

Nipping Puppy Biting in the Bud



Puppies bite for many reasons, including expressing discomfort/frustration, in play, and because they are over-tired. Puppies also have an inclination toward a “Witching Hour” at dawn and dusk. We’ll look at each of these scenarios below.

The “Witching Hour”

Many owners find that the times around 7am and 7pm bring out the worst in their puppies! If you know that a particular time of day prompts crazy biting, do your best to manage/prevent and engage your puppy in other activities. This includes using baby gates to manage her access to you, take her for a walk or play with toys in the yard, give a stuffed Kong, give her

a more active food-stuffed toy such as a Tricky Treat Ball, or arrange a playdate with a dog who wants to play with her. Biting is a normal part of puppy development and will decrease with age; there is no reason to punish or pick a fight. This is also a good time to limit contact between your puppy and children in the home.

Over-Tired Puppies

Puppies tend to have a wake/sleep cycle of 60-120min. If you notice that your puppy seems to lose her mind when she’s been awake for an hour, the best strategy is to ensure that her needs have been met (bathroom, etc.) and settle her in the crate or other comfortable location with a food stuffed toy such as a

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THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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About Speaking of Dogs

Speaking of Dogs Rescue Program is a Canadian registered charity established in the Greater Toronto area (with foster homes across Ontario). Launched in 2001, we are a foster-based, all breed rescue with a focus on senior dogs. We are run solely by volunteers with a mission to help homeless dogs in need by providing shelter or sanctuary, necessary medical care, adoption and education.

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Newsletters

If you no longer want to receive our newsletter, email speakingofdogs@gmail.com, with “unsubscribe” written in the subject line.

Kong. Like a toddler who isn't ready to leave the action, the solution for this is helping your puppy to settle and go to sleep. Ensure that no one is waking your puppy unnecessarily.

Other Physical Needs

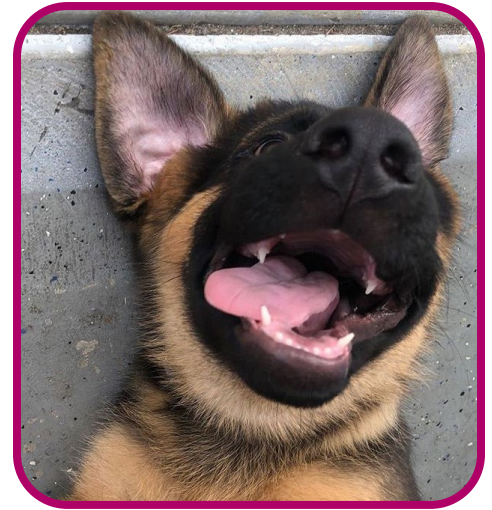
Infants of any species are learning to identify bodily needs, and it's common for puppies to have to poop but not seem to know it. Instead, a pup will often act out and start to bite hard or in an angry looking way. It's also common to find that the puppy doesn't necessarily take advantage of an opportunity to poop when she's taken outside. If you know that it's been several hours since your chompy puppy's last bowel movement, you can be fairly sure that she needs to go - even if she doesn't seem to know it!

Teething is also a common reason for nipping, and especially a resurgence of nipping around the age of 16 weeks of age. Provide a large number of chew toys for your pup (and exclude access to things puppy shouldn't chew!) and offer cold chews like frozen Kongs to soothe sore gums. At this age, it's normal to see a shift in the frequency and intensity of nipping.

Handling Worries

Frustration and upset about being held, restrained, or touched in a certain way is another common reason for nipping. Puppy is nipping you because she wants you to stop whatever you're doing; so timeouts or redirection are not effective. Biting of this nature is common when putting on or taking off equipment such as collars or harnesses, being patted/held when she doesn't want to be patted/held, and restraint such as for husbandry or veterinary procedures.

The solution for nipping out of discomfort lies in changing the underlying emotion that is causing your puppy to nip. This means touching in a way that doesn't fully elicit the nipping and pairing that with good things like treats. You should never "alpha roll" or hold your puppy down on the ground in response to biting. This will scare your puppy and may cause much bigger issues to arise. In addition to countering biting, it's critical to continuously work on handling exercises, to ensure that veterinary, grooming, and husbandry procedures are enjoyable for your dog and easy for you to execute.



