

The Dog Days of 2022



Another year has come and gone in a flash. It is not an overstatement to say that 2022 was one doozy of a year! In all the 20+ years we've been operating, we have never experienced such a volume of intake requests. There doesn't seem to be one particular factor, however there's no doubt the loosening of COVID restrictions played a part. We've all heard that the mass acquisition of dogs over pandemic times was a never-before-seen phenomenon. It seemed that many people thought it was a good time to bring a dog into their life and, for some, it was the right time. However, for others, it was a good time, until it wasn't. Most puppies raised during COVID didn't get to see the 'real world' until 2022 which caused

challenges for their 'back to the real world' humans. Managing now adult dogs who suffered separation issues, were under-socialized, inexperienced, and often untrained, and with few coping skills to draw from, was no easy feat, even for seasoned dog folk.

Once the dog craze seemed to be slowing down, most of the backyard breeders and puppy millers were no longer getting big orders or big money for their puppies. Our first request of 2022 was to join a coalition of rescues and help dogs from a large-scale breeding farm that was allegedly shutting down. We were on board right away and took several large 'doodle types' (unfortunately, as the dogs started

JANUARY 2023

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.

Contact Speaking of Dogs

P.O. Box 8058,
RPO Hurontario
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 0H1
Phone: 705-444-SODR (7637)
Email: speakingofdogs@gmail.com
Web: www.speakingofdogs.com

Newsletter Team

Editor & Design: Sarah Kapp
Contributors: Kim Gladding,
Lorraine Houston
& Maggi Burt

Newsletters

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coming out of the barns, it seemed that breeding a standard poodle to any breed had become popular including Saint Bernard, Old English Sheepdog, and Bernese Mountain Dogs). These dogs all required grooming, vetting, spaying and dental surgeries. We worked with a number of other groups, rallied drivers and foster parents as best we could (as did other rescues) but



every morning there was a text about more dogs needing help. In the end, 6 rescues combined their efforts and resources to help 65 dogs escape the life of a backyard breeder dog.

As the year went along, we continued to receive surrender requests

daily, as well as pleas from shelters that found themselves bursting at the seams with unwanted dogs. Dogs from Northern Ontario and Manitoba needed support and intake help, as well. We tried to keep up, work with other rescues, post on our FB group pages, and recruit new foster parents, but it was an overwhelming task. Adding to this, adopters were nowhere to be found. Despite upbeat bios, a stunning gallery of photos, adoptions continued to be slow; at one point, we had no adoption applications for several days running.

On a positive note, though, we were able to provide sponsorship funding along with one of our rescue partners, for a spay/neuter clinic in the spring which was run by International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

In mid-June, Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) contacted us about an ongoing case they were investigating. Could we possibly take 14 dogs over the course of the spring and summer? The dogs were a variety of breeds, most of them senior dogs and in need of refresher assistance in housetraining and leash



walking; many also had ongoing medical needs. We stepped up and, with the help of Roverdale Boarding Kennels, were able to find adopters and Forever-in-Foster homes for 13 of the dogs. One dog remains and that's handsome, blue-eyed Reggie, a Catahoula Leopard Dog. We are hoping his new life will start soon but at this time, we have no adoption applications for him.

In many ways, to say we are glad 2022 is behind us would be fairly accurate however, we are always relieved and proud when we can be there for dogs with arms outstretched to offer them comfort,

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Betty White Challenge

January 17, 2023 would have been Betty White's 101st birthday

Betty was an advocate for all animals. She was a pioneer in the animal welfare field and made inroads few could. One of her famous quotes "Animals are near and dear to my heart, and I've devoted my life to trying to improve their lives" gives many of us the motivation and strength we need to do our day-to-day rescue work.

Today, we are participating in the Betty White Challenge. If you are so inclined, our giving site is: www.speakingofdogs.com/donate and our e-transfer address is: rescueprogram@speakingofdogs.com.

