



Save a Life

January 2008
9th Edition

The *pet chat!*

Mississauga Humane Society Newsletter

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Benny

MISSION STATEMENT

To rescue as many homeless companion animals as possible.



Coco

President's Message

Happy New Year! I wish you, your family and your pets all the best in 2008.

After a 'paw-and-tail' count, I am pleased to report that **in 2007 we rescued a total of 661 homeless animals - 540 cats and 121 dogs.** We also found adoptive homes for 452 pets - 329 cats and 123 dogs! As a volunteer-run rescue group without a shelter, an office and paid staff, I consider this a very good achievement. It is a joint effort of the MHS TEAM - our dedicated foster parents, volunteers and supporters. On behalf of our animals, I wish to thank every one of you who has contributed to our Society.

We want to save as many animals as possible; **right now, we are experiencing a serious shortage of FOSTER HOMES, especially for cats.** Without foster parents, we simply cannot save animals. **If you can help by taking even just ONE CAT, you would be saving a life.** Please call us, NOW! Our animals are waiting.

Lily Chan, President

Board Of Directors

Lily Chan, President

Tina Kendall, Vice President

Ana Macedo

Carla Costa

Elisabeth Jimmink

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EDITOR: LILY CHAN

Puppy LOVE Story

Locksley's (Batman's) Journey

(Part II of the Quebec Rescue of 14 dogs in Jan 2007)

By Roger Matz



Batman had been in a shelter since 2001 until the MHS Rescue in Jan 2007

January 27, 2007 was a date of significance for two members of the Canine species. It was the day that my dear Shepherd type mixed breed, Gloster, passed away. Aged almost 16 years, he had arrived in my life, unrequested, as an abused 4 year old, and had quickly become, in the words of James Herriot, the "faithful companion of the daily round". With his passing I began the necessary grieving process, knowing that one day, I would seek a replacement for him.



*Locksley & Daddy
In front of home*

After 6 weeks without the company of "canis familiaris", an acquaintance told me of a web search process to review dogs available from Ontario's various adoption agencies. As the search began, I had to struggle with my initial disappointment: I wanted to offer a good home to ALL of these needy dogs! The list shortened with breed specifics and age and gender preferences, until I was stopped by the "resume" of "**Batman**". His prepossessing photo was just the beginning. I read on, and from his rescue story, the date January 27, 2007 jumped from the page! Thanks to the efforts of the MHS, and particularly the tireless work of its president Lily Chan, Batman, **after SIX LONG years of confinement in a shelter**, had commenced the first day of his new life venture on the exact day that Gloster had ended his life's journey.

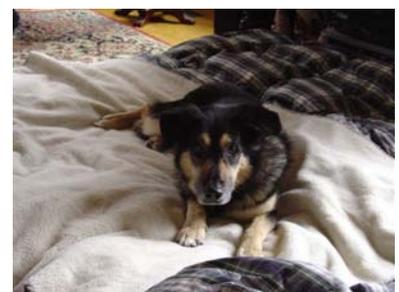
I began my inquiries with the MHS and foster-mom Kirby, and Batman was soon adopted! To begin his new life with me, his name was changed to "**Locksley**", which is taken from the legend of Robin Hood, who was actually "Robin of Locksley". Then I had my veterinarian friend, Ivan, do a complete blood analysis, and with some mutual anxiety, we waited the results. Locksley, after 6 years in the Quebec shelter, was in a "wasted" condition. Thankfully, the results returned perfectly normal! His condition had been caused by the lack of muscle mass and tone, and not the result of

any major health issue. Next step was a complete canine dentistry procedure. Locksley receives a daily tooth brushing and will henceforth enjoy healthful gums and teeth.

His previous life experience has resulted in his being extremely timid and fearful. With care and understanding, I am able to help him through some of his fears, but I realize, after ten months of ownership, that he will always retain much of his fearfulness. The joy for me, is that behind his timidity, is an extremely affectionate dog who now trusts me completely. His sturdy tail can be a "dangerous weapon" when he does his frequent wagging!

Locksley and I wish to thank Lily Chan, the "match maker", foster-mom

Kirby, and to all the other volunteers who assisted in the Quebec rescue. As appreciation, I have committed to a one-dollar per day, or \$30.00 per month, as an ongoing contribution to the MHS, for as long as Locksley's journey with me continues. I hope that will be for many, many years.



A comfy bed replaces the cold concrete floor in the shelter



"Dogs: We rescue their lives. They rescue our hearts!"



RESCUE Story

Cojack (Louis), a MOP or a Dog?

