

Introducing New Pets to Resident Pets



Our pets are important family members, and new animals need to be introduced into the home with care. Dogs have the mental maturity of a two- to four-year-old child, so it's a bit like the sibling rivalry when a new baby is brought home. While there may be a positive experience of excitement, there will likely be a reaction of displacement and, to some degree, jealousy.

Resident animals get into a routine and may see the home as their personal territory. When you bring home a new animal or have visitors with pets, your resident pet's first instinct may be to run away or to fight off the "intruder."

Adding a new pet to your household can be stressful for your current pet and may lead to stress-related sickness or behavioural issues. It is important to slowly introduce resident pets to any new animals – don't just throw them together and hope for the best!

Choosing an animal that will fit in well with your resident pet will help immensely. Understanding the health, activity level, and personality of your current pet and the new pet you are thinking of bringing home will help you anticipate – and preempt – any problems. For example, a slower,

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

AUGUST 2021

THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In this month's newsletter

Dogs looking for homes	2
Ask the Trainer	5
Speaking of flashbacks.....	7
Wags & Wiggles	9
Happy tails	11
In memoriam	14

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.

Oscar

PUG / BEAGLE MIX
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE

FEATURED DOG:

Oscar is 7-year-old neutered male Pug and Beagle mix who has a delightful personality, enjoys walks, backyard playtime, and food!

He arrived as a stray in a Toronto area shelter, where he quickly became a staff favourite. His behaviour notes read: "This guy is clean and quiet in his kennel, and he loves to lounge on his bed. He becomes quite animated when there is food involved and offers a quick sit. He is good with the other dogs, albeit fairly aloof with them."

His foster parents also think he's pretty special, finding him very easy to live with and even easier to love.

Oscar is a little overweight, but we're slimming him down slowly and steadily. He's already lost a few pounds, and his legs are now more muscular. He is moderately active and goes for two walks a day, and he also spends time in the yard practising his barrel rolls!

The shelter staff were certainly right about Oscar's enthusiasm for food! This guy loves his food and is more than just motivated by food rewards – one might even say he is driven by them! His foster family are using low-calorie treats sparingly while training him, and Oscar is proving to be quite the student. He is fully housetrained and knows "sit" and "shake a paw."

Now that more people are out and about, his foster family are noticing



that Oscar can be a bit shy around new people at first, but offering him a low-cal treat usually helps bring him around. He may, however, need some help fine-tuning his manners when he meets other dogs. He gets excited and barks a bit too much for some dogs. When slowly introduced, he has been successful with dog intros, but he is not good with cats.

Oscar was reactive during a recent thunderstorm, which means he will likely be reactive to fireworks as well. He will need support and a quiet place at home where he can chill out when there are fireworks within earshot and during storms.

Oscar may initially bark or whine when left alone, but he settles quickly. He can jump up on the bed and loves to sleep there, but he is a bit of a space hog, so he usually sleeps on his favourite blanket beside the

bed. Stairs are no problem for this surprisingly agile guy.

Oscar recently had what we think might be a focal seizure, which lasted about 30 seconds and was reported to the veterinarian. Oscar did not lose consciousness, but he was paddling on his side, had some stiffness with body twitches, and drooled. He came out of it quickly, as if nothing had happened. We've been waiting to see if he has another similar episode, so we can video it, but it has so far been an isolated incident. We've had follow-up bloodwork done. If you have concerns about possible seizures, please don't hesitate to discuss with the adoption coordinator.

Oscar's favourite place to be is wherever his foster mom and dad are. He is an adoring companion and will be a wonderful addition to a loving family. All Oscar needs now is the BFF who can give him his forever home. Could it be you?



Willa

TERRIER / CHIHUAHUA MIX
SMALL, YOUNG, FEMALE_



Maggie Mae

WHEATEN TERRIER
MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALE



Happy

POODLE / MALTESE MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Jax

GERMAN SHEPHERD
X-LARGE, ADULT, MALE_



Oreo aka Rosie

SHIH TZU
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE_



Beanie

GERMAN SHEPHERD MIX
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE



Bobby

SHIH TZU / TERRIER MIX
SMALL, ADULT, MALE_



Ace

SHEPHERD MIX
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE_



Little One

SHIH TZU
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Baker

LABRADOR RETRIEVER
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE

THE ONLY THING HOTTER THAN THE TEMPERATURES IS OUR FACEBOOK AUCTIONS!