Happy heavenly birthday Betty



refuge, and safety. We just hope there is less of a need moving forward. It was so distressing and devastating to see and hear about so many vulnerable, displaced dogs last year. Without a doubt, we'd never be able to help the dogs we have without our incredible team of volunteers, and our partner veterinarians. Their tireless dedication, miraculous medical achievements, and can-do outlook are why our rescue continues to successfully soldier on year after year.

In closing and on behalf of our volunteer Board, thanks to everyone for giving over 200 dogs a second chance at love, and a new leash on life in 2022. Whether you are an adopter, a donor, a foster parent, a volunteer, or advocate, we value and appreciate your time, support and kindness.

We are honoured and privileged to be in a position to make life better for dogs.

It's been our mission for over 20 years, and we remain committed.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling 2023.

Most Sincerely,

*Lorraine and the Speaking of
Dogs Rescue Program Team*

Registered Charity # 841098791RR0001
www.speakingofdogs.com

Adoption Update

*To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue
From: Susan Glynn
Subject: Suzi*

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

Suzi is fitting in perfectly! She is the most easygoing and non-demanding dog I've ever had. Sweet and affectionate, she enjoys both new and familiar places and meeting new people. She likes exploring friends' houses when we visit. Although not overly interested in meeting most dogs, she seems to like sniffing them to see where they've been! She travels well in the car and gets along well with my sister's Coton who often stays with us when my sister and her husband travel.

In the summer, at the cottage, she enjoys new and different sights and smells. Suzi enjoys visiting my dad and his condo; there is wall-to-wall carpeting there, which somehow inspires her to do some racing around. She's not a dog who is



highly energetic, which works great for me...my days of 5km hikes with larger dogs are over. She absolutely LOVES the sun. On a sunny day, the first thing she does is find a spot on the deck and lie in the sunshine. What adds to this bliss is getting a belly rub at the same time as soaking up the sun. She was initially a picky eater, and I must have overdone my efforts to get her to eat, - so now we are both on a weight loss plan!



Suzi and I are tuned into each other, and she is an eager-to-please girl.

*Susan
Glynn*

Ask the Trainer

Great Expectations: The Perfect Dog

I was speaking with a new client the other day and they asked me a question few have asked before: “What do you think is the perfect dog?” They were concerned their dog’s VERY normal behaviour was not good enough; that their dog needed to be beyond reproach and wasn’t XYZ behaviour bad?

I asked them why they thought the dog’s behaviour was bad.

“A popular TV trainer said so.”

Oh boy. Now THAT is a can of worms I won’t be opening in this article. What I can speak to though, is that the dog world is FILLED with myths, old habits and ideas about how dogs should behave. The social pressure is intense. It happens at the dog park, through television and internet media and through family and friends. The perfect dog heels all the time with ease, never barks, would not even think about chewing something or defecating in the house and who tolerates all people, places and things - especially other dogs.



The perfect dog is always someone else’s.

Honestly? These things are not the things I look at for a Good Dog. I could not care less if your dog heels. I do care if they are dragging you around like a freight train. I do not care if your dog barks in NORMAL situations. I care that they are not problem barkers due to chronic frustration or separation issues. I care that they do not bite or cause harm to other animals or to people. I care that they feel safe and loved in their everyday lives. I care they are not fearful when being handled,

groomed or vetted. THESE things are about safety and quality of life for both human and canine.

My dog, Shebang, does not heel. I have trouble walking, so I take her to off leash areas where she can run. So heeling on leash around the neighbourhood is not important to me. She LOVES to bark in training class and is very talky. She resource guards mildly with other dogs. She is occasionally reactive to some dogs. All normal behaviour. Could I change these things? Sure. Are they a priority to me? Not really.

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Dont forget to
Like and ***subscribe***
to our **Facebook** and
Instagram pages for
all of the **latest SOD news!**

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 January feature dog

Between June and November, we took in 14 dogs from a Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) case. Most of the dogs who came to us were seniors, some as old as 15 years. Most of the dogs struggled with housetraining, walking on leash, going up and down stairs, and many had ongoing health issues. Our foster parents really stepped up to help these dear dogs as did Luan from Roverdale boarding kennel, who has been nothing short of heroic (or perhaps angelic is a better word) throughout this process.

