



Impact REPORT 2024

Powered by Compassion—Fuelled by You



from our Leadership

2024 was a transformative year for the Guelph Humane Society—one of growth, resilience, and impact. As we completed the first year of our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, *Charting our Future Direction*, we took meaningful steps toward advancing animal welfare, driving organizational growth and building community to ignite change.

Thanks to the compassion of **4,799 donors**, **436 volunteers** and **countless supporters** we provided lifesaving medical care, shelter, and comfort to **3,346 animals who had nowhere else to turn**. These animals arrived frightened, neglected, or abandoned, but because of your generosity, they found safety, healing, and a second chance.

Beyond the animals in our direct care, our GHS Cares programs made a powerful impact on the people who love them. **2,279 days of no-cost boarding were provided for pets of families in crisis**, allowing individuals facing hospitalization, intimate partner violence, or sudden hardship to focus on their well-being, knowing their beloved companions were safe. These services are critical to keeping pets and families together, reinforcing our commitment to supporting both animals and people in our community.

Completing the first year of our strategic plan has strengthened our resolve to continue building a more compassionate, accessible, and community-driven future. We remain focused on deepening our impact, expanding resources for vulnerable pet owners, and ensuring every animal receives the care they deserve.

We know the challenges ahead are great, but so are the opportunities. With your support, we will continue to provide hope, care and compassion to the animals and families who need us most.



Lisa Veit
Executive Director



Heather Mair
Chair, Board of Directors

2024 Board of Directors

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VISION

A compassionate world
where all animals are valued
and respected

MISSION

Advancing the welfare of
animals through care, education,
community engagement &
relationships

VALUES

Compassion, Leadership,
Collaboration,
Integrity & Transparency

your gifts @work

\$100 Provides funds for toys, enrichment, training and activities for **1 litter of puppies**. In 2024, GHS cared for **100 puppies**, a surge in need unlike anything we've seen in our history!



\$500 Supplies **338 cups of food**, providing **6 dogs** with **2 nutritious meals per day** for **1 month**. In 2024, GHS provided meals for **424 dogs of all sizes**.



\$750 Provides funding to deliver **essential vaccines to 50 cats**, which offers protection against infectious diseases and rabies. In 2024, GHS vaccinated **847 cats**.



\$1,000 Provides approximately **30 days of care for 1 animal**. In 2024, GHS provided care for **1,423 companion animals**.



A downloadable copy of the Guelph Humane Society's 2024 audited financial statements will be available in June 2025 following the GHS AGM at guelphhumane.ca.

why i give



Honouring Monte's Legacy

Monte Hewson had a generous spirit and a deep love for animals. For years, he supported the Guelph Humane Society by sharing his talents—creating beautiful floral arrangements and plant care demonstrations to help raise funds through a silent auction. His passion for giving never wavered, even in his final wishes. "Monte made it clear in his journal: he wanted to continue sup-

porting GHS beyond his lifetime," shared Ann, Monte's loving wife of 50 years. "He had always believed in caring for those who couldn't speak for themselves."

A year after his passing, Monte's legacy lives on through the kindness he showed and the lasting impact he made. His love for animals, and for giving, will never be forgotten.

In photo: Monte and Dezo.



Care in every connection

Sharing Stories. Creating Impact.

In 2024, our stories reached farther than ever before. Powered by compassion and shared by thousands, these moments of connection helped change real lives.

On Instagram, our posts, reels, and stories were seen **4.4 million times—287% more than the non-profit average**. Nearly **2 million people engaged** with our content, helping bring the faces and stories of vulnerable animals into homes and hearts across the region. With an engagement rate **305% higher than non-profit norms** and over **272,000 post likes**, it's clear: our community isn't just watching—they care deeply.

On Facebook, the momentum continued. We **reached 4.1 million people** and **earned 14 million impressions—more than six times the average**. With **320,000 post clicks**, our message didn't just reach people—it moved them to act.

Our **website welcomed 224,000**—each one searching for a way to help, to learn, or to bring home a new companion. That's where our Client Services team stepped in, ready to help in real time, answering questions, offering support, and guiding people through difficult moments. From lost pet reports and adoption questions to wildlife advice and community programs, our team responded to **7,072 phone calls** and thousands more emails. We were there after hours too—providing **262 hours of live call support** to make sure help was always available when it mattered most.

