



# Spring 2018

## GUELPH HUMANE SOCIETY NEWS – 6th Edition

### Oh Deer, It's Wildlife Season!

That time of year is fast approaching! Every spring, the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) gets hundreds of calls regarding baby wildlife. By following a few simple guidelines, we can help ensure that baby wildlife are not being unintentionally kidnapped or distressed by our well-meaning actions.

#### How do you know if it needs help?

- Is the baby cold or lethargic (slow moving, not very bright or alert)?
- Is there blood or wounds?
- Are there flies, maggots or fleas on the animal?
- Has the animal been in the mouth of a cat or a dog?

#### Ok, I have a baby animal in distress. What can I do to help?

- Keep it somewhere secure that's warm and dark, and call the GHS.
- As tempting as it is, don't handle or cuddle the baby! The fear and stress from being handled can make their recovery that much more difficult.
- Never offer food or water (or cow's milk!). If the animal is dehydrated, cold or injured it is unable to digest anything properly and being fed or given water can cause it to bloat, constipate or even die.

**The Guelph Humane Society is here to help and encourages anyone with concerns about a wild animal to call the shelter or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator!**



#### Some animals may seem like they need help, but they're OK!

- Deer leave their fawns alone all day to prevent predators from finding them, coming back to their hiding place at dusk. It is ok for a fawn to be left alone all day!
- Fledgling birds are often brought in because it looks concerning that they can't fly or that they fell out of the nest. Hopping about on the ground is a perfectly normal stage for them. The parents continue to care for them while they're on the ground and are likely nearby!
- Rabbits only visit their babies twice a day, so there's no need to be concerned if you don't see the mom around too often! Baby rabbits are independent and able to leave the nest at only 3 weeks of age. They're still quite small and look like they still need mom, but they're ok on their own!

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Our staff will be receiving the Animal Welfare Leadership and Innovation Award for our wildlife initiatives at the 2018 National Animal Welfare Conference in Calgary, Alberta this spring! Read more about it on [page 6](#)!

**HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.**

*"Have you ever thought of the wellbeing of most creatures? Well, the GHS helps kids show empathy for wildlife in their community. It also teaches them how to care for their pets and understand that animals have rights too. I love the GHS because you get to interact with different species that you may not get to see on a regular basis. I think becoming a responsible pet owner is important for years to come. I don't know how you could live with yourself knowing that these poor creatures are suffering because people did not have the knowledge to care for them. Help the future of animals forever and go to [www.guelphhumane.ca/education](http://www.guelphhumane.ca/education) to sign up for a once in a life time experience!"*



– Sophia, 11 years old

## Summer Critter Camp



Does your child love animals? Is your child interested in getting involved with the Guelph Humane Society (GHS)?

The GHS offers **Summer Critter Camp** for children entering grades one to eight. Camp will be running weekly from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Like all of our programs at the GHS, Critter Camp will involve animal interaction time, animal crafts, games and activities!

Our Critter Camp teaches children the fundamentals of responsible pet ownership for a variety of species by including animal care and enrichment in the daily camp schedule! Each week features an off-site field trip and a guest speaker. Many campers register for multiple weeks to spend as much time with the animals as possible. Camp is hosted at the GHS, which means spaces are limited, and spots fill up fast. Register online now to reserve your spot!

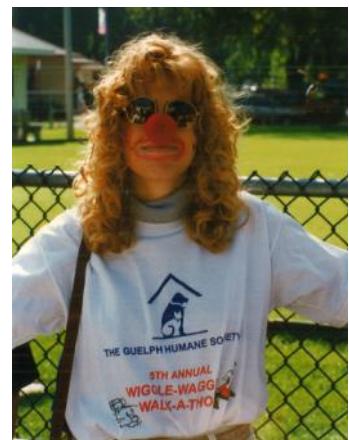
For more information check out our education website at [www.guelphhumane.ca/education](http://www.guelphhumane.ca/education) or call the shelter at 519-824-3091.

## Employee Spotlight

This year, the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) is happy to be celebrating the hard work and dedication of our Canine Care Manager, **Shelley**, who has been with the GHS for 30 years!

