



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



*Willow (formerly Storm),
adopted in March 2020.*

A message from our LEADERSHIP...

2020 was a year like no other. We started our year with 105 cats (learn more on [page 4](#)) and wrapped up our year dreaming of the upcoming move to our brand-new facility at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. We did all this while facing the challenges of an unprecedented global pandemic. We adapted, reinvented, went virtual and continued to grow, all while never losing sight of what really mattered – rescuing as many animals as we could, and helping the people who love them. 2020 was not the year we expected, but nonetheless, it was another inspiring and successful year – filled with saving many animals' lives, like Jack (formerly Oliver) featured on [page 5](#).

The Guelph Humane Society was overwhelmed by community support during this unprecedented year. We felt the support that all essential workers needed. **Our Animal Service Officers continued to work in the field, and our animal care team continued to come to work every day, while most of the world stayed home and stayed safe.** We are so grateful to our dedicated and brave team of staff, who helped make 2020 a successful year despite the challenges we all faced. We are also grateful for our volunteer foster homes that rallied around our organization to make sure we could continue to care for as many animals as needed us. Learn more about how we utilized foster homes in 2020 on [page 8](#).

Our sincerest **thank you** goes out to our community partners, donors, sponsors and volunteers. We can only celebrate our achievements because of your generosity of time, money and support. I look forward to welcoming you at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. as soon as it is safe to do so. We cannot wait to share our new space with the community - our hallways and rooms once again bustling with adoptions, volunteers, birthday parties, camps and visitors – the way it is supposed to be.

Adrienne McBride
Executive Director



In the face of so many challenges this past year, we have learned to be grateful for so many things. As an organization, we are so incredibly grateful that construction of our new **community animal centre** was able to proceed with minimal disruptions, and that our community has stepped up in such significant and meaningful ways to support our work and our capital campaign. In the darkest days of the past year, we continued **unleashing hope** for a better future for animal welfare in Guelph and Wellington County. And now we have moved into our new facility and the future is hopeful indeed!

This milestone in our history would not have been possible without the dedication of so many people in our community, and within our organization. From our donors, our construction team, to our amazing staff and volunteers, there is truly a legion of people to thank. You have as individuals, and as a collective force, made a longstanding dream come true. You have allowed our organization to begin a new chapter and to dream what at times seemed like an impossible dream. Your trust in us, in our dream of a better future for animals in our community, is humbling. Our entire organization is committed to using our new space to serve the community far into the future. Your belief and trust in what we can accomplish together is precious to us. There is a bright future ahead. The hope that we have unleashed in this project is a bright light that will lead us and guide us forward.

We can't wait for the day not too far away, when it is safe to open our doors again and celebrate this monumental achievement with you. Until then, stay safe, be well, and celebrate in quiet ways with us.

Dr. Shane Bateman
Chair, Board of Directors





*Domino,
adopted in 2020.*

2020 Board of Directors

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VISION:
GHS envisions a world where all animals are treated humanely, with respect and compassion.

MISSION:
GHS advocates for all animals, and in particular those animals whose lives we can influence, through care, education, community support, protection, and leadership.



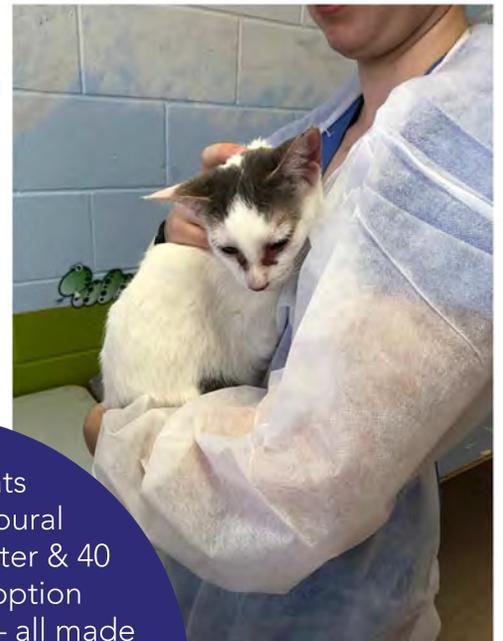


105 CATS surrendered was a busy start to 2020

On January 22, 2020, 105 cats were surrendered into the care of GHS. The 105 cats came from one home, and it was "all-hands-on-deck" to ensure ALL of the cats were rescued and received immediate and necessary care.

GHS appealed to the community for assistance immediately after the cats were surrendered, and we were overwhelmed by the community's support and donations. Together, the community raised **over \$30,000 in 72 hours** and the generosity kept pouring in over the following days and weeks.