These numbers aren't just impressive, they're deeply human. From the first click to the final call, we're here—for animals, for people, and for the community we serve. **And none of it happens without you.**

snapshot a look inside GHS



In 2024, more than 3,300 animals found safety and care at GHS. That's **3,346 lives changed**—each one a story of survival, recovery, and hope. **38% were dogs and cats, 6% small and farm animals, and 58% wildlife.** Each of these lives was saved and transformed because of you.

896 Happy Tails

Hope Found. Families Created.

In 2024, 896 animals found their forever homes—**586 cats, 181 dogs, 106 small animals** and **21 farm animals**. From rabbits and guinea pigs to parrots, hamsters, and even a hedgehog, each one got a second chance. Thank you to the **CanFel Foundation** for their **gift of \$9,900** to support cat spay/neuter surgeries. Essential care needed in getting cats ready for their forever homes!



55,640 days of shelter & care

A Safe Haven, Every Hour of the Day

At any moment, **an average of 152 vulnerable animals rely on GHS for shelter, care, and protection.** And every single day, you make that possible. In 2024, your support provided **55,640 days** of warmth, safety, and healing. That adds up to **1.3 million hours of lifesaving 24-hour shelter and daily care**—all because of your generosity. Because of you, every animal has a safe place to rest, recover, and find hope.

82% more puppies & young dogs

Saving the Tiniest Tails

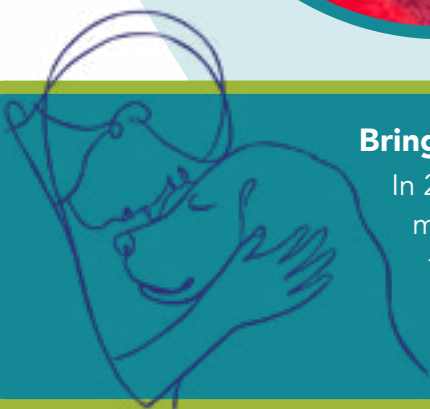
In 2024, the number of puppies needing our help surged—an **82% increase from 2023.** Our team stepped up to care for **100 lost, abandoned or abused vulnerable young dogs,** most under six months old. These fragile pups needed lots of care, medical support, and a safe place to grow. Because of you, they got the care they needed when they needed it the most.

SEE PAM'S PUPPIES, BORN AT GHS IN 2024
SCAN HERE



Bringing Them Home—Together

In 2024, **20% of stray cats were reunited with their families**—an improvement from **17% in 2023.** For **stray dogs, 66% made their way home,** though fewer than in previous years (76% in 2023 and 83% in 2022). Despite a challenging year with a rise in dog abandonment, your support gave lost animals the best chance to find their way back to the families who love them.



GHS Farm Animal & Rural Services

Giving Farm Animals a Second Chance

A lost goat wandering a skatepark. Two abandoned peacocks left to fend for themselves. Dozens of chickens, ducks, and pigeons with nowhere to go. Thanks to the support of our donors and the Grand River Agricultural Society (GRAS), vulnerable farm animals in Guelph and Wellington County don't have to face uncertainty alone. In 2024, **57 farm animals found safety at GHS**, where they received expert care, enrichment, and a chance at a new life. GRAS's continued investment provided funding for essential care and supplies—helping to ensure that every farm animal who arrives at GHS gets the comfort and compassion they deserve.

Because of you, they found hope and a new beginning.



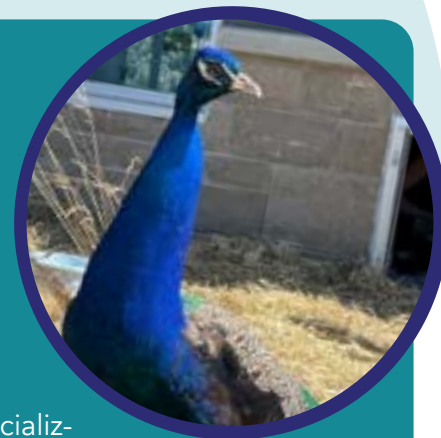
From Skatepark to Sanctuary: Rodney's Fresh Start

When a concerned community member spotted a lone goat abandoned at the skatepark in Guelph, they knew he needed help. Rodney found safety at GHS, where he received the care he needed in our dedicated Farm Animal space. No one came forward to claim him, but he wasn't alone for long. Thanks to you, this senior goat got a second chance. And the best part? Rodney is now living a wonderful life on a hobby farm in Wellington County, surrounded by new goat friends.

