

The Puppymoon Period



Did you know the first 12 weeks are a critically important developmental period for puppies? Modern research is revealing, more and more resoundingly, that puppyhood experiences significantly affect a dog's development. For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to consider how we can best support puppies under 12 weeks of age and give them the special consideration they deserve at this unique and sensitive time in their growth.

Modern behaviour science informs us that the first days and weeks that your puppy is home with you count for a lot more than we ever thought. During this time, interactions and experiences form the

basis of your puppy's personality and set the tone for the rest of your puppy's life.

A puppy is a significant investment; puppy guardians should plan to take a break from their normal lives to raise their puppy in order to provide the best possible chance of having a normal life together. Puppyhood is short, and living with a behaviour challenge can be a forever thing. Being proactive and allocating generous resources toward your dog's development during their puppyhood will help you avoid problems and ultimately save you a lot of time and heartache.

You're going to want to get this right because you don't get a redo. Here's the

[*Continued on page 6...*](#)

FEBRUARY 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	6
Bits and bites	8
Updates.....	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.

Contact Speaking of Dogs

P.O. Box 8058, RPO Hurontario
Collingwood, ON L9Y 0H1
Phone: 705-444-SODR (7637)
Email: info@speakingofdogs.com
Web: www.speakingofdogs.com

Newsletter Team

Editor: Nancy Foran
Design: Cathy Vandergeest at www.gawck.ca
Contributors: Nancy Foran, Lorraine Houston, Meghan D'Arcy and Kim Gladding

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.

Ace

FEATURED DOG:

Ace is about 2 years old and weighs 8 pounds. This neutered male Toy Poodle has quite the story to tell!

Ace is a tripod, meaning he only has three legs. His right front leg broke in 2019 when he fell from the kitchen counter, and it was amputated. In May 2020, his left front leg broke when a heavy box fell on it. Speaking of Dogs Rescue was contacted by the emergency clinic who was overseeing Ace's broken leg when his owner could no longer take care of him. We took him directly to an orthopedic surgeon, who tried to save the only front leg he had left.

His foster mom is a vet tech and did everything right, but the break did not heal. We became aware of a new technique involving a 3-D printer that might work for Ace. After a consult and workup, we were over the moon to hear that Ace was a candidate for the procedure! Another 10 weeks went by, and we were ecstatic to discover that the surgery was a success!

Ace is now ready for his new life and family.

This friendly fellow greets everyone with enthusiasm and has yet to meet a person he hasn't liked. He is the sweetest, kindest, and bravest dog

you'll ever meet. He never complains, is always ready with wags and kisses for his caregivers, and is king of cuddles.

A primary focus of his care will be to keep him safe and manage his mobility for the rest of his life. He must avoid further injuries.

Ace's ideal forever home will provide traction in the form of carpets and rugs. Another possibility is grip boots or socks and keeping the fur on his feet short. He will also need regular grooming, including keeping his nails short. A one-level home would be ideal.

Ace should stay slim, so he does not have any extra weight to carry around. He still wants to be all the dog he can be and enjoys short walks and exploring. No need to keep him cooped up! He should also be fed a good joint or mobility diet or a joint supplement for the rest of his life.

Ace is crate trained and sleeps overnight in it. This keeps him safe when everyone is sleeping and unable to watch him. However, Ace prefers not to be in the crate otherwise. He had 24-hour care throughout his post-op recovery and is used to having someone always with him, so he can get anxious when left on his own.

Ace's surgeon has recommended assistance on and off of the couch or bed as well as supervision to prevent

TOY POODLE
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



him from jumping and reinjuring himself. (A follow-up x-ray of his leg in May will give us a better idea about his future limitations and freedoms.)

