

Huge thanks to Jacqueline and Isaac from Canada Pooch!



Enthusiastic wags, wiggles, and zoomies to Jacqueline and Isaac from Canada Pooch for their generous donation to help support our foster program! We were introduced to these amazing folks when they adopted Duncan, a fun and loving pug mix, back in 2015. Since that time, Jacqueline has become one of our busiest Toronto home visitation volunteers, and Duncan has been living the high life!

Says Jacqueline, "Since his adoption, Duncan has been living the good life with his two pug sisters, Maddie and Bella. He works hard every day at the Canada Pooch/Open Farm offices, modelling and taste testing – his mom barely sees him all day since he has so many friends! He

loves walking (but obviously not in the rain), barking at passing bikers, cuddles on the couch, and food of every kind, including veggies! Duncan is adored by his family, his sisters, his friends at the office, and everyone who meets him!"



OCTOBER 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.

FEATURED DOG:

Hattie is a sweet 8-year-old Chihuahua and Miniature Pinscher mix who is incredibly gentle, quiet, and laid back.

Hattie is a very calm and sweet little lady. She is a tad overweight but loves long walks, so she is losing some of that extra weight. She gets excited about her walks and enjoys meeting new people.

She is friendly but sometimes a little nervous, particularly with men (but never aggressive). Hattie is housetrained and asks to go out. She sleeps in a crate (her choice) and goes to it at other times for security. She loves car rides and rushes to show that she can get out of the car on her own.

She picks up on new routines very quickly. She sleeps quite a lot but is up for anything that involves being with people. She is not interested in toys, and while she gets along with other dogs, she is not into playing with them.



Hattie

She is a good watchdog and will bark when someone comes to the door, but she does not bark at other times. She is fine when left alone for a few hours and has not shown any signs of separation anxiety or destructiveness.

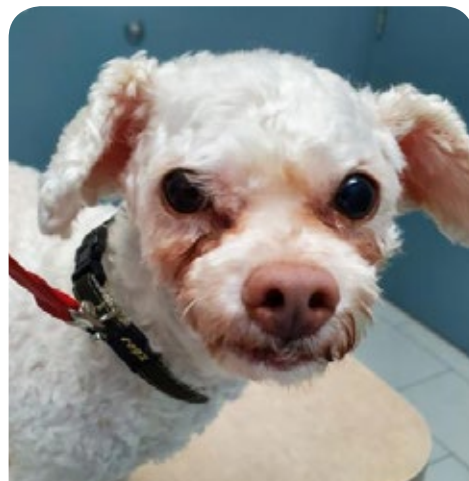
How to sum up Hattie? She is a gem and a wonderful, well-behaved, gentle companion. Are you the forever companion she's been waiting for?



Jacob
SHIH TZU
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Gypsy
SPANIEL
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Gus
TOY POODLE
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



STAY SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN!

- Keep treats out of pets' reach. Dark chocolate and sugar-free candies containing xylitol are particularly dangerous, but candies and dogs are never a good mix.
- Make sure jack-o'-lanterns can't be knocked over or, better still, use a battery-powered candle to illuminate them.
- Kids love costumes, but most dogs and cats don't. Unless you're absolutely certain your pet enjoys dressing up, save the costumes for your two-legged family members.
- If your dog or cat tends to door-dash, keep the inside door to your entrance closed. If you don't have a foyer, keep your dog on leash and your cat in a safe room.
- If your dog tends to react to people coming to the door, set him up in a quiet space with an interactive toy, such as a treat-filled Kong or puzzle toy. Check on him often, and if he seems stressed, either set yourself up outside for the trick-or-treaters or close up shop for the night.
- The safest place for any cat is inside her home. Halloween, however, is a particularly dangerous night for cats to be out. Keep your cats at home with you, where they're happy and safe.

Have a happy Halloween!



