

# Stepping Up for the Pups



Sadly, the organizers have cancelled the Furry Friends 5K scheduled to happen in Oshawa on June 7th as part of ongoing efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

These events are an important fundraiser for the rescue and help us help many dogs in need, but we won't let the dogs down! Speaking of Dogs is planning a physically distant yet super fun event to support the many dogs in our care. On Sunday, June 14th we'll be holding our first ever Step Up for the Pups walkathon!

Step Up for the Pups is a walkathon with a twist. You can participate by setting your own goal, either by tracking your steps or taking an enjoyable walk without counting steps – your choice! You can walk in your yard, in your home or out in

your neighbourhood while respecting any physical distancing requirements in effect.

Just like a traditional walkathon, Step Up for the Pups will be fun and interactive, and you can even go at your own pace. There will also be prizes and a simple, convenient way to collect pledges online.

Step Up for the Pups is a new kind of walkathon, but our commitment to the dogs will never change! Join us for this innovative and entertaining fundraiser that's sure to be a hit with participants and their pets!

Check next month's newsletter for all the details, and visit the Speaking of Dogs Facebook page, Instagram page, or website for regular updates.

## APRIL 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.

## Sybil

PUG & BEAGLE  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE

### FEATURED DOG:

Sybil is a female Pug/Beagle mix (often referred to as a Puggle) who is about 25 pounds and 8 and a half years old. She is spayed and up to date on vetting.

Sweet Sybil is in a busy foster home with another dog, and she's adapted and settled into the family routine very easily. She is house-trained, sleeps through the night, has done well when left alone in the home and even knows some basic commands. She is particularly skilled at catching treats!

Sybil is mellow but likes to be where her humans are, and she gets very wiggly and excited when she gets attention, even rolling over for tummy rubs.

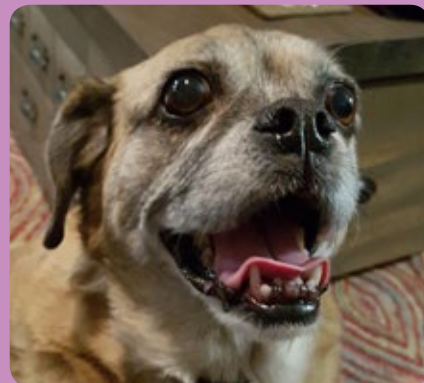
She can be reactive with certain dogs on walks, but she is easily distracted and does well with praise.

Sybil twisted her right paw a few years ago and is currently getting Cartrophen injections once per month. She also gets an anti-inflammatory medicine mixed with her food daily. Her right leg seems to bother her when she has been overly active, but she still loves to go for walks. She also loves to play tug with both her fur brother and people but is not a "high energy" dog. You can watch a video of Sybil playing [here](#).



She has not been exposed to small children or cats while in the foster home. Also, while Sybil may be short-haired, those looking for a non-shedding dog should not consider her, as she does shed.

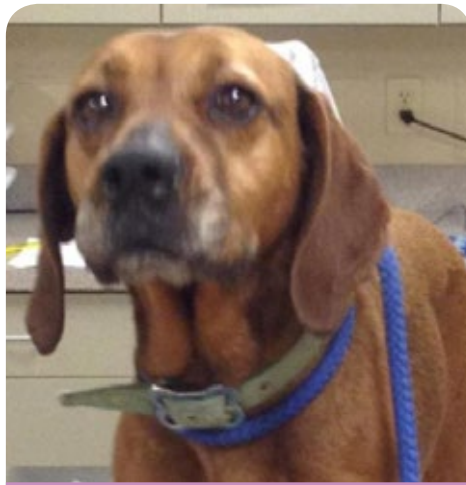
Sybil is the best of everything – fun, happy, well-mannered, and not high maintenance. She would be a wonderful addition to any loving home. Will you be Sybil's new best friend?





*Pepper*

BORDER COLLIE MIX  
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



*Jamilla*

HOUND / VIZSLA MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Zoey*

RAT TERRIER MIX  
SMALL, YOUNG, FEMALE



*Kodi & Bella*

YORKIE MIX & POMERANIAN  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE & FEMALE



*Franny*

COCKER SPANIEL  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Nash*

SHAR PEI MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



*Winnie*

CORGIE MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



*Jelly Bean*

SHIHTZU MIX  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



*Eddi*

SPANIEL / POODLE MIX  
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE

# COVID-19 Update

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, Speaking of Dogs Rescue is taking action to support the health and safety of our volunteers and the public while allowing the rescue to continue with adoptions. The board has discussed the current situation and approved the following new adoption procedures:

- Home visits can now be done by Skype, Facetime, Zoom, or What's App video and must include views of the address on the adoption form, the potential adopter walking into the home (to confirm they live at the address stated), and full views of the inside of the home. All family members need to be available for the video chat.
- Potential adopters who live in a house with a yard will need an in-person home perimeter visit done. The visit will be conducted with appropriate social distancing and the home visit volunteer will only be there to check to ensure the yard is secure; they will not be entering the house for any reason.
- Meet and greets can be done if both foster parents and potential adopters agree; however, they must be done outside and physical (social) distancing is paramount.
- Any foster parent who is not comfortable with these modified procedures can notify the rescue and will not be forced to comply.
- Intake of dogs will continue at this time, when capacity allows.

- Transports will continue; however, drivers and foster parents are encouraged to take extra precautions:
  - practice physical distancing when passing the dog from one person to the next (no shaking hands or close contact);
  - wash or sanitize your hands before and after any interactions;
  - refrain from touching your face.
- The rescue will continue to review and process applications via email and telephone and engage with foster parents on potential adopters and their suitability.
- Reference checks will still be performed.

The board of directors will continue to review the situation and notify you about any related changes at Speaking of Dogs.

We thank you for being a valued part of our rescue, and we remain committed to providing the best care for our dogs.

We are in this together! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the rescue at [info@speakingofdogs.com](mailto:info@speakingofdogs.com).

In the meantime, stay safe.

Yours in dogs,

Speaking of Dogs Rescue Program  
Board of Directors

## COVID-19 INFO FOR PET PARENTS

- ✓ You may want to consider keeping a 30-day supply of pet food and medications on hand.
- ✓ Some groomers have had to close their doors during this time, but that doesn't mean your pet's grooming needs are any less important. Gently combing or brushing them regularly will help keep them happy and tangle free.
- ✓ As an essential service, vet clinics in Ontario have been allowed to remain open and perform urgent care. If you think your pet may require medical assistance, don't hesitate to contact your vet. New procedures will likely be in place, but every pet can access the help they need.
- ✓ Be prepared: try to put a plan in place now in the event that you are quarantined or self-isolating and unable to adequately care for your pets. Make arrangements with family, neighbours, or friends to help ensure your furry family members will have everything they need.

See the "Bits and Bites" section of this newsletter for more tips and info.

# Events

## WEBINARS TO THE RESCUE!

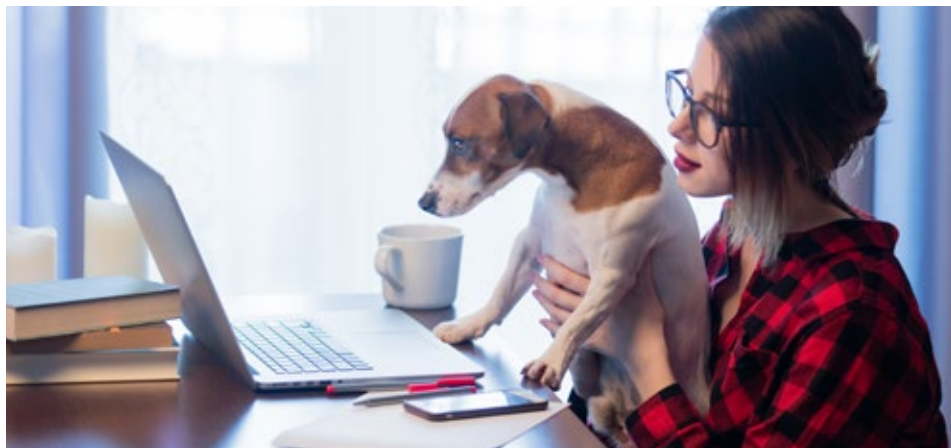
Speaking of Dogs is proud to be working with EduCanine on a webinar series. Please join us for as many as you can! All of the trainers are certified, knowledgeable, and experienced.

EduCanine, an organization of many experienced and certified trainers, created this dynamic webinar series for a number of reasons: to help us all better communicate with our dogs, to assist rescue and shelter organizations assess and understand the dogs in their care and, to provide solid advice and training techniques for a number of canine behaviours.

Dogs talk to us all the time, and we owe it to them to learn their language and really listen!

Every Tuesday, starting on April 14th, from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., there will be an interactive webinar on a specific topic. These webinars are invaluable to anyone who lives with and loves a dog. Here is what is coming up:

**April 14: Canine Communication**  
Learn how to really assess what your dog



is trying to say to avoid flights, fights, and bites

**April 21: Rescue Loss Prevention**  
A high percentage of runaways are rescues. Learn techniques and tools that are key to preventing a lost dog.

