

TO GREET OR NOT TO GREET... THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION!



As I was walking with my 10-year-old son, I noticed three instances where people were allowing their dogs to meet on leash, and most dogs did not look impressed. I thought to myself, "What if I made my son say hello to each person we walked by?" So I asked him, "What would you think if I said you had to say hello to every kid who walked by you?" He squished up his nose and looked at me as if I had grown another head. "Why would I want to do that?" he responded.

Is my son antisocial? Does he have trouble making friends? Or does he perhaps not want friends? Not at all! In fact, you would probably raise an eyebrow if you watched someone say hello to every person they walked

by. If we don't expect humans to say greet to every stranger, why do we ask it of our dogs?

Many dogs, especially once they have passed the puppy stage, are not keen to say hello - not all, but many. We need to respect their social preferences.

Look for the Subtle Signs

Leashed greetings can be very uncomfortable for dogs because:

- We usually have them greet face to face, which is not polite for dogs
- They are constrained on a leash, and they know they can't go anywhere if things go sideways

June 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

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Ask the Trainer

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- We human may miss the subtle signs that indicate the dogs aren't really interested in greeting, such as:

- A tongue flick
- Looking away
- Quickly sniffing the ground

And Look for the Not-So-Subtle Signs

If our dogs are trying to politely say that they aren't interested in greetings and we keep pushing them to do so anyway, then the subtle signs will escalate to more overt ways of saying "no thank you." These can include:

- A hard stare at the other dog
- Getting stiff
- Showing teeth (which we sometimes can't see on a walk)
- Raising their hackles
- Growling
- Lunging
- Barking
- Biting

You Got Your Dog's Back!

You may feel that you are being rude to strangers who try to approach you, but it is so important to advocate for our dogs and avoid putting them in an uncomfortable situation (unless absolutely necessary, such as a vet visit).

If you ignore the signs and continue to force undesired encounters on your dog, then you

risk your dog exhibiting escalated behaviors. To put it another way, would you rather risk offending a couple of strangers or risk having a leash-reactive dog?

With so many dogs out and about now, you may not have a choice but to greet another dog. Perhaps someone's dog is coming up to you, pulling their person like they are on a dog sled. Or perhaps you didn't notice the person coming up behind you to say hello. Not to mention the instances of off-leash dogs running amok that have become common place these days.

Gracefully Avoid a Greeting

So what's a discerning dog and their owner to do? If someone approaches with their dog on leash and your dog isn't receptive, you can simply say:

- "I'm sorry, I have a new rescue and she needs some space."
- "My dog isn't feeling well, and I don't know if it's contagious."
- "My dog isn't good with leashed greetings."

If they have approached you on a sneak attack, adopt the 3-second rule. This involves counting to three in your head and then getting your dog out of there. It is generally only after three seconds that things go awry.

You can also teach your dog the

cue "Let's go!" to follow you. Teach and practise this cue – it is really useful! Here is a good video that explains things nicely: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eo-L2qtD7MQ>

And what if you encounter an off-leash dog? Take a handful of treats or kibble and throw it right in the dog's face. This normally gives you enough time to use your "Let's go!" cue and get out of there.

Don't feel bad that your dog isn't the neighbourhood greeter or that you might look like a "snob." What's important is that you show your dog, on a regular basis, that you have their back and they can just walk away without getting upset. A simple "Let's go!" that you make fun and reinforcing can help get you and your dog out of difficult situations.

And now that you know how to navigate greeting in a way that's comfortable for you and your dog, get out there and enjoy that summer sunshine!



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.

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.

Luna

FEATURED DOG:

The name Luna signifies new beginnings, the quest for truth and knowledge, the gift of intuition, psychic perception and heightened awareness.

Luna is a 6-month-old, 30 pound, spayed female hound mix who is happy, fun and a topnotch companion! She has one blue eye that gives her a stunning look! She is very well behaved for a pup and has not been destructive in any way at the foster home. She is not yet fully housetrained but is almost there. She knows what she is supposed to do outside, but has not figured out how to tell us she needs to go out but as long as she is taken out regularly there are no accidents. She was apparently pee pad trained as a puppy so she just needs a bit more time. The fosters have not had accidents in over 2 weeks now!

Luna is very happy to amuse herself with her toys but if you want to play fetch, she will happily play with you. She also likes to play tug, in an appropriate manner. Luna is a very cuddly girl. Loves snuggling up. She sleeps nestled in your legs all night. She makes cute little sounds of contentment when she is pet while lying next to you. Luna has a hound howl. She will howl if she meets another dog and tries to get them to play, however once they are playing, she stops.

When you leave she will initially bark and howl but it's quite manageable and doesn't last long. She would love to have a family that is home more than not, if possible.

Luna needs some leash training; she gets so excited on walks and pulls but she is smart and learns quickly. Luna has excellent recall at the foster home who live on a large, fenced property. When she is on the far side of the property and they call her, she runs happily right to them!