Speaking of Dogs Rescue's Facebook page not only includes lots of info about all of the amazing dogs we're helping, every week we auction 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.



WAG FOR THE CAMERA!

Have a great photo of your furry best bud you'd like to share? We'd love to include it in the 2022 Speaking of Dogs Rescue calendar!

It could be a photo of your pup having fun in the sun, chilling out at home, out on an adventure, or any other shot that warms your heart and makes your smile.

Photos should not include people but can include a four-legged friend. There is no charge to submit, but please only send one photo per dog. Photos should be between 1 and 2 MB in size, either colour or black and white.

Please email your favourite snapshot to info@speakingofdogs.com, and then keep an eye out for the calendars in October!



RECALLS

Click the link for details on this month's recalls:

[Triumph, Evolve, Wild Harvest, Nurture Farms, Heart to Tail, and Elm dog foods](#)

[Nom Nom Chicken Cuisine cat food](#)

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



Ask the Trainer

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

older dog may not get along with a high-energy puppy. While the two can eventually coexist happily, you'll need strategies that safely keep the pets apart initially, until the pup is more mature.

Before Bringing Your New Pet Home

Your current pet must be healthy enough to handle the stress of the new family member. Undiagnosed pain can reduce tolerance levels for interactions and result in aggression. Prior to committing to the new pet, take your current pets to the vet. Sick animals may be unable to adapt to changes in their environment because they are not at their best. They may also pose a risk to puppies or kittens, which are more susceptible to germs due to their young age.

Set up a temporary area for the new pet using gates, exercise pens, or doors. This area should have all the essentials they need. Allowing your new pet full access to your house might overwhelm them. Setting up a small space will allow them to get used to one area at a time.

It is a good idea to have different belongings for both pets. Sharing can be difficult, especially at the beginning. Giving each pet their own toys, bowls, bed, and crate (and scratching posts and litter boxes for cats) will reduce anxiety.

Making the Introduction

The car ride home is the beginning of training your new pet. It is important to provide a carrier, crate, or safety harness for them in the car so they are more likely to remain calm. Resist the urge to bring along your resident pet for the pick-up; it is already a highly charged and stressful situation, and the confines of a car is not a good place to start the introductions.



Familiar smells can help to calm animals. Bringing your new pet home with a blanket or bedding that they have been using will help lower their anxiety. You can also get something from them when you go for the initial visit to bring home; put the new pet's blanket in the bed of the current pet, so that they get the idea that something different is coming.

Be aware of the timing for the introduction: immediately after a long car ride to their new home is not ideal. Allow the new animal to explore their separate area before bringing them to a neutral area to greet the resident pet.

Before the initial introduction, spend time with each animal individually, with the goal of tiring them out. This will help prevent either animal from being

reactive. When they're all played out, have both animals a moderate distance away from each other so that they can see each other but still remain calm. Give them treats for remaining calm.

For dogs, have them both on leash, with one person per dog. Do your best to keep the leashes slack, so you don't transfer any extra stress into the situation. If in a fenced area, the leashes can be trailing on the ground.

Make sure neither pet gets too anxious, fearful, or aggressive during the introduction to ensure that the experience is a good one. Look for stress signs including yawns, tightly closed mouths, shake offs as though the dog is wet, tail tucked, or head averted.

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

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

If either dog appears anxious, walk them away and redirect them using simple commands and rewards. You can use a game of tug or fetch to help redirect them, and be sure to have them slightly hungry so that the treats are truly a motivator.

Slowly approach with the resident dog, stopping every couple of feet to ask a simple command and reward both animals frequently. If they seem comfortable with this, walk them close enough to allow them to just sniff each other's noses. If one of the dogs is young or very under-socialized, you can step on their leash, leaving it long enough to keep their four paws on the ground but not long enough to let them jump into the other dog's face, which is often considered rude behaviour by mature dogs. Lead them away after just *two to three seconds* and engage with them individually, rewarding them for their good behaviour.

You can repeat this again, gradually leaving them together for longer periods before walking them away each time. *Don't get greedy!* Break off the session while things are going well, so that they're

happy to get together later. Before taking them inside, walk them together side by side for a little bit, as being near but not staring at each other is great practice for building tolerance for proximity.

