

# Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

While many things about the holiday season this year will be different, most notably far fewer visits with friends and family, there are still some important safety considerations to keep in mind when it comes to our pets.

- Keep chocolate and other candy out of pets' reach. Chocolate is toxic to dogs and cats, and dark chocolate is the worst culprit. Xylitol, a common artificial sweetener, is also highly toxic to pets. Be safe and keep all candies, snacks, finger foods, and the like where your pets can't get to them.
- Christmas trees can easily be tipped over, and more than one adventurous cat has tried to climb them! Consider

anchoring your tree to a wall or the ceiling.

- Broken ornaments can be hazardous to you and your pets, but it can be so hard for pets to resist batting around those eye-catching decorations! Opt for non-breakable ornaments, particularly near the bottom of your tree. There are many types on the market, so you're sure to find something to suit your decor.
- If you have a real tree, don't add anything to the water. Chemical additives, aspirin, or sugar may help your tree last longer, but it could make your pets sick.

[Continued on page 3...](#)



## DECEMBER 2020 THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### In this month's newsletter

Dogs looking for homes .....	2
Ask the trainer .....	4
Blackie's Fund .....	5
Watercolours for Hazel .....	6
10 Things .....	7
Bits and bites .....	8
Recent adoptions .....	9
In memoriam .....	11

### 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.

## Roy

COONHOUND MIX  
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE

### FEATURED DOG:

Roy is a large neutered male senior Coonhound mix who is about 10 to 12 years old and weighs about 70 pounds, although he's a bit underweight at the moment.

He was found as a stray and sadly was never claimed. He's super sweet, friendly, and social. Roy always wants to meet other dogs and people he sees on his walks, which he now looks forward to greatly. Although he can

have bursts of energy, especially for a dog his age, he also very much enjoys his naps.

Roy has a big howl on him and will let other dogs know when they pass by. However, when meeting dogs he knows, they can bark at him and he just stares quietly back.

When out on walks, Roy can sometimes pull toward interesting things he wants to investigate, but he has made good progress with his leash training. He may rush in and sniff

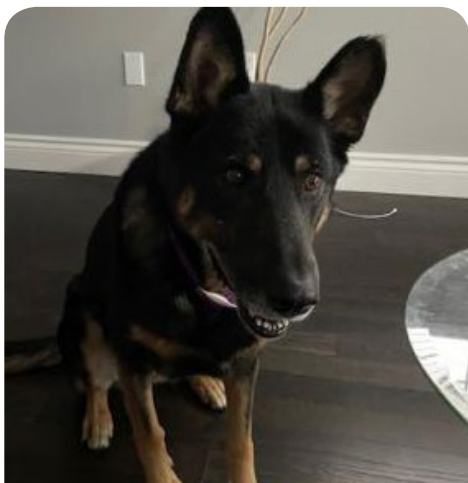
dogs (which can be an issue for some dogs), but once able to sniff he minds his business and carries on.

Roy doesn't appear to have had much training in the past, but he's a great guy and is willing to learn. He is fully housetrained and is also very good in a car (he came all the way from the Ottawa area).

Can you give this sweet, friendly boy the forever home full of the love and care he needs? He'll pay you back with Coonhound howls and wags!







**Mal**  
GERMAN SHEPHERD  
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



**Tonka**  
SHIH TZU MIX  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



**Tyra**  
LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX  
LARGE, SENIOR, FEMALE



**Sansa (aka Tundra)**  
SIBERIAN HUSKY  
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



**Shania**  
HOUND MIX  
MEDIUM, BABY, FEMALE



**Cleo**  
LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE

...Continued from page 1

- If you use edible decorations, such as cookies or strings of popcorn, make sure they are well out of your pets' reach.
- Tinsel is easily ingested by pets but can wreak havoc on their system, causing intestinal blockages that can require surgery. If you have a Christmas tree, consider decorating with extra garland and foregoing the tinsel.
- Did you know poinsettias aren't actually toxic to dogs and cats? They can cause stomach upset and should be kept out of pets' reach, but they

are not poisonous. Mistletoe and holly, however, are highly toxic, as are amaryllis, balsam, pine, and cedar. To avoid accidental poisonings or indigestion, keep all plants where your pets can't access them. You can also check out the ASPCA's lists of plants that are toxic to [dogs](#) and [cats](#).

