

Thanks to You, We're the Best!



Thanks to our supporters, Speaking of Dogs Rescue has been named



BEST RESCUE OR SHELTER IN 2018 READER'S CHOICE AWARDS.

Huge thanks to everyone who voted for us!

JANUARY 2019 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

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.

Coco

CHIHUAHUA
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



FEATURED DOG:

Meet Coco, a very sweet and gentle 10-year-old Chihuahua. She was surrendered to the rescue because her owner could no longer afford her care.

She is currently being fostered with an older Border Collie and previously lived with a senior Golden Retriever. She is not reactive and prefers quiet, calm dogs. Given her nature, we suspect she would also be fine with calm cats.

Coco is a very quiet Chihuahua. We have only heard her bark once. However, she has really blossomed in her foster home, being very social with guests, and she now runs up to her foster mom for cuddles on the couch. She loves to be wrapped up in blankets and snuggle in close.

Coco does not appear to have been walked much, but she enjoys walking laps at her own pace around the backyard, taking in the smells and fresh air. She is also housetrained and crate-trained.

Coco can't do stairs and has to be carried up and down. She has some arthritis and a luxating patella (very common in small dogs), but since being on Metacam for a few weeks and dropping some weight, her mobility has drastically improved. She also has "dry eye" and has been prescribed twice daily eye drops. Both medications are very affordable.

Coco's ideal home would be quieter and have few to no stairs (or someone willing to carry her), no young children, and a backyard or safe fenced area for her to roam.

Given time to come out of her shell, Coco is a fabulous companion and an absolute pleasure. Could you be the one she'll cuddle up to on the next cold night?



Hank

CATTLE DOG / BULLDOG MIX
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Hadley

BEAGLE
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



Gabby

LABRADOR / HUSKY MIX
LARGE, SENIOR, FEMALE



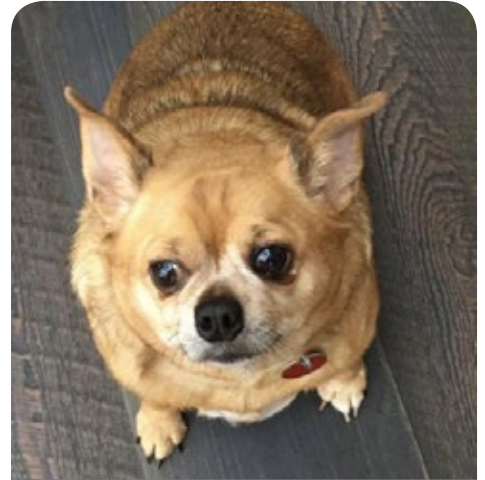
Romeo

LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Franklin

TOY POODLE
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



Peanut

PUG / CHIHUAHUA
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



Veronica and Buddy

SHITZUS
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE AND MALE



Jack and Pippy

SCHNAUZER / POODLE MIXES
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE AND FEMALE

Updates

THE BENJAMIN PROJECT IS SHARING THE JOY!

Speaking of Dogs Rescue is proud to be partnering with the Benjamin Project, which was created in memory of a very special dog who belonged to Malcolm and Helen Bernstein for 13 wonderful years. The project has a two-fold mission of educating about responsible pet and animal stewardship as well as raising funds for animal shelters and animal welfare organizations.

The Bernsteins adopted Benjamin from the OSPCA, and he was a beloved family member who brought unconditional love and incredible joy to countless others, both two- and four-legged. Malcolm wrote a book about Benjamin, which was published in 2014 and served to launch the Benjamin Project. He published his second book about



Benjamin, a children's book, in April 2018. The proceeds from these books are donated to shelters and rescues.

If you purchase one of these books through our special link –speakingofdogs.com/benjamin-book-order-form – the proceeds of your purchase will be directed to Speaking of Dogs Rescue.

These wonderful books are only \$20 each and make a great gift for the animal lovers in your life or a treat for yourself.