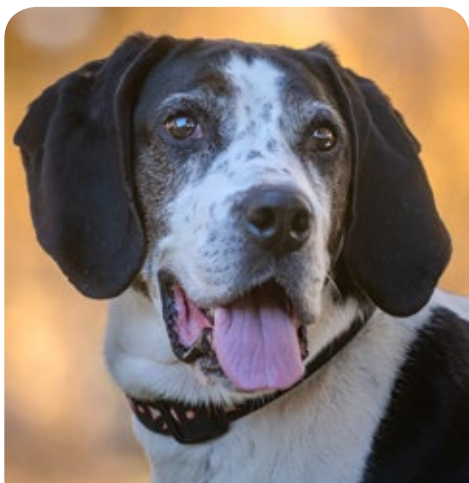
Ace is housetrained but has almost always been only on a leash or in his "spot." His new owners should be prepared to work on his housetraining with him. Although Ace is great with other dogs, he should be the only dog so he doesn't injure his leg playing or jumping.

If Ace breaks his leg again, he will lose it, so he needs an extra vigilant adopter who will be devoted to his care and safe management.

He is a young dog who has had some bad luck. Could you turn Ace's luck around and give him a safe, stable, happy forever home?



Lassie
YORKSHIRE TERRIER
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Roy
COONHOUND MIX
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE



Molly
SHIH TZU
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Ari
HUSKY MIX
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



Lily Chi
CHIHUAHUA
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Luna
GIANT SCHNAUZER
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Benson
HUSKY MIX
LARGE, BABY, MALE



Betty
HUSKY MIX
LARGE, BABY, FEMALE



Kenny
TERRIER MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Max

LHASA APSO MIX
SMALL, ADULT, MALE


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.



"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me, they are the role model for being alive." —Gilda Radner

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO
OUR VOLUNTEERS, ADOPTERS,
SUPPORTERS, AND DOGS.

Speaking of Flashbacks

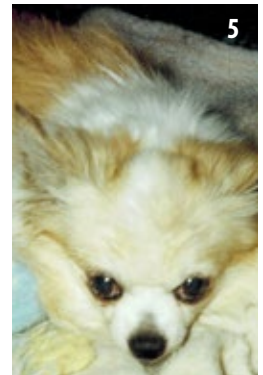
THE EARLY DAYS OF DOG RESCUE AND DOG RESCUE DIRECTORIES

Back in the early 2000s, we were busy organizing seminars and fundraisers, picking up dogs, and publishing our first Ontario rescue directory. There were only a handful of rescues listed in the “All Breed” section, and there were various breed-specific rescues. The only all-breed rescues that are still operating in 2021 are:

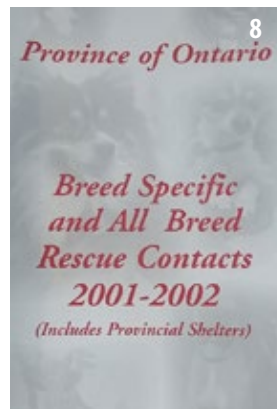
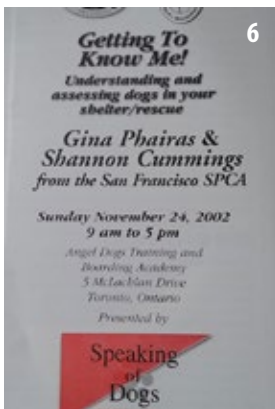
- Adopt-A-Dog, Save-A-Life
- All Heart Pet Rescue
- Highland Animal Relief Team
- Speaking of Dogs Rescue
- The Animal Guardian Society

Today, there are hundreds of “dog rescue” organizations. It has become simply impossible to keep up with all of them. It is worth noting that anyone can start a rescue, as there are no licences, certifications, credentials, or codes of conduct required.

The one organization that does have criteria and a code of ethics is Helping Homeless Pets (HHP), which is an umbrella organization for dog, cat, and small animal rescues. Founded in 2006, their goals are to have rescues work together in an ethical manner, be covered by insurance, and be guided by solid policies. Speaking of Dogs Rescue is a proud member of HHP, which is still operating today and actively supports its many members.