Biting in Play

Toys and access to other puppies are two good outlets for nipping in play. When you see your puppy is getting revved up and is going to start nipping, immediately get a toy and keep her busy tugging and retrieving it. If her mouth is on a toy, her mouth is not on your hand. As much as you can, keep her busy with the toy before she considers biting you, rather than waiting until after she has nipped you.

Choose appropriate tug toys for your puppy. This often means soft, long toys that are gentle on her mouth and keep your hands out of the play.

...continued on page 3

Don't miss out on our fabulous FACEBOOK AUCTIONS

Mark your calendars to check out our Facebook page weekly, where you can stay up to date with all of the latest information on the wonderful dogs we are helping AND score some fabulous auction items!

Visit our [Facebook page](#) and
snap up your very own auction treasures
while helping our furry pals





please join us in congratulating our first-ever **DOG OF FALL** photo contest **WINNER!**

We had a great response to our first-ever DOG OF FALL photo contest! We received some beautiful pictures and, judging by the votes on Facebook, the 8 finalists all had their admirers.

Congratulations to Laura and Mark Seeley who submitted a stunning fall photo of their dog, **Molly!**

Thanks to everyone who submitted autumn pictures, they were all brilliant!

...continued from page 2

You can even tie a soft toy onto a string to keep your hand further from her mouth. Get her hooked on these toys at times that she's less likely to bite you, and she'll be more open to the option of toy play when she's aiming at your hands! Exclude play with your hands ("rough housing") or limit it to times your puppy isn't over-stimulated. Encouraging biting hands in play will be more likely to result in a mature dog who bites in play - it's not fair to encourage it sometimes and penalize it at other times!

Having regular contact with appropriate dog playmates is a good outlet for pups as well. Play should be well-monitored and always with safe playmates. Keep in mind that an overstimulated puppy may not recognize when she needs a break, so you will need to manage break times and nap times before your playful, nippy puppy turns into an over-tired, overstimulated nippy puppy!

Many resources encourage owners to yelp or scream when their puppy nips. Generally, this will result in a) scaring the puppy, or b) revving the puppy up even further.

Neither option is recommended.

Focus on cultivating play with toys first and foremost, as well as meeting physical needs, as described above. If, despite all this being in place, your puppy persists in grabbing your skin, it is fair to remove yourself as a playmate. This is best done by removing yourself from your puppy's play area, rather than attempting to pick her up and remove her from your space. Picking up a bitey puppy often results in more bites!

Additional Tricks

- Puppy biting your feet? Wear Wellington (thick) boots around the home!
- Turn nipping to licking by smearing Kong Stuffin', Peanut Butter or other soft sticky treat on your hands.
- Puppy can't be confined in a Witching Hour? Try encircling your hang-out area, like the couch or desk, with an ex-pen to keep puppy out of your space.
- Puppy won't eat food-stuffed toys? Try an easier toy. Either find a toy with a wider opening, use higher-value foods, or a different texture of food that dispenses more easily.

•Think you're not going to survive this?! You will! Nipping is a right-of-passage into adolescence. Like developmental stages in human babies, nipping is something to be expected and dealt with patiently until the onset of the next developmental period.

•Remember: You brought a razor-toothed infant animal into your home. Punishment has no place in managing a species-appropriate and entirely expected behaviour like nipping, no matter how annoying it is!

Your attention and patience will pay off in a non-biting dog. Happy Puppying!



Emily Fisher is a Certified Dog Behaviour Consultant through the International Association of Animal Behaviour Consultants (IAABC), and a Certified Professional Dog Trainer through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT).

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.

Meet our
November feature dog

Ginger Snap



Ginger Snap still hasn't found her forever family and time is ticking. Her foster parents have to leave the country December 1st for three months and we were so hoping to have Ginger snuggled into a new life and family by then. Can you please CARE and SHARE for Ginger Snap so she will be settled in time to hang up her Christmas stocking?

More about our girl from her foster mom and dad:

Ginger Snap is a people loving energetic dog who is ready to find her adoptive home. Rain or shine, she loves being outside. Her snuggles are the best and she loves to give kisses.

She enjoys her morning walks on our country property, and it sets her up for a restful day. She is still learning to not pull on our walks and while easily distracted, she has made great progress since she has been in foster care.

During walks we are working on reducing her reactivity with cars.