- Candles cast a lovely holiday glow, but they can be very dangerous around pets. Why not try battery-operated flameless candles? All of the ambience with none of the hazards!
- While you may like to get dressed up for the holidays, not every pet does.

No matter how thoughtful the gift or how cute the photo op, if your pet doesn't like to wear sweaters, headgear, or other apparel, just let them be themselves. There's no better gift than a happy pet for the holidays!

**We hope you and your pets have a very happy holiday season!**

# Ask the Trainer

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS: A WISH LIST FROM THE DOG

### 1. A Responsible Adoption

If you buy me from a breeder, know my breed, lineage, and breeder. Understand what a good breeder is and isn't. A good breeder will know if I'm the right puppy for you or if my littermate would be better suited. A good breeder will ask more questions than you think possible before you even lay eyes on me. Don't take a puppy home from a commercial breeder or a pet store because you feel sorry for it – this puppy will be replaced with another puppy from the same source. Despite your good intentions, this isn't rescue. Good breeders don't sell to pet stores and don't breed for profit. There's lots of useful advice about how to find a good breeder at [www.pupquest.org](http://www.pupquest.org).

If you rescue me, adopt from a rescue that has had me vetted and spayed or neutered. A good rescue will tell you everything they know about me and will ask you lots and lots of questions. Don't be offended if the process takes a couple weeks and if they require a home visit. Know that your money is going to support the rescue of more dogs like me, and remember that I cost the rescue more than your adoption fee will cover! A good rescue will do everything in their power to find the most suitable dog for you and the most suitable home for me.

### 2. Positive Socialization

Socialization is the most important gift you can give me when I'm a puppy. If I'm going to live in your crazy world of balloons, trucks, dogs, strollers, and children, I need to be exposed to them before I'm 16 weeks old. More importantly, every experience with these new things should be the most positive, happy experience I've ever had. It doesn't

matter how much love you give me, if you don't socialize me properly in these formative weeks, I will likely be afraid or aggressive when I'm exposed to new things as an adult. Socializing me properly is the most important investment you can make in me.

### 3. A High-Quality Diet

You are what you eat, and I'm no different. When you feed me a low-quality, highly processed food, I'm not going to feel well. I may live to a ripe old age, but how much longer might I live, and how much better might I feel, if I'm fed well? Whole, unprocessed food made into a balanced diet is ideal. Good food is the gift of well-being. Find out how to pick the best food for me at [www.dogfoodproject.com](http://www.dogfoodproject.com).

### 4. Positive Training

Sometimes training can be hard for humans to figure out. Just remember this: I will work in order to gain something I want. There is never a reason to scare me or cause me pain in the name of training. I'll be better behaved and we'll have a better relationship if you learn how to engage me and get me excited about learning new things with you. Want to find a trainer? Visit [www.petprofessionalguild.com](http://www.petprofessionalguild.com).

### 5. Teach me How to Live in a Human World

Remember that I'm not a tiny person in a furry coat. I'm not capable of understanding your morals or etiquette. If you don't want me to jump on your guests, I need to be rewarded for sitting. If you don't want me to sleep on your bed, I need a comfortable bed of my own. Don't take my good behaviour for granted and only pay attention to me by punishing me when I do something wrong. My behaviour is a reflection of your behaviour; you can't expect me to change without first changing yourself. Teaching me how to live in your world is a gift to both of us.

