



JANUARY 2009
12th edition

The *pet chat!*

Mississauga Humane Society Newsletter

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MISSION STATEMENT

To rescue
as many
homeless
companion
animals as
possible, and
find them
FOREVER
HOMES.



Angus



Minime

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EDITOR: LILY CHAN

President's Message

Dear friend:

The past year was another great year of rescue; we rescued more animals than ever! **In 2008 a total of 701 homeless animals were saved – 124 dogs and 577 cats. We also found homes for 545 – 110 dogs and 435 cats.**

We don't have an office, a shelter or any paid staff. Our great team of volunteers is the reason for this significant achievement.

I would like to dedicate the same poem "**BECAUSE OF YOU**" as I did last year to all of our foster parents, volunteers, adopters and donors.

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 2nd Chance at Life

– A Once Homeless Pet

Lily Chan, President

RESCUE & ADOPTION STATISTICS

(January to December 2008)



*MEESHU
ADOPTED*

Number of Dogs Rescued 124
Number of Dogs Adopted 110

Number of Cats Rescued 577
Number of Cats Adopted 435

TOTAL RESCUED 701
TOTAL ADOPTED 545



*LAUREEN
ADOPTED*



HOME SWEET HOME

Some of our adopted pets in their FOREVER HOMES



Francis



Kathleen



Oliver (Ollie)



Jethroe



Poshie (Lovebug)



Meg (right) and brother Mel

Puppy LOVE Story

THE BURKE BUNCH

🎵 Sung to the Brady Bunch theme song tune 🎵



Freck (now Randell) stayed in a pound for 6 months

Randell, free, running in the park



Here's the story of a lovely doggie,
Who was looking for a very special home.
All he wanted was parole,
from the kennel,
Luckily he found MHS and a foster home.

It's the story of a family named Burke,
Who were busy with three boys
of their own.
They were five people living all together,
Yet they were all alone.

Till the one day when the doggie
met this family,
And they knew that it was
much more than a hunch.
That this group would somehow
be a forever family,
That's the way we all became
the Burke Bunch.

The Burke Bunch, The Burke Bunch.
That's the way we became
the Burke Bunch.



Randell has his own car

They think I am very handsome – I agree!



"It has been just over a year since our wonderful new addition arrived to make our family complete. Randell, aka Freck, has spoiled us from the start. He is a social, well-mannered fellow who has brightened our lives, beyond our dreams. If someone had told me that a frightened, skinny hound would come into our lives and steal the hearts of our family of 5, including 3 teen boys, I would have told them they were dreaming. Now we cannot imagine what we ever did without him here. Randell goes everywhere we do including the drive in, football games, baseball games, track practice, walks to the park, drives around town and of course family BBQs. Thank you MHS for helping us find the perfect match for our family."

- Heather, Bill, Jeremy, Shane and Craig

to be continued on next page...



Never, never be afraid to do what's right especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our souls when we look the other way.

- Martin Luther King



From the desk of Randell Burke (former Freck who was rescued from a pound where he stayed for months. He was adopted to the Burke family in August 2007)

Hello everyone at the MHS:

I thought I should write a little letter to let you know how I am doing, since I have been gone for a whole year now. Well let me tell you it has been some year here, with my Forever Family. I finally have them trained, they were not easy, but after a lot of work on my part I finally did it.

I have trained them to do the following:

1. let me sleep in their bed
2. BBQ me all beef hot dogs for a treat
3. to let me in the front seat of the truck, (as long as I wear my seat belt – that is my people's rule, not mine)
4. to walk twice a day and take me to the leash free park once a day
5. when I smack them in the head it means I WANT a treat NOW, not in 5 minutes

See what I mean, I had to teach them so much, it was hard work but the payoffs are great!!

My forever family tells everyone who will listen about what a fantastic addition to their family I am. They LOVE me more than I could ever have imagined and I LOVE them back just as much. They will even tell you that I am the perfect dog; the groomers, the vet and the kennel I sometimes stay at for the weekend will tell you the same thing. So I guess they are pretty lucky to have good old ME! :)

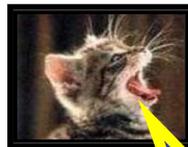
It has been an exciting year and things can only get better, now that I am not so shy and timid, so I look forward to seeing what I can teach them in the next 12 months.

