

# Holiday Prep for Pups of All Ages!



This holiday season may resemble more of what we're used to, and you may be looking forward to having friends and family over to celebrate – finally! Our dogs may therefore need a little holiday prep to keep excitement and stress levels down for everyone involved.

Here are my top three tips to set you and your dog up for success during the holidays.

## Tip 1: Teaching a Solid "Relax on a Mat"

This is a wonderful skill to help both exuberant and timid dogs learn what they should do when guests come over.

**Teach your dog to love their mat**  
Start by teaching your dog that the mat is a wonderful place to be by having nice treats on there whenever they are

relaxing on it. If you have a bone, a chewie, or a Kong, always give these to your dog on their mat. This sets up the mat as being somewhere wonderful things "grow"!

## Put it on cue

Once your dog realizes that wonderful things come from the mat and they go there happily, start to put the behaviour on cue. Say "place" or "go to your mat," point to the mat, and once your dog is in the down position on the mat, give them the wonderful item or sprinkle treats around them.

Want to see this training in action?

Here's a great video to get you started: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ0Rii\\_5ckE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ0Rii_5ckE)

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

## DECEMBER 2021

### THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

#### In this month's newsletter

Ask the trainer .....	1
Dogs looking for homes .....	2
Speaking of flashbacks.....	6
Adoption update .....	14
Recent adoptions .....	15
In memoriam .....	17
Christmas card .....	19

#### 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](mailto:info@speakingofdogs.com)  
Web: [www.speakingofdogs.com](http://www.speakingofdogs.com)

#### Newsletter Team

Editor: Nancy Foran  
Design: Cathy Vandergeest, RGD  
Contributors: Nancy Foran, Lorraine Houston, Andrea Dinan, and Kim Gladding

#### 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.

## Baxter

LABRADOR / HOUND MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE

### FEATURED DOG:

Baxter is a 35-pound, approximately 2-year-old Lab and hound mix. He was found as a stray in the Toronto area, but he's a gentle sweetheart with so much love to give!

He's been in foster care for several months, as we tried to figure out what was going on with him. Finally, after getting in to see a neurologist, we have the answer: Baxter had distemper as a puppy, which resulted in him having a few seizures. He has not, however, had a seizure since August, when he started his anti-seizure medication, which he will need to be on for the rest of his life. Baxter also needed most of his teeth removed as a result of having distemper, but he is completely fine without them! He does have a few teeth left, which will need to be monitored.

Baxter is housetrained, friendly, and super affectionate, giving kisses and snuggles whenever possible. He would do best in a home where someone is with him most of the time. Not much makes Baxter nervous or stresses him out, but he doesn't like being left alone. He does cope better when he's with other dogs, and he seems completely fine when left for an hour or two with the two other dogs in his foster home. While a playful doggy companion would be great for Baxter,



it is not a prerequisite. He is not, however, crated because he panics and could hurt himself.

Baxter loves to play, and he plays just like a puppy! He is full of energy and lives his life to the fullest by running around the backyard, trying to play with his foster brothers. He is therefore not suited to an apartment or condo and needs a fenced yard.

Baxter does sometimes have trouble understanding signals his foster brothers give him when they don't want to play. He can be quite persistent and annoying, so

Baxter would only thrive in a home with a dog who could tolerate his playfulness. He enjoys frequent walks and adventures, so an active family would be the best fit.

When Baxter isn't playing, he is very relaxed and has a calm energy. At night, he sleeps in a dog bed in his foster parents' bedroom.

Baxter is truly one of the most gentle dogs we've ever encountered. All he wants is to share his love with his forever family, and he has so much love to give! Could you be part of Baxter's forever family?





