

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

Speaking of Dogs Is Celebrating Two Doggone Decades!

Speaking of Dogs was founded in 2001 as an educational forum to help people understand and treat dogs better. Our website and literature read: “Speaking of Dogs, a Toronto-based organization initiated in 2001, is dedicated to educating and enlightening people about dogs through seminar forums, website support, outreach, and rescue. Our goal is to end cruelty, abandonment, and homelessness of man’s best friend.”

The majority of the seminars we offered were geared to understanding canine behaviour, but we also included

enrichment strategies, science-based training techniques, shelter assessments, and how to promote dogs for adoption. Although we no longer host seminars, our mandate and goals have remained unchanged.

The first dog we took in under the Speaking of Dogs banner, in 2001, came to us from Toronto Animal Services East. His name was Jerry, and he was a young wheaten terrier mix who had salivary-gland issues. He came to us via a call from James McLean, an old Toronto

[Continued on page 5...](#)



JANUARY 2021 THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In this month's newsletter

Dogs looking for homes	2
Speaking of flashback	5
Ask the trainer	7
Updates.....	9
Bits and bites	10
Recent adoptions	11
In memoriam	13

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.

Lassie

YORKSHIRE TERRIER
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE

FEATURED DOG:

Sweet Lassie is a puppy mill girl and requires specific care to keep her safe and happy. Like so many mill survivors, she is a flight risk, as she tends to bolt when surprised or frightened. Please read her bio carefully to help us ensure we find Lassie the best fit possible.

Lassie is a lovely little girl who is looking for a new home. This 7-year-old, 11-pound bundle of Yorkshire Terrier came to us from a puppy mill. As you may know, dogs in puppy mills have very hard lives. They never benefit from loving relationships built on trust, kindness, and caring. They never get to meet new people. They never enjoy the simple pleasures of going for walks, playing with toys, or cuddling up for couch time. Their entire life consists of producing puppies for profit.

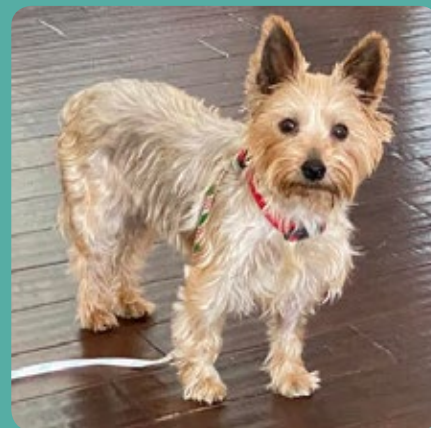
Lassie only recently left this life behind. Since entering our rescue, she has visited the vet to be examined, have blood tests, get vaccines, be microchipped, and get spayed. Lassie's days of producing puppies are well

and truly behind her! But the effects of her past life linger...

In foster care, Lassie has been skittish and is not always able to engage or socialize due to fear or lack of experience and confidence. When she first arrived, she would run away if her foster mom even looked at her. Daily life in a normal household is strange and confusing to mill survivors like Lassie. They need patience and care on their terms to be able to embrace their new life. Lassie is benefiting from sharing her foster home with two small dogs who are helping her navigate life in a happy house with a yard – and pee pads! (Like most mill dogs, Lassie was never housetrained, so she is now learning this new skill.)

Lassie has not yet learned to walk on leash, and she does not know how to walk up and down stairs. Her new guardian will need to help her get the hang of these everyday tasks! Her carer also needs to be very careful around doors to the outside, as Lassie is a flight risk. She is easily spooked and would surely bolt if given the opportunity.

If Lassie could make a wish list for her forever home, here's what we think she would say:



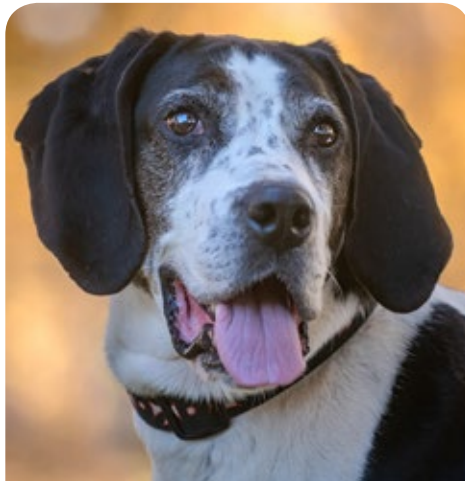
- A quiet environment
- At least one small dog-friendly dog to live with
- A completely secured fenced-in yard
- A home without small children
- An experienced dog guardian who is retired or works from home
- Patience and understanding from everyone she meets
- Lots of Benny Bully treats

Puppy mill survivors do blossom in time, but there are no shortcuts. We know Lassie's perfect forever home is out there, where she can be loved and cherished, trained and supported, and kept safe and happy. Could you be the one to give this special girl the special care she needs?