**April 28: Aiding with Adjustment**  
Is your dog sometimes anxious? Fearful? Not feeling at home yet? Learn how you can help your dog love their environment.

**May 4: Exposure and Socialization**  
How can you get your dog used to skateboards, rolling garbage cans, or even the sound of a thunderstorm? Whether you have a puppy or a rescue, these techniques will make everything okay!

**May 12: Fostering the Bond**  
Bonding with your dog takes time and requires you to see the world from their eyes. We will show you how to do that!

**May 19: Preparing for Normal**  
Dogs are loving all of this time with their people and may need some help when things go back to “normal.”

Each webinar is \$35. Rescue and sheltering organizations can use the code **rescue20** to obtain the amazing introductory price of \$20 per webinar.

To learn more and to register, please go to [educanine.org/webinars-to-the-rescue](https://educanine.org/webinars-to-the-rescue). If you have any questions, feel free to email Andrea Dinan, EduCanine’s Founder, at [learn@educanine.org](mailto:learn@educanine.org)

## FACEBOOK AUCTIONS ARE HAPPENING!

Looking for a fun distraction while you’re stuck at home? Spending more time on social media than usual? Head on over to Speaking of Dogs Rescue’s Facebook page! Not only do we have lots of info about the wonderful dogs we’re helping, every week we’re auctioning off a different item – all for the dogs! So far we’ve auctioned off books, toys, a hand-made quilt, a wire pet barrier, and other dog-related items. Check our [Facebook page](#) regularly to see what’s on the block and to place your bids!

## EVENT CANCELLATIONS

The following events have been cancelled as part of efforts to help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Spring Pet Expo
- Woofstock
- Furry Friends 5K

Stay safe – stay home.

# Please Share the Love!



During these uncertain times, Speaking of Dogs Rescue is trying to help as many dogs as we can. We've recently taken in a diabetic dog, a heartworm-positive dog, a dog who needs an eye enucleation, a 16-year-old spaniel mix, a 15-year-old Pekinese, a 12-year-old Pomeranian, and a Pomeranian with orthopedic issues.

**We know that many of our readers are facing difficult times, but now more than ever, we need your support! The easiest way to offer financial support to Speaking of Dogs Rescue is to visit our [Canada Helps Giving Page](#).**

When you give to us through Canada Helps, we give back to you: a tax-deductible receipt will be issued directly from the site.

If you're not in a position to offer financial help, please consider opening your home and heart to a dog in need of a second chance by fostering. You can fill out a foster application at [speakingofdogs.com/volunteers/fostering/](https://speakingofdogs.com/volunteers/fostering/)

Thank you for your generosity!

## YOUR LEGACY AND DOGS IN NEED

If you are blessed with dogs, you're probably acutely aware of how much they enrich your life. You may also be especially grateful for the companionship of dogs lately, amidst the social restrictions to reduce the impact of COVID-19.

No doubt you also know that adopting a dog is a lifelong commitment and should include planning for a day when you may no longer be able to provide them with proper care. You can ensure you will always be able to take care of your pets by having an up-to-date will, a legal power of attorney,

and less formal arrangements with trusted friends and family.

No matter how much or little you own and whether you have pets or not, preparing a will makes you think about the people and causes that matter to you. If you want a charitable gift to be part of your legacy, please consider Speaking of Dogs Rescue as one of your beneficiaries.

Leaving a bequest in your will or naming Speaking of Dogs Rescue as the beneficiary of your RRIF, RRSP or life insurance policy can help ensure dogs in need will have sanctuary and that our Forever-in-Foster program continues to provide support for

palliative and special needs dogs. As a registered Canadian charity, a bequest to Speaking of Dogs Rescue will also help reduce the amount of income tax payable by your estate in the year of your death.

We don't all have vast fortunes, but we all leave our own legacy, and you can change a vulnerable dog's world by offering them a second chance at love and life.

To make helping dogs a part of your legacy, please talk to a lawyer or financial advisor. For more information, you can call our rescue line at 705-444-7637 or email [info@speakingofdogs.com](mailto:info@speakingofdogs.com).

# Ask the Trainer

## SOCIALIZING YOUR DOG WHEN SOCIALLY ISOLATING

These are unprecedented times, and every aspect of our lives has been affected. While humans deal with their loss of freedom, financial stress, and health issues, our companion animals feel these changes in different ways.

Our pets are happy to suddenly have their people around so much, but there are challenges for them that need to be addressed. Your dog's current age has an impact on how these new isolation experiences will affect them.

