



Save a Life

January 2007  
5th Edition

# The pet chat!

## Mississauga Humane Society Newsletter

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Chloe

Abbey

## President's Message

Happy New Year! I wish you, your family and your pets all the best in the year of 2007.

In 2005 we rescued a record of 550 animals. I thought being a small rescue group with very limited resources, this is probably the best we could do and we could never exceed the 600 mark. **I am pleased to report that in 2006 we rescued a total of 676 homeless animals and found forever homes for 498!** This is a JOINT EFFORT of the MHS team. I want to extend a big "THANK YOU" to all of our volunteers and supporters. I would also like to dedicate the following poem, written on behalf of our rescued animals, to our **foster parents**. Without you, we could never have saved the lives of all of these precious souls.

Lily Chan  
President

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### MISSION STATEMENT:

"We strive to SAVE as many Homeless Companion Animals as possible, regardless of age, health and behavioral issues, and find them FOREVER HOMES."

### BECAUSE OF YOU

#### Because of YOU

*I no longer starve and eat whatever I could find  
I no longer shake in the cold, or soak in the rain & snow  
I no longer suffer from illnesses or diseases  
I no longer am a stray that's on the run all the time*

#### Because of YOU

*I no longer sit in the cage, and lie on the cold concrete floor  
I no longer feel unwanted, sad, lonely, fearful and shameful  
I no longer watch people pass by me, commenting "too old, too worn...."  
I no longer have to end up my life pitifully in a pound*

#### Because of YOU

*My tears turn into smiles  
My days of darkness turn into rays of light  
My nightmares turn into sweet dreams  
My once broken body and spirit are whole again*

#### Because of YOU

*I feel kindness through your gentle touch and soft voice  
I have the privilege of a morning kiss and a goodnight hug  
I have food, treats and a soft cozy bed on which we snuggle  
I have a place called HOME*

#### Because of YOU

*I learn about LOVE & COMPASSION  
I experience the joy of freedom and peace  
I regain trust and faith in humans  
I have a TOMORROW, which I look forward to, with HOPE*



**THANK YOU**  
for giving me a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance at Life

**-Love, Your fostered pet**

# Rescue & Adoption Statistics

*(January to December 2006)*



*Coco  
Adopted*

Number of Dogs Rescued **92**  
Number of Dogs Adopted **73**

Number of Cats Rescued **574**  
Number of Cats Adopted **423**

Number of Rabbits Rescued **10**  
Number of Rabbits Adopted **2**



*Lacy  
Adopted*



## Kitty LOVE Story

### **PHOEBEE**

By Lynne & Peter Laurence

Phoebee came into our lives on Dec 28th, 2005. Our other cat Teddy had lost his brother Henry on November 5th, 2005, and clearly Teddy was in deep mourning over the loss of his best friend, and we were pretty shaken up too. During this difficult time we discussed the possibility of adopting another companion friend for Teddy and to help us to fill that horrible void.



*Phoebee with her  
'green spring'*



*Teddy & his 'PAL'*

A few weeks after losing our Henry I started my "Mission" to find a unique and beautiful new member for our family. I searched the Mississauga Humane Society website, and after looking at many different animals I kept going back to the picture of Phoebee. We brought Phoebee home 3 days after Christmas, as a Christmas present for Teddy. She adjusted very well. She and Teddy play together, she is always within 2 feet of him, and they share their breakfast, snacks and dinner's together. Teddy, on the odd occasion, still has "that jealous streak"! Phoebee clearly thinks she is "Queen of the Castle", but at that point Teddy will sometimes "put her in her place". They stay out of each other's way at times, but all in all, they are buddies.

We now have had her for more than a year and she is a member of the Laurence family. Ann was my Mom's name, so we decided to add it as her second name. So Phoebee's initials are PAL (Phoebee Ann Laurence), although most of the time she answers to "Phoebee"! PAL is definitely Teddy's best friend (and stepsister).

*Love – Lynne, Peter & Teddy Laurence*

# Puppy LOVE Story

## *Judy, Cindy & Molly*

*By Andrea Clarke*

We have 6 dogs; 3 of them, Judy, Cindy and Molly were adopted from Mississauga Humane society. Some people might think that 6 dogs are too many but we wouldn't have it any other way. At first we thought that fostering dogs would be difficult but it wasn't nearly as hard as we thought - even with personality conflicts. The older dogs, especially, were so grateful to have a family again that the conflicts were few. In fact, we are considering never getting a puppy again. Older dogs are SO EASY that they are "instant pets" - they fit in so fast. We are also getting older ourselves and getting up at 2 am to let the puppies out doesn't sound like as much fun as it used to be.

