



The Spring Pet Expo Is Almost Here!

The Easter long weekend and Spring Pet Expo are sure signs that milder weather is on its way!

Speaking of Dogs Rescue will once again have booth at expo, Canada's largest indoor pet festival. We'll be there to promote our dogs and provide information about responsible pet adoption and ownership. Whether your pet walks, hops, or slithers, they'll be

welcome at the festival! You just need to complete and sign a waiver.

Date: Friday April 19 to Sunday April 21

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday

Location: International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga (entrance is at Hall 2)

Find out more at canadianpetexpo.ca.

WOOFSTOCK IS HAPPENING IN MAY!

Speaking of Dogs Rescue will be back at Woofstock this year, the 16th edition of this annual event that celebrates all things dog. The event will be held at Woodbine Park in Toronto on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26.

Visit woofstock.ca for all the details.



APRIL 2019

THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In this month's newsletter

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Dogs looking for homes | 2 |
| Ask the trainer | 4 |
| Events | 4 |
| Bits and bites | 6 |
| Recent adoptions | 7 |
| In memoriam | 9 |

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, Meghan D'Arcy 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.

Simba

POODLE MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



FEATURED DOG:

Simba is a young-at-heart, 13-year-old senior toy poodle. He was surrendered to the rescue when his owner could no longer care for him.

He is a snuggle bug and would be best in a home where someone is home for at least part of the day. He loves his people once he gets to know them, but he takes a bit of time to get used to his surroundings.

Simba is losing his sight, so negotiating a new home makes him a bit nervous; a home with few stairs would be ideal. He lived with cats and dogs and likes other pets. He enjoys exploring the backyard and walking with his foster brother. He follows his brother's lead and being outside makes me very happy.

It's best to ask before picking him up, as Simba startles easily. He has a mild deformation of one of his back legs, so he tends to run on three legs and use his weaker leg for balance. It's something he was born with, and it doesn't slow him down.

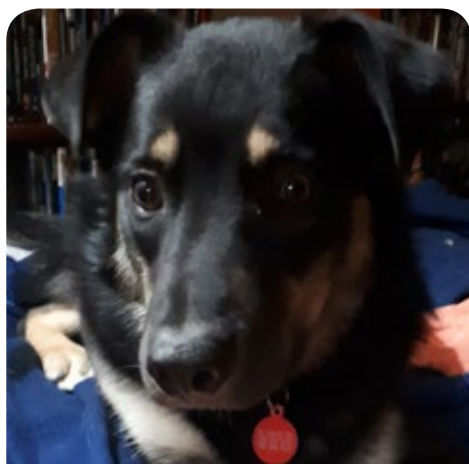
Simba has special small dog food, and he is housetrained and spends most of his day napping.

Is there anyone out there who will give this small senior a loving home? He'll love you back!



Chico

LAB / BOXER MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



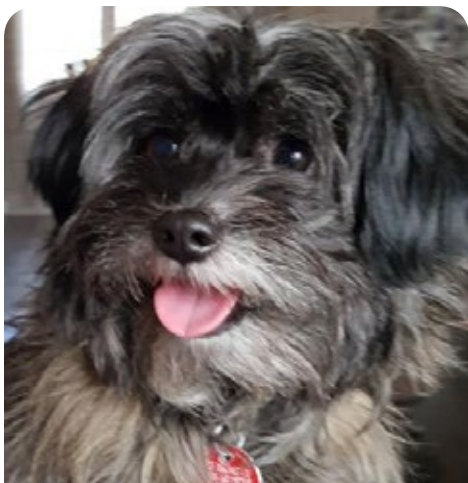
Benji

SHEPHERD / LAB MIX
MEDIUM, YOUNG, MALE



Finley

BEAGLE / TERRIER MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



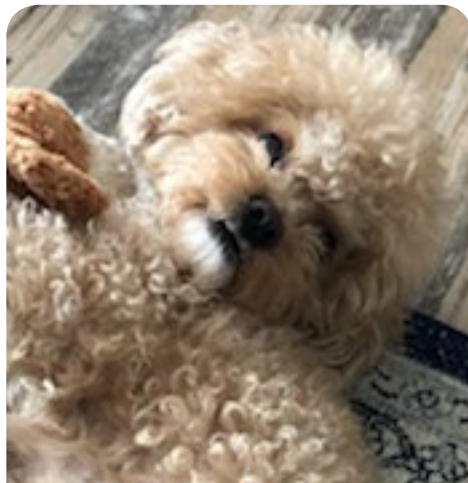
Moochie

SHIH TZU / TERRIER MIX
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



Pete

BEAGLE / BASSET HOUND MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Fresco

