

Volunteers Spotlight



Last month was National Volunteer Appreciation Week, and we wanted to recognize the important role of our amazing volunteers. We spoke with Kim Gladding, Speaking of Dogs Rescue's fundraising and volunteer coordinator as well as its board secretary.

What types of roles do volunteers play in Speaking of Dogs Rescue?

There are so many roles. The main volunteers we have are our foster parents, whom we rely on to care for the dogs in our rescue. We also have volunteers that screen applications, conduct home checks, transport dogs and donations, create our newsletter, keep our financial books in order, follow up with adoptive families to see how they are doing, assist at fundraising events, manage our social media, create graphics and manage our website, and there's probably more that I'm forgetting. On top of that our board of directors are all volunteers.

Is there any way Speaking of Dogs Rescue could function without volunteers?

Volunteers are everything to us. Our

entire rescue is run by volunteers. So, no, we couldn't function without them! We're very proud that we are charity with no paid employees. This way all the money goes to ensuring the dogs are well cared for and thoroughly vetted, as well as ensuring that our rescue complies with all the regulations that come with being a registered charity.

Can you share any volunteer highlights from the past year?

Last year we helped more than 150 dogs. That's a big number for an all-volunteer rescue that has no physical shelter. One of the programs we have is called Forever in Foster. For various reasons (health, age, temperament), some dogs we rescue stay with us, living 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. The number of dogs in the Forever in Foster program has increased exponentially over the last year. Being a Forever in Foster parent isn't easy, as some of the
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MAY 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.

Lola

LABRADOR / SHEPHERD MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALE



FEATURED DOG:

Lola is a very sweet 10-year-old Labrador mix who weighs about 40 pounds. She was found as a stray, and it's obvious that she had many puppies during her previous life. Her body is a testament to this, but whatever that previous life may have brought her, she has not let it dampen her spirits!

Lola adores people, and her whole body wiggles with joy when she receives any attention. She always ends up on her back to ask for a belly rub! She is perfectly house-trained and crate-trained, and she enjoys long naps on her plush bed.

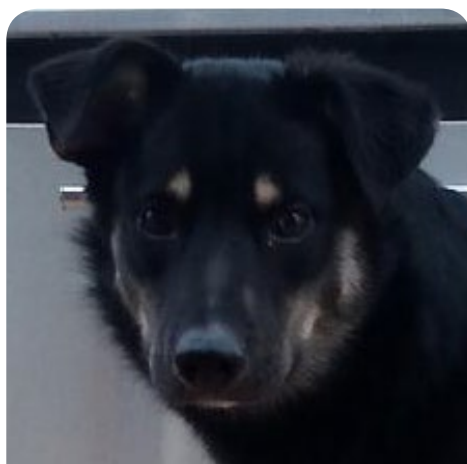
She loves going on walks and will dance as soon as the leash comes out! She walks very well on leash but can show some reactivity to other dogs while out for walks. Her previous history said she would likely be good with cats, which she was when we assessed her – she completely ignored them! Lola will, however, need to be the only dog in the house. It is her turn to have all the attention to herself!

It is impossible not to fall in love with this cuddly senior. Can you give Lola the retirement she deserves, where she will be cherished and loved?



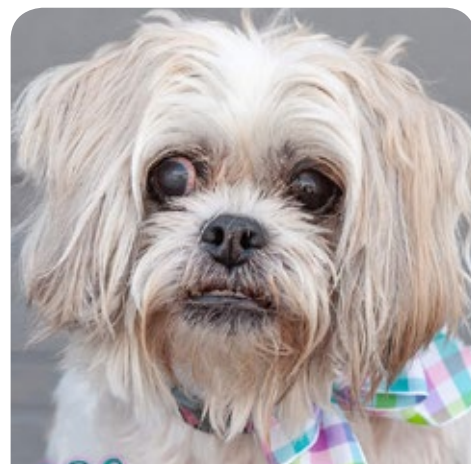
Holly

LABRADOR RETRIEVER
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Benji

SHEPHERD / LAB MIX
MEDIUM, YOUNG, MALE



Coco

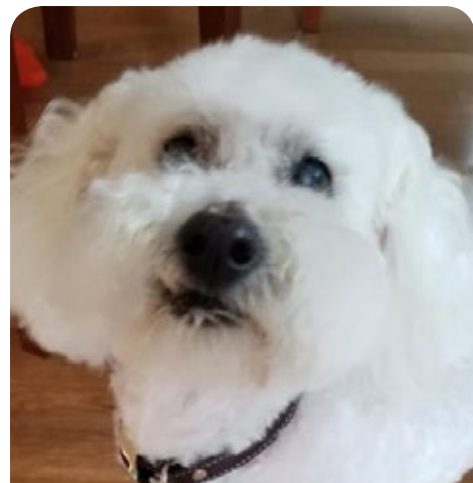
POODLE / SHIH TZU
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE



Simba
POODLE MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Barclay
POODLE / LABRADOR MIX
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Toppy
BICHON / POODLE MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Honeysuckle
SPANIEL / POODLE MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALE



Jimmy and Crosby
SHEPHERD / AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG MIX
LARGE, ADULT, MALE

WOOFSTOCK IS ALMOST HERE!

