

# Guelph Humane Society News

HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.

November 2017 – 5<sup>th</sup> Edition



## Ducks & Horses & Lambs, oh my!

**DID YOU KNOW** so far in 2017 the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) has helped....

-  **26 Chickens**
-  **14 Pigeons**
-  **12 Horses**
-  **8 Ducks**
-  **8 Cattle**
-  **3 Turkeys**
-  **1 Lamb, and**
-  **1 Partridge**

...in addition to the multitude of companion animals and wildlife that GHS provides aid to on a daily basis!

In the Spring of 2017, GHS assisted with the rescue and rehoming of **eight miniature horses and a Holstein cow** that were underweight and in need of medical care and hoof treatment. Of course, we cannot properly house large farm animals, so we arranged for them to be looked after at a local farm. While they recovered from their ordeal, these animals' true personalities began to shine, and the individuals caring for them totally fell in love. As soon as they could, they adopted the whole group! *"They have all returned to healthy weights and are trusting us a little more each day," say the adopters. "What a great addition to our family!"*

This year, GHS has also cared for **26 domestic chickens**. Chickens arrive at GHS as strays, but also when owners are no longer able to care for them. One special group of chickens came to us in need of convalescing. Luckily, **Oriel Line Microsanctuary** stepped up to help foster these 'girls'! Being in a loving foster family worked its magic – not only did the chickens have a quick return to health, but they also found a loving forever home with the foster family. This is a great example of how we are using foster homes to help more animals find their happy tail...even if it is a feathered tail!

A **little lamb, now named Anna**, came into the care of GHS after the Wellington OPP found her along Highway 401 in Puslinch! Anna was just 3 days old when she was found, and needed to be regularly bottle-fed. Anna spent a few days being cared for by one of our dedicated staff, following her caregiver around and bleating when she was out of sight. She quickly became a GHS staff and volunteer favourite! We were able to find a loving home for her that could manage a young lamb's special needs...and that happened to have another

rescued lamb for her to bond with. Anna and her new sister, Elsa, love life on the farm together!

This summer, GHS received a call about **four baby ducklings** that needed help. These ducklings were very small when they arrived, just 10 days old. We set them up in our puppy playpen with a pool and other enrichment while we searched for an ideal home. **Happy Tails Farm Sanctuary** happened to have recently taken in a large group of ducklings of the same breed and age, so they offered sanctuary to our ducklings. They happily joined their new flock and new loving home.



# TAILS FROM THE ROAD



**Megan Swan** has been an Animal Protection Officer (APO) with GHS for over six years, including four years as an Agent for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA). Megan writes:

A great part of my job is, of course, the animals. I get immense fulfillment in rescuing them from perilous situations. From dogs running at large, to cats that have been injured in collisions with cars, to reuniting stray pets with their owners, APOs are kept very busy ensuring that the animals in our community are protected and cared for. While my work as an APO typically involves companion animals, I also work a great deal with wildlife, and even livestock! Housing livestock at our shelter can present some challenges, and when we get a call late in the evening for a stray lamb wandering the road alone, we have to get creative! Such was the case one evening earlier this year, when I brought home a **lamb (see Anna's story on page 1)** that I had rescued that night. There wasn't an appropriate space at GHS to house a lamb, so I decided to bring her to my home for the night. The lamb was very interested in exploring her new surroundings, and wanted nothing more than to follow my spouse around the house and sleep on our couch!



Aside from my many duties and responsibilities as an APO, I also investigate cases of **animal cruelty and neglect** throughout Wellington County as an OSPCA Agent with GHS. The investigations I conduct are often a result of information that I receive from community members who have contacted GHS to report cases where they are concerned that animals are suffering from improper care or abuse. One of my most memorable cases involved executing a warrant for what was believed to be four cats in distress and living in deplorable conditions. Once I arrived at the dwelling, which was approximately 800 square feet, I discovered that there were far more cats than originally reported. The air quality was extremely poor due to the urine, feces, vomit, and refuse, so I needed to wear full biosecurity gear and a respirator. I located cats throughout the dwelling, including those hiding in the couches, closets, walls, and within

box springs of beds. I removed a total of 18 cats that day. We were very fortunate to find an offsite location that invited us with open arms to use their building as a temporary shelter, as I hadn't expected to remove that many animals and it would have been a challenge to find space for all of them at GHS. A veterinarian examined each cat, and the incredible staff at GHS ensured that they received the much-needed care they required. After witnessing the neglect that these cats had once experienced, it was tremendously heart-warming to see them be adopted into loving homes!