POODLE / SHIH TZU
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



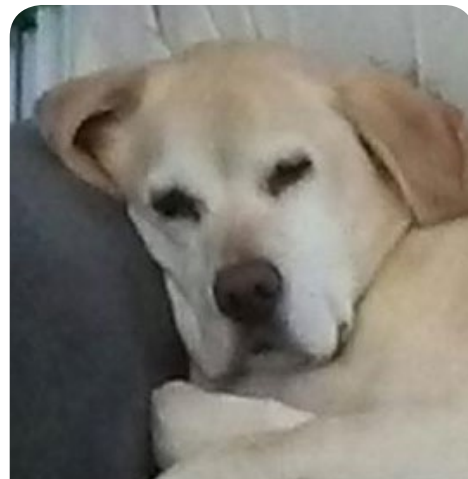
Lola

LABRADOR / SHEPHERD MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



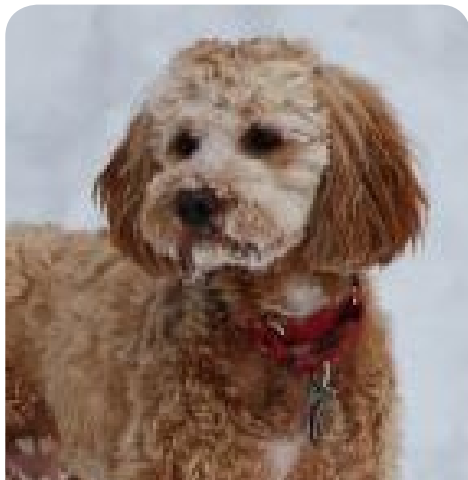
Lexi

GREAT DANE / LAB MIX
X-LARGE, YOUNG, FEMALE



Woody

LABRADOR RETRIEVER
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE



Chester

COCKER SPANIEL / POODLE MIX
SMALL, YOUNG, MALE

SPRING SAFETY!

The snow is almost gone (again!), and spring is definitely in the air. Many of us are enjoying the warmer weather, and our pets are too! But it's not all fun in the sun. Springtime also has its hazards.

- Dr. Ian Sandler offers [key pet care suggestions](#).
- Check out these [tips](#) from the ASPCA as well.
- If you're celebrating Easter, consult these [Easter dangers for pets](#) from PetMD.



Ask the Trainer

HAPPY DOG-CAT RELATIONSHIPS: THE CAT WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG

Checking out social media, it's impossible to miss the countless posts of adorable cats and dogs getting along famously. They can make us all feel a little envious, seeing how well these supposed adversaries seem to get along. Maybe you have a dog-and-cat dynamic duo of your own who cuddle together. More than likely though, cats and dogs cohabite fairly sweetly – with a little spiciness here and there.

Even if you're struggling to prevent your day-to-day life from feeling like a show on Animal Planet, it may be possible to achieve some of those perfect (purrfect?) moments or, at the very least, regain a sense of peace and mutual tolerance in your home. The key to finding peace, as it turns out, is exactly what your cat has been telling you all along.

What Behaviour Science Tells Us

Modern behaviour science suggests that focusing on small changes to improve the cat's comfort make all the difference when trying to tame strained moggie-doggie relations. Research into animal behaviour has taught us how to be better pet owners and that all species benefit immensely from force-free training and enrichment.

In the past, we approached dog-cat problems by training or managing the dog's behaviour, but recent advances favour modifying things for the cat. In a recent study on dog-cat relations published in the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior*, researchers found that it was typically the cat who set the pace for the relationship, and they stressed "the need to attend to the cat's behavior in particular."¹



With the knowledge that cats are more likely to be uncomfortable around dogs than vice versa, prioritizing the comfort of your nervous or upset cat is likely to be a more fruitful and beneficial approach to mending the relationship.

So while most cats and dogs probably aren't destined to be BFFs, they do have the skills to get along just fine. A 2008 study that looked at cats and dogs living in the same home found that 66% of the animals studied showed friendly behaviour toward the other animal, only 10% were aggressive toward each other, and the rest were ambivalent.²

One very nice finding from this study is that the majority of cats and dogs seemed to understand each other's communication – despite differences in the signals they use – which comes in handy for conflict avoidance.

