

The Paw Press

2019 Spring Edition



Spring has sprung...and we are expecting over 400 babies!

Spring is a busy time for the Guelph Humane Society, as it's the time of year we see the most baby animals needing our help. We expect over 400 baby rabbits and kittens to come into our care during the spring and summer months!

The spring and summer is our "high season" where most animals are having their litters. This number has increased specifically for bunnies, which has been an interesting phenomenon at GHS. From the 2017 high season to 2018 high season, we saw a 22% increase in the intake of small animals, like baby rabbits. This increase prompted a change for us! We are excited to share that we now spay and neuter all bunnies prior to adoption!

Why did we start spaying/neutering adoptable bunnies?

Rabbits can become pregnant at just 6 weeks old! Also, a rabbit's gestation period is only one-month long. Litters can be as big as 3-12 babies, called kits. Further, bunnies can



Bunny mom and her babies, Spring 2019.



immediately become pregnant again after giving birth! Spay/neutering bunnies is so important, let's do the math: A 6-week old rabbit gets pregnant, in 4 weeks has a litter of 10 kits, and she could potentially do this 12 times during the year... that's potentially 120 bunnies who will need homes!



GHS reminds those looking to adopt adorable bunnies that they are a long-term commitment that can live up to 10 years old! Rabbits require vet care, love, and a large space to move around freely (not be kept in a cage for long periods of time). You can even train your bunny to do tricks!

Questions? Ask our Small Animal Care Team! See all our adoptable rabbits at guelphhumane.ca/adopt/available-animals/ or call 519-824-3091 for more information.

Donors make our rabbit spay/neuter program possible!

Spring cleaning...be wildlife-wise!

Cleaning up your outdoor property this spring? Here are a few things to keep in mind when cleaning.*

- 1) Trimming trees** – Watch for birds nests.
- 2) Clearing brush** – Be careful as some wild animals may have a camouflaged nest in there.
- 3) Mowing your lawn** – Walk around your property first, as bunnies dig shallow divets to have their babies.
- 4) Repairing holes and other parts of your home** – Squirrels, racoons and other wild animals could be looking for a safe and cozy spot to den.
- 5) Clean-up garbage around your neighbourhood** – Wild animals can get stuck and really hurt themselves or get ill from certain garbage, it's best to dispose of it properly.
- 6) Check and clean your BBQ before firing it up** – Some wildlife make homes in there during the winter.

ALWAYS call GHS at 519-824-3091 if you see a wild animal you believe is in distress. Learn more about our wildlife program at guelphhumane.ca.

*Reference: <https://spca.bc.ca/news/stay-wildlife-wise-spring-cleaning/>



Estate Donor Feature: Richard Goy's Story

GHS is grateful to receive estate gifts by being named in Wills. One such donor was the late Richard Earl Goy (Rick). Rick was a lifelong resident of Guelph, and his love for animals began early with a childhood beagle named Skippy.

Rick was tragically injured in a car accident that left him a quadriplegic as a young man. After many years of recovery, Rick returned to school and graduated from the University of Guelph with Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Economics. He had a successful career at the University of Guelph. Rick's caring spirit and resilience led to his involvement in a number of initiatives advocating for the people with disabilities.

Rick's beloved hound, Dori, brought joy to his life. They would go for daily walks in the park system and along the Speed River pathways near his home – Rick in his electric wheelchair and Dori by his side. Dori loved to jump up and sit on Rick's lap. She was an irreplaceable member of the family who helped Rick deal with the frustrations of his quadriplegic life. Her mischievous and intuitive nature was a perfect addition to Rick's life.



Rick and Dori

Barbara, Rick's personal attendant for 14 years, describes their relationship: "Dori was the love of his life. His face would light up when she jumped up on his lap. She would grab his hand and move it for hug because he couldn't move his hands on his own. Dori helped Rick love life even considering the pain and discomfort associated with his disabilities." Dori died three years ago at age 12 of liver cancer - in the comfort of Rick's lap, where she was happiest.

The bond Rick and Dori shared is a perfect example of how much pets offer to people's lives. GHS was very honoured that Rick chose to pay tribute to his special relationship with Dori by including an estate gift of \$25,000 to GHS. We are so thankful for this generous gift.

To learn more about GHS's legacy giving program, Legacy 1893, go to guelphhumane.ca or call 519-824-3091.

Upcoming Events

MAY

Royal City Brew Party - On Saturday May 25, 3pm-7pm, Royal City Brewing Co. is celebrating the launch of their Lemon Thyme Stock Ale! \$0.50 from every can purchased will be donated to the Guelph Humane Society.

JUNE

GHS Garage Sale - June 22 hosted at *The Guelph Curling Club* (816 Woolwich St, Guelph) We are excited to bring back this event!

NOTE - We do not have space to store all your gently used items, so we will not be accepting items at 500 Wellington St. W. We will only be receiving items at the Guelph Curling Club on specific days and times. (These are to be announced soon!)

JULY

Ren's Tent Sale - July 12-15

Greenbriar Garden Party - July 21, 2pm to 4pm at 92 Speedvale Ave W. Drop-in with family and friends! Hosted by Patricia Ing, in support of our new building.

Did you know? Online at CanadaHelps.ca you can set-up a fundraising event in support of our animals? Find out more by emailing give@guelphhumane.ca

WAYS TO GIVE to vulnerable animals:

- 1) **Donate** online at guelphhumane.ca
- 2) **Call** 519-824-3091
- 3) **Join** the Super Paws Club and donate monthly!



Kittens soon to be looking for a loving family.



The Natural Way to feed your

LAWN & GARDEN

Order online with code **CFGHS19** and **\$10 goes to GHS!**

Order a BigYellowBag with our code and

SAVE \$5

*** \$10 of every order will be donated to our organization ***