

Patience Is the Key to Success in Training – Across Species!



Many of us took on new hobbies in the last couple of years, as we were suddenly home with more time on our hands to fill! In addition to knitting and painting, adding a dog to the family has been a very popular move. Whether it's a puppy or a rescue dog, this is a big change for everyone. In most ways it will become a positive one – what's better than cute puppies or saving a dog that needs a good home? However, the stress of moving into a new loving home is still very real, despite the best intentions!

I am frequently called for very common concerns, and the big picture solution will be to take things very slowly to help your new family member succeed. A rescue dog may be coming from a very difficult situation, and we often don't know the full history.

Realistic timelines and expectations are critical. Slow and steady is the way to go when building behaviours and cooperation!

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MARCH 2022

THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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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.

Veeru

INDIAN PARIAH DOG
MEDIUM, YOUNG, MALE

FEATURED DOG:

Veeru is a very gentle “Indian Pariah” dog who made his way from India to Toronto via another rescue organization. When there was a glitch with the foster home they had lined up for him, we were asked to take him into Speaking of Dogs Rescue and, as you can see, we did!

Veeru is a neutered male who is four to five years old and weighs about 30 pounds. He has done well coming out of his shell and has even taken over the couch in his foster home! He loves to sit and watch video games or movies with his human brothers.

He also does an excellent job of going outside to do his business, so he definitely ticks the housetrained box. He walks well on a leash but can get startled by new sounds and sometimes even quick movements, so care should be taken when he's out and about.

While he's been able to play well with other dogs, he doesn't appreciate young dogs rushing into his face and space. He is generally good with children aged eight years and older, and he has not yet been tested with cats. Overall, we think he'd most likely be best as an only dog.



In the house, Veeru happily eats his two meals a day as well as the treats he gets while working on his crate training. He likes to lounge on the couch or in his dog bed, but he is also happy to follow you around the house to see what you are up to. He has been known to howl when left alone, so he is not a good match for apartment, condo, or townhouse dwellers.

Veeru is still skittish in some circumstances, however, so his forever family will need to be patient with him. He needs time to feel safe and to trust new humans.

Veeru has been fully vetted and is up to date with his shots. All he needs now is a forever home with a patient, loving family! Could you give this sweet boy his second chance at life and love?



Chelsea

POINTER / HOUND MIX
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Sadie

GERMAN SHEPHERD MIX
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Chinny

YORKSHIRE TERRIER MIX
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Buttons

CHIHUAHUA
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE



Rocky

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Snoop

WHEATEN / HUSKY MIX
LARGE, ADULT, MALE



Peek & Boo

BORDER COLLIE MIXES |
MEDIUM, SENIOR, FEMALES



Charlie

LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX
MEDIUM, YOUNG, MALE

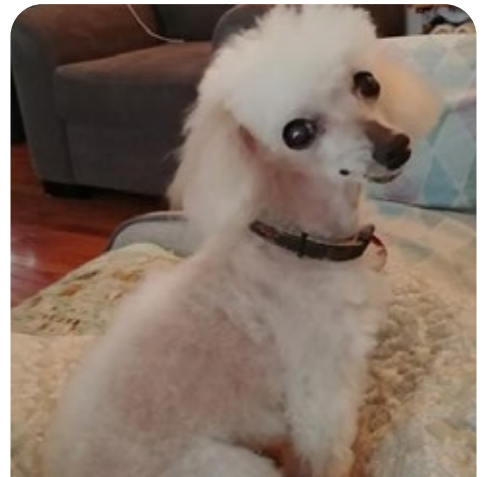
COURTESY
POST



Tufi
LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX
LARGE, YOUNG, MALE



Ben Beagle
BEAGLE
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Patrick
TOY POODLE
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Kyra
BELGIAN/ SHEPHERD MIX
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Sophie
MALTESE / SHIH TZU MIX
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE



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-dispensing toys
- Canned and dry quality dog foods
- Martingale collars
- Kuranda beds
- Thunder Shirts



Ask the Trainer

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Don't Wake Me Up!