With dog-cat relationships being so successful on their own terms, many dog-cat households don't need to change much to strike an even greater balance between these resourceful companions. Here are some small ways you can modify your home environment to significantly

improve your cat's comfort, setting up dog-cat duos that debunk the myths.

To Each Their Own

Ensure your dog and cat have separate feeding areas and several separate water sources. Cats who don't have mobility issues typically feel comfiest eating on an elevated surface, above the dog's range. And cats are more likely to drink enough water if it's well separated from their food.

Neither cats nor dogs are hard-wired to share, and most would prefer to avoid sharing if given the chance. Eliminating resource guarding and stress related to accessing or sharing food or water will have everyone feeling friendlier.

Cat-Friendly and Cat-Only Spaces

Dog-cat harmony is all about making good use of vertical space so your cat can find refuge if needed. Giving your cat alternate pathways throughout your living space is an important way to avoid stress and conflict and boost your feline's confidence, since your cat is likely the more vulnerable of the two.

...continued on page 5

...continued from page 4

Cats also need places to hide, climb, and perch. Without them, they can become nervous, frenetic, or defensive toward others in the space. Moving your couch 6 inches away from the wall is a great way to make a space just for your cat (assuming your dog isn't also small enough to fit).

Clearing off a shelf and putting a cute faux-fur throw down is an easy way to give your cat a perch. Pinterest offers lots of simple ideas for modifying furniture to make it cat-friendly as well as DIY cat perches, tunnels, and posts. There are also lots of cute options at pet stores and home outfitters.

Each cat in the home needs a litter box on every floor and in low-traffic areas that are easily accessible to the cat and less accessible, or even inaccessible, to the dog. Top-loading litter boxes can be useful for keeping dogs out, although cats tend to prefer uncovered litter boxes. A barrier such as a baby gate with a cat door can be installed at the entrances to litter box areas to ensure your cat can use the box without interruption. If your dog is able to corner your cat in the vicinity of the litter box, even inadvertently based on foot traffic in your home, your cat will feel trapped or intimidated, which can result in litter box issues (such as peeing outside the box).

Use of Barriers

Using a crate or baby gate to separate your dog and cat when enrichment toys or chews are given out will prevent resource guarding (and any ensuing arguments). And if you're going to have a rowdy play session with your dog or cat, consider putting up a baby gate or closing a door to confine the raucous behaviour to one room so the other party doesn't become offended or unwillingly involved.

Dogs are most likely to chase cats when the cat is running around or vocalizing, so putting up a baby gate or otherwise keeping the dog at bay when your cat begins to play will give her a safe space to get her ya-yas out.

If your cat is pestering your dog, or vice versa, putting up a baby gate or closing a door between them will keep the peace and disrupt this nuisance behaviour, giving the victim some reprieve. Pestering could also be redirected by entertaining the rascal with an enrichment toy or play.

Reduce Stress and Increase Opportunities for Play and Enrichment

Play, particularly interactive play with humans and food puzzles, can help your nervous kitty build positive associations with your dog. A cat who's stressed out by dog play will often benefit from playing in an adjacent room with a baby gate up to create a safe space for her to let loose.

Play and enrichment are stress-busting activities that reduce the likelihood of unwanted behaviours. There are plenty of enrichment cat toys on the market, but it's entirely possible to make puzzle toys that will help keep your cat happy, thanks to handy web resources like Food Puzzles for Cats.³

Dogs aren't the only pets who can be taught to go to their bed or mat and stay there – this skill can also be taught to cats using the exact same method. It comes in handy to be able to direct your cat up and out of the way if your dog has the zoomies and is likely to annoy her. Helping your cat get space away from your dog is a great way to diffuse tension if your dog and cat are having a disagreement.

Take Them as They Are

Considering that dogs and cats are different species, it's amazing how well they're able to at least tolerate (and sometimes thoroughly enjoy) each other. They can communicate with each other effectively and make sense of one another in ways that are specific to their environment and situation.

Maybe you've just accepted that your dog is nuts and your cat's got cattitude, and so what? Here's a response you may not have expected – I congratulate you. Some of

us like our pets spicy, which is a fabulous concept from dog trainer Kristi Benson.⁴

However, if your dog gets fired up or freaked out by the cat or your cat is furious or living in hiding, these are issues worthy of the guidance of a qualified force-free trainer or behaviour consultant. They can help keep everyone safe and give you the best shot at a resolution.