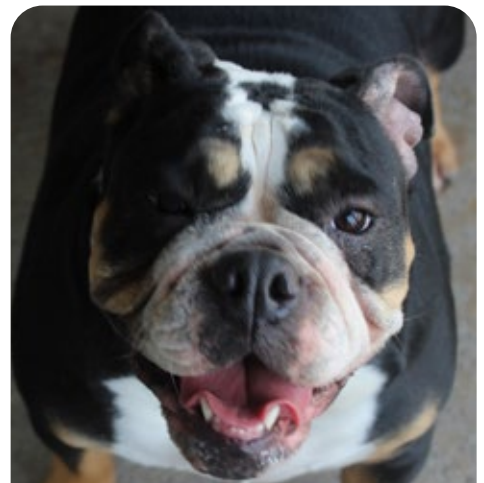
*Brady*

BEAGLE / LABRADOR MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



*Ebony*

SPANIEL MIX  
MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALE



*Nova*

BULLDOG MIX  
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



*Charlie*

SHIH TZU  
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



*Snoop*

LABRADOR / WHEATEN TERRIER  
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



*Milo*

TERRIER MIX  
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



*Lainey*

RETRIEVER / COLLIE MIX  
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



*Coco*

POMERANIAN  
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



*Bella (Pyr)*

GREAT PYRENEES / SHEEPDOG MIX  
LARGE, YOUNG, FEMALE



### Peek & Boo

BORDER COLLIE / LABRADOR MIXES | MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALES  
COURTESY POST FOR SOUTHERN ONTARIO SHELTYE RESCUE



### Baker

LABRADOR RETRIEVER  
LARGE, SENIOR, MALE

## THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

Many thanks to everyone who voted for us in the *Toronto Star* Readers' Choice contest! We are so proud to have won Diamond awards in three categories! We were named **Best Non-profit/Foundation**, **Best Animal Rescue**, and **Best Pet Adoption Service**!

Wags and wiggles to all of our supporters, fosters, and voters! We appreciate the nod of confidence and support.



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

- [Sam's Club dog treats](#)
- [BioLifePet liquid probiotics for dogs and cats](#)

## WAGS, WIGGLES, AND WOOFs FOR VICKI AND BRIAN CHORLEY!

Huge congratulations to our very own Vicki and Brian Chorley, the recipients of this year's Whitby Mayor's Senior Volunteer Award winners!

You can view the announcement of the award [here](#).

And read a short interview with Vicki [here](#).

This award is so well deserved, and we are so blessed to have Vicki and Brian on our team!



## SHOUT OUT AND HOWL OUT FOR LISA CHARLTON!

Many thanks to Lisa Charlton for creating yet another amazing holiday ornament, commemorating 20 years of Speaking of Dogs Rescue!



# Ask the Trainer

*...Continued from page 1*

## **Getting them to stay**

One of the best exercises to help your dog stay on their mat even when there are distractions is the Relaxation Protocol. This wonderful program teaches your dog how to relax no matter what is going on around them and no matter where you are. It begins with easy tasks and each day gets a little more difficult. It moves through duration, distance, and distractions slowly, making it easy for your dog to stay relaxed on their mat.

For detailed information about the Relaxation Protocol, you can visit <https://www.arl-iowa.org/webres/File/Protocol%20for%20Relaxation.pdf>

Once your dog is a pro at staying on their mat (and it takes practice, so be patient!) you can use “stay” when:

- company comes through the door (keep those treats coming while your dog is on their mat);
- you need your dog to settle down so you can actually visit with your guests;
- you are eating, whether at the table or even on the couch.

## **Practise often – before you have visitors**

Practise “go to your mat” and the Relaxation Protocol while you are making dinner, while you are eating, when there is a knock at the door, and anytime it’s a good idea for your dog to relax on their mat. If you can have a friend come over for a short visit to practise, that would be ideal.

In the beginning, be liberal with the type and number of treats you provide and then slowly phase them out. If you need your dog to stay on their mat for a long period of time while you are busy, use a frozen Kong, a bully stick, or an appropriate bone.

## **Tip 2: Greet Guests Outside**

Sometimes the whole chain reaction of the doorbell, moving to the door, and then opening the door is just too exciting for your dog. If you have a nervous dog, it can be quite unsettling because people are moving into their space.

You can eliminate a lot of the excitement and stress by meeting your guests outside your home, rewarding your dog while they are calm, and then having your guests enter your home first to avoid the awkwardness of having guests moving into your dog’s space.

