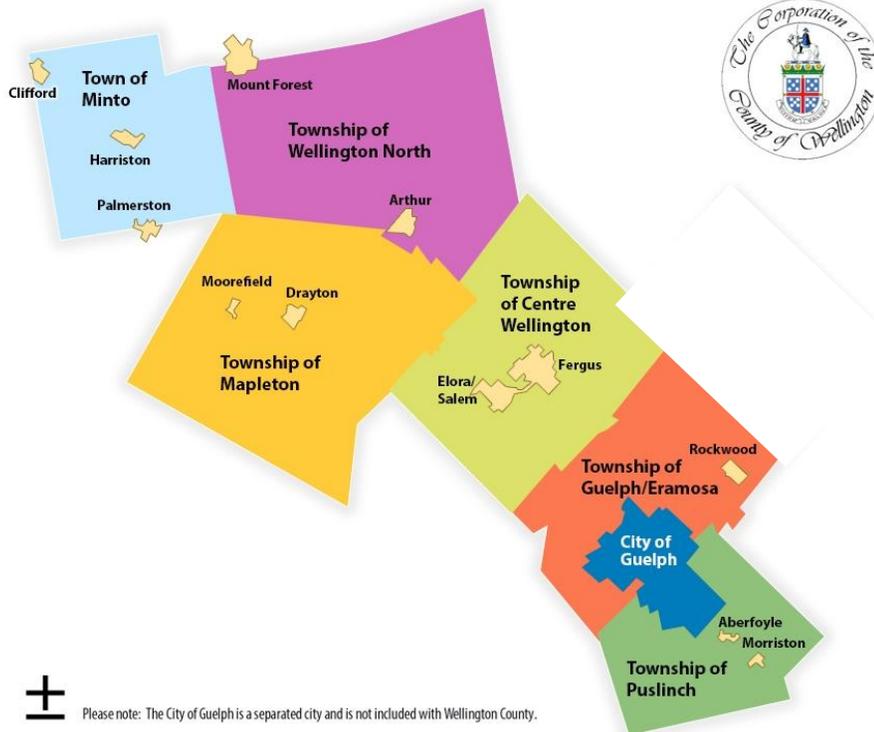


Guelph Humane Society News

Providing local news in support of the animals in our community
2016 - 3rd Edition

NEW ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICES IN CENTRE WELLINGTON & GUELPH-ERAMOSA



The Guelph Humane Society has expanded our services in Wellington County! In July, the GHS started providing animal services in the Townships of Guelph-Eramosa (including Rockwood) and Centre Wellington (including Fergus and Elora). After providing animal services to the City of Guelph for several decades, GHS is thrilled about the opportunity to help both the animals and residents of these communities.

“This new partnership is exciting, because now we can help more animals and more people. Our impact in the region is greater,” said Adrienne McBride, Executive Director.

The Guelph Humane Society will continue to provide animal services in the City of Guelph, and will continue to

investigate cases of cruelty, neglect and abuse in Wellington County (excluding the Town of Erin).

Anyone with concerns about an animal can call the humane society at 519-824-3091 for assistance.

During regular hours (Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm and Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm), services include:

- Pick up and impoundment of dogs running at large
- Assisting with stray or injured cats
- Pick up of deceased companion animals on public property
- By-law enforcement as per the animal control bylaws
- Responding to all items included below, as emergency services

Services available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year*:

- Assisting animals in distress including sick, injured, or orphaned companion animals or wildlife
- Responding to calls regarding animal that pose an immediate risk to public safety
- Responding to requests for assistance from the townships, police and emergency services, public health, or any authority or person concerned about the safety of the animal or a member of the public

All animals brought into our care will be housed and cared for at the Guelph Humane Society. For wildlife, the Guelph Humane Society works closely with area wildlife rehabilitators licensed through the Ministry of Natural Resources, and will transfer animals that can be rehabilitated.

*After-hours calls will be directed to a call service, and emergency requests will be dispatched to our on-call Animal Protection Officer.