Twenty-seven of the cats were transferred to nearby humane societies. The rest remained at GHS, and **by fall, all of the cats had been adopted.**



75 of these cats received behavioural support while in foster & 40 received post-adoption behavioural support – all made possible because of a generous grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada!

*Jack,
adopted in 2020.*



DUKE'S FUND provides extensive medical care for the animals who need it most



JACK (formerly Oliver)

Jack needed emergency lifesaving surgery after being hit by a car. One of his legs was damaged so badly by the impact, there was no way to repair it. Since he was still so young, the veterinary team agreed the best option for a hopeful future was amputation.

Thanks to our generous Duke's Fund donors and a local veterinary partner, Jack received the second chance he so deserved.

And it didn't take long for this boisterous pup to recover; proof of just how resilient animals can be when presented with adversity.

After staying in a loving foster home for a month, Jack was adopted by the perfect family, who had been wanting to adopt a dog for a while! Jack's #HappyTail was made possible by our Duke's Fund donors.

DUKE'S FUND

was established in 1995 to help a 6-year-old pug named Duke, who desperately needed lifesaving surgery. Duke's Fund continues to provide emergency and specialized medical care to pets in need.

In 2020, over **\$38,000** was spent from Duke's Fund to save the lives of 25 animals.

COVID-19'S IMPACT on GHS

In March 2020, the world was forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 17, **GHS closed its doors to the public**, and they remained closed for the rest of the year. Humane Societies were deemed **essential** by the province, which allowed us to continue to do the important work of caring for the vulnerable animals in our community.

Our Animal Services team still responded to animal emergencies, 24/7. And while the majority of animals in our care were put in foster homes (see **page 8** for more on fosters), our Animal Care team was always on-site to look after the animals still in shelter.

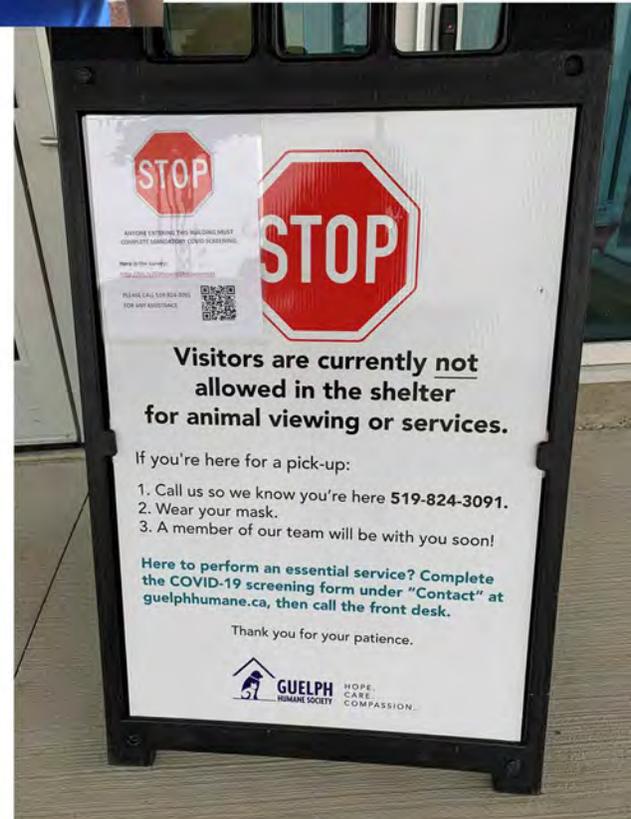
What was cancelled?

- all volunteer shifts (see more on **page 8**)
- all in-person events, including camps and our annual fundraising gala
- public donation drop-offs were cancelled during lockdowns, and confined to only Saturdays at all other times

ADOPTIONS:

The adoption process was put on hold at the start of the pandemic, but within a month a new "contactless adoption" process was created.

Contactless adoptions, which include a virtual meet-and-greet with the pet a family is interested in adopting, have been very successful - with **more than 700 animals adopted** via the virtual process!



Lost pets reunited with owners



86%
(146 dogs)



21%
(67 cats)



Working together to stay **HEALTHY** as a community.



Adoption and intake numbers were down roughly 30% compared to 2019. And where fundraising revenues dried up, our community found other ways to support the animals in our care. Take a look at some of the 2020 vs. 2019 numbers.

