

Looking Back on a Year with Speaking of Dogs Rescue

Last month, we received a pair of complimentary tickets to the Christmas Pet Expo. We weren't sure whom we should give them to, since we have so many incredible supporters, volunteers, and adopters. Thanks to one ingenious volunteer, we decided to have a Facebook contest. The question was "How many dogs has Speaking of Dogs Rescue found homes for since January 2002?" (when we had our first official adoption under the SODR banner).

As I was going through the Excel spreadsheet and watched the names of the dogs going by, I was reminded of just how many wonderful dogs we've been blessed to meet and embrace, albeit temporarily.

Going through the file also brought back memories, and I thought about how things have changed – a lot. Back when we started, there was no social media, no Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

There were a couple of Yahoo groups that allowed us to chat and network, which was really helpful in many ways! Most of us had email, but getting a website up was another matter. We did, however, use Petfinder to showcase our adoptive dogs.

It was even a challenge to get good digital photos because most of us didn't have digital cameras, let alone cell phones that could take photos! Most rescues didn't have scanners either, so if you didn't have

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Back in the early 2000s, we helped breeding females from barns and puppy mills. Many of these dear dogs had never been in a house, had a family, been for a walk or felt safe and secure. Dogs like Bonnie (pictured here) were bred over and over to make puppies who, in turn, made money for greedy, uncaring humans. Bonnie came to us at about 6 years old and was in foster care for many months, learning what life's all about and, most of all, learning to trust. Speaking of Dogs Rescue has been helping dogs like Bonnie for close to two decades and plans to be around for many more decades!

DECEMBER 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.

Prudence

BORDER COLLIE MIX
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE

FEATURED DOG:

It's a brand-new day for our dear Prudence and the start of a new chapter in her life! Now spayed, this lovely, sunny 9-year-old, 70-pound Border Collie mix is a happy and chill lady who wants nothing more than to share her life with that perfect person.

Prudence is a great walking companion! Her idea of play includes long walks and good company, both human and dog. She is, however, not keen on rambunctious pups or dogs who intrude with "her" treats and toys – and will let them know she's not impressed. For that reason, although she is a friendly girl, a home with small children who might unintentionally interfere with her valued items is not recommended. Her foster mom doesn't have cats, but if you are

interested in giving Prue a home, we can do a cat assessment.

Prue got a clean bill of health at the vet except for slightly elevated liver values. It could have been from something she ate shortly before her bloodwork, but her liver should be rechecked in a few months. She is presently taking milk thistle for liver health.

She is a smart cookie who is well versed in basic obedience, and she is also clean in the house. Her visits to the vet and the groomer were huge successes; everyone who meets her falls in love with her.

Prue will bark for attention, so an apartment with neighbours close by or a home with people who are gone for long periods are probably not ideal. If you let her out into the yard, she will do her business and then want to come



right back in. If go out with her, she will stay out as long as you do. When left alone, she takes a bit of time to settle. She is always happy to greet you when you get back!

Can you make Prudence's holiday wish come true and give her the active, engaged forever home of her dreams?