Take a break and let both pets settle down before inside introductions. If at any time things escalate and the dogs begin to growl, snap, or act aggressively, separate them. Stress hormones take 15 minutes to start to subside and will reactivate more quickly once they've been triggered, so wait at least an hour before trying again.

Resource Guarding

Mealtime and high-value resources are common triggers for unwanted competitive and guarding behaviours. Animals should be fully separated at mealtimes, ideally in different rooms to prevent any stress, but at least behind a barrier.

When trying to introduce high-value items like bones, be sure to do so at a time when the animals are tired and full, so that they're not too excited about getting them. Bones should not be left unattended initially, as they can trigger guarding or hoarding behaviour.

Laps and proximity to you are often even more highly valued than treats! Be sure to tire out your pets before looking to settle in, with one on either side of you receiving calming pets. Avoid having either directly on your lap if they're on the furniture, which is more likely to trigger a response. If either growls, stop petting and if it continues, either move off the furniture or move the dogs away from you. If either dog growls intensely or snaps, move them to behind a gate.

You want to teach both pets that the highest likelihood of their receiving lots of positive physical attention from you is when the other pet is present, and this is true across species – cats, birds, lizards, etc.



Lucinda Glenny, MSc. Animal Behaviour, BSc. Psych., CPDT-KA, owner and lead trainer of Canine Behaviour Therapy (caninebehaviour.ca)



Speaking of Flashbacks



We found homes for 250 dogs in 2012 and 2013. We also met incredible people as volunteers joined up to help with our events and fostering!

We held yard sales, Halloween parties, and online auctions, and we participated in events at Global Pet Food and attended Slobberfest, Woofstock, and Pawsitively Christmas. As always, it was a busy time!

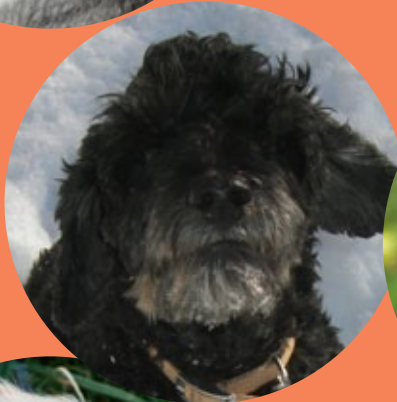
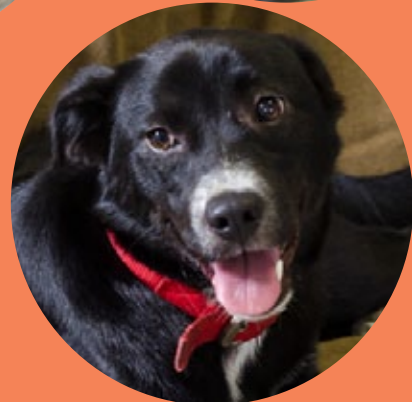
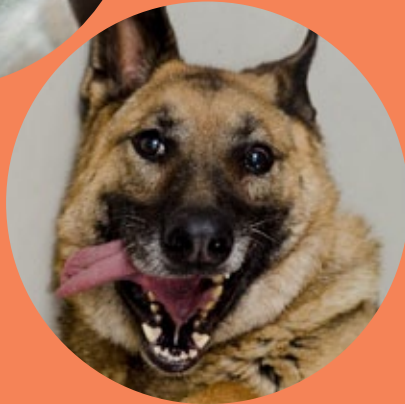
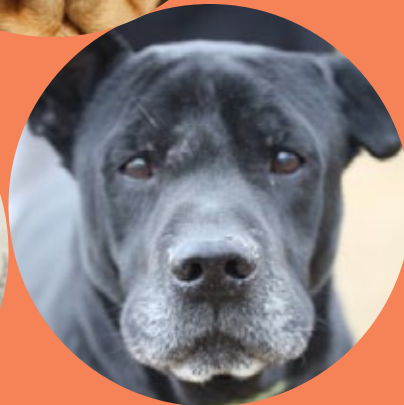
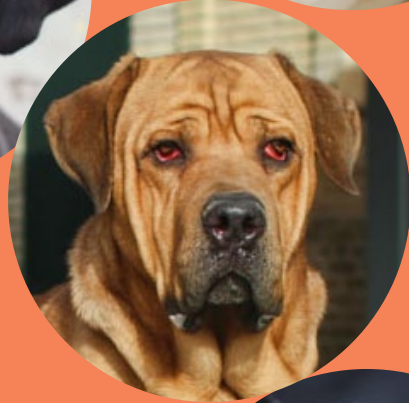
We also continued to keep pace with previous years in terms of fundraising, adoptions, and educational seminars. Our seminars were becoming so popular and well-attended that we were able to book exceptional behaviourists and speakers like Grisha Stewart, Dr. Sophia Yin, and Nicole Wilde.