- 1 The founder's son, Ben, puppy helper and cuddler (2002) |
2 Another happy adoption (2001) |
3 Sadie, an owner surrender, found a wonderful home (2002) |
4 Our founder, Lorraine, with little Pippy (2002) |
5 One of the chihuahuas we took in from a SPCA hoarding case (2001)



- 6 An early seminar about assessing shelter dogs (2002) |
7 Another seminar about teaching children how to safely interact with dogs (2002) |
8&9 The Ontario Rescue directory was created to bring shelters and rescues together to help dogs find second chances (2001-2003) |
10 Our first big fundraiser, The Second Chance 70's dance was hosted by 104.5 CHUM FM's Roger Ashby (2002)

Ask the Trainer

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

thing about puppyhood: It's exhausting, and there's not a lot of room for mistakes or letting yourself off the hook.

Why a Puppymoon for Puppies Under the Age of 12 Weeks?

- Puppies require round-the-clock care. Most can't comfortably handle being left alone or being separated from their guardians very much, if at all.
- Puppies are programmed to think of everything in their world as safe or unsafe, and they're highly motivated to avoid conflict. They need to form a secure attachment to their new guardians, which becomes fertile ground for trust, independence, and good communication. It's bound to be an emotional time.
- First experiences have the potential to set the tone for the rest of a puppy's life. Extensive socialization is critical, and novelty and surprises must be positive experiences.
- Puppies learn by doing through play and exploration. They crave a high level of social interaction and mental stimulation, and these needs will evolve as they grow up.
- Puppies are in a period of extremely rapid physical, social, and mental development. They typically need to rest or sleep 16 to 20 hours per day.

Set the Staycation Vibes

- Learn about dog body language so you adjust your approach with your puppy.
- Before your puppy comes home, set up what trainers refer to as a "long-term confinement area" for them. Crate training can be a big process because it goes against the

grain for baby animals of a social species to be isolated or confined.

- Your puppy's first and most significant socialization experience is the day they come home with you. Plan to introduce your puppy to your space room by room using play, food, and affection. Be prepared to minimize stress and maximize comfort. Have everything ready ahead of time, and always have a plan B.
- Expect to spend two weeks settling your puppy in. The first four weeks are all about getting to know each other and helping your puppy feel happy, comfortable, and confident in their new life and routine. If at all possible, plan to take two to four weeks off work (even if you work from home) or create a flexible schedule that allows you to attend to and be with your puppy as much as needed.
- Be clear on rules and boundaries, and make sure everyone in your household is on the same page.
- Cultivate fair expectations: You chose to invite a baby predator into your home and family. Not only that, your new pup will be learning the ropes with you as opposed to a member of their own species. How tricky is that for a baby? Expect teeth, sleepless nights, and messes. Not only that, puppy troubles last longer than most people think.

Make It Magical

- Socialization needs to hit the sweet spot for puppies. It's got to be positive, enjoyable, and appropriate for the puppy's skills, abilities, and interests. You should aim to challenge but not overwhelm your puppy.

- Socialize, socialize, socialize. If you miss socializing your pup to anything important, it can be difficult if not impossible to make up for it later. That's why it's important to protect your puppy from negative experiences as much as possible. When your puppy gets scared, comfort them. Teach them you're their safe haven, and they'll be less likely to take problems into their own hands.
- Play with your puppy as much as possible. This is their childhood! Playing with your puppy is a fabulous way to bond. It also helps you become much more relevant to your puppy (you're going to need to be able to compete for your puppy's attention at times when everything else seems way more interesting). Joking is a wonderful way to reassure your puppy about anything that gives them pause.
- Facial closeness and other reinforcers such as food and play can be paired with situations and experiences to help your puppy form positive associations with their day-to-day care and routine, including handling and body care, meeting people and dogs, and learning about new environments. Choice is an extremely valuable reinforcer for dogs, since they depend on us entirely.
- Imagine how weird you would have turned out if you'd never played with other kids when you were young. Young puppies need to play with other healthy puppies and good-natured, tolerant healthy adult dogs on the regular. If your puppy won't take treats around dogs or is barking and lunging at other dogs, these

[Continued on page 7...](#)

[...continued from page 6](#)

are signs that your puppy isn't getting enough social opportunities. Social needs vary significantly from one puppy to the next. Check out professionally run force-free puppy playgroups, socials, and classes, or arrange play dates with friends and neighbours.

