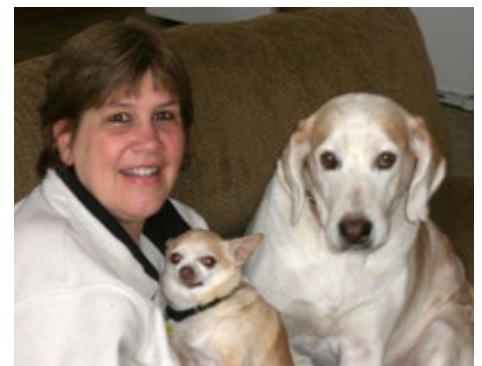
These behaviours can, however, be modified: waiting quietly gets a game of ball started; keeping four paws on the ground gets me delicious treats; sitting and waiting by the door means I get to go for a fun walk.

Dogs repeat behaviours that work for them. You are a huge part of determining what is going to work for your dog and

what isn’t. Understand this, and you’ll understand that dogs don’t do things out of spite, because they are mad at you for leaving them behind, or because they are stubborn or sulking.

Before you acquire a dog through any organization, please take the time to educate yourself and your family about how dogs learn and how you can best communicate with your new companion. Speaking of Dogs Rescue works with a number of force-free positive reinforcement trainers, and we can put you in touch with one of them, should you wish to consult with one of them before adoption. In the mean time, reading these “Ask the Trainer” articles every month is a great place to start!

Going back to where we started, I think the most ingenious application comment I’ve ever read was from a long-time dog mom who answered the strewn-garbage question like this: “Stick my own nose in the garbage and ask myself why I didn’t buy a dog-proof bin or have the good sense to crate train or safely confine my dog so I could set her up for success. BAD MOM!”



*Lorraine Houston, founder and president, Speaking of Dogs Rescue*

# Wags & Wiggles



*Katie and some of her Bell colleagues celebrate her win!*

## THREE CHEERS FOR KATIE— AN AMAZING VOLUNTEER!

Speaking of Dogs Rescue's very own board treasurer, Katie, was recently recognized as one of Bell's Finance 2017 Community Engagement recipients for her active involvement with the rescue.

In addition to being a volunteer extraordinaire, Katie is a manager on the Bell Media Finance Team. The Bell Finance Community Engagement Award recognizes the outstanding work of Finance team members who invest in volunteering and improving the communities where they live and work. But Katie isn't the only winner – the \$1000 prize is to be shared with the rescue!



## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER LUNCH RAISES FUNDS FOR OUR FOSTERS!

Thank you to long-time supporter Brett M. and his colleagues at TSW Charitable Committee for choosing Speaking of Dogs Rescue as their charity again in July! Their summer lunch barbecue and fundraiser was a huge success, bringing in over \$400 for our foster dogs! Wiggles and wags to your efforts TSW Charitable Committee!



## WAGS AND WIGGLES FOR LIFELABS' KENNEDY SOCIAL COMMITTEE!

Thank you to Lifelabs' Kennedy Social Committee, who chose Speaking of Dogs Rescue as the charity that will benefit from their fundraising efforts. The committee raised \$154 to help the dogs in our care. In addition to this, we received a \$77 donation from Lifelabs' Employee Giving Program. We're very grateful to Lifelabs and their Kennedy Social Committee for these donations!

## DO YOU HAVE AN EMPLOYEE-GIVING PROGRAM AT YOUR COMPANY?

Consider suggesting Speaking of Dogs Rescue as a worthy recipient! You can find basic info about the rescue on the "About Us" page on the website: <https://www.speakingofdogs.com/about-us/>.

