

HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.

2022 Annual Report

TURTLE, adopted November 2022.

From our Leadership...



It is my pleasure to share with you the remarkable journey of the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) over the past year. Your incredible support and dedication have been instrumental to our success and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of YOU.

2022 was a year of change and excitement and a meaningful one for me, personally, with my appointment as the new GHS Executive

Director in June. It is truly an honour to be entrusted with this leadership role. After serving as Associate Director for the past seven years, I am deeply committed to building on our past accomplishments in helping to create a more compassionate community for animals in Guelph and Wellington County.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many 2022 GHS achievements shared in this report, accomplishments made possible thanks to the generosity of our donors, partners and supporters and fueled by the passion and tireless efforts of our team of staff, board members, and volunteers.

Emerging from the pandemic, in 2022 we were delighted to be able to open our doors to in-person adoptions, host events and expand our children's programming

and outreach activities. All while continuing to provide the best and most compassionate care to thousands of animals in need of a second chance.

While the pandemic presented many challenges to GHS operations, it also created opportunities to better understand and serve our community, especially those that may rely on GHS services the most to help keep pets and people together. Our innovative programs and partnerships allowed us to be nimble and responsive to gaps in our social service system and meet the increased demand for our Pets in Transition and Emergency Boarding programs. In 2022, we expanded partnerships resulting in a new Senior Support program. We also made significant strides in improving access to care for pet owners, through a no-cost spay and neuter project thanks to funding from PetSmart Charities of Canada™ and delivered in partnership with the Ontario Veterinary College.

Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans to expand programs, reach more pets and people, and innovate, adapt and respond to the emerging needs of the community we serve. Thank you for your ongoing support in making these successes possible. I invite you to read the stories of impact in this report. These triumphs are a testament to the power of collaboration, compassion, and resilience.

Lisa Veit Executive Director, GHS

As I reflect upon the past year, I have an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. In my role as the Chair of the Board of Directors, I stand tall, acknowledging the extraordinary contributions of our dedicated staff, selfless volunteers, and unwavering supporters. Together, we are achieving amazing milestones, driving our relentless pursuit to shape Guelph and Wellington County into an unparalleled community of compassion for animals.

Most notably, in 2022 the Board was delighted to appoint Lisa Veit as the new GHS Executive Director. We are confident that Lisa's leadership will take us to great heights.

Amidst the upheaval of the pandemic, the profound significance of animals in our lives emerged with resolute clarity. As we emerge from these challenging times, we bear witness to the obstacles faced by our community and the undeniable bond between people and their beloved pets. GHS remains firm in our commitment to forge new frontiers and seamlessly adapt to the evolving needs of our community. Our unwavering aim is to provide unparalleled support to pets, their guardians, and the entire community, setting a new standard of excellence in animal sheltering and welfare.

Looking ahead, GHS is embarking on an exhilarating journey guided by a new and innovative strategic plan. With feedback from our community and with sustainability top of mind, this plan aims to serve as a solid foundation to achieve our mission and commitments over the next 5-10 years.

As a board we are dedicated to intensifying our impact by seizing opportunities, fostering strategic collaborations to amplify our efforts and driving animal welfare to unprecedented heights.

Thank you for your continued support in 2022 and for your commitment to a better world for animals and the people that care for and about them. I look forward to the year ahead and the successes we will make together.

In photos: DAISY adopted Lisa, June 2019 (top left); EVINRUDE adopted Meaghan, December 2020 (bottom right).



Meaghan Middleton Chair, GHS Board of Directors

Leadership through Engagement



As strong advocates of animals in our community, GHS connected with local provincial and federal representatives in fall 2022 to discuss important issues and legislation related to animal welfare. On the federal level, Lisa Veit and MP Lloyd Longfield discussed the importance of advancing crucial legislation to protect animals, including <u>Bill S-5</u> (to amend the Environmental Protection Act to include an end to toxicity testing in animals), <u>Bill S-241</u>

Praise & Recognition from our Community



The Guelph Humane Society (GHS) and Roger's TV received a 2022 media award for the <u>Guelph Police K9 Unit segment</u> which originally aired as part of the GHS's 2021 "There's No Place Like Home" Variety Show. The award honours initiatives that help make a difference in the community, promote positivity and humanize members of our local police unit.

2022 Board of Directors

Meaghan Middleton – Chair Troy Ford – Vice Chair Peter Tesche – Treasurer David DiMatteo – Secretary Alex Ciccone – Director Michael Foggia – Director Michael Irwin – Director Jim Kearns – Director Dr. Lena Levison, DVM – Director Jim Pietrangelo – Director Earla Smith – Director Gael van Veen – Director (Jane Goodall Act to protect wild animals in captivity and enhance public safety) and a ban on cosmetic testing. Longfield brought GHS concerns forward to the Environmental Committee in January, 2023. MPP Mike Schreiner and Lisa Veit met to discuss provincial issues including breed-specific legislation, Provincial Animal Welfare Services and the veterinary shortage.