We started taking the dogs in mid-June and they kept coming until just last month. Luan welcomed each one with open arms, a scrumptious snack or two, a clean, cozy living space, and daily access to fresh, country air and a large, fenced yard. As part of our foster team, she assessed the dogs for us and wrote bios and best-fit family profiles. She met with foster and adoptive parents on behalf of the rescue and has literally worked non-stop for these dogs for the last 6 months.

This story is about Reggie, the last dog, who is yet to find his forever family. The other 13 dogs we took in have either been adopted or have been placed in our Forever in Foster program.

Reggie



Reggie is an approximately 6-year-old neutered male Catahoula Leopard Dog who is around 50 pounds. Not a very common breed in Canada, the Catahoula Leopard Dog, is generally found in the southern United States. (more information at: <https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/catahoula-leopard-dog>)

Reggie can be shy and fearful in new situations and should be initially treated as a flight risk. But once he settles in, he is sweet and friendly, loves attention and playing fetch. He will need some help with regular trips outside to potty as he adjusts to his new surroundings. He does not know how to walk on a leash so needs a foster or forever home with a fenced yard.

In his previous life he lived with a number of intact males (he has now been neutered as have all the boys). When the dogs were recently reunited,

there was some inappropriate dog-on-dog behaviour that escalated into fights between the males. Reggie is understandably anxious, and reactive to any behaviour he sees as threatening or intrusive.

Luan has muzzle trained him (so dog introductions are safe) and keeps a basket muzzle on him when out in the yard with her dogs. She has not had any issues with dogs, once he is familiar with them and trusts them. However, we believe he'd be happiest as an only dog.

He has had no experience with children and our guess is that he'd probably not do well with cats.

If you are interested in giving
Reggie a forever home

[Click Here](#)

to visit our adoption application



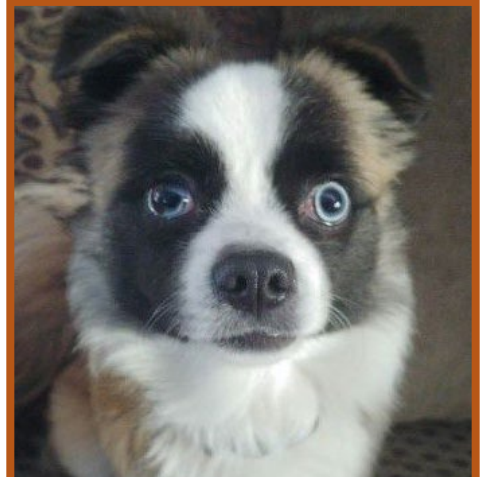
Billie

Poodle (Miniature) / Mixed (short coat)
Small Adult Female



Bobby

Maltese / Mixed (short coat)
Small Senior Male



Bandit (aka Bradley)