Banter is fun as long as nobody's being bullied. It's important to normalize the fact that our pets don't have to be cuddle buddies in order to have a healthy relationship. But if making your cat more comfortable results in a happier cat – and a happier relationship between your cat and dog (and you) – why not try out some of these tips?

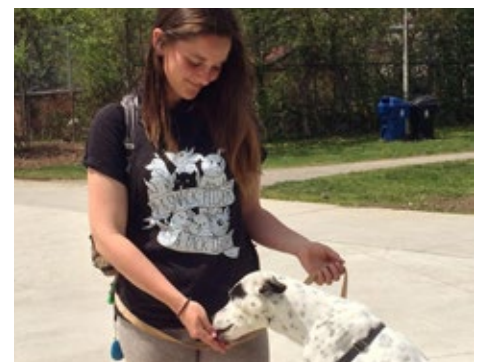
Further Information

¹ ["Evaluation of the Relationship Between Cats and Dogs Living in the Same Home" by Jessica E. Thomson, Sophie S. Hall and Daniel S. Mills \(Journal of Veterinary Behavior\).](#)

² ["Interrelationships of Dogs \(*Canis familiaris*\) and Cats \(*Felis catus* L.\) Living Under the Same Roof" by N. Feuerstein and Joseph Terkel \(Applied Animal Behaviour Science\).](#)

³ [Food Puzzles for Cats](#)

⁴ ["The Spice of Life: A Whole New Language for Dogs with Attitude" by Kristi Benson.](#)



Meghan D'Arcy, CTC, CSAT, ACDBC

Certified in Training and Counselling, Certified Separation Anxiety Trainer, Associate Certified Dog Behaviour Consultant, Fear Free Certified Animal Trainer
meghandarcydogs.com

Bits & Bites

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

Bits and Bites usually features a wide range of animal-related news items, tips, advice, and diversions. However, this month one story has received a lot of coverage.

A recent court decision struck down the OSPCA's powers to investigate and enforce animal cruelty laws. That decision has important consequences for Ontario's animals, so this month we're focusing on one story: Who should police animal welfare in Ontario?

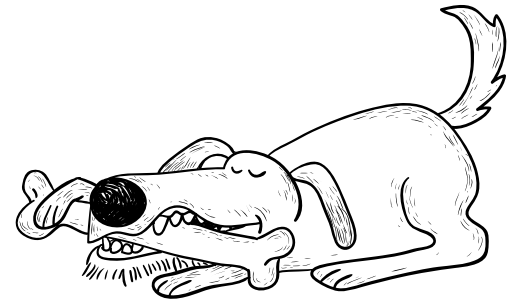
- The OSPCA announces it will no longer enforce animal welfare legislation and recommends a new model.
- The CBC speak with Dr. Kendra Coulter of Brock University and look into the question: "Who will protect animals in Ontario now that the OSPCA won't investigate?"
- Animal lovers were all thinking the same thing: As the Toronto Star put it, "Ontario needs a plan to protect pets and animals from abuse."
- Dr. Coulter had conducted a survey on animal cruelty laws, and her findings showed, as the National Post put it, "Overwhelming support for police enforcement of animal cruelty laws."
- The CBC also covered Dr. Coulter's report on her survey.
- At the end of March, the OSPCA announced the province had accepted its offer to continue service until June 2019.
- However, the OSPCA did not agree to continue enforcing cruelty laws after June 2019.

Stay tuned to Bits and Bites as this story continues to unfold.

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- Hill's Prescription Diet and Science Diet (44 varieties)
- Darwin's Natural dog food (3 lots)
- Muse Natural Chicken Recipe in Gravy cat food



To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
From: Caroline and family
Subject: Maxi

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue;

We thought you would like to have an update on our Maxi, who we adopted last fall. Maxi and his new brother Oakley have adapted really well to each other. Maxi entertains us with his antics, and we have learned to hide all the stuffed toys or they will be shredded beyond recognition, much to Oakley's dismay.

Maxi has learned to run up all the stairs (we are pretty sure he didn't have stairs in his previous home), and if he hears the fridge door open he runs down the stairs equally fast! Maxi loves to go for walks with his brother and loves playing in the backyard, following his brother chasing squirrels and running after each other.

At night Maxi goes from room to room checking that everyone is home and in bed, before going to sleep with our daughter. The mighty warrior protecting the tribe! He has been a great addition to our family so thanks to you and all the volunteers at Speaking of Dogs for the awesome work you do helping dogs like Maxi get to their forever homes.



