



GUELPH
HUMANE SOCIETY

2021
ANNUAL REPORT



Piper

(formerly Biscuit),
adopted in May 2021.

**The move to
190 Hanlon Creek Blvd.**

...page 7

Bunny crisis in Ontario

...page 10

HOPE.

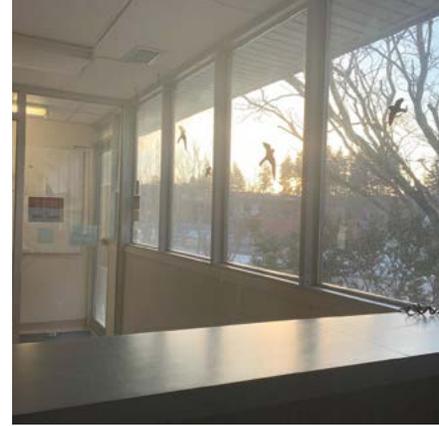
CARE.

COMPASSION.

From our LEADERSHIP...



2021 was a momentous year for the Guelph Humane Society. Our longtime dream came true – and we moved into our brand-new facility at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. March 5th, 2021 will be a day I will never forget. As I left 500 Wellington Street for the last time, there was a beautiful sunset over the old building. It felt like a metaphor for the moment – the sun was setting on an historic era for the Guelph Humane Society, and would rise again on the **new era** we are creating for GHS.



March 5, 2021

The challenges of the global pandemic remained a constant for us, throughout all we accomplished in 2021, but we never lost sight of what really mattered – **rescuing as many animals as we could, and helping the people who love them.** It was another inspiring and successful year – filled with saving many animals’ lives, like our crew of canines from Texas, or Pixie, our 3-legged survivor.

It takes commitment and passion to make a real difference. Our team of dedicated staff are on the front lines every day. They rescue neglected animals. They reunite pets with owners. They work tirelessly to find every adoptable animal a loving home. Our staff share their knowledge with people of all ages on what it takes to care for pets and co-exist with wildlife. They organize microchip clinics, fundraising events and foster homes. And perhaps most importantly, they fill 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. with warmth and brightness, which is felt by the animals and people alike.

I want to thank our compassionate volunteers, who always inspire me with their commitment to making our community a better place for all animals. They have so graciously pivoted back and forth as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so 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.

Our sincere thanks also go to our tremendous community partners, our donors and sponsors – we can only celebrate our achievements because of your generosity. Our building at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. stands as a testament to your **belief in a better community for our animals.**

With gratitude,

Adrienne McBride
Executive Director, GHS (December 2014 - February 2022)



After a milestone year, like the one we just had at GHS, it’s important to look back on the **past**, embrace the **present**, and plan for the **future.**

Writing this message in my first Annual Report as Chair, I am reflecting on the **past** – and I am in awe of the countless people who made the move into 190 Hanlon Creek Boulevard possible: the donors, the volunteers, the staff. And I think about the fearless GHS leadership that got us to this point. In particular, Dr. Shane Bateman, who was on the GHS Board for a decade, and was Chair for over half that time. Shane stepped down this past summer, and not only am I honoured to be the next Chair, but I am so inspired to continue on the path that Shane, Adrienne, and the dedicated GHS Board have set us up for.

At **present**, we are enjoying the “newness” of our building. We continue to celebrate a lot of firsts, and we are exploring all of the ways our new home can contribute to helping more animals in need. We look forward to the time when we can all gather at our community animal centre, learn in this state-of-the-art environment, take advantage of the trails and pollinator habitats around us, and together enjoy this spectacular space.

Perhaps most importantly, the GHS Board is focusing on the **future.** Now that we’ve moved into our incredible new facility...what’s next for GHS? How can we continue to be leaders in animal welfare and innovation? How can we offer more services to the people and pets of Guelph and Wellington County? We have many exciting plans in the works. Stay tuned.