Beginning as an animal care attendant, with numerous other roles in between, Shelley worked her way up to Canine Care Manager, which she has been doing this role for over 15 years. She maintains being an integral component to the GHS team, and her vast knowledge and compassion for the dogs is demonstrated every day!

Not only is Shelley the source of an abundance of knowledge about our four-legged friends, she is a ray of sunshine around the GHS. She is always available to help staff, volunteers and the public with enthusiasm and a smile. Anyone who has had the pleasure to interact with Shelley can tell you what a joy she is to be around. Thank you for all the amazing work you do, the GHS is lucky to have such a dedicated employee!

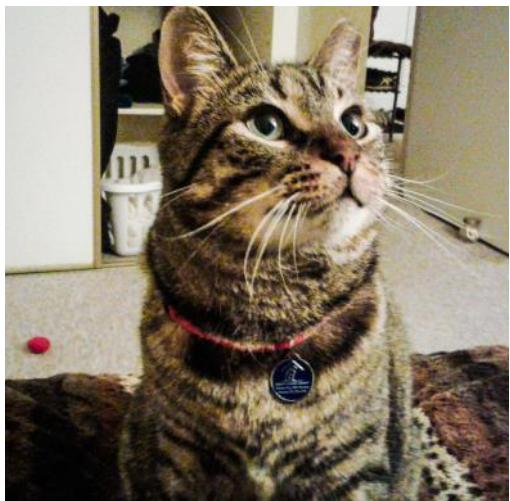


Shelley 1997 at GHS's 5th annual Wiggle-Waggle Walk-a-thon

# Identifying Cats in Guelph

Beginning January 2018, the City of Guelph introduced mandatory cat licensing for all cats in the City of Guelph. Cat licensing has many benefits, and here at the Guelph Humane Society (GHS), we are hopeful that licensing will make a positive impact on cats lives.

Until this point, the cost of animal control in the City of Guelph was largely on the shoulders of dog owners, who were required to purchase mandatory licenses. However, many of the stray animals brought into the GHS are in fact cats. **In 2017, 753 stray cats were brought into the GHS** compared to 493 stray dogs.



There was also a large discrepancy in return to owner rates between the two species. At the Guelph Humane Society close to 85% of dogs brought into the shelter were returned to their owners and approximately only **19% of cats were claimed**. Cat licensing and visible identification on cats should have a positive impact on this return to owner rate and act as a safeguard for pets that get lost.

When discussing cat licensing, owners often state that their cat is an indoor only animal. If you keep your cat strictly indoors, that is great! We highly encourage owners to keep cats indoors for their own safety, and the safety of birds and other wildlife in the community. However, we currently have 167 lost reports for cats, many of which are indoor-only animals that sneak out. **Only 8 of the cats reported lost were wearing collars.**

Even if you keep your animals indoors it is important to identify them in case they manage to escape so they can be returned home safely.

The City of Guelph is using **\$5 from every \$25 cat license towards a cat welfare program**, and when you purchase a license, **you receive a \$25 voucher at Ren's Pet Depot for each pet licensed**. When you can donate to cat welfare, keep your cat safe, and buy some new food, toys, or treats in the process, there's no reason to not license today!

## Pet Safety Tip!

When travelling with your dog, it is important to ensure both your safety, and their's!

### Prep your pet for the trip!

- Not every pet loves car rides! Try to get them used to the car with a few short trips with lots of rewards and positive praise.

### Use a secure, safe, appropriate carrier.

- It is always a good idea to keep your pet in a crate or carrier during travel. This crate should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in.
- Do not let your pet ride in the front seat. They should remain in the back seat with a harness attached to the seat buckle.

For more tips for ensuring a safe trip, visit [ASPCA](#) or [CatHealthy](#) websites!



HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.

Fostering animals is a great way to help those in need by offering your home and time while the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) covers the supplies required to care for the pet. The GHS currently has over **100 active foster families!**

Some of our foster parents help dogs with behavior struggles by working with them through positive, touch-free training methods. Others help cats who are under socialized, hissing and swatting when humans approach; these fosters help socialize the cat and teach it that humans are friendly and mean no harm. Very ambitious foster parents help orphaned kittens that can be as young as a couple days old. These fosters have to feed the kittens every three hours, including throughout the night! Fostering animals can be a lot of work and it takes a lot of dedication. In addition to cats and dogs, small animals like bunnies and rats get to enjoy foster homes as well. GHS is very grateful for every one of our foster families, without them we would not be able to help as many animals as we do!