If you have a timid dog, it is best that your guests give your dog time to get used to them on their own terms. That means refrain from having your guests feed your dog treats or reach out to them. For timid dogs, space is the best reward and will help to build trust. Basically, ask your guests to play hard to get!

Once your guests are settled, you can then ask your dog to relax on their mat with something wonderful. Have your dog in a space that is far enough away to be comfortable (usually about 1 metre or 6 feet away) and in a spot where they can see your guests. This is key for overexcited dogs as well as timid dogs, as it gives them something to do and also creates a positive association for remaining calm while guests are over.

## **Tip 3: Make Sure Your Dog Is Satisfied Before Visitors Arrive**

If your dog has been sitting around all day and is full of energy, it’s going to be really difficult to have them focused and relaxed. Going for a good “sniff walk” or hike before company comes as well as providing mental stimulation such as brain games, snuffle mats, or some fun training before your visit will be key!

Have some calming games ready for your dog during the visit to keep them calm and occupied and to also teach them that their job is to be calm when visitors come over. Snuffle mats, lick mats, frozen Kongs, and long-lasting chews are good to keep on hand.

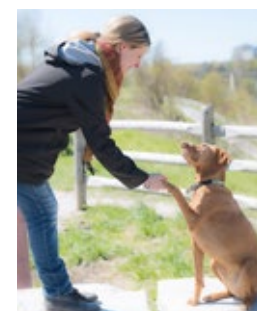
Worried about calories? Put meals in these games and don’t worry about feeding out of a bowl!

## **Bonus Tip: When in Doubt, Enlist Some Help**

If you are concerned that your dog will not do well with visitors because of previous experiences or because you haven’t had any one in your home as yet, be sure to reach out to a qualified force-free trainer to walk you through some steps to assure that you, your dog, and your guests are safe and stress-free this holiday season.

Happy training and happy holidays!

**Andrea Dinan**, CPDTKA, is certified through the Karen Pryor Academy, having taken both Dog Trainer



Foundations and the Aggression in Dogs master course, and she is a member of the International Positive Dog Training Association and the founder of EduCanine and City Dogs Training and Behaviour.

# Speaking of Flashbacks

This will be the last Speaking of Flashbacks column, and the years are 2020 and 2021! This brings us to 20 years of cherishing dogs and hopefully making life better for more than 2,000 of them!

As everyone knows, 2020 was a year like no other. Like everyone else, we had to act fast and come up with COVID protocols and procedures. We were lucky because one of our Board members is on a Covid task force because of her expertise in sanitation and disinfection methods. We did not close our intake but did have an extremely strict set of directives to follow. In-home visits were replaced with Zoom, video, or photo galleries of the adopter's home and yards. Transports were done with one person, masked, and physical distancing protocols were followed.

We started to see COVID puppies in the late fall of 2020 and into 2021. People who bought puppies during the shut-down were surrendering them because they could no longer care for them. The young dogs were not used to seeing people in the streets or being left alone. One such pup, a husky, was fostered by one of our experienced foster moms and needed months of slow and steady introduction to training and socializing. The foster mom used games, exercise, and even made a makeshift agility course in her backyard for the young dog!

All the dogs we used to take from Kentucky could no longer come to us, and all of the fundraisers we were used to attending were cancelled. Meet-and-greets were all outside, with masks and distancing.

We did, however, come up with a great idea for a fundraiser, and that was our independent walk called Step Up for the Pups. We had a good response, and it was our main fundraiser for 2020.

We also started a weekly Facebook auction that is still going strong today! We had a mask fundraiser, with the help of the very talented Katherine Gay, who made masks for us to sell. We also sold our popular calendars. In the end, we raised over \$8,000 for the dogs in 2020!

We were very proud and pumped to sponsor "Webinars to the Rescue" every Tuesday night at the beginning of the shut-down. Together with our partners EduCanine, we helped a lot of people better understand dog body language and behaviours. The webinars were well attended, and rescues were allowed to join for a discounted price thanks to the generosity of the trainers.

