

## Train Like a Trainer



Have you ever wondered how a trainer does it? Trainers aren't hiding their magic wands from you! The steps below outline a few of the things great trainers do to help their dogs flourish and become the best dog they can be.

### Don't be stingy!

Training is not minimum wage work! Don't expect your dog to work for less than you do at your job. Being stingy with reinforcements is a sure-fire way to minimize learning and demotivate your dog.

Reinforcement is feedback for your dog, letting her know she is on the right track.

If you don't provide reinforcements often enough, your dog will not be clear on the task. This is equivalent to emailing your boss for clarification on a project and not getting a reply for a week. If you don't provide a sufficiently valuable reinforcement, your dog will not be motivated to stick with the training session. Would you clean my eavestroughs in exchange for a bag of used tissues?

Your dog needs the information and motivation that generous reinforcement provides. Expecting your dog to work for free or for minimum wage will damage your training goal.

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## AUGUST 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](mailto:newsletter@speakingofdogs.com), with "unsubscribe" written in the subject line.

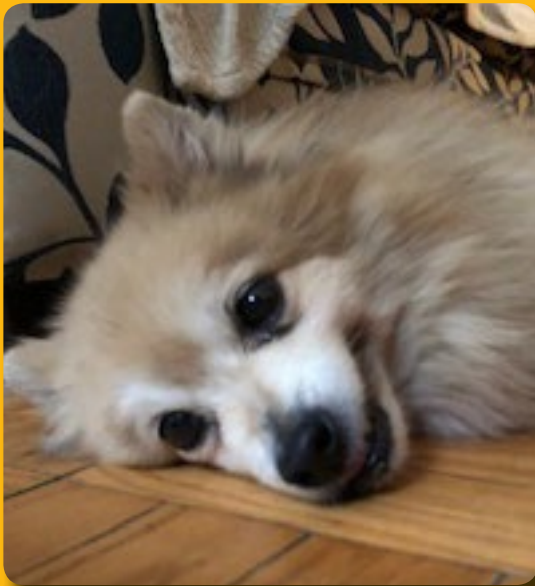
# Dogs Looking for Homes

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

## Ricky

POMERANIAN  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



### FEATURED DOG:

Ricky is a very sweet and playful 9-year-old Pomeranian who weighs about 15 pounds. He was picked up as a stray and taken to a shelter. He's now happily settled in a foster home, where he gets along very well with the two resident Shih tzus.

He had surgery to remove bladder stones in early May, and he recovered well. He does have the odd accident when he does not get out quickly enough. He wears a little diaper at night as a precaution, and most mornings it is dry.

Ricky is on Royal Canin Urinary S/O (to help prevent new stones), which can only be purchased from a vet. The rescue also had a dental done for Ricky, and despite his lack of teeth, he happily eats his food and treats.

He is very good with other dogs and loves his walks. He tends to ignore the people and noises he encounters outside. He is a quick study and is learning to walk calmly on leash.

At home, Ricky likes to be with his people, has no issues with stairs, and loves getting scratched behind his ears and under his chin. He is not very vocal, only barking to get back in from the yard or to let you know he wants to play.

He loves to play fetch with a ball but will also play on his own with his squeaky toys. When you talk to him, he moves his head from side to side and watches you closely. Ricky is a playful bundle of fun and personality. He will be a great companion!