Reactivity from dogs who are suddenly moved or disturbed from their resting spot is a very common issue. Respect that they are sentient beings like you and me – would you want someone startling you from a lovely rest?

This stress is easily avoided by getting family buy-in that the dog shouldn't be disturbed when sleeping – at all – but gently awakened first. This one is so important; the old saying “let sleeping dogs lie” is the truth!

When a dog is in their designated spot and resting or fully asleep, they will not likely appreciate a sudden interruption, no matter how well intended the person is. Hugging a dog while they're asleep is totally unfair!

You can't be in a hurry to move a sleeping dog. Take your time and build acceptance that good things happen when they're moved and that they'll have time to wake up. Call their name first, to let them know you're there, and hold a smelly treat under their nose to rouse them happily without a startle reaction. Next, lightly touch their back with a gentle stroke.

I often see this concern as a dog ages. It is also especially important to teach young children to rouse a sleeping dog carefully, as they may look at a new pup as an adorable stuffed animal and treat it as such.

MINE!

New dogs guarding high-value resources is such a common concern! There are many tips online to teach your dog that you're “in charge,” and a frequent one is to tell owners to put their hands in the food bowl while the dog is eating. Please

don't do this. Instead, call their name and toss an extra treat in the bowl. This way, your presence will signal that a new and better thing is arriving, not that the current resource should be guarded.

Cooperation Is Key!

When they bring home their beloved new family member, many people want to immediately do their best to help them be their best. In a well-intentioned way, they want to start the training right away, unaware that the dog is still in a state of stress.

Stress hormones make it hard to learn, which is another reason to lower your immediate training goals so your dog can succeed!

Take It Slowly

A rescue dog may have had a very tough go prior to moving into their new loving home, so it will often take a few weeks for them to start to relax and settle. Give your new dog at least 2 to 3 weeks before asking too much of them.

At this stage, capturing desired behaviours is the best route to building skills and a strong bond. What do we mean by that? For example, when your dog goes to settle on their bed on their own, praise them by saying “good settle” or “bed” and drop a treat beside them. When they sit instead of jumping up on you, praise them and give them a treat. Just saying “NO” doesn't teach them what you want. Even if they approach but don't jump, praise highly!

The big message here is capture the behaviours that you do want so your dog knows how to earn your praise.

Puppies Need Time Too

New puppies can be overwhelmed by losing their familiar surroundings, their littermates, and their mom all at

the same time! How very stressful and heartbreaking... Given time to adjust, they'll usually become the loving family dog that you've been dreaming of, but you need to build it slowly!

Pups also are often very rude in their interactions with older dogs, so they should be tired out by playing with you prior to interacting with an adult dog and managed for best receptions. Keep the social time brief, so that the older dog isn't overwhelmed.

Good Intentions Aren't Enough

Most handling issues with new dogs result from trying to move things along too quickly, rather than slowly gaining the dog's trust and cooperation. Your dog might not want to be leashed up, picked up, or dressed to be protected from the cold or rain, despite your best intentions to go for a fun walk. We don't know what those things meant to the dog in their previous home – it might have been bad!

Remember that puppies and dogs aren't stuffed animals, and please be sure to remind children of this! We need to be aware of physical discomfort and pick dogs up in a way that doesn't hurt their spine. Fully support the chest and hind quarters when lifting. Dogs should never be picked up from behind, which is so very scary for them, and builds future resistance.

Once again, the problem starts when we're in a rush and trying to speed through the actions. Brisk and quick movements are uncomfortable for many dogs. The handler's stress comes through to the dog, and they will often react. Always think of bringing the energy you want your dog to show. If you want your dog to be calm and cooperative, approach them with calm movements and easy breathing, keeping your voice low and soothing.

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Break things down into manageable pieces. For example, you can start off by showing your dog the coat, put it on the ground and drop a few treats on it, and then let your dog investigate. Don't just put the coat on your dog immediately. Once your dog is familiar with the coat, drape it on their back and give them a treat. Be sure to keep your voice and movements slow and calm.

If you've left it to the last minute and are in a hurry to dash out the door, you'll likely create a pattern of unwillingness to cooperate.