VISION

The Guelph Humane Society envisions a world where all animals are treated humanely, with respect and compassion.

MISSION

The Guelph Humane Society's mission is 'to advocate 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 2022 GHS animals in care

In 2022, the Guelph Humane Society cared for **3,199 animals** - 35% dogs and cats, 8% small animals and farm animals and 57% wildlife. Here's a closer look at the breakdown of the animals helped over the past year and other interesting statistics. Read more about our farm animal and wildlife program on page 7.



GHS facilitated 872 adoptions in 2022. A 15 per cent increase over 2021.

550 cats, 126 dogs, 89 rabbits, 94 small animals (quinea pigs, rats, budgies, hamsters, canaries, hedgehog, lovebird, mouse, bearded dragon, gecko, snake, tortoise, turtle), 13 farm animals (chickens, ducks)

\$330,000

spent on veterinary care in 2022. A 20% increase relative to the previous year.





FELIX, adopted December 2022.

December 31 was a magical day at GHS. Not only was it the last day of the year, but Felix, who of all of the animals waiting for their happy tail had been at GHS the longest -255 days—celebrated his adoption moment just before we closed our doors for the holiday. For our team, there was no better way to end the year than with this news.



Our return -to-owner (RTO) rates:

27% of stray cats were reunited with their families (vs. 25% in 2021 & 21% 2020)

83% of stray dogs

were reunited with their families (vs. 88% in 2021 & 86% 2020)

In October, 15 Guinea pigs—one male and 14 females, including many juveniles-were found in two cages which appeared to be abandoned in Mapleton Township. Two Guinea pigs were in one cage and 13 were in the other. The cages were in deplorable condition, with each too small to properly house even one Guinea pig.

With a number of females pregnant, the intake resulted in more than 30 guinea pigs in need of care, shelter and adoption.

Thank you to our incredible foster network for providing loving homes, socialization and TLC while they were in our care!

The story garnered significant attention through traditional and social media channels. A GHS TikTok video of the **first baby** born in care attracted international attention with more than 230,000 views and 45,500 shares.

All 30 found their happy tails between December 2022 and March 2023.

CLOVER, now LADY, adopted November 2022.

In 2022, \$67,144 was spent from Duke's Fund to save the lives of 44 animals. They learned that Clover had a large mammary mass when she arrived at GHS, which was surgi-cally removed. The mass was sent for testing and, thankfully, found to

Kingo's journey of survival

Kingo was found abandoned in a cat carrier in a ditch full of water on a cold afternoon in March 2022. He was soaked and freezing. Luckily he was found by a member of the public and brought to the Guelph Humane Society (GHS).

Sadly, there is no doubt that he would have died if someone hadn't walked by and rescued him that day. At GHS, Kingo received immediate veterinary care. He was hypothermic and actively shivering with three broken teeth and abrasions all around his nose—presumably from struggling to get out of the carrier. He was the first cat to reside in Melissa and Chris Hill's Cat Kennel, which they adopted in lieu of wedding presents

Karren.

Duke's Fund

The Guelph Humane Society provides care to thousands of animals each year, many requiring costly medical treatments. Duke's Fund provides funds to pay for specialized veterinary care for GHS shelter animals in need. This care is made possible entirely through donations to the fund.

Lucky Clover

Karren & Shon Sorensen started looking for a furry companion to add to their family after a year of recovery from the loss of their previous dog. They began searching adoptions websites in Ontario and found their ideal companion at the Guelph Humane Society (GHS). "GHS is local to us and they do an amazing job of placing and caring for animals in need," shares

Partial to hounds, they immediately knew Clover, now Lady, was the one. Karren and Shon were in touch with GHS right away expressing their interest to meet her. "The team was so helpful and open through all the steps of adoption," says Karren.

They learned that Clover had

be benign. Complications with her surgical site led to some prolonged recovery with antibiotic treatment and pain management. Clover also had severe dental disease. She received advanced dental surgery, including multiple extractions, to relieve her discomfort. After her care was complete, her adoption with the Sorensons was finalized.

"We renamed her Lady because of her calm personality and she is such a sweet little Lady to everyone she meets," says Shon. Adding, that she developed a strong sense of routine quickly-within a few days she became very familiar with her new surroundings, her trail walks, her mealtimes and her new family's affectionate love.