### Tucker

BICHON FRISE / POODLE  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



### Tiny Dancer

YORKSHIRE TERRIER  
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



### Mugsy

TERRIER MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



*Ace*

BORDER COLLIE MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



*Jorge*

CHIHUAHUA / PUG MIX  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



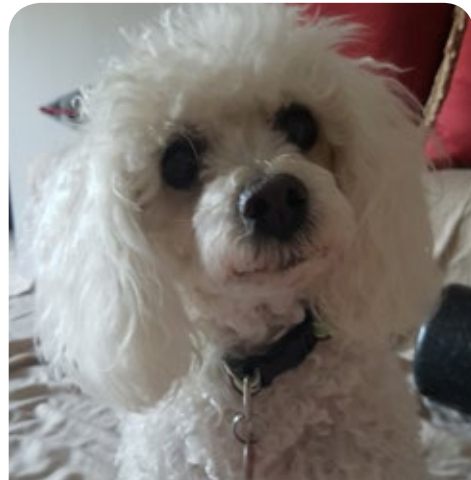
*Lexi*

GERMAN SHEPHERD / HUSKY  
LARGE, BABY, FEMALE



*Marley & Hero*

CHIHUAHUAS | SMALL, ADULT, MALES  
COURTESY POSTING, ARE WITH ADOPT A DOG, SAVE A LIFE



*Jacques*

POODLE MIX  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



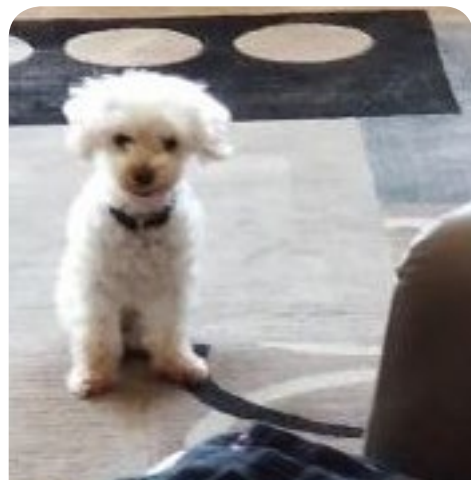
*Lucy*

LABRADOR RETRIEVER  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Cindy*

CATTLE DOG/BLEU HEELER MIX  
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



*Misty*

TOY POODLE  
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE

# Events



**Tyson**  
BICHON FRISE / TERRIER MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE

## HEAD TO LONDON FOR PAWLOOZA!

Speaking of Dogs Rescue will be at Pawlooza! It's a great day out for dogs and dog lovers. There's dock diving, swimming in the Pawlooza pond, agility runs, a lure course, an off-leash Fun Zone, a Toss+Catch zone where you and your dog can play frisbee, training and obedience sessions, and 175 vendors.

**Where:** Plunkett Estate, 9282 Elviage Drive, London, Ontario

**When:** 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 17th

Admission is \$10 per vehicle, parking included, and proceeds are donated to two local non-profits.

For more information, please visit [pawlooza.com](http://pawlooza.com).

## FURRY FRIENDS 5KS

The Furry Friends 5K run/walkathon circuit are important fundraisers, allowing us rescue more needy, homeless

dogs, many of whom are seniors or have major medical issues, such as the amazing dogs in our Forever is Foster program.

Helping older dogs and those with health problems isn't always easy and it's never inexpensive, but we think these special guys deserve a second chance at life and love.

But it's not just the dogs who benefit! These races are always a fun day, and there are great goody bags and prizes.

We have one more race this year, in Burlington **Saturday, October 5th.**

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

- **Lorraine Houston**
- **Kim Gladding**

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 Burlington Furry Friends 5K events, please visit <https://www.furryfriends5k.ca>.



**To:** Speaking of Dogs Rescue  
**From:** Michelle C. and family  
**Subject:** Tallulah (formerly Tanka)

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

One year ago this past May, this most precious of dogs agreed to let us adopt her. What a joy she has been! Found on the side of the road after being hit by a car, this little girl showed her fighting spirit by recovering from surgery, which included a steel plate and eight screws being put permanently in her hip. The moment we met her we fell in love – look at that face! Her Speaking of Dogs foster mom was amazing and cried both happy and sad tears

when we were approved for adoption. Renamed Tallulah, this special addition immediately bonded with our other rescue, Captain Hook, and it has been the Captain and Tallulah ever since! So far she has been to Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Palm Springs, but her favourite place is our cottage in Muskoka, where she barks at the ducks to tell them who is the boss. Despite her injury, Tallulah runs like the wind and is a super cuddler. She has many outfits, from T-shirts to sweatshirts, and she rocks them all! Thank you Speaking of Dogs Rescue for saving this incredible being and helping her into our lives.



