



*Saving just one dog won't change the world...
but, surely, the world will change for that one dog...*

Speaking of Dogs Is Giving Other Rescues a Leg Up!

When Speaking of Dogs Rescue was just starting out, we were blessed with the encouragement and support of a couple of well-established dog adoption organizations. They graciously shared fundraising ideas, referred rescue-friendly businesses to us, donated food, and on more than one occasion paid for costly procedures and surgeries on our behalf. Their assistance allowed us to get on a solid footing, with useful contacts and a head-start on financial stability.

In January 2020, our board decided to “pay it forward” by launching the Leg Up Program. The program was created to assist other Ontario dog rescues by covering the costs of expensive surgeries, behaviour modification, boarding, or unexpected issues, such as hoarding situations.

Since it was launched in February 2020, the Leg Up Program has helped seven dogs with medical procedures, including a heart surgery and orthopedic surgeries. We hope to partner with three different organizations each year; this year the board chose Pound Dog Rescue, Precious Paws Rescue, and Revolutionary Rescue. While the program's future is contingent on our own fundraising abilities and



results, it is our hope to continue giving rescues a leg up next year and for years to come.

Speaking of Dogs Rescue will be 20 years old next year, and thanks to our incredible team of volunteers, we've helped a great many dogs along the way and met the most amazing adopters, veterinarians, clinic staff, and donors, who have become not only our supporters but our friends. The Leg Up program is our way of helping dogs through our partner rescues and sharing what we experienced when we were starting out.

Compassion, collaboration, and united efforts go a long way for our beloved canine companions; it's always a privilege to work on their behalf.

Board of Directors,
Speaking of Dogs Rescue

AUGUST 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.

Stella

CHIHUAHUA
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE

FEATURED DOG:

Introducing Stella, a sweet 9-year-old chihuahua who ended up in a shelter as a stray and was never claimed. She was terrified in the shelter environment and needed medical attention for a number of conditions, so the shelter called Speaking of Dogs Rescue. As one of their Pet Partners, we were honoured to bring Stella into our rescue and take care of her medical needs.

At the time, Stella was overweight and had rotting teeth and a very large fatty lipoma on her chest. She has since had a dental (only has a couple teeth left!), the lipoma has been surgically removed, and she has been spayed. She's now feeling a whole lot better – and lighter!

Blood results showed Stella was hypothyroid, so she is now on daily medication. Her last check-up showed her thyroid levels are within normal range, and she takes her meds very well if put into food. She does love her food!

Stella shares her foster home with another small dog and three cats, and she gets along great with everyone! While she likes to be around people, she would most likely prefer a quieter home, without young kids. This laid-back little lady is very quiet and has only barked a couple of times in her foster home, when she heard a noise while out in the backyard.

She likes to lounge in her bed or lay out on the deck in the backyard. She

also tends to stay near her person and follows her foster mom around the house and when she goes outside. Stelle is, however, still working on her housetraining. If left too long or if you sleep in, she may go inside the house.

Stella can take a bit of time to warm up to new people, but she is not aggressive or inappropriate, just a tad shy and reserved. Stella also does not enjoy walking on a leash, so we would do best in a home with a fenced backyard.

Her foster mom says Stella makes her smile every day and will be a wonderful companion to the right adopter. Can you provide Stella the forever home she's looking for? You'll be rewarded with many smiles and cuddles!





Copper
PUG / BEAGLE MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Dexter
SAINT BERNARD
X-LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Axel & Otto
TERRIER MIXES
SMALL, SENIOR, MALES

Can You Spare a Few Bones?

The easiest way to offer financial support to Speaking of Dogs is to visit our Canada Helps Giving Page

<http://www.canadahelps.org/GivingPages/GivingPage.aspx?gplD=10262>

These funds help the rescue cover the rescue's many costs, including our Forever in Foster dogs and the Leg Up Program. And when you give to us through Canada Helps, we give back to you: a tax-deductible receipt will be issued directly from the site.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



Ask the Trainer

WORKING WITH A BLIND DOG

I have had the joy of living and working with many blind dogs. I often have dogs who have one eye or no eyes due to injury or inherited disease. Living with a blind dog has some challenges but is not a particularly difficult thing to do.

I have found that dogs who are born blind struggle less than dogs who acquire blindness during their life, and the dogs who have struggled the most have been the ones who suddenly became blind. SARDS is a disease that can strike a dog blind very quickly, and some of the SARDS dogs do have difficulty adjusting. However, owners do not need to despair as there are simple training and management tips that can make this adjustment easier for everyone.

Teach a “Careful” Cue

I teach all my blind dogs a “careful” cue. I say the word and use a harness and/or collar to slow down or stop their forward movement. The “careful” cue essentially means “slow down as you are going to hit something or fall off something.”

I teach this cue by using the word “careful” every time my dog and I approach stairs or a curb, and I physically slow them down – gently – until they learn to slow their progress on hearing the word.

Managing the Environment

I do several things to make my home safer for blind dogs. First, all of the humans are instructed to remove any items from the floor that a dog could trip over. Shoes, gym bags, etc., are all picked up and put where the dog cannot trip over them.

Second, I have gates on *all* my stairs. In the early days of working with a blind dog, I gate all stairs unless I’m with the dog. Even after extensive training, I close gates to stairs whenever I leave to avoid any accidents when I’m not home.