"Lady is so very comfortable in her new home. She is extremely loving and loyal and such a laidback girl," says Karren. "She brings a lot of joy and happiness to our family. We feel very blessed to have her in our lives."

for themselves last year. Kingo found his happy tail with Emily Pepperdine within a month's recovery at GHS.

"Despite all that Percy has been through, he is a super friendly and trusting cat. He healed from his injuries and adjusted really quickly," shared Emily in a recent happy tail update. "He loves to cuddle close in the mornings and evenings and is always up for a game of fetch. I'm very grateful to the person who rescued him and to GHS for bringing us together."



In 2017, I left the paid world of work as a nurse, social worker and mental health worker. Following a friend's advice, I decided to volunteer at the Guelph Humane Society (GHS).

I wasn't sure where I would fit in, so came to fold newsletters and lick envelopes. I drove wildlife to rehabilitation centres and started walking dogs.

As I learned more about all the jobs volunteers could do and with my nursing background, I decided to try working with sick and orphaned cats and kittens. I had spent some of my nursing career in a neonatal intensive care unit. I was fascinated by the mix of medicine, socialization and hands-on care that fostering offered. The staff respected my medical knowledge while always being ready to teach me about veterinary care. I was hooked. Being an active volunteer has given me a front row seat to the important work done by GHS.

Volunteer Spotlight Theresa Daly

As both a donor of time and financial support I am aware of the benefits of both. It has been gratifying to see my donor dollars going directly to the care of animals in need in my community.

As a foster, people ask me how I can take care of kittens only to let them go. In the beginning I admit it was hard to say goodbye, but I learned that if I let go, I can take what I learned from one litter and do an even better job with the next one. There is something inexplicable about the feeling I get working with animals. There is that connection to a sentient being that is deeply satisfying. And, when time and patience help a kitten begin to trust me, there is nothing like it.

Reflecting over my time as a volunteer at GHS, three special memories come to mind.

The first is the day GHS rescued 105 cats from one apartment. I sprang into action, as the facility was filled with staff, vets, animal rescue teams and volunteers. I wanted to do something, so I dashed around to pet stores buying litter boxes. Then I provided foster care for four of the 105 cats. I called them the "frat boys" because they were fully grown, strong and determined. They stayed up all night "par-

sick or unsocialized

animals.

tying" and hid during the day. It was my task to coax them out and begin developing some trust with humans.

It's not always perfect trying to help animals. A sad memory that stands out happened when a foster cat passed away in my care. I was so deeply touched by the GHS staff who reached out to share their condolences. And I will never forget walking into the shelter when Samantha Westphal (GHS animal care manager) enveloped me in the best motherly hug I've ever had. I felt completely acknowledged, supported and cared for. Where on earth would a volunteer ever have that kind of experience?

Finally, I remember the respect and cooperation shown to me by Cameron Lynk (GHS events & fundraising coordinator) when I asked if GHS could hold a fundraiser with feline related items that were donated to me from the estate of a cat lover —we raised \$500.

As a volunteer, I feel fully supported by the staff at GHS. I thank Lisa Veit (GHS executive director) for setting the tone as a place of high-quality care, respect for volunteers and for being such an approachable leader.

What Theresa loves about volunteering at GHS:

- Being with people who share my values and beliefs and love of animals. They are MY people.
- Working with people toward the same goal. To see the improvement in an animal from

intake to adoption is heartwarming and gratifying.

• I have had a lot of • There is no end to freedom to choose the learning. As a the kind of work I life-long learner, do and the amount I like the chalof time I give. There lenge of learning is never a pressure about medical and to help, only gratibehavioural stratetude with whatever gies that can help I can offer.

"Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Guelph Humane Society, dedicating hundreds of hours to the welfare of hundreds of animals. Their selfless commitment is an invaluable asset, infusing our organization with energy and compassion transforming countless lives. Together, we are making a

profound difference in our community."

> -Lisa Veit, **Executive Director**, GHS

GHS Farm Animals & **Rural Services**

The Guelph Humane Society Farm Animal & Rural Services, supported by Grand River Agricultural Society (GRAS), saw

13 farm animals

enter into care in 2022, including chickens and ducks.

GRAS continued their investment into the welfare of lost, orphaned, or abandoned farm animals in Guelph and Wellington County with a gift to

support enhancements to GHS's outdoor farm animal enclosure, further benefiting the experience of farm animals in care. Due to global supply

shortages, the outdoor coop roof will not be completed until 2023.

we love wildLIFE

2022 was another record-breaking year for wildlife. The Guelph Humane Society cared for

1823 animals

Raccoons, rabbits and squirrels were the most helped mammals overall with raccoons being the highest at **326** because of the distemper outbreak in our area.

