

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 behavior 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*

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

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DECEMBER 2022

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

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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.

Practice often – before you have visitors

Practice “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 practice, 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 meter 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*

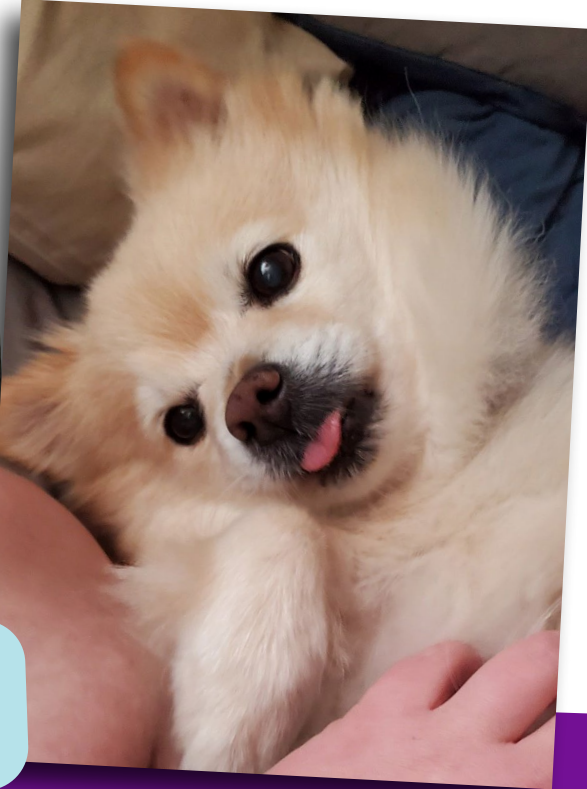
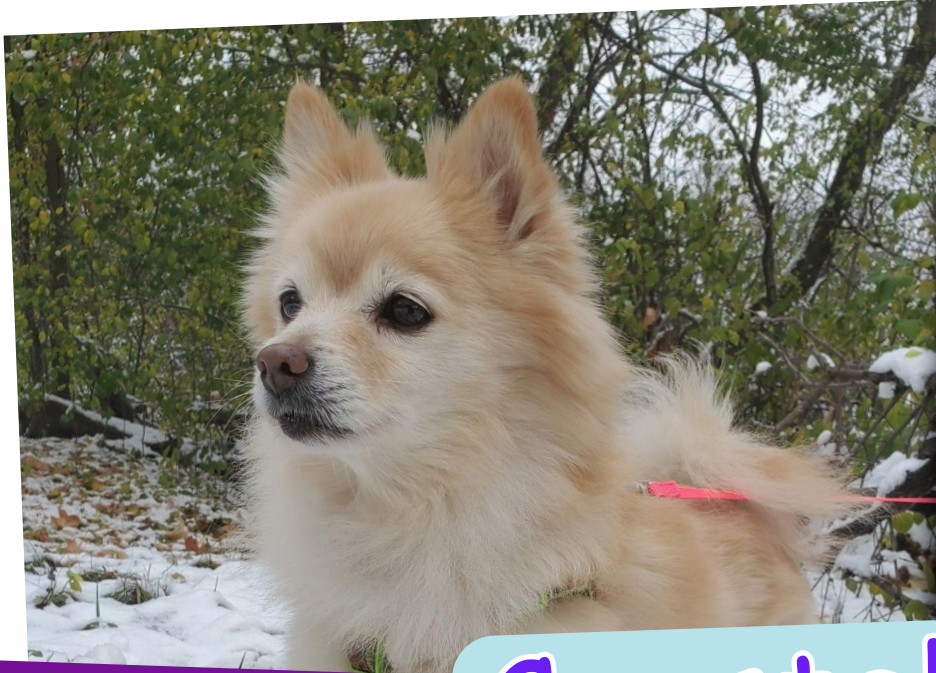


Andrea Dinan, CPDTKA, is certified through the Karen Pryor Academy, having taken both Dog Trainer Foundations and the Aggression in Dogs master course, and she is a member of the International Positive Dog Training Association and the founder of EduCanineand City Dogs Training and Behaviour.

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.



Meet our December feature dog

Crystal

Crystal is a sweet, gentle older lady. She loves long walks and lying by your feet while you watch TV and she is always ready to share a snack with you, should the opportunity arise!

Crystal is approximately 9 years young and weighs 10 pounds. She is housetrained and pee pad trained. She can get a bit overwhelmed outside with moving vehicles and animals though she is currently on a training plan and making great progress! Crystal is deaf which does take away the stress of loud noises outside. Her foster mom has taught her hand signals and she also reads body language very well.