Happy Tails

MARCH ADOPTIONS:

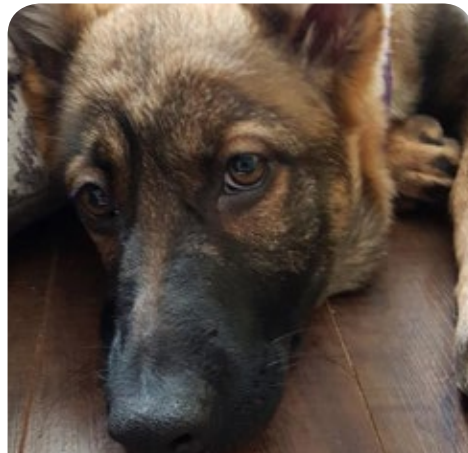
A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



Carlton



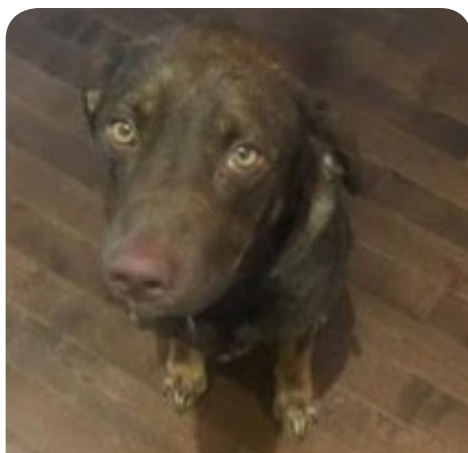
Cora



Ellie



Grover



Hank



Jack



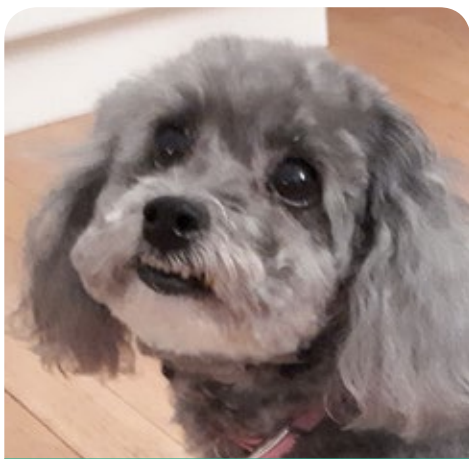
Lou



Jack and Pippy



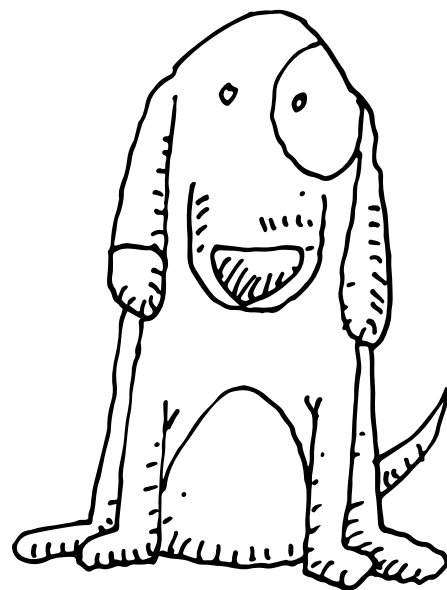
Kyle



Mia



Mylo



Two Races Are Twice the Fun!



FURRY FRIENDS 5k

Speaking of Dogs Rescue is proud to be a part of the Furry Friends 5K run/walkathon circuit. This spring, we'll be participating in not one but two super fun events!



OSHAWA

Sunday, June 2
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

CALEDON

Sunday, June 9
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

These important fundraisers help us help more needy, homeless dogs, including the wonderful dogs in our Forever in Foster program. But it's not just the dogs who benefit! These races are always a fun day, and there are great goody bags and prizes.

Racers can walk with or without a dog, and all activity levels are welcome. You can even join as a team! But it's not just fun and games – more experienced runners can test their mettle and race against the clock!

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EVENTS, REGISTER AS A PARTICIPANT,
OR PLEDGE ONE OF OUR WALKERS, PLEASE VISIT**

www.FurryFriends5k.ca

In Memoriam



Hank

LOVED BY KARINA AND FAMILY
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2015
PASSED MARCH 2019



Sierra

LOVED BY THE WORLEY AND
CEDARBRAE FAMILIES
PASSED MARCH 2019



Vanilla

LOVED BY THE MCDERMOTT FAMILY
FOREVER IN FOSTER
PASSED MARCH 2019