Robins, 111, and Canada Geese were the most helped birds during the past year. 18 turtles, including snapping and painted, were transferred to wildlife rehabilitation centres after they came into care. Most turtles suffered injuries after being struck by vehicles, mainly during egg laying season in the spring.

Thank you to our volunteers

Her '

lvy, a Call Duck, arrived at the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) as a stray. She was found with two duck mates that had been attacked by a predator. Luckily, Ivy survived Ivy spent 33 days residing in the ĠHS Farm Ánimal Room. received international attention on TikTok with more than 80,000 views the TikTok video was even featured on Yahoo Life!. a first for a GHS social media

IVY, adopted October 2022.

JUVENILE BEAVER

This young beaver was hit by a vehicle at night last August. With the help of some good samaritans, our Animal Services team were called to the scene to retrieve him. At GHS, he was evaluated, provided care and medication to manage his pain and then transported by one of our volunteer wildlife drivers to a rehabilitation centre where he was able to recover and eventually be released.



GHS KIDS Programs

Educating the next generation of animal caregivers

The Guelph Humane Society's GHS Kids programs run throughout the year, including Winter, Spring and Fall Junior Humane Club, March Break Camp, Summer Critter Camp and December Winter Holiday Camp.

In 2022, GHS returned to delivering all kids programming in-person! Each session offered club members and camp participants, grades one to eight, opportunities to learn about the key role animals play in our community.

The curriculum included proper animal care and responsible pet ownership, animal behaviour and socialization, how to interact with wildlife, an introduction to insects and the importance of our pollinator friend, the bee!

In 2022



of Guelph and Wellington County children that took part in GHS Kids programs. Highlights include:

574 total # of hours of GHS Kids programs delivered in 2022 over **82** days

> 41 total # of hours of animal interactions

35 total # of species GHS Kids learn about across all programs

> 2022 GHS Kids programs were made possible with the support of the Guelph Community Foundation, Pollination Guelph and the Grand River Agricultural Society.

Keeping pets and people together: GHS Cares program **improves** access to care

Access to veterinary care is one of the leading reasons pets are surrendered to animal shelters.

To help keep more pets and people together, the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) launched a no-cost spay/neuter program in spring 2022. This GHS Cares program made possible with a \$125,000 grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada[™], and delivered in partnership with the Ontario Veterinary College's Kim and Stu Lang Community Healthcare Partnership Program (OVC CHPP), ambitiously aimed to provide access to no-cost spay/neuter surgeries for 300 vulnerable pet owners in Guelph and Wellington County over a 12-month period.

The overarching goal of all GHS Cares programs is to keep more pets and people together and to protect the bond between people and animals by addressing gaps in our social services and healthcare systems that inhibit access.

The no-cost spay/neuter program breaks down financial and geographical barriers to basic preventive veterinary services and offers access to care that may otherwise be inaccessible.

The program is part of GHS's demonstrated commitment to building a community that prioritizes healthy animals and equitable access to animal care.

To qualify for the program clients needed to meet criteria by demonstrating economic hardship or housing insecurity.

In 2022, the partnership program improved access to care for **163 pet owners** and performed 205 surgical procedures for pets in our community, including **52** dogs and 153 cats—with the program continuing into 2023.

Moving forward, our goal is to continue to build partnerships with likeminded individuals, businesses and organizations to ensure the long-term sustainable delivery of innovative programs that protect pets and contribute to creating a healthy Guelph/ Wellington community for all.

> Katherine Leonard, manager, community programs and outreach (left) with OVC CHPP volunteer Eva (right) and patient Bear at a remote no-cost spay/neuter clinic held at the Arthur Curling Club in August 2022.

GHS Cares programs A year in review

The Guelph Humane Society's (GHS) GHS Cares programs support vulnerable people in our community by keeping people and pets together by **reducing** financial and other barriers, increasing access to essential services and protecting equitable access to the beneficial human-animal bond.

In 2022, programs included: Emergency Boarding (complementary boarding for pets during times of crisis - eviction, hospitalization, incarceration); Pets in Transition (foster care for pets of women fleeing domestic violence or individuals hospitalized for mental health/addictions); Senior Support (foster care for hospitalized seniors) and Happy Pets (no/low-cost behavioural support), as well as no/low cost access to spay/neuter and microchip clinics.