Although she is reactive, her recovery time is getting better. She is not the best traveler in a car but we've been able to reduce and manage her excitability. In-between walks we are working on going from excitable to calm to help with these moments.

In the evening she loves to be active and enjoys a game of fetch and entertains us with her evening zoomies. She is house trained and will sleep throughout the night on her bed. She is eager to go to bed as she knows a toy stuffed with treats is waiting for her. She can be left alone without issue; the longest stretch of time during the day has been 5 hours. Sometimes she will greet us at the door but often she will be waiting patiently in her bed to say hello.

She can sometimes guard a favorite item, but we are mindful of this and watch her cues to let us know to give her some space and trading up with a treat helps.

She is highly motivated by treats and eager to learn. She would benefit from someone with patience and further training to thrive and bond with her new family.

She had PDA heart surgery in early spring which was successful and now 100% healed.

We are so proud of Ginger Snap and the progress she has made while in foster care. We cannot wait to see what her next chapter will be!

Ginger Snap is currently located in the Newmarket area.

If you are interested in giving Ginger Snap a forever home click [here](#) to visit our adoption application





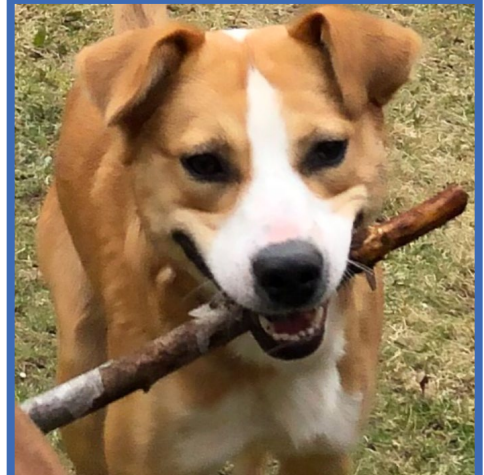
Baxter

Labrador Retriever / Hound / Mixed
Medium Adult Male



Debo

Collie / Shepherd / Mixed
Medium Adult Male



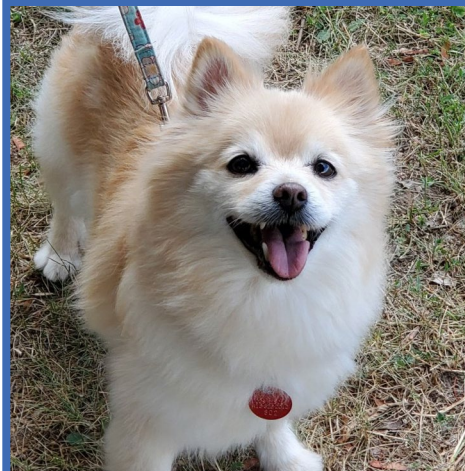
Griffin

Border Collie / Hound / Mixed
Medium Young Male



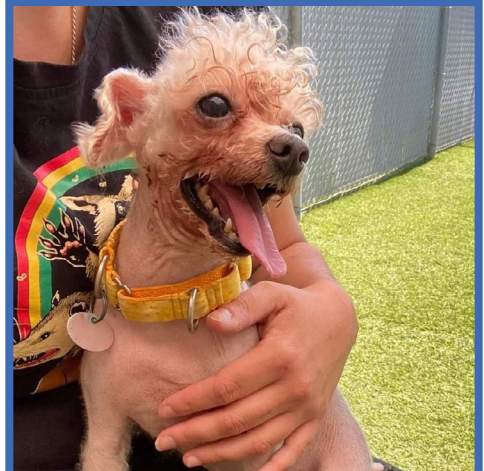
Poncho

Hound / Collie / Mixed
Large Senior Male



Crystal

Pomeranian / Mixed
Small Senior Female



Louis

Poodle (Toy)
Small Senior Male



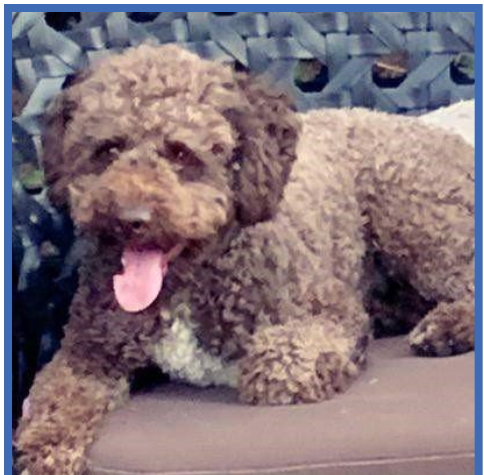
Neev

Border Collie
Medium Senior Female



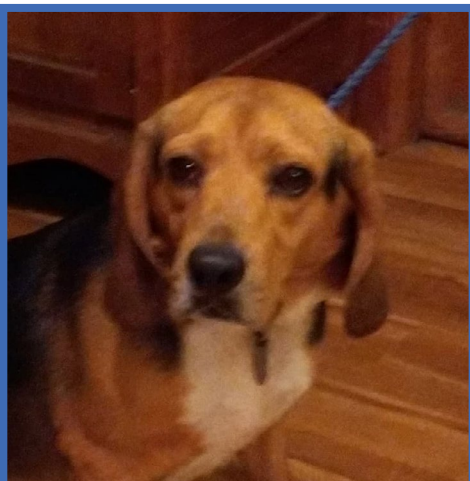
Loki

Australian Shepherd / Husky / Mixed
Young Male



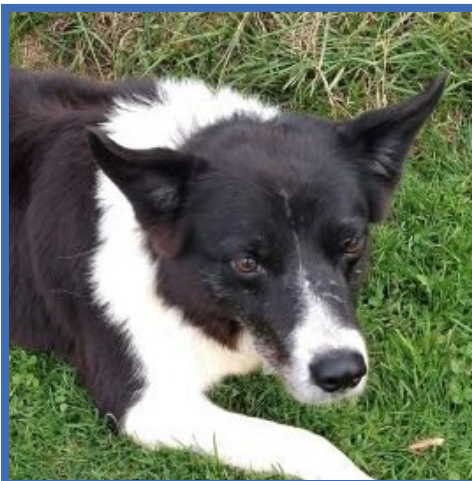
Finn

Portuguese Water Dog / Mixed
Medium Adult Male



Huckleberry

Beagle
Medium Adult Male



Devor

Border Collie
Medium Senior Male



Shelby

Australian Cattle Dog / Blue Heeler
/ Border Collie / Mixed
Medium Senior Female



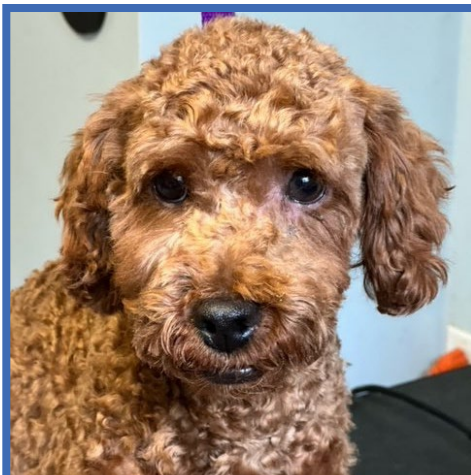
Montana