Because of you, Rodney's story didn't end at a skatepark—it began on a farm.

Percy's Path Home

Alone and abandoned near Belwood Lake, Percy had nowhere to go. But one call changed everything. A compassionate community member reached out, and our Animal Services team brought Percy to safety at GHS. In our care, he became the very first resident to enjoy our covered outdoor farm animal enclosure—made possible by the Grand River Agricultural Society. With a safe space to strut, he finally had the care and security he needed. Now, Percy has found his forever home on a hobby farm, where he spends his days exploring,



socializing, and, of course, showing off his dazzling feathers.

Because of you, Percy's story didn't end in distress—it became a story of rescue and renewal.

it was a WILDEAR

Helping Wildlife Thrive

In 2024, **1,867 wildlife** found help at GHS. From tiny squirrels to curious raccoons. Rabbits needed us most—392 arrived injured, lost, or orphaned. **More than 71 species came through our doors**, with the rarest being a juvenile bald eagle that had been hit by a car.

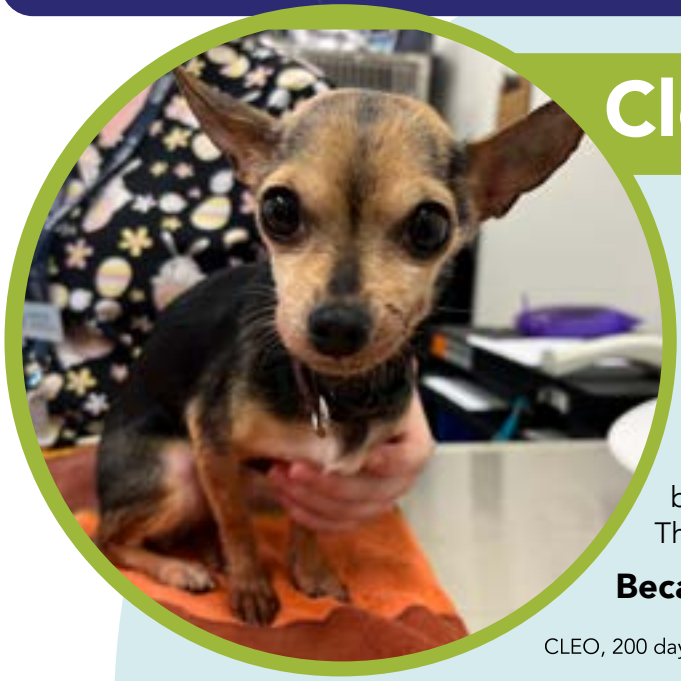
Every rescue, every release, happened because of you.



From emergency medical treatment to daily shelter and nourishment, the kindness of **4,799 donors** made it possible for lost, abandoned, and injured animals to heal, recover, and find loving homes.

Because of you, second chances aren't just possible—they happen every day.

kindness creates 2nd chances



Cleo

A tiny Chihuahua named Cleo—no more than four pounds—was abandoned and left in the bottom of an outhouse waste tank. Six feet down. In the dark. Alone.

But Cleo wasn't alone for long.

Because of you, she was rescued. Because of you, she was wrapped in warmth, bathed with care, and shown—maybe for the first time—that she mattered.

Your compassion turned her fear into trust. Your kindness replaced suffering with safety. Today, Cleo curls up in a soft bed, in a home filled with love, because of your dedication. Thank you for being Cleo's hero.

Because of you, Cleo didn't just survive—she has a family.

CLEO, 200 days in care, adopted December 2024.

BEHIND THE
SCENES OF
CLEO'S 2ND
CHANCE
SCAN HERE



Vivo was found alone in a rural field, badly wounded and barely clinging to life. When he arrived at GHS, he was emaciated, and his face told a heartbreaking story—his jaw was shattered, his teeth broken, his right eye swollen shut. The extent of his injuries were devastating. Then came the shocking news: someone had shot him.

He needed urgent medical care. Thanks to you, he got it. A specialized surgical team worked to stabilize his jaw, place a feeding tube, and treat the severe infection threatening his life. But even after surviving unimaginable cruelty, Vivo never stopped fighting.