Spring is in the air, and along with May flowers comes Woofstock, North America's largest festival for dogs.

Speaking of Dogs Rescue will be back at this annual event that celebrates all things dog. Please come by and check out our tent in the Rescue Village. Volunteers will be on hand to talk about the wonderful dogs we have for adoption as well as responsible pet ownership.

The event also features agility demonstrations, fashion shows, contests,



a concert for dogs, and hundreds of exhibitors of all types and kinds. As the organizers say, "There isn't a toy, fashion line, accessory, type of treat, or exclusive service for dogs that you can't find at Woofstock."

Tickets are available in advance at woofstock.tix123.com, and part of the proceeds go toward Rescue Village

donations. Advance pricing ends on May 24th.

Woofstock is happening on:

Saturday, May 25 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, May 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location:

Woodbine Park,
1695 Queen Street East, Toronto
Visit woofstock.ca for all the details.

Ask the Trainer

TEACHING RETRIEVE

Playing fetch with your dog should be fun for both of you, but not all dogs instinctively know how to fetch or retrieve a ball/toy. I've known some dogs who happily chase and retrieve balls or toys in order for the item to be thrown again for them, others who love to chase the toy but never pick it up, and even some who would just sit and watch the toy fly through the air, showing no interest at all.

"Retrieve" is a fairly complex behaviour for most dogs, and although the end result looks simple enough, we want to start by breaking it down into a series of steps like:

1. Owner throws toy.
2. Dog chases the toy.
3. Dog picks up the toy.
4. Dog brings the toy back to owner.
5. Dog drops the toy at owner's feet or drops the toy into owner's hand.

The easiest way to teach "fetch" or "retrieve" is to teach your dog the last step first. In this case, you will teach your dog to drop the toy in your hand first. This technique is called back-chaining, which means working backward to link the behaviour chain together.

Start with your dog in front of you, a toy your dog likes to pick up and play with, and a handful of wonderful treats. When your dog picks the toy up, place your hand underneath his mouth and with your other hand hold a tasty treat for him. The moment your dog drops the toy into your hand, mark the behaviour and reward your dog. Practise this many times before moving on to the next step.

Now you want to teach your dog to bring the toy back to you. Again, with your dog in front of you and the toy in your

hand, take a step back and toss the toy toward your dog. When your dog picks up the toy, take another step back and encourage your dog to come toward you. When your dog gets to you, present him with a treat under his nose with one hand while holding your other hand under his mouth to catch the toy as he drops it. Repeat this step several times.

Gradually add more distance, one step at a time, and praise and reward your dog for bringing the toy back and delivering it to your hand.

Now would be a good time to add a verbal cue, such as "fetch" or "go get it." Start by adding your cue word when your dog is coming back to you. As your dog becomes more proficient at retrieving, you can use your cue word shortly after throwing the toy.

If your dog is the type of dog who likes to play "keep away" once he has

something in his mouth, go back to the first step, where you teach your dog to drop the toy in your hand.

If your dog stops bringing the toy back to you, you may have increased the distance between you and your dog too quickly. You will have to reduce that space for the next few trials.

Don't get frustrated with your dog, it takes time to back-chain a complex behaviour.



*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.

- With the warmer weather, many dogs and dog owners are spending more time outside, walks are becoming more leisurely, and lots of smells are being released everywhere! This fascinating *Psychology Today* article explores some recent studies involving the importance of smelling for dogs, including for their overall well-being.
- And while out on those walks, keep these tips and guidelines in mind to make the most of sunny days out and about.
- Dogs often look like they're "smiling," and our human response is that they must be expressing joy. But are they really? Find out in this very informative blog post.
- Oshawa is examining how best to manage its animal services, leading to much debate and discussion. The Oshawa Express has been following the story.
- Would you know what to do if your dog got stung by a bee? Find out!

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- [Thogersen Family Farm raw food](#)

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue

From: Cathy

Subject: Gizmo

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

Gizmo is doing wonderfully. He has adjusted well to his new home and has become very outgoing and loves to be loved. I am gently working on him to allow me to put him on my lap. He can handle it for a few minutes, but that is also coming around. He still has moments of being unsure and reverts to running around when he is nervous. I'm never quite sure what sparks these moments, but he comes to me for some reassurance and comes out of it quickly. He loves his walks and is quite social with the dogs in the neighbourhood.