2019	2020
1,088 animals adopted	761 animals adopted (down 30%)
Took in 1,696 animals - excluding wildlife	Took in 1,217 animals - excluding wildlife (down 28%)
145 animals transferred to GHS from other humane societies	125 animals transferred to GHS from other humane societies (96 cats, 18 dogs, 11 rats)
Money raised during Giving Tuesday: \$4,710	Money raised during Giving Tuesday: \$13,267
Money raised from annual calendar contest: \$8,500	Money raised from annual calendar contest: \$17,663



GHS received top honours from Guelph Mercury Tribune readers as the "diamond winner" of two categories: **Best Animal Rescue & Best Pet Adoption Services**

FUR-EVER GRATEFUL

to our volunteers

Since our building at 500 Wellington was so small, the best way to follow public health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic was to keep as few animals at the shelter as possible. GHS relied heavily on our amazing fosters throughout 2020. In fact, we went from having roughly 100 fosters in 2019 to **150 fosters in 2020!**

While we couldn't have volunteers help us out in the building, there were several crucial volunteer positions that continued throughout the year. This included fosters, wildlife drivers, companion animal chauffeurs, the newly created role of "donation receivers" to help handle our new COVID donation system, as well as adoption assistant volunteers who have been responding to adoption inquiries virtually from home.



275 GHS volunteers logged over 2,400 hours in 2020

However, that **does not** include "foster hours," as the amount of time and commitment that goes into fostering is hard to quantify. Some of those fosters who helped during the pandemic include:

- Theresa Daly, who fostered 20 cats (6 adults, 14 kittens)
- Karen Luft, who fostered 19 kittens
- Linda Caston, who fostered 15 cats (4 adults, 11 kittens)
- Bronwyn Moore, who fostered 15 cats (4 adults, 11 kittens)
- Cherise Johnson, who fostered 15 cats (7 adults, 8 kittens)
- Cheryl Weidner, who fostered 14 kittens
- Alyssa Ziffle, who fostered 13 cats (2 adults, 1 senior, 10 kittens)
- Elizabeth Higgins, who became a foster in June 2020 and helped with 10 cats (a mama and her 9 kittens)
- Kearney Coupland, who became a foster in April 2020 and helped with 5 dogs
- Hannah Harrison, who fostered 4 dogs and 2 cats



A special thanks to foster Charlotte Palmer who fostered **Jesse** the beagle from April 2020 until he was adopted in November! **Jesse**, now called Snoopy, waited over a year for his **#HappyTail!**



SPAY/NEUTER low-cost program first of its kind



Thanks to a generous grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada, GHS was able to offer a series of low-cost spay/neuter clinics in the City of Guelph, Guelph/Eramosa, and Centre Wellington Township - a first of its kind in our community, where previously there has been very limited low-cost spay/neuter options.

GHS partnered with the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) on this innovative program, which provided **151 pets with a low-cost spay or neuter between November 2019 and October 2020.**

The low-cost spay/neuter clinics were strategically targeted in order to have the most impact in our community. Specifically: **barn cats** (whose owners recognize the overpopulation problem, but cannot afford multiple spay/neuter surgeries) and **Community Veterinary Outreach clients** (Community Veterinary Outreach helps to provide veterinary care for pets whose owners are disadvantaged or are vulnerably housed).

The GHS low-cost spay/neuter program has ended, however this is a much-needed service for our community, and we continue to look for opportunities to fund and expand this program in the future.



"We are so thankful for the clinic, as we believe strongly in supporting the spay and neutering of cats. We came across a local barn that was overrun with barn cats – a well meaning start to barn cats must have gone out of control quickly. We have been able to bring many barn cats to this program, and, as a result, will have prevented further overpopulation problems that couldn't have been stopped without the funding from PetSmart to allow this to happen."

– Spay/Neuter Clinic Participant

THANKS

for your help



Donors save **thousands of animals** each year, just like Limburger - found alone on the streets at just two months old. Limburger was brought to GHS and adopted in December 2020.

SUPER PAWS CLUB FOR MONTHLY DONORS

SUPER PAWS
members help
save more
animals!

\$25/month = provides food
and supplies for TWO cats for a
full week



\$100/month = provides food
and supplies for FOUR dogs for
a full week



Did you know that the Guolph Humane Society receives **no government funding?**

GIIS is only able to do the work we do because of the generosity of donors and community partners.

Thanks to our donors, we are able to help vulnerable animals receive preventative healthcare, surgeries, and the love they need while they wait for their #HappyTails.

NEW BUILDING FACT:

Did you know that our capacity to care for cats has **doubled** in our new home? And our capacity to care for dogs has increased by **125%**!

HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.