Inside, you can find her lying on random objects (shoes, leashes, handbags, and other rather odd items) instead of her bed. Although Crystal

won't want to lie on the bed or couch with you too long, she enjoys lying by your feet or nearby so she can see you. She's a goofy, comical girl. Always happy to greet you and dance around to say hi once she knows you and will dance some more when it is time for her walk.

In terms of grooming, she will need regular brushing with undercoat rake or a comb along with regular nail trims, but she is a Saint for it all!

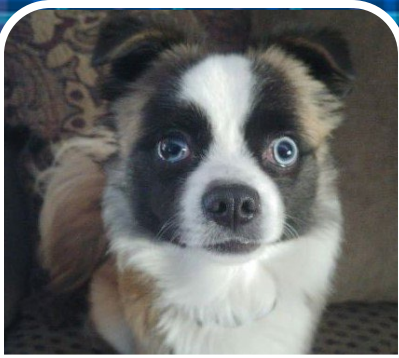
Although Crystal is currently living with a cat and a dog, she would probably be best as an only pet. She has not been tested with children, but she would not be a match for toddlers due to her small size; older children would most likely be fine for her. Crystal would do best in a house or

apartment with a fenced yard to help avoid over-stimulation, especially in the beginning.

Like most Pomeranians, she can have bouts of collapsing trachea. Health-wise she has some signs of early kidney insufficiency. Crystal has been spayed, vaccinated, HW tested, chipped and had full dental surgery and bloodwork done.

**If you want a silly,
independent, adventurous
companion - Crystal is your gal!**

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



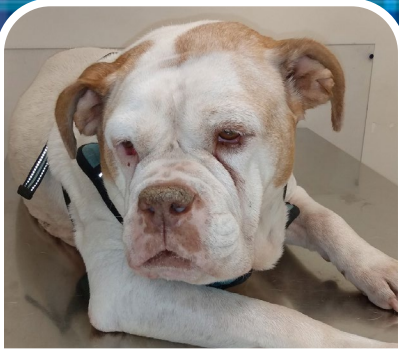
Bradley aka Timmy
Spitz / Mixed
Small Young Male



Devor
Border Collie
Medium Senior Male



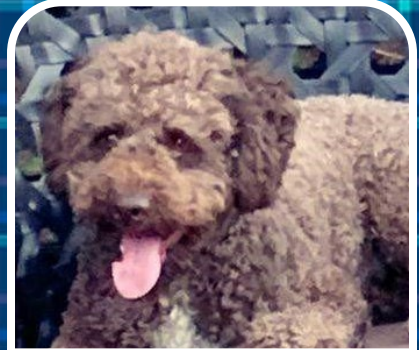
Dizzy
Retriever / Mixed
Medium Baby Female



Icy
Boxer / Bulldog / Mixed
Senior Female



Eddie
Husky / Hound / Mixed
Large Senior Male



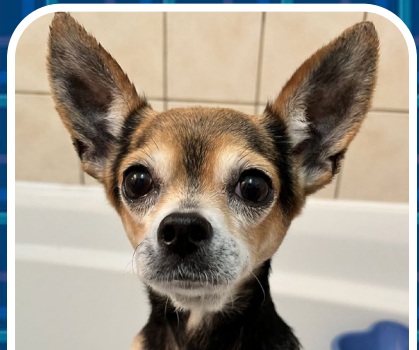
Finn
Portuguese Water Dog / Mixed
Medium Adult Male



Fiona
Yorkshire Terrier Yorkie / Maltese
Small Adult Female



Fudge
Poodle (Standard) / Retriever / Mixed
Large Young Female



Gigi
Chihuahua
Small Adult Female



Ginger Snap
Shepherd / Hound / Mixed
Medium Adult Female



Gizmo
Papillon
Small Adult Male



Russ
Poodle (Miniature)



Loki
Australian Shepherd / Husky / Mixed
Young Male



Montana
Terrier / Mixed
Small Senior Male



Neev
Border Collie
Medium Senior Female



Prince
Maltese / Poodle (Miniature) / Mixed
Small Adult Male



Reba
Poodle(Standard)/Australian
Shepherd Mix
Medium Adult Female



Reggie
Catahoula Leopard Dog /
Labrador Retriever / Mixed
Medium Senior Male



New Adoption Fee for 2023

Please note the Speaking of Dogs Rescue adoption **fee will be increased on January 1, 2023**, from \$450 to \$500 to keep up with the rising costs of veterinary care, medication, grooming, microchips, and other dog-related supply costs.

BIG SCORE WITH LEAFS TICKETS!

A BIG THANKS to our generous anonymous donor who regularly donates GOLD Leafs tickets so we can fundraise via our hockey raffles. The holiday raffle **raised approximately \$3K** which will go to vetting our foster dogs.