Cats & Birds Campaign



Canada's bird and cat populations are in trouble, and a coalition of Guelph groups working with Nature Canada's Keep Cats Safe & Save Bird Lives campaign are calling on the community to help keep both safe by keeping cats from roaming outdoors unsupervised.

The Cats & Birds campaign is a national program of Nature Canada, and Guelph has been selected as a pilot community to launch the campaign on a local level.

This local initiative represents a collaboration amongst several local cat-welfare and nature organizations, including the Guelph Humane Society, the Guelph Cat Population Task Force, Nature Guelph, Wild Ontario, Songbird Only Avian Rehabilitation, Wild Birds Unlimited and Nature Canada.

The initial stage of the pilot program in Guelph involved an online poll, which wrapped up in early November. The online poll explored the attitudes and perspectives of residents of the Guelph community regarding outdoor cats as well as threats to birds. The information gathered in the online poll will help to shape the campaign moving forward. A larger awareness campaign is planned, which will include presentations and displays, advertising, community outreach, and various other activities in Guelph. You can stay abreast of upcoming events by following the GHS' Facebook page, or by visiting www.catsandbirds.ca/guelph.

The Guelph Humane Society is excited to be involved in this exciting program. Through our work with both cats and wildlife, we understand all too well the perils that cats face when they are unsupervised outdoors, and are also exceedingly aware of the threats that outdoor cats pose to wild birds and small mammals.

Guelph has more than 200 species of birds, including many that are designated as species at risk, as well as favourites such as cardinals and gold finches. All over Canada, birds are in trouble; some species have declined by more than 90%. On top of the declines attributed to habitat destruction and climate change, an estimated 270 million birds die each year because of human causes such as collisions with windows and buildings, and hunting by cats.

Cat owners have a special role to play in protecting both cats and birds. In addition to the threats they pose to wild birds, unsupervised outdoor cats themselves are exposed to a variety of perils, including infectious diseases, parasites, vehicle collisions, fights with wildlife, and getting lost. And while the return-to-owner rate in Guelph is more than three times the national average, only 15-20% of stray cats brought to the Guelph Humane Society are reclaimed by their owner.

Thankfully, there are great alternatives to keeping pet cats safe, which include outdoor options such as catios, cat enclosures and harness-walking, as well as indoor strategies to enrich the lives of indoor cats - such as providing scratching posts, window perches, toys, and interactive play. For more information and resources, visit the Cats & Birds website at <http://catsandbirds.ca/research/>, which also includes a fact sheet for cat owners on helping to transition your outdoor cat to a strictly indoor kitty! For more information on the Guelph Humane Society's involvement in the Cats & Birds campaign, please contact Lisa Veit, Associate Director (lveit@guelphhumane.ca).





Where are They Now?



In August, we asked for our community's help for 60 small animals and birds that unexpectedly came into our care, and our community answered. The Guelph Humane Society was overwhelmed with donations, including food (even fresh veggies for the rabbits!), supplies like cages and bedding, and money to help cover medical costs. In total, we cared for 20 rabbits (which shortly became more!), five hedgehogs, two chinchillas (which became four!), two chickens, 20 Asian blue quail, and 11 common quail. Since August, many of these animals have found loving homes, but some are still waiting. We are hopeful they will all be home for the holidays!

Here is an update on where those animals are now:

- 🐾 **Rabbits** - Two of our rabbits went on to have babies. All of them have been adopted, except one who remains in foster care, and four who are still available for adoption.
- 🐾 **Hedgehogs** - All five hedgehogs have been adopted!
- 🐾 **Chinchillas** - One chinchilla was adopted, and the other welcomed two babies. Mom and babies will remain in foster care until babies are old enough to be adopted at approximately 12 weeks of age.
- 🐾 **Chickens** - The two chickens were adopted by Frog Hollow Farm Sanctuary
- 🐾 **Asian Blue Quail** - The Asian Blue quail went to Bird Kingdom, the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory, and a few were adopted by a local avian enthusiast
- 🐾 **Common Quail** - Some were adopted by the Killman Zoo, and others Cedar Row Farm Sanctuary. Five still remain in our care and we continue to look for a home.