In 2012 one of our volunteers, Rose Hamilton, thought it would be a good idea to create a calendar. It was a huge success, and we've been doing them each year since with the help of graphic designer Karen Flude.

In 2013 Speaking of Dogs Rescue won the Reader's Choice Award from Toronto Pet Daily, which was a great honour.

Speaking of Dogs is so named because it was originally created to offer educational forums so dogs could be better understood and live their best life. Our goal was fewer homeless dogs and better human-canine relationships, and we have that same goal to this day!





Wags & Wiggles

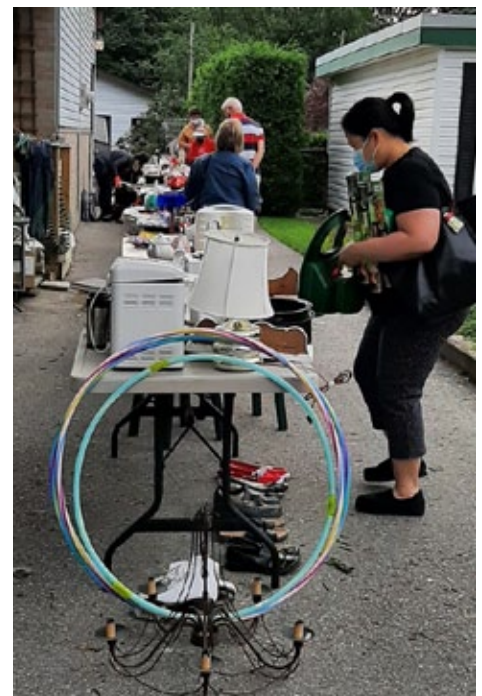


YARD SALE THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who came to our yard sale on July 31st! We had to close a bit early because of the rain, but the sale made over \$600 to help the many dogs who come into our care!

There will be another sale in September, so keep an eye out for it. Donations are now being accepted for our September yard sale. Please contact us at info@speakingofdogs.com if you'd like information about how to donate any new or gently used items.

Thank you to all of our yard sale volunteers for their time, energy, and commitment to our dogs!



BIG THANKS TO OUR SENSATIONAL SEAMSTRESS!



Katherine Gay, our tireless seamstress and foster mom!

Many people have asked who makes those amazing quilts we've featured in our Facebook auctions, who made our COVID masks, and, most recently, who made the belly bands for our foster dogs. The answer is the same for every one of those questions: It's the incredible Katherine Gay! Her tireless efforts are so appreciated by all of us at Speaking of Dogs Rescue! Not only does Katherine take care of all of our sewing needs, she is also a Forever in Foster mom extraordinaire to Jacob and Dash. We are ever grateful to have her on our team. Her commitment to help the dogs is extraordinary on so many levels!



*Forever in Foster dogs Dash (left)
and Jacob (right).*

Happy Tails

RECENT ADOPTIONS:

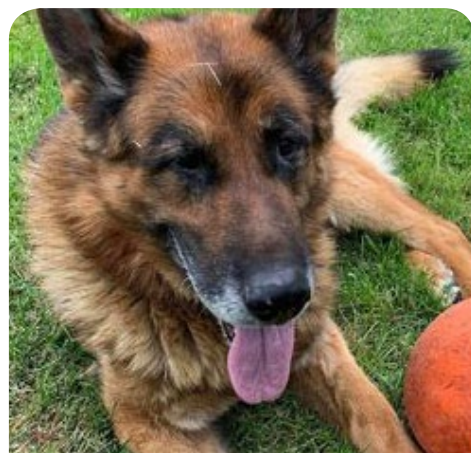
A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