Alex

SHIH TZU / PEKINESE MIX
MALL, ADULT, MALE



Roy

COONHOUND MIX
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE



Kawi

ROTTWEILER
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



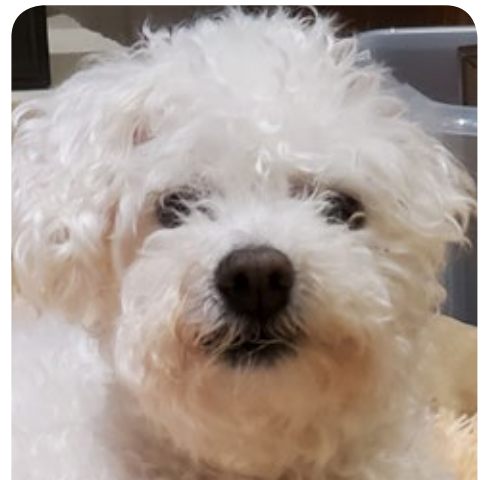
Tundra

SIBERIAN HUSKY
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



Ace

TOY POODLE
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



Daisy

MALTESE / BICHON FRISE MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE



Deputy Max

GERMAN SHEPHERD
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE



Maze

RETRIEVER MIX
LARGE, YOUNG, FEMALE



Maia

LABRADOR RETRIEVER / COLLIE MIX
LARGE, BABY, FEMALE



Hazel
CHIHUAHUA
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE

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.

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

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/speaking-of-dogs-rescue/>

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!



Speaking of Flashbacks

[...continued from page 1](#)

Humane Society friend of Lorraine's (Speaking of Dogs' founder), who was working at TAS as a vet tech (and still does).

In the two decades since Jerry came into our care, we've been able to take in almost 2,000 dogs and help them find a new leash on life. We've been privileged to work with incredibly dedicated veterinarians and shelter staff, and we've been blessed with extraordinary, talented, and committed volunteers and supporters who have served our mission proudly and generously.

Technology has had a huge impact on our lives in every way, especially in the last decade. Technological advances have most certainly brought the plight of homeless dogs to the forefront. Back in the day, before social media, it was exciting just to have a website and even more exciting if you were on [Petfinder.com](#). Now, we can reach thousands of people almost instantly with just a single post. We can tell them about a dog who needs a home, a dog who needs an operation, or a dog who has recently joined our rescue.

As a way to celebrate our 20 years of operation, we'll be including one or more flashback photos or stories in every newsletter this year. This month we've included a snapshot of our first seminar, Adoption Options, which was a big deal back then – it was not easy to get the public on board with the idea of [#adoptdontshop](#). We're pleased to say that the adoption option has come a long way since then! We've also included a photo of our first adopted dog, Jerry, who lived to be almost 14 years old and never had an issue with his salivary glands again.

LOOKING BACK ON 2020: THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, ADOPTERS, AND SUPPORTERS!

As we all know, 2020 was a year like no other, and we're all trying to look ahead to better days, hoping that 2021 offers us hope and solace. Among the difficulties, however, there are still positive things to look back on.

First and foremost, many thanks to each of you for helping us save so many dogs in 2020. At first, we thought we'd have to close the rescue for an undetermined time, but with so many dogs needing help, how could we? Thankfully, we came up with a protocol that allowed us to continue our dog rescue efforts in a safe and responsible way. We are blessed that one of our board members happens to be involved in a COVID consultant capacity and was able to assist us with invaluable information, especially at the start of the pandemic.

As more information about COVID 19 became available, everyone realized that



this was not going away any time soon. In our little dog corner of the world, it meant all fundraising events were cancelled. However, with some ingenuity and determination, we came up with a distance fundraising walkathon called Step Up for the Pups! It was a huge success and raised much-needed funds for the dogs, and it encouraged us and showed us how to manoeuvre through this pandemic!

As the year went on, we adjusted and adapted as needed, always focusing on the dogs; safe interactions with adopters,

vets, and transporters; and fundraising. As someone said recently: "Speaking of Dogs Rescue has one hell of a team!" – truer words were never spoken.