In 2020 we sponsored a lot of dogs from Indigenous communities who flew into the city. In total, we helped over 300 dogs that year, between adoptions, sponsors, Blackie's Fund, and the Leg Up Program.

We were also excited to win Diamond awards from the Toronto Star in 2020, and in 2021 we won Diamonds in Toronto and Simcoe County, which was really humbling. We are grateful to all of our supporters and voters!

In 2020 we won a Maxwell Medallion from the Dog Writers Association of America for Best Online Newsletter, and we were over the moon!

2021 has been a bit of whirlwind of change and action, between shelter and owner intakes and our partnerships with K9 Advocates and Save A Dog Network. We welcomed a number of new foster parents to our program and lost a few who moved to the East Coast.

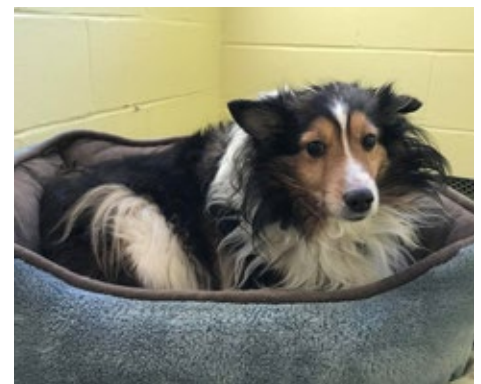
Our Facebook auctions continued in 2021, as did the Step Up for the Pups walkathon and our popular calendars, but we did attend not any in-person

activities. Over this difficult time, our Board has been responsible, decisive, and attentive to the needs of our volunteers, our dogs, and our mandate (as they were before COVID), and they've kept our ship on a sound course!

This year we've been able to help over 250 dogs so far with our adoptions, sponsors, Blackie's Fund, Forever in Foster, and Leg Up programs!

It has been such a pleasure looking back over the last 20 years with you! We've come such a long way and hope to be able to give you another 20-year update in the future!

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! Cheers to another 20 years of loving, caring, and saving dogs in need!



Sadie came up from Kentucky in late 2019, and after two surgeries and a lot of recovery time, she was adopted in February 2020, not long before Toronto shut down.





# Saturday October 16



## 511 Kent Street Whitby

### 8 AM to 4 PM

[WWW.SPEAKINGOFDOGS.COM](http://WWW.SPEAKINGOFDOGS.COM)




## GARAGE SALE

511 KENT STREET  
WHITBY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>  
8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.



All proceeds donated to Speaking of Dogs Rescue




TORONTO STAR

## READERS' CHOICE 2020

DIAMOND WINNER



TORONTO STAR

## READERS' CHOICE 2021

DIAMOND WINNER



THE CONNECTION THE SUN

## READERS' CHOICE 2021

DIAMOND WINNER



## THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS and FOSTER PARENTS IN SIMCOE COUNTY!  
We are so proud and honoured to be a part of the community  
and to be here for the dogs who need us!

[www.speakingofdogs.com](http://www.speakingofdogs.com) | Contact us: 705-444-7637 | [info@speakingofdogs.com](mailto:info@speakingofdogs.com)