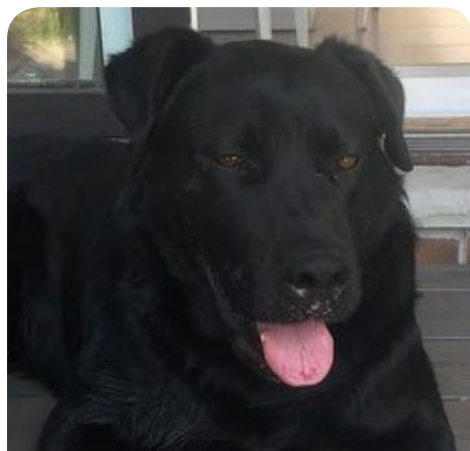
Albert



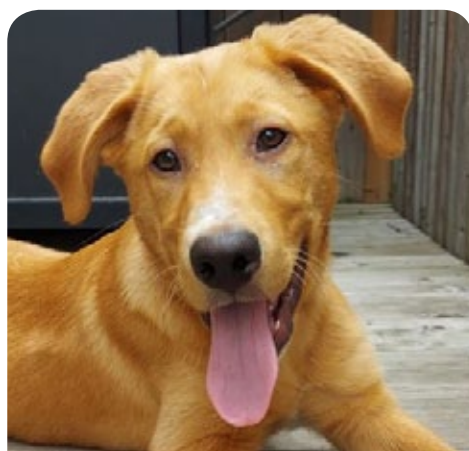
Moose



Hulk



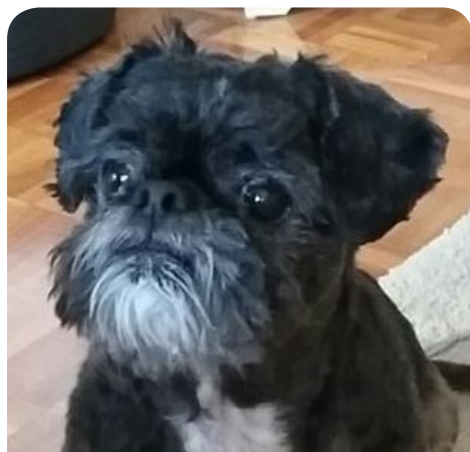
Max Quinn



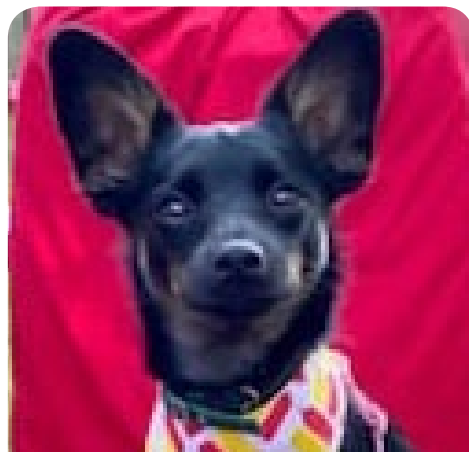
Diamond



Diego



Jack



Betty



Rosie



Curly



Britt



Aurora



Baxter

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.



Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue...