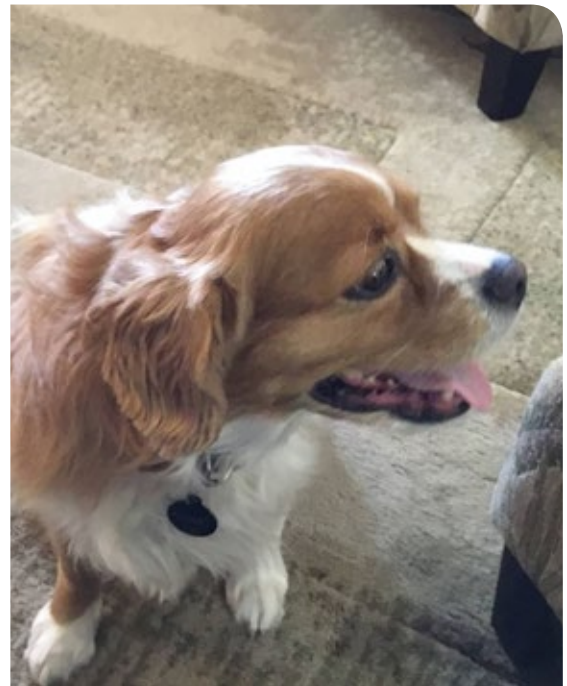
He has developed quite a voice. He likes to talk to me across the room... Not always sure what he is saying, but so glad he is comfortable to do that.

He is still a bit apprehensive with some men, but he will engage with them, at his own pace, on his home turf, with reassurance.

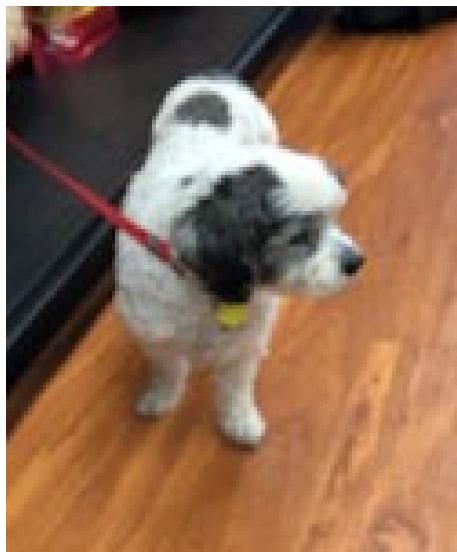
We did 32 water therapy sessions and his surgery leg is doing well. He is now walking on the leg, which is developing muscle slowly. The therapist was surprised that it had not increased in diameter as much as they hoped, with the amount of exercise he had. However, the use of the leg is great. He uses it as he marks territory and will walk up stairs using all four legs, so I am confident it will continue to develop over time. We will walk outside more over the summer, and I plan to take him back next winter for more water therapy.

He has come a long way and I love him to death! Anyone who meets him tells me what a wonderful dog he is... Needless to say, I agree.

Hugs to Speaking of Dogs Rescue!

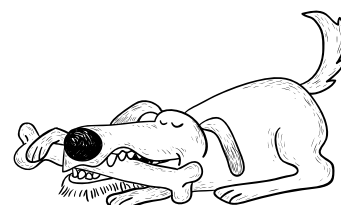


Wags and Wiggles for Our Volunteers!



RIGHT: Big thanks to our dedicated volunteers who helped out at the Spring Pet Expo over Easter weekend. We were able to raise much-needed funds to help our dogs.

TOP: Thanks also to all of the dogs and fosterers who came out to Pet Valu Adoption Day, including Dale and Toppy; Wanda and Lucky; Deanna and Lacy; Ashley and Minnie; Taunya and Lucy; Sue, Humphrey, and Rhett. A fun day was had by all!



...continued from page 1

dogs require frequent visits to vets. Most of these dogs do not have much longer to live, and it takes a special person to be able to handle the emotions that come with this.

Is there anything else you'd like to say to recognize our volunteers?

Every task, big or small, helps the dogs that come into our rescue. The

entire Board of Directors and I are so appreciative of all the time, effort, and love our volunteers put into everything they do. They don't ask for any glory in return. They truly want to make a difference to the lives of homeless dogs. Thank you for being so generous and reliable.

Does the rescue have any particular volunteer needs at the moment? If readers are interested in volunteering,

how can they get in touch with you?

We are truly thankful to have an abundance of people willing to help us. I have difficulty keeping some of them occupied. We are always in need of foster homes though. If someone is interested in helping, they can fill out a form on our website under the menu "Volunteer." There's a form specifically for fostering and a separate form for general volunteering.