Bob
HOUND / LABRADOR MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Winnie
CORGIE MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Gigi
POODLE / SHIH TZU MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE



Jack
BICHON / POODLE MIX
SMALL, ADULT, MALE

2020 CALENDARS ARE READY FOR PRESS!

The 2020 Speaking of Dogs Rescue calendars will be going on press shortly!

A huge thank-you to everyone who submitted a photo of their favourite furry pal! You'll be able to see your four-legged superstars in action when the calendars arrive in a few weeks. For those of you who entered the Pup-arazzi contest – first, second and third place winners will show prominently in the calendar. Our first place winner is on the cover!

These beautiful calendars are a perfect holiday gift and a great way to support our dogs. They're only \$15 each or \$12 each for ten or more. You can place your order by emailing Lorraine at lorraine@speakingofdogs.com.



Ask the Trainer

INTRODUCING CATS AND DOGS (PART 1)

Cats and dogs can learn to read each other's signals quite well, considering they're two entirely different species. They typically experience a learning curve when forming a relationship, however, and may start off on the wrong foot – unless we help them.

Gradual introductions, as well as attending to the specific needs of each individual, help prevent fear and aggression from developing and minimize the stress on both parties. The dog is usually the keener of the pair and will benefit from structured interactions to help diffuse any excitement.

Cats are territorial and need to be introduced to dogs very gradually in order to give them time to acclimate and feel safe. If you're planning to make yours a cat-dog household, here are some strategies to help things go smoothly.

Is It a Match?

Dogs who aren't familiar with cats may react as though a cat is another dog, an object, or a prey animal. This means your dog may direct play behaviours, investigation, or threats at a cat or may chase her. This would be considered normal dog behaviour, although threatening or chasing a cat is certainly undesirable and potentially disastrous.

It's just as important to help your dog feel relaxed and happy around your cat in order to prevent behaviour problems in both parties and set the scene for a successful relationship. Additionally, it's important to consider whether your dog will be a good match for living with a cat or your cat will be a good match for a dog, depending on your situation.



A dog who is relaxed and friendly and has a low prey drive is an excellent prospect to develop a relationship with a cat. Dogs with a high prey drive can be much more difficult for cats to live with, since they tend to observe cats with keen interest and are more likely to chase, requiring ongoing careful management and separation from the cat when unsupervised. If you're considering adding a dog to a cat-only household, a responsible rescue or breeder will be able to help guide you toward a dog who's likely to be a good fit.

Confident, agile cats in good health are more likely to receive a dog well. Cats with limited mobility due to illness, ageing, or excessive weight tend to be more defensive, since they may struggle to hide, perch, or run away. A kitten's socialization window closes at 8 weeks,

so young kittens are generally a good option, but many rescues will only adopt kittens in pairs, since they're very active, particularly at night, and a solo kitten risks becoming bored and destructive.

Taking the time to help your cat and dog acclimate to each other gradually will set the scene for a calm living situation, and they may even become cuddle buddies or playmates. Regardless of how cat-friendly your dog may seem, it's best for your cat and dog to remain separated for the first few weeks, as they gradually get to know each other, especially when they're left unsupervised or home alone.

Set the Scene

Designate a "sanctuary room," which will be a cat-only space where your cat can spend the majority of the first few weeks

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while getting to know your dog. During this time, it's especially important to provide your cat with plenty of company, food enrichment, and interactive play, so choose a space that's comfortable for you and where you spend a lot of time.

Outfit your cat's sanctuary room with a tall baby gate with vertical bars (to prevent climbing) that can withstand pressure so it can't be knocked down by either pet. Young or athletic cats may be able to climb or jump over even a tall baby gate, so stacking one gate over another may be necessary to ensure the pets don't meet before they're ready.

Include a litter area, food, water, bedding, scratchers, and toys. Space your cat's food, water and litter well away from each other and the doorway to promote comfort and ease-of-use. Initially, cover the baby gate with a blanket so your cat and dog can only smell and hear each other.