Working as an APO and as an OSPCA Agent can be very difficult at times, but also very rewarding. As a charitable organization with limited resources, I am proud of the significant impact that we make in our community. If it weren't for the caring staff and volunteers at GHS, in partnership with those in our community who support us, I would not be able to help all of these animals in need. My experiences prove to me that it takes more than one animal welfare organization to make a difference... it takes a **community who cares!**

## DID YOU KNOW...

*The Guelph Humane Society employs six APO, available to help animals in need 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!*



# HELP US BUILD OUR NEW HOME



GHS is thrilled to announce we have **a new location to call home at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd**, a 2.7-acre parcel of land in the Hanlon Creek Business Park (just west of the Hanlon Expressway near Laird Road).

GHS is excited about the opportunities this new location will provide for the future of the organization, the community, and the animals. The land meets many of our needs, including ample room for current services, the ability to expand programming and animal housing, and close proximity to walking trails. The goal for our new home is to provide high quality animal sheltering with consideration to enhancing animal health, minimizing animal stress, ensuring species-specific needs are met, and providing an improved experience for visitors interacting with our animals.



For over 45 years, GHS has resided at 500 Wellington Street West on city-owned land shared with Guelph's wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater infrastructure is scheduled to expand in the near future to address Guelph's growing population, and this includes the city reclaiming our current property. The existing building does not allow for modern animal sheltering practices or expanded service offerings, so GHS is excited for this opportunity to evolve, and we are keen to build a new facility that the community will be proud of.

"The goal of the new shelter is to create a community facility that reflects our core humane values, augments our existing programs, and provides room to expand our capacity to help more people and animals each year," said Adrienne McBride, Executive Director.

With the new location secured, GHS is eager to move forward in earnest with the planning and design phase of the project, as well as to expand our fundraising efforts. GHS relies solely on the generous support of the community, and we will need donations to make this project a success. Anyone interested in learning more about the project is encouraged to contact **Rosemary Taylor, Campaign Director** at [rtaylor@guelphhumane.ca](mailto:rtaylor@guelphhumane.ca).

GHS is very thankful for the support and guidance that the City of Guelph has offered throughout this process, and looks forward to continuing to work together as the project moves into the planning and design phase.



## HOLIDAY WISHLIST



With the holiday season coming up, the Guelph Humane Society is in need of some special items!

-  Heating pads (no auto shut off) and hot water bottles
-  Royal Canin Cat, Kitten, and Dog food (dry and wet)
-  "Pet Safe" road and sidewalk salt
-  Household items: laundry detergent, toilet paper, Kleenex, dish soap, paper towels, rubber gloves, etc.
-  Space heaters
-  Slip-leads & EasyWalk Dog Harnesses (assorted sizes)
-  Gift cards from any pet store, hardware store, grocery store, big-box store, or gas station
-  Small-animal toys (for rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.)
-  Non-clumping, unscented cat litter
-  Small animal water bottles
-  Martin's Brand small-animal food and timothy hay
-  PetAg Kitten Milk Replacer (powder)
-  Kitchen scales (to weigh tiny kittens in foster-care!)
-  Knitted or fleece cat blankets



# WILDLIFE SEASON WRAP-UP



2017 has been our busiest wildlife year yet! As of October 31, we have taken in **1616 wild animals** that needed the care and compassion of our dedicated team. Along with the animals we've brought in, we have freed wildlife trapped in dumpsters and window-wells, helped countless members of the community who called in with questions about wildlife, and taught lots of children and youth about the wildlife in our community on our school visits and at our camps. We ensure continuing staff training on the care of wild animals, and learn more with each animal that comes into our care.



The wildlife we took in ranged from newborn baby mice to squirrels and voles, great blue herons and massive snapping turtles to raccoons, skunks, and even owls. Some animals arrived to us orphaned, while others were injured and sick. We even reunited some young wildlife with their mothers after they were accidentally separated by well-meaning and concerned members of the public.