Including our adoption, Forever in Foster, and other outreach programs, we were able to assist just over 350 dogs last year.

Thank you all so much for sticking with us and giving second chances to more dogs this year than ever before!

We wish you all a happy, prosperous, and healthy 2021!

Speaking of Flashbacks



Jerry our first dog



Lorraine Houston and senior girl Sassy



James McLean



Hope, a terrier mix

The Adoption Option
*The Sheraton Parkway
 Toronto North Hotel*

*A one day seminar
 for canine caregivers and
 sheltering professionals*

Sunday November 11, 2001

Presented By:

Speaking of Dogs
www.speakingofdogs.com

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 Fax: 416-444-7116
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The first ever Speaking of Dogs seminar

Petfinder.com

Presented by Kim Saunders

Kim will describe how the petfinder.com adoption web site helped find homes for almost a half a million displaced pets in the US last year. Learn how animal welfare organizations, rescue groups and large municipal shelters are using petfinder.com to significantly increase adoptions. She will further explain the many networking benefits that Petfinder members can access including pet behavioural/training advice; marketing and public relations recommendations plus technical support and free web hosting.

During our first seminar, a representative from Petfinder.com came to discuss the benefits



The original Speaking of Dogs Rescue logo

Ask the Trainer

PREVENT CABIN FEVER: WINTERIZE YOUR DOG!

Support Houstraining

Houstraining can suffer in winter, particularly for tiny dogs, puppies, and new adoptions. Freezing temperatures make dogs reluctant to go outside – cold can be very painful on their feet! Here are five tips to maintain houstraining in frigid temperatures:

- Go outside with your dog, and make sure they do what they need to do before coming in! If they're too cold, you'll know to try again after they warm up, preventing accidents in the home.
- Shovel a path to create a pee area, particularly for short dogs. Five-inch legs can't compete with 12 inches of snow.
- Prevent urine damage to your porch by shovelling all of the snow off it and taking your dog to where you want them to go. A dog will sometimes pee in snow in locations they may not choose to go in summer.
- Keep a dog coat by the back door to put on before pee breaks.
- For some tiny dogs, pee pad training in the home may be worthwhile – better to have pee pads in designated areas than accidents where you least want them.

Stay Warm

Some dogs love to sit out in the snow, but there are big variations based on the breed, type, coat, body mass and condition, age, and health of the dog, as well as individual preferences and tolerances, of course. These will factor into your dog's comfort and safety in colder temperatures.



When your dog is getting cold, they'll likely:

- hold their feet up or roll on their back with their feet off the ground;
- shiver;
- hunch up their body and tuck in their tail;
- have cold extremities (e.g. ears);
- lose enthusiasm for being outdoors, look worried, and seek warmth.

Some dogs will run and play even in dangerously low temperatures, and their enthusiasm may mask signs that they need to be brought indoors. Always give your dog the opportunity to warm up.

Frostbite is a very real risk, particularly on extremities and for dogs who are small, thin, old, or young or who have very little hair. Frostbite is extremely painful and can permanently damage tissues. If you think your dog may have frostbite, bring them indoors where it's warm, don't touch the frostbitten area, and call your vet. Consider taking a pet first aid course, such as those offered by [Scratch and Sniff Canine Services](#), to

learn more about this and how to deal with other emergencies.

Keep your dog warm by conditioning them to happily wear winter gear. Check out brands made for active dogs, such as Chilly Dogs, Ruffwear, and Hurtt. These coats are made with function in mind!

Dog boots also have their place, particularly in frigid temperatures. They help prevent ice balls from forming on the feet and protect dogs' sensitive paws from salted sidewalks. Various online stores offer dog boots; [www.dogbooties.com](#) has affordable, simple, and comfortable boots that are secure and easy to put on. For preventing ice balls, you can use a paw balm such as Musher's Secret, trim long hairs between the toes, and use petroleum jelly if you're in a pinch.

You Stay Warm, Too!

We'd all like to hibernate through the cold weather, but we need to prevent serious cabin fever for our dogs. Part of life with an active dog is overcoming distaste of winter and meeting your dog's needs for mental and physical exercise.

[Continued on page 8...](#)

[...continued from page 7](#)

Keep up with daily hikes. Running off leash will actually keep your dog warmer than slow leashed walks; it also avoids the painful effects of road salt! Intense ball play is not always a good substitute for an off-leash adventure, since it can crank some dogs up more than it tires them out. Instead, focus on hikes and winter sports you can do with your dog, such as skijoring.

