

Dog Days of the Pandemic



Leave it to dogs to find the positive in a global pandemic! While many of us are fumbling our way through adjusting to our stay-at-home orders, dogs everywhere are celebrating the longest weekend ever. And it's not just for the dogs who are already in their forever homes who are rejoicing – many people have chosen to

take in a foster or new rescue while they have all this extra free time.

I can't think of a better way to put a positive spin on this global crisis than getting a rescue, and for a lot of us, this is one of our best chances to have the time we need to settle in a new dog. Without our regular busy routines, a dog has the chance to really get to know and trust their new family and environment. Having their humans at home gives dogs a wonderful opportunity to understand their lives one step at a time, find their voice, and bond with their family members – not to mention all the extra enrichment a bored human can create!

Eventually, and hopefully sooner rather than later, we will start to get back to “normal.” This may mean going back to work, having friends and family over, going to dog parks again, and certainly experiencing a busier, louder life
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EVENT CANCELLATIONS

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

- Furry Friends 5K
- Muddy Paws Wine Festival (Vineland)
- Niagara Pet Expo (Niagara Falls)
- Slobberfest

Several events have also been postponed to later in the year, including Woofstock, which will now be happening on September 26th and 27th.

MAY 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, 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.

Isaac

POMERANIAN
SMALL, ADULT, MALE

FEATURED DOG:

Isaac is a perky 12-year-old Pomeranian. He is about 15 pounds and neutered. He's a wonderful balance of "let's go on an adventure" and "let's chill for a snuggle and belly rub."

Isaac has a healthy appetite and lets you know he would like to be fed by banging his empty food bowl with his paw. He's quite the character! He's also talkative and full of energy, and he loves to explore and run around the backyard at his foster home. Isaac may have some retriever in his DNA because he also loves playing fetch with his Kong!

Isaac coughs sometimes due to a collapsing trachea (sadly common in the breed), but his new medication is working well for him. He takes his medication readily since he loves to eat, but his waistline will need to be watched!

Isaac has done well with his smaller foster friend and the patient resident Border Collie. Isaac is quite outgoing and may have a forward approach with new dogs, but he isn't aggressive.



Slow and proper introductions will solve any issues.

Isaac has not lived with children. He does chase cats if they run but is otherwise tolerant of them.

All Isaac needs now is the right home, where he can run and play and then relax and shower in new family with love – and be loved in return.



Shayla

SHIBA INU / HOUND MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Franny

COCKER SPANIEL
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Nash

SHAR PEI MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



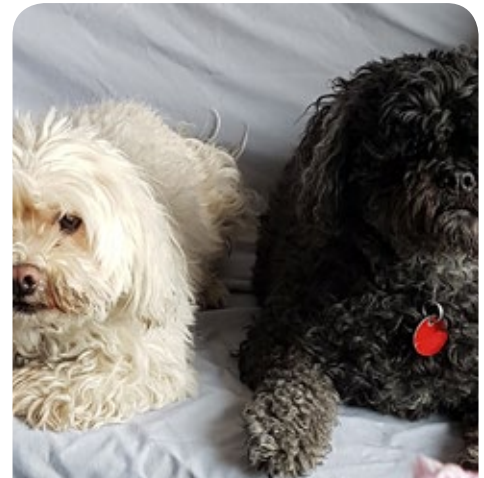
Max

PHARAOH HOUND / LAB MIX
MEDIUM, SENIOR, MALE



Gideon

GERMAN SHEPHERD / LAB MIX
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Max & Daisy

POODLE / BICHON MIXES
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE & FEMALE



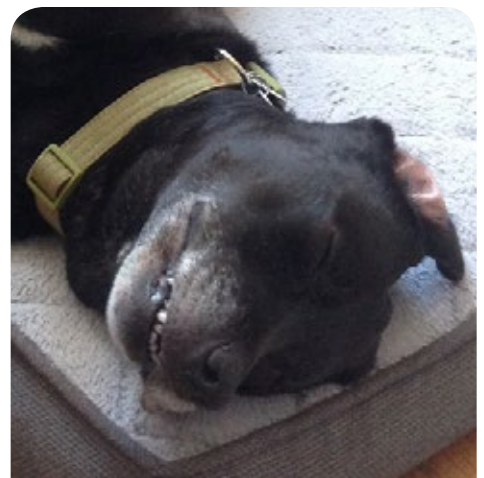
Winnie

CORGIE MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Little Bit

SHIH TZU MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Belle

LABRADOR MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Step Up for the Pups!