We helped at least two at-risk species – a Least Bittern (a type of bird) and many snapping turtles during egg-laying season. Other memorable visitors included a 15-year-old Canada goose (who we learned about through her leg-band), a pair of Harrier Hawk chicks, and a long-tailed duck!

We are fortunate to work with 13 different **licensed rehabilitators** throughout the year. Our dedicated volunteers helped us transport wildlife to safe havens as far away as a 2-hour drive. We wouldn't be able to do this important work helping local wildlife without the support of the wildlife rehabilitators, our team of volunteer wildlife drivers, and our incredibly caring community!



## 'PAW' PROGRAM – MONTHLY GIVING

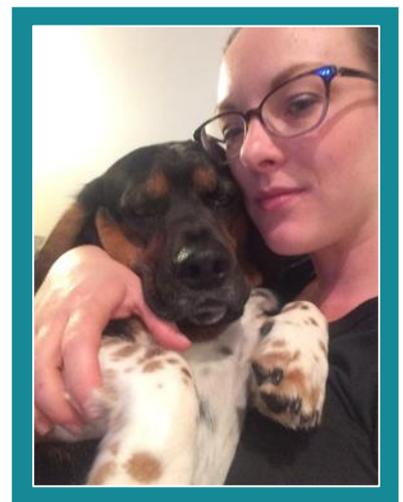


### Why Give Monthly?

If you're like most people, by December you're thinking about which charities you'll support and how much you'll give before the charitable receipt end-of-year deadline. Instead of having one more thing to do during the very busy holiday season and at a time when you're trying to stretch that dollar, why not consider monthly giving and feel the joy of making a difference year-round?

An easy way to support GHS is by becoming a monthly donor through our **PAW Program** (pre-authorized withdrawal). Monthly giving provides a consistent source of funding that allows us to better plan future initiatives – and it helps you budget as well! You may think even \$20 a month doesn't seem like much, but it adds up to be a very impactful annual donation. And you can always make additional donations at any time.

*Emma Noakes, a new PAW Program monthly donor, says "Since I can't take them all home with me, this is the next best thing I can do to help."*



Monthly giving is simple, and you don't have to worry about forgetting to give back to your community. Even **small donations add up** and make a difference. You choose the amount you feel comfortable with and where you want to designate your contributions. GHS will issue an annual charitable tax receipt at the beginning of January each year reflecting your previous year's monthly donations. As a monthly donor you can feel proud of your loyal commitment to the Guelph Humane Society.



# PETS AS GIFTS - THE RIGHT WAY!



It's the holiday dream! It's Christmas morning, and you and your loved ones are sitting around the Christmas tree. You lovingly hand over a box and out pops the cutest little fluff ball! Your loved one squeals with delight, and you just know that they will be best friends forever! Or...so you hope! While research from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) shows that pets given as gifts are less likely to be surrendered to shelters, there is still a **“right way” to give the gift of furry love**. This pet will be a commitment long after the holiday season is over – is your loved one prepared for that?

So...what can you do if you're considering getting a loved one a furry friend this holiday season? Here are a few suggestions on how to “gift” a pet, with minimal risk and lots of reward:



Consider giving an **Adoption Gift Certificate!** Guelph Humane Society has Adoption Gift Certificates for dogs, cats, and small animals! Each package includes information into the care of the animal so your loved one can do the research and prepare. When they're ready to pick a pet of their choosing, you pay the adoption fee. Call us or email [adoptions@guelphhumane.ca](mailto:adoptions@guelphhumane.ca) to learn more about our Adoption Gift Certificates.



Consider giving something to **contribute to the care** of the animal. Getting the pet is the easy part, but it's the time, veterinary bills, training classes, food and accessories that can add up quickly. Consider gift certificates for services (e.g., dog training classes, pet sitting services, etc.) or a basket of all the items a new pet-owner needs (e.g., litter box, food and water dish, leash or collar) to help make it easier!



Make sure all the **adults are on-board** before surprising children with a fluff-ball. If Santa knows a child's only wish is for a kitten under the tree, then make sure all the adults in the home (who will ultimately be responsible for the pet's care) tell Santa it's okay!

Interested in giving the gift of love, commitment and endless fur this holiday season? Come visit our available animals today – our team can offer lots of helpful advice!