For your dog, designate a confinement area as a dog-only space that incorporates a barrier (crate, baby gate, or exercise pen) as well as comfy bedding, a water bowl, and interactive toys. Help your dog gradually learn to love spending alone time in her confinement area using treats, chews, and food-dispensing toys.

As your cat enjoys more free-run of the house, your dog's confinement area will come in handy for times when the pair will be home alone together or when you're not available to supervise and separation is necessary.

Swap Scents and Living Areas

Before your cat and dog see each other, switch sleeping blankets or beds between your cat and dog so they have a chance to become accustomed to each other's scent. When you first present the other

pet's bedding, allow the dog or cat to smell it before sprinkling some treats onto the bedding for them to eat. Doing this regularly in the first week together will help both pets develop a positive association with each other's scent.

If your cat is feeling comfortable enough to venture out of her sanctuary room, let her have free time in the house while your dog is enjoying a treat in her confinement area, out on a walk, or in the backyard. Use canned cat food or treats to secure your cat back in her sanctuary room before releasing your dog back into the main living space.

This switch provides another way for the pair to experience each other's scents without a face-to-face meeting (your dog will likely smell the cat's scent throughout the house and find it very intriguing!). Since your cat is likely the more reticent of the pair and can be sensitive to environmental changes, it's helpful for her to get used to the "lived-in" feel of the home – and check out all of your dog's belongings – before actually meeting your dog.

Impulse Control and Habituation

If your dog doesn't already know the cues "sit" and "down" along with recall and "leave it," begin working on them. Practise with food rewards until your dog performs these cues reliably. That way, you'll have some tools in your back pocket to help guide interactions.

When your dog has some basic impulse control cues down pat, have a helper enter the sanctuary room with your cat and quietly sit close by her with some special food, such as canned food, chicken breast, or tuna. With your dog on-leash and plenty of pea-sized treats at the ready, remove the blanket covering the baby gate to your cat's sanctuary room.

Ask your helper to offer your cat special food when she sees your dog. Beginning

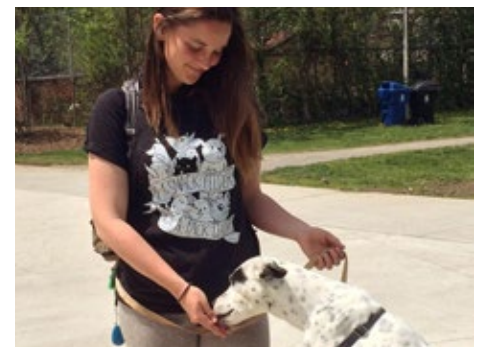
from far away to ensure your dog doesn't get overexcited by seeing the cat, ask your dog for a down and reinforce her frequently for remaining in the down (you can use your dog's mat or bed for comfort). Let your dog watch the cat, and mark and reward your dog for breaking focus and paying attention to anything other than the cat.

Aim for things to seem easy and boring. If your dog's excitement level increases, move away from the baby gate or put the blanket over half of the gate to give your dog only a partial view.

If your dog is successful at lying down and breaking focus, you can move her closer by a foot a time until she's right in front of the gate. Repeat this exercise until your dog and cat are old news to each other.

In addition to offering special food when your dog is present, your helper can brush your cat or pet her if she enjoys it to help her develop a positive association with your dog.

Stay tuned to a future newsletter for the second part of this article!



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

Thank you!



WAGS AND WIGGLES FOR LILIANA!

Special thanks to Liliana Ranea-Irvine for sharing her birthday with Speaking of Dogs Rescue! Liliana wanted to help homeless dogs and saw that Facebook offered her the chance to raise funds for various charitable causes.

She says, “A couple of weeks before my birthday, I received a post from Facebook asking me if I wanted to set up a fundraiser for my friends to donate to a cause important to me. I chose from the selection screen Speaking of Dogs, and it automatically set up the fundraiser on my FB page and was sent to all of my friends. The fundraiser keeps track of the donations and is administered by PayPal Giving.”