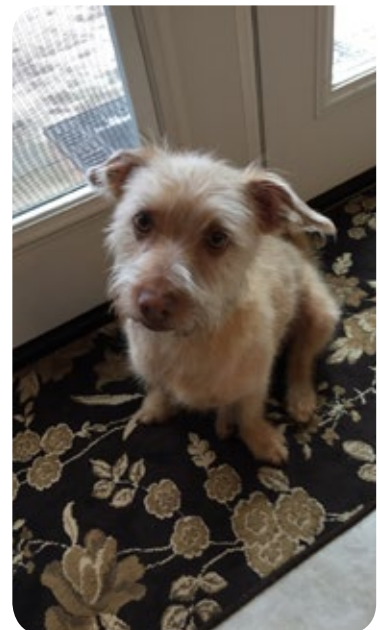
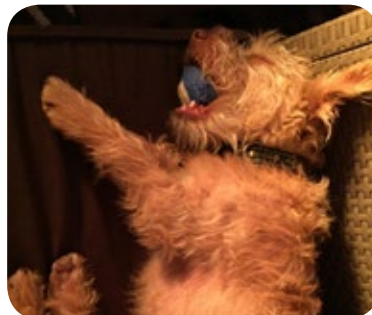
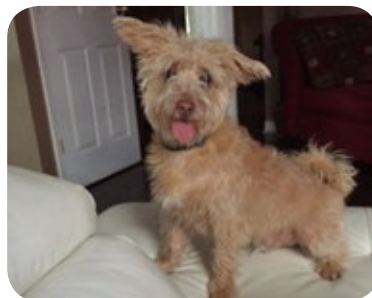
For more information about the Benjamin Project, please visit thebenjaminproject.net.

From: Sheilagh and family
To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
Subject: Murphy (was Jazz)

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

Jazz, now known as Murphy, is the joy of our lives. There have been no health issues, and he is a typical terrier with lots of energy and love. My daughter took him to puppy classes, and he now has a few tricks to show off. He gets along really well with his 5-year-old orange tabby cat brother. I can't thank Speaking of Dogs enough for accepting my application and providing my family with such a beautiful soul to love and cherish. Hope his siblings are doing well.

Here are a few pics of Murphy. Take care and Happy New Year!



Ask the Trainer

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

With the cold weather we experience in Ontario, it's often not just the owners who don't want to go outside! Many times I've opened the back door to let my dogs out, but they stick their noses out the door, sniff, and back right up! While they'll have to go out to do their business, we also need to keep them active and engaged with shorter walks and yard romps.

Do you remember how exhausting it is to start a new job or field of study? Your brain hurts, and you're physically wiped out at the end of the day. That's because using our brain in new ways is tiring. Now we want to employ that concept with our dogs to tire them out!

Using inside games and skills is a great idea all year long, but especially important during the long winter months.

Stair Master!

Dogs over 18 months of age can play this fun game that engages their brain and gives them a full body workout. Game requirements are simple:

1. Dog participants must be old enough for their joints to be well formed
2. The stairs and landing area must be carpeted to avoid slipping and injuries
3. Some dogs may need a long line

This game works on impulse control while also tiring them out, with lots of dashing up and down the stairs. If your dogs are not able to do stairs yet or you don't have access to any, a long hall works well too.

Ask your dog for sit-stay or down-stay at one end of the staircase or hall, and then toss a toy up or down the stairs. Wait a moment before releasing them with a happy direction of your fetch command.

During the first couple of tries, you may need to gently hold their collar to keep them in place while they learn the rules.

As they progress, you can ask for a couple of other behaviours before releasing them to fetch – but not too many, or they'll lose interest in the game. The game itself is intrinsically reinforcing for many dogs, but some may need the random treat to reinforce a quick return with the fetched item.

Mark with a "Yes!" as soon as they pick up the item, and then use your recall command to get them to come back. Be sure to cheer them on with praise and hand claps as they're coming back, so that they're clear you are really happy with them.

You can work this skill on the flat with a long line for dogs that don't return automatically until they understand the idea that it pays!

For avid fetchers, try to change the landing spot of the toy, so that your dog has to do a bit of a search to find it, not just go to the same spot every time.

