2013 Annual Report

Over a Century of Caring
Guelph Humane Society

Since 1893, the Guelph Humane Society has been providing care and shelter for homeless, stray and abused animals.

Each year the Guelph Humane Society cares for approximately 3,000 animals in need. We not only provide animal sheltering and adoption services, but we also provide regular veterinary care and have a progressive spay/neuter program in place.

We do not receive government funding for the services, existing solely on private funding and public donations. The Guelph Humane Society is a registered charitable organization.

With these charitable donations, the society delivers a comprehensive Humane Education Program to community schools, to youth groups and clubs, and at the shelter.

The Guelph Humane Society enforces the OSPCA Act investigating animal cruelty and care concerns in Guelph and Wellington County, and handles animal related bylaw enforcement and licensing services in the City of Guelph.

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Vision
A sustainable population of healthy animals supported by a community that cares.

Mission
Promote the welfare of all animals and prevent cruelty and suffering.

Purpose
To foster a sustainable community of healthy animals supported by a human community that cares for them, achieved with the highest possible value for the resources that we invest in the community.

Healthy Animals
Animals in our community are protected from cruelty and neglect. Animals in our community have their basic species-specific physical, emotional and behavioural needs met in a way that is appropriate to their diverse living situations.

Healthy Human-Animal Bond
Diverse relationships that develop between humans and animals in our community are mutually satisfying, nurturing, and healthy. Humans in our community possess and utilize knowledge to care adequately for the animals sharing our community. Our community benefits from sustainable and long-lasting human-animal relationships.

Healthy Civil Society
Our community is engaged and involved in the work that we do. Our community’s leaders advocate for changes in our civic structure that will support a sustainable community of healthy animals and provide safe spaces for human-animal interactions.
Message from the ED

We are in a period of change and growth as we look ahead to the day that we will be able to relocate and expand our level of service to both the animals we care for and the community we serve.

I am certain that for this kind of change to happen it will truly require a ‘village’ mentality for us to come together. You help every day when you are in our community promoting the good work that is happening at our shelter. That positive energy resonates and has a ripple effect. The more people who know about our work and our needs, the more the donations will flow in, providing us with the financial support to continue to grow and help more animals.

This past year I have observed a lot of animals entering our shelter that have required additional special medical attention. Many of these animals have not had regular veterinary care. We do everything we can to ensure that as guardians of these animals, we give them the best chance of being adopted. Some of our shelter animals need expensive surgeries. Duke’s Fund, a dedicated fund for special medical care of our shelter animals, is fully supported through community donations.

This year Duke’s Fund has been used for: severe skin conditions, ear infections, wounds, emaciated bodies, cherry eye surgery, surgery to remove kidney or bladder stones, major dental work, special tests including biopsies, orthopedics, and eye surgeries requiring a specialist.

I want to express my sincere thanks to our volunteers, including our Board, my staff and our supporters in this great community for continuing to show your passion for animal welfare and for the dedication you demonstrate to us each and every day.

Michelle Gellatly
Executive Director
mgellatly@guelphhumane.ca
Message from the Chair

The past year has certainly seen considerable change within our organization. The Society has made steady progress towards a number of important goals over the past year and has much to celebrate at our Annual General Meeting.

From the Board’s perspective, we are so very grateful for the leadership and direction of our Executive Director, Michelle Gellatly, and our continuing focus on improvements in animal care and client care.

The Board has been very busy over the past year evaluating the feasibility, sizing and priorities in considering a move to a new building. We have made steady progress and have evaluated a number of potential properties. We will remain committed to moving this forward over the coming months.

This past year has also seen the Society begin to address the large and controversial issue of cat overpopulation. Both through our work in the Guelph Cat Population Task Force and through our Capacity for Care initiative with Canadian Federation of Humane Societies we hope to see significant change in the community and within our shelter over time to make the lives of cats in our community much better.

I am personally grateful to the Directors and the staff, volunteers, and supporters of our Society for all their hard work, contributions, and inspiration over the past year. We can all celebrate the end of a very successful year!

Respectfully,

Shane Bateman
Chair of the Board
chair@guelphhumane.ca
2013: A Year in Review

Adoptions and Intake
In 2013, 216 dogs and 77 cats were reunited with their owner with an additional 193 dogs, 587 cats and 26 small animals adopted.

At the end of 2013, there were 182 animals in foster care (see page 19), 156 animals in satellite locations and 122 wildlife releases.

Adoptions are one of the shelter’s main revenue generation streams which supports the care of our animals. To better meet the needs of the community, an additional Adoptions Counselor is planned for 2014 and extended adoption hours during the week.

The Guelph Humane Society uses multiple locations to help house our overflowing cat population. They help us a great deal with our adoptive cats from wee kittens to adults. We wouldn’t be able to do it without them!