Love your pal,
Randell (aka Freck)
August 2008

HUMOUR TIME



Definition of "LOSER"



What do you get if you cross a sheepdog with a rose?

A Collie-flower!

How do you know that cats are smart creatures?

Because they never cry over spilt milk!

How are tigers like sergeants in the army?

They both wear stripes.

Why did the poor dog chase his own tail?

He was trying to make both ends meet.

PET CORNER

ALLERGY?

You DO NOT have to get rid of your CAT!



Allergies are among the top reasons given by cat owners when relinquishing their cats. With the exception of those who are extremely sensitive to animal dander, most pet owners can sensibly live with their pet allergies; symptoms can be managed, and they can be spared the heartbreak of giving up their beloved pet.

If you think you have asthma or allergies, see your physician. However, don't be quick to blame the family cat for allergies. Ask your allergist to specifically test for allergies to pet dander rather than making an assumption. Many allergy sufferers are sensitive to more than one allergen. So if you're allergic to dust, insecticides, pollen, cigarette smoke, and cat dander, you'll need to reduce the overall allergen level in your environment by concentrating on all of the causes, not just the pet allergy.

If your allergist has done skin and blood tests to determine that you are allergic to your cat, it does not necessarily mean that you have to part with him/her! **The following steps will help much reduce the cat allergy – and you can still keep Garfield!**

YOU & YOUR CAT

- **Keep your cat clean. Use “Allerpet-C” for cats (“Allerpet-D” for dogs).** This is a special product you can use on your cat and has helped many allergic friends keep their pets. It's truly a miracle for some! It's available at vet clinics/some pet stores. You moisten a paper towel or washcloth with this liquid and wipe your pet down with it once a week. It neutralizes the allergens on the pet's skin and fur. It takes about 3 weeks for it to reach peak effectiveness. Sometimes the cat has to be washed/wiped down once a day for it to be effective. Alternatively, you can get a damp micro fibre cloth to rub down the cats' coat.
- Some people **bath the cat** regularly to reduce the amount of cat allergen.
- Create an **allergy-free area**. This is usually your bedroom. Close the door and keep the cat out of it.
- Take allergy shots and medication to relieve your symptoms.
- Wash your hands thoroughly immediately after petting your cat and do not rub your eyes.

YOUR HOUSE

- Vacuum up cat allergen with a **high grade HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) vacuum** twice a week. Wear a dust mask. Vacuum walls, carpet, flooring, chairs, furniture...everywhere, thoroughly.
- In addition to vacuuming, use a **vapour system cleaner** to clean your home. This has been proven by research to be extremely helpful in killing off dust mites, bacteria, mold spores and cat allergen, which are embedded in your carpets and upholstery.
- **Wash all bedding in 140-degree hot water** at least twice monthly to eliminate allergen and dust mites.
- **A good HEPA air purifier** is essential for cleaning and filtering the air in your house.
- **Use furnace filters** that trap pet dander and change them regularly.
- **Use impermeable covers for mattresses and pillows** because allergen particles brought into the room on clothes and other objects can accumulate.
- **Replace heavy curtains and drapes with washable fabrics.**

– Where there's a WILL, there's a WAY –

Kitty LOVE Story

THREE PEAS IN A POD

By Diane Stunguris

Jasper (Carl)



It was November 2006 when one of my cats got sick and was put down. My cat Cosmo (black short haired) lost his buddy and I felt it necessary to find him a mate right away. I got in touch with Lisa who fostered kittens for MHS and she agreed to let me come over that same day to meet Coco (grey long haired). Coco and Cosmo hit it off right away. Coco was an adorable little kitten who looked up to her big brother. Cosmo needed a companion and Coco was purr-fect. He followed her around and gave her many kisses. They become best friends and were inseparable, always cuddling. I felt good about giving another cat a forever home and her never-ending purring assured me she was happy.



