

The Paw Press

2022 Winter Edition



GHS Executive Director steps down after monumental year

After seven years as Executive Director of the Guelph Humane Society, Adrienne McBride is stepping away from the organization. This spring she will join the British Columbia SPCA as the Senior Director, Community Animal Centres – a newly created role that will give Adrienne the opportunity to promote animal welfare right across B.C.

"I can't begin to express how grateful I feel for my seven years at the Guelph Humane Society," Adrienne says. "My decision to leave was not an easy one. We've accomplished so much together. But I know with certainty that GHS will continue to thrive without me."

Lisa Veit, Associate Director of GHS since June 2015, will assume the role of Interim Executive Director. Lisa worked alongside Adrienne over the last half decade on the development of the new building at 190 Hanlon Creek Boulevard, and had filled in as Interim Executive Director previously during Adrienne's maternity leave.

"Lisa is a passionate leader and compassionate person," Adrienne says. "I could think of no better person to fill the role and continue our work."

Meaghan Middleton, Chair of the GHS Board, says the new building, which GHS moved into in March 2021, stands as a physical example of the work Adrienne has done.

"Adrienne has been the heart of GHS over the last seven years of change and advancement," Meaghan says. "She has given the very best of herself to the organization during that time. We will miss her significantly and wish her every happiness and success in her new role, as we thank her for all she has done for GHS and the animals we care for."

Meaghan adds that it will be a pleasure to work with Lisa as Interim Executive Director, continuing to build new initiatives and programs.

"Lisa has been an integral part of the success at GHS," Meaghan says. "We know that she will take on this new role with the commitment and passion she has demonstrated in so many ways already."



Adrienne speaking at the 2018 gala, celebrating 125 years of GHS.



Adrienne helping at the GHS Microchip Clinic, October 2021.



Help make the future **bright** for animals in our community!
Purchase your GHS **Sunny Days Ahead** 50/50 Lottery tickets by March 1st at www.GHSLotto.ca.

January babies!

Kitten season typically runs from spring until October each year, so it's not common for our Animal Care team to witness a litter of kittens being born in January!

On Thursday, January 20th, a pregnant mama cat was surrendered to GHS. The following evening she gave birth to four adorable grey kittens: Laszlo, Timone, Koda, and Zazu.

Mama Alice and her babies are doing well, and they are currently living together with one of our foster volunteers until the babies are big and strong enough to start the adoption process.



Record year for wildlife at GHS

In 2021, the Guelph Humane Society helped **1,813 wild animals** – compared to 1,551 wild animals in 2020, and 1,711 in 2019. In fact, after cats, cottontail rabbits were the animal we cared for most at GHS last year. Many were baby cottontails, whose nests were attacked by dogs or roaming cats.

As we get closer to the busy spring wildlife season, this is a good time to remind people to watch out for nests in their backyard in the coming months. If you see baby bunnies, consider taking your dog outside on a leash to keep them away from the nest. Baby rabbits leave the nest when they are three weeks old, so it's only a short-term inconvenience.

Top 5 most cared-for wild animals at GHS in 2021:

- Cottontail Rabbits - 334
- Squirrels - 293
- Robins - 144
- Raccoons - 115
- Mourning Doves - 77



#BettyWhiteChallenge was a great start to 2022

What began as a small social media idea, the **#BettyWhiteChallenge** grew into a worldwide animal rescue fundraising event! To honour the late Betty White on what would have been her 100th birthday on January 17th, people were encouraged to donate \$5 to their local animal rescue. January is typically a slow time of year for donations, but the legacy Betty White left behind sure changed that.

The **#BettyWhiteChallenge** brought in **over \$30,000** in donations to GHS - plus 16 new Super Paws Club monthly donors signed up on January 17th, in honour of Betty White. So that means vulnerable animals will be benefiting the whole year through.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the **#BettyWhiteChallenge**, and thank you to Betty herself for inspiring the world to help animals in need.