DID YOU KNOW...

Chinchilla babies are known as 'kits', and are born fully able with their eyes open, body covered in fur and all 20 teeth present! Kits stay with their mom until 12 weeks of age.

DID YOU KNOW...

A rabbit's pregnancy last for only 30 days. Once the babies are born, the rabbit can mate and get pregnant again as soon as the following day.

DID YOU KNOW...

Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals, and are very active throughout the night. In the wild, a hedgehog can travel 2.5km in a night to look for food.



Donor Spotlight



When Bonnie (Bukeman) Dixon's longtime friend, Margaret MacNeill, passed away, Bonnie knew she wanted to honour her friend in a meaningful way. Margaret had a love for all animals, but especially dogs. Bonnie generously donated to the Guelph Humane Society in memory of her dear friend. Every donation we receive helps us help more animals find their *Happy Tail*. Tell us why you give to help the animals by emailing give@guelphhumane.ca. We love hearing stories like Bonnie's and Margaret's.



Your Support Matters!



What a year this has been so far... Thanks in a large part to the incredible support by you, our dedicated donors, sponsors and supporters, the Guelph Humane Society has been able to accomplish some pretty amazing things in the first ten months of 2016. We are having an even greater impact within our region!

Because of donors like you, we've been able to help more pets – with finding new homes for fur babies, getting those who went astray back to their owners, performing necessary surgeries for animals brought to us by community members and our Animal Protection Officers, and we've been able to help more wildlife, too. *Read some Happy Tails on page 5.*

Flashback to July when a total of 60 animals were taken in all in one day as an unexpected surrender. The variety of animals included Asian blue quail, common quail, hedgehogs, chinchillas, chickens, and rabbits. That was an exciting time, but also a time of incredible support from our community! *Learn more about this page 2.*

Since adding the Townships of Centre Wellington and Guelph-Eramosa to our coverage area in July of this year, we have expanded our reach and are beginning to realize greater results in our wider community. *See more about our expanded services on page 1.*

Generous donations from you allow us to continue to provide the care that is needed to strengthen and educate our communities and provide homes for pets that can't help themselves. The gifts you make are treasured and, each and every day, we see the impact of your generosity at the humane society.

We continue to work towards an even better tomorrow, and to do the most we can with your valued donations. Your support fills us with the hope that we will be able to achieve the goals for our community... together. Everyone at the Guelph Humane Society is deeply honoured by your kindness.

Wish list

- 🐾 Gift Cards (like Canadian Tire, Staples, Walmart, Pet Supply Stores, Home Hardware, Zehrs, Costco, TSC, Dollar Store)
- 🐾 Canned Cat/Kitten Food
- 🐾 Cat Toys
- 🐾 Scratching Posts & Cat Trees
- 🐾 High Value Dog Treats (like Roll Over, Dehydrated Liver, Soft Treats)
- 🐾 Hypoallergenic Dog Food & Treats
- 🐾 Dog Chews (like Rawhides, Antlers)
- 🐾 Peanut Butter

- 🐾 Hay And Other "Treats" For Rabbits
- 🐾 Paper Towels, Kleenex, Bathroom Tissue
- 🐾 Space Heaters & Heat Lamps
- 🐾 Small Kitchen Scales
- 🐾 Easy Walk Harness (Medium & Large)
- 🐾 Bleach, Windex, All Purpose Cleaner
- 🐾 Laundry Soap & Dish Soap



For our full WISH LIST, visit www.guelphhumane.ca



Happy Tails



CARROTS

After four years, Josh and Carrots have been reunited! Thanks to Carrots' microchip, our staff were able to contact Josh and let him know that Carrots had been found over 125 kilometers away! Carrots recognized Josh right away, and our staff were in tears seeing their heartfelt reunion. Carrots and Josh are on their way back to Niagara Falls...if only Carrots could tell us about his adventure that lead him to Guelph! We are so lucky to get to witness a happy ending like this!

