



**Save a Life**

October 2007  
8<sup>th</sup> Edition

# The *pet chat!*

## Mississauga Humane Society Newsletter

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## President's Message

The past few months have been the busiest time of the year, as two of our most important events took place. Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation party was held on Aug 12. Like last year, each of our dedicated volunteers was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and an angel pin while a compassionate (vegetarian) and delicious buffet dinner was served. Three of our rescued dogs, Shylo, Maggie and Champ were also officially adopted by their foster parents at the party! What a memorable night for them!

On Sep 8 we had our Annual Walkathon 2007. We could not have asked for better weather. The show-up was excellent. There were some 100 participants and a total of over \$13,000 was raised! Everyone had a great time. We were very pleased with the outcome. I hope the event will grow bigger every year as MHS becomes more well-known.

Please enjoy pictures of the two events on the next page! Have a Happy Halloween!

*Lily Chan  
President*



Angel Bidy (diva of our 1<sup>st</sup> rescue story) with Mom Sandy supporting our Walkathon

# ANNUAL WALKATHON 2007



*Bulter (adopted in 2006) with his proud parents Lyn & her hubby*

\*



*Henry (adopted in 2007) with his parents Maria & Chris and his doggie sister Sacha*



*Wendy (adopted in 2007) and Maria her mom*



*Lucky (adopted in 2002) with Dad Kraemer*



*Dorothy Avery, our Dog Trainer doing Dog Obedience demonstration*



*Al Denko was probably the 1<sup>st</sup> cat walker in a Mississauga walkathon!*

## Volunteer Appreciation Party



*Liz & Steve have volunteered for us for 3 yrs. They officially adopted Champ, one of the 22 Quebec rescued dogs, at the party! Congratulations!*



*Tom Hodgins, our most senior foster parent (81 yrs!) getting the Certificate. Tom has fostered a total of 36 dogs in his 2-1/2 yrs' fostering with MHS! Way to go TOM!*

# Rescue & Adoption Statistics

*(January to Sep 2007)*

Number of Dogs Rescued **100**  
Number of Dogs Adopted **103**

Number of Cats Rescued **385**  
Number of Cats Adopted **230**



## Home SWEET Home

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



*Edward*



*Baboo*



*Cash*



*Dakota*



*Hope*



*Hewy (left)*

# Puppy LOVE Story

## **WINDSOR ~ The Kitty Hero**

**Hero Dog finds abandoned family on country road!**

By Tamara

*(Windsor was surrendered to us and adopted out in 2005, he was returned after a few months due to behavioural issues (kept running away!). He was adopted out again by his current mom, Tamara who devoted a lot of time, patience and LOVE to turn Windsor into a good dog,, and a KITTY HERO!)*



**Windsor** loves his walks out in the country. Last night's stroll ran a little late and there was a rush to get back before dark. All of the sudden, Windsor started carrying on and pulling his owner off the road. There, in the tall grass was a mum & kittens all huddled up together. Despite the super excited beagle carrying on in front of them, they did not run. In fact, they didn't seem to know where they were or where exactly to go.



These poor kitties were still in the same spot 20 minutes later when Windsor's owner returned with food and a cat carrier. They didn't even run away when she sat down in front of them. One by one, they were placed in the carrier with no trouble at all. It is painfully clear that these kitties were dumped at the side of the road and left to die. **Had Windsor not spotted them, surely they would have been hit by a car or eaten by predators. He is a kitty hero!**

***"Dogs: We rescue their LIVES. They rescue our HEARTS."***

# Kitty LOVE Story

## *My 2 New SHY Friends*

By Val Blackwell



*Rupert (right) & Poppy*

In mid December 2004, I had the most agonizing task of having my furry friend and companion, Peewee, put to sleep at the ripe old age of 21 years. I had adopted her from the Oakville Humane Society when she was 10 months old and we had a lot of history together. Of course I was heartbroken and felt I couldn't replace her. As I travel a great deal and the Christmas season was upon us, I thought I would wait until the spring before considering getting another cat. I left on a trip a couple of days later, thankful that I wouldn't be around the house to miss her.