Bernard

BEAGLE
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



Chica & Arnica

CHIHUAHUA / POMERANIAN MIX
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



MollyB

BOSTON TERRIER
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Rosie

BERNESE / POODLE MIX
EXTRA LARGE, YOUNG, FEMALE



Fifi

SHIH TZU / TERRIER MIX
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



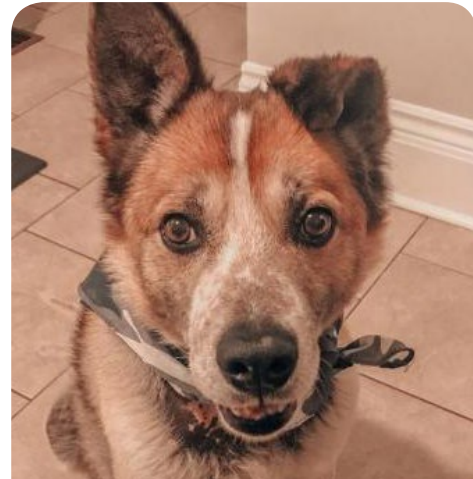
Ben

SHIH TZU / POODLE MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Cho Cho

YORKSHIRE TERRIER
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Whiskey

HUSKY MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



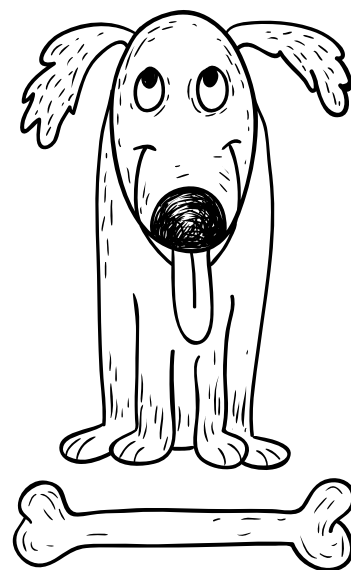
Winnie

CORGIE MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Jewel

SHIH TZU / TERRIER
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Ask the Trainer

INTRODUCING CATS AND DOGS (PART 2)

[We ran part 1 of this article in the October 2019 newsletter. If you'd like to refresh your memory, you can view that newsletter by clicking this link.](#)

First Impressions

When ready to make the first introductions, have your cat safely confined in her sanctuary room and a helper at the doorway. Keep your dog on leash, have her sit or lay down several feet from the doorway of the sanctuary room, and reward her for remaining there as your helper opens or removes the baby gate. Have your helper enter the sanctuary room and offer your cat some special food.

Aim to set things up so that your cat is at the far side of the room, if possible, but don't physically move or restrain her to accomplish this. Enter the room with your dog, bringing her just inside the doorway, and ask her to lay down. Reward her generously for laying down as you keep the leash loose. Watch your dog's body language closely and look for any signs of tension, fear, or agitation. This can be as subtle as lip licking, a yawn, or whale eye (showing the whites of the eyes).

Initially, reward your dog for remaining in the down and breaking focus from the cat. If your dog is able to do this easily and is behaving in a calm and friendly manner – or even if she simply appears mildly cautious – allow her to advance and interact with your cat as long as she doesn't make any sudden movements and backs away at any defensive signals from your cat.



Keep the leash short but loose and try not to intervene in their initial interactions except to praise and reward your dog for her good manners. Ensure your cat is also comfortable and has a safe space she can retreat to if needed. Interrupt any staring, exaggerated movements, attempts to chase, excessive straining at the leash, whining, or barking from your dog using "leave it" or a recall.

Keep an eye out also for staring, dilated pupils, flattened ears, an arched back, a swishing tail, or growling from your cat. If a positive interruption (offer a treat or happily call your kitty to you) or reassurance doesn't change your cat's mood, end the interaction and introduce your dog at a greater distance next time.

End the introduction right away if either pet becomes stressed and provide the worried pet with comfort or a stress-

busting activity, such as interactive play or a food puzzle, to help her decompress.

If the initial greeting goes well, practise getting your dog's attention, calling her away, and rewarding her for coming over to you. You can then release her to greet and interact with your cat again – as long as your cat is comfortable.

Your helper can brush your cat, pat her, or offer special food throughout this process as long as she enjoys it. If your cat wants to retreat, let her go to her safe place. The cat should never be restrained.

Lots of short-and-sweet visits ending on a positive note are best. Aim to cut things short if either pet becomes overexcited or nervous. Repeat this step several times, until both your cat and dog are tolerating each other's presence well and neither seems worried about the other.

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Building the Relationship

Carefully watch both pets' body language for clues that they're feeling comfortable around each other before you increase the amount of time they spend together. Both pets should be totally at ease before you begin to allow supervised free periods in other areas of the home.

Keep your dog on leash and with you whenever your cat is free in the house during the integration process, and be sure that your cat has plenty of escape routes and places to hide. It's helpful to think vertically to give your cat additional safe havens. Baby gates can be helpful to secure important cat-only areas, such as the rooms where the litterboxes are kept.

Throughout this time, observe the trend: Are things getting better or worse? Carefully monitor interactions until there's a pattern and things are predictable. Always aim for positive associations by avoiding punishment and setting both parties up for success. Ensure both pets are being praised and rewarded for their positive interactions.

Sharing the Space

Ensure there are high places throughout your home that your cat can access but your dog can't reach, such as cat-friendly shelving, cat trees, and perches. It's also important to provide plenty of dog-free hiding spaces for your cat. This can be accomplished by pulling some furniture out from the wall with just enough

room to allow your cat to walk through. Cat tunnels and den-style bedding can provide added comfort.