## MICROCHIP CLINIC



GHS knows that a missing pet can be a stressful situation, and when pets don't have any identification it can be even more worrisome. A great form of **permanent identification** is a microchip, a small chip about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under the skin. When a lost pet is found, animal shelters and veterinary clinics can scan the pet (using radio frequency identification technology), bringing up a unique number that is matched in a database to an owner's contact information.

While having a microchip greatly increases the likelihood of a missing pet being reunited with their owner, an important part of this permanent identification is to always keep your contact information and any of your pet's information up to date with the company your microchip is registered with.



This past October, the Guelph Humane Society hosted our **very first Microchip Clinic**. The clinic was a huge success, with a total of 60 pets (39 dogs, 21 cats) getting a microchip for permanent identification. This will help them to return home quickly and safely should they ever become lost!

Because of the success of our first Microchip Clinic, GHS aims to host more clinics in the future. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for further dates!



# HALEY



Haley came in to the shelter as a stray in May. When she arrived, she had very overgrown nails, a matted coat, and was underweight. Haley was in need of grooming, and even more in need of some TLC! Though Haley is a senior, around 12 years old, her sweet and active personality had everyone falling in love with her.

After seeing a veterinarian, it was discovered that Haley had a heart murmur, needed a special diet to keep her kidneys healthy, and also had a stubborn ear infection to be treated. Haley also had to have dental surgery while in our care to have eight teeth removed.



*Haley in her new home with her new "Beau"*

Haley was placed in a loving foster home with one of our GHS staff. What was supposed to be a temporary stay became a forever home in this **Foster Win**, when they decided to adopt Hayley and make her a permanent part of their family! Haley now lives happily with her human and animal family, and especially loves Golden Retriever Beau. *"You can always find Haley curled up sleeping with Beau,"* said Jessica, Haley's new mom. *"It's been nice seeing her come out her shell and become comfortable in our home. She's calm, house trained, and loves getting attention. The great thing about adopting a senior dog is that they don't have the puppy energy."*

Jessica now advocates for everyone to consider giving a home to a **senior dog**, especially if you are looking for the perfect laid-back companion. If you are interested in adopting a senior dog, or a dog with medical or behavioral needs, contact us about our "Special Souls Adoption Program" that helps find the Happy Tails for these special needs animals.

Here at GHS, we love hearing your **Happy Tails** and getting updates on the furry friends we've met throughout the year! Visit our website at [www.guelphhumane.ca/adopt/happy-tails/](http://www.guelphhumane.ca/adopt/happy-tails/) to submit your story today.



## LOST AND FOUND PETS



The Guelph Humane Society has a continuously developing **Lost & Found** program. While our return-to-owner rate is higher than the national average, we still want to get more pets home – faster! In addition to searching lost reports for missing pets and posting on various websites, we have launched a new Facebook page just for stray animals in our care. GHS Found Pets is an open Facebook page where we post the stray animals coming into our shelter. For every stray that comes through our doors, we post a photo along with the animal's description and where the animal was found. Our hope is that by

posting publicly, we can get more lost animals back home.

Visit [www.facebook.com/GHSfoundpets](http://www.facebook.com/GHSfoundpets) to learn more!

Our team keeps the posts on GHS Found Pets updated, letting the community know when stray animals are reunited with their owner, or made available for adoption if no owner comes forward. Many Facebook pages allow pet owners to communicate about missing and found pets, and GHS Found Pets is a perfect place to check regularly to see if your missing pet has made its way into our care.



### TIPS IF YOU LOSE A PET

-  Call or email GHS as soon as you realize your pet is missing to file a lost report. Use our new online reporting tool: <http://guelphhumane.ca/services/lost-found/>
-  Give as detailed a description as possible in all posters, Facebook posts and reports – always include a picture!
-  Keep your microchip information up-to-date.
-  Actively search for your pet in the area it went missing.



# DUKE'S FUND



The fund's namesake, a 6-year-old pug, **Duke**, was surrendered to GHS suffering from a chronic respiratory problem that made it difficult for him to breathe. In order to alleviate this condition and adopt him into a new home, a costly surgical procedure was necessary. A group of dedicated staff and volunteers got together to raise funds for Duke, and Duke's Fund was born!