No need for you to be cold while keeping up with your dog:

- Battery-heated coats will keep you toasty warm.
- Keep moving! Hike with your dog to keep your blood pumping.
- Don't let your training suffer because of cold hands:
 - Wear mitts that flip back to expose your fingers and have a slit for your thumb.
 - Buy a silicone squeeze tube (such as the Go-Toob™ from Human Gear available from MEC or a silicone squeeze tube available in the travel section at most pharmacies and department stores), and treat your dog with your gloves on. Canned food, liverwurst, peanut butter, and cream cheese are all treats that can be easily squeezed into your dog's mouth as a reward on the go.

It's Not Just About Exercise!

Give your dog's brain a workout while she eats! Feed 100% of your dog's daily food through food toys and training to keep their brain busy and productive. Here are a few ideas to implement daily:

- Feed meals in puzzle toys from the pet store or through www.ninaottosson.com. If you want to skip the purchase, simply place your dog's food in a muffin tin and cover each cup with a tennis ball. Why feed in 20 seconds what can take your dog a half hour to work on? That's an extra half hour of peace for you.



- Stuff Kong toys with your dog's kibble mixed with a mushy food. Gradually pack the Kong tighter, and you can even advance to freezing the toys to make them harder to empty. If your dog gives up, pack it more lightly and include some extra tasty additions.
- Give your dog lots of chewing opportunities. Chewing is an important recreational activity for many dogs that often ends in a quiet nap – and less pestering for you.
- Pack long pieces of fleece into a toy such as the Holee Roller. Once your dog “disembowels” the toy, stuff the fleece back in and let them do it again! (This activity is not appropriate for dogs who consume fabric.)
- Teach your dog tricks using positive reinforcement in 5-minute sessions. Many dog trainers are currently

offering virtual training online, so the pandemic need not keep you and your dog from learning some new tricks! The monthly Speaking of Dogs newsletters are also packed with advice about fun training exercises for your dog, so keep reading!

Challenging winter weather doesn't mean you and your dog need to hibernate! Figuring out how to safely have more fun both inside and outside will help you make the most of the life you share with your pets.



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

Updates

STUCK AT HOME? CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK AUCTIONS!

Spending more time online than usual? Head on over to Speaking of Dogs Rescue's Facebook page! Not only do we have lots of info about all of the amazing dogs we're helping, every week we're auctioning off different items – all for the dogs! Visit our [Facebook page](#) regularly to see what's on the block and to place your bids!

Good luck to all of the bidders, and most enthusiastic wags and wiggles to all of our supporters who have donated auction items.

THE BENJAMIN PROJECT HAS A CALENDAR FOR 2021!

You may remember the Benjamin Project and the wonderful books they've published, which we've mentioned here in the newsletter. The Benjamin Project is a non-profit initiative that helps educate children about responsible pet ownership and animal stewardship. They also raise funds for shelters, sanctuaries, and rescues.

You can support this worthy initiative by purchasing their calendar, which features artwork by kids who love their pets. It's available for only \$15. You can order the calendar or the books by visiting thebenjaminproject.ca/benjaminsshop.



GET PUMPED FOR OUR POOCHES!

Get started on those new year's fitness goals while raising money for the dogs in our care! You can join Allison Hewitt Fitness from now until January 22nd for 30-minute virtual workouts in the safety of your home. Workouts are \$5 each, there's no commitment, and 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Speaking of Dogs Rescue.

Here's the schedule:

TIME	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
6:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.			Strength training		HIIT
6:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.	Core and strength training				
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.		Pilates			Strength training
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Core and strength training		HIIT	YOGA	

You can cap off your workouts with a special one-hour yoga session on Thursday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. with wine and your pooch! This session is \$10/person (dogs are free!). All workouts are geared to all fitness levels.

Not only can you get fit and help our dogs, you'll be entered into a draw for a \$50 PetSmart gift card for every workout you attend.

Sign up by emailing Allison at allison.h.fitnesspro@gmail.com.