Jasper, Coco and Cosmo

Jasper was left behind when someone moved. I couldn't believe someone would do that to a part of their family and just leave him to fend for himself outside, especially being a declawed cat. Thank goodness a neighbour took him to a vet nearby and eventually he made it to MHS. After hearing that story, I couldn't wait to bring him home to meet Coco and Cosmo and earn his trust. Cosmo took to him right away while more cautious Coco defended her favourite spots for a couple of days. Eventually they all became best buddies and Coco realized that now she can steal Jasper's treats as well as stealing Cosmo's.

In September 2008, I started visiting the Cat Room at Petcetera when I shopped there. One day, I saw Carl (now Jasper), a grey tabby hiding behind the litter box with his big green eyes looking up at me. I picked him up right away and he melted into my arms. A day later, I asked to foster him because I knew my cats would just love him as they love everyone. I knew Jasper was scared and that there was a story behind him. I found out



Cosmo (left) and Coco cuddling

After fostering Jasper for only a couple days, I knew I wasn't going to be able to give him up. Even though he was very shy and cautious, I could tell he was happy with his new friends Cosmo and Coco. They were three peas in a pod, eating together, watching birds together and running up and down the stairs together. At that point I decided to make him my own. I did not want him to have to re-adjust again to a new home and have to learn to trust again. He had been through so much and he trusted me. I could not give him to just anyone. I looked into his big green eyes and told him this is now his forever home and he'll never be left behind again. I recall when Lily sent me the adoption papers he sniffed every inch of them. I think he knew he was really mine and starting settling into his new permanent home and relaxing. Jasper is thriving with his buddies Cosmo and Coco. Coco is more of a little princess and just watches the boys wrestle until I bring out the laser toy and then it's three cats running around like crazy trying to catch it.

Thank you Lily for allowing me to foster Jasper and then adopt, and a special thanks to Coco's 2006 foster mom Lisa for all her help, advice and encouragement — you're always there for me! Cosmo, Coco and Jasper will be together forever and I am grateful for them. You would never know they came into my home at different times.

My advice to all, adopt more than one – they are great companions and playmates for each other! !

NEWS & EVENTS

CAT/KITTEN ADOPT-A-THON

During the months of October and November 2008, several **Cat/Kitten ADOPT-A-THONS** were held at both **Petsmart** and **Petcetera** stores. They were very successful and a total of more than 70 cats were adopted. Thanks to all volunteers who helped, especially Vera Kalbol who organized the events at Petsmart.

THANK YOU, **PETSMART** and **PETCETERA**, for letting us use your locations!



Dora and her new family at Petcetera



Misha and her proud new parents at Petsmart



A child attracted by our cute kittens at Petsmart

"PHOTO WITH SANTA"

On Dec 13, 2008
Photo with Santa' was held to raise funds.

Thank you to
ENDLESS TAILS
PET NUTRITION
for organizing this event!



Champ, a Quebec dog rescued and adopted in 2007, with Santa

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Love knows no boundaries...



This hit the 6 o'clock news.

A fawn followed this beagle home -- right through the doggie door in the Bittinger, MD area. The owner came home to find the visitor had made himself right at home!

Who said that animals have no feelings?



STEPS OF COMPASSION



Animals Used for Entertainment

Animals don't want to ride bicycles, stand on their heads, balance on balls, or jump through rings of fire. Sadly, they have no choice. Trainers use abusive tools, like whips and electric prods, and force them to perform.

Not only are elephants, monkeys, bears, tigers, and other animals abused by trainers, they suffer from extreme loneliness, boredom, and frustration from being locked in tiny cages or chains month after month, city after city. Instead of being treated like furniture that is loaded and unloaded into trucks and storage areas, these animals should be in their natural habitat, exploring, seeking mates, and raising families.

Animals held captive in circuses, rodeos, zoos, and other entertainment venues need you to speak out for them. Teach your community why, for animals' sake, they should go for a hike or take in a baseball game instead of supporting these unkind businesses.

Excerpt from PETA website - www.PETA.com

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,
adopters, donors and sponsors.