

# Thanks for a Great Year, Volunteers!



Volunteers are the key to everything we are able to do at Speaking of Dogs Rescue. We are proud that we are run solely by dedicated volunteers. Not only does this mean that more of our donations go directly to the care of dogs in need, but also that those of you who spend countless hours of your own time volunteering are passionate about improving the lives of many dogs. In 2019 we found permanent, loving homes for over 100 dogs.

Our volunteer base includes people who foster, screen applications, conduct home checks, transport dogs and items, oversee the surrendering of dogs, donate their photography skills, conduct meet-and-

greet, make post-adoption follow-up calls, keep our social media and website up to date, compile and distribute our monthly newsletter, provide bookkeeping services, oversee our Forever in Foster program, and assist with our many fundraising activities. In addition to this, all board members are volunteers. They ensure our rescue runs smoothly and is compliant as a registered charity.

Thank you for a superb 2019. No matter how much or how little you do, it all makes a difference to the dogs who need us. We look forward to 2020 and a new decade during which we will continue to help homeless dogs.

## JANUARY 2020 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.

## Bernard

BEAGLE  
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE

### FEATURED DOG:

Bernard is an approximately 10-year-old neutered male beagle. He is quiet, calm, and house-trained and has a very sweet disposition. He is happy to interact with dogs and people. Friends who visit comment that he could be a professional “greeter.”

Like most beagles, he loves his walks and stops to sniff the world around him. He has arthritis in all four legs, so his pace is mostly slow and steady, but that doesn't stop him from enjoying life. Bernard waits patiently when people or dogs cross his path, wagging his tail in anticipation that they will stop and say hello.

Bernard is taking an anti-inflammatory and some additional supplements for his

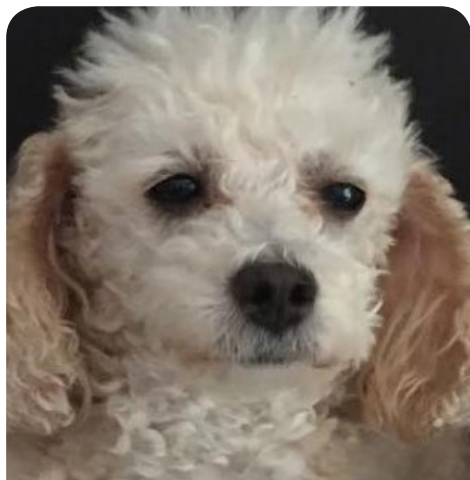
arthritis, and his abilities and energy have greatly improved! His forever family should expect to continue this support.

Due to his arthritis, Bernard needs a home without a full set of stairs to the yard; he manages the few steps at his foster home, but he may need support in the future. It is also best if his living space has mats or carpet, as his back legs tend to slip on tile or hardwood. He becomes anxious when picked up, so it's important that his home has a main-floor walk-out.

Bernard spends most of his time napping, and he has discovered the joys of belly rubs and treats! He cries a bit when first left alone, but this lasts only a minute before he settles down for a nap while he waits for you to return.



Bernard would be a great addition to a home where the concept of “slow and steady” is embraced. This sweet boy will enjoy many more years of love in his forever home.



*Lucy*  
TOY POODLE  
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



*Chica & Arnica*  
CHIHUAHUA / POMERANIAN MIX  
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE

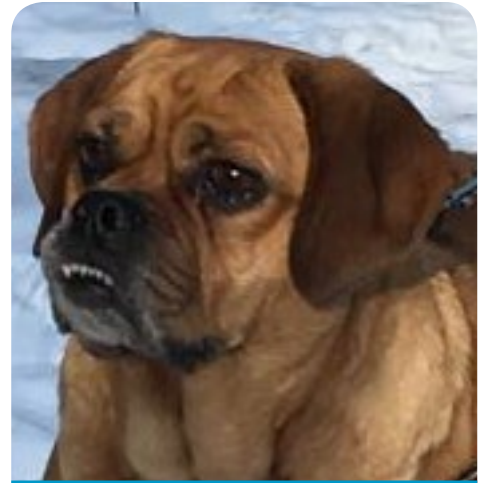




*Daisy*  
COCKER SPANIEL  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Emma*  
BEAGLE MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