By Lily Chan



I almost laughed when I saw the pictures of Cojack (now Louis) that needed an urgent rescue, although I could have cried. *“Is this a mop or a dog?”* I thought I had seen it all, but I have never seen a dog in such a ‘matted’ condition! Cojack was picked up as a stray shortly after the ‘hunting season’ and ended up in a shelter in Belleville. He was shaved (had to be sedated due to aggression!) before the shelter staff could tell what kind of dog he was! . After shaving, he was 8 lbs less (of fur!) and thought to be a terrier X, 9-10 yrs old, an old dog with an attitude!

Besides his ‘matted’ condition, his ears were very raw; he obviously was in terrible pain from a very bad ear infection that required ear drops several times daily. Though he accepted a muzzle when given the ear drops, the shelter staff were worried that this ‘grumpy old guy’ may ‘react’ one day, and he would have to be euthanised. A lot of work needs to be done before he can trust people again. I really did not believe I could find a foster home for him, or should we even take him in, considering we already have a few ‘problem’ dogs. Who would take care of a dog when I tell them the truth: ***You have to give him ear drops several times a day, and he has to be muzzled, or he may bite... a quiet home... no children please....., he does not like men....***” Still, I tried and asked a few people, hoping to spare him from the possible death row. No luck. Then Linda Goepfert called; she wanted to save a dog by fostering ...Well, you want one, you have one, a challenging one, Linda! Linda the foster mom has kindly shared her ‘dog journal’ with us:



Linda petting Louis, a New Cojack

“After saying yes and offering to foster Cojack (we have now renamed him Louis) who was described as being aggressive and probably capable of attacking, I honestly wondered if I had not gotten myself in just a little too deep - at the same time my conscience not allowing me to forget about him when we heard that he might be put down. On Dec 15, 2007, he arrived - a frightened, shaking obviously traumatized but sad looking boy, not sure what to expect. I waited a while and, opened the crate door, at the same time grabbing the protruding leash expecting him to growl and bite at any moment. We have not been bitten – a good start! We took him inside the house, and he proceeded to Potty on any and every object in the room! I promised myself that we would give him all the time in the world.

Yes, there were times in the first few days when he growled at me and I backed away, thinking we most probably could not make a difference. We immediately realised just how bad his ear infection was. Despite we were told he does not like men, on the first evening here he actually allowed my husband to put in his eardrops (with a growl of course). After a few days of cleaning, mopping and disinfecting (at times I felt like a toilet cleaner!), I started to encourage him to come out the back door to potty all the time while I kept saying *“Good Boy Louis-good boy”* a million times. We have kept things positive with lots of encouragement and absolutely no negativity. Shortly after MHS arranged for his neuter and vetting. After a really good and strong antibiotics for his ears and terrible chest infection, we have progressed to a now almost toilet trained, tail wagging dog, wanting to cuddle with me on his bed whilst I wrap his blanket around him like a baby. He waits for me to rub his head as he puts his paws into my lap as he looks at me with big wise brown eyes

Louis truly has stolen my heart. I just hope he continues to improve and be the joy he is turning into. I honestly believe that he never had any act of kindness shown to him (besides the shelter staff) in his life until he was brought to us. On his first car trip to the vet he was so scared we could not coax him out of the car for an hour, trying to ignore his growls. He now goes with us regularly in the car and loves sitting on the back seat watching the world go by. I have now left him alone for a three-hour stretch without any accident; he lies on his bed at our feet watching television in the evening and cries when he cannot see us. I am greeted by a sleepy but tail-wagging dog at 6 am every morning when I make morning coffee followed by his 10-minute cuddle until the coffee has brewed. He is leaning a lot and learning fast, but ***most of all he has taught me just how rewarding giving a little of one’s TIME, LOVE and PATIENCE can be. Thank you, Louis, for giving me this chance to help a precious life like yours.”***

Rescue & Adoption Statistics



Nerbie

(January to December 2007)

Number of Dogs Rescued	121
Number of Dogs Adopted	123
Number of Cats Rescued	540
Number of Cats Adopted	320



Dallas



Home SWEET Home

"Some of our adopted pets in their loving forever homes."



Cenya



Casey



Anakyne (right) & Bazzle her buddy



Charlie & Jessie



Maggie



Sarge



Ollie



Leila

Kitty LOVE Story

How we met our two ANGELS!

by Samrah & Jaysin P.



*Much Much
& Mila*

I worked for a store that had a cat adoption area (MHS). It was

near my birthday and I wanted a cat more than anything. Jaysin and I went to the store one day and saw a big lump of orange and white fur sitting alone on a shelf. He looked similar to our cartoon cat, Garfield. We instantly fell in love.