TOBY

My name is Toby, and I was recently adopted from your wonderful, caring facility. I am writing to thank you for helping me to find a new home. I am doing very well and have moved right in. My caregiver says it took me 2.756 seconds to do so! I have been working on my jumping skills lately, you know, like jumping right over the bed, on top of the kitchen cabinets etc. My caregiver thinks I am part bat; I'm not sure what he means by that, but I think it is a compliment because he laughs when I do it.



I have a feline friend named Frieda, who was also adopted from the GHS. We are getting along "okay", we play paw games and things like that. We have lots of toys to play with and our caregiver plays with us a lot too. Life is looking good here and I have all of you at the GHS to thank for that.

MONTGOMERY

"Montgomery" (formally known as Viper at the humane society), has no trouble being snug as a bug in a rug. We spend a great deal of time with him and he is the center of attention in our house. I call him "my second alarm". First my alarm clock goes off in the morning and once he hears my movement upstairs, the second alarm of him calling me goes off. We have a room upstairs with carpet that he loves to explore, run and popcorn around. Lately, when I have him out on the sofa beside me, he'll come over and place his front paws on my arm and stare up at me. I know what the stare means. It means "I'm going to leap up onto your chest, come give you kisses, but it will be a surprise when I do it". It's quite amusing. From the day I brought him home, I bought him a stuffed elephant toy to have in his house. He plays with him, moves him around, and snuggles or lays his head down on him. All in all, we couldn't be happier with the little guy and I think Kris and myself have been a wonderful match for him. A win-win all around! – Caryn Kay





Fast Facts about Declawing



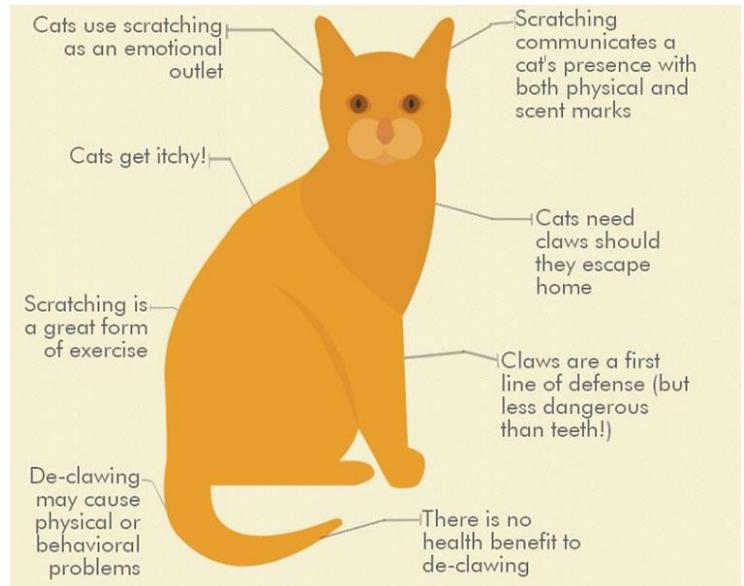
WHAT IS IT?

At the Guelph Humane Society we believe that it is healthy and natural for your cat to scratch. We would like to share with you some fast facts on declawing and healthy alternatives to help your kitty with their instinctive scratching needs. The term “declawing” is misleading, as more than just the claw is being removed. In technical terms, the procedure is called an onychectomy and is a surgery done to remove a cat’s claws by amputating the end bones of the animal’s toes. Because the claw develops from tissue in the bones, the bone must be removed to prevent the claw from simply re-growing. Declawing means your cat has to undergo 10 separate amputations.

WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE SIDE EFFECTS?

Declawing can cause behavioural and health problems for a cat. Below are just some of the issues that may occur:

- ❖ **Changes in temperament:** Cat’s claws are its main defense. Removing them can have severe psychological effects on a cat such as depression, anxiety & fearfulness. This can make them more likely to bite.
- ❖ **Litterbox problems:** Digging in a litterbox can be especially painful on their newly declawed feet. Due to this, some cats may associate the litterbox with pain.
- ❖ **Chronic pain:** Declawing is one of the most painful routine surgeries for a cat and pain from the surgery can last for weeks. Pain in cats can be hard to notice, as they hide it well.
- ❖ **Arthritis:** Because their gait and posturing changes after the surgery, declawed cats are more likely to develop severe arthritis, as they age.