Spitz / Mixed (long coat)
Small Young Male



Coco

Poodle (Miniature) / Spaniel / Mixed (short coat)
Small Adult Female



Crystal

Pomeranian / Mixed (long coat)
Small Senior Female



Devor

Border Collie (medium coat)
Medium Senior Male



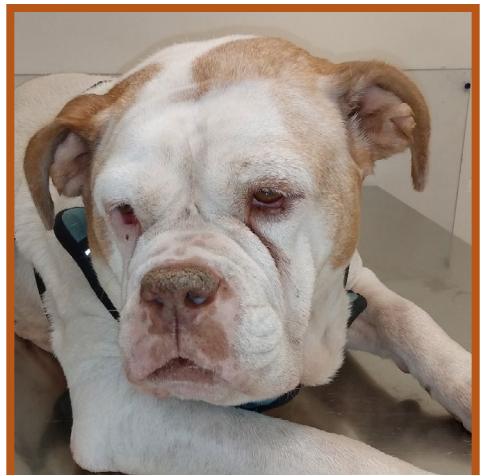
Eddie

Husky / Hound / Mixed (medium coat)
Large Senior Male



Ginger Snap

Shepherd / Hound / Mixed (short coat)
Medium Adult Female



Icy

Boxer / Bulldog / Mixed (short coat)
Senior Female



Lucky

Poodle (Toy) (short coat)
Small Young Male



Montana

Terrier / Mixed (short coat)
Small Senior Male



Neev

Border Collie (medium coat)
Medium Senior Female



Prince

Maltese / Poodle (Miniature) / Mixed (long coat)
Small Adult Male



Yumi

Spaniel / Cocker Spaniel (long coat)
Medium Adult Female

RECALLS



**Purina Recalls Pro Plan Vet
Diet Product**

Click Here

To read the full story by
DogFoodAdvisor.com

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 - use code SPEAKING OF DOGS at checkout and the rescue will receive a \$15 donation from BarkBox. Plus, you will receive 10% off your subscription!
-  **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



Visit our donation webpage by scanning our QRC Code

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.



Abbey



Charlie & Princess



Dizzy



Fudge



Gigi



Ivy



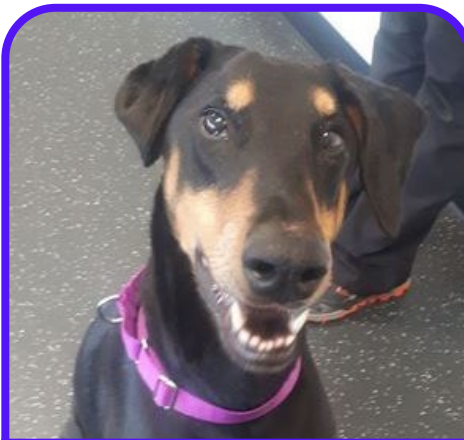
Katelyn



Nora



Reba



Rebelle



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What makes her awesome? She is social with most people and dogs. She comes when she is called - even if there is a negotiation about being leashed back up. She has a fantastic "drop and leave it". She is able to be handled for vet care safely. She is safe to have in the neighbourhood and can be left alone at home or in the van without difficulty. I let her on the furniture. I let her jump on me in play. I have silly growly conversations with her every day.

As a trainer, people EXPECT my dog to be perfect. She is not. Know

that we trainers really don't expect your dogs, or you, to be perfect. We only expect you to care and to work on the things that need work.

Your dog, to live in the world, needs to be a safe part of society, but they do not have to love all dogs or people, go to the dog park if they do not like it, or be a perfectly trained anything. They are a dog. They are going to bark, dig, run, eat things they should not and just BE dogs. Concentrate on your dog being the best dog they can be as THEMSELVES. Train the things YOU need or want. Train to enrich your dog's life and to engage them

but do not train because you THINK your dog should behave perfectly. They are already perfect. So are you.



Maggi Burtt, CPDT-KA, owner of Tailspin Petworx
www.tailspinpetworx.com

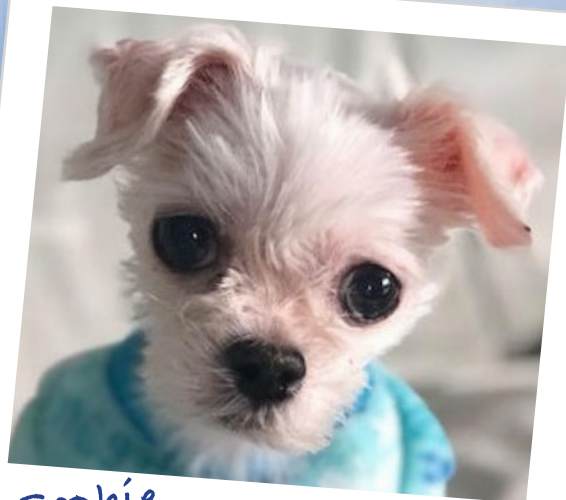


In Memoriam



Brodie

FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY DARLENE S



Sophie
(aka Zelda)

ADOPTED MARCH 2022
LOVED BY KERRI AND RYAN



Tia
(aka Waagush)

ADOPTED AUGUST 2022
LOVED BY LOUISE MOYER
AND FAMILY