Sharing resources can strain relationships between pets so it's best avoided. Feeding your dog in her confinement area is a smart way to prevent confrontations over the food bowl. Be sure to situate litterboxes where your dog can't raid them, such as behind a baby gate or inside a closet with the door anchored open from both sides just wide enough for your cat to step through.

And remember the general rule of thumb to promote perfect litter habits and avoid accidents: Each cat needs their own litterbox and there should be one extra as well. This is especially important when integrating a dog into your household, since many cats prefer not to pass through areas where the dog is resting, playing, or eating to use the litter.

Most dogs will also eat food the cat leaves behind. Since most cats tend to graze throughout the day, your cat's feeding area should be situated high enough so your dog can't reach it or behind a barrier only your cat can cross.

Continue to separate your cat and dog when they're home alone together by restricting your dog to her confinement area. If you're able to, consider keeping the sanctuary room as a cat-only space for the long term, and you'll have another option to separate your cat from your dog when they're home alone. Cats

generally appreciate having an area of the home that's all their own.

Each dog-cat duo has their own timeline for getting comfy in the relationship, and it's best to take things at the pace of the more nervous pet. With time, you'll be able to give both pets free run of the home, and they may even begin to play or cuddle together. Watching a dog and cat defy the stereotype and become friends is a truly rewarding experience!

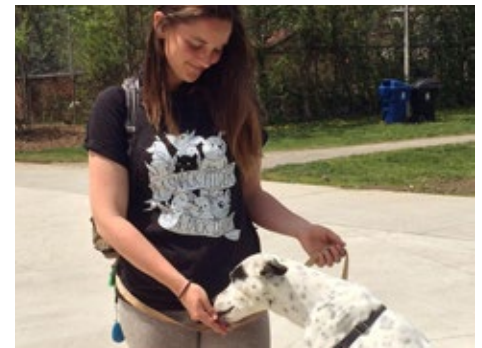
If you have any concerns or experience any roadblocks throughout this process, a qualified behaviour consultant can provide guidance and support to help shift the dynamic in a positive direction.

Recommended Resources

Dog Body Language:

<http://www.ispeakdog.org>

The Trainable Cat by John Bradshaw and Sarah Ellis



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



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.

Bits & Bites

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

- The holiday season is a wonderful time of year. Ensure it's also a safe time for your beloved pets with these 10 pet safety tips *for the holidays*.
- *Age really is just a number. According to Dr. Phil Zeltzman, "Health (functional age) is what we should focus on."*
- *The Toronto Humane Society has tips to help you keep your pet safe and healthy during the coldest of the winter weather.*
- The Ontario government is once again revisiting the province's so-called pit bull ban.
- A private members' bill seeking to overturn the Dog Owners' Liability Act is being debated at Queen's Park.
- Tory MPPs were split on the bill to overturn the ban, but it survived the vote and is going to a legislative committee for further study. The bill is also supported by the Toronto Humane Society, the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, the NDP, and the Green Party.
- An Ontario court has upheld the policing powers of private law enforcement in the OSPCA case. However, the OSPCA ceded their policing powers in March, and a new law, the Provincial Welfare Services Act, is set to go into effect on January 1, 2020.
- The CBC provides explanations for five of your dog's weirdest behaviours!

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- [Go Raw Quest Beef cat food](#)

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



Updates

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
From: Mike and Carolyn
Subject: Lou

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

Just thought you might like to hear some news about the best boy in the world. We could not be happier with having him in our family.

He is so loving and good-natured; it is torture leaving for work, and we cannot wait to see him when we get home.

He has a regular afternoon walk with our walker (who is also quite smitten with Lou) as well as morning and evening walks with one or both of us. Occasionally, he gets an extra night walk if we are up a little later (usually with me). He is definitely a creature of routine and has his favourite routes for each. Sometimes we switch it up and take him on a nearby riverside trail or the dog park. He loves both.

In September, we rented a cottage for a week up near Huntsville, and we got to see his adventurous side. He loves the nature walks and is actually a pretty enthusiastic swimmer. We didn't know if he would be uneasy or even



go near the water, but he jumped right in and waded and paddled happily.

He is a professional cuddler, and everyone that meets him loves him. Yesterday I took my car in for an oil change, and the gas attendant and my mechanic both remembered his name and gave him pats. We are excited to have a nice, cozy winter together.

Thanks again for everything. Hope things are going well for you and you continue to do amazing work fostering dogs just like Lou.