WHAT ARE HUMANE ALTERNATIVES TO DECLAWING?

There are many alternatives to declawing that do not cause the pain or distress that declawing does. These methods are still successful in preventing the cat from scratching the furniture or using their claws aggressively. Here are some solutions to help your cat satisfy their need to scratch:

- ❖ **Invest in a scratching post:** Cats have the natural urge to scratch. Not only does it allow them to maintain their claws, it also gives them a very satisfying stretch!
- ❖ **Nail Trimming:** A cat’s nails can be trimmed just like a dog, but they’re clear, so it is easier to trim them without accidentally cutting the quick.
- ❖ **Soft Paws:** Soft paws are gentle plastic caps that are glued over the cat’s nails with surgical glue. They are safe and easy to apply. The Guelph Humane Society offers a soft-paws application clinic every 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month. Call us today at 519-824-3091, to book your appointment!

STATUS OF DECLAWING AROUND THE WORLD: Declawing has been banned in over 26 countries. Only in North America is declawing common.

Pets as Gifts have a Lower Return Rate



MYTH: Shelter shouldn't adopt out pets during the holidays, because they get returned.

FACT: A recent survey conducted by the American SPCA revealed that pets given as gifts, have the same (or sometimes even better!) long-term adoption outcomes, compared to pets that were adopted directly by the owner.

Of course, this does not mean that pets should be placed into a home without going through the proper adoption process, or considering the responsibility associated with of adopting a pet. Giving someone a puppy as a gift, and leaving them with unwanted responsibilities, is not the same as surprising your own children with a kitten for the whole family. The gift-giver should be involved in the decision and more importantly, fully prepared to take responsibility of the animal themselves! Success!

The holidays can be a great time for a pet to be introduced into the family. Many people spend the holidays at home, which gives new pets a chance to really settle in, bond with their new family, and iron out any issues, before the work and school routines start up again in the New Year.

Employee Spotlight



Help us welcome June Yang - the newest member of the Guelph Humane Society Family! June joins our team as the Adoption Program Coordinator and brings over a decade of experience working with animals. While the majority of her experience stems from working with exotic animals at zoos and wildlife rehabilitation centers (she LOVES birds of prey!), she is no stranger to humane society life! June was actually a Kennel Attendant at Guelph Humane Society while pursuing her undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph, and over the last two years has been slowly transitioning back into domestic animal rescue having worked at both the Brampton Animal Services, as well as the Oakville Milton Humane Society. June is thrilled to be back- and excited to help both adopters find their new furry family members, and help animals find their happy ending! She is the proud owner of two adopted orange tabby kitties (including a senior who has no teeth!), a rescue bearded dragon (who was found dumped in a park), and a chinchilla (who was taken from a pet store that was closing down). When asked about what she loves about Guelph, June says "I've always loved the vibrant community and have been looking for an excuse to

move back for years! When I saw the position with Guelph Humane Society, I didn't think twice about applying!"



Upcoming Events & Programs



**Guelph Humane Society
Open House!**
Sunday December 4th
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
500 Wellington St W,
Guelph

Join us for our Annual
Holiday Open House!
Learn more about all the
great things that your local
Humane Society is doing!



National Cupcake Day!
Monday, Feb 28th 2017

Get your sweet tooth ready for
this yummy event! You can
participate in many ways by
baking, spreading the word,
and indulging your taste buds!
Keep posted by joining our
Facebook and Twitter!

Guelph Humane Society
 @guelphhumane



Just for Kids!

This Fall, our Junior Humane Club has been learning all about the GHS and the animals we help!

If you know a child that loves animals, then they would love one of our upcoming programs!

- PA Day Camps on November 25th, January 27th, April 28th, June 9th
- Winter Session of Junior Humane Club (starting January 12, 2017)
- March Break Camp (March 13-17, 2017)

For more information on our programs, please check out Humane Education on our website or email Sarah at spawelko@guelphhumane.ca

Thank you to our Sponsors!



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