So many things have changed to keep us safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic. At Speaking of Dogs Rescue, we've had to alter many of our protocols and procedures. While we've been able to continue our rescue efforts, all three of our spring fundraisers have been cancelled. Historically, those fundraisers have really boosted us financially. We needed to fill the gap, so we've created a fun and innovative event that allows participants to fully respect all COVID-19 directives and restrictions.

It's Step Up for the Pups! An independent walkathon that will take place on June 14th.

Sponsoring participants through our [Canada Helps page](#) is easy, and the site will immediately issue a tax receipt. Sharing is simple, too!

Want to really Step Up for the Pups? It's easy to set up a fundraising page on the [Canada Helps site](#) by clicking on "Create a Fundraiser" and following the instructions. Then it's simply a matter of sharing far and wide to help raise funds between now and June 14th!

THERE ARE EVEN PRIZES TO BE WON!

- Most money raised: \$100 PetSmart card
- Most steps or greatest distance travelled: \$100 PetSmart card
- Best social media engagement: \$25 PetSmart card

Our goal is ambitious, but so many dogs are counting on us, including the dogs in our Forever in Foster program and the numerous seniors we take in—both of these groups generate large vet bills, and we can't let them down.

For more information about **Step Up for the Pups** and how you can help, please visit the [Speaking of Dogs website](#).



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 until May 19th, 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:

May 4: Exposure and Socialization

Whether you have a new puppy or a rescue, you probably have questions about how to properly socialize your dog to other dogs, people as well as sights and sounds during social distancing, and we have answers!

May 12: Fostering the Bond

Bonding with your new dog takes time and understanding. Learn best practices to realize your dog's likes, needs, and limits so you can create a solid foundation that will help with confidence, training, and over all well-being.

May 19: Preparing for Normal

Your dog may have a hard time when things return to "normal." This is a special edition webinar that will help prepare you and your pup for the day when you return to work.

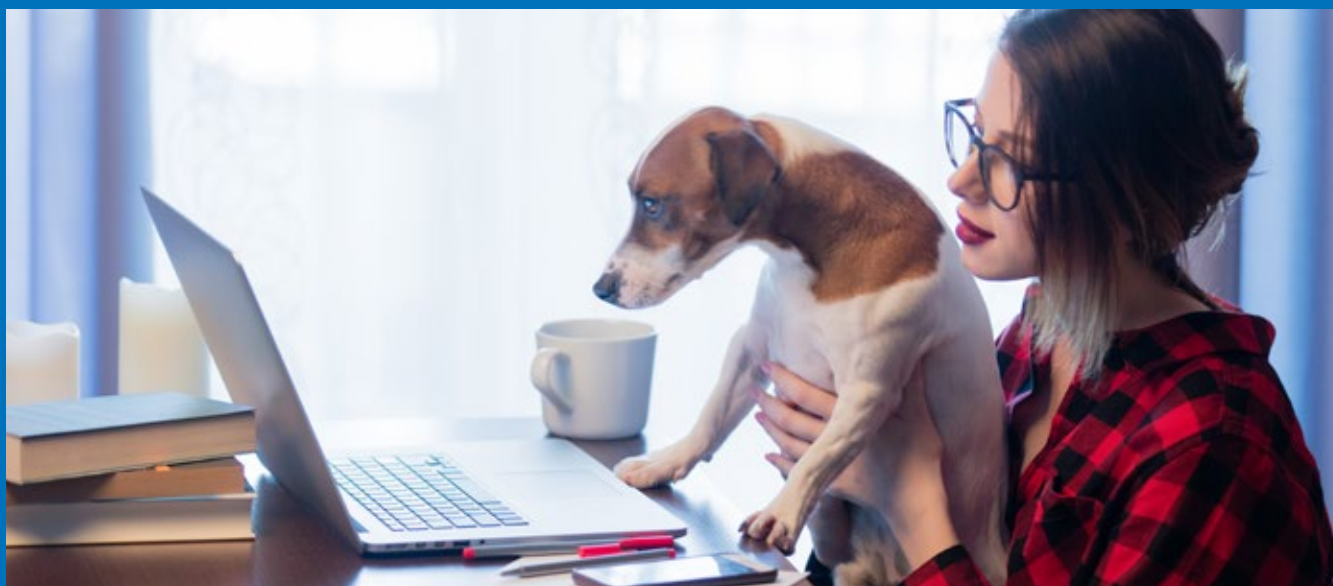
May 26: Reacting to Reactivity

Does the sight of a skateboard, person, or a fellow canine make your dog cause a scene? This webinar will cover roots of reactivity and how to best respond to help diminish the drama.