To: *Speaking of Dogs Rescue*

From: *Lynne Howarth and family*

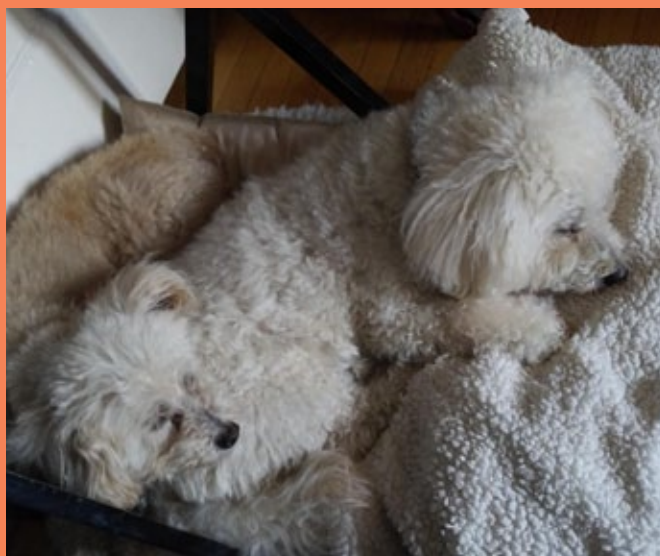
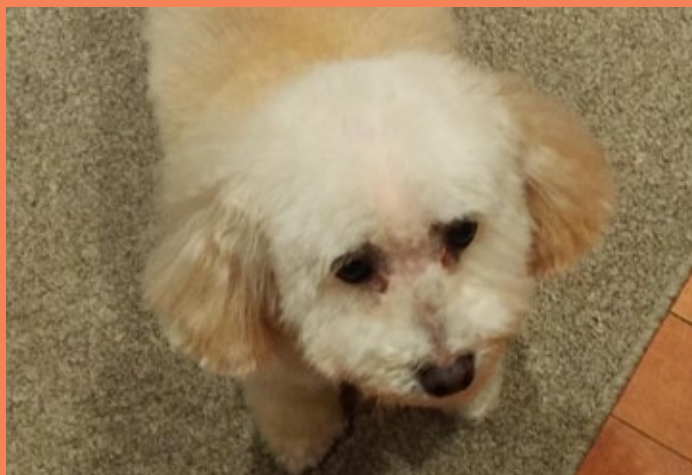
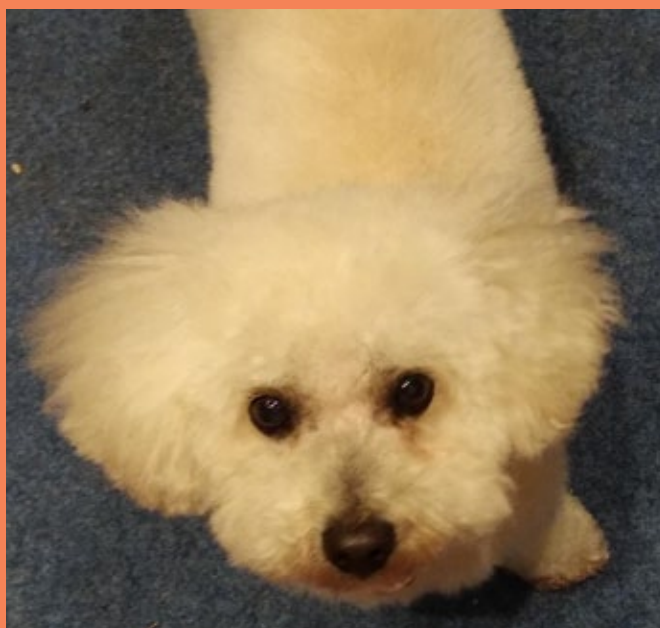
Subject: *Barney (formerly Barkley)*

We love Barkley to bits, except that we call him Barney now as it suits him better. His pal, Lucy, also from Speaking of Dogs, likewise adores him. They arrived only 7 months apart from one another and are the same age (now 10 years old as far as the vet

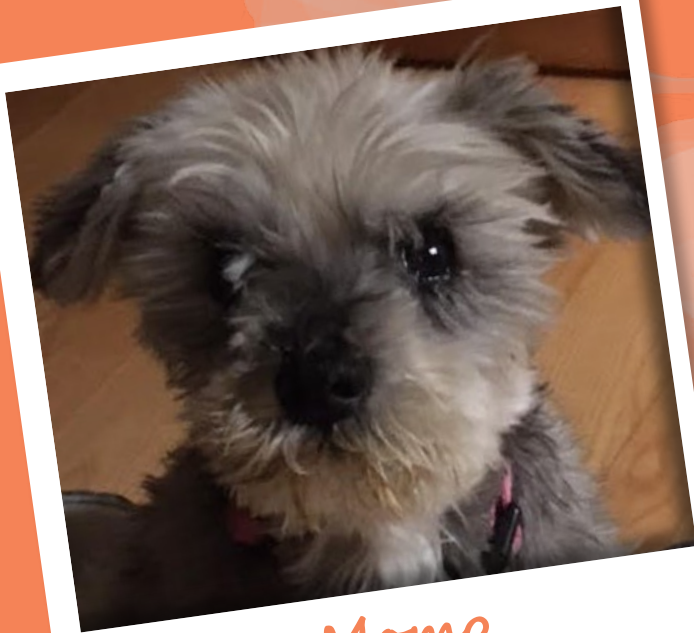
can tell). Lucy and Barney are best buds, and our household has benefited immensely from having both. Barney is a very compliant guy and also likes to copy whatever Lucy does. He went to a couple of obedience classes and, as with many poodles, learned easily.