### 6. Health Care

Regular vet visits are an important part of keeping me in good health, but I need you to give me more than just an annual checkup. Give me daily outdoor adventures to exercise my mind and body. Sometimes I may even require extra health-care professionals on my team, such as chiropractors, massage therapists, naturopaths, and physiotherapists. Do your part by cultivating a relationship with other members of my health-care team. Ask for resources when discussing possible diagnoses, explore the various options for my care with them, and ask smart, well-researched questions. Keep your own records of my health so you can catch problems early. Do simple, routine health-care procedures like weekly nail trims, regular brushing of my teeth, and checking for lumps and bumps.

### 7. Respect and Protection

I will sometimes need something and you won't understand why. You may think it funny that I'm afraid of a garbage can, but don't laugh and drag me past it. I need you to protect me even when you don't think I need protecting. I need you to be my advocate because I cannot speak for myself.

Give me these gifts, and I'll give back to you all year long.



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



# Blackie's Fund



Blackie came to us from a rural shelter in November 2017. He was about 11 years old. We were told by the animal services officer that his background was one of neglect and instability. She said she knew him well and that he was an incredibly nice dog, always friendly and easy going. When we picked him up from the shelter, he was thin, matted, and had an eye infection that had been left untreated, leaving both eyes crusty and half closed.

Fast forward 8 weeks: in foster care, Blackie gained weight and was vetted and groomed, and his eyes, no longer infected, were shiny, clear, and sparkled with newfound sight and hope.

We had several applications for him, but one in particular caught our attention. These folks sounded perfect for him and ticked every box! We called them right away and began the adoption process. Blackie and our foster parents met them

at their house one snowy December day, and he never looked back.

In his adoptive home, Blackie had wonderful adventures, cuddle times, a new best friend (a tolerant calico cat), walks along the Mississauga trail system, delicious meals, quality and timely health care, and two attentive and devoted humans who loved him unconditionally. Life was good and stayed that way for almost 3 glorious years.

This past September, Blackie passed away with his family by his side; memories of his kindness etched in their hearts forever.

**In memory and honour of his life, his family wanted to pay his legacy forward by helping other vulnerable dogs like Blackie – dogs who have endured life's hurdles and challenges. Due to their generosity, Speaking of Dogs Rescue is privileged to announce the creation of Blackie's Fund, a gift that will financially assist homeless dogs in need through some of the programs we currently operate, such as the Leg Up Program.**

The benefactors of Blackie's Fund wish to remain anonymous, as they prefer the spotlight to shine on dogs like Blackie, encourage senior dog adoptions, and support the efforts of shelters and rescues.

We thank them for their support and will continue to help as many senior and special-needs dogs as we can, showing them the same love and dedication Blackie's owners showed him.



# Watercolours for Hazel



*Hazel needs major oral surgery*

## ***Our Watercolours for Hazel fundraiser is on now and runs until Wednesday, December 9th.***

We launched this fundraiser to help Hazel, a tiny treasure of a chihuahua who needs major oral surgery that requires a dental surgeon and anesthesiologist.

All you need to do is make a donation of \$50 or more and you will receive an amazing artwork of a beloved pet. Treat yourself or get a special holiday gift for that hard-to-buy-for someone on your list.

So how can you help Hazel get the medical care she so desperately needs?

First, send a donation of \$50 or more via e-transfer to [rescueprogram@speakingofdogs.com](mailto:rescueprogram@speakingofdogs.com). Ensure you put "Watercolours for Hazel" in the message space.

When we receive your donation, we will email you and ask you to send a photo of your pet. The file size should be 1 MB to 5 MB. Dogs, cats, horses, and small pets are all fine, but no people please. The photo must also be a close-up of a face only.

Photos must be emailed (no texts or PMs please), and please wait for confirmation

that your donation has been received before emailing your photo.

The artworks produced are called Custom Digital Watercolours (or computer-generated watercolours). When the work is finished, you will be sent a digital file that is an 8-inch by 10-inch high-resolution jpeg. You can then print this file and frame it to your liking.

Depending on the demand, your finished watercolour may take up to 5 days to be

completed, and we may need to close the fundraiser early if demand is too great, so don't delay, send your donation today!