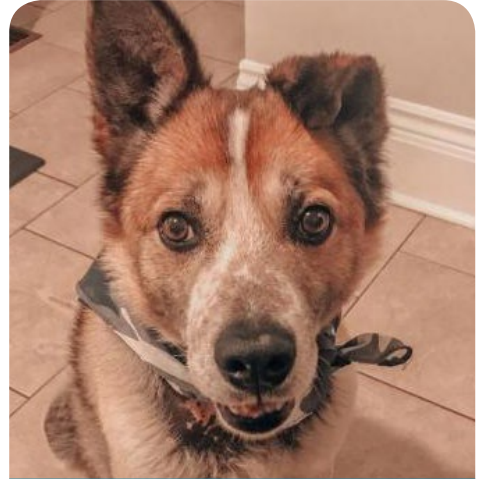
*Betty*  
PUG / BEAGLE MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Ben*  
SHIH TZU / POODLE MIX  
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



*Cho Cho*  
YORKSHIRE TERRIER  
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



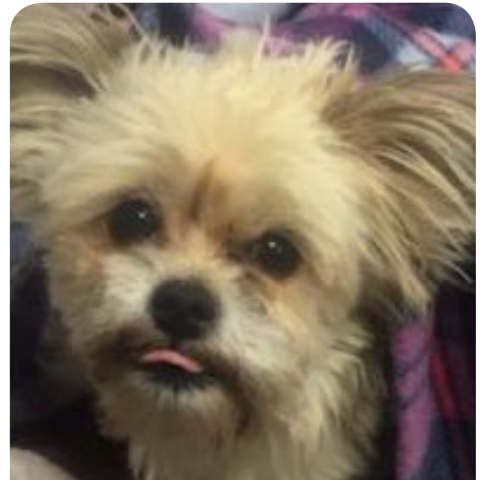
*Whiskey*  
HUSKY MIX  
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



*Winnie*  
CORGI MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Jewel*  
SHIH TZU / TERRIER  
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



*Chili*  
YORKSHIRE TERRIER MIX  
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE

# Ask the Trainer

## THERE IS NO PAUSE BUTTON ON A WINTER PUPPY

Welcome to winter! The season of bundling up and staying in.

Taking on a winter puppy can be difficult. House-training is harder – who wants to squat in the snow? Socialization is harder because we humans are less than cold tolerant, and, of course, small-breed puppies quickly regret trips outside. Deep snow is also tough on shorter or more timid puppies, and the dreaded road salt affects all pups!

People, animals, and environments that a dog is not exposed to as a youngster will be unsettling for her as an adult. This is precisely why many adult dogs become reactive, aggressive, or fearful. Raising a puppy in a social/environmental vacuum is more often the cause of behavioural problems in an adult dog than is abuse or being attacked.

The critical window of socialization ends between 12 and 16 weeks of age, and it is important for your pup to have as many good and varied experiences as possible before that age. This socialization period cannot be “put on hold” – every day counts!

It's impossible to over-emphasize how important it is to take advantage of these precious few weeks, when your puppy is most open to learning about the world.

### Puppy Socialization Program

Your first stop can be a well-run puppy socialization program. Look for an age-specific class (under 5 months), where play is carefully monitored, socialization activities and not obedience is emphasized, and health and safety are a top priority. Begin this program a week



after you bring your puppy home to see the most benefit.

However, classes are not the be-all and end-all of socialization. An hour a week is not adequate socialization! You will need to take the information you learn and apply it in daily life, finding new and novel locations and circumstances for your pup every day.

### Outdoor Socialization

It's very normal for puppies to have trouble walking away from their home. While cold may play into this during winter, it's a common concern at all times of year. Put your pup in the car and drive to a new location every day for walks.