Meaghan Middleton
Chair, GHS Board of Directors

Owen and Griffin

adopted October 2021



GHS was voted Guelph's top **Animal Rescue, Pet Adoption Service**, and for the first time ever...top **Non Profit/Foundation!**

2021 Board of Directors

- Meaghan Middleton – Chair
- Dr. Shane Bateman – Past Chair
- Peter Tesche – Treasurer
- Troy Ford – Secretary
- Alex Ciccone – Director
- David DiMatteo – Director
- Jim Kearns – Director
- Dr. Lena Levison – Director
- Katie MacDonald, PhD – Director
- Earla Smith – Director
- Gael van Veen – Director

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.



Snapshot: A look at the animals cared for in 2021

In 2021, the Guelph Humane Society cared for **3,040** animals. Here's a breakdown of the animals we helped, and other interesting statistics.

GHS facilitated **761 adoptions** in 2021. This includes:



Our return-to-owner (RTO) rates increased in 2021!

25% of cats were reunited with their families (vs. 21% in 2019 & 2020)

88% of dogs were reunited with their families (vs. 86% in 2019 & 2020)



We helped a record-breaking **1,813 wild animals** in 2021.

Rabbits were the most helped wild animal (383), and robins were the most helped bird (144).

(Read more about our wildlife program on page 11.)



Tundra

adopted October 2021



Mahal

adopted December 2021



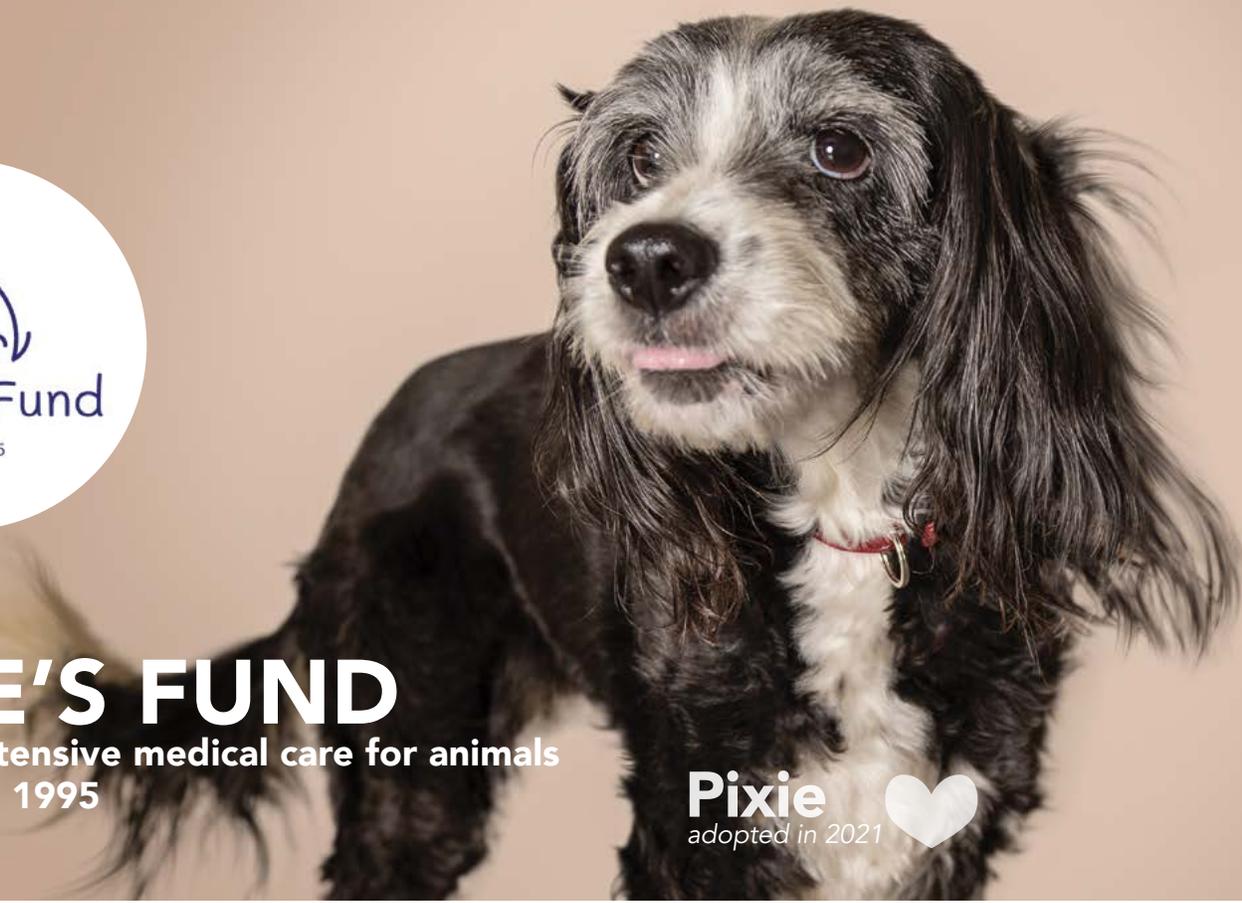
Over 200 cats were surrendered into our care in 2021, and another 373 came in as strays. Cats were by far the most cared for animal at GHS in 2021.