Thank you to all our supporters, and an extra special thanks to Laura, the artist and creative mastermind behind this fundraiser.

If you have any questions, please email our Watercolours for Hazel fundraising captain at [info@speakingofdogs.com](mailto:info@speakingofdogs.com).



*Laura produced this beautiful portrait of Dustin, a beloved member of our Forever in Foster program*

# 10 Things You Might Not Know About Speaking of Dogs Rescue

- 1** We were founded in 2001, and we'll be 20 years young next year.
- 2** We are 100% volunteer run, including our five-member board.
- 3** We have a strong focus on helping senior and palliative care dogs.
- 4** We fund and operate a Forever in Foster program for palliative and special needs dogs.
- 5** We publish a monthly newsletter that provides ongoing education and includes an "Ask the Trainer" column written by various certified professional dog trainers. Last year, our newsletter won a Maxwell award for best online newsletter from the Dog Writers Association of America.
- 6** We are a member of Helping Homeless Pets and adhere to a Code of Ethics and comprehensive adoption protocols.
- 7** We support other rescues through networking and offer financial assistance to them via our Leg Up Program.
- 8** Last year we sponsored almost 100 flights from remote northern areas through Flights For Hope; this year we continued to sponsor flights through Flights For Hope and Save A Dog Network.
- 9** Our foster parents are the core of our organization and have helped us save thousands of dogs over the last 20 years. We are ever grateful for our foster families; many have been with us from the beginning, and some are vet techs and dog trainers. All are caring, compassionate and responsible.
- 10** If, for any reason, an adoption doesn't work out, we are here for our dogs – we'll always have their back!



# Bits & Bites

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

[Read this blog post to learn about "8 Things We Do That Really Confuse Our Dogs."](#)

[After 30 years of breed specific legislation in Denver, citizens voted to repeal the city's ban on pit bulls.](#)

[The Toronto Humane Society looks at age before beauty when it comes to adopting senior pets.](#)

[Find out more about the potential causes of hearing loss in dogs and what you can do to help your deaf or hard-of-hearing pet.](#)

## THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

[Albright's raw dog food chicken recipe](#)

## WE'RE A DIAMOND WINNER!

Thank you so much to everyone who voted for us in the Toronto Star Reader's Choice contest. We won first place, making us the Diamond winner! We are honoured and proud!

Thanks also to all our volunteers and supporters, who make this organization sparkle and shine like a diamond every day – all for the dogs!



## OUR FACEBOOK AUCTIONS ARE OPEN 24/7!

The holidays are just around the corner and stores are on lockdown. What to do? Shop with us on Facebook, of course! Check out the Speaking of Dogs Rescue Facebook page regularly for all the fun and fabulous items we have for auction. While you're there, you'll also get to find out about the amazing dogs in our care. Visit our [Facebook page](#) regularly to see what's on the block and to place your bids!

## REVISED ADOPTION FEE FOR 2021

As of January 1, 2021, our adoption fee will be increased to \$425.00 to help us offset health care costs for the many medical cases we take.

**To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue**  
**From: Dan**  
**Subject: Milo (previously Lenny)**

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

I know it's been a while since I've sent an update on Milo, so I figured I would just send a quick email. He is nowhere near the dog you may remember him as. He is the biggest suck for attention with everyone now. Whenever someone new comes into the house, he still barks and gets excited, but it's now just out of excitement and wanting to say hi and get pets and attention. He will be roughly 7 years old in March of 2021, but you would never know it. He is still full of energy and has a huge drive to explore and go on truck rides. We recently did a Canadian road trip where we drove out to BC and back. He loved every minute of it. I'm very happy to have had the opportunity to adopt Milo from Speaking of Dogs Rescue. Not only have I changed his life, he's changed mine for the better as well!