Skills reinforced: impulse control, basic commands, speed, fetch and return with an item

Barrel Racing!

This is a great exercise for working a bit of distance skills and building up speed. It's easiest done on carpeting or non-slip flooring!

Requirements:

1. 1 to 3 small soccer cones or upturned garden planters

2. Ideally carpeted or other non-slip flooring – an area rug is plenty of room!

Set up one cone just under a metre (2 feet) away from you and have your dog beside you. The first couple of times you can use a light leash to guide your dog around the cone, and praise and drop a treat just as they make the turn. We want the treat dropped on the ground, not still in your hand, so that the skill is being reinforced and your dogs aren't looking for your hand.

The next step is to toss a treat or have a target (if your dog is trained to use one) on the far side of the cone and send your dog to it. Once they are behind the cone, use your body and opposite arm to encourage them to come around the cone.

In other words, send your dog toward the cone, away from you, using your hand and arm that are closest to them, and then lean over the cone and extend your other arm to indicate that they should go around the other side before coming back to you. (You don't want your dog to just walk up to the cone and come back. They should loop around it.)

Continued on page 9...



Lucinda Glenny, MSc. Animal Behaviour, HBSc. Psych., CPDT-KA, owner and lead trainer of Canine Campus (caninecampus.ca)

Bits & Bites

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

- Leptospirosis, a dangerous bacteria that can cause potentially fatal infections in dogs, is on the rise in Ontario.
- The Pet Health Network offers some New Year's don'ts for your pet.
- If your holiday haul included a new puppy, check out this shopping list to make sure you have everything you need to ensure your new buddy gets the best start possible.
- Have you recently added a rescue dog to your family? Here are 6 steps to helping your new rescue dog settle in.
- The OSPCA has changed its policies and will no longer be euthanizing dogs involved in attacks, nor enforcing the provincial pit bull ban.
- Unrelated to the society's recent policy changes (see above), a judge has found that the OSPCA's enforcement powers are unconstitutional.
- The FDA has issued an alert to pet owners and veterinarians about certain flea/tick products, which have been reported to cause neurologic symptoms in dogs and cats, including muscle tremors, loss of muscle control, and seizures.
- Despite the wealth of evidence that demonstrates force-free training is best for dogs and their owners, the popularity of dominance-based theories persists. This interesting blog posts examines why.
- A study has shown dogs really can smell our fear – and that the smell can make them fearful as well.
- John W. Pilley, Jr, who trained Chaser, arguably the world's smartest dog, passed away last year. If you've never seen Chaser in action, check out this video.

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- Several dog foods have been recalled due to dangerously high levels of vitamin D.
- This article provides some additional info, specific to Canada, about the vitamin D recall.
- Columbia River Natural Pet Foods, Cow Pie fresh frozen meats for dogs and cats.



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



Photo Recap

Speaking of Dogs Rescue volunteers met to share lunch and some holiday cheer on Sunday, December 9th. A wonderful time was had by all, as these photos show.



Happy Tails

DECEMBER ADOPTIONS:

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



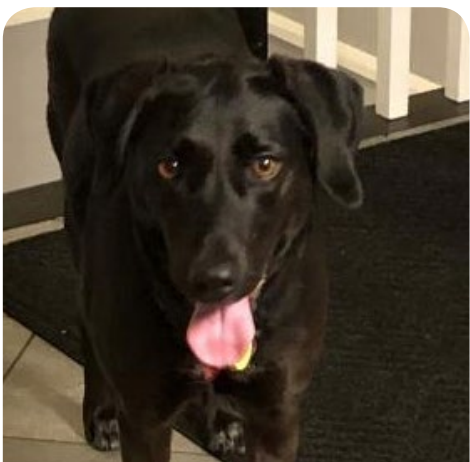
Gomer



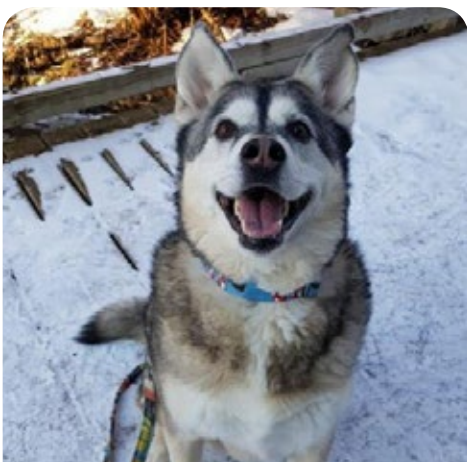
Holly



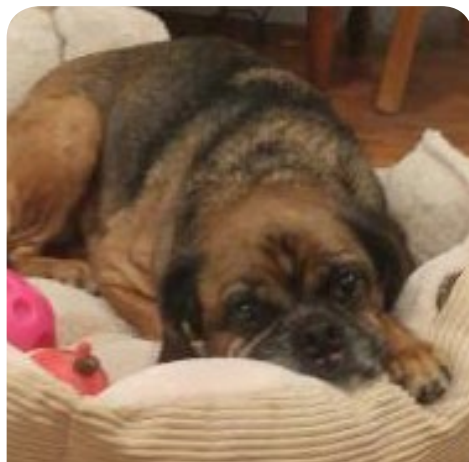
Naomi



Nikki



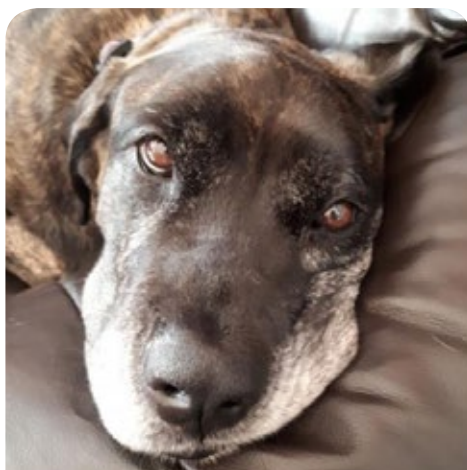
Owen



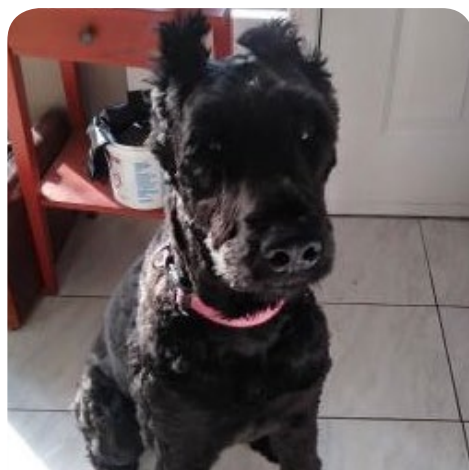
Peggy



Phoebe



Sarabi

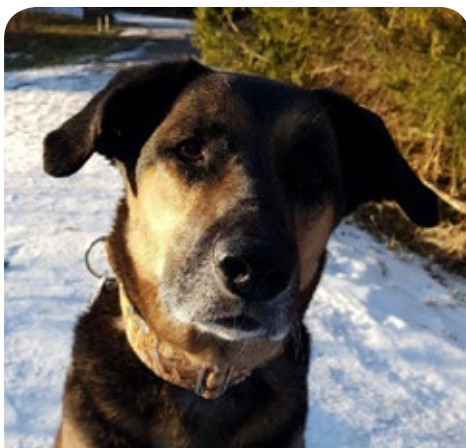


Shirley

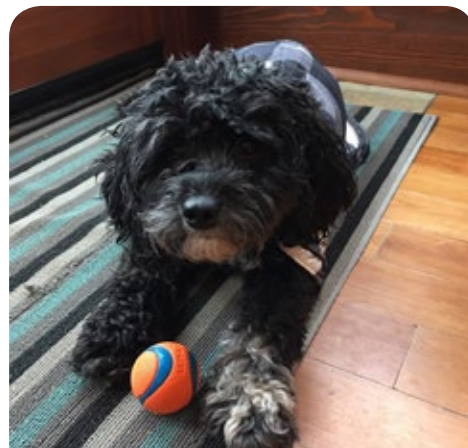
More Happy Tails



Sophia



Teya



Willow

...Continued from page 5

Immediately praise the dog's first step past centre and toss a treat between you and the cone to encourage your dog's forward movement in the right direction.