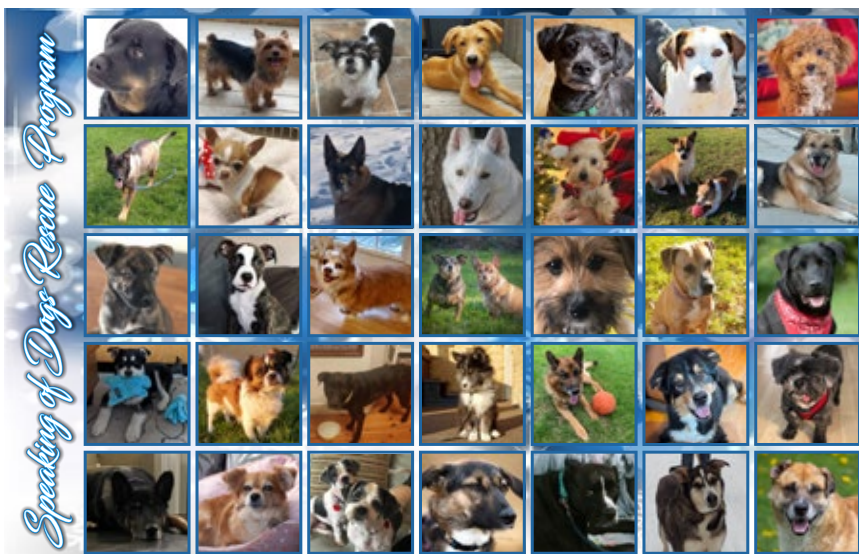













**PROJECT**  
*warm dog.*

**Dog House  
Sponsorship  
Program &  
Donation Drive**

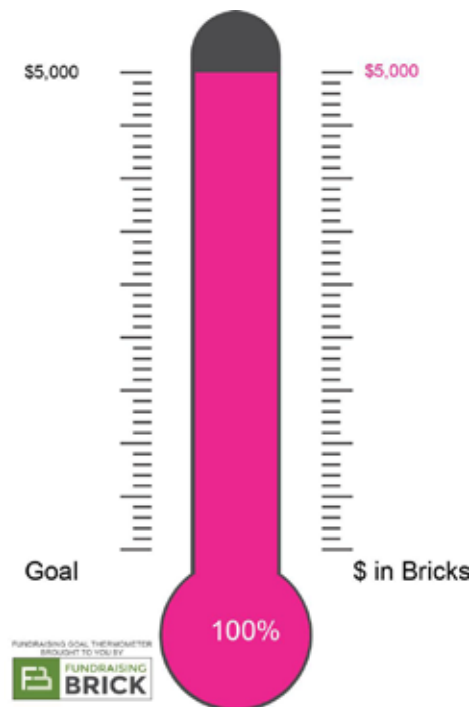
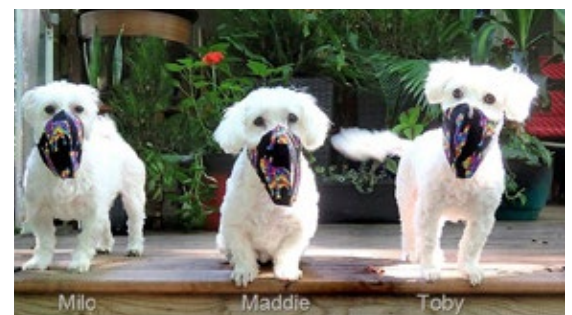
IN SUPPORT OF OUR NORTHERN CANADIAN RESCUE PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES:



**A BIG  
THANK YOU  
TO  
SPEAKING  
DOGS  
RESCUE**



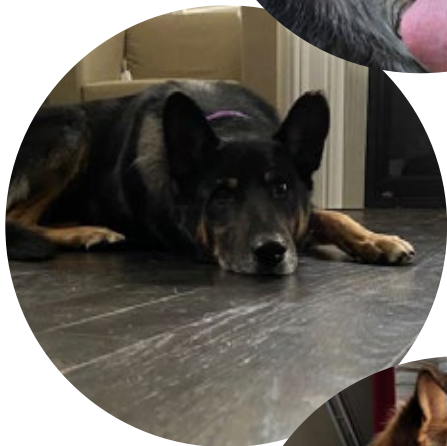
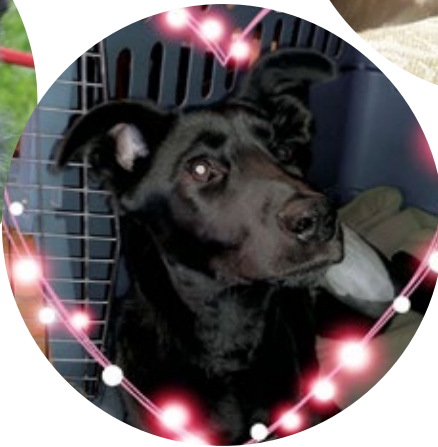
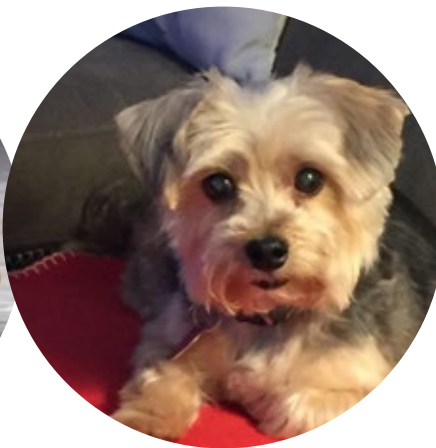
**for helping us fly  
dozens of dogs and  
puppies safely to  
Winnipeg!**

















