

Winter 2020



Our Best Friends

Ottawa's (former) Loneliest Cat

Poor Charlie is a cat who came into OHS care in June 2018. He had some long-term medical challenges, and most importantly he was extremely shy.

Unfortunately, Charlie had a hard time coping with the foot traffic and noises in the shelter, so a foster volunteer cared for him. Sadly that meant nobody knew about Charlie. The OHS communications team promoted him as often as possible on social media, television and in blogs, but nothing seemed to work.

The OHS even placed Charlie on hold for pending adoptions several times over his nearly two years in OHS care, but he just couldn't find his loving forever family.

In 2018, Charlie spent his first Christmas in OHS care. It's not uncommon for an animal to spend their holidays with the OHS, but nobody could've predicted just how much longer he would be there.

Approaching the following holiday season, the OHS made a commitment to find Charlie a home no matter how much effort it took.



The OHS featured Charlie in videos, articles, social media posts and more to ramp up his promotion. Anything to find poor Charlie a home.

Lucky for Charlie, his story reached the right person. Just days before the holidays wrapped up, a family asked to meet Charlie, and they welcomed him to their home just days later.

Charlie's second chance wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for generous donors like you. The OHS wouldn't be able to care for long-stay animals like Charlie without your generous support. So thank you, from Charlie and the more than 8,000 other animals you will help care for this year.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR ANIMALS IN NEED



Contact Numbers

Main **613-725-3166**
 Lost & Found 613-725-9998
 Fax 613-725-5674
 Client Services/General Info ext. 221

Departmental Extensions

Adoption Centre	ext. 258
Lost & Found	223
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If you have a story idea or comment, please contact ohs@ottawahumane.ca via email or by mail to the OHS Newsletter Editor. Submissions of pictures and articles are welcome; however, they may not necessarily be used. Articles may be edited for length and content.

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Charitable registration # 123264715 RR0001

To lead Ottawa in building a humane and compassionate community for all animals.

From the President & CEO's Desk

Ontario's Animal Protection Legislation



On Dec. 5, 2019, Bill 136, the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, received royal assent. The Solicitor General of Ontario, Sylvia

Jones sped the bill through the legislature, having introduced it only at the end of October. The bill's passage is the first step in establishing a long-term solution for protecting animals in Ontario in the wake of the Ontario SPCA suddenly relinquishing its enforcement duties.

I met with most Ottawa MPPs in the lead up to the writing and introduction of the bill. I was impressed with how much members of every party listened to the OHS and its views on what needed to be in the bill. The result is legislation that is a big step forward for animals in Ontario.

Among the legislation's important steps forward are:

- Increased penalties. A significant increase and the highest penalties across Canada.
- Addition of psychological distress in all animals, recognizing that all animals can experience mental distress in addition to physical distress.
- Vehicle distress — pets in hot vehicles. New legislation allows for any first responder and in some cases a by-law officer who is first on-site to save an animal in a hot vehicle.

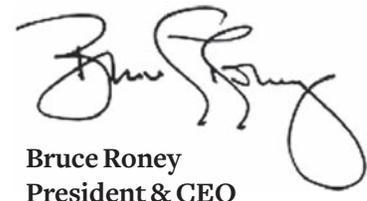
- Warrantless entry into a private dwelling. The new act enables any officer to enter a dwelling without a warrant if there is critical distress present. This is a new category added in the legislation.

Government has asked the OHS to continue to house animals that are removed from situations of abuse and neglect.

Of course there is still work to be done, as the devil is in the details. A lot of how this legislation will work will be in the regulations, which are not yet written. We also want to see whether enough resources will be devoted to enforcement. If the work isn't funded, then the best of legislation won't protect animals. We will be watching and working with government to ensure that no animal falls between the cracks.

The OHS and its sister humane societies and SPCAs provided well over 100 years of animal protection enforcement in Ontario, and for most of those years, received no funding to do so.

I think it's time that this work that so many people care deeply about becomes publicly funded and enforced like any other.



Bruce Roney
 President & CEO

Leaving a Legacy for the Animals

Vivien has been an animal lover all of her life. When she met Fred, the love of her life and husband of 45 years, her love for animals only grew. Fred and Vivien warmly welcomed many animals into their country home and together cherished the joy and comfort animals brought to their lives.

Vivien shared Fred's particular fondness for German Shepherds over the years, and when a homeless cat would win its way into Fred's heart, Vivien patiently invited her into their home as well. Together, their lives tell the story of how meaningful the human-animal bond can be and the shared connection they found caring for animals.

It was only natural that Fred and Vivien discussed that they wished to leave a legacy to care for animals in need and build a brighter future for the animals long after them.



Visit ottawahumane.ca/legacy to view Fred & Vivien's video, and to learn more about legacy giving.

Love for a Pet Goes on Forever

Meet Rosie, a sweet cat enrolled in the Pet Stewardship program. When Rosie's mom adopted her, she wanted the very best future for dear Rosie. She was older than Rosie, and wondered what may happen to little Rosie in the years ahead. What if Rosie were to outlive her?