*Judy* and Charlie were our first fostered dogs. In the summer of 2001 we got a call from Lily asking us to drive two dogs from Aurora (as we live close by) to their foster home. Little did we know a driving job would turn out to be a life long commitment! We got a call from the foster parent the night before we were to pick up the dogs that she had changed her mind. The dogs were to be euthanized the next day so we needed to make a decision fast - foster them or let them die. So, off we went to the pound! It was sad because we saw the truck take the unlucky ones away to their deaths only half an hour after we got there.



*Judy*

**Judy** was a beautiful dog at one time but now she was a terribly matted, dirty, and weak in the hind end and had horrible teeth. She was seriously overweight which did not help her back legs. She barked fiercely through the bars of her cage. It was no wonder nobody wanted to take her home! Without the help of the Mississauga Humane Society she would have had NO future. Charlie was a handsome smaller sheltie cross. He was obviously a senior dog, but we are still mystified why nobody wanted such a nice small dog.

They jumped into the car immediately, like it was always their own, and we drove them home. We were careful at first to keep them separated- just in case - but we never had any problem with fights. After a few days, we were one big happy family with 5 dogs. Charlie found another foster home shortly and we were down to only 4 dogs. The house seemed empty!

Someone had loved Judy once, because she was exceedingly well trained. They called her "nice manners" at the pound. We are not sure how she fell upon such hard times; she never wanted to stray and she is a joy to have. She certainly was a city dog because she did not know how to drink out of a pond and she panicked the first time she got her feet wet. She is probably about 12-13 years old now and prefers to keep a bit aloof from the other dogs. She still loves to chase the cat!

## **PUPPY LOVE STORY (cont.)**

**Cindy** was an unusual case because we called Lily to see if we could foster her for the Mississauga Humane Society. In 2003, the MHS received an urgent email that 12 dogs needed to be moved from a Windsor area pound immediately or they would be euthanized. One dog in particular needed a new home. She was an 8-month-old Labrador mix whom they had named "Happy Tail". She had been there a very long time as nobody wanted her. Most of her puppy hood had been spent at the pound. She wagged her tail so hard that she had broken the tip off it and was bleeding constantly as she banged it against the walls of her tiny pen. I, personally, could not allow a puppy like that to end her life in confinement, so our family agreed that we would take her in sight unseen.



*Cindy*

Cindy turned out to be a skinny, dark brindle (and kind of ugly, I thought!) dog that did not look much like a Labrador. She was incredibly active and never settled down for one second!

We got quite a few calls for her but Cindy was not going to be a good dog for just anybody because she was so active and needed (it seemed) 24 hour a day exercise just to be "normal". We were hoping a marathon runner would phone but they never did. Since we had decided that we would adopt Judy, we just added Cindy to the list and adopted both. Judy was not amused. Cindy has since settled down a bit (at 3 years old) and has grown. She is now beautiful, 27" tall at the shoulder, and around 85 lbs. We think there might even be some Great Dane in her background. She keeps the other dogs, and us, her owners, who would all be couch potatoes, well exercised.



*Molly*

We adopted **Molly** last. She came from Eastern Ontario and is a large bloodhound/shepherd/lab mix. She was taken to the pound at 10 years old because her owner was moving. It was unlikely that Molly would have found a home quickly. Sadly, big old dogs have such a hard time finding homes! They find change difficult and get unhappy and stressed in the pound. Once again the Mississauga Humane Society came to the rescue. We agreed to foster her if Lily could find a foster home for 2 younger dogs that we had been asked to take in.

When we got Molly we found out she was completely deaf! Molly had a harder time fitting in with the 5 other dogs; she didn't really like them and it was obvious that she was from a 1-dog family and was not used to crowds. Despite her deafness, she is, with us, the most gentle, quiet dog, who has never shown any signs of aggression --even if she is startled. In fact, it is hard to tell that she can't hear because she is always watching us. We decided to adopt her after we realized that we would miss her too much if we didn't have her. Although she will be 12 next year, she shows no signs of arthritis and still goes for 2 long walks each day.

We have set our limit at 6 dogs for now, because our 3 older dogs now need more care as they approach their senior years. We will of course foster more dogs in the future because it is one of the most rewarding things we have done. Thanks again to Lily and the Mississauga Humane Society for letting us foster and then adopt these wonderful dogs!

**Cheers - Andrea, Tom, Jack, Robbie, Baloo, Cindy, Judy and Molly.**

# CAT CORNER

## *Victims of a Disposable Society*

*By Tina Kendall, Vice President*

Today we live in a world where things are owned and, when they come to the end of their usefulness, they are disposed of. People buy gifts, knick-knacks and ornaments for the holidays and, when the glitter is gone or the thrill wears off, the garbage bags are filled. Unfortunately, not all of the “things” are ornaments – some are alive.

Kittens are commonly bought as gifts only to grow into cats and then be disposed of by either being dropped off to fend on their own or given to Animal Services. Of these two, believe it or not, the latter is far less kind.