If you are interested in learning more about our foster program, visit <http://guelphhumane.ca/get-involved/foster/>



## Fostering

### A Check-In With George!

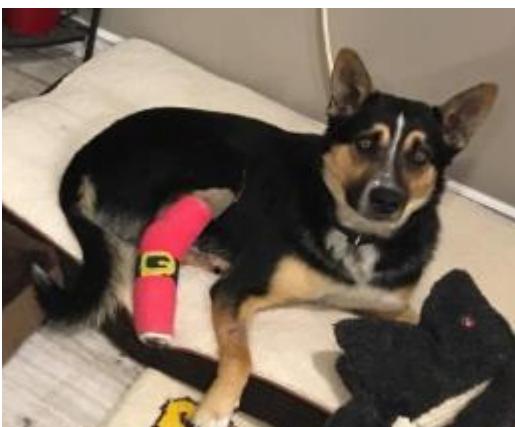
Remember George, from the Gorge?

This handsome boy had a fall down Elora Gorge late December 2017. Thanks to the quick action of the eyewitnesses, the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) was contacted, and our Animal Protection Officer responded along with the Centre Wellington OPP and the Fire Department high-angle rescue team. During a harrowing rescue, the friendly shepherd mix was secured to a basket stretcher, slowly pulled from the bottom of the Gorge, and was immediately taken to a veterinary clinic by our Animal Protection Officer

From the fall, George sustained multiple injuries, needing extensive surgery to repair his severely injured leg. Thanks to donors to our **Duke's Fund**, George was able to receive orthopedic surgery needed to repair his ankle joint!



December 2017– following orthopedic surgery



January 2018– happily recovering in his foster home

Since his surgery, George has been recovering in foster care. His current foster family has been responsible for George's medications, veterinary check-ups, and frequent bandage checks. His foster family, along with his new furry friend, have been helping him with his recovery! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of his foster family, George will have a smooth recovery after a few more weeks in foster. We all look forward to hearing George's happy tail, and his recovery process! Stay tuned to GHS social media and adoption pages for further updates about George! Follow #ghsgeorgeinthegorge for more updates.

# Small Animal, Big Responsibility

Before getting a new pet, it is very important to consider if you and your home are suitable for the pet you are interested in adopting. Small animals like bunnies, guinea pigs and rats can be mistaken for “easy” or “low maintenance” pets. No pet is a small responsibility, and being prepared to provide a high quality of care for your furry friend will keep everyone happy.

## Housing

- Use a solid bottom cage for housing. Wire bottom cages can hurt little paws.
- Ferrets, rats and chinchillas enjoy multiple level cages, so they have more room for activities. It is important to make sure ramps or ladders are used appropriately for different animals.
- Choosing the right bedding can avoid any health issues that may be caused by sub-optimal bedding. Wood shavings, like pine or cedar, may be an irritant to your pet and can cause respiratory problems. Bedding made from wood pulp or shredded paper is safer to use
- Even though they are small, all creatures need their own space. If you are housing small animals together, ensure the animals are properly introduced and that there is enough space for everyone to get along.
- Toys, hidey houses and other housing accessories can keep your pet from getting bored. In addition to toys to keep your pet busy, you should spend time with them every day.
- Always make sure that your animals are spayed or neutered if you are housing them together.



## Preventative Care

- Just like humans, proper dental care is needed to keep your pet comfortable and healthy. Overgrown or damaged teeth can be painful, and it is important to get a veterinarian to examine your pet's mouth to make sure they do not have any dental issues.
- You should also check and trim your pet's nails regularly. Long nails are prone to breaking, or damage that will make your furry friend uncomfortable.
- Handling your pets with care will keep them feeling safe and can prevent injury. Bunnies have very strong legs and can injure themselves if they are not held properly.