Terrier / Mixed
Small Senior Male



Eddie

Husky / Hound / Mixed
Large Senior Male



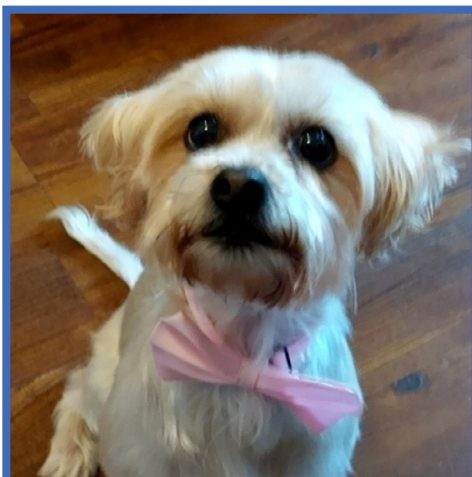
Russ

Poodle (Miniature)
Small Young Male



Niko

Yorkshire Terrier Yorkie
Small Senior Male



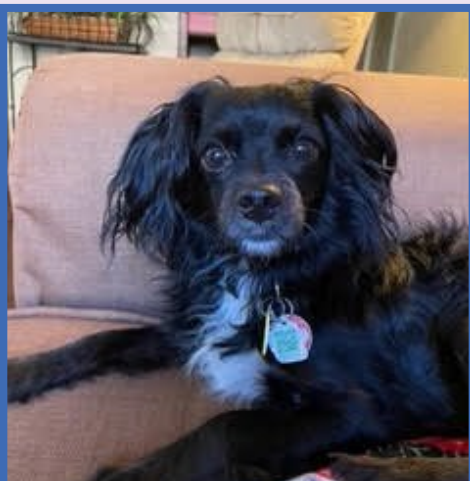
Fiona

Yorkshire Terrier Yorkie / Maltese
Small Adult Female



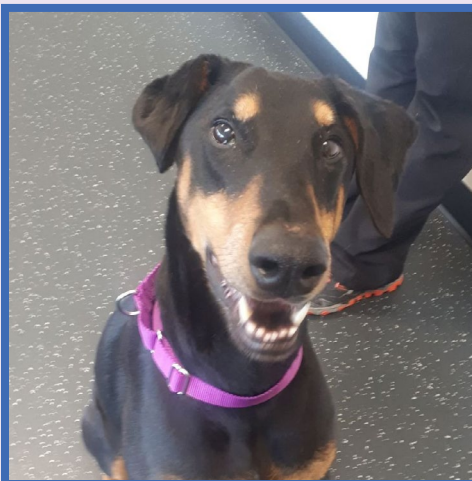
Reggie

Catahoula Leopard Dog/
Labrador Retriever / Mixed
Medium Senior Male



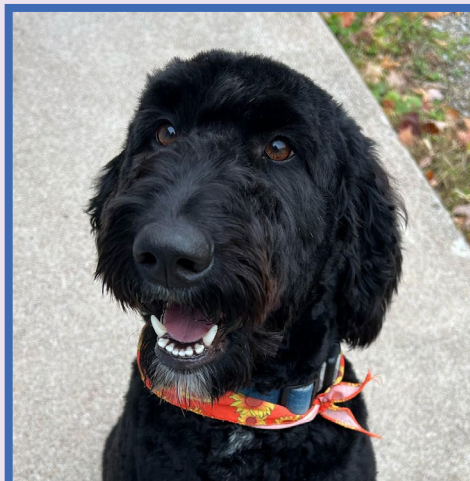
Prince

Maltese/Poodle(Miniature)/Mixed
Small Adult Male



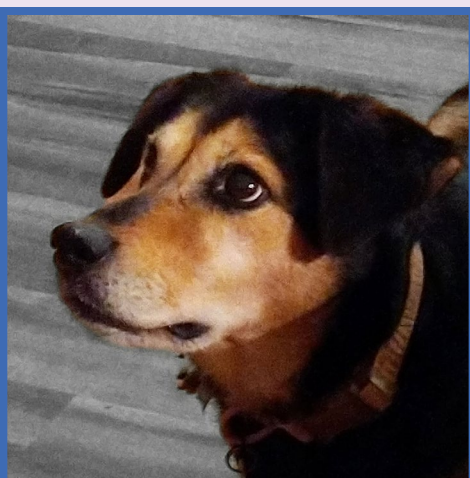
Rebelle

Doberman Pinscher
Large Senior Female



Reba

Poodle(Standard)/Australian Shepherd
Medium Adult Female



Greta

Shepherd / Hound / Mixed
Medium Senior Female

WIGGLES & WAGS

Sending a big Thank You to **Dale Cowdry, Lynn Weston, Karen Grasley** and **Vicki Chorley** for holding yet another successful yard sale!

Their hard work
raised \$900 for the dogs!

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

We are so lucky to have such
great volunteers!

**Best wishes from all of us at
Speaking of Dogs Rescue!**



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS!