Made possible by our generous donors (continued next page)

Gifts \$10,000+

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Kim Lang
Wellington Laboratories Inc

Gifts \$5,000+

Ann Guthrie
Joan Robinson
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Grants

CanFel Foundation - Spay & Neuter Program
 The Guelph Community Foundation -
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 The Guelph Community Foundation - Kids to
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 PetSmart Charities of Canada - Kitten
 Collaboration
 PetSmart Charities of Canada - Helping More
 Dogs Successfully Find Homes

Estate Gifts

Estate of Cora Stephenson
 Estate of Doreen Constance Hammond
 Estate of Emmy Elizabeth Honegger
 Estate of Lori Suzanne Anderson
 Estate of Patricia Ronald
 Estate of Raymond Frederick Post
 Estate of Scott Beemer
 Estate of Susan Jessica Carlyle

Check out the
 generous donors
 who gave gifts
 specifically to our new
 building on **page 15**

DONORS OF THE FUTURE

We could never leave out our smallest supporters! Leading up to the 2020 Christmas holidays, the animals at GHS were shown extra love from children in our community.



Calum and his grade 6 classmates at King George Public School made 30 snuffle mats for the cats at GHS, so the cats would have "something fun to do over the holidays".



A generous neighbour gave Koen \$50 to use to "help others", and Koen decided to donate his money to help the animals at GHS.



Millie made \$168 selling muffins and came by in December to drop it off to help the animals.

COYOTES AND ROOSTERS

and birds, oh my!

GHS received frequent calls over the summer with concerned reports of wild foxes and coyotes with hair loss, looking unkempt and weak, and frequently spotted in urban areas or near people's homes.

Typically, these animals are suffering from sarcoptic **mange**, a skin disease caused by a tiny mite. Affected animals experience intense itching, resulting in hair loss and eventually scabbed, rough skin. This disease also causes an animal to become weak over time, thus hindering their ability to hunt. With the help of Coyote Watch Canada, GHS has facilitated trapping and sending wild canids with mange to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

The young coyote in these images, one of two coyotes we cared for in 2020, was sent to our friends at Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge to continue his rehabilitation.



GHS cared for 1,549 wild animals in 2020 - including 692 wild birds (compared to 63 domestic birds). Robins were the most common.

Elvis the rooster came into our care just before Christmas, and was one of the first animals adopted in 2021.

The GHS team will always remember Elvis for his big "cock-a-doodle-doo" greetings throughout the day. **Elvis was one of eight chickens that came into our care in 2020** (three were surrendered, and five came in as strays).



Chicken coop under construction at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd.

NEW BUILDING FACT:

Our new home at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. has a dedicated room for wildlife AND a dedicated room for farm animals. Chickens and roosters, like Elvis, have their own in/out door with access to an outdoor chicken coop, should they choose to go out!

The Home Stretch

towards our new home!

The new Guelph Humane Society building at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. is more than just an *animal shelter*. It is a **community animal centre**. This 18,000 sq ft building was designed to be a bright, spacious, and comfortable space for vulnerable animals in Guelph and Wellington County.

190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. is a state-of-the-art facility that reflects the innovative work GHS staff are doing. It is a building that will allow GHS to meet the needs of our population as our community continues to grow.



"A beacon to animal care and animal welfare across Canada."
- Dr. Shane Bateman, on the new GHS facility



An early look at the cat adoption rooms. Against the back wall is the outline of an outdoor patio. To the right, the beginnings of six spacious cat runs with large windows overlooking the front lobby.



GHS staff frequently toured the construction site to see how things were progressing. This photo was taken during an October 2020 tour.



Adrienne McBride, GHS Executive Director, hosted the Virtual Holiday Open House LIVE from the new building amid construction - giving the community an opportunity to have a sneak peek inside our new home.

Stay up to date on the
new building at
UnleashingHope.ca

New building donors in 2020



The parking lot was paved in early December, keeping us on track for occupancy in early 2021.

Gifts \$25,000+

Gateway Pet Memorial
The Go Wylde Team - RE/MAX Real Estate Centre

Gifts \$10,000+

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The indoor/outdoor dog runs taking shape, October 2020.

THANK YOU for your donations and pledges made to our new home in 2020!



Buddha, adopted in August 2020.

FUN FACT:

The dedicated farm animal room at our new building is one of a kind! From our research, GHS is the only Humane Society in Ontario with a dedicated space for farm animals within the walls of the main building.



guelphhumane.ca



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Fax: 519-824-3075

General Inquiries:
info@guelphhumane.ca
Charitable registration #:
119236305RR0001

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