Skills reinforced: moving away from the handler, speed, agility, understanding left and right at the advanced levels

Colour/Toy Choice!

Get out the plastic cups and have some fun while teaching your dogs to pick the right colour! Dogs are dichromatic, meaning they only see yellow and blue shades. Like colour-blind people, they don't really see red or green as we do. So we can introduce a new use for our white, blue, or yellow plastic cups.

Requirements:

1. Minimum of 2 differently coloured plastic cups (white, blue, or yellow)
2. A similar game can be played with different styles of toys – such as a ball, a rope, and a stuffed toy

Place one cup of each colour upside down a short distance away from you, with the cups about 30 cm (1 foot) apart.

Place a treat under just one of the cups.

Have your dog a short distance away from the cups, and then send them to “find yellow” (or whatever colour of cup the treat is under). Do the same with the other color of cup, and then put a treat under that cup again.

Be sure to not just go back and forth, changing colours each time, or your dog will think that they're learning a pattern. Switch up what side the cups are on and try again. When your dog seems pretty confident, add in a third colour of cup using the same technique, but first only send your dog to the original two colours, letting them notice that there's a new one there.

For the toys, have two types that your dog is familiar with but are very different from each other, like a ball and a stuffed toy. Show your dog the ball, name it, and treat when they sniff it. Do the same with the stuffed toy.

Next, put both toys on the ground. Start somewhat closer to one toy, let's say the ball, and direct your dog to “get the ball.” Praise as soon as they start toward the ball, so they feel confident that they're making the right decision. To not correct

if they go to the wrong one, but rather do not praise or treat them, and say a happy “Let's find the ball!”

Skills reinforced: distance work, learning colour/item discrimination, ability to go to assigned target by word alone.

Snuffle Mats

These are cloth mats designed to provide lots of places to hide treats. They're available online, or you can make your own. As we know, a dog's sense of smell is the most advanced of its senses and one that they love to put to good use.

The action of sniffing has a calming effect on the brain for dogs, as it uses a deeper breath with a closed mouth to bring the scent into the brain. This provides an alternative behaviour to the active panting of an anxious dog, and it can also interrupt barking. Panting increases the heart rate and barking fires up hormones. Engaging your dog in active sniffing can help to reduce anxiety and quiet them at times that may be exciting, like visitors in the home – but it's also just a lot of fun!

With the cold winter weather setting in, don't let your dog suffer from cabin fever. Bring the fun inside, and teach them some entertaining new skills!

In Memoriam



Zoey

LOVED BY RICHARD W. AND FAMILY
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2009
PASSED DECEMBER 2018



Coco

LOVED BY SHARON AND JIM R. AND FAMILY
ADOPTED APRIL 2010
PASSED NOVEMBER 2018

In Memoriam

Helen May Kidd 1930–2018

Helen May Kidd, mother of Speaking of Dogs' founder, Lorraine Houston, passed away on December 18, 2018, at the Scarborough Hospital. Lorraine wanted to share these memories with the many volunteers who met and got to know her mother over the years:



Many of you will most likely remember Mom helping at the yard sales and making the most delicious egg and salmon salad sandwiches for all our helpers. She would stand by the garage and watch proudly as everyone gobbled them down.

Mom was born on Christmas Eve in 1930 on the kitchen table while friends and family were enjoying a festive get-together in the living room. She is now with Dad and her beloved mother and other family members, including our cherished family dogs Cleo, Bonnie, Argus, and Major, who were much loved by both my Mom and Dad.

Godspeed Helen May Kidd, may your spirit find peace and your voice ring out in song again. (Mom was an extraordinary singer!)