# Bits & Bites

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

- Dealing with an itchy dog can be frustrating and very worrying. Pet Health Network looks at potential causes and what you can do to help.
- Dr. Karen Becker explores the “dog shaming” video fad, why it’s so problematic, and what you can do to actually help curb unwanted doggie behaviours.
- Veterinarian Dr. Ernie Ward spent 30 minutes in a parked car with all four windows cracked, so he could get some insights into what a pet left in a vehicle experiences.
- Here are some hot weather tips to keep your pets healthy and safe this summer!
- GO Transit is running a pilot project until October 15th, allowing passengers to bring a maximum of two leashed dogs on trains outside of rush hour. (Dogs in carriers are still allowed on trains during rush hour.)
- Concerned about your pets and coyotes? Here’s a novel but simple approach: an umbrella!
- Every dog owner knows that dogs love to stop and smell the roses – and the grass and the fire hydrants and that clump of dirt over there – while out on walks. But does letting your dog follow their nose (while always safely on leash) have any benefits? It sure does!
- A thoughtful blog from Caniversity Dog Training, about how trainers can approach some of their more difficult (human) clients.

## THIS MONTH’S RECALLS:

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

- Rad Cat Raw Diet Free-Range Chicken Recipe
- Lurvig water dispenser from Ikea

**From: Donna**

**To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue**

**Subject: Roxy**

Roxy is amazing! She has many dog friends in the park, has a great recall, and has settled in so well! She has come a long way with the cats, to the point that she lets Bailey Bits eat the last crumbs of her food, faces together in the bowl! She has recently been put on pain medication, after x-rays showed some fusion in her spine, which explained why she was slowing down in the park, and it is working well. She has lots of human friends and admirers, too. She is well loved, with thanks to all the folks at Speaking of Dogs Rescue for bringing us together!



## 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](http://www.collierescuenetwork.com/grouptees.html) to order your tees.**



# Happy Tails

## JULY ADOPTIONS:

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



*Bailey Poodle*



*Charlie Saint*



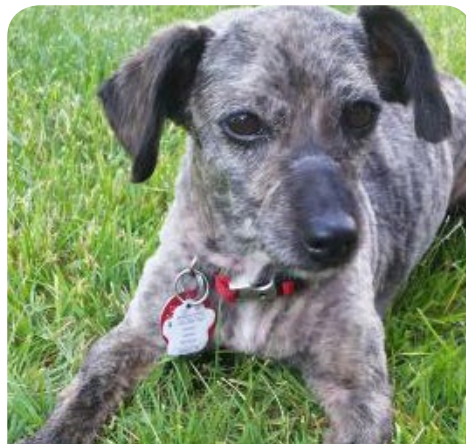
*Lucy*



*Missy*



*Sherry*



*Stella*

## ENJOY THE SUMMER – THE FALL ONLINE AUCTION WILL BE HERE SOON!

Our fall online auction will be taking place in November. We're starting to accept donations of new or very gently used items, and we also accept services (such as, grooming sessions, photography sessions, etc.) and valid gift certificates and gift cards that have their full face value.

Please email [auction@speakingofdogs.com](mailto:auction@speakingofdogs.com) if you have anything you would like to donate. All funds raised go directly to the veterinary costs and other needs of the dogs in our care.

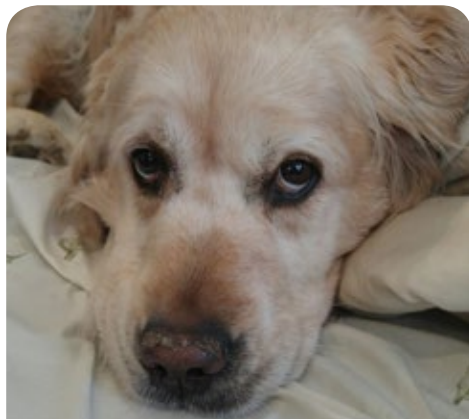
Keep your eye on the newsletter for all of the exciting details, including the exact dates of the auction.