### Young Puppies

Puppies under 16 weeks are in a highly sensitive social learning stage, during which they learn critical skills and acceptance. While they will benefit from the extra attention from family being home with them, this doesn't necessarily translate to real-world experiences.

Some skills, such as house-training, may be improved through this family involvement. Other skills, such as acceptance of strangers, can become more of a challenge. We saw this when parvovirus first hit back in the 1980s and puppies were not being socialized at all. A year down the road, data showed that there was a large spike in behavioural issues.

Creative solutions will need to be designed to help address the very real lack of new interactions. It is recommended that pups meet and interact with 50 new people in their first 16 weeks, in order to build a comfort level with a wide range of types. After 16 weeks, pups are far less accepting of new people, so we've got to help them now as much as possible. Walks in the neighborhood with your puppy on a 6- to 8-foot (1.8- to 2.4-metre)



leash can let them say hi while you both still keep the appropriate distance.

There is significant evidence that dogs often see men as being scarier than women, and research suggests that the difference in a man's stride may be a cause, while their lower voices may also be perceived as more threatening. Whatever the reason, it is a real factor and needs to be addressed accordingly. While out on a walk, ask a man to stand sideways at least 2 metres away and toss your pup a treat. Another exercise you can try is to stand about 4 metres apart (depending on the length of your leash), or ask the man to crouch down and allow your pup to approach if they choose to.

Kids also have a different way of moving that can be scary for pups, so going outside to parks once they're open again and staying at a good distance can help a lot.

Find safe opportunities where you can help your puppy observe a lot of different types of people from a safe distance. If it

is safe for you to do so, stationing yourself in a parking lot of a grocery store or hardware store can provide some great experiences, including rattling carts, sliding glass doors, and people moving toward and away from you.

Trash day is an excellent opportunity to practise having your pup watch something novel – from the safety of your front step! The trucks are loud and big; the people wear bright vests and create a lot of commotion, picking up and throwing things. Calmly watching with a loose leash and treats can help condition your puppy to this experience. Start while the truck is a few doors away, as the noise is quite loud and startling!

Learning bite inhibition – the proper use of pressure in contact with others – must be learned before 16 weeks of age. While it is ideally taught from interactions with other pups in play, it is still possible to build what is known as a soft mouth with just human interaction. Work on

*...continued on page 8*

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creating a “gentle” or “soft” cue when engaging with your puppy.

Teaching them the cue “gentle” when licking soft food from the palm of your hand is a great place to start. Tug-of-war is a really excellent game, but at this stage, with no other pups to interact with, I do recommend refraining from it until after 16 weeks of age. For now, we want to teach puppies to engage with toys, hands, and other dogs softly.

You’ll have a lifetime to teach tug fun, but only up to 16 weeks to get a soft mouth!

Playing doorbell games is a great thing to practise with dogs of all ages! We want to help them learn to not get overly excited every time they hear them, including on TV shows! Start with a soft knock from a family member and then toss a treat toward your dog’s bed to teach them to move away from the door. You can play this game with a recorded round of doorbells, slowly increasing the volume, so that it stops being such an exciting cue.

Once you are able to interact and be in public in a more normal manner, don’t rush new experiences. Let your puppy choose their own pace when approaching a novel thing and the distance to observe it from. Be aware that just because you know something isn’t a threat doesn’t mean that it isn’t scary for them. Fear is an emotional response, not a rational one, and the goal is to slowly change your dog’s perspective about an experience.

You should pay careful attention to your puppy’s body language during any greeting or new experience. If they are crouched down, have their tail down or tucked under, have their head lowered, or are putting the brakes on before approaching, then you need to stop! Giving your pup a chance to observe while remaining stationary will often help them be willing to approach. If they continue to resist, move fully away from the situation and note that you need to start from a greater distance next time!



*This puppy is watching a garbage truck from a safe distance.*

### **Mature Dogs**

Is your dog happy to have you home but bored? If you notice that they are getting into trouble more often, it may be because they don’t have enough stimulation. Being a couch potato may be nice for you, but most dogs need more to engage them. Get creative!

Balance boards, kids’ tunnels, toddler play structures, balls in a plastic pool, and jumping through hula hoops are all easy ways to keep dogs of any age engaged!

Some great owner-oriented games include hide-and-seek and recall games where you call your dog back and forth between family members. Not only does this increase their love of hearing the cue “come” by practising it in such a fun manner, you’ll tire them out as well!

Teaching new tricks rather than obedience skills tends to keep things light and happy. While a solid “stay” cue is highly desirable, a happy pop up in the air or fast spin is so much more fun! Smiles for us, which trigger our endorphins, and physical exercise and release for them. A true win-win!