# Adoption Update

*To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue*  
*From: Christa Freiler*  
*Subject: Bessie (formerly Jessie)*

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

We have an update on Bessie (we changed her name from Jessie to Bessie soon after we adopted her). Bessie fits into our family extremely well and adapted to the household quickly. My husband and I are retired and home most of the time, which suits her very well. She likes the quiet of our household but is fine with weekly visits from our adult children and 4-year-old granddaughter. She is friendly and calm when people visit. We all enjoy going for lots of walks,

particularly in nature. She is loving and cuddly but lets us know when she needs her space.

Bessie was extremely leash-reactive to other dogs for the first few months. She would bark and lunge when she saw a dog across the street or a block away even. With the assistance of a professional dog trainer, I was able to stop the reactive barking. It took 3 months and lots of treats, but she is great now. She lets out the occasional

bark, but it is no longer an issue. She is calm and happy on walks. (Please pass on to Lorraine that her suggestion that Bessie might just be frustrated was very helpful. I think that was the problem.)

When we adopted her, you told us Bessie was just getting over a bladder infection. She is now on a special urinary diet. This appears to be the only health issue. Bessie is still incredibly energetic and fast for a dog of her age (12 years now).

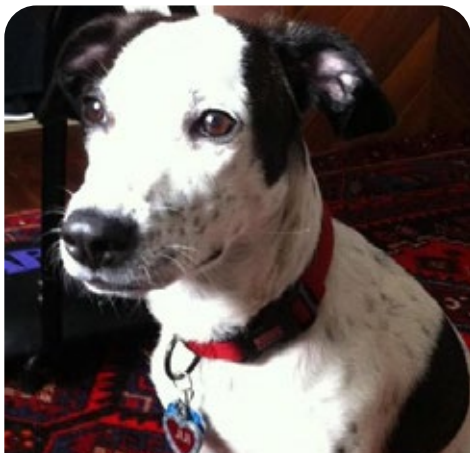




# Happy Tails

## RECENT ADOPTIONS:

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



Jiji



Bella (Peke)



Abbott



Daisy



Tucker



Maggie Mae  
FOREVER IN FOSTER



Tux



Waffles



Tilley



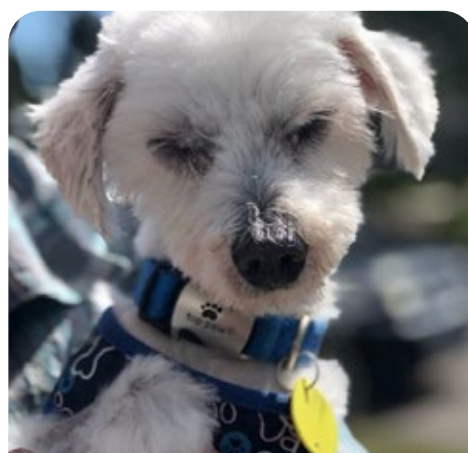
# More Happy Tails



*Maggie*



*Buddy Myles*



*Bobby (Maltese)*



*Foxy*



*Beau*



*Annabelle*



*Delilah*

## STILL LOOKING FOR A LAST-MINUTE HOLIDAY GIFT?

Check out our Facebook auctions every Thursday!

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](#) every Thursday to see what's on the block and to place your bids. There are pet-themed items, beautiful arts and crafts, household items, and all kinds of cool gifts for everyone on your list – maybe even yourself!