# More Happy Tails



*Lacey*



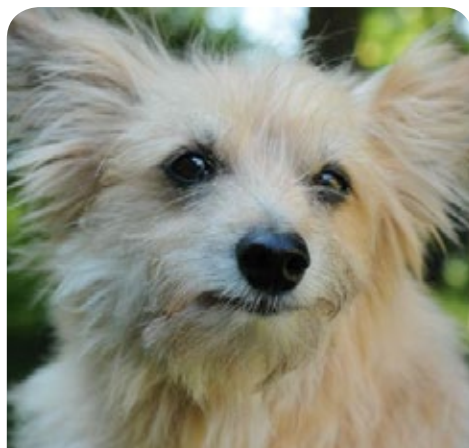
*Bella*  
THANKS GOLDEN RESCUE



*Daisy*



*Princess*



*Alfred*



*Nan*

## 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](mailto:lorraine@speakingofdogs.com).



# In Memoriam



*Tucker*  
LOVED BY SARA HAWTON AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2001  
PASSED JULY 2018

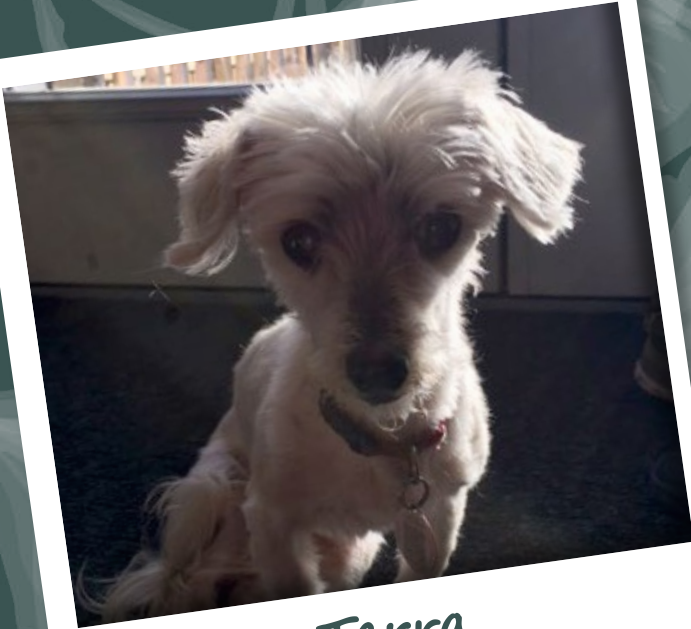


*Dana*  
LOVED BY ERIC AND KAREN SMITH  
AND EVERYONE WHO MET HER  
ADOPTED MARCH 2013  
PASSED JULY 2018

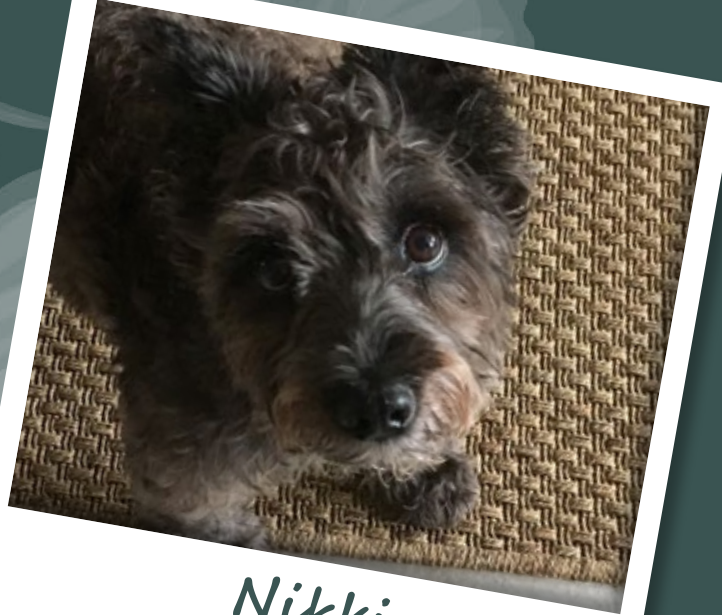


*Ruby*  
LOVED BY CHERYL, JOHN, FIG, SYBIL AND MILLIE  
ADOPTED OCTOBER 24, 2003  
PASSED JULY 15, 2018

# In Memoriam



*Terra*  
LOVED BY JEN, AARON AND FAMILY  
FOREVER IN FOSTER  
PASSED JULY 2018



*Nikki*  
LOVED BY LINDA, DONAL  
AND EVERYONE WHO MET HER  
ADOPTED JULY 2011  
PASSED JULY 2018