In 2022

of days of no-cost boarding and care provided to 73 pets, including those who accessed

services through Pets in Transition (658 days for **18** pets with an average stay of **36** days) and **Emergency** Boarding (397 days for 55 pets with an average stay of **6** days)

156 # of pets microchipped at GHS low cost 2022 clinics

205 # of pets that received care through GHS's no-cost spay/ neuter clinics

2022 GHS Cares programs were made possible with support from PetSmart Charities of Canada[™], Sleeman Breweries, Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Government.



Being closer to us brings them closer to home

Thank you to those that celebrated, volunteered and donated towards the **Guelph** Humane Society's (GHS) A Hop through Wonderland Happy Tails Gala, proudly presented by Speedy Auto Services Guelph, which returned last November after a three-year hiatus.

Together, we raised more than **\$180,000** in much needed funding to support critical veterinary care, shelter, food and life's necessities for homeless and neglected animals in Guelph and Wellington County.

Animal lovers, donors, supporters and staff spoke to a sold-out crowd of **260** people, showcasing the evening's theme of closeness, and how being closer to us

(GHS) brings them closer to home. Highlights of the evening included a video created by Ward 1 Studios demonstrating the impact of supporting the GHS and a call to the community to stand up and make a commitment to closeness, a commitment to home which **raised** \$59,400. An anonymous donor matched up to \$25,000 bringing the total to \$84,400. We cannot thank our community enough for their support!



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SPRING MILL



OLIVE, adopted December 2022.

Scan the **QR** code to watch our Gala VIDEO



Thank you to our donors.



Together we make a positive impact for animals, and the people that care for them, across Guelph and Wellington County.

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 2022.

Gifts \$75,000+ In loving memory of Lorna

& Hugh Guthrie

Gifts \$40,000+

Brent Kingdon Kim & Stu Lang The Rubow Foundation

Gifts \$10,000+

Andrew & Angela Anderson DocuPet The Frasson Family Helmutz Landscape & Interlock Cory & Lesley Repta Speedy Auto Service Guelph Wellington Laboratories Inc. Edward & Joan Woods

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Grants

CanFel Foundation Guelph Community Foundation- Bonnie Ewen Fund & Camp Discover Fund Grand River Agricultural Society Ontario Trillium Foundation PetSmart Charities of Canada Pollination Guelph

Estates

Estate of Susan Carlyle Estate of Peter E. Kelley Estate of Ruby Catherine Lasby Estate of Betty Pimmett Estate of Patricia Ronald Estate of Jeanette C. Truex Estate of Frances Walker

In photos: **ASPEN** (page left), adopted September 2022; MOLLY and DOLLY (in background), adopted June 2022.

GHS firsts

MOONSTONE and April were two of 24 cats and kittens that were removed from a single home and taken into GHS care. Both females gave birth to kittens within 4 days of one another; in the case of Moonstone, all four of these kittens (Cashew, Castor, Orion and Sidra) were healthy and growing. April, who was herself barely one year old, arrived with a litter of 13 kittens, four of whom subsequently passed away. Since the litter was so large, April did not have the ability to care for them and there was serious concern that more would not survive. Samantha Westphal, GHS's animal care manager, tried something that had never been tried before at GHSwe turned to Moonstone as the only other nursing mother at the shelter and successfully transferred two of April's kittens (Robin and Bumblebee) to her care, equaling out the number of kittens between the two moms and setting all the kittens up for success. The story had more than 300K views on social media, making it GHS's farthest reaching social post at the time.

MOONSTONE with her new family, foster babies and all, adopted October 2022.

Canfel Foundation provided funding for spaying and neutering cats and kittens in care at GHS—helping support surgeries for cats like Moonstone and her litter.

LIZZIE arrived at the Guelph Humane Society immediately after she had received hip surgery. A young pup herself at eight months old, it had not been detected prior to her transfer or procedure that she was pregnant. On the morning of October 31, much to the surprise of our animal care team, Lizzie was in labour. Our team was concerned about the health of the babies as Lizzie's young age, the stress of surgery and the effects of anesthesia could have an impact on their healthy delivery. Our animal care manager, Samantha Westphal, sat with Lizzie all morning delivering her nine puppies, eight of which survived. The birth was stressful for poor young Lizzie with one pup needing to be resuscitated. Thanks to the quick thinking of our animal care team, the pup started breathing again after receiving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. This is the first litter of puppies delivered at our 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd. location. Lizzie and all of her puppies found their happy tails in January 2023.

LIZZIE with her babies Alfred, Dorothy, Earl, Eleanor, Genevieve, Mable, Ruth and Walter, first litter born in care at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd., October 2022.



Guelph Humane Society 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd., Guelph, ON N1C 0A1

Ph: 519-824-3091

General Inquires: info@guelphhumane.ca

www.guelphhumane.ca

Charitable Registration #: 119236305RR0001