# Ask the Trainer

...Continued from page 1

## Think ahead

Proactively planning your training sessions is key to success. Before even looking at your dog, chop your treats to the size of a pea, have your clicker on a wrist coil, and arrange a pouch at your side so you can quickly access treats – like a cowboy drawing his gun from his holster in an old western flick. Prepare any props you may need during the session, and place them off to the side of your training space until you are ready to use them.

Fumbling around by breaking up too-large treats, dropping your clicker, and spending an extra three seconds digging around in a poorly designed pouch are all ways to disrupt the flow of a training session – and ultimately lose your dog's focus. Keeping a flow of clear feedback depends on your smart preparation ahead of the training session.

## Clarity and structure

One of the best ways to set your dog up for success is to have a single focus during a training session and keeping it short (five minutes), especially if you are introducing a new behaviour or concept. If you are introducing “lie down,” for example, focus only on lying down. Do not also teach sit from the down during the same session. Lure or hand signal for down, reinforce, and then toss a treat a foot or two away. Your dog will stand up to get that treat – and be ready for another trial of lying down. If you allow your dog to focus on one single exercise at a time, your dog will acquire that skill faster.

Your dog isn't giving you a hard time, she's having a hard time

Sometimes the best laid plans can go awry because your dog is worried,

overstimulated, or otherwise stressed. A critical skill for trainers is being able to recognize when their dog's emotional response is blocking her ability to acquire a skill and then adjusting the training session accordingly. This might mean ditching your original plan in order to help your dog cope with a specific trigger or new environment, training in a different location, or perhaps even delaying the session to another time, when your dog is feeling better.

## Setting priorities and realistic goals

Particularly in cases of behaviour modification for stress-based problems, many dogs will have very real limitations. Becoming a therapy dog in a children's hospital is not a realistic goal for a dog with a history of biting children, but this doesn't mean that the dog and owner can't have a full and meaningful life together!

Sometimes the popular notion of a “good dog” is way off base. Decide what really matters to you and train for that!

A dog who happily jumps to greet people isn't a bad dog, and an owner may actually choose not to train “four-on-the-floor” for greetings. This owner is well within her rights to own a dog who jumps up to greet as long as she's mindful to manage her dog around people who do not want to be jumped on (for example, asking if the person is okay being jumped on and using leashes or gates to prevent access if they do not consent).

The owner may make this decision because she enjoys the enthusiastic greeting, or she may just be working on other issues that take priority over jumping up. As long as everyone involved, including the dog, is happy with the outcome, this is perfectly okay. (This would, of course, not apply to

situations where a dog is stressed or a risk to others, or where the dog's behaviour infringes on another person's rights.)

## Don't blame the dog

Blaming the dog for poor training results is equivalent to expecting your dog to train herself. If your dog is not doing what you ask, your dog either doesn't understand or isn't motivated (or both!). Luckily, you can acquire the skills necessary to change both of these situations!

If your dog isn't behaving as you'd like, take a step back before you get frustrated and inclined to point blame, and assess your training. Hiring a skilled professional dog trainer is a valuable step in rectifying why you're not getting the results you want.

Get the most out of the coaching by fully incorporating the trainer's feedback and asking targeted questions. Just as raising a child doesn't make you a child psychologist, having raised a dog in past doesn't necessarily prepare you for the training challenges you face with your current dog.

## Do the legwork

Think – Plan – Do is critical to a constructive approach to dog training. It is easy to get stuck on one of those steps and forget that doing the work is as critical as planning for it. “Practise makes perfect” isn't as accurate as “perfect practise makes perfect” – if you don't do the work, you don't get the results!



Emily Fisher, CPDT-KA, CDBC, Scratch and Sniff Canine Services, Guelph, ON

# Bits & Bites

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

- We've had some hot days this summer, and the Toronto Humane Society has tips and advice to keep your pets safe.
- Ontario's solicitor general has launched a new 24-hour animal-cruelty hotline and a new chief inspector to oversee a temporary anti-cruelty-enforcement regime.
- Thinking of adding a new pet to your household? Dr. Karen Becker offers "dos and don'ts for introducing a new housemate."
- The Government of Ontario has passed the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) Amendment Act, which is a temporary measure aimed at keeping animals safe while the province transitions to a new animal protection enforcement system.
- Humans communicate mostly with words, but dogs use their bodies. Check out this quick guide to canine body language and learn a bit about how your dog communicates!

## THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- [Pig ears dog treats](#)
- [More pig ears dog treats](#)



## WALK WITH RESQWALK!

ResQwalk is a free mobile app that allows you to raise money for Speaking of Dogs Rescue while out for your regular walks!

All you need to do is download the app to your iPhone or Android phone and track your walks (with or without your dog). It's free. It's easy. It can help the amazing dogs in our program find their second chance at life and love.

Once you've downloaded the app, please remember to mark Speaking of Dogs Rescue as your favourite rescue!

**For more information, you can visit [bestfriends.org/resqwalk/faq](https://bestfriends.org/resqwalk/faq).**

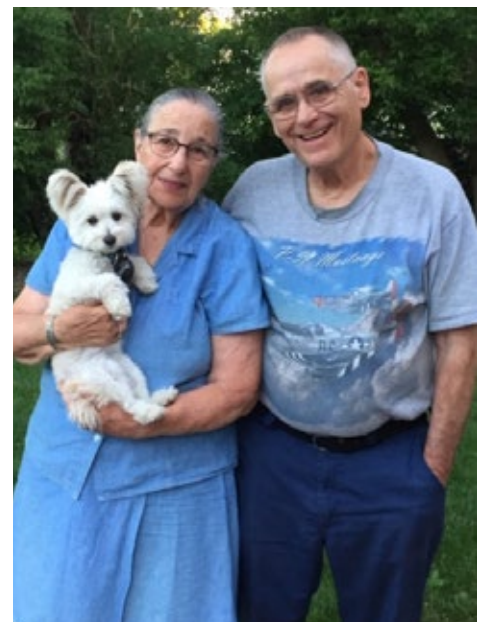
## WAGS AND WIGGLES FOR GAEL AND RICK!

Without the help of many special people, Speaking of Dogs Rescue would not be able to continue to assist and embrace the dogs we do. Properly caring for senior and special needs dogs is costly, but thankfully we have people like Gael and Rick Ross on our team (and their adopted girl, Cooke, a St. John Ambulance therapy dog)!

Every year without fail, the Rosses raise thousands of dollars for our rescue dogs. They knock on doors, send emails, and write letters to friends, business colleagues, and family to ask for their support for a cause that is very dear to their heart.

The Ross family have always been dog people and have always cherished and loved their dogs. They stop at nothing to give them the best care possible. They have been giving back and "paying it forward" to Speaking of Dogs Rescue as far back as we can remember – back to the days of the Rescue Me Walks – almost 20 years!

It is our honour to pay tribute to this kind and generous couple, who work selflessly and tirelessly behind the scenes every spring to make sure our walkathons are successful. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you both so much for saving countless dogs over the years.



# Happy Tails

## JULY ADOPTIONS:

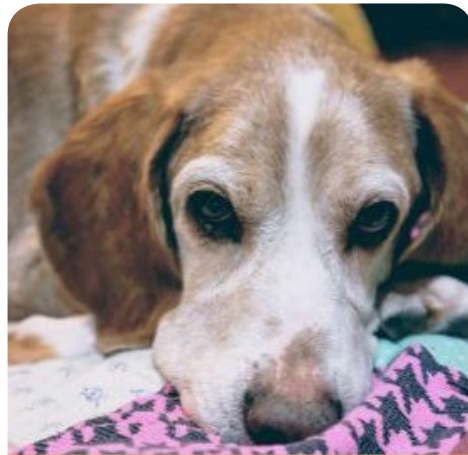
A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