## Diet

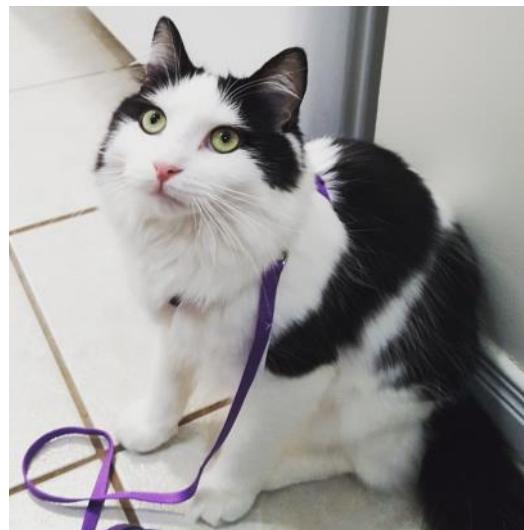
- Bunnies should have access to unlimited hay. They should also be given fresh veggies and pellets daily.
- Treats that are good for some small animals, may not be suitable for others. It is important to be aware of what may be harmful to your pet.
- Most small animals have teeth that grow continuously. Twigs or wooden blocks that have not been chemically treated will help keep your pets' teeth from becoming overgrown. They are also fun for your pet to play with!

Ensuring that you are able to meet an animal's needs before you bring them home will set you up for success. Being informed can help you avoid any surprises, keeping you and your pet happy. If you are adopting an animal because you think they are a good “starter pet”, you may want to consider getting more information before you make the decision to adopt. All pets need your affection and attention, as well as an enriching environment to keep them entertained and active, regardless of size!

# Keeping Our Felines Safe!

With warm weather on the horizon we're all looking forward to long days spent out in the sun! Many cat owners feel guilty about keeping their cats indoors when the weather's nice but not only is it much safer for fluffy (and local wildlife!) it's also really easy to keep your cats happy indoors!

Your cat faces a lot of risks when being allowed to free roam outside. These include being hit by vehicles, being attacked by wild or other domestic animals, being exposed to poisons and toxins, being injured by cruel humans or being picked up and kept by well-meaning individuals, who mistake your cat for a stray. Your cat can also have quite the impact on local wildlife, severely affecting the local songbird and small mammal population. You wouldn't let your dog outside unsupervised, and your kitty deserves the same level of safety!



The Guelph Humane Society (GHS) is partnered with [Cats and Birds](#), an initiative that wants to keep both your kitty and local wildlife safe! Not only does keeping your cat indoors keep them safe, but indoor cats live, on average, 5 years longer than cats allowed free access to the outdoors. And more time with your cat is always a win!

So how can you make sure your kitty is happy and healthy without giving them free access to the wilds? Getting your cat used to a leash and harness will allow you to take them on supervised walks and allow them to spend time outside without the risks. A catio is also a great way to let your cat spend time outdoors without you and still be kept safe!



There's also a lot of options to keep them happy and healthy indoors! Cat trees, cat shelves and window-hammocks are lots of fun for cats who enjoy being up high! Adding vertical space to a room is easy and gives your cat new spaces to explore. Switching up their toys on a regular basis is an easy way to keep things new and fresh for your kitty as well, and taking the time every day to play with them is important! There are lots of [feeding puzzles](#) you can make to keep your cat entertained and make them work for their dinner. Check out the Cats and Birds website for tons of amazing resources.

[http://catsandbirds.ca/research\\_cat/resource/](http://catsandbirds.ca/research_cat/resource/)

## GHS Goes to Alberta!

The fantastic work of the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) has now gained national attention, with representatives from the GHS' Wildlife Committee being selected to present at the [Canadian Federation of Humane Societies \(CFHS\)](#) National Animal Welfare Conference in April 2018!



The presentation entitled "[How a 'Domestic' Animal Shelter Can Help Save Wild Lives](#)" - will hopefully inspire other animal shelters across Canada to have a more active role in helping the native wildlife in their community. They will also be receiving the 2018 [Animal Welfare Leadership and Innovation Award](#), which will be presented at the CFHS conference. For more information on the CFHS Conference, please visit <https://conference.cfhs.ca/>.