Try to maintain a similar routine to when you are away at work, to avoid the stress of a big change to the schedule. The departure-to-work time is often the most stressful part of the day for dogs, so try

to practise separating yourself from them every day at the same time. Even just an hour or two alone each day will help to keep your dog on a regular schedule. Do some yard work or take a walk on your own, so that your dog isn’t becoming too dependent on having you in the home at all times. Avoid allowing them to follow you everywhere in the home with the use of gates or by closing doors.

When we do return to our regular schedules, it will likely result in an adjustment period for everyone. We are likely to be more tired and have less time for our pets. Ease your pets back into your usual schedule as the day of return to work approaches by increasing their alone time.

Good luck, stay safe, and try to enjoy your time with your dog!



*Lucinda Glenny, MSc. Animal Behaviour, HBSoc. Psych., CPDT-KA, owner and lead trainer of Canine Campus ([caninecampus.ca](http://caninecampus.ca))*



# Bits & Bites

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

[Many people are concerned about whether their pets, including their dogs, can become infected with COVID-19. The American Kennel Club, as well as countless media outlets, have confirmed they are not at risk.](#)

[Dog trainer and regular newsletter contributor Emily Fisher has created a great video with lots of tips and tricks to help keep your dog busy while we're all working from home!](#)

[Dr. Karen Becker shares what pet parents need to know amid the COVID-19 outbreak.](#)

[The Toronto Sun also offers some tips for caring for pets during this difficult time.](#)

[The ASPCA has set up an information hub with COVID-19 updates specifically aimed at animal shelters.](#)

[The United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has prepared info to help pet owners during the COVID-19 outbreak.](#)

[With all of us at home, you may be enjoying the spring weather and spending more time outside. Spring brings many new things, including many new kittens. "Kitten season" sees shelters and rescues all too often overrun with kittens brought in by well-meaning people who found them outside. The](#)

[Toronto Humane Society has provided guidelines for kitten welfare and care.](#)

## THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- [Icelandic Plus Dog and Cat Treats](#)
- [Warning letter to issues to Bravo Packing \(not Bravo Pet Food\)](#)

**To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue**  
**From: Adeline and Sean**  
**Subject: Maxx**

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

Since we are approaching Maxx's one-year adoption anniversary, I wanted to send you an update and share with you some photos we had professionally taken. Maxx has been doing great; his confidence has soared, and we attribute this in part to his participation in agility. He successfully completed level one and was moved into a level two class! He loves agility and the instructors have said he has the potential to go competitive!

Maxx has become a very cuddly boy as of recently, but he still has some challenges we are working on – like jumping, mouthing and walking nicely on a leash. He has made great strides with all of these since we first got him, but there are definitely things we have to work on constantly with him. He is still a lot of energy, but he is beginning to learn how to entertain himself; biggest thing is that he has stopped chewing inappropriate stuff, like my couch pillows.

Maxx is such a sweet and adorable dog who has really brought so much life to our lives. We can't imagine life without him.

Enjoy the photos of Maxx and his pug sister, Ruby!



# Happy Tails

## MARCH ADOPTIONS:

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



*Ben*



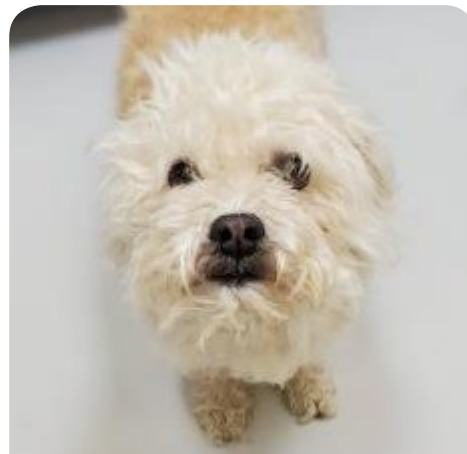
*Bernard*



*Daisy*



*Jersey*



*Josie*



*Maddie*



*Madison*



*Roxy*



*Teddy*

# In Memoriam



*Jack*  
LOVED BY CHRISTINE K. AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED APRIL 2018  
PASSED MARCH 2020



*Chanel*  
LOVED BY JAN K AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2009  
PASSED MARCH 2020



*Juliette*  
LOVED BY THE NEILSON FAMILY  
ADOPTED MARCH 2018  
PASSED MARCH 2020



*Sherry*  
LOVED BY SUSAN AND KATHY  
ADOPTED JULY 2013  
PASSED MARCH 2020