Liliana clearly has many supporters because she raised \$675 for our foster dogs! Many thanks to Liliana and her FB friends!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OUR FOUR-LEGGED AND TWO-LEGGED SUPPORTERS!

This Thanksgiving, we'd like to thank our amazing volunteers who help us help so many wonderful dogs.



PET VALU SHOWED US THEIR HEART, AND WE THANK THEM!

Many thanks to Donna and staff from the Pet Valu store at York Mills and Leslie for choosing Speaking of Dogs Rescue for their Show Us Your Heart Campaign! The money they helped raise will be used to support the medical needs of our foster dogs. Linda, one of the rescue's board members, was very happy to accept the donation cheque. Thanks Pet Valu!



THANKS NICOLE, FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!

Wags and Wiggles to our amazing adopter Nicole A., for donating a pair of Blue Jay tickets! The raffle made several hundred dollars, and our winner was avid Jays fan and three-time adopter Karen!



THE LEAVES WILL SOON BE FALLING, AND THE AUCTION GAVEL WILL SOON BE DROPPING!

The Speaking of Dogs Rescue online auction will be running from Saturday, November 9 to Saturday, November 16! The auctions are always a great opportunity to do some holiday shopping – with an added bonus: You'll be supporting our amazing dogs and helping them get healthy, get happy, and get forever homes!

We are accepting donations of new or very gently used items until Friday, October 18. Past auctions have included dog gear and other pet products, electronics, services (such as grooming sessions, photography sessions, and the like) and valid gift certificates and gift cards that have their full face value.

Do you have a special item you'd like to donate? Please email auction@speakingofdogs.com.

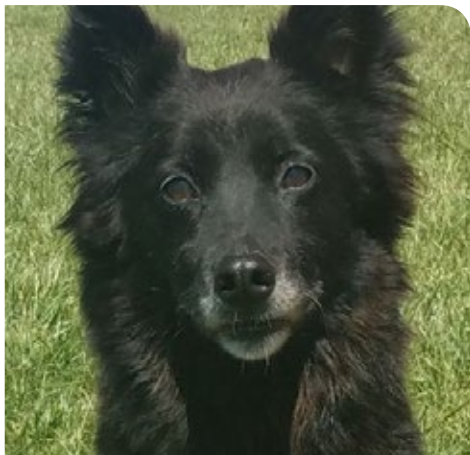
To place a bid, all you'll need to do is visit the auction site between November 9th and 16th. Full instructions will be included in next month's newsletter.

All funds raised go directly to veterinary costs and care for the dogs, including the sweet seniors in our Forever in Foster program.

Happy Tails

SEPTEMBER ADOPTIONS:

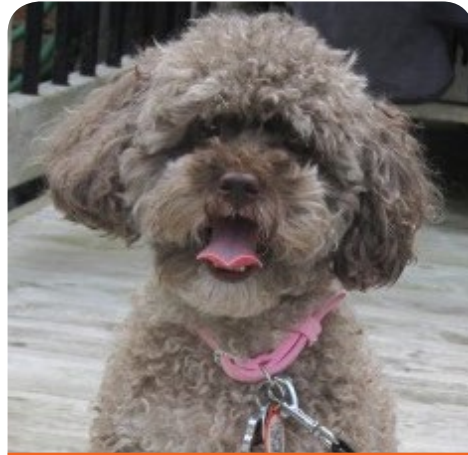
A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