Ginger came to the Guelph Humane Society in September 2017. She spent time in a foster home, as she was a little scared in the shelter! Her supportive foster family worked on some behavioral issues to show just how sweet Ginger can be! Ginger was adopted in February 2018 to have her very own happy tail!

We were happy to get an update from Ginger's new family:

*"She is doing very well, she's very very happy, goes on lots of walks and hops through the snow like a bunny. She went to Pet Valu and picked out her own collar (carried it around the store with her) she loves my family, they are always buying her new toys to play with!"*



## Ginger's Tail

### Meet Meep!



Meep came to the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) in February, 2017. She was only 7 months old but had a large mass on her cheek that was inflamed and painful. Upon assessment it was suspected that it was cancerous. Thanks to [Duke's Fund](#) she was able to undergo the surgery to remove the mass. She remained a champ through her treatment, always extremely friendly and social!

Unfortunately, within a few weeks another mass appeared on her face and began to grow rapidly. This one was in a place that made it impossible to operate on. She was still happy so she was placed in foster care with a staff member to have the best life possible, even if it was for only a few weeks.

Everyone was shocked when the mass not only stopped growing, but began to shrink! It's now almost completely gone and she's been adopted by her foster! She remains a spunky, sweet and affectionate girl that loves to snuggle!

## Spring Wishlist

With both Wildlife and Kitten Seasons coming up, the Guelph Humane Society will be in need of some particular items! We greatly appreciate any donations received that help us care for the animals in our community!

- Snuggle Safe Pet Bed
- Unflavored Pedialyte
- Small-Medium Plastic Terrariums
- Gift cards from any pet store, hardware store, grocery store, big-box store, or gas station
- PetAg Kitten Milk Replacer (powder)
- Martin's Brand small-animal food and timothy hay

### NEW for 2018!

The Guelph Humane Society now has an Amazon Wishlist, for those special, hard to find items!

To view our Amazon Wishlist visit : <https://goo.gl/kzMwBQ>

OR go to [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca), along the top right hand corner hover over "Wish list" and click on "Find a Wish list". In the emails field, enter [adoptions@guelphhumane.ca](mailto:adoptions@guelphhumane.ca)

HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.

# GUELPH HUMANE SOCIETY NEWS – 6th Edition

## Celebrating 125 Years!

For 125 years, the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) has been dedicated to protecting and caring for the many animals with whom we share our community and our lives, and to fostering the important bonds with animals that enrich us as individuals, families and communities. The GHS provides care and shelter for approximately 3,000 homeless, stray, injured, orphaned, abandoned and abused animals each year, throughout Guelph and Wellington County.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Guelph Humane Society began as a dual service, also protecting and advocating for children.

Founded in 1893, the GHS was created as a voice for the animals in our community. The GHS was implemented to support the prevention of cruelty and the protection of children and animals. The GHS created water fountains in the downtown area to provide water for horses, cats and dogs. In 1929, the GHS had their first animal shelter- a temporary facility on Waterloo Ave. to house and support local animals in need.



*"This photograph shows inspector Len Shaw with the Humane Society's first ambulance, a van purchased in 1948 to carry out animal control duties for the City of Guelph."*

The GHS officially began providing animal control services in 1948, and opened their second, permanent animal shelter, on the same Waterloo Ave. property.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Guelph Humane Society's first animal shelter building was on Waterloo Ave. in 1929.

The current shelter building has been located at 500 Wellington Street West in Guelph, Ontario for almost 50 years. The need for a new facility has become increasingly apparent over the last several years. Current sheltering practices, together with our community's increasing animal population, have caused us to outgrow the physical capacities of our current facility, necessitating satellite locations and a network of foster care. The state of the Wellington Street building itself makes for an environment that is out of step with best practices in animal sheltering, substandard conditions for staff, volunteers and visitors and limitations to us providing the important community outreach activities that are essential to fulfilling our mission. Learn more about our exciting building project at [guelphhumane.ca](http://guelphhumane.ca)



*2017 – Four members of the Guelph Humane Society's Animal Protection team outside the current vehicle*

**HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.**