And because of you, he didn't have to fight alone.

Vivo, which is Latin for "alive" or "to live" was a perfect name for this cat who had shown such incredible strength and determination to survive. With time, expert care, and the love of

a foster home, he grew stronger.

The once fragile cat who arrived on the brink of death transformed into a playful, affectionate companion. In the end,

Vivo found what he had been searching for all along—a family. His foster mom, unable to part with him, made him a permanent part of her home.

Because of you, Vivo's story didn't end in suffering. It began again—with hope, healing, and a lifetime of love.

VIVO, 156 days in care, adopted September 2024.

WATCH VIVO'S
STORY OF
RESILIENCE
SCAN HERE



Vivo

When Xena arrived at GHS, she was in rough shape—thin, patchy fur barely covering her frail body, and eyes so swollen and infected that the world around her was nothing but a blur. Even the gentlest touch made her flinch. Yet, despite everything, she held on.

And because of you, things changed.

Your kindness gave Xena the surgery she needed to restore her vision. You provided the special diet that helped her gain

strength. You made it possible for her to receive patient, positive training so she could learn that human touch meant love, not fear. Slowly, she began to heal.

Her body grew stronger. Her coat became full and healthy. She no longer shied away—she leaned in, trusting the people who had never given up on her. Then came the moment she had been waiting for: a family of her own. Today, Xena is in the home she always deserved, living each day with joy, confidence, and the ability to see the world in all its beauty.

Because of you, Xena didn't just recover—she got a whole new life.

XENA, 123 days in care, adopted September 2024.



Xena

Chester arrived at the shelter very sick and no family to call his own. At eight years old, he needed medical care and time to heal. Thanks to you, he got both.

Your support gave Chester the diagnostic tests, special diet, and treatment he needed to feel better. But while other cats found homes, Chester was overlooked. Days turned into months. He celebrated his ninth birthday still waiting.

But he never lost hope. And neither did you.

After 500 days, Chester finally found the loving home he had been waiting for and a family who saw him for the incredible cat he is.

Because of you, Chester's story didn't end in waiting—it ended in love.

CHESTER, 501 days in care, adopted January 2025.

Chester



THE DAY
CHESTER
FOUND HIS
NEW FAMILY
SCAN HERE



The Pyrenees Pups

At just 8 weeks old, Barley, Solin, Buckwheat, Soybean, Oat, Maize, Dandelion and Sunflower were found dirty and abandoned in a shed in Wellington County. Vulnerable and alone they were

brought to GHS.

Thanks to you we were here for

them, to give them kindness, warmth, food for their bellies, medical care and best of all... the gift of belonging with a new family who loves them. Because of your kindness, these once-abandoned puppies are now thriving in homes where they are safe and cherished.

Because of you, they found where they truly belong.

THE PYRENEES PUPS, 581 total days in care, adopted between August 2024 and January 2025.



powered by compassion

This year, incredible volunteers poured their time, talent, and energy into helping vulnerable animals. Whether providing comfort, enrichment, or support behind the scenes, you made a lifesaving impact. Because of you, animals in need receive the care, love, and second chances they deserve. GHS simply couldn't do this work without you.

Thank you for making this lifesaving work possible!



"I love volunteering at GHS because of how welcoming the environment is. Being at the shelter is always the highlight of my week! One of my favourite things about volunteering is seeing how the animals grow during their time here. Some are so scared when they first arrive, but week-by-week, they open up and show more of their personalities. Being involved in creating this space for them is a really special privilege. I'm so grateful to GHS for fostering this environment, both for animals in need and for volunteers who want to get involved!"

-Lynn Cheng, Cat Room Cleaner, with Possum.

Every minute of kindness gives a lifetime of love

In 2024, dedicated volunteers gave **7,299 hours** to changing lives. Whether guiding adoptions, socializing small animals, cleaning kennels, or transporting wild-life, you made a difference. Across **18 vital roles**, your time and compassion created brighter futures for every animal who walked through our doors.

7,299
hours of service

436 dedicated
volunteers

**436 Volunteers. 608 Hours a Month.
Countless 2nd Chances.**

More than 400 incredible volunteers generously donate a collective average of **608 hours of their time and energy each month** to making a difference—ensuring vulnerable animals get the care, comfort, and love they need while they wait for their new families.