Although Luna currently has the company of other dogs, we believe she would be just as happy to be an only dog as long as she gets time to play fetch.

This is a great pup and we hope to hear from potential adopters! Here is the link to our adoption application: <https://www.speakingofdogs.com/.../dog-adoption.../>

COONHOUND / MIXED
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE





Trudy

POMERANIAN / TERRIER/MIXED
SMALL, SENIOR, FEMALE



Ginger Snap

SHEPHERD / HOUND / MIXED
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Mia

YORKSHIRE TERRIER YORKIE / MIXED
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Calvin

POODLE (TOY)
SMALL, SENIOR, MALE



Chibbs

PUG
SMALL, ADULT, MALE



Hudson

LABRADOR RETRIEVER / HOUND / MIXED
MEDIUM, ADULT, MALE



Marely

YELLOW LABRADOR RETRIEVER / MIXED
LARGE ADULT MALE



Luna

COONHOUND / MIXED
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



Brie

FOXHOUND / MIXED
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Chelsea

POINTER / HOUND / MIXED
LARGE, ADULT, FEMALE



Veeru

WHIPPET / MIXED
MEDIUM, YOUNG, MALE



Griffin

BORDER COLLIE / HOUND / MIXED
MEDIUM YOUNG MALE



Lola

BORDER COLLIE / MIXED
MEDIUM, ADULT, FEMALE



Lily Yorkie

YORKSHIRE TERRIER YORKIE / MIXED
SMALL, ADULT, FEMALE



Casey

LABRADOR RETRIEVER / HUSKY / MIXED
MEDIUM, BABY, MALE

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

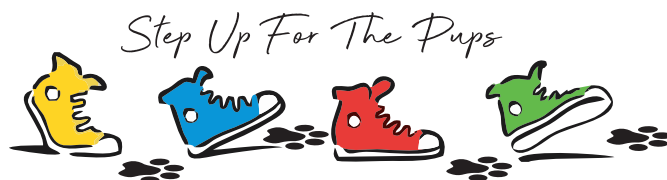
- Gas gifts cards
- Global Pet Foods or Pet Valu gift cards
- Kong or other treat-disensing toys
- Canned and dry quality dog foods
- Martingale collars
- Kuranda beds
- Thunder Shirts



Step Up Was A Success!

Our Step Up for the Pups walkathon was a big success again this year! We had almost 30 walkers who really STEPPED UP! Many thanks to everyone who participated, donated, took photos and kept track of their steps. And the winners are:

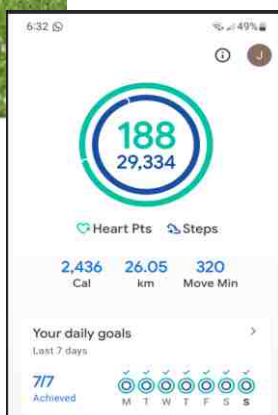
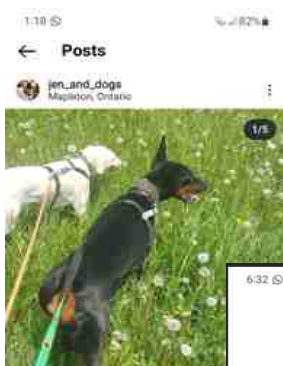
Top Fundraisers:



BEST SOCIAL MEDIA:
Caroline and Harry

MOST STEPS:
Jennifer Frayne

Here are some photos that really capture the day! We have the best team of peeps you could ever hope for! All for the dog!
Always for the dogs!



All For The Dogs Yard Sale

KUDOS to VICKI CHORLEY and her merry band of YARD SALE HELPERS:

Lynn Weston, Marilynne and Nicole MacInnis, Karen Grasley, Dale Mcowdrey, Bob Works & Shelley Baker.

For an amazing ALL FOR THE DOGS YARD SALE! The team worked hard sorting, setting up and selling to the tune of OVER \$1,300.00!! WHAT A GRAND DAY! You can see by some of the pictures they also had some laughs along the way! Great job everyone! All funds raised go to vetting our foster dogs!



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](#) everyday to see what's cooking!

Adoption Update

To: Speaking of Dogs

From: Nicole

Subject: Happy Tails

Kenny is fitting in perfectly with our family! The foster parents didn't have a cat and so it was a little challenging at first. After some training, and once they both got used to each other, they're the best of friends. They take turns chasing each other, and cuddling up to each other afterwards. Kenny is a healthy, very sweet and good natured boy! We get your newsletter and find it very informative. I would also like to note that Kenny and I have an Instagram account and we just found out that we've been friends on Instagram with a Speaking of Dogs alum....she said that she had rescued Harry from SOD back in 2017. It sure does feel good being a part of the Speaking of Dogs Community, and it feels good to have rescued Kenny!