After 5 days, I returned home - to an empty house. Being single, there was no one to greet me with a meow or curl up on the bed at night. I was so upset that I started my search on the internet that night and came upon the Mississauga Humane Society website. I searched and looked at many photos. Over the course of the following 2 weeks, I adopted **Rupert** (formerly known as Tani) and **Poppy** (formerly known as Merlin). They were fostered at 2 different homes and were classified as "special needs" cats.

Special, they were. They had both been feral cats trapped at about 6 months. Although they were trapped at the same time with about 20 others, it was not known if they were related. I adopted them about a week apart, just after Christmas, from 2 different homes. Both cats were withdrawn, scared and very nervous. They lived under my basement stairs for more than 2 weeks. The only way I knew I had cats was that the food was being eaten and the litter box was used. No one believed I had new cats.

I persevered and kept approaching them under the stairs getting closer and closer. I fed them a combination of wet and dry food not knowing what they had been fed before. I came home from a 2 day trip to find out one had had diarrhea all over my pale gray carpet. I persevered.



Two weeks later, they were still not approachable. I changed their food to a holistic blend of dry food with no additives. I kept speaking gently, not moving quickly around them, not vacuuming! Eventually I was able to pet them. Then they started to appear upstairs.

It took some time, but we are now great friends. Still skittish a bit, which I think they always will be, but very affectionate with me. They love to sit at my patio door and watch the birds, squirrels and chipmunks. Rupert's eyes become like saucers when a chipmunk races past. He's a big boy and my sister calls him "thunder thighs". I do believe he can leap a building in a single bound! He's become the most affectionate cat - a big suck! Poppy still operates on her own terms but as soon as I turn on the TV, she jumps up on the sofa to be pet and combed. I often catch them grooming each other.

I am truly grateful that they have come a part of my life. They are great friends and I love them dearly. My advice to others - working with some "difficult" animals can pay off hugely. My two are just the best! Thanks to the Mississauga Humane Society for their tremendous efforts in looking after our furry friends.

# CAT CORNER



## *"I ADOPTED YOUR CAT TODAY"*

**I adopted your cat today.  
The one you left at the pound.  
The one you had for ten years;  
And no longer wanted around.**

**I adopted your cat today.  
Do you know he's lost weight?  
Do you know he's scared  
And has lost all faith?**

**I adopted your cat today.  
He had fleas and a cold,  
But don't worry none.  
You've unburdened your load.**

**I adopted your cat today.  
Were you having a baby or moving away?  
Did you suddenly develop allergies; Or was there  
no reason he couldn't stay?**

**I adopted your cat today.  
He doesn't play or eat much.  
He's very depressed,  
But he will learn again to trust.**

**I adopted your cat today  
And here he will stay.  
He's found his forever home  
And a warm bed to lay.**

**I adopted your cat today  
And I will give him all that he could need.  
Patience, love, security, and understanding.  
Hopefully he will forget your selfish deed.**

***-Author Unknown***



## ***THANK YOU***

*Dorothy Avery & Olga Zalewski  
of Mother Knows Best  
Dog Obedience School  
for  
providing free training classes  
to our rescued dogs*

## ***WISH LIST***

- MONEY
- FOSTER/ADOPTIVE HOMES
- DRIVERS
- DOG & CAT CANNED FOD
- CLUMPING LITTER

# STEPS of COMPASSION

## 1<sup>st</sup> STEP - GO VEGETARIAN!

*"For the LOVE of Animals" - If we would not eat our dogs and cats, why would we eat pigs, cows, chickens...*



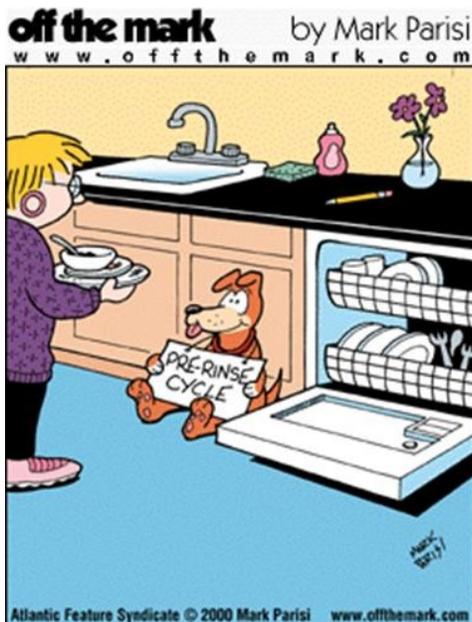
**"If anyone wants to save the planet, all they have to do is just stop eating meat. That's the single most important thing you can do. It's staggering when you think about it. Vegetarianism takes care of so many things in one shot: ecology, famine, cruelty."**  
—Paul McCartney