Blackie's Fund Match Challenge

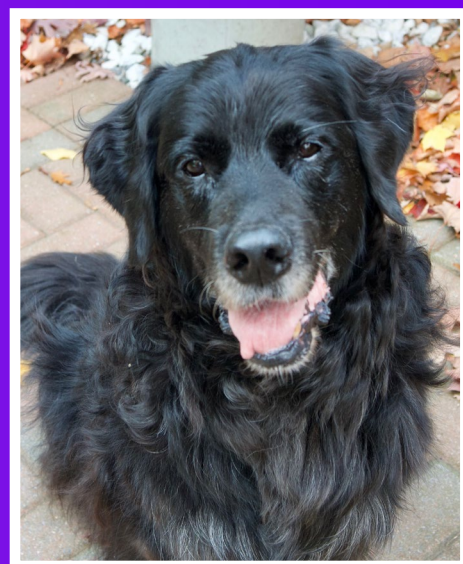


We have **reached our \$10K goal** for the Blackie's Fund Match Challenge! We really appreciate your support and generosity. Thank you to our anonymous donors who matched the funds up to \$10K! Blackie's Fund was created in 2020 to pay tribute to a dog who overcame adversity and never lost his zest for life, trust in humans, or his sense of fun.



*Blackie may have crossed the rainbow bridge,
but his legacy lives on!*

Thanks



Adoption Update

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue

From: Wendy & Murphy

Subject: Tank a.k.a Murphy

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

It's so nice to hear from you following up on my adoption of Tank (now called Murphy).

He is doing very well. I live on my own so we have worked out our routine together. Initially he would bark a lot whenever company came over and continue barking whenever they moved around the house. Now he still barks when they arrive but settles quickly and is very friendly with them.

As an older dog, he has to go out to the bathroom often and I've learned when to keep an eye on him. He still has 'accidents' in the house but is very good at using training pads. He has a heart murmur that had been diagnosed before I adopted him and the medication seems to be



working well. A few months ago he was diagnosed with a collapsing trachea and the meds for that also seem to be keeping it in check.

Overall he is doing very well and I am very glad to have him with me!

He is very affectionate and a great companion.

wendy
🐾 & Murphy



THANK YOU

Thank you to our supporters, adopters and foster parents in Simcoe County.
We are honoured and proud to be voted BEST ANIMAL RESCUE
and to be here for the dogs who need us!

www.speakingofdogs.com | Contact us: 705-444-7637

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.



Beau



Bones



Winnie



Flo



Giles



Loulou



Maeve



Milo



Norí



Stella



Teddy



Toby

In Memoriam



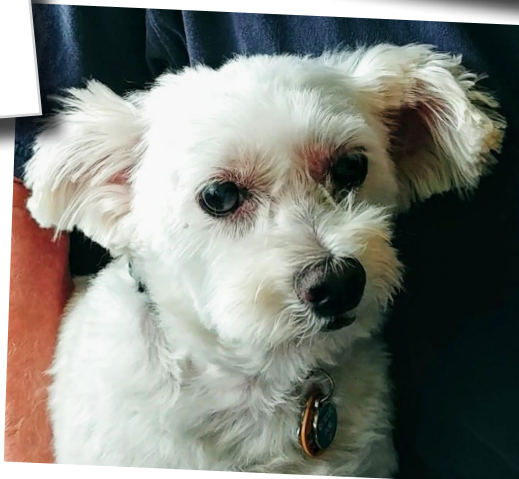
Gigi

FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY ROSANA AND FAMILY



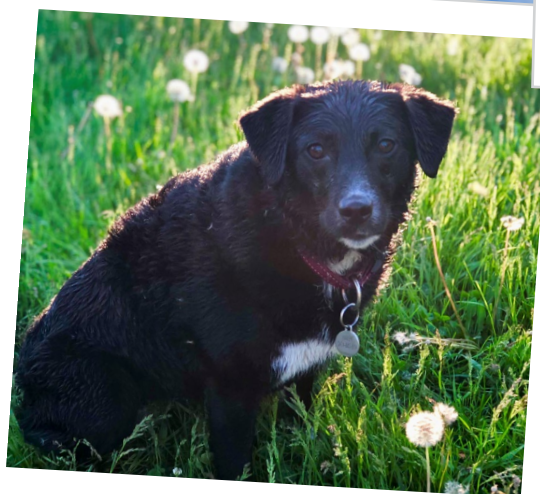
Nugget
(aka Nutley)

FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY LORRAINE, IAN, FAMILY
AND MOUNTAIN VISTA CLINIC STAFF



Happy

ADOPTED AUGUST 2021
LOVED BY LINDA AND BRYAN



Penny

ADOPTED OCTOBER 2012
LOVED BY HOLLY AND FAMILY



Billie

ADOPTED OCTOBER 2016
LOVED BY SUSAN AND PHILIP