Age and History Influence Current Behaviour

People often look for fast solutions and expect things to run smoothly from the start. Experiences with past dogs and other expectations can skew our perception of our dog's progress. Using pain and other punishment-based

methods often creates faster short-term changes but has long-term implications. Numerous studies have shown a high correlation between the use of pain, force, or intimidation and later aggressive responses from dogs.

Just like people, puppies and adult dogs have their own personalities and needs. We can't necessarily have them house-trained perfectly in the first few days, walking on leash calmly within moment of meeting them, responding to your cues after a few days, or wanting to cuddle and snuggle on day 1.

Cuddles are great, but the dog must be willing to participate. Bonding can take time, but it will come! Let it build slowly, build a calm environment, and you will be rewarded!

A Note About Aggression

If your dog displays any aggression or threatening behaviour, it may be a result of their previous experiences.

If this happens, you'll need to change your dog's perception of the trigger and change your behaviour accordingly. Of course, never punish a growl – it's your dog's way of warning a person or dog so that they aren't pushed to bite to stop the unwanted interaction.

Dealing with aggression is like dealing with any other unwanted behaviour – patience, careful planning, and calmness are the keys to success!



Lucinda Glenny, MSc. Animal Behaviour, HBSc. Psych., CPDT-KA, owner and lead trainer of Canine Campus caninecampus.ca

WAGS AND WIGGLES FOR LUAN AND ROVERDALE BOARDING!

Last month, Speaking of Dogs Rescue took in several dogs when a dog breeder was closing. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers who stepped up to help with transport and fostering!

We'd also like to extend very special thanks to Luan and Roverdale Boarding Kennels in Sutton, for taking all the dogs in and working effectively with our volunteer network. Luan kept up the pace to ensure all the dogs were cared for, drove them to and from the vet office, and coordinated with drivers, other rescues, and fosters. Thanks, Luan, for helping us give so many dogs a second chance at love and life!



Adoption Update

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue

From: Amy Pavletic

Subject: Roy

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

My “Roy Boy” has been with me for almost a year, and I can’t imagine my life without him! He is truly my best friend, and the best thing that happened to me in 2021. He is very loving and often initiates cuddles (which is super sweet), but his favourite activity by far is the walks we take together – we get in around three to four a day! He especially loves walking the trail near my house which follows a river – so many great smells for a Coonhound mix. He gets super excited to visit my parents (they love him lots too!) and roaming around their big backyard. During the warm summer days, he can be found lying in a bed of hostas or under a row of hedges for his afternoon nap.

I am extremely thankful for everything that Speaking of Dogs did to get my boy to me. After he came from the shelter, he was in loving foster homes before I was blessed to welcome him into my life. I imagine he has had to trust so many people during his years, and I am so happy to be his forever home for the rest of his life... He deserves nothing but peace, love, and comfort, and he is getting all that and more. He is honestly the best dog I could have asked for.

March 11, 2022, will mark our one-year anniversary together. We will be celebrating like it’s his birthday, and we will toast to our future. Love my boy!



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.