On the Road to Rescue

When a wild animal is injured or orphaned, every minute matters. That's where our incredible volunteer wildlife drivers step in. In 2024, **52 dedicated drivers** made **601 trips**, spending **1,800 hours** on the road and **traveling 120,000 km** to help ensure vulnerable wildlife receive lifesaving care.

601
wildlife
drives

Thank you to our VOLUNTEERS!

Inspiring the Next Generation of Animal Advocates

Empowering Youth to Lead in Animal Welfare

In 2024, GHS launched the **Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP)**, a hands-on, 10-week program designed for students in grades 7-10 who are passionate about animals. This program provides an in-depth look at shelter operations and the many careers in animal welfare in a small group setting. From pet first aid and animal care to fundraising and community outreach, YAP gives students the knowledge and skills to make a difference.

By working together and engaging in interactive learning, YAP programs help youth develop empathy, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership skills—

building confidence, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

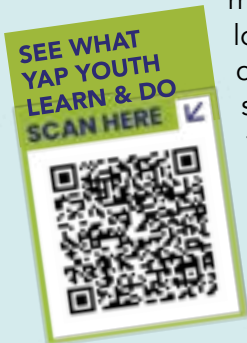
YAP expands on the foundation of GHS kids' programs by providing pre-teen and teenagers with real-world experience that prepares them for potential careers in animal welfare, veterinary medicine, or nonprofit work.

GHS offered three 10-week YAP sessions, giving **31 students the chance to develop valuable skills**, gain **hands-on experience**, and explore a future in animal welfare.

What YAP participants say:

"I learned about the body language of dogs and what it means. I think this will be very helpful when I meet dogs, and I can also know how my dog is feeling through her body language." - Teagan, age 14.

"This was an incredibly informative and interesting session about cat care. I learned about daily care provided to cats at GHS. It was especially interesting to learn about the basic medication provided and body condition scores. The case study really helped tie in what we learned to a real-life situation and gave us a behind the scenes look at medical care provided at GHS." - Iman, age 17.



Humane Education

Inspiring Kids to Care for Animals

At GHS, we believe that learning about animals should be fun, engaging, and hands-on. That's why GHS Kids Programs offer year-round opportunities for children in grades 1-6 to explore the world of animal care and welfare.

Through Critter Club, Critter Camps, birthday parties, PA day camps and special holiday programs, young animal lovers discover the important role animals play in our community. They learn about responsible pet ownership, animal behaviour and socialization, interactions with Canadian wildlife, and even the vital role of pollinators like bees.

By fostering empathy, compassion, and knowledge, these programs help shape the next generation of leaders who will ensure a kinder future for animals.

Because of you, children are learning the power of kindness and empathy to create a more compassionate future for animals.

942 # of kids in GHS programs

In 2024, **942 children** in Guelph and Wellington County participated in GHS Kids Programs & Kids Community Tours, discovering the importance of animal care and compassion.

Through **806 hours** of programming across **181 sessions**, kids engaged in hands-on learning at camps, birthday parties, community tours and club activities. They explored the world of **35 different species**, gaining a deeper appreciation for the animals in our community.

Each session was more than just a lesson—it was a chance to foster empathy, responsibility, and a lifelong love for animals.

gathering for good

538 community members, 80 dogs, \$182,492 raised to provide vital care and create brighter futures for animals.

You come out to support us, rain or shine; in high fashion or running shoes and we are so grateful.



A night of generosity. A future of Happy Tails.

In November 2024, **274 guests followed the Yellow Brick Road** at the *GHS Happy Tails Gala: There's No Place Like Home*, proudly presented by Speedy Auto Service Guelph. The event raised **more than \$120,000 net**, providing lifesaving veterinary care, shelter, food, and essential support for homeless and neglected animals in Guelph and Wellington County. Thanks to the incredible generosity of sponsors and attendees, more animals will receive the care they need, the love they deserve, and the second chance to find a home of their own. Every dollar raised provides safety, care, and the promise of a new beginning.

Thank you to our amazing gala sponsors:

Title Sponsor:



CHECK OUT THE FUN ON THE TRAIL AT THE 2024 WALK-A-THON



On the Trail for Hope, Care and Compassion

The Happy Trails Walk-a-thon brought the community together, with **264 fundraisers** and **80 dogs** walking to support vulnerable animals in Guelph and Wellington County. With

the generosity of supporters and community partners, an incredible **\$62,492 net was raised**—providing lifesaving care, shelter, and second chances for animals in need. Every step taken and every dollar raised made a difference.