Today, **Duke's Fund** continues to give animals that require costly medical treatment their own happy tail. Here are some examples of who benefited from Duke's fund recently:



**Merlot**, affectionately named by staff for her reddish colour, is a beautiful Doberman who arrived as a stray. She was found wandering, scared and confused, on Fife Road in Guelph early one morning in October. It was clear from an initial assessment of Merlot that she had not received veterinary care in a long time. She had infected eyes, extremely overgrown nails, lumps in various places on her body, extremely poor dental health, and was underweight. It also appeared that Merlot had several litters of puppies in her life. We may never know much about Merlot's past, but we are committed to ensuring she has a bright future. With help from Duke's Fund, Merlot is having much-needed dental surgery for her overgrown and inflamed gums, is having all of her potentially dangerous lumps removed, including those internally on her spleen and liver, having her eyes treated, and getting spayed. Merlot's wonderful personality is coming through with every day in our care – the better she feels, the happier

she is! We can't wait for Merlot's happy tail...stay tuned!

A lot of words could be used to describe **Porter**, a young brown and white tabby cat. He is sweet, handsome, smart and affectionate, but that which describes him best is trouper. Porter was found injured and wandering at the Toronto Flying Club in Mount Forest. He was immediately taken to a vet upon coming into our care, as he was suffering from a painful leg and hip injury. Vet assessment revealed that Porter had likely been hit by a car a few days earlier, and needed surgery right away. With the help of Duke's Fund, Porter received femoral head ostectomy, a procedure that removes part of the damaged femur to alleviate pain from the shattered bone. Once surgery was completed, Porter was off to a foster home to recover and get much-needed intensive physiotherapy to regain his strength. Porter also required subsequent dental surgery, as he had suffered some broken teeth. Porter is on his way to a full recovery now, and has Duke's Fund donors to thank for that. We can't wait for Porter's happy tail!



See more Duke's Fund recipients, like below, by visiting:

<http://guelphhumane.ca/get-involved/dukes-fund/>





# PET SAFETY TIP



A volunteer at GHS recently arrived home from work to find her 1.5-year-old boxer-mix dog had tragically passed away. He found an open bag of chips, looked inside for leftovers and was suffocated by it. What an unimaginable tragedy for this family! Let's prevent it ...

Most people are not aware of the suffocation hazard that chip bags pose to pets. Many chip bags are made from a strong mylar-like material that can be deadly to our pets. Once the dog puts his head into the bag, the bag creates a vacuum-like seal around his neck. As he tries to breathe, the bag tightens around his neck, cutting off the oxygen. Dogs can and do die within minutes.

Please store chip bags (and treat bags, food bags, cereal bags, cracker bags, etc.) safely away from your dog's reach. Cut or tear up all bags after use!

For additional information and resources, please visit [www.preventpetsuffocation.com](http://www.preventpetsuffocation.com) and spread the word.



# NEW WEBSITE



I helped kids learn about being a responsible pet owner at one of the Guelph Humane Society's programs.

Discover more about what we do:  
[guelphhumane.ca](http://guelphhumane.ca)

Well-being • Lost & Found • Adoption  
Education • Wildlife • Protection

Have you checked out our new website? Visit the new [www.guelphhumane.ca](http://www.guelphhumane.ca) to learn more about us, share your happy tails, find a new pet, learn more information about our services, report a lost animal, and enjoy plenty of other resources - all on our new mobile-friendly, easy to navigate website!

Don't forget to follow us on social media to learn more about what is happening every day at GHS - from wish list items to our favourite pets available for adoption, you won't want to miss out on all the fun! Join us on Facebook and Twitter!



# HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



**GUELPH HUMANE SOCIETY** HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.

**Join us!**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
SUNDAY  
**DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**1PM - 4PM**  
500 Wellington St W, Guelph

Tis the season to celebrate with your local Humane Society! We would love for you to join us for our annual **Holiday Open House**. Come and learn about all the great things that your local shelter does; our staff love to brag! There will be tours, demonstrations, interactive displays and, of course, festive treats and refreshments. We will have fun for the whole family and we hope to see you there! You can find all the details on our website at [www.guelphhumane.ca](http://www.guelphhumane.ca).

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