Special thanks to PetSmart Charities of Canada for a \$25,000 grant to help more kittens find homes during kitten season.



Peter

Peter Potamus, adopted November 2021, was one of our most talked about animals in 2021.



DUKE'S FUND

providing extensive medical care for animals in need since 1995

Pixie 
adopted in 2021



PIXIE

Pixie, an 8-year-old spaniel, came into our care on a Friday evening in March 2021 after being hit by a car. She had bruised lungs, a fractured pelvis, and irreparable injuries to one of her hind legs. The veterinary team determined that Pixie's injured leg needed to be amputated.

Thanks to our generous Duke's Fund donors, Pixie was able to get the extensive veterinary care she needed.

Pixie's amputation went well, although once she arrived at GHS after the surgery she was nervous to get up on her three legs. She required support from staff when she would go outside to the bathroom. But after a few days, Pixie learned to walk on her own - and our cameras happened to be rolling at the time. The video of Pixie walking for the first time was shared all over Canada and the United States, and got 200,000 views!

Pixie found her #HappyTail in May 2021, and she is living her best life with her new family!



In 2021, \$67,177.37 was spent from Duke's Fund to save the lives of 51 animals.

Welcome to the all-new Farm Animal Room

GHS saw an expansion of its **Farm Animal & Rural Services** in 2021, beginning in January with the launch of the all-new Farm to Home program, which looks to bring friendly barn cats, or kittens, into loving homes – helping to lower the number of unwanted litters being born, while giving cats the chance at a higher quality of life.

The biggest expansion of the Farm Animal program, however, was the addition of a dedicated Farm Animal Room at the new building. In 2021, GHS became the only humane society in Ontario to have a designated space just for farm animals within its main building. And the Farm Animal Room came just in time, as GHS **DOUBLED** the number of chickens adopted in 2021 compared to 2020. GHS Farm Animal & Rural Services, supported by Grand River Agricultural Society (GRAS), helped 11 chickens and six ducks find their #HappyTails in 2021.



GHS moved into 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. on March 5, 2021. By March 17, a stray hen we named Jamie arrived. She was right at home in the Farm Animal Room, and felt comfortable enough to lay eggs! Jamie was adopted in early April.



Did you know that our Animal Care team uses the eggs laid by hens in our Farm Animal Room to feed wildlife?! The eggs are boiled and mashed up to feed baby birds, such as robins and grackles. This is just a temporary food until the birds get to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.



Mario was one of 11 chickens adopted in 2021. In fact, at one point we had so many chickens in our care that we had to house them in the Dog Quarantine Room. That is one of the amazing things about the new building – the space is there to be flexible for our different needs.



A unique feature of the Farm Animal Room is the indoor/outdoor access for the chickens to go outside into an enclosed chicken coop should they want to. Our summer campers got to see the chickens outside in the coop, which is named in recognition of Grand River Agricultural Society's support.



Home Sweet Home

On Friday, March 5, 2021, GHS staff and Directors finished packing up at 500 Wellington Street West, and the moving trucks (courtesy of Royal Canin and Manitoulin Transport) made their way to 190 Hanlon Creek Boulevard. Over the weekend, the GHS team continued to unpack, organize rooms and cupboards, and get familiar with the layout of the 18,000 sq. ft. facility.