Ace



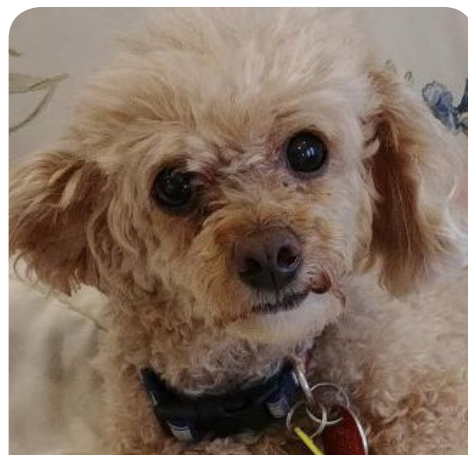
Brock



Cookie



Ella and Annie



Holly



Josie



Lucy



Maggie

More Happy Tails



Magoo

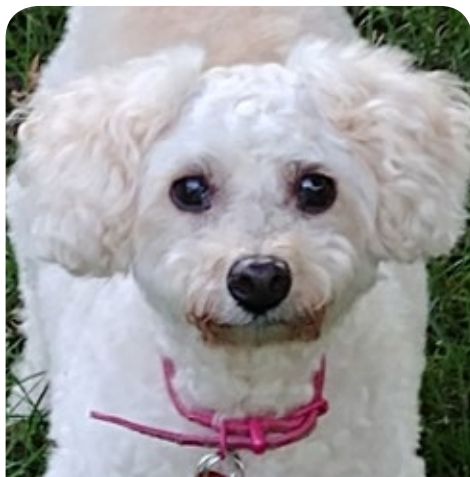


Nala

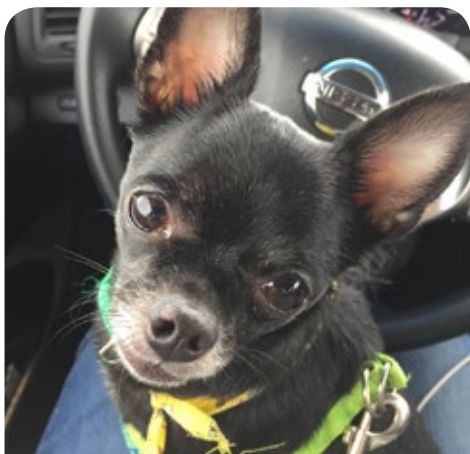
THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- Berkley Jensen pig ear dog chews
- More pig ear treats
- Performance Dog frozen raw pet food
- Truth About Pet Food provides some additional warnings about Performance Dog products.



Fawn
FOREVER IN FOSTER



Leo
THANKS CCRT

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
From: David Bluestein and family.
Subject: Dexter

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

We have had the joy of having Dexter in our lives for almost a year. We knew we had space in our hearts to love another dog after we lost our Lab last year, and when we saw that face on Petfinder, we just had to meet Dexter. When Dexter came to our house he was shy and cautious but still a happy, mellow guy who loved nothing more than several daily trips to the park with his special orange ball.

Dexter is part of the family now. He visits with our children and grandchildren often. Whether you are 2 or 92, Dexter is always ready to play if you are ready to throw a ball.

Dexter has really come out of his shell since those early days last November. He is a fixture in the neighbourhood and up at the lake, where he discovered the joys of cottage life.

I had previous experience with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program and just knew that he would be a perfect Therapy Dog, so he was given an assessment in April of this year, and Dexter officially became a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog. He visits a senior's residence weekly and loves all the attention.

We are all so glad to have Dexter as our best friend. He has a special place in our hearts.

If you would like to follow Dexter's adventures, you can find him on Twitter. He is Dexter D. Ballchaser @ BallchaserD.



In Memoriam



Joey

LOVED BY THE WELLS FAMILY
ADOPTED DECEMBER 2016
PASSED SEPTEMBER 2019



Scamp

LOVED BY THE GILES FAMILY
FOREVER IN FOSTER
PASSED SEPTEMBER 2019



Shakespeare

LOVED BY THE ADELSON FAMILY
ADOPTED MAY 2006
PASSED SEPTEMBER 2019



Sadie

LOVED BY THE MELNYK FAMILY
ADOPTED DECEMBER 2015
PASSED SEPTEMBER 2019

In Memoriam



Minnie

LOVED BY ASHLEY K. AND FAMILY
FOREVER IN FOSTER
PASSED SEPTEMBER 2019