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



# In Memoriam



*Lucia*

LOVED BY KIRSTEN AND ALL AT  
MOUNTAIN VISTA VETERINARY HOSPITAL



*Frosty*

LOVED BY KIMBERLY, CAROL AND PORT HOPE VET  
FOREVER IN FOSTER



*Hank*

LOVED BY NEIL AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED MARCH 2018

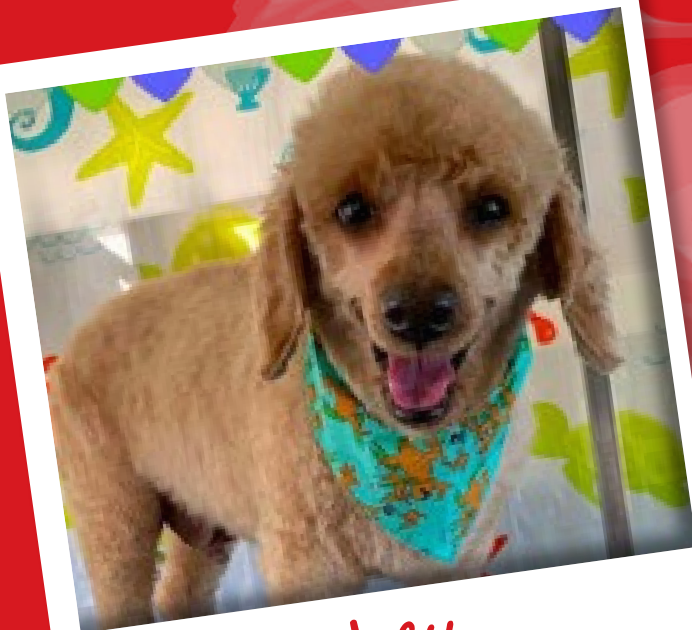


*Hope*

LOVED BY KATHY AND MARIE  
ADOPTED AUGUST 2017



# In Memoriam



*Joey*

LOVED BY MARLA AND FAMILY  
ADOPTED MARCH 2010



*Esther*

LOVED BY TAMARA AND FAMILY  
FOREVER IN FOSTER



*Teddy*

LOVED BY HEATHER AND CHRIS  
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2009



# Speaking of Dogs Rescue Program



## Happy To Be Home For The Holidays!

Abe	Bear	Deigo	Jimbo	Magoo	Randy	Starla
Ace	Becky	Deputy Max	Joanne	Malcome	Robbie	Stitch
Albert	Beeba	Diamond	Jojo	Marley	Rocky	Sunshine
Alex	Bella	Drake	JR	Max	Rocky	Suzy
Alvin	Benny	Duke	Kawi	Max Quinn	Ronald	Taffy
Annie	Benson	Ellie	Kenny	Maxwell	Rosie	Tank
Annie	Bentley	Fleur	King & Eddy	Maya	Roy	Tiffany
Archie	Bobbi	Gladys	Koda	Maze	Ruckus	Tigar
Ari	Boca	Grace	Kody	Miso	Sam	Toby
Arlo	Britt	Grace Kelly	Lassie	Molly	Sammy	Tonka
Athos	Bubba	Grover	Leonard	Moose	Shadow	Tootsie
Aurora	Bum Bum	Hank	Lily Chi	Morey	Shane	Trixie
Bailey	Burton	Happy	Link	Moxey	Shania	Tundra
Barnum & Bailey	Charlotte	Hazel	Louis	Nigel	Simba	Tyza
Baxter	Chico	Henry	Lucy	Nora	Simon	Willie
Beanie	Clementine	Hershey	Luna	Oliver	Skye	Yammie
	Cleo	Honey	Lyra	Oreo	Snowball	Yeti
	Cookie	Hulk		Oscar	Snowbella	
	Curly Brown	Jack		Pappy	Sophie	
	Custard	Jax		Pappy	Prince	
	Daisy	Jesse		Peggy	Spike & Ricky	
	Dandy May	Jett		Pippin	Star	
				Primrose		

To:

---



---



---



---



From our 2021 Adoptees