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

Bits & Bites

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

[We've probably all let ourselves get distracted with cute animal videos on the internet. But did you ever suspect that watching those videos actually helped lower your stress and improve your mood? According to a new study, they do!](#)

[Happily, many dogs have been adopted during the COVID 19 pandemic, with more and more people working from home and looking to share their space with a four-legged colleague. Sadly, a recent survey conducted by Merck found 73% of these adopters are considering rehoming their pet once the pandemic ends.](#)

[Looking for more ways to provide enrichment for your dog and keep them engaged this winter? Check out these suggestions from the Toronto Humane Society.](#)

[Here are 10 things vets say you should never do to your dog.](#)

[CBC's Marketplace investigated the dark world of puppy importation into Canada and "how not to buy a puppy." Warning: These videos contain graphic images that may disturb some readers.](#)

[The Worms and Germ blog explores the new COVID 19 variant and its impact on animals.](#)

[And if you're feeling a bit stressed or down today, please enjoy this video of adorable animals. We hope it helps get your new year off to a happy start!](#)

This month's recalls:
[Sportmix dog and cat foods](#)



To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
From: Sheila
Subject: Cheeto

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

A holiday shout out from a very happy boy! Many thanks to all the people from Speaking of Dogs Rescue who got him off that chain! Cheeto loves his new life, which is full of car rides, playing with friends, and long walks on the beach. He has gained weight, has a thick, shiny coat, and talks all the time. He loves to play ball and has invented his own game where he drops the ball and bats it away so he can chase it again. I am very thankful that he came to me because he is a wonderful companion. Senior dogs are awesome!



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.



Sasha

FOREVER-IN-FOSTER



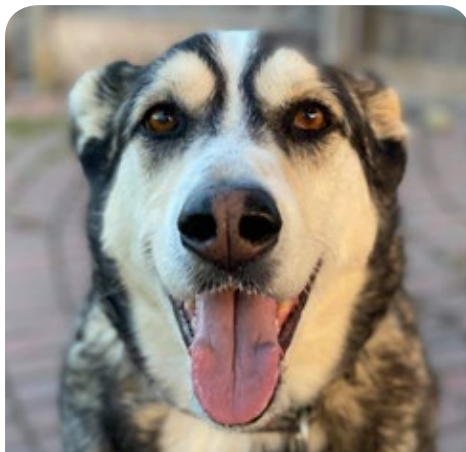
Dash

FOREVER-IN-FOSTER



Buddie

FOREVER-IN-FOSTER



Balou (aka Lou)