- Dogs can be trained at any point in their life. For puppies, I suggest focusing on their name, following a lure, and bed/mat/crate training only. This may seem counterintuitive or surprising to diligent puppy-parents-to-be, but I think it's best to avoid over-programming a puppy with rigid potty and crate training. Facial closeness, cheering, gentle rough-housing, and playful gestures can reinforce any behaviour you'd like to see more from your puppy, such as keeping their paws on the ground during greetings. They will also help your puppy feel better in situations where they feel unsure or afraid.

R & R

- Puppies benefit greatly from adequate sleep and down time. Be sure your puppy is mentally and physically tired enough to rest. Signs your puppy may be overtired can include mouthiness, restlessness, hyperactivity, excessive barking, and reticence.
- Offer your puppy resting areas in every room as well as a variety of enrichment feeders and chews to promote relaxation and help them learn to self-occupy. Encourage interest in long-term chewing and eating projects such as food-stuffed rubber chew toys (i.e., Kong), consumable chews (i.e., bully stick), and snuffle/licki mats.
- Follow a rhythm not a schedule: eat, enrich, sleep, repeat.

- Learn about consent. If you're new to puppy parenting or haven't done it in a while, this modern, science-informed approach is a game-changer. It involves learning how to tell if, how, and when your puppy wants to be petted. It promotes mutual enjoyment and fosters trust, which will deepen your relationship with your pup.
- Never throw your puppy into the deep end with alone time or confinement. Letting them "cry it out" is now discouraged due to the risks and potential fallout. It's best to ease your puppy into things gradually and enjoyably. Confinement and alone time must be geared to your puppy's age and abilities. Comfort your puppy and help them learn to wind down.

Meet the Locals

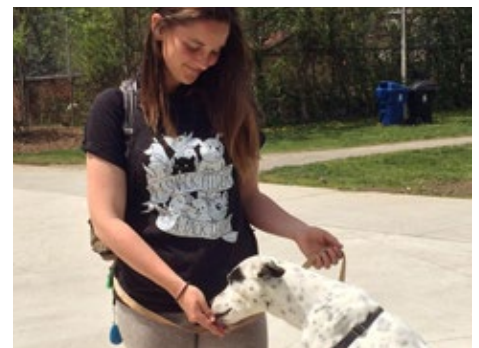
- Pet pros make a great first impression on puppies when it comes to meeting strangers. Why not arrange a "treat and greet" with a force-free professional dog walker, sitter, or trainer?
- Consider booking visits with a house-call vet. This is an excellent way to socialize your puppy to unfamiliar people coming into the home. It also allows you and your puppy to take the time and care you need to help your puppy feel as comfortable as possible with everything involved in their care.
- It's important to plan a wide variety of social, town/city, and outdoor experiences for your puppy during in order to prevent fear, anxiety, and aggression. Even with the current restrictions, you can make plans with friends and family if you stay outside and remain physically distanced. You want your puppy to have a dynamic social life and be a welcome guest with friends and family, and socialization is the only way to accomplish this.

- Distance makes the heart grow fonder! Every puppy parent deserves some R & R of their own, and puppies need to get out there and learn about the wider world and everyone in it. Arranging play dates or overnights with friends or relatives who are eager to show your puppy a good time are a win for everyone.

Puppyhood only happens once in a dog's life, and you owe it to yourself and your new pup to get it right. Raising a puppy can be a big process, so it can be helpful to have the support and guidance of a qualified force-free dog trainer before your pup comes home and throughout the first few weeks and months. It helps set them up for a lifetime of happiness and confidence!