Interested in
Planned
Giving?

Visit
GuelphHumane.ca/wills
or email
Give@GuelphHumane.ca
to learn more.



This is Betty the cat – who came into our care a couple of days before Betty White's birthday. Our team named her Betty to honour the actress.

Alectra and Alectra: cat finds her #HappyTail thanks to the utilities company

Alectra came to GHS as a stray cat in July 2021. One of her eyes had been surgically removed, and the other was discoloured with deteriorating vision. When Alectra first came into our care, she was what our team calls "spicy." She bit staff during her initial exam; she was scared and angry.

We soon started Alectra on pain medication and discovered that she wasn't actually angry – she was just in constant pain. Alectra went into foster care with Emily, one of our Animal Care Attendants. She really started to blossom in foster care, but even more so once Emily brought home two orphaned kittens (Iliana & Lyra) to also foster. In fact, Alectra adored the kittens and tried to mother them!

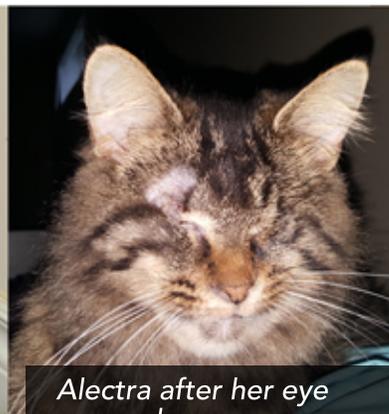
Alectra had her remaining eye removed, and learned to navigate the world completely blind. But the good news was that Alectra's pain was gone. The other good news? Alectra caught the eye of Alectra the utilities company! **Alectra Utilities** was so moved by Alectra's story (and they loved her name!) so they reached out to GHS and offered a donation to cover the cost of her care. Incredible!

Alectra was adopted by an amazing family at the end of November. Her beautiful Happy Tail is truly a story of **hope, care, and compassion**.

Alectra playing "mama" to kittens Iliana & Lyra.



Alectra after her eye removal surgery.



Alectra's Happy Tail.



December events in our new home

Holiday Open House

On December 4th we hosted our first Holiday Open House at our new home! We welcomed over 100 people into our new building, and for many it was their first time inside 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd! Thank you to our staff (including tour guides!), our marketplace vendors, musicians, Zehrs on Clair Rd for the donuts and cupcakes, Starbucks on Stone Rd. for the coffee, and everyone who came by. A special thank you to our volunteers for helping out, especially those who spent the event outside in the cold: Kathy, Joan, Linda, Theresa, Cheryl, Brenda, Peter, Mohamed, Jan, Dennis, and Paul.



Tour guide Catherine leads a group into the new building.

Home for the Holidays Adoption Event

The following weekend after our Holiday Open House, we hosted our very first adoption event at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. On December 10th & 11th we welcomed families by appointment to come in and view our small animals and cats up for adoption. During the "Home for the Holidays" Adoption Event we were able to send home: four rats, one bunny, and 22 cats - with an additional nine cats put on hold and adopted after the event. We even had a family come back and adopt a bunny the next week that they met during the adoption event! Our goal was to adopt out 30 cats, and we happily exceeded that goal. We can't wait to host more in-person adoption events once we are able to fully open our building to the community.



Bunny Gingersnap (formerly Noel) was adopted during the Home for the Holidays event on Dec. 10th.

Gearing up for in-person Critter Camp



Buster (adopted January 2022) helping out with virtual class presentations.

In January we ran our PD Day Critter Camp **VIRTUALLY** for the first time ever. It was a great day for students, but we are looking forward to having our Critter Camp back in person for March Break Camp! Plus, our popular Summer Critter Camp will be open for registration in March. Visit www.guelphhumane.ca/camp to keep up to date!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

On March 5th we will celebrate **ONE YEAR** in our new home at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd.



JOIN OUR EMAIL 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

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