Our current satellite locations include: PetSmart Silvercreek, Pet Valu Silvercreek, Guelph Lake Veterinary Hospital, Downey Animal Hospital, Victoria Road Animal Hospital, Campus Estates Animal Hospital, Highway 24 Veterinary Clinic and Southgate Animal Hospital.

Volunteer Management
Volunteer hours: 9000
Volunteers: 295
Co-Op Student Placements: 32

Our volunteer program came under new leadership in 2013 and saw several changes to improve volunteer support, communication and recognition. (see page 18)

Youth Education
2013 stats represent January to July
Students Reached: 7962
Schools Visited: 42
Campers: 108

A new camp program and Junior Humane program is planned in 2014 under the care of the newly hired Education Coordinator.
Fundraising
OSPCA Annual Walk: Net $7,779.64
Walk ’n Whine Event: Net $16,193.80
Furball Gala: Net $18,954.29
A full list of 2013 donors is available on pages 10-15

In 2013, a full analysis of the shelter’s fundraising program was done. Gaps were identified in donor stewardship and donor recognition that need to be addressed to strengthen our community support and put us on solid financial ground into the future.

2014 Events
Just for Cats Film Festival: June 19, 2014 (Bookshelf Cinema)
Friends for Life Walk: September 21, 2014
Furball Gala: October 25, 2014
Comedy Night with Judy Croon: November 8, 2014

Shelter Revenue

Shelter Expenses
Community Outreach
Twitter followers: 1260
Facebook Daily Discussions: 52,297
Facebook Page Likes: 517,602
Website Visits: 4,252,932 (unique visitors: 123,743)

In 2014, a redesign of the Guelph Humane Society website is planned.

In 2013, the shelter connected with adoptive families at the Ren’s Christmas celebration.

We also partnered with the OSPCA to lead an education session with the Guelph Police Service on Animals for Research Act.

Shelter Management
In May of 2013, the shelter’s new Executive Director Michelle Gellatly was hired. A priority was placed on human resource management, including a restructure and a process to tie positions to the budget. People were aligned by areas associated with revenue generation, animal care or administration. (see page 16)

Staff have been given a new process for Performance Evaluations, feedback and goals, along with updated job descriptions.

What’s Coming Up In 2014
• Information Technology audit and upgrades
• Human Resources gaps identified in the areas of fundraising/fund development, event planning, and animal care management
• Three new contract positions planned for 2014: Animal Care Manager, Events Coordinator (Part time), Development Officer (Part time)
• Fundraising focus on revenue generation through grants/funding research and proposals
• New events planned for 2014 and 2015
• Donor stewardship and recognition program development
• Volunteer management program
Donors and Supporters

Thank you to the support of more than 1000 donors, the Guelph Humane Society helped nearly 4000 animals in 2013.

What an exciting time! As the Guelph Humane Society moves forward in this new era, the 121st year is abundant with passion and dedication to care for animals in need within the Guelph-Wellington region.

I see the love and the concern regularly in the eyes of the staff and amazing volunteers who have the opportunity to make a difference every single day to the animals entrusted in our care. I see the animals, hopeful for a second chance and the opportunity to find “their human”; every interaction could help someone fall in love. I see interested people, the potential pet parents, as they seek a connection with our willing fur friends and the possibility to change all of their lives.

And you, our kind-hearted donors, I see your gifts that are so very treasured and it is easy to see the impact you have at the shelter on a daily basis. Without your generosity, much of the work done here would be for naught. You make an incredible difference to the results that we are able to achieve.

But most of all, I see the trend towards an even better tomorrow. And this continues to fill me with hope that we will achieve the goals for our community... together. All of us at the Guelph Humane Society are deeply honoured by your support. Thank you!

Virginia Wesley
Development Officer
vwesley@guelphhumane.ca
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Gwen & Don Johnston  
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Valerie Koster  
Gennis Kotaba  
Glories Kovach  
Stan Kozak  
Eva Kratchvil  
The Krib Team  
Randy Krueger  
Lory Kuenzig  
Kunkel-Lemieux Corp  
George Kuzler  
Janice Lace  
John Edward & Kristin Laing  
Jordan Laird  
Pamela Lam  
John Lamont  
Marlisa Landoni  
Robert & Barbara Lane  
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Phil Laplante  
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Nancy Larkin  
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Lyne Lauzon  
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Robert Lawrence  
The Law Family  
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Grace Lecours  
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Lynn Lockhart  
Andrew Long  
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Robert & Jane Massey  
Joan Mathieu  
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<td>We sincerely apologize if we neglected to mention any of our donors. Please know we appreciate every donor and every donation, and let us know if we missed you.</td>
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Board of Directors

The Guelph Humane Society is supervised by a volunteer Board of Directors who represent the community served.