Additional Resources

- [AVSAB Statement on Puppy Socialization](#)
- [Jane Killion, Puppy Culture](#)
- [Sophia Yin, Checklist for Socialization](#)
- [Lili Chin, The Play Way](#)
- Helen Zulch and Daniel Mills, *Life Skills for Puppies: Laying the Foundation for a Loving, Lasting Relationship*
- [Eileen and Dogs](#)
- [BCPSCA](#)
- [KPA](#)



Meghan D'Arcy, CTC, CSAT, ACDBC

Certified in Training and Counselling, Certified Separation Anxiety Trainer, Associate Certified Dog Behaviour Consultant, Fear Free Certified Animal Trainer meghandarcydogs.com

Bits & Bites

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

[Toronto police are investigating reports of poisoned peanut shells that were allegedly scattered around downtown parks.](#)

[The Toronto Humane Society offers tips to help you and your dog enjoy this winter weather!](#)

[Dr. Karen Becker looks at what dogs find most reinforcing – and it may not be what you think!](#)

[We all know they do, so find out how being a pet parent benefits mental health.](#)

[February is pet dental health month. This comprehensive article from Veterinary Partner provides “the tooth, the whole tooth, and nothing but the tooth.”](#)

THIS MONTH'S RECALLS:

[Expanded Sportmix recall](#)

Updates

FEBRUARY IS PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

We all brush our teeth every day, but too many of us don't care for your pets' teeth quite as well. Healthy teeth and gums are fundamental to having healthy dogs and cats. Want to find out more about how you can better care for your dog's teeth? [Check out this video and tips from Pet Health Network.](#)

UPCOMING WEBINAR FROM EDUCANINE!

Stranger Danger

Support and training techniques to help dogs who are fearful of new people

Presenters: Maggi Burt and Nicole Barnett

Date: Sunday, February 21 at 11 a.m.

Visit: <https://educanine.org/all-products/ols/products/stranger-danger-webinar> for more info.

Enter the discount code “rescue20” and save \$15.00! (Regular price is \$35.)

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.



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!

It'll 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.

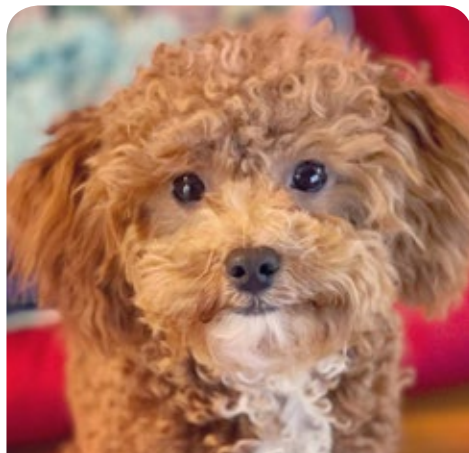
Happy Tails

JANUARY ADOPTIONS:

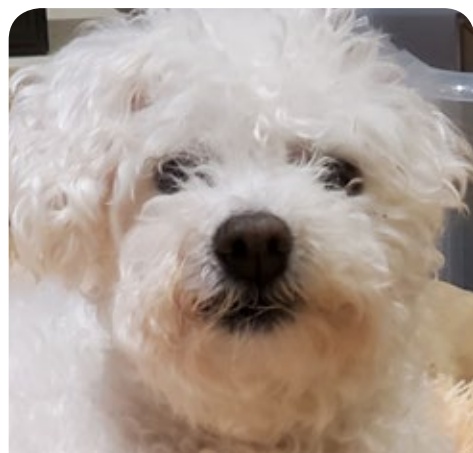
A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