This past year has been an unprecedented one and we've taken more dogs than ever before. Many thanks again to our anonymous donor who has been helping us behind the scenes for two decades. Many thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

The winning ticket number is 299



Adoption Update

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue

From: Celisse

Subject: Annie a.k.a Kikiwi

Thanks for reaching out! Annie, now known as Kikiwi, is doing amazingly well. I cannot sing her praises enough. She fit into our family with no problems at all; we have two cats, and even they took to her much quicker than expected.

She is gentle, kind and so, so smart. I participated in the online classes at Scholars in Collars, which I found really helpful! Kikiwi picked everything up quickly, and genuinely loves training time. I'm constantly trying to find new things to teach her to keep her challenged! Our newest thing is attempting some very casual at-home agility tricks.

Kikiwi's been such a sweetheart to have that we ended up convinced she needed a friend - so, a few months ago, we adopted Checkers (now named Kina) from Speaking of Dogs, too! So we now have



two girls and they're doing wonderfully. They are inseparable. Kikiwi leads the charge in showing her new sister how things go (including how to play with the cats), and it's fun to see her being a big goofball with someone to play with. She is very serious and hard-working when it comes to us! She's been a delight, and we adore her.

I could not be more grateful to Speaking of Dogs for bringing her into our lives.

*All the best
- Celisse*



**ALL WE WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS IS 20,000 LIKES**

Please **LIKE** or **FOLLOW** us on
our Facebook page!

We are trying to reach
20K LIKES by Christmas.



HOLIDAY HOWL FOR LISA CHARLTON!

Many thanks to Lisa Charlton for creating yet another amazing holiday ornament for Speaking of Dogs Rescue volunteers!

Lisa has been a contributor and supporter for many years and we can't thank her enough for her time and talent!

You can visit Lisa's stunning artwork at

www.lisacharltongallery.com

Thank you Lisa!

WIGGLES AND WAGS

Thank you to
Doggieville in Newmarket
for hosting Woof and Cheese for
Speaking of Dogs Rescue again
this year.

Kudos to our volunteers Karen,
Dale and Vicki for staffing
our tables.





Thanks to Janine, owner of
Doggieville, for her continued
support.



CAN YOU LEND A PAW



Speaking of Dogs Rescue benefits from:

-  People walking and using the **ResQwalk** app with Speaking of Dogs Rescue as the selected rescue
-  People purchasing gift certificates from **FundScrip**. Go to FundScrip using **our link**
-  **BarkBox** sales made through **our link**
-  **Gifted** - is an online invitation, RSVP management, cash registry and fundraising platform that allows hosts to donate any portion of their cash gifts to a charity of their choice. Speaking of Dogs Rescue can now be chosen as the charity that will benefit from a GIFTED party



QUILT RAFFLE

This stunning 65" x 75" quilt is **hand-pieced** and made of **100% cotton**. One of our volunteers made it two years ago and stored it away. She realized how many dogs have needed help this year and has decided to donate it to raise funds! The quilt is gorgeous, unused and throughout the quilt there are stitched antique renditions of many different breeds of dogs.

This keepsake quilt will certainly be a cherished heirloom for generations to come.

A quilt like this has a **retail value of approximately \$500**. Raffle tickets will be on sale from December 3rd to December 17th. Tickers are one for \$10 or 3 tickets for \$25. If you would like to buy raffle tickets **please email lorraine@speakingofdogs.com**

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.