Thank-you so much for checking in with us, have a great night!

Sincerely,
Nicole and Kenny!



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.



Ace



Bella Doodle



Charlie



Chewie



Chinny



Dylan



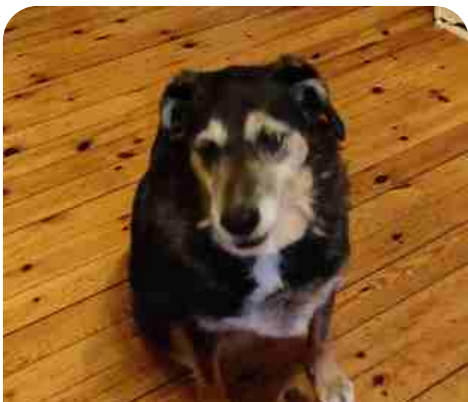
Flower



Kyra



Lily Poodle



Lou Lou
FOREVER IN FOSTER



Lulu



Marcus



Pippa



Posie



Shadow Todd



Willow

We are proud to be assisting IFAW's Northern Dogs Project with their spay/neuter clinic this year!
Your donations at work

ifaw

International
Fund for
Animal Welfare



IFAW's Northern Dogs Project

With thanks to our
contributing spay/neuter
clinic sponsors:



In Memoriam



Star aka Pika
ADOPTED APRIL 2021
LOVED BY NARDI AND FAMILY



Lola
ADOPTED JUNE 2019
LOVED BY BRENDA AND FAMILY

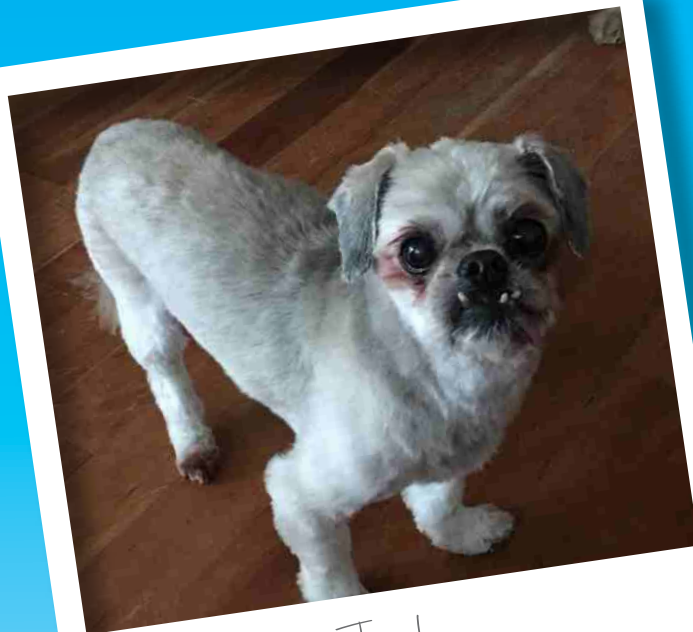


Ayna
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2015
LOVED BY CHRIS AND FRANCESCA

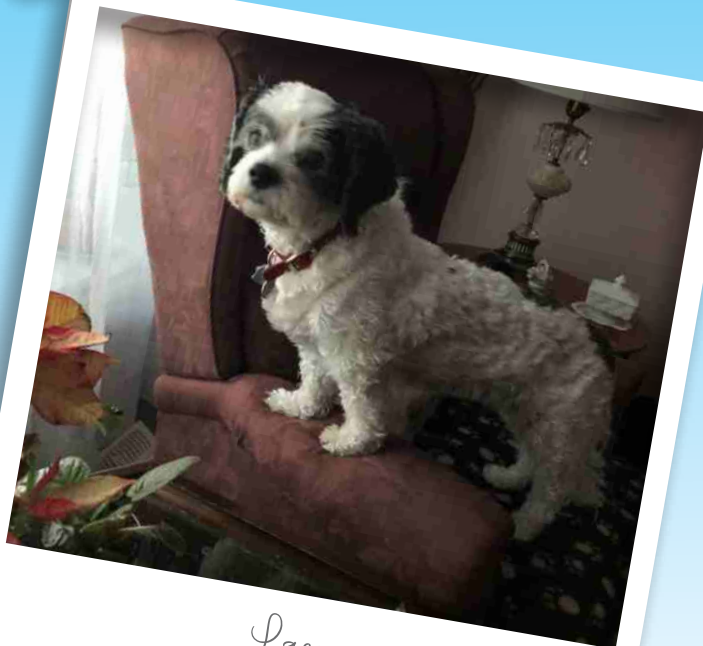


Misty
ADOPTED JULY 2019
LOVED BY TRACY AND FAMILY

In Memoriam



Jacob
FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY KATHERINE GAY AND FAMILY



Lacy
FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY DEANNA