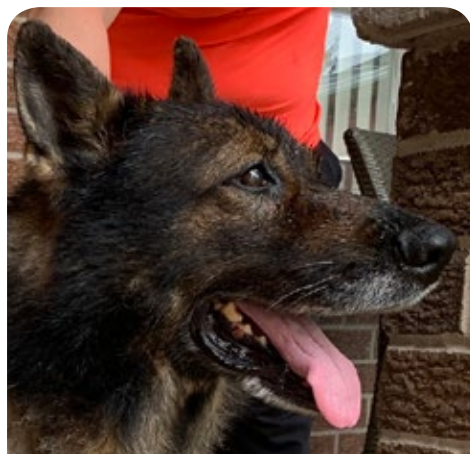
Alex



Archie



Daisy M



Deputy Max



Maze



Hank



Hazel

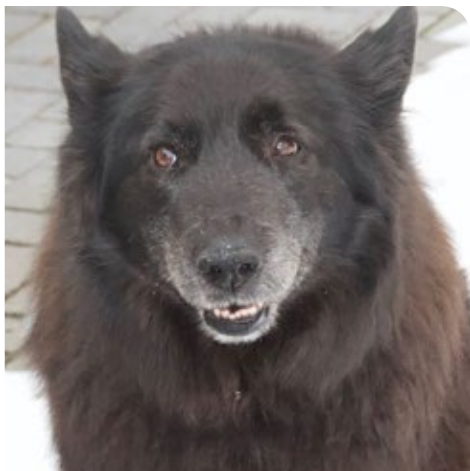


Kawi



Maia

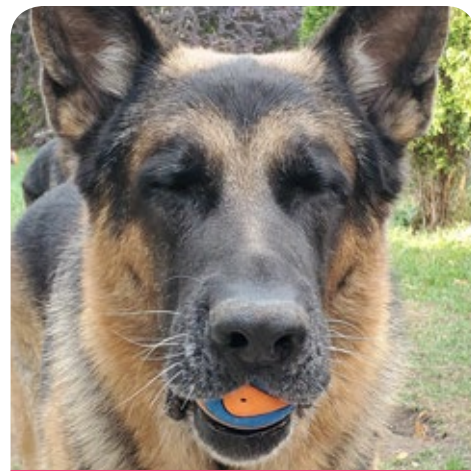
More Happy Tails



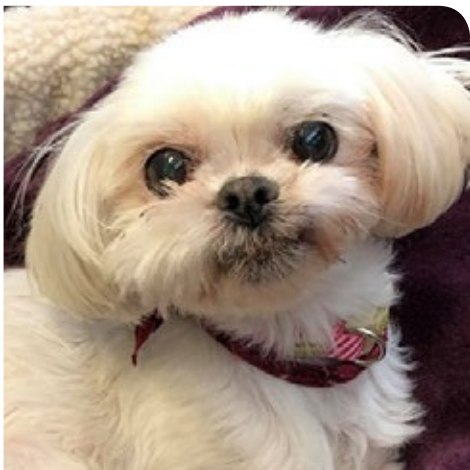
Moxey



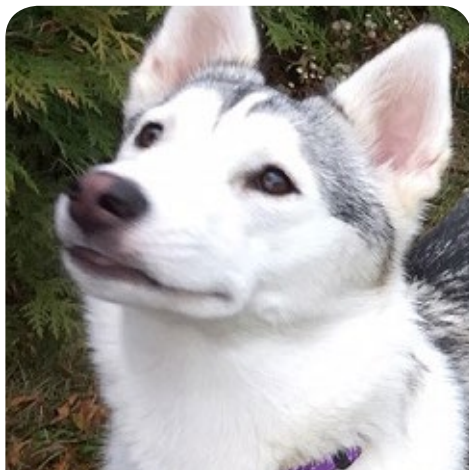
Nigel



Prince



Sunshine



Tundra

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
From: Koach family
Subject: Lucky

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

Lucky is doing wonderfully! He is well behaved and didn't need any training classes. (A bonus of adopting a trained adult dog!) Lucky has an ongoing prescription for pain relief due to the shrapnel in his leg. So glad your vet found it when you brought him into your rescue! He has been to the vet with some skin issues, and we are taking care of that. We are so happy to have Lucky in our lives! He appears in your 2021 calendar, he's in July! Thanks for all you do!



In Memoriam



Patches
LOVED BY CLAUDIA AND FAMILY
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2019



Becky
LOVED BY CLAUDIA
AND FAMILY



Frida
LOVED BY MARIA AND FAMILY
ADOPTED 2008