It didn't take long for the Kim & Stu Lang Community Animal Centre to feel like "home" – for both staff AND the animals in our care. While the list of incredible building features is long, some of the highlights include:



Cat Adoption Room

From large cat rooms, to expanded cat portals, to viewing domes...even an outdoor catio! The Cat Adoption Room is bright, spacious and an incredible space for cats to await their Happy Tails.



Indoor/Outdoor Dog Runs

Each kennel in all four dog rooms has its own saloon-style doggy door – giving dogs the ability to go outside and come in as they please.



Community Room

This 1,500 sq. ft. room has already housed our summer Critter Campers. The room will be used as we expand our programming (eg. puppy classes), as well as renting out the space for community use.

Pollinator Habitat & Native Trees

Thanks to a grant from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, as well as Pollination Guelph, GHS established 12,400 sq. ft. of pollinator habitat on our property - enhancing local biodiversity, and creating a unique space for education and awareness.





Thank you for making our new home a reality

Thank you to those who helped fund our **Unleashing Hope** Capital Campaign since the dream of a new building began. The Kim & Stu Lang Community Animal Centre at 190 Hanlon Creek Boulevard stands because of the generosity of our capital campaign donors.

Gifts \$5,000,000+

Kim & Stu Lang

Gifts \$250,000+

The W.C. Wood Foundation
Kathy White & Family
Estate of Mary Anne Thompson
Somerville
Lorna & Hugh Guthrie

Gifts \$100,000+

Drewry Family
The Frasson Family
Charlie & Diann Millage
PetSmart Charities of Canada

Gifts \$25,000+

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Gateway Pet Memorial
GoWylde Real Estate
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Jody Anne McCurdy
Dr. Andrea Pang & Dr. Anthony Yu
Ren's Pets
Royal Canin
Katie & Larry Smith
Ryan Truscott & Shane Bateman,
Steve & Marlene Truscott & Family
Wellington Laboratories Inc.

Gifts \$10,000+

Kevin Banger & Kevin Flanagan
Randy & Elizabeth Casson
COBS Bread Bakery
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Extend Communications Inc.
Grand River Agricultural Society
Patricia Ing
Kathie & Rob McLaughlin

Evelyn Neumann

David & Whitney Perry

Scott, Suzannah & Simon Pollard

Glenn Schwantz, Alliance Roofing

Murray, Jessica, William & Molly Short

Jeff & Suzanne Sutherland

TD Friends of the Environment

Foundation

Dr. Barry White & Dr. Shawn White

Gifts \$5,000+

Bisson Dentistry

Blake & Rebecca

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Carol Dilworth

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Ann & Michael Paul

Mary Richardson

Joan & Howard Robinson

Skeddadle Humane Wildlife Control Inc.

Lisa Veit & Jamie Witherspoon

Gifts \$2,500+

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Kim Murphy & Lodi Dobbie

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The van Veen family

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Gifts \$1,000+

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Janet Greenwood & fur babies

Guelph Cat Clinic

Guelph Police Association

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Katharin Harkins

Maureen & Ray Hayes

Joanne Hewson, OVC
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In honour of Dr. David L. Murray
In honour of Moyra & Robert Obermeyer
In loving memory of Raymond Lung
In memory of Abbie
In memory of Thomas Anderson
In memory of Brendan Bagg
In memory of Robbie Clark
In memory of Ginger
In memory of Charles William Millage
In memory of Minus
In memory of Miracle Mac
In memory of Moose
In memory of Sandy & Bill Scott
In memory of Tigger & Gunner
In memory of Tippy
In memory of Lenny Wilkinson
J. David McAuley Architect
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Planned Giving Spotlight: Charlie and Diann Millage build a legacy of kindness to animals



Diann and Charlie at the Elora Mill in 2019, celebrating Charlie's 94th birthday.

Charlie and Diann Millage had been following the Guelph Humane Society's new building plans and construction updates for years. In early 2021, they both agreed that they wanted to help. They **committed a \$100,000 gift** to the new building just days before Charlie died, at the age of 95. "We are thankful that Charlie and I could contribute to this project," Diann told staff, after touring the new Guelph Humane Society at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. "It's an up-to-date facility that will provide care to animals who so desperately need the assistance."