Animals on factory farms are treated like meat, milk, and egg machines. Chickens have their sensitive beaks seared off with a hot blade, and male cattle and pigs are castrated without any painkillers. All farmed chickens, turkeys, and pigs spend their brief lives in dark and crowded warehouses, many of them so cramped that they can't even turn around or spread a single wing. They are mired in their own waste, and the stench of ammonia fills the air. Animals raised for food are bred and drugged to grow as large as possible as quickly as possible—many are so heavy that they become crippled under their own weight and die within inches of their water supply.

Animals on factory farms do not see the sun or get a breath of fresh air until they are prodded and crammed onto trucks for a nightmarish ride to the slaughterhouse, often through weather extremes and always without food or water. Many die during transport, and others are too sick or weak to walk off the truck after they reach the slaughterhouse. The animals who survive this hellish ordeal are hung upside-down and their throats are slit, often while they're completely conscious. Many are still alive while they are skinned, hacked into pieces, or scalded in the defeathering tanks.

One suggestion: If you plan to make the transition to a vegetarian diet gradually, the most important foods to cut out of your diet first are bird flesh and eggs. While many people think that "red meat" and dairy products should be the first to go, this isn't the case. By cutting bird flesh from your diet, you'll save many more animals. Because chickens are so small, the average meat-eater is responsible for the deaths of many more chickens than cows. Plus, chickens and turkeys exploited by the meat and egg industries are the most abused animals commonly used for food. **By switching to a vegetarian diet, you can save more than 100 animals a year from this misery.**

*-Excerpt from PETA*



## DOG PHILOSOPHY

*The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.*  
-Anonymous

*Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.*  
-Ann Landers

*If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.*  
-Will Rogers

*There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.*  
-Ben Williams

# DOGGIE SCHOOL

## TRAINING TIPS

By Dorothy Avery, Mother Knows Best Dog Obedience School



**Tippy**  
**Adopted**

### Training Tip No. 1

#### **WATCH THOSE CANINES LARRY!!**

Starting in puppyhood, Larry had a tendency to guard his food. I knew a bite was not far in the offing. By standing close to his food bowl, lifting it and adding something tastier (or simply dropping it in his bowl), Larry soon learned that I was not a threat to his food supply (no challenge) and that good things happen when I'm around. Never try this technique if your dog is so aggressive that you are afraid of him – get professional advice.

### Training Tip No. 2

#### **TEACHING LARRY “NO BITING”**

Larry's puppy teeth were as sharp as Singer sewing machine needles and when he started using my skin as his sewing material, it was my job to teach him never to use his teeth on human skin. Each time Larry would nip, he elicited from me a sharp high pitched scream of AAAAAH! Or OUCH! This was followed by my leaving the room and paying no attention to him for at least a minute or two. By repetition of this exercise, Larry learned quickly that his teeth and human skin never meet.

### Training Tip No. 3

#### **CHILDREN BEWARE – WARNING SIGNS, “ANGRY DOG”!**

One or all of these signs may be exhibited by a dog prior to a bite or a full blown attack – barking, growling, snarling with showing of teeth, ears laid flat to head, stiff legs, tail up, hair raised on back. Slowly walk away sideways – never run. Never stare at the dog. Staring is perceived by the dog as a threat and could provoke an attack. If an attack occurs, roll up in a ball on the ground and protect the face/head area.

### Training Tip No. 4

#### **LARRY AND HIS BUDDIES' FIFTH WEEK LEARNING PLATEAU!**

So you have completed four weeks of obedience training and now you think your dog is brain dead – don't despair. To date, he has done exceedingly well in learning and performing his obedience exercises and now he acts as though he has never heard, let alone perform, the sit command. Unless you understand what is happening, it can be very devastating and frustrating – he has reached his fifth week learning plateau. Although there are many theories as to why this occurs, don't lose heart. Within 3 to 5 days, he will perform better than ever. Is he processing information?

 *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. Without your support, the Mississauga Humane Society would not be able to achieve its mission of rescuing homeless animals.**