At 10 years old he is a pretty good learner and tries to please.

All in all, we couldn't be happier with our two Speaking of Dogs rescues, as we have been with others prior to Lucy and Barney.



In Memoriam



Momo

LOVED BY ANNA BROOKS AND FAMILY
ADOPTED DECEMBER 2015



Lucy

LOVED BY REBECCA AND FAMILY
ADOPTED DECEMBER 2020



Bandit

LOVED BY THE HOUSTON FAMILY AND EVERYONE
AT SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE
FOREVER IN FOSTER



Arthur

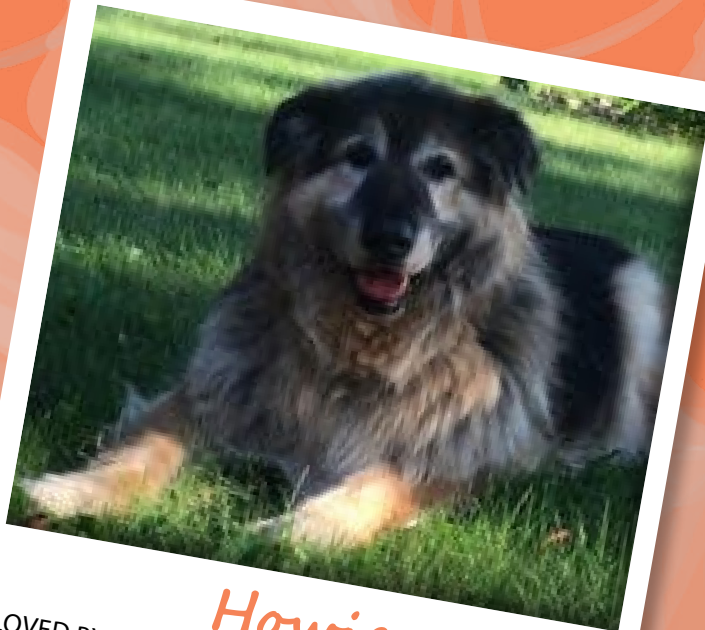
LOVED BY VICKI, BRIAN AND ALL OF US
AT SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE
FOREVER IN FOSTER

In Memoriam



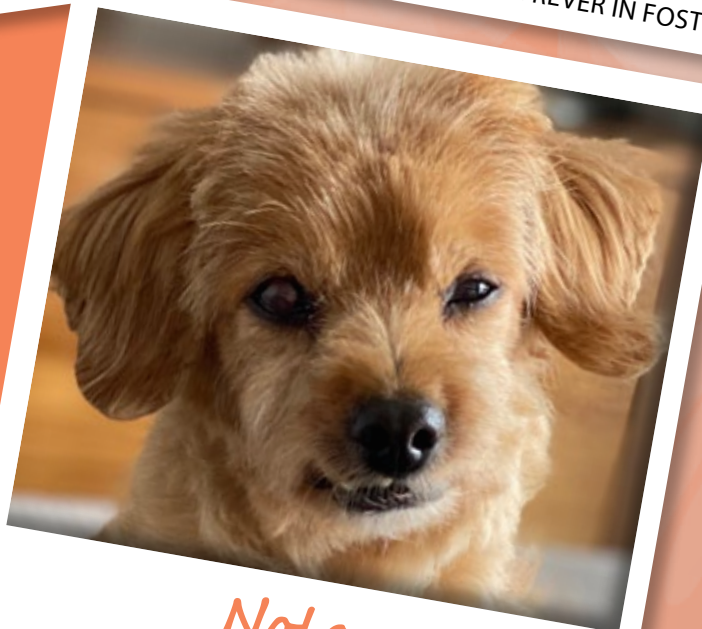
Frankie aka Willow

LOVED BY PATRICA AND GAVIN
ADOPTED MARCH 2018



Howie

LOVED BY CAROL KEATES, HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY
AND ALL OF US AT SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE
FOREVER IN FOSTER



Nolan

LOVED BY PATRICIA, GAVIN AND HIS
SPEAKING OF DOGS RESCUE FAMILY
FOREVER IN FOSTER