We found out he has a very special name – **MUCH MUCH!** He was very independent from the others and so loving! He climbed up on Jay and immediately fell asleep in Jay's arms. We knew he was meant to be ours and took him home. He became the best gift I have ever received. He is loving and caring and the most loyal pet I have ever had. If I am hurt and cry out he runs to me or "Daddy". He will paw at us, lick our legs and cry until we assure him we are okay.



I talked to Lily and agreed to foster a cat. Her name was **MILA** and she is 10 yrs old; and she was very thin and scared. After being abandoned by the owner at an old age, and bounced between homes, she became very insecure, and was too scared to eat or even come near us. Sadly I had to force feed her for a month by holding her down and giving her vitamins and a liquid diet. It was breaking our hearts but we knew if we kept at it that we could help her. After almost a year she started to change. She would come out and sit with us but still did not like to be touched and would grumble if we tried.

Finally we managed to find her a home but it did not work out. Mila was very unhappy there, did not do well and came back to us. We then found her a second home but in the span of two hours Mila was returned. As soon as we got that call we knew she had to be at home with us permanently. We rushed to get her and I'll never forget her whimpering when she saw us. *The first kiss I got from Mila was on that day. She licked my nose and whimpered in my arms. I was so happy.* Jay and I just looked at each other and knew she was meant to be ours. She is fully litter trained, sleeps with Much Much and us, and cuddles on the couch with us. Mila is extremely active and plays constantly with Much Much. She has gained weight and runs around like a kitten.



Mila

Our cats are like our children and we love them to death!



THANK YOU **Endless Tails Nutrition**

*For organizing
"Photo with Santa" to raise funds
for our animals*

We would like to thank **TLC'S SPA**

for the donation of proceeds from the
Pet Picture Contest
for their 2007 Pet Calendar.

My Pride & Joy

Fostering, a rewarding challenge?

By **Tom Hodgins** (foster parent of 35 dogs!)



*Dundas, my 1st fostered dog
in Aug 2004*



*Simon, my current fostered dog,
still waiting for a FOREVER HOME*

Five years ago I lost my dog to cancer. Cinders was a beautiful black curly black Cockapoo. She had more love in her than anything I had ever experienced in my life. At the same time I lost my wife to Alzheimer Disease. She has been in a Long Term Care Facility for the last few years. Essentially she is gone in mind and is lost to me forever. It is a long goodbye.

To take away some of the depressing situations I turned to Fostering Care with Mississauga Humane Society. I believed that if Cinders could give me so much joy and happiness in the short time she was with me, maybe I could return the favour by helping poor unfortunate animals in need.

That was more than three years ago. *Since then I have fostered some 35 dogs!!* I have never regretted any of the time I spent with the animal. I have had both loving relationships and sad ones, but most of all I have developed a loving companionship with dogs than I ever imagined.

They call Tom
"The Beagle
Daddy!"

One of my first dogs I fostered was a large black Chow Chow by the name of Kohl. He was untrained, enormous, and ready to run at the drop of a hat. I was not very experienced at that time. One day I took Kohl for a car ride to my local bank near the Lakeview Generating Plant. As I opened the car door Kohl slipped out behind me just like lightning, and was off in the deep snow. Unprepared to run in the snow I took after him until I was completely exhausted (I am a senior!). About an hour later I went back to the bank hoping she would still be there. As I approached the bank driveway there was Kohl! She looked at me as much as to say: "*Where the hell have you been*". This is one of the situations that you find yourself in without any warning.

Susie



When we receive an animal for fostering it is at times a challenge to note its good and bad behaviour. We try to resolve the bad problems that stand out. The beagle I have now is a good example of this. Simon is approximately 9 years old and is partially deaf. I take him for a walk, which is 3 times a day, and he will howl whenever he gets the scent of another animal. To control this we are learning to change his pathway to try to avoid unusual scents. Secondly he will nip if he doesn't like the treatment he is given, - i.e.: -hair brushing, waking him from a sound sleep, etc. After following the advice given by the MHS dog

trainer I have now seen some improvement in Simon's behaviour.



*Lucky, used to be
left alone in a yard*

Being a foster parent is a challenge but is ever so rewarding as it stimulates your mind and brings out your compassion, and makes you conscious of the needs of the animals. You share your love and kindness with the animals. In return they reward you with love, affection and companionship. I have enjoyed every one of the dogs I fostered. They all have their own distinctive characteristics but mainly an abundance of love. **"Life wouldn't be the same without a dog in the home!"**

CAT CORNER

Adopting Your Cat:

Does the Source Make Any Difference?