Happy Tails

APRIL ADOPTIONS:

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



Chester



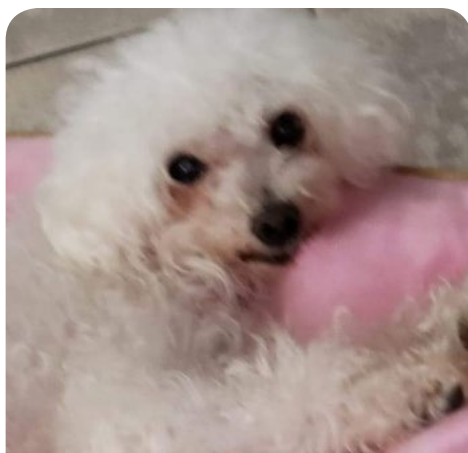
Fresco



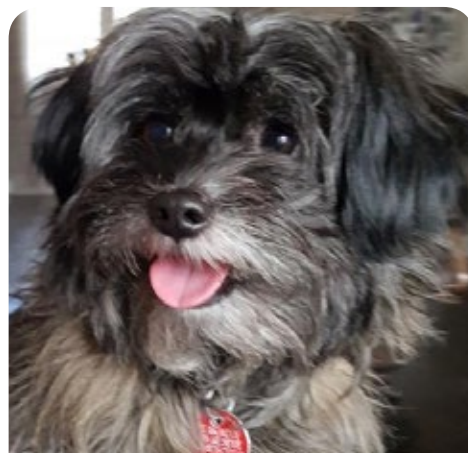
Ginger



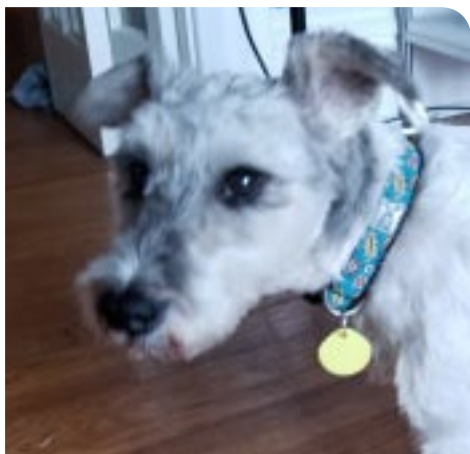
Murray



Maggie



Moochie



Pip



Two Furry Friends 5K Races Are Right Around the Corner!

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 events! It's double the races and double the fun!

OSHAWA

Date: Sunday, June 2

Location: 1425 Phillip Murray Avenue
(Unifor Local 222)

Race Day Schedule:

9:30 a.m. Race kit pick-up
9:45 a.m. Kids 2K fun run
10:00 a.m. Warmup
10:15 a.m. Start for runners and walkers
11:00 a.m. Awards and prizes



CALEDON

Date: Sunday, June 9

Time: 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 an entertaining 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!

If you can't walk or run, consider supporting one of our amazing Speaking of Dogs racers. These tireless fundraisers include:

Lorraine Houston
(Oshawa)

Cathy Vandergeest
(Oshawa)

Kim Gladding
(Caledon)

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AT EITHER EVENT,
PLEASE CONTACT KIM GLADDING AT [KIM@SPEAKINGOFDOGS.COM](mailto:kim@speakingofdogs.com).**

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

www.FurryFriends5k.ca

YARD SALE!

**Saturday, May 18
& Sunday, May 19**

**436 Birch Street,
Collingwood**

**FUNDRAISER FOR
SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE**





Ode to the Foster Mom

Always at the ready with encouragement and praise
With heartfelt concern and compassion
You look ahead to happier days
For the dog who lies quietly by your side

Tomorrow will be better, you say,
As you gently stroke her ears
You understand that trust needs mending
And only time and love can wash the hurt away

Determined to make life right,
You think nothing of morning clean-ups, nightly meds and rainy walks
Your commitment is steadfast and strong
You know in your heart she'll soon be gone

Vet visits are done, she's groomed and ready
Thanks to you, she feels assured and safe
You've done all you can, and now it's time
To bid farewell, never again a neglected waif

Go on my friend, and don't look back
Embrace your new path, be loved, be cherished
Although you're no longer with me here
My heart is full, the memory of you held so dear

by Lorraine Houston

*Happy Mother's Day to all the
Speaking of Dogs Rescue Foster Moms!*

In Memoriam



Zoey

LOVED BY THE FLYNN FAMILY
ADOPTED JUNE 2010
PASSED APRIL 2019



Lillie

LOVED BY NOLA W.
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2013
PASSED APRIL 2019



Suki

LOVED BY ORNA D.
ADOPTED JULY 2008
PASSED APRIL 2019