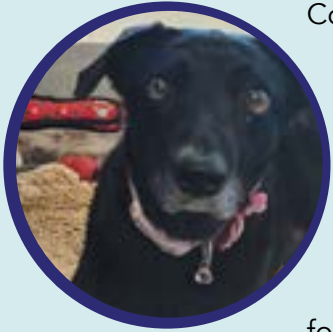
Thank you to our amazing walk-a-thon sponsors:

Title Sponsor:



Keeping Pets and People Together— When it Matters Most

Because Pets Are Family



The needs in Guelph and Wellington County have surged in the past four years. More pets—and people—are in crisis than ever before.

GHS is known for rescuing animals, but our work goes beyond that. Every day, we support people facing unimaginable challenges. A pet owner hospitalized with no one to care for their beloved companion. A

family displaced by fire, desperate to know their pet is safe. Someone grieving the sudden loss of a loved one, unsure where their pet will go.

Through GHS Cares, we provide relief, reassurance, and hope.

Because of you, those facing their hardest moments know their pet is in good hands.

Polly and Rolo's Story:

Polly (photo, bottom right) and Rolo (photo, top left) arrived at the Guelph Humane Society in the middle of the night. Their world had been shattered by the sudden loss of their beloved owner. With no immediate family to turn to, there was nowhere else for them to go. After two days of uncertainty, a trusted friend was identified and travelled from the southern United States to take Polly and Rolo home with him.

Polly and Rolo made the long trip home with their new family, to love and cherish them for the rest of their lives.

We truly never know when life will change. And GHS Cares is there for those moments. To keep pets with the people who love them.

Because of you, pets aren't left behind when life takes an unexpected turn.



Support for pets when people need it the most

GHS Cares exist to break down financial and logistical barriers, provide critical support, and keep pets with the people who love them.

2,279 days of no-cost boarding

When families face hardship, you make sure their beloved companions have a safe place to stay.

In 2024, more pets than ever needed urgent support through GHS Cares—a **13.7% increase** from the previous year. This year, GHS provided **2,279 days of no-cost boarding** to **133 pets** in need. Through **Pets in Transition**, **43 pets** spent a total of **1,759 days in foster care** while their owners escaped intimate partner violence or received treatment for mental health and addiction. **Emergency Boarding** provided **507 days of care** for **89 pets during unexpected crises**. **Senior Support** ensured that a hospitalized senior didn't have to say goodbye to their pet, offering **13 days of care**.

24,251 lbs of pet food

Giving security and stability for pets and families

For struggling families and individuals, the **GHS Pet Food Bank** meant more than just full bowls—it meant keeping pets where they belong: at home. In 2024, **380 families received 24,251 pounds of pet food** through **6 partner locations across Guelph and Wellington County**—ensuring their beloved companions stayed by their side. To further **reduce barriers to care**, GHS operated **low-cost nail trim & microchip clinics**, providing **180 nail trims** to cats and small animals and **microchipping 113 cats and dogs**—giving them the best chance of finding their way home should they go missing.

Turn Your Passion into IMPACT

Love animals and looking for ideas on how you can help make an impact in 2025?

Last year, **57 compassionate supporters like you raised more than \$51,000 through DIY events in support of animals at GHS**, proving that when people come together for a cause, incredible things happen. Whether it's a bake sale, lemonade stand, workplace challenge, or donation drive, every effort helps to feed hungry animals, provide medical treatment and deliver lifesaving care.

Hosting a fundraiser for GHS is a fun, flexible, and meaningful way to make a real difference for vulnerable animals in our community.

Your DIY event isn't just about raising money—it's about changing lives. Every dollar raised ensures pets have the chance to find a loving home.

Because of you, more animals will get the hope, care, compassion, and Happy Tail they deserve.



Thank you for making **Guelph & Wellington County** a more compassionate community for animals!



Your support makes **Happy Tails possible.**



Guelph Humane Society

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General Inquires:

info@guelphhumane.ca

www.guelphhumane.ca

Charitable Registration #: 119236305RR0001

Scan the QR code to take a look behind the scenes at GHS to see the difference you make for animals in need.

@guelphhumane