Cheers, Mike S.

*Holiday Photos with Santa
at Pet Valu*

Pet Valu: 339 College St. (Kensington Mkt)

\$14 Photo in Card • No Appointment Required

Saturday & Sunday Dec 7 & 8 / 14 & 15 (12:00-4:00 pm)

petvalu

Proceeds support
SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE

Holly's Hope

Calendars Are Going, Going, But Not Quite Gone!

The 2020 Speaking of Dogs Rescue calendars are flying off the shelves, but we still have a few left. 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 10 or more. You can place your order by emailing Lorraine at lorraine@speakingofdogs.com.

New Adoption Fee for 2020

Please note the Speaking of Dogs Rescue adoption fee will be going up on January 1, 2020, from \$375 to \$400 to keep up with the rising costs of medical attention, microchips, and other dog-related costs.

Thank you!



CALENDAR KUDOS!

Wags and wiggles to Karen F. for stunning calendar design, to Karen G. for calendar transport, and to Gabe for overseeing calendar sales. Thanks also to all of our gorgeous photo subjects! We were very lucky to receive so many great pictures from our adopters and FB followers. Each dog looking happy, healthy, silly, and loved.

We have some calendars left if anyone is interested. Please email lorraine@speakingofdogs.com.

LEAFS TICKETS RAFFLE THANKS!

Enthusiastic wags and wiggles to the generous donor who gave us the two gold Leafs tickets for the holiday hockey raffle. This supporter helped us raise close to \$2K! They have been helping us for almost two decades and continue to help dogs behind the scenes. Many thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and all of our supporters. The winning ticket was 21.

APPLAUSE FOR OUR AUCTION VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to volunteers Karen, Patti, Sue, Colette, Evguenia, and Martin for another successful online auction. We raised \$2,700 to help dogs in need. Thanks also to all of you who donated and participated. We hope you had fun!

THANKS TORONTO CHRISTMAS PET SHOW VOLUNTEERS!

Wags and wiggles for all the volunteers who helped us at the Toronto Christmas Pet Show. Linda, Ritu, Tee, Megan, Gabe, Lorne, June, and Kathy – you guys rock! Special thanks to event captain Mari-Anne, who set up the booth with Carl and whose hard work ensured things ran smoothly. Thanks also to Vicki and Wanda, who transported all of the items for our booth.



...Continued from page 1

a fax machine, you were driving to the vet to hand in the dog's vetting records.

I know I make it sound like we were in the dark ages, but looking back makes me appreciate how far the technology has advanced and how much easier it now is to help dogs.

When we started, we were a small band of merry rescuers and pretty much all knew each other from dog events, sports, seminars, or walkathons. We've kept up with the times, thanks to the diligence of many, mostly young, tech-savvy volunteers who have joined our mission to find good homes for dogs.

Some of us may not follow Twitter, know how to write code for the website, or be up on all the FB lingo, but we do a darn good job for dogs – no, we do a great job for dogs!

We provide top-notch vet care; ensure we are making the best possible adoption matches for our dogs; carry out in-home visits for each dog; create programs like Forever in Foster, which offers palliative care and special needs dogs a permanent and loving home; and should any of our adoptions not work out, for any reason, we will always be there for our dogs.

Shelter dogs remain our priority, and we are often called upon to take in senior dogs. Just last week we took in a 16-year-old terrier mix whose owner had passed away. Her next of kin took the little dog to a shelter because he had urinated on her rug and was pacing and stressed. We try our best to be there for the overlooked, but we can't help every dog and we know that.

As you have no doubt noticed, there has been an influx of new dog organizations. Some help specific breeds, some help international dogs, while others help all breeds, like us. It's inspiring to see so many people working to make the world a better place for dogs. It's also important to ensure that the work is done right and held to the highest of standards – after all, a dog's entire life and future depends on it.

Our volunteer board of directors is made up of five individuals of various backgrounds who are responsible for our rescue, including how we operate, spend money, and make policies and procedures.

Over the last year we've been battling around some ideas, and we've come up with what we think are some new and interesting ways to help dogs – more to come in the new year.

And, in case you were wondering about the FB answer, it's 1,567 dogs. Incredible effort, yes. Unfortunate, as always, that there are so many in need.