2013-2014 Board of Directors
Chair Shane Bateman
Vice-Chair Linda Murphy
Treasurer Linda Murphy (Jennifer Riddell understudy)
Secretary Linda Caston (Clare Wooding understudy)
Director Mike Bales
Director Gayleen Gray (resigned)
Director Janet Greenwood
Director Adrienne McBride
Director Heidi Pioveson
Director Les Sulzer

Finance Committee
Linda Murphy (chair)
Jennifer Riddell (incoming chair)
Heidi Pioveson
Shuvanan Islam

Governance, Policy & By-Law Committee
Adrienne McBride (chair)
Janet Greenwood
Les Sulzer
Clare Wooding
Linda Caston

Nominations/AGM Committee
Shane Bateman (chair)
Clare Wooding
Janet Greenwood
Linda Caston

Building Committee
Shane Bateman (chair)
Janet Greenwood
Mike Bales
Jennifer Riddell
Evelyn Neumann
Jane Londerville
Volunteer Spotlight

The Guelph Humane Society gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the 295 volunteers during the 2013 year.

Thanks to more than 9000 volunteer hours logged throughout the year, we were able to make 2013 one of the best years yet for our animals. The additional support over previous years helped us put a greater focus on enrichment. From dog massages, cat socialization, puppy puzzles, a Reiki Master and professional photographers, it has become more about the quality of time vs. the quantity of time.

New volunteer initiatives launched in 2013 include more social gatherings, a new training procedure focused on safety and free seminars by Emily Fisher of Scratch and Sniff Canine Services. A new volunteer website was also introduced to better inform volunteers about the animals in the shelter, upcoming events and stories about how their good work is making a difference in the community.

Our goal for 2014 is to further connect with the community. We will continue to invite different groups, businesses and members into our shelter to learn more about the work we do. We also plan to have volunteers visiting the senior centers, schools and daycares.

It is my privilege to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all the amazing individuals that dedicated their time and expertise in 2013! I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who have gone above and beyond our expectations. Here are some examples:

• Tammy Owen for the 347.5 hours of dog walking.
• Brenda Fitzgerald for the 10 years she has volunteered with our shelter.
• Laine Barker for arriving each morning in the sun, rain and snow walking dogs and snuggling cats.
• Chris Pomay for focusing on the dogs that need it the most with long distance trail walks
• Heather McGregor and Danielle Weinberg for their always smiling faces!
• Jill Dick who typically volunteers 30 hours each month offering our dogs individual calm energy they so need and deserve.
• Stuart Smith, our handyman for almost 10 years, helping keep our aging facility in one piece.
• Chloe and Kathryn Roberts for their contagious positive energy!
• Zsolt Dorner who is always eager to help in any way possible!
• Bob and Jamie Reinhold for assisting with the morning clean in our Cattery. With lots of patience and understanding this father/son duo takes the time needed to help our more shy cats come out of their shells and help them to trust people again.

Gwen Preece
Volunteer Coordinator
communityservices@guelphhumane.ca
Foster Care Program

In addition to 174 cats and kittens, the Guelph Humane Society fostered 5 guinea pigs, 1 parrot and 2 gerbils in 2013.

Fostering is a rewarding experience for both the animals and the volunteer alike. Over the years we’ve had many different foster families, from students who cannot make the commitment to a pet of their own, to families wanting their children to experience the joy and responsibility of raising kittens, to local veterinarians who fell in love with a kitten who came to their clinic.

This past year we must have had some irresistible felines because a number of cats and kittens didn’t come back from their foster homes – their foster parents couldn’t part ways and adopted them into their families.

Fostering not only keeps kittens that are young and susceptible to disease out of the shelter, it also helps to socialize them to a home environment. Many times the foster homes will have children, dogs and other cats helping expose these kittens to family life and making them easy to adopt into busy households.

In 2014, we are looking to expand our foster program to even more local homes. Foster homes are instrumental in helping the Guelph Humane Society save lives and provide a happy ending.
Financial highlights

The audited financial statements are consistent with the prior year. The audited financial statements for the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) are an essential tool that plays a significant role in the day-to-day operations of the organization. As a non-profit organization, GHS strives to further its mission in line with the resources generated throughout the year.

Preparation and continuous analysis of budgets and financial reports allows directors to have constant awareness of GHS's financial state. Review of the internal financial statements, comparison of results to budget and analysis of financial metrics are completed monthly by the Finance Committee. This committee is made up of the Treasurer, two Board members as well as an at large community member of the GHS.

Revenues
2013 $1,240,609 2012 $1,173,936 Increase of 5.7% over the prior year
Overall revenues are consistent with the prior year. The shelter’s focus this year was to generate additional funds by creating new fundraising events. The Walk ‘n Whine and the FurBall Gala were both very successful events and contributed to the 45% increase in fundraising income. Donations increased 26% over the prior year.