You might just find that it is not the cold that is slowing the walks! Focus on meandering at your puppy's pace, stop

for play breaks, let her play in the snow, and provide lots of treats when anything “weird” shows up – like a garbage can or a loud truck.

If your hands are too cold to handle treats, check out your local drug store or dollar store for silicone squeeze tubes – you can find them in the travel section. Stuff the tube with canned food or cream cheese, and there's no need to remove your gloves when you reinforce your puppy.

### Indoor Options

Sometimes it really is just too frigid to be outside, or maybe you have a small breed that is truly not able to hang out outside for longer than a few minutes. The good news is that there are lots of indoor options for you to take advantage of daily!

*...Continued on page 5*



Check out hardware stores like Home Hardware, feed supply stores like TSC, libraries, local breweries, corner stores, Canadian Tire stores, and more. Many stores allow non-disruptive dogs with respectful owners inside – all you have to do is ask. Some even post signs indicating their dog friendly or mention it on their website.

This is a great opportunity for not only walking on frigid days, especially in the bigger stores with long aisles, but also for training with people passing by and for socialization in a unique environment filled with weird objects and funny smells.

Be sure to let your pup relieve herself outdoors before entering and bring some clean-up supplies, just in case! (Stores will stop allowing dogs in if they leave a mess or make extra work for employees.)

## Warm Clothing

There are many options for doggy clothing! You can get the minimal coverage of a coat or the whole-body coverage of pyjamas. Rather than looking for something cute or stylish, focus on the comfort and safety of your

pup. Find a coat that is easy to put on and doesn't involve having to restrain or manipulate your puppy's legs or face. Make this a good experience for your puppy by feeding her continuously as you're dressing her and by handling her gently and respectfully.

If your puppy is worried, moving away, nipping, or thrashing, take this process very slowly in order to avoid creating a body-handling problem. That might mean being without a coat for a few weeks and taking advantage of indoor locations and milder days.

## House-Training

It is tough to house-train pups in winter, that's for sure. Luckily there are some additional steps you can take to help keep things on track:

- Always go outside with your puppy, no exceptions!
- If she's too cold to go, bring her in to warm up for a few minutes and keep her beside you until the next trip out.
- Shovel a section of lawn and a path to the door.
- Construct a small shelter so your pup is protected from wind and

precipitation. Carry your pup to this location if necessary.

- Purchase an indoor potty station, or make your own in a kiddie pool, and set this up in your living space or garage. This is preferable to pee pads since it doesn't look like an area rug.
- Keep a coat by the back door for pee breaks.

If you choose to bring a puppy home in winter, it remains your responsibility to socialize her properly. There are no pause buttons on winter puppies just because there's a month-long cold snap, a week of ice storms, or you just can't stand going out in the cold and dark. Both you and your pup will pay for it if you hibernate for these precious few weeks instead of following through on a proper socialization plan.



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

**To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue**

**From: Jessica P. and family**

**Subject: Lacy**

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

We have had Lacy for just over a year, and we couldn't be happier. She is absolutely in love with her big fur brother Jasper, loves to play, and snuggles in with us at night. We have had no health or behavioural issues with her, and we are getting her into obedience classes to help with her leash pulling (she's small but mighty). She fits in with our family perfectly and has even warmed up to her new fur-cousin, who looks surprisingly like her!

Thank you for all you do for dogs,  
Jessica P. and family



# Bits & Bites

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

- [The PAWS Act has now taken affect in Ontario. Find out more here.](#)
- [The Toronto Star took a look at the increase in calls to Toronto Animal Services and how that's affecting the staff.](#)
- [This interesting blog post explores the human-pet bond as a familial relationship.](#)
- [Rebeka Breder, animal law lawyer, reflects on the past decade of animal welfare advancements and setbacks and also looks to the future.](#)
- [The Toronto Humane Society compiled a fun list of new year's resolutions from some of the animals in their care!](#)
- [Still in need of a 2020 calendar? The Benjamin Project has calendars for sale with proceeds going to their Benjamin Booster scholarship program. Get all of the details in their fall 2019 newsletter, available for download on their website.](#)

## THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- [Special Kitty canned cat food](#)

## WAGS AND WIGGLES FOR SHARON!

Many thanks to Sharon for organizing pet photos with Santa. She's definitely on our "nice" list!