Each webinar is \$35. Rescue and sheltering organizations as well as adopters can use the code **rescue20** to obtain the special price of \$20 per webinar.

To learn more and to register, please go to educanine.org/webinars-to-the-rescue.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Andrea Dinan, EduCanine's Founder, at learn@educanine.org



Ask the Trainer

Continued from page 1...

outside the home. This is going to be an overwhelming change for some dogs and will likely bring out a range of emotions, from excitement to nervousness to somewhere in between. Luckily, with all this free time, we have ample opportunity to give our dogs the skills to navigate the transition with ease.

Skill 1: Handling Alone Time

Dogs love to be with their people all day long, but we all want to have our lives back! Leaving the house will be a regular occurrence when we are no longer in isolation. The best thing you can do is to teach your dog that their alone time is going to be fun and relaxing by leaving them with a food-stuffed Kong for short absences. For the first few times, make sure to come back before your dog has finished their treat and take it away from them when you get home. Then slowly extend the time that you leave so that your dog knows, eventually, you will come home. In the meantime, they might as well enjoy what's on offer and have a nap.

Skill 2: Greeting Visitors

There probably haven't been too many doorbells ringing over the last several weeks. Teaching your dog to station somewhere when a person arrives is an incredibly useful skill. Not only does it defuse some of the excitement when visitors arrive, it also prevents door-darting. Luckily, teaching it is easy!

Have a family member or neighbour stand outside and ring your doorbell or knock at random intervals. Each time they knock, sprinkle treats wherever you would like your dog to stay when there's someone at the door. Eventually, your dog will begin orienting toward that spot every time they hear the doorbell.

Once your dog is going to their bed as soon as they hear the doorbell, you can teach them to stay there while you open the door. First, try walking away a few steps and come back to give your dog a treat for staying. Once your dog has mastered this, you can try touching the door and then opening it. If your dog is struggling to stay on their bed, it's too hard! Try to think of something between the step they've mastered and the step you're working toward and work on that first!

Skill 3: Enjoying the Hustle and Bustle

If your dog has not yet experienced the sights and sounds of the city in full swing, or if your dog had some problems adjusting to the hustle and bustle before the pandemic, you've found yourself in a wonderful time to help them feel good about all the city noise. Find city noises like traffic sounds, garbage trucks, or barking dogs on YouTube and start playing them at a volume that doesn't bother your dog. As soon as the sounds start, give your dog something they love like a bully stick or a tartar bone. Slowly increase the volume, making sure that your dog is still comfortable. Each time you increase the volume, make it rain with some bonus treats. If you see your dog's ears start to twitch or if your dog stops eating or chewing, you have raised the volume too fast – go back to the previous volume and try again more gradually.

Skill 4: Navigating the Park

As trainers, we often compare the dog park to a bar or nightclub for dogs. They're fun for some but others would rather be anywhere else. If you've never taken your dog to the park before, try to set up a backyard playdate with a dog

who is friendly with other dogs first. If that's not an option, take a walk around the perimeter with your dog before entering and evaluate whether they are ready to go make new friends.

Watch their body language. Remember: dogs vote with their feet. Is your dog trying to get closer to the dogs? Or are they moving away? Watch how they react when a dog approaches – are they stiff and still or wiggly and loose? It's okay if your dog doesn't like dog parks – or even other dogs – and knowing your dog's body language will be of the utmost importance when creating positive experiences at the park.

Would you like to learn more techniques like this? The trainers at EduCanine have put together an amazing lineup of webinars that will help, such as Aiding with Adjustment, Preparing for Normal, Exposure and Socialization, Reacting to Reactivity, Dog to Dog Interaction and many, many more. Check us out at www.educanine.org and don't forget your coupon code – rescue20 – for the amazing price of \$20 per webinar. It'll be the best \$20 you have spent on your dog!