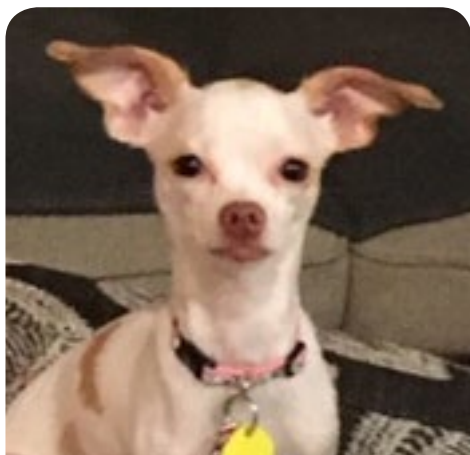
*Zelda*



*Charlotte*



*Lester*



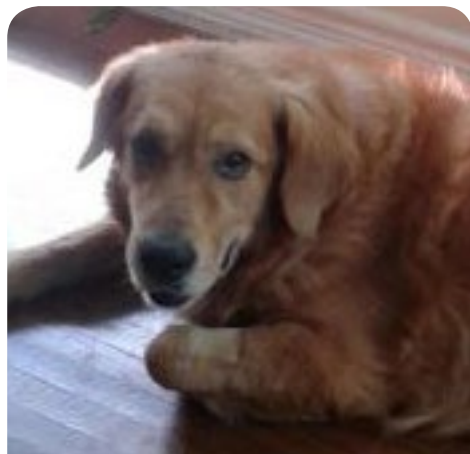
*Miranda*



*Stacie*



*Tucker Beagle*



*Teddy*  
THANK YOU GOLDEN RESCUE

## HELP US FUNDRAISE THROUGH BARKBOX!

What is BarkBox?

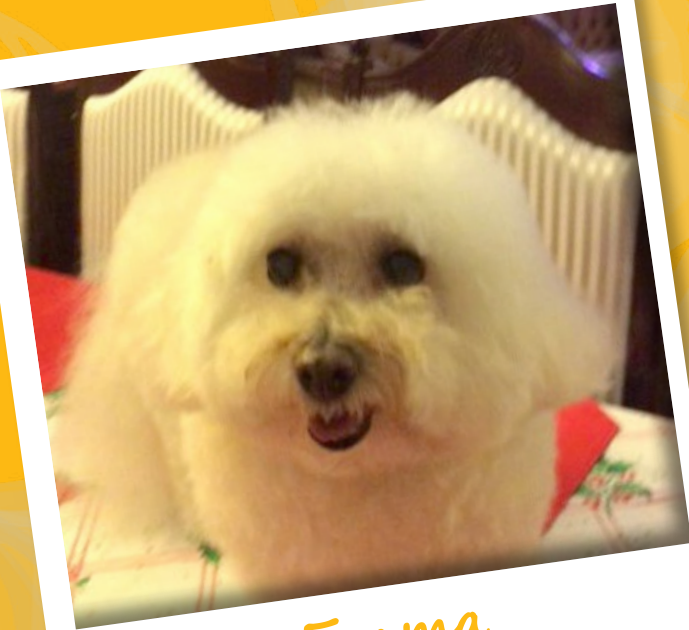
It's a monthly box of dog goodies that arrives on your doorstep!

When you subscribe to BarkBox, every month you receive a box in the mail with four or more carefully selected products and presents for your dog – anything from toys and all-natural treats to hygiene products and the latest gadgets!

And when you give to your dog, you can give to our dogs too. Use code **SPEAKING OF DOGS** at checkout, and the rescue will receive a \$15 donation from BarkBox. Plus, you'll receive 10% off the price of your subscription!

**Visit [www.barkbox.com](http://www.barkbox.com) to find out more and get started.**

# In Memoriam



*Emma*

LOVED BY SIMONS FAMILY  
ADOPTED JANUARY 2013  
PASSED JUNE 2019



*Opie*

LOVED BY SARAH G. AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED AUGUST 2016  
PASSED JULY 2019



*Spirit*

LOVED BY THE ONG FAMILY  
ADOPTED AUGUST 2013  
PASSED JULY 2019



*Scooter*

LOVED BY MURIEL N. AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED APRIL 2018  
PASSED JULY 2019

# In Memoriam



*Chance*

LOVED BY LUAN E. AND ALL AT SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE  
FOREVER IN FOSTER  
PASSED JUNE 2019



*Britt*

LOVED BY GERRY B, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED MAY 2012  
PASSED JULY 2019