With thoughtful consideration, Rosie's mom enrolled her in the Pet Stewardship Program to ensure Rosie would have a secure future and home prepared for her no matter what. Thankfully for Rosie, when her mom recently transitioned into a long-term care home and could no longer care for her, Rosie already had a plan in place for her future through the Pet Stewardship Program.

The OHS quickly placed Rosie into a foster home so she could be comfortable and at ease during this transition. Rosie's mom had packed up some of her favorite toys and



belongings to take with her to her new home. She wrote a loving letter and provided information on Rosie's habits and preferences. She knew Rosie was used to being the only cat in the family, she had never lived with little children and preferred to live with adults. She also had a keen taste for salmon. The program made all of these provisions possible.

Most of all, Rosie's mom ensured her health would be in good hands. Now the OHS owns Rosie and the \$10,000 enrollment fee her mom sowed for her future will cover healthcare expenses for her entire life. Rosie will live in a loving steward's

home who will care for her and provide her daily food and supplies and give her the wonderful life Rosie's mom's wished for her.

If you wish to learn more about the Pet Stewardship Program, call 613-725-3166 ext. 268 or email legacy@ottawahumane.ca.

More Life-Saving and Pain-Relieving Surgeries at the OHS

Pets surrendered to the OHS often require considerable veterinary care before finding a new home. Beyond just spay or neuter surgeries, many pets who come through the shelter visit the OHS clinic to receive additional compassionate care from the veterinary team. Some pets will come to the OHS in need of extensive surgeries, and sometimes, emergency life-saving care.



While performing these surgeries at the OHS saves some essential funds and travel time to outside vets, they are still very expensive. When you make a gift in support of lifesaving care for pets in need, you're keeping even more injured pets standing tall!

One OHS vet, Dr. Mary Thompson, attended a professional development session on femoral head excisions, a procedure performed on the hip. In the procedure, first developed in 1945, a portion of the hip is removed, but not replaced, rather it is allowed to heal and develop its own fibrous scar tissue so that the joint is no longer bone-to-bone. This is sometimes called a “false joint”.

Coming this month for newer veterinarians is professional development in dental surgery. Many of the animals in OHS care have long-neglected teeth, often causing pain. The OHS cannot responsibly place these

pets without first performing dental surgery to relieve the pain — nor would they want to pass on the problem to an adoptive family. The wait for these surgeries can delay the animals' adoption, so the more efficiently OHS vets can perform the surgeries, the faster animals can find new, forever homes.

OHS Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Shelley Hutchings oversaw Dr. Thompson's first surgery. Her first solo surgery was performed in early December on Jack, a six-year-old Brittany spaniel. Jack came through the surgery with flying colours and is now resting and recuperating in the home of an OHS foster volunteer.

Next Step: Ultrasound

The OHS veterinary team has identified the need for an ultrasound machine at the OHS. This equipment would allow vets to identify a number of medical conditions quickly and easily, such as bladder stones and fluid in the chest or abdomen. The technology would also allow the team to quickly see any issues with incision sites.

The OHS hopes to make this life-saving equipment purchase, and brush up the team on diagnosis using the system in the coming year if the funds are available. Ultrasound technology in-house would mean much less stress and shorter wait times for many of the most vulnerable animals in OHS care.

If you wish to make this leap forward in animal care a reality, contact OHS manager: donor relations Debbie Flinn at 613-725-3166, extension 279 or debbief@ottawahumane.ca.

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Some Happy Stories You Made Possible

This past Christmas, Jingle, the friendly OHS elf, asked you to open your hearts one last time in 2019 and help some animals in need. Thanks to you, here's how some of those animals are doing now.

Sherlock

Thanks to you, Sherlock was able to find a loving forever family this holiday season! You helped make this dog's Christmas wish come true in 2019.



Katt and her kittens

Some animals need a little bit longer to recover, and become healthy and adoptable. Katt is able to recover and her kittens are able to grow with love from a foster volunteer thanks to your support.



Ronny

Ronny is living happily with his forever family now thanks to you, and everyone else who came together to support the animals in 2019. You helped give this poor cat a second chance and a bright and happy New Year!



Sherlock, Ronny and Katt's feline family aren't the only animals in need of help. In 2020, more than 8,000 animals will come into OHS care, many needing surgeries and expensive medical care. You provide them with the care they need and the second chance they deserve.

In the Nick of Time

Last November, Elsie, a beautiful chocolate lab, was rushed to the OHS. She was dehydrated and malnourished from refusing to eat for two weeks. She was suffering from the advanced stages of pyometra — an infection of the uterus that is fatal if left untreated. Elsie's condition was critical but thanks to you, she was given hope.

There was little time. The OHS veterinarians had to act fast. Elsie's entire uterus had to be removed along with all the pus built up from the infection. Without you, the life-saving surgery would not have been possible.

After the surgery, Elsie was wrapped in a warm blanket and left to gently wake up in critical care. The surgery may have been a success, but there were still many steps on her road to recovery. She needed medications, dental care and tests to check for side effects from the surgery.

Despite the successful surgery, Elsie's road to recovery isn't