

The Paw Press

2020 Spring Edition

GHS COVID-19 Update Edition

Working together to stay
HEALTHY as a community.



Continuing to help vulnerable animals during COVID-19

How does one operate a humane society in a pandemic?

It is a question we never thought we would ask ourselves, and yet here we are eight weeks into the COVID-19 outbreak, and Guelph Humane Society is doing just that. As Nelson Mandela once said, *it always seems impossible until it is done*. Throughout this issue of the Paw Press, you will read the ways COVID-19 has impacted us and the animals we care for, but also the ways our organization have risen to this unprecedented challenge in uncertain times.

The team at GHS knew from the moment the pandemic was announced, vulnerable animals would still need our care – kittens would still be born, wildlife would still get injured, animals would have medical emergencies – a pandemic would not stop that. We also knew that our community would still need our vital services – women fleeing domestic violence would need a safe place for their pets, those being hospitalized unexpectedly would need emergency boarding for their pets, and those facing the economic hardship created by COVID-19 would need pet supplies, like food and litter.

Although our facility remains closed to the public, our team of resilient staff have found ways to keep going. We were excited to launch virtual, contactless adoptions in mid-April and have been amazed with the number of pets that have found loving homes this way. We remain hopeful that we will be able to run our Summer Critter Camp program, after having to cancel all our humane education programs this Spring. Our volunteers, who miss coming to walk dogs and cuddle cats, have found other wonderful ways to help GHS, like hand-delivering our Annual Reports (saving us hundreds of dollars on postage) and driving injured and orphaned wildlife to our

authorized rehabilitation partners across southern Ontario. Donors have continued to be generous despite the uncertainty, ensuring our lifesaving work does not stop. Without these dedicated and selfless acts, animals in our community would not be receiving the care they so desperately need. **Together but apart, we are getting through this.**

2019 Wildlife Photo Contest Winner!



Louis de Jong won the 1st annual GHS Wildlife Photo Contest last October. We are proud to showcase this beautiful image of a long-eared owl (above). The photo contest supported GHS's award-winning wildlife program. Stay tuned later this year for our 2020 Wildlife Photo Contest. Get your cameras ready!

Our 105 cats, surrendered from one household, are now thriving

On January 22 this year, 105 cats from one home came into our care after the owner surrendered them. Our whole team stepped up in order to help these cats. It was an incredible day of teamwork and saving lives, as we helped these cats start their new journey. It was only possible thanks to incredible support of foster volunteers and donors. Thank you!

The cats were immediately given wellness checks, which included vaccinations, parasite control, and microchipping. All of the cats have been spayed/neutered and have spent time in foster homes getting ready for adoption. Several cats required extra medical care, since many had eye issues requiring eye drops, and a few received necessary much needed surgeries.

Our fosters have done incredible work, patience was key with these cats, as they were shy and unsure of their



Top: Roxy looking beautiful in her new home.

Bottom: Roxy cuddling with her new brother Bucky.

surroundings – it was a dramatic change from their past life. Our fosters gave them a safe and comfortable space to get used to this new way of life.

We are pleased to announce that so far we have adopted out 41 of these 105 into loving homes. We are also grateful for our friends at Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society, Hamilton-Burlington SPCA and Humane Society London & Middlesex who helped us by taking on the care of 27 of these cats.

“When Roxy (was Splenda) came into our home she was so nervous and was not used to being handled or touched. Now, Roxy purrs every time when she sees us, she sits on our lap and let’s us pet her—we are still working on being able to pick her up. She loves being around people and telling her stories very loudly and in full paragraphs! This busy lady’s favourite game is to play go fetch and will run everywhere. When it’s time to sleep she loves getting under the covers with me or will go to her brother, Bucky’s, bed to have a snuggle. Roxy is fitting in so well and our family would not be the same without her!”

– Sandy, Roxy’s mom.

Did you find a baby rabbit? Do not assume it has been abandoned

This is our busiest time of year for our Wildlife Team here at GHS. We have been proudly assisting wildlife in Guelph and Wellington County for over 4 years. Our award-winning program helped over 1,700 wild animals in our community in 2019. **We’ve helped over 70 wild rabbits during COVID-19 alone.**

Typical calls we receive around this time of year are about injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife babies. One of the most common calls we get are for baby Eastern Cottontail rabbits.

Ontario is home to five species of rabbits and hares, but if you’re in southern Ontario you’re most likely to encounter the Eastern Cottontail. Eastern Cottontails can have 3-4 litters of babies, called kits, every year! Their nests are shallow indentations in the ground, covered in grasses and tufts of the mother’s fur. They are often out in the open and are commonly found in lawns and gardens.

It is important to remember that it is normal for their moms to be absent throughout the day. Rabbits are most active at dusk and dawn, which is when they are likely to return to the nest. **Rabbit moms only need to feed their kits for a few minutes each day**, usually once early in the morning and at once at night. It only takes her 5 minutes!

Even during COVID-19 we are here to help all wild animals in our community. If you have an animal emergency please call 519-824-3091.



A rabbit’s nest with babies resting.

If you find baby rabbits outside, don’t assume the mom has abandoned them, as this is usually not the case. The mom will likely be back later to tend to her babies.

What to do if you find a rabbit’s nest?