Angel and Daisy



Dolly



Dudley



Greta



Huckleberry



Iris



Louis

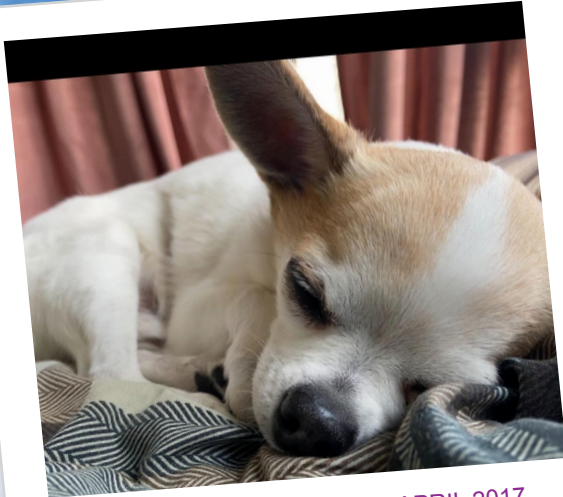


Niko aka Scrappy



Poncho

In Memoriam



Benji

ADOPTED APRIL 2017
LOVED BY BRINDA, VIVEK
AND FAMILY



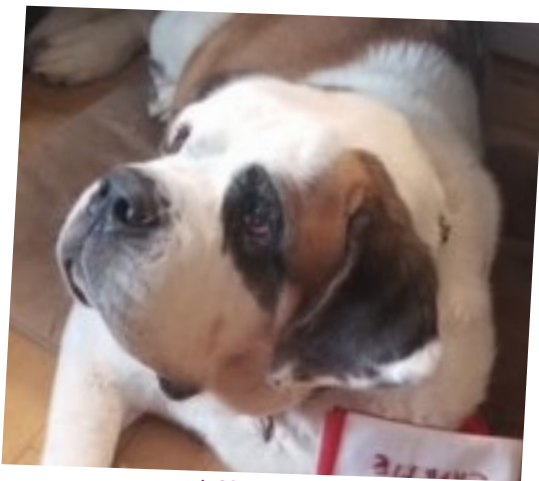
Brody

ADOPTED JULY 2012
LOVED BY LAWRENCE CAMPBELL
AND FAMILY



Chili

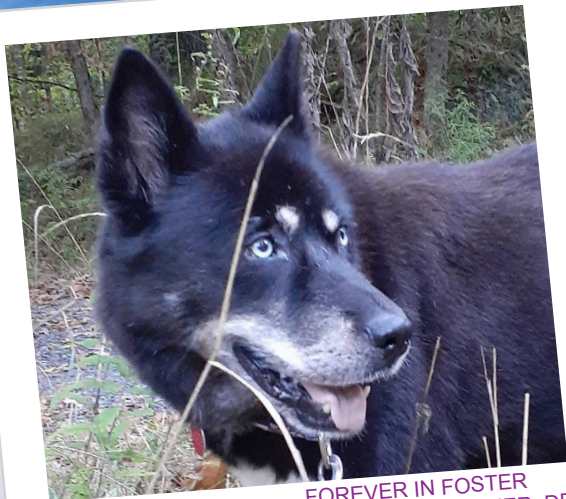
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2011
LOVED BY GUYLAINE BÉLAND
AND FAMILY



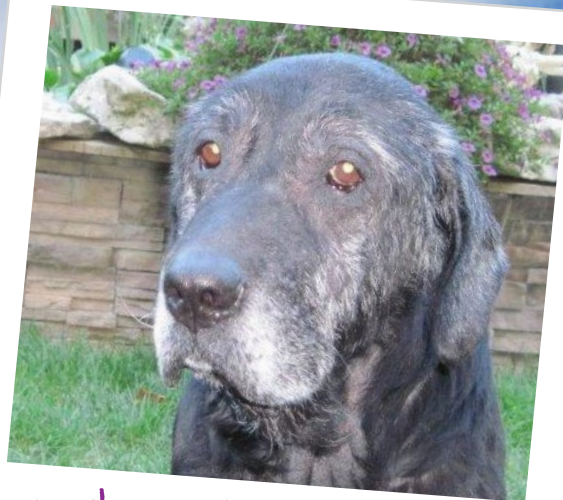
Charlie

LOVED BY BRIAN AND
CINDY ANTHONY
ADOPTED JUNE OF 2017.

In Memoriam



Juneau FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY KAREN KITCHENER, DEREK
LAPIERRE AND STAFF AT MOUNTAIN
VISTA VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Fred FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY VAL JAMES AND FAMILY, AND
CARL AND MARI-ANNE MCCLEARY



Bessie ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2020
LOVED BY CHRISTA AND DAVID AND FAMILY



Tucker ADOPTED DECEMBER 2006
LOVED BY ALICE BRIGGS AND FAMILY

Happy to be home for the holidays



- Abbott • Ace • Annabelle • Archie • Auggie • Baker • Beau • Bella • Benny • Bernard Bobby •
- Bones • Brady • Brie • Buddy • Buttons • Calvin • Carey • Cedar • Charlie Checkers • Chibbs •
- Chico • Chinny • Chloe • Coco • Coop • Daisy • Daisy & Tucker • Dan & Ruby • Dazzy • Debo •
- Delilah • Ducle • Dylan • Ebony • Faye • Flo • Fox • Fozzy • Francis • Giles • Ginger • Gracie •
- Gucci • Gus • Harley • Hudson • Jasmine • Jerry • Kai • Lana • Legacy • Lily • Loulou • Lucy •
- Luna • Maeve • Maggie • Maple • Matilda • Millie • Milo • Minnie • Mylo • Nico • Nora • Nori •
- Nova • Ola • Ollie • Patrick • Patti • Pico • Pippa • Polly • Rocco • Rocky • Rosie • Ruby • Ryder •
- Sadie • Sally • Scooter • Seth • Simba • Skip • Sky • Skye • Snoop • Sophie • Sparrow •
- Stanley • Star • Stella • Sugar • Teal • Teddy • Teresa • Tia • Tilley • Toby • Tux •
- Tyson • Veeru • Violet • Waffles Winnie • Zoey •