## EXCITING NEWS!

We generally focus on the dogs here in the newsletter, but we received some exciting news last month. The Speaking of Dogs newsletter has been nominated for not one but two DWAA Awards. We are very proud to have been nominated in the Online Magazine or Online Newsletter category as well as for the Grey Muzzle Award. The awards will be presented on Sunday, February 9th.

## 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





# Holiday Lunch 2019





# Happy Tails

## DECEMBER ADOPTIONS:

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



*Molly B.*



*Hank*



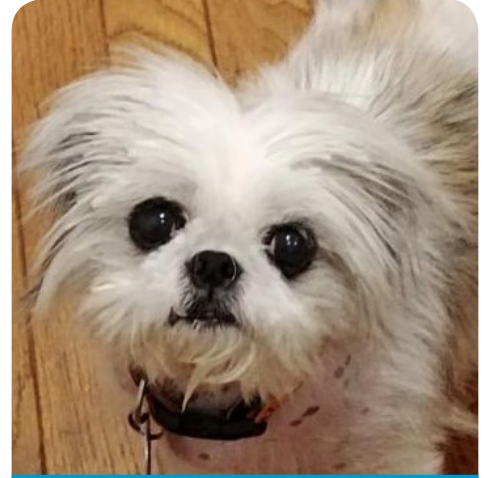
*Prudence*



*Pepper*



*Rosie*



*Fifi*



## 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).





*Happy New Year!*

2019 has come and gone in a flash, and a new decade begins! As always, our dedicated volunteer team has been busy fostering, transporting, vetting, embracing, helping, fundraising, and caring for dogs every day of the last year.

Our incredible foster parents provided endless TLC to over 100 dogs and saw to their every need. Along with the usual spays and neuters, many of the dogs we helped last year needed extensive vetting, including dental and orthopedic surgeries, ultrasounds, cystotomies, and diabetic diagnostics and supplies.

More than half of the dogs we took in last year were over eight years old. Finding good homes for the beloved golden oldies takes longer but is always worth the time and the wait. There are many loving families who open their hearts and homes to older dogs, and we are always pleased to meet and adopt to these special folks.

Our Forever in Foster program is currently caring for 14 dogs, and it is overseen by one of our experienced vet tech volunteers. The dogs in the Forever in Foster program are palliative, special needs, and/or senior+. The rescue provides and pays for veterinary care, medications, grooming, wholesome food, and supplies for these dogs for the rest of their life.

Quality of life is a priority, and important decisions are made collectively by our veterinarians, foster parents, and foster coordinators. We said “until we meet again” to seven of our Forever in Foster dogs last year, and we welcomed Alaska, Cindy Lou, Fawn, Gigi, Hailey, and Jacob into loving forever foster homes. [Click this link to read more about our Forever in Foster dogs.](#)

The majority of our foster parents are with us (many for over a decade) because they enjoy fostering older dogs, so we aren't always able to take in puppies or younger dogs. One of our board members saw an opportunity to help puppies by sponsoring flights from northern Ontario communities to rescues in southern Ontario. She also saw that adult and senior dogs needed sponsorships. Our board approved the transport sponsorship of almost 100 flights in 2019 to assist northern dog communities. They also approved sponsorships to board several “at-risk” dogs who were in overcrowded shelters in Quebec.

Our tireless volunteers worked hard to generate financial support, and we participated in many fundraisers last year. We joined walkathons, adoption days, pet expos and dog-themed events, created another stunning calendar, and had raffles and photo contests. To cap off the year, our volunteer newsletter team was nominated for not one but two Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA) Awards!