Rabbits are very sensitive to human smell, please do not move or touch them.

If you are worried the babies may be abandoned:

- Using gloves, you can place two strings in an “X” shape over the nest.
- Check back in the morning to see if the nest has been disturbed
- If the string has not been moved, please call the Guelph Humane Society at 519-824-3091.
- Any young that still have their eyes closed found outside of the nest require help.
- If your cat or dog has found the nest and disturbed it the babies may require help.



Baby Eastern Cottontail rabbit.

Spencer's weight loss journey

 **Donate today!**

Meet handsome Spencer, a 6-year-old Golden Retriever who arrived at GHS in January 2020. Poor Spencer came to us severely overweight. Upon his arrival he weighed 176 lbs!

Because of his excess weight, Spencer was experiencing constant pain. His joints were so sore and caused him immense discomfort. When he arrived at GHS, he could only walk a few feet before collapsing.

Thanks to generous Duke's Fund donors, Spencer's life is changing for the better. He is on medication to help manage his pain and is currently on a weight-loss program. Before COVID-19, he was also receiving specialized weight loss care from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), including hydrotherapy (underwater treadmill).

Spencer is loving his time with his loving foster family. They are diligently helping him reach his goal of losing 100lbs. He's walking much further before getting tired, playing with toys and treat puzzles, and is able to get in and out of the car with more ease.

Spencer has lost over 22 lbs since coming to us in January! Keep it up Spencer you're doing great!

"Spencer is doing great! He's a smart boy and loves to do treat puzzles. He's highly food motivated too—if you can believe it! He loves to fetch, play tug-of-war or play with any toy with a squeaky sound. Spencer must love water... he has a thing for knocking over his water bowl and loved the underwater treadmill! Overall, he's a gentle guy who just loves being around people. This lovely gentleman is going to make his new family so happy!"

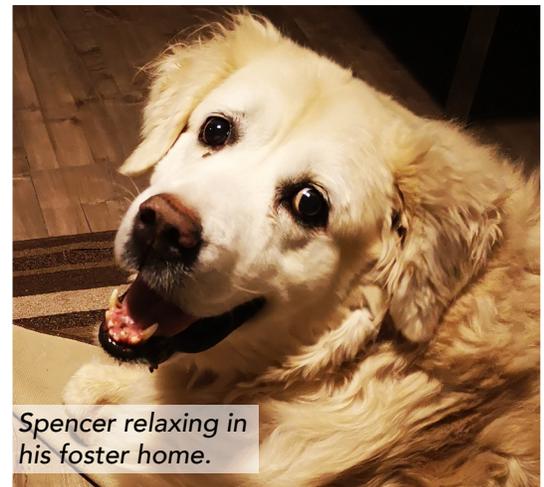
– Rose, Spencer's foster mom.



Make a gift to Duke's Fund today to help Spencer and so many other animals like him!



Spencer playing with his toys!



Spencer relaxing in his foster home.



Summer Critter Camp registration is now open.

Register today at guelphhumane.ca

Contactless adoptions for cats and small animals NOW AVAILABLE!

Learn more about our virtual, contactless adoption process at guelphhumane.ca



Reese and KitKat, Jake, and Mittens were all adopted through our new contactless adoption process during COVID-19.

Is your whole family prepared in an emergency?

During uncertain times, it is important to plan ahead for your entire family, including your furry family members.

Our friends at [DocuPet](#) and [BCSPCA](#) have provided in depth lists for you to refer to when planning for your pet in the case of an emergency, a summary can be found here:

- Food and water for 2-4 weeks
- Medications and medical records (include vaccination records)
- Carriers or crates for each pet
- Extra supplies such as litter for cats, treats, toys, hay for small animals, and waste bags for dogs
- Towels and Blankets
- Record of microchip or tattoo and license
- Emergency pet first aid kit

Visit our dedicated [COVID-19 updates](#) page at [guelphhumane.ca](#).

Vienna, Jesse, Ghost would want to ask their new families to include them in their emergency plan!



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Don't miss out on animal stories, updates on our new building, news, events, and so much more!

Click the link at the top of our homepage at [guelphhumane.ca](#)



We are re-evaluating our events for 2020!

Due to COVID-19, and for the unforeseeable future, all of our Spring education programming and Spring events have been cancelled. **We will continue to provide updates on the GHS Garage Sale postponed date and our There's No Place Like Home Gala date is still scheduled for November 7, 2020.**

Stay tuned for a collaboration with Royal City Brewery again this year!

We thank you for your continued support and since we can't be together, please consider a donation to support the animals at [guelphhumane.ca](#).

Stay up to date on GHS COVID-19 news online at [guelphhumane.ca](#)



Unleashing Hope New Building Capital Campaign UPDATE

Work at the new building site has been on hold since April 3rd when the provincial government expanded workplace closures.

The good news is that the building is sealed and the site is secured. Our contractor, Devlan Construction, has been an incredible partner to work with throughout this whole project. Before the pandemic hit, we were on schedule for completion by early November 2020.

We remain hopeful that construction will be completed by the end of the year. We continue to work closely with our construction team, despite the work stoppage.



PetSmart Charities generously presented a \$75,000 cheque towards our new home. Cara and Reese (now adopted) came to celebrate and say thank you as well!

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