The Millages sold farm property years ago, and they have consciously set out a purpose for that money: to better their community. Diann explained that the rationale is to **"fund projects that would enable support, extend kindness, and create a happy environment for folks in our community."**

Charlie was born in 1925, on a farm in Emily Township – near what is now known as Kawartha Lakes. Animals were a part of his life from the beginning, from working with horses on the farm, to spending weeks caring for an injured lamb, to his very own cow/calf operation. Diann says the pastured cattle, barn cats and dog were always happy to see Charlie, as they knew he would usually bring treats with him.

"Kindness was a thread woven in Charlie's personality," added Diann. "We felt that by supporting the campaign for the new location of the Humane Society in Guelph, we would provide a continuation of the kindness that Charlie and I always tried to extend to the various animals that we had in our home."

Dog Adoption Room 2 at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. has been named after the Millages. A sign hangs in the window, overlooking dogs as they await their Happy Tails - an amazing way to honour Charlie's legacy of kindness to animals and his impact on the community.



Interested in planned giving?
Email give@guelphhumane.ca

Sound the Alarm: Bunny Crisis in Ontario

After months of seeing a noticeable increase of domestic rabbits in our care, GHS began vocalizing this concern with colleagues in the industry, as well as to the media. CTV Kitchener came by to discuss the “bunny boom” in August, along with stories in the local papers. By September 3rd, GHS issued a press release entitled: **As the pet bunny population surges, Guelph Humane Society sounds the warning bell.**

GHS cared for 148 domestic rabbits in 2021, compared to only 41 rabbits in 2020.



Following that press release, other humane societies across Ontario started using similar “crisis” language in the media, and GHS Executive Director Adrienne McBride was a guest on several CBC radio shows to discuss the issue.

At the start of the pandemic, there was a fear that “pandemic puppies” would be purchased in haste, and returned in droves to shelters across North America. This fear did not materialize, however we did see this happen with pet bunnies.

Moving forward, education for new rabbit owners is key. It is imperative that pet bunnies are spayed or neutered. Rabbits breed very quickly, and before you know it, two rabbits can become 10 or 12 bunnies.



Fiona was one of **68 rabbits surrendered to GHS in 2021**. She had a badly fractured hind leg, which needed to be amputated. After a successful surgery, Fiona found her #HappyTail in October.



Players from the Guelph Storm Hockey Club came by in September to help us promote the adoption of bunnies. Bunnies in this photo: Alaska (adopted in December 2021), and Jackson (adopted in February 2022).

A RECORD Year for Wildlife

In 2021, the Guelph Humane Society helped 1,813 wild animals – compared to 1,551 wild animals in 2020, and 1,711 in 2019. GHS can care for wildlife for up to 24 hours, as per Ontario’s *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, then if the animal is sick or injured it must be transported to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Animals are transported from GHS by a team of dedicated volunteer Wildlife Drivers.

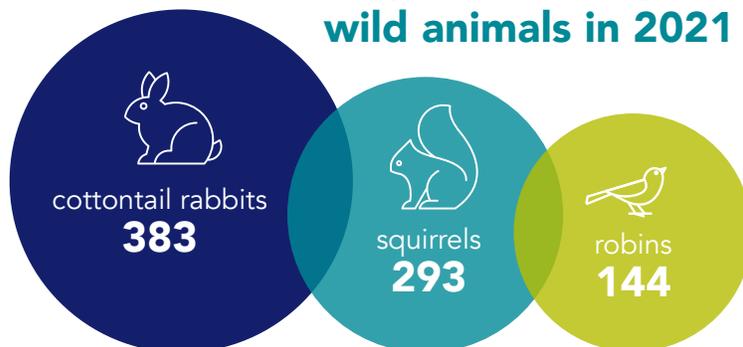


Many of the cottontail babies GHS cared for were brought in after their nests were attacked by a dog or roaming cat.



Officer Victoria rescuing two baby raccoons, trapped inside a vehicle.