Andrea Dinan, CPDT-KA & KPA Foundations, City Dogs Training and Behavior, founder of EduCanine and **Joey McKinstry**, CPDT-KA & Fear Free Certified, Creature Comforts Dog Training creaturecomfortsdogtraining.com and EduCanine instructor

Bits & Bites

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

[With more people staying at home, wildlife is being spotted all over Toronto, and one little fox family in particular is becoming rather famous. As cute as fox kits might be, approaching them or letting your dog approach them can be very harmful. Let wildlife be wild, and don't hesitate to call 311 if you see anyone approaching, feeding, or otherwise harassing wildlife.](#)

[Have you found a baby animal you think may be orphaned? Toronto Wildlife Centre has detailed instructions to ensure the help you provide really is helpful!](#)

[The warmer weather brings many great things, as well as some not so great](#)

[things, like fleas, ticks, and heartworm-carrying mosquitoes. Find out how to help manage these pests and keep your pets happy and healthy.](#)

[There are also new recommendations related to annual heartworm testing.](#)

[Here are seven fun things to do with your dog indoors!](#)

[Researchers are exploring whether dogs can help detect COVID-19 in people.](#)

[Those of us who share our lives with pets have little doubt they benefit us in many ways. Here are 12 science-based reasons why pets improve our lives!](#)



To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue

From: Jill

Subject: Amy

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

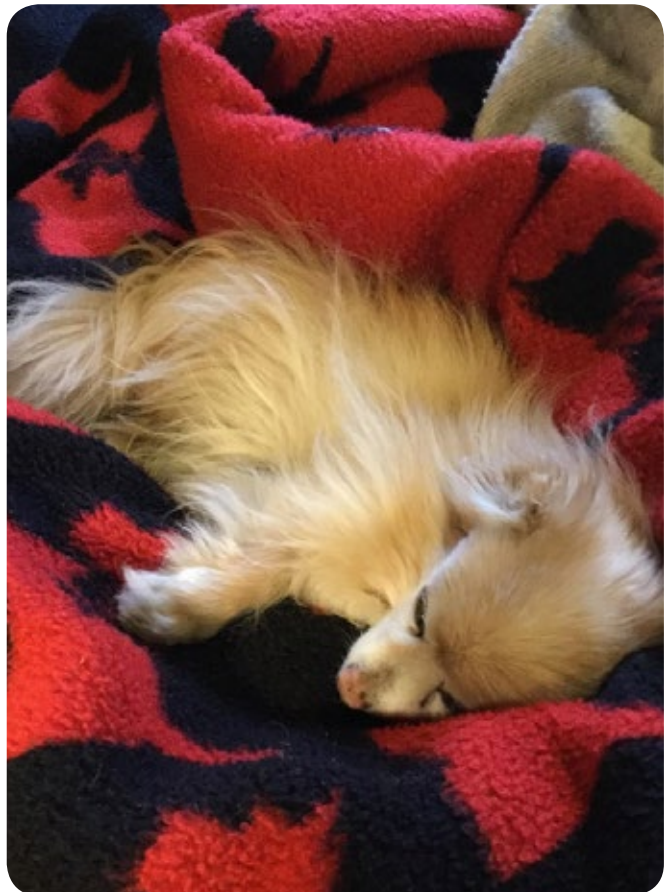
I wanted to update you on Amy. She is a little treasure. I am so very glad to have her in my life. She settled in so fast, and she seems to enjoy her life here. Amy doesn't like to walk in the wet, but she is loving her walks in the warm weather. She trots happily along, tail wagging, interested in all she sees. Amy loves to sleep in my bed and happily retires there for morning and afternoon naps.

I hope that it was possible for her person to know that she was adopted. I know that it would put my mind at ease if I were in a comparable situation. [Editor's note: the vet clinic was able to let Amy's long-time owner (who had fallen ill) know that she had been adopted into a loving, caring home.]

She is so sweet and playful and loves the backyard.

I hope that all is well with you and your volunteers in these trying times. And I hope the end of the pandemic doesn't bring a flood of forgotten dogs.

Good health to you, and thank you for making it possible for Amy to become part of my life.