We are proud to be in a position to offer sanctuary, medical attention and intervention, safety, kindness, financial support, and a caring hand and heart to dogs in need. It is a privilege, responsibility, and commitment we take very seriously – and have for almost two decades.

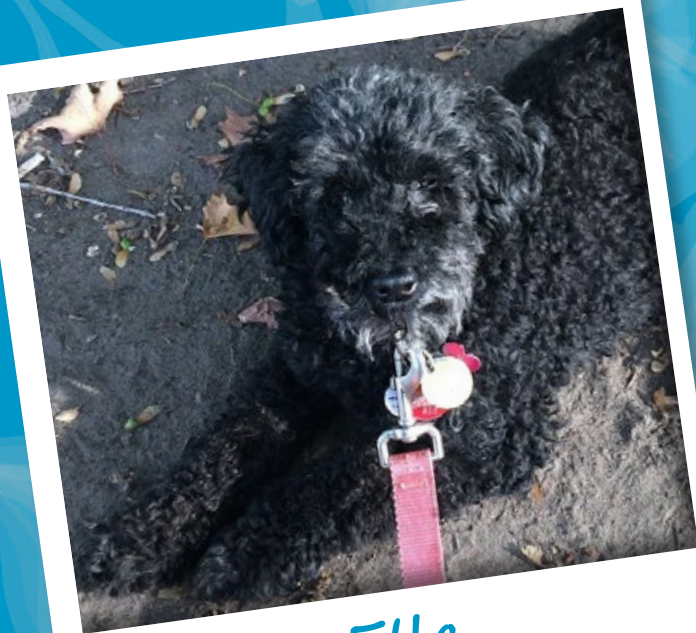
We wish you all a happy and healthy new year and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours Sincerely,

*Lorraine Houston*

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE

# In Memoriam



*Ella*

LOVED BY MARYLU AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED AUGUST 2018  
PASSED DECEMBER 2019



*Joey*

LOVED BY GARY, BILL, TOBY AND TOPPER  
ADOPTED MARCH 2016  
PASSED DECEMBER 2019



*Libby*

LOVED BY BRENDA Y. AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED AUGUST 2010  
PASSED DECEMBER 2019

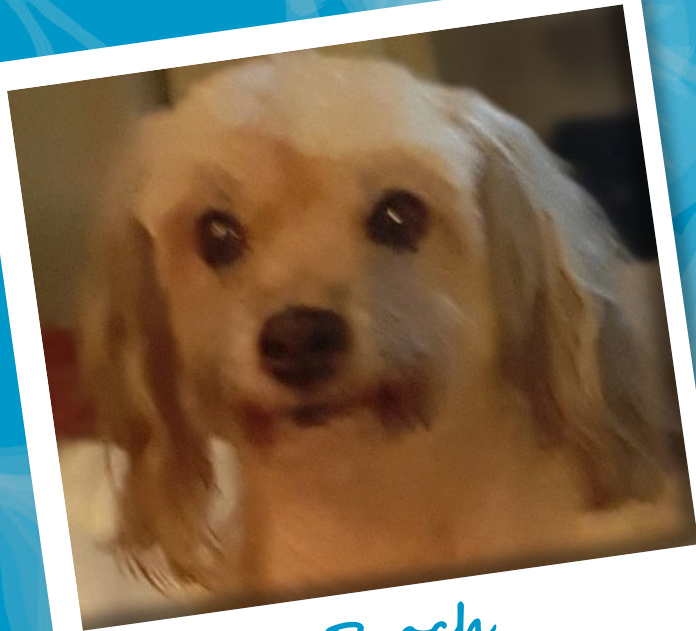


*Century*

LOVED BY BRODIE-BROWN DENISON ROAD GANG  
ADOPTED OCTOBER 2010  
PASSED DECEMBER 2019



# In Memoriam



*Pooch*

LOVED BY WANDA AND FAMILY  
PASSED DECEMBER 2019