Expenses
2013 $1,195,241 2012 $1,147,764 Increase of 4.1% over the prior year
Overall expenses are also comparable with the prior year, showing an increase of 4% compared to 2012. The main increases relate to wages and benefits and veterinary fees. Wages and benefits increased by 6% over the prior year due to staff restructuring. Veterinary fees increased by 12% due to more animals needing care.

Excess of Expenses over Revenues
2013 $45,368 2012 $26,172
A surplus of $45,368 was realized during the year. All restricted fund balances increased. The following amounts were contributed to the reserve accounts:
- Duke’s Fund reserve $24,300
- Feline reserve $12,330
- Governance reserve $6,777
- Automobile reserve $15,000
- Equipment reserve $10,000

The budgeted financial position for GHS was at break even and due to the success of the new fundraising events, GHS surpassed this goal. The Finance Committee recognizes that the long term viability of the organization is dependent on ensuring budgets are created on a break even basis or with small surpluses. GHS continues to be a strong organization that is committed to meeting its goals in a cost efficient manner while being proactive in its fundraising endeavours.
**Duke’s Fund**

Duke’s Fund was established in 1995 to provide specialized veterinary care for shelter animals in need.

In July of last year, a young English Bulldog was brought into the shelter. He was a pitiful sight being severely emaciated (pictured right) and having two gaping open wounds on his back legs. He arrived weighing only 26 pounds.

He was immediately seen by a veterinarian, who diagnosed a prolapse of the third eye lid, called cherry eye, a yeast infection in both ears and a skin condition causing red irritated skin and hair loss over his chin, neck, four feet and inner hind legs. To top it off, he had skin fold pyoderma, which is a bacterial skin infection in his facial folds.

The vet clinic named their newest patient Tugboat Willy, and sent him back to the shelter with a weight gaining program, antibiotics, antihistamines, steroids, ear and eye ointment, cream for his wounds, and a hypoallergenic diet.

He was an incredibly affectionate, loving, playful boy who was known for rolling a big ball around the shelters outdoor play pen. After a month of care, he was at 36 pounds and his skin was much improved. He was strong enough to have his cherry eye surgery with an Ophthalmologist and was neutered.

All of his medical care was paid for out of Duke’s Fund, made possible by its many donors.

“Tuggy” was adopted by a family who absolutely adores him and has another bulldog for him to play with. His new family reports that he enjoys all types of outings with his bulldog sibling and couldn’t be happier.

The fund’s namesake, 6-year-old Duke, had been surrendered to the shelter suffering from a chronic respiratory problem that made it difficult for him to breathe. A costly surgical procedure was necessary to alleviate this condition and adopt him into a new home, .

Although Duke’s story had a happy ending, the Society must care for almost 3000 animals per year and many like Duke with special needs. Duke’s Funds helps give more animals the chance to live comfortably.
Milton Canine Pet Rescue

With the help of Milton Canine Pet Rescue, Punky the Shih-tzu sees his new home.

Punky, a nine year old neutered male Shih-tzu, was surrendered to GHS on August 22, 2013 because his owners were moving. He had originally been adopted from GHS at age one.

Punky was a sweet, calm, laid-back dog, friendly with everyone and had no bad habits. He quickly won the hearts of staff as he hung out in Shelley’s office during the day, perfectly behaved and greeting everyone with a tail wag. He passed his SAFER test with flying colours making him a strong candidate for adoption.

Unfortunately, Punky had multiple and serious medical issues that needed to be addressed first. He had dental disease and mouth sores so severe that a veterinarian put him on antibiotics immediately. He had limited vision in one eye due to a mature cataract, with a cataract forming in the other eye as well and suspicions of beginning glaucoma. Punky was also suffering from obesity which added another layer of difficulty to his care.

Caring for complex cases like Punky is expensive. In some cases we consider partnering with reputable and approved rescues who have the ability to focus efforts on dogs like Punky. When possible, we try to make our Duke’s Fund go as far as possible, however sometimes transfer to a rescue group can be a better option.

Enter Milton Canine Rescue, a small, all-volunteer rescue group based in Milton that takes in very few dogs, but specializes in special needs cases.

Punky had the good fortune that the rescue had a spot available and was willing to take him in. On September 19, two rescue volunteers came to GHS to pick Punky up and take him to his foster home where he quickly settled in and charmed his foster family.

By September 27, Punky’s vetting was complete. He had a dental cleaning with multiple extractions and cataract surgery. A high-quality lens imported from Germany was implanted to restore the vision in his bad eye. As the rescue reported, “Once everything is done I think he will be the first $3000 dog for our wee rescue, but we are happy to do it. That is what rescue is for!”

Punky was put up for adoption by the rescue and within a few short months, was with a loving forever home.