Happy Tails

APRIL ADOPTIONS:

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



Bella and Kodi



Belle



Billy



Darcy



Fred



Jelly Bean



Milo



Peaches

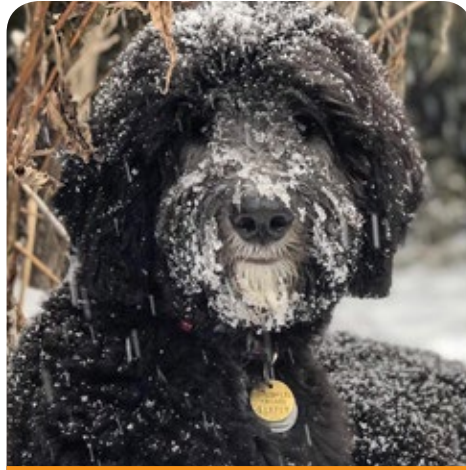


Pekoe

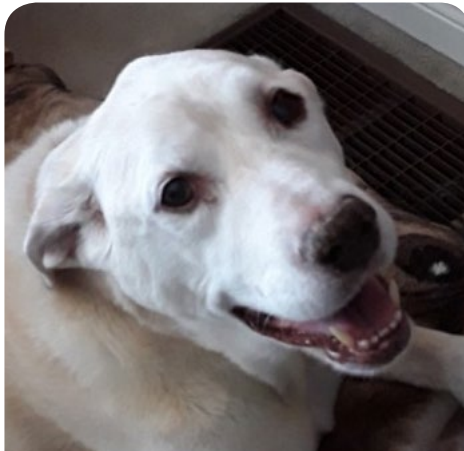
More Happy Tails



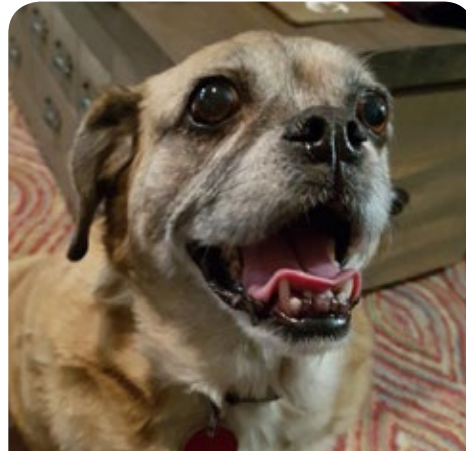
Pepper



Rosie



Caramel
FOREVER-IN-FOSTER



Sybil

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 to find out more and get started.



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.



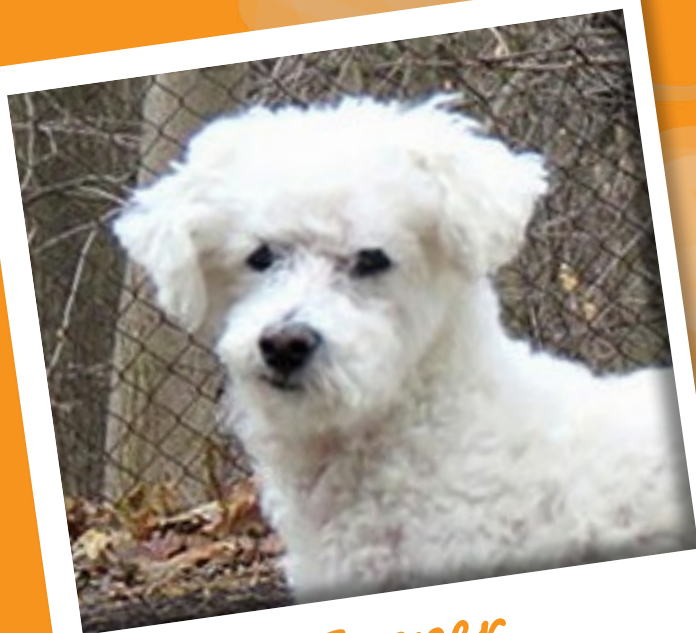
During the past few months, so much of what we knew seemed to change overnight. Things became very confusing and uncertain. Perhaps some of the dogs we take into our rescue feel similar when they arrive at their foster parent's home.

For a confused and anxious dog, a loving and patient foster home can make the world of difference for their state of mind and well-being. Without our dedicated foster parents, Speaking of Dogs Rescue would not be able to help the many dogs who come to us. In these difficult times, having safe, loving homes that can welcome dogs in need is crucial, ensuring dogs who've been left behind have a second chance at life and love.

**This Mother's Day, we'd like to recognize
our amazing foster moms.**

Happy Mother's Day!

In Memoriam



Topper
LOVED BY GARY AND BILL
ADOPTED MAY 2019
PASSED APRIL 2020



Missy
LOVED BY BRYAN AND KAREN B.
ADOPTED OCTOBER 2014
PASSED APRIL 2020



Dennis
LOVED BY CAROL AND JOHN D.
ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2013
PASSED APRIL 2020