As we look back over so many years helping dogs, we're brought back to this past year. A big year-end shout-out and thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who come in many forms: foster parents, fundraisers, board members, drivers, photographers, newsletter production, and adoption application and intake coordinators are just a few of the roles that make our organization so organized! Many thanks as always to our supporters and donors, whose generosity and confidence in our work is so appreciated.

Speaking of Dogs Rescue is truly blessed to be surrounded by people whose priority and primary concern is for the dogs.

All the best for a happy and healthy holiday and a safe and successful 2020 from our dogs to yours!

Lorraine Houston

President and founder

Speaking of Dogs Rescue Program

Registered Charity #841098791RR0001

Speaking of Dogs Rescue helps dogs in need 365 days a year, but we always like to make the holidays a special time for our special dogs.

As you settle in with friends and family – both two-legged and four-legged – and enjoy the warmth of the holiday season, please also think of the many dogs still in our care, and the many more that will need us in the months and years to come. We will do everything we can to ensure they can enjoy the warmth of friends and family of their own.

If you can spare a bit of holiday cheer, the easiest way to offer financial support to Speaking of Dogs Rescue is to visit our Canada Helps Giving Page at www.canadahelps.org/GivingPages/GivingPage.px?gplD=10262

Happy Tails

NOVEMBER ADOPTIONS:

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



Sassy



Gypsy



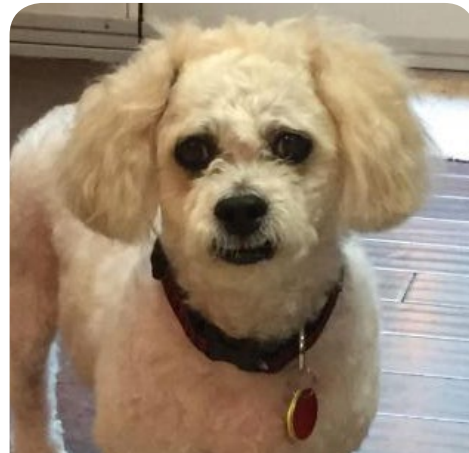
Gigi
FOREVER-IN FOSTER



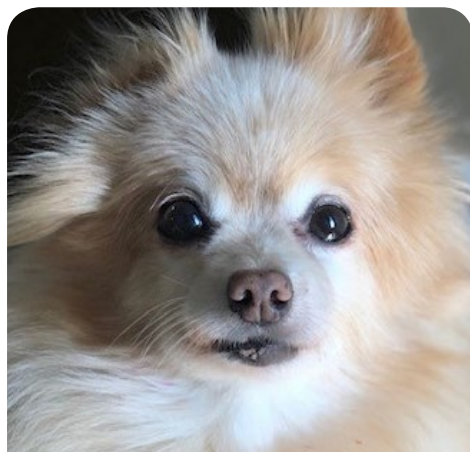
Lucky



Charlie



Jack



Amy



Shiba



In Memoriam



Brandy / Hope
LOVED BY HEATHER AND ELDON WILK
ADOPTED APRIL 2015
PASSED NOVEMBER 2019



Loki
LOVED BY NATASHA B. AND FAMILY
ADOPTED MAY 2016
PASSED NOVEMBER 2019



Fletcher
LOVED BY LARA T.
ADOPTED MAY 2011
PASSED NOVEMBER 2019



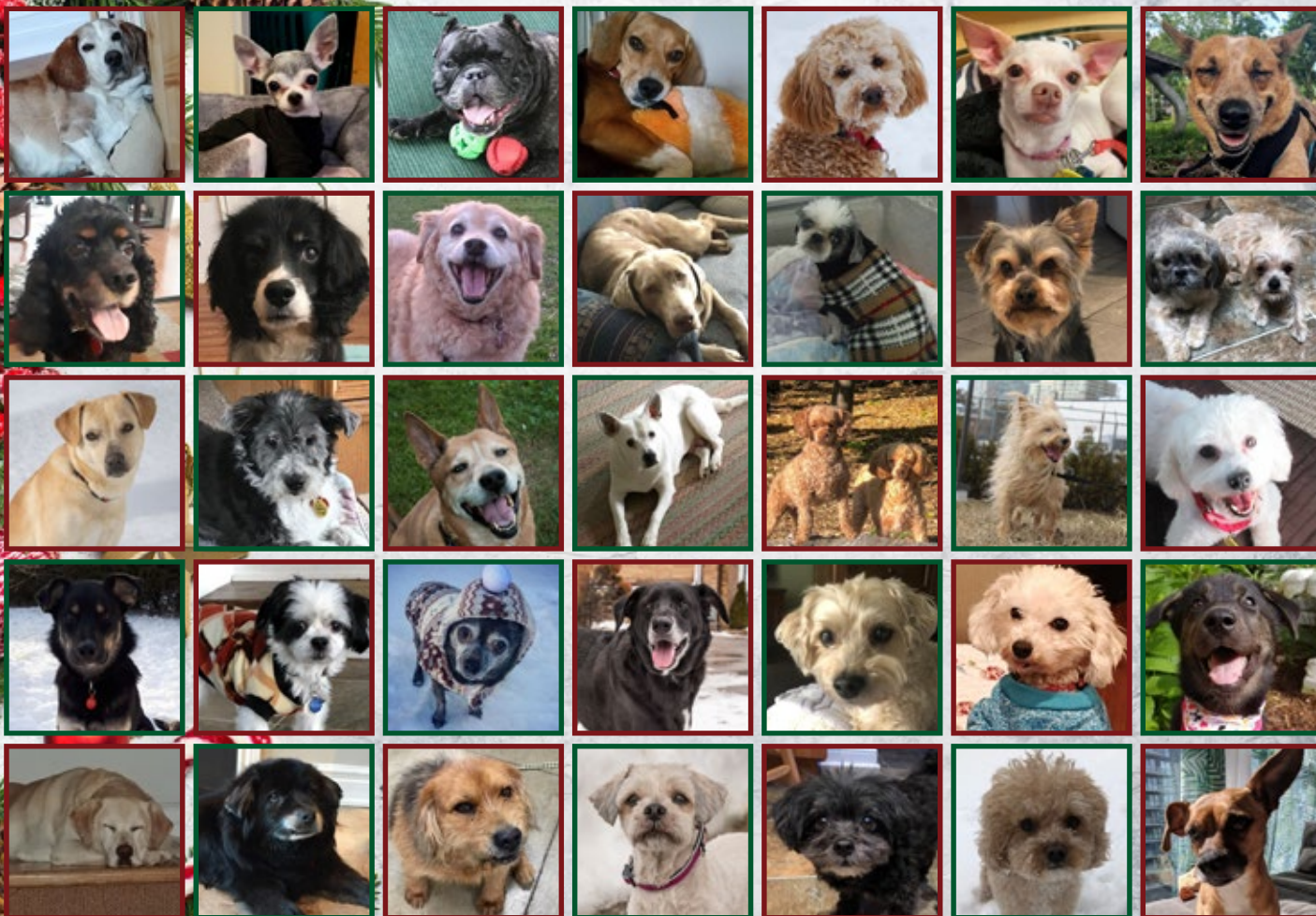
Daisy
LOVED BY KERRY, ROSS, AND SIRA
ADOPTED JULY 2009
PASSED NOVEMBER 2019

In Memoriam



Ollie

LOVED BY ELAINE, FRAZER AND CHOORY
ADOPTED JANUARY 2010
PASSED NOVEMBER 2019



Happy To Be Home For The Holidays !

Ace	Daisy	Hank	Lily	Mylo	Simba	Tucker
Annie	Dixie	Hattie	Lola	Nala	Sophia	Tyson
Ben	Elf	Holly	Looky	Naomi	Stacie	Veronica
Benji	Ella	Honey	Lou	Nikki	Sunday	Woody
Betty	Ellie	Jack	Lucy	Norman	Sweet Pea	Xavier
Biscuit	Finley	Jacques	Maggie	Owen	Tank	Zelda
Bo	Finn	Janice	Maggy	Patches	Teya	
Bob	Franklin	Jasper	Magoo	Peggy	Tiny Dancer	
Brock	Fresco	Jazzy	Marie	Phoebe	Tippy	
Buddy	Gabby	JJ	Maxx	Pierre	Tobi	
Carlton	Ginger	Jorge	Mia	Pip	Toppy	
Charlotte	Gizmo	Josie	Mildred	Pippy		
Chester	Gomer	Kiba	Milo	Remy		
Cindy	Gordy	Kyle	Miranda	Rhett		
Coco	Gracie	Lady	Misty	Ricky		
Cookie	Grover	Lester	Moochie	Sarabi		
Cooper	Gus	Lexi	Mugsy	Shirley		
Cora	Hadley	Lillibet	Murray	Sierra		

From our 2019 Adoptees