Buffy



Leonard



Randy

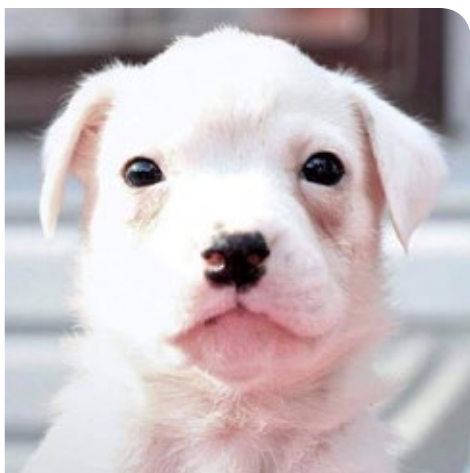


Burton

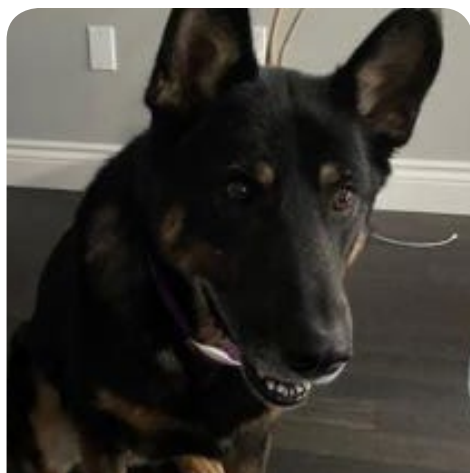


Drake

More Happy Tails



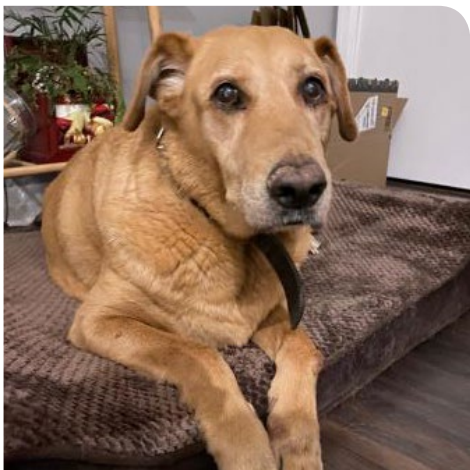
Shania



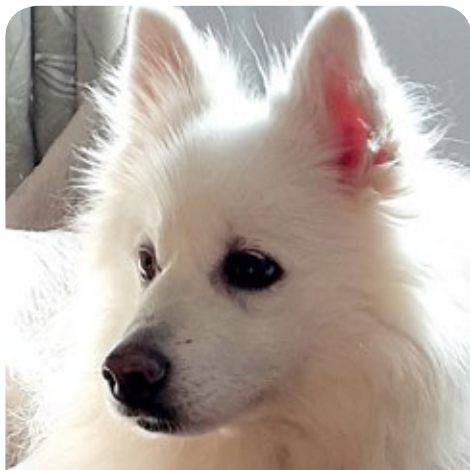
Mal



Tonka



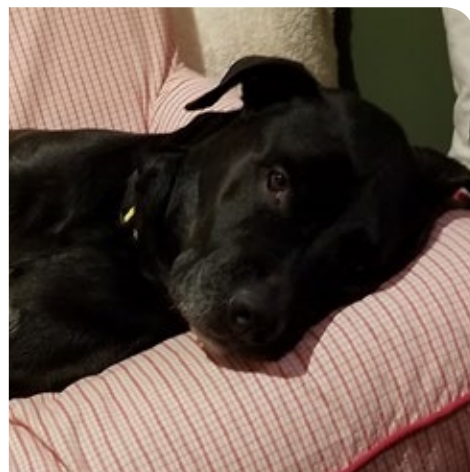
Tyra



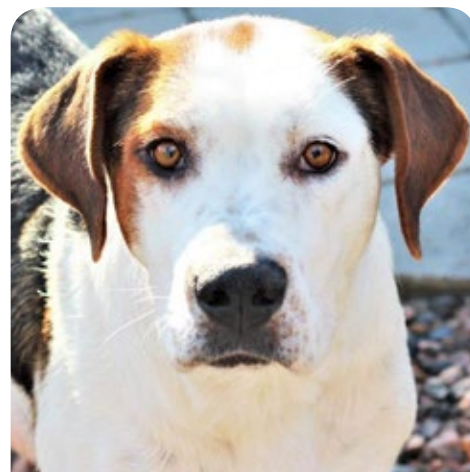
Snowball



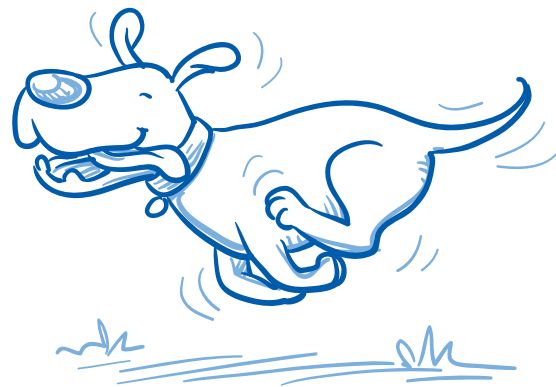
Lucy Wheels



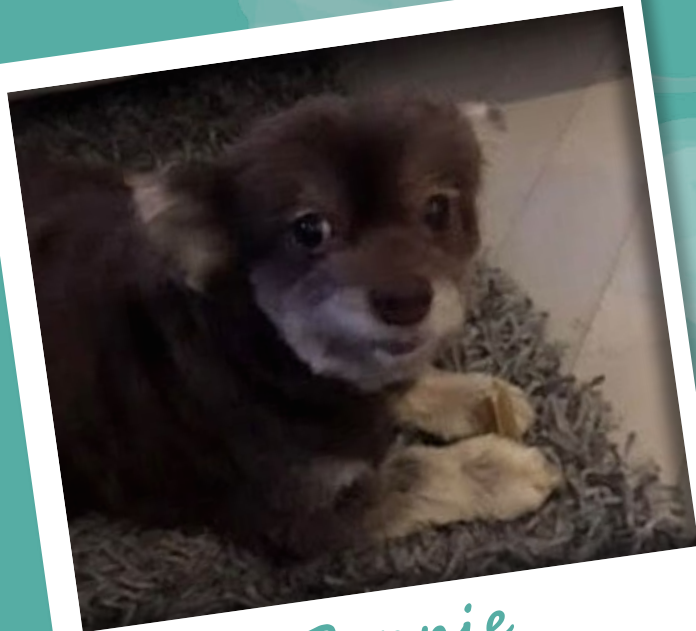
Cleo



Elly



In Memoriam



Bonnie

LOVED BY LOUISE MOYER AND FAMILY
ADOPTED APRIL 2015



Prince

GODSPEED PRINCE, ALL WE COULD DO IS LET
YOU GO TO THE ANGELS SO YOU COULD BE AT
PEACE AND NO LONGER IN PAIN