Auggie



Baker



Cedar



Coco



Daisy



Dazzy



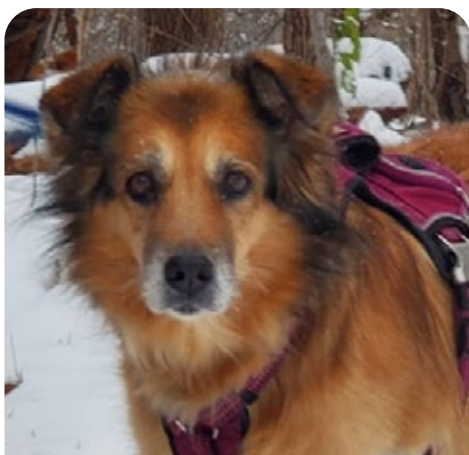
Debo



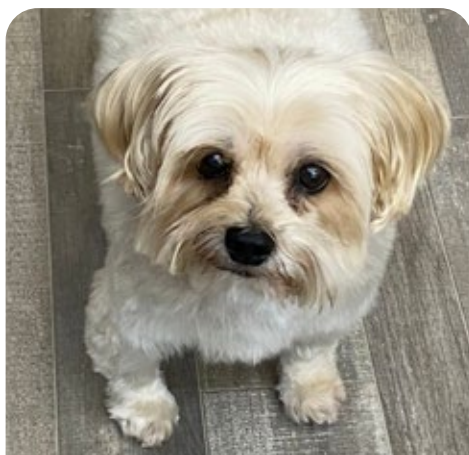
Faye



Harley



Lainey



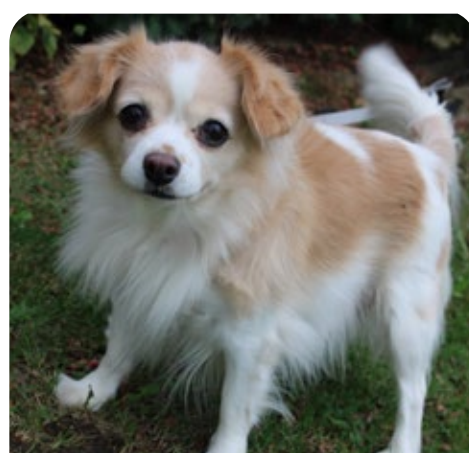
Minnie



Ryder



Sparrow



Sugar

RECALL

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

- [Dog Gone dog treats](#)
- [Various brands of pet food from Family Dollar stores in the United States](#)

WHAT'S COOKING?



The Speaking of Dogs Facebook page is always serving up something interesting, whether it's updates about our dogs, amazing auctions, or fun jokes! We now have a new treat on offer: Treat Recipe Tuesdays! You'll find new recipes to tempt your best pal, and if you've got a favourite recipe you'd like to share, please text us or email info@speakingofdogs.com.

Check out our [Facebook page](#) every day to see what's cooking!

In Memoriam



Bill

LOVED BY JOHN AND RYAN
ADOPTED MAY 2017



Brooke

LOVED BY WAYNE SHANNON
ADOPTED APRIL 2015



Alaska

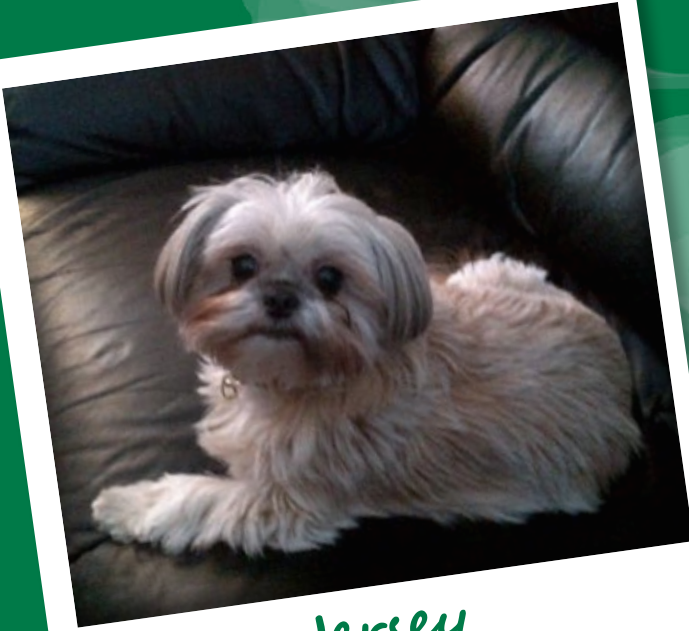
LOVED BY JEAN TUCKER AND FAMILY
FOREVER IN FOSTER



Theo

LOVED BY COLLEEN AND MIKE
ADOPTED JUNE 2018

In Memoriam



Jersey

LOVED BY STEVE AND KEN
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2012



Kiva

LOVED BY CHIQUITA, JOAN AND BY
HER DOGGIE SISTER ANA
ADOPTED MAY 2014



Sam

LOVED BY LYNN AND SUE
ADOPTED APRIL 2021



Miles

LOVED BY CARL AND MARI-ANNE MCCLEARY
ADOPTED OCTOBER 2009