Third, I place small area rugs at the top and bottom of all stairs. These cue the dog that they are approaching stairs. The rugs are small and rubber backed so they don’t slip or slide. It operates as a tactile cue to an upcoming obstacle. I have also taught “up” and “down” so the dog knows whether or not to step up or down, but that is an extra piece that may not be necessary for all dogs.

I do *not* use scents for cuing blind dogs for several reasons. First, their noses are so much more acute than ours, and we can create an aversive stimuli by being too heavy handed with the scent. I also have a terrible memory, so I may not remember which scent I’ve used for which obstacle. Last but not least, many home cleaning products are already scented, and we can create confusion by using scents as cues for obstacles.

Routine, Routine, Routine

I strive to keep a blind dog’s routine stable: their food bowl is always in the same place, and I don’t move furniture or otherwise rearrange the environment in any way. My experience has been that most blind dogs adjust remarkably quickly and just move on with their lives if we don’t freak out and adjust our training work.

Special Equipment

I have not used any of the halo harnesses for my blind dogs. I think they can be useful, but I have also had a few of my younger sighted dogs see the halo part of the harness as a great tug toy and have proceeded to use it for that purpose!



I do use a harness for my blind dogs, but I also use harnesses with all of my sighted dogs. I find that a harness gives me a bit more control while I teach basic skills like leash walking.

Most of the time, the biggest obstacle to working and living with blind dogs is us. We often impede their progress by our own emotional reactions to the loss of their sight. Approach training a blind dog the same way you would training any other dog – and keep it fun and supportive.



Blanche Axton is a dog trainer and coordinates the fostering program with Pugalug Pug Rescue. She has been a volunteer and foster parent for Speaking of Dogs for many years.

Bits & Bites

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

[Buddy, the first dog to be diagnosed with COVID-19 in the U.S., died last month. *National Geographic* takes a deep dive into the case and examines how pets are being affected by the disease – and how little we know about it.](#)

[Check out these essential pet health tips from the Toronto Humane Society.](#)

[Heading back to a more normal work schedule? Dr. Karen Becker has tips and advice to help make the transition a little easier for your pets.](#)

[The ASPCA offers “8 tips for brushing up on your canine communication skills.”](#)

[The *Atlantic* examines how a statistical error led to 463 wolves being needlessly culled in British Columbia.](#)

[Dutch airline KLM have an awesome way of reuniting passengers with lost items!](#)

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

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

- [Natural Balance Ultra Premium Chicken & Liver Paté canned cat food](#)

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
From: Nilsy, Sophie, Miami, and Tom
Subject: Miami

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

It has been a while, and I thought I should give you an update on our sweetheart, Miami! Things have changed for both Miami and me. At the time we adopted each other, I was single. Since then I have gotten married, and my wife brought with her a little chihuahua/min-pin mix, Sophie, from the Dominican Republic. Miami and Sophie became the best of friends almost instantly, and I think in Miami's world, it's the more the merrier! Miami is a healthy girl, but she is slowing down a bit (as we all are, as we age). She is still able to jump onto the bed, so she's still agile. I have included a few pictures. She is enjoying life.



YOUR PUP OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES!

Have a great photo of your furry best bud you'd like to share? We'd love to include it in the 2021 Speaking of Dogs Rescue calendar!

It could be a photo of your pup making the most of spring showers, fun in the sun, quiet time during the

quarantine, or any other shot that makes you smile. Ideal photos don't include people but can include a four-legged friend.

Photos should be 300 dots per inch (DPI) and at least 5 inches by 7 inches in size. Photos can be colour or black and white.

Please email your favourite snapshots to lorraine@speakingofdogs.com.

Happy Tails

JULY ADOPTIONS:

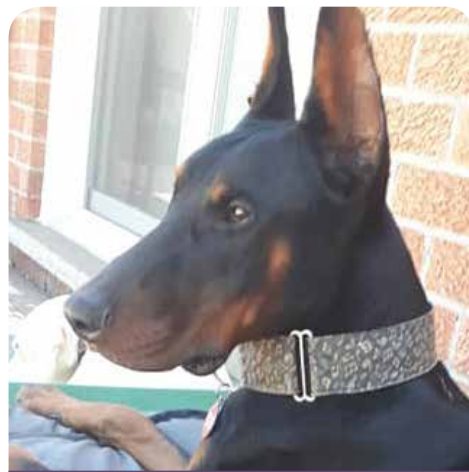
A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



Barkley



Belle



Bones



Diesel



Freddy



Ginger



Lily



Mocha



Molly Pug

More Happy Tails



Rocket



Roy



Roz



Hero



Jett & Twylite



Miles



Shadow

Don't Miss Our Fabulous FACEBOOK AUCTIONS!

Things may be starting to open up, but old habits can be hard to change. If you're still racking up the hours on social media and looking for something new, head on over to Speaking of Dogs Rescue's Facebook page! Not only do we have lots of info about the amazing dogs we're helping, every week we're auctioning off different items – all for the dogs! Check our **Facebook page** regularly to see what's on the block and to place your bids!

In Memoriam



Chance

LOVED BY HEATHER AND FAMILY
ADOPTED MARCH 2017
PASSED JULY 2020



Google

PASSED JULY 2020
WE WISH WE COULD HAVE HELPED YOU SWEET BOY
LOVED BY SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO MARLO AND EMERGENCY
VETERINARY CLINIC, HWY 10 IN BRAMPTON



Lester

LOVED BY ERIKA AND CATS
ADOPTED JULY 2019
PASSED JULY 2020