All the best,  
Dan and Milo





# 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.



Annie



Bear Shepherd



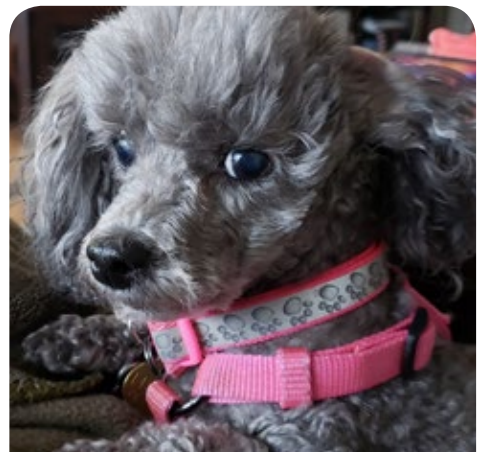
Becky



Custard



Daisy Schnauzer



Fleur



Gladys



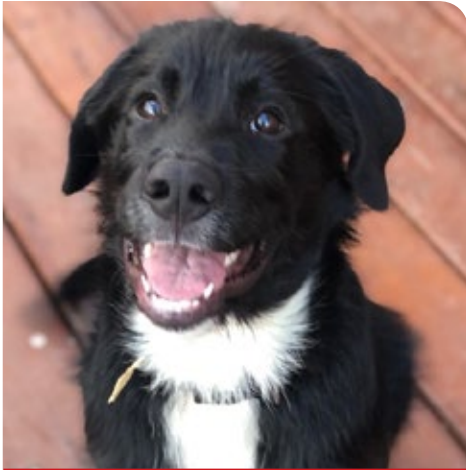
Henry



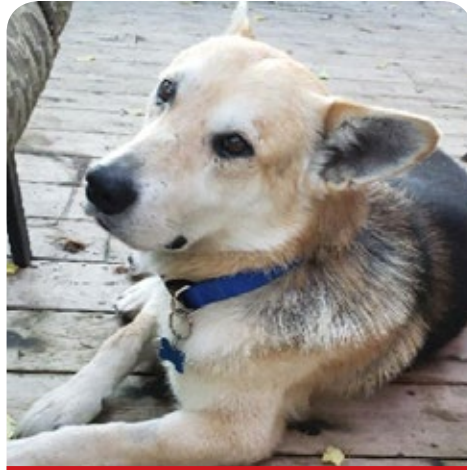
Jesse



# More Happy Tails



Jimbo



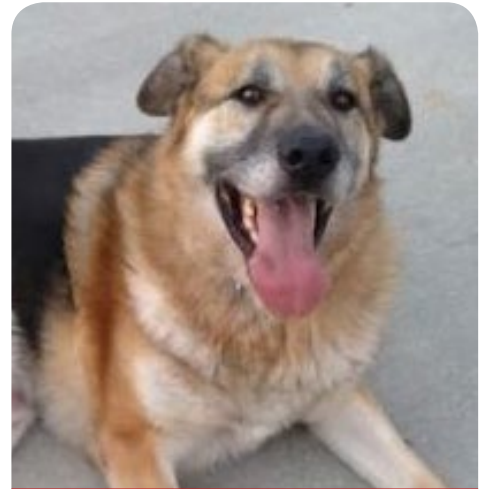
Junior



Primrose



King and Eddy



Pappy



Spike and Ricky





# In Memoriam



*Alfie*  
LOVED BY SUSAN GLYNN  
ADOPTED JULY 2018



*Dustin*  
LOVED BY IAN, LORRAINE AND STEWART HOUSTON  
FOREVER IN FOSTER



*King*  
LOVED BY MARK BELVEDERE AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED DECEMBER 2006



*Daisy*  
LOVED BY KARINA AND FAMILY  
FOREVER IN FOSTER



# In Memoriam



*Lily*  
LOVED BY DEBBIE CLARK  
ADOPTED APRIL 2010



*Zoe*  
LOVED BY CHERYL, SIT WITH ME RESCUE  
AND SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE  
I'M SORRY WE WEREN'T ABLE TO HELP YOU, MY FRIEND.