**In 2005, 46% of the cats brought into Mississauga Animal Services were euthanized.** Within this group, any cat who is brought in and is sick, injured, or feral is almost immediately put down. Of the 2140 total cats brought in to Animal Services, this amounted to 977 destroyed. Many of these animals, 811 of the 977 killed were brought in as strays. It's a sad ending for animals that began as beloved pets.

Lately, the media has started to pick up on strays as newsworthy copy. Television news, and radio personalities, delight in fanning the flames of discontent found in those people who are forced to deal with the difficulties incurred by feral/ stray cats living in their neighbourhood. One radio host, Bill Carroll, commenting on Global TV's local news, recommended that all feral cats be “euthanised”. His rationale was that it would end the cats digging up gardens and defecating in people's yards. Obviously, Mr. Carroll and his ilk, think of cats as vermin – more like rats than pets.

This is precisely the attitude, which ignores one basic inescapable fact. Cats are not vermin. They are domestic animals and, as such, we are responsible for them. If we are allowed to “euthanize” animals we are responsible for, why stop at cats? Why not extend it to all life forms that we find inconvenient? After all, the fascist way is often the most efficient way...“the final solution”.

**The Mississauga Humane Society stands in direct opposition to this position. Ferals and strays reported are humanely trapped, spayed/ neutered, and brought inside to be socialized. Ultimately, these cats are adopted to permanent homes and make wonderful pets – like any other cats. This year, almost 600 feline lives have come to us but, regardless of them being sick, injured, or feral, not one of them has been killed.**

If our neighbourhood, community, and ultimately, our world is to ever improve, we must start taking responsibility for our actions. Cats are creatures we have trained to be our benefactors and friends. They have helped us live longer lives, given us companionship, and, in some cases, saved our lives. Euthanasia or compassionate care: what do you think we should do?



*Ramsey (bottom)  
and Bosley (top)*

**Congratulations to Allison Psutka & Rob Biggar, one of the winners of the Pet Picture Contest held by TLC's Spa. They are proud parents of Ramsey and Bosley (formerly Aaron and Crackle), two of our rescued cats. Above is the winning picture.**

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## THANK YOU

We would like to thank TLC's Spa for their donation of the proceeds from the Pet Picture Contest for the 2007 Pet Calendar. Over \$1000 was raised. There are still a few extra calendars left, if you want to order please call 905-268-1778.

Proceeds from sales of these calendars also go to the MHS.

# My Pride & Joy

By Carol Nault, Foster Parent of numerous pets

I believe it was May 2003. I was reading the paper and saw the ad for "foster homes needed". I thought to myself "Wow! I would really like to foster a dog". You see, I already had a 3 yr old beagle, and figured she would love a playmate. So, I contacted Lily. I told her, if possible, I would love to foster a beagle (if there were any beagles). She told me there were about 10 beagles coming from a pound, in June. "Ok I will wait." Well, the call came. "They are here". She gave me the location and I went to have a look. The yard was full of beagles. I checked them all out, and noticed a very skinny, happy dog. That's the one I was supposed to take!



*Carly & Chelsea  
Check out Carly's face. She is mad – does not like her coat!*

I called my new arrival **Carly**. I let her and Chelsea (my first beagle) sniff each other out. They got along very well. So we let her settle in and put her up on the website one week later. Three calls came in right away. I called Lily crying, "I can't do it, I can't let her go". So, I adopted her. As the weeks went by, she grew and grew. I thought, this is strange, beagles don't get this big. I did some research and found out she is actually a foxhound. A year or two went by and this dog started getting snarly. She felt the need to protect me (I was killing her with kindness and didn't even know it). I could no longer go to the leash free park, or near any other animals. Still, I always think, what if this dog ended up with someone else? Not many owners would tolerate such a behaviour and she would end up nowhere. I love this dog to pieces and she will always have a home with me.

I still felt a need to help other animals. Knowing I couldn't foster another dog, I started to foster cats. For about 3 years now, I have fostered over 40 cats, maybe more (kept 2 along the way!). Kittens are the worst. I don't want to give them up! Most of them are in great homes. I have 6 fosters here now - one of them is **Shorty**. She is a grey domestic who is almost 12 yrs old. She was recently diagnosed with cancer. In the 2 years I have been fostering her, I have not got one call for her. Nobody wants a senior cat, and why would they? Everyone wants a kitten. Little do they know, Shorty, (who absolutely hates other cats, but loves my beagle Chelsea) will cuddle with you all night long. She has a very large tumor on her chest but that doesn't stop her from playing with her mouse and enjoying her treats. She has also taken over the dogs' bed! This cat is small. I had a friend over the other day and she said "oh look at the kitten"! I couldn't stop laughing. That is one old kitten!