By Tina Kendall



***Mist, a 15 yr cat with
Feline Aid, ADOPTED!!***

The crowd in front of the pet shop window is entranced. Kittens! Is there anything cuter? How can you resist buying one? What kind do you want? What colour? What most people never ask is, "Where did they get these kittens from, anyway?" Most people assume that the kitten they are purchasing has come from some sort of reputable source. They further assume that the animal is in good health and is ready to go home and be the perfect pet. Unfortunately, this is very often untrue. Buying a pet from a pet store is, at best, a questionable risk.

Few customers ever take note that the kittens available are always between the ages of 6 to 10 weeks old. This is when the kittens are the most attractive and the most saleable. Even fewer ever realize that the pet store is not there for the benefit of the animal. A pet store is a business and wants to make sales. Money is the main motivator of the business. Many people believe that, since they are paying a good price for the animal, they are getting a superior pet. The truth is that many kittens are obtained from stray cats found in fields or abandoned buildings. Pet mills, although they have received a lot of bad publicity of late, continue to thrive and to perpetuate their misery. The resulting fact is that many of the kittens are obtained as cheaply as possible without any medical attention or thought to the animal's welfare at all.

If you take a moment you would realize that there are seldom any full-grown cats around in the store. Why? Full-grown animals do not sell. What happens to the kittens that no one buys? Surely, if time passes, these cute little bundles of fur will become adult cats and the store will find them increasingly difficult to move. What is the outcome of this? If the animal reaches adulthood and cannot be sold there are a variety of ways of cutting the losses on the animal. One store we know of simply tosses the animals outside to fend for themselves. It is often difficult to know but one point remains clear – the cats are disposed of.

What about a breeder? When you look in magazines the advice given to potential buyers is to "find a reputable breeder". Again, little thought is given to the fact that the breeder is basically a business. He or she makes money by manufacturing cats.

Its easy to see that there is no shortage of cats in this world and there is no excuse for creating more cats and dogs. We have enough. Millions of cats and dogs are euthanized in overcrowded city run pounds every year. Everytime, a "purebred" cat is sold, a shelter cat dies.

This leaves us with the question: "So... what is the right thing to do?" If you have any concern for the animal and you are a decent human being the answer is simple. Adopt you pet from your local humane society or private rescue group. The love you will get from any of these animals will be every bit as good as any from a store or a breeder and the gratitude will be infinitely greater. You will be saving a life.

The Mississauga Humane Society is an animal rescue group dedicated to saving all of the cats and dogs possible and to finding them good homes to live in. This philosophy can be seen in the fact that you do not buy an animal from us, you must adopt it. All of our cats come from distressed circumstances. They are rescued when people leave them behind during a move; when they are dumped by their owners who no longer want them; when those same abandoned animals give birth to kittens outside in the elements, often in terrible conditions – we try to take them all.

When you come to us you know that the kitten has had veterinary care and has either been spayed/ neutered, if old enough, or had arrangements for this to be done at the first possible opportunity. The animal's welfare is tantamount to us. By coming to the Mississauga Humane Society, you are giving an animal a second chance.



DON'T BREED OR BUY WHILE HOMELESS ANIMALS DIE



HUMOUR TIME



Beggar of the Year



FREE TO GOOD HOME	
	
Beautiful 6 mo. old male kitten - orange & caramel tabby, playful, friendly, very affectionate. Ideal for family w/kids.	Handsome 32 yr. old husband - personable, funny, good job, but doesn't like cats. Says he goes or cat goes.
↔ OR ↔	
Call Jennifer - 265-5543 - come see both & decide which you'd like.	

STEPS of COMPASSION

HOW Paul McCartney turned into a VEGETARIAN



"Our task must be to free ourselves...by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.

Albert Einstein

"Paul and Linda McCartney travelled with a vegetarian cook on all their world tours, and when they make hotel reservations they requested rooms free of fur, leather and other animal parts. As they told it: We stopped eating meat many years ago. During the course of a Sunday lunch we happened to look out of the kitchen window at our young lambs playing happily in the fields. Glancing down at our plates, we suddenly realized that we were eating the leg of an animal who had until recently been playing on a field herself. We looked at each other and said, '**Wait a minute, we love these sheep - they're such gentle creatures. So why are we eating them?**' It was the last time we ever did." Paul said. "What happens is that you really get into vegetarianism and start become an activist because you realize that what you're doing is helping to save these poor animals from getting shunted into a slaughterhouse."

*Excerpt from "The PETA GUIDE to Compassionate Living"
www.PETA.com*

 *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 foster parents, volunteers, adoptors, donors and sponsors.