Top 3 most helped wild animals in 2021



A day in the life of an Animal Services Officer (ASO)

The spring and summer months are the busiest and most exciting time of year for the ASO team, as our local wildlife are waking up from the long cold winter months and we start welcoming new generations of critters. Our juvenile young tend to be very curious and are still figuring out how to hunt and scavenge and sometimes this is when they get into the most trouble. We receive calls about them getting stuck in unusual places that they have trouble getting out of on their own!

In summer 2021, I was called to help two young raccoons who got spooked while trying to find some snacks in the garbage of a local business. While attempting to avoid traffic and not be seen by humans, they found themselves in the engine bay and wheel well of a car! I was able to easily access one little guy in the wheel well, while the sibling was inside the engine bay. If you know raccoons, you know that they are very smart and extremely spicy, so you have to be cautious when handling them (so they don't hurt themselves or damage the vehicle they are in). I grabbed my bite resistant gloves (not recommended for use on adult raccoons) and I slowly was able to remove the little one to be reunited with its sibling!

Wildlife are very nervous around us humans, so we have to make sure we handle them with care and eliminate as many stress factors as we can for a smooth transition to rehabilitation...or to try and reunite them with mama and family!

Victoria Welsh
Animal Services Officer, Guelph Humane Society

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

GHS had 268 active volunteers in 2021, helping with everything from driving wildlife, to events, to adoptions, to fostering. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our in-shelter volunteer program was on hold for most of the year – however from September until the rise of the Omicron variant in late December, we were able to welcome 69 returning volunteers into our new building to help with things like laundry, walking dogs, and socializing with the cats and small animals. It was INCREDIBLE to have them back!

Over **2,800** volunteer hours were logged in 2021.

A Closer Look at Volunteers...

In 2021 we sent 551 animals (371 cats, 60 dogs, 120 small animals) to 170 different foster homes. Our amazing team of foster volunteers stepped up BIG in 2021 to help with the surge in stray and surrendered bunnies.

Photo: kittens Sonia, Carmen, and Ferny benefited from socializing in foster care before being adopted.



A record year of wildlife at GHS meant our volunteer wildlife drivers were needed more than ever. They spent hours in the car each week, driving wild animals from 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. to different rehabilitators across Ontario. Kudos to Eva, who logged a staggering 130 wildlife driving hours in 2021.

Photo: Laurie and Paul driving a songbird hatchling to Open Sky Raptor Foundation in Grimsby, Ont.



Once in-person events returned, our event volunteers helped to make everything possible! From organizing empty bottles at our bottle drives, to helping at our microchip clinic and adoption events. Shoutout to the Holiday Open House volunteers, especially the crew helping outside...it was a cold one!

Photo: Kathy and Jan check-in potential adopters at the Home for the Holidays Adoption Event.

The return of volunteers in-shelter had the biggest impact on Animal Care staff and the animals, as both benefited from having extra sets of hands around! Dogs received more walks, cats and bunnies received more cuddles, and staff were able to complete other tasks as they had help with cleaning and laundry.

Photo: John received extra walks each day thanks to volunteers like Sarah.

Donors make it possible to do the important work we do.



The Guelph Humane Society receives no government funding. It is the generosity of our community that enables us to help thousands of vulnerable animals each year. Thank you to the following donors who helped make an impact in 2021

Gifts \$10,000+

Kim & Stu Lang
Ann & Michael Paul
The RuBow Family Foundation

Gifts \$5,000+

Gail P. Dyson
Angela Grant
Joan Robinson
Sleeman Brewing & Malting Co. Ltd.
Wellington Laboratories Inc.

Gifts \$1,000+

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Foundation

Grants

City of Guelph - supporting GHS Cares
Grand River Agricultural Society -
supporting Farm Animal & Rural
Services
The Guelph Community Foundation -
multiple grants for programs such as
GHS Cares & Critter Camp support
PetSmart Charities of Canada -
supporting GHS Cares
Pollination Guelph

Estate Gifts

Estate of Lori Suzanne Anderson
Estate of Mary Matilda Cassar
Estate of Margaret "Rita" Elizabeth
Dumbreck
Estate of David Frank Harding
Estate of Peter Edmund Kelley
Estate of Laurene Patterson
Estate of John Runge
Estate of Barbara Saunders
Estate of Frances Walker



Return of IN-PERSON events!



While public health restrictions kept GHS doors closed to the public for most of 2021, by the summer we were finally able to start hosting some in-person events. It began with our summer Critter Camp for students grades 1-8, which was SOLD OUT for the entire summer. The camp's homebase was our new Community Room, but campers also got to visit animals in other parts of the building each day.

GHS was able to host two bottle drives at the new building in September and November, each time raising \$1,500 for animals in need. Plus a few other events throughout the fall, including a planned giving seminar, holiday open house, as well as our "Home for the Holidays" adoption event.



Three online 50/50 lotteries in 2021 raised tens of thousands of dollars throughout the year for animals in need. The largest jackpot was for our March/April draw – Jennifer Garner won over \$43,000!



"There's No Place Like Home" Variety Show: GHS hosted a two-hour LIVE television broadcast on November 4, 2021.

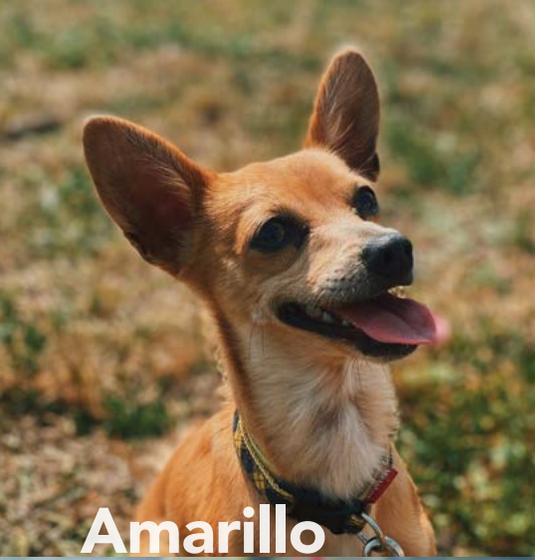
Hosted by The Weather Network's Kim MacDonald, the variety show brought viewers an inside-look at the new building.



(Bad) Pet Portraits: In August, the GHS Directors (who are not professional artists!) volunteered to hand-draw pet portraits as a fundraiser. The "bad" drawings were a huge hit, and the fundraiser drew national attention! (Image: Neville, by Katie MacDonald)



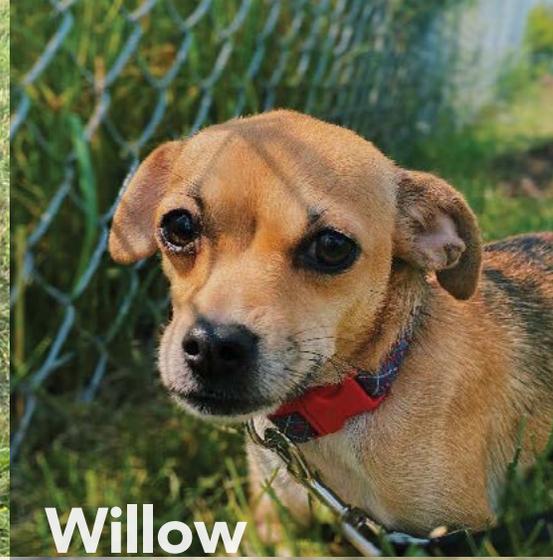
In October, GHS hosted a low-cost microchip clinic. Thanks to GHS volunteers, staff, our community, and the veterinary staff at OVC Smith Lane Animal Hospital, we were able to microchip 50 cats and 66 dogs.



Amarillo



Austin



Willow



Laredo



Dallas



Star

DID YOU KNOW?

On August 15, 2021, GHS participated in its first cross-border animal transfer. A total of 84 dogs from an overwhelmed shelter in Texas flew to Windsor, Ontario. Most of the dogs remained in the care of the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society, but six of those dogs came to Guelph, where they quarantined for two weeks in the Dog Quarantine Room at the new GHS building. All six dogs found their Happy Tails, and now Star, Laredo, Austin, Dallas, Willow and Amarillo are living their best lives in Canada!



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Don't miss out on animal stories, updates on our new building, news, events, and so much more! Sign up at guelphhumane.ca



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