*Think we can get one more on here.....*

**Lucy and O'Ryan** are my house cats. Lucy is a tortoiseshell who I found just tossed out in a snowstorm - my first rescue! She pretty much hates all animals, because she is a princess and it is "all about her". O'Ryan welcomes all of the fostered pets in with open arms.

## My Pride & Joy (cont.)

**Allan Michael**, a 2 yr old domestic, was found wandering the streets for more than a year (reported by the neighbourhood). He was infested with ear mites and desperately needed a bath. He is a black/white cat but when we rescued him he was yellow. He follows me though the house, night and day. Then, there is my rafter cat, **Sandy**. Tina and I trapped a lot of homeless cats in a backyard in Brampton this summer. Sandy sat in my rafters for weeks. She is out and playing now - mind you I can't touch her - but she lets me give her treats.

**Jinger** is my 1-2 yr old orange/white cat. Sandy only trusts him. It's fun to watch them play together. **Taliah** is my 2 yr old tabby. She was very shy when she first came here. I couldn't touch her for months. She has the tiniest little paws and the quietest little meow. Now, she coo's like a raccoon. She has really come out of her shell. Now I can pet her and she follows me from room to room. My latest addition is **Bootz**, another black/white kitty. This cat loves to talk. I call her name and she comes running.



*Lucy, O;Ryan, Taliah and Sandy*



About 6 weeks ago I took in 2 rabbits to foster. It turned out the female is already pregnant! Mama rabbit gave birth to 6 healthy babies. So in addition to the dogs and cats, I have 8 more rabbits in foster care now! Its fun watching the babies grows up.

My house is one big hairball and full of noise, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. I love all of them to death and I am sure they all love me back.

*Mama & Baby bunnies*

**UPDATE: Jinger, Allan Michael and Bootz found a home around Christmas time – they were adopted together by the same family! Four of the rabbits have also found a home!**



## Wish List

- Foster or Adoptive Homes
- Donations of Cash and Canadian Tire Money
- Volunteer Drivers
- Dog Walkers
- Cat Litter
- Boston Pizza receipts



# Doggie School

## DOGS AND CHILDREN

By Dorothy Avery, Mother Knows Best Dog Obedience School



Shelby (aka Abby)

Being a seasoned dog trainer of some 25 years, I have always presented “original” material to my audience; however, it is impossible for me to deal with any dog related subject matter better than that done by the Monks of New Skete in their amazing book “How To Be Your Dog’s Best Friend”. I hope you will read intently and refer frequently to their valuable tips on “Dogs and Children”, some of which I have listed below and endorse unconditionally. I will not attempt to reinvent the wheel – here they are!

1. Never allow children to approach a dog while he is eating. Dogs instinctively protect their food, and little children who approach them at this time may provoke an aggressive response. It is also a good idea for you, as an adult, to desensitize your dog to protective behavior around food. This means using a progressive series of behavior modification exercises grounded in feeding him out of your hand. But it is also wise to think preventatively.
2. Never approach a strange dog who is not on leash with his/her owner. Despite the fact that some dogs may appear to be friendly at first, dogs are capable of a quick, aggressive response if a child suddenly acts unpredictably. Instead, calmly instruct your child to avoid the dog. Similarly, children need to be taught that they should never enter a fenced-in yard where a dog is loose. Dogs are territorial creatures and often act with hostility when a child enters their space.
3. Never approach or disturb a dog who is sleeping. There are incidents galore on record of dogs who, when suddenly awakened, have nipped or overtly bitten an owner or child. If the dog must be roused, teach your child to call his name from a distance while clapping his/her hands. This alerts the dog well in advance and gives him the chance to respond evenly.
4. Never come up from behind a dog suddenly. This can have serious consequences no matter how stable the dog is. Dogs generally do not enjoy surprises; so make sure that your child has learned always to alert the dog of her presence before she approaches.

The best way to teach your child how to meet a dog for the first time is to have the owner bring the dog up to the child on leash, making him sit in front of the child. Doing so sends the dog an implicit message about the owner’s authority and confidence and allows the owner to better control the introduction. At this point, have the child put her hands out for the dog to sniff, making sure that her fingers are turned inward, back of the hand forward, toward the dog. After the dog shows signs of friendliness (wagging his tail and licking, etc.), the child can then be allowed to pet the dog more affectionately.

It is of prime importance that your child knows how to act if and when they ever accidentally come in contact with a dog that is acting aggressive. Dogs trained in guard work learn to attack a raised hand, so if your child is ever accosted by a strange dog, caution him to stand still without throwing his arms up and, then, once the dog retreats a bit, to walk away SLOWLY. ABOVE ALL, the child should not scream or run away, which might encourage the dog to attack. *Train your dog but also train your child!!!!*

 Thank you 

Thank you to all of the people who contributed articles for this edition. A big vote of thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers, donors and sponsors. Without your support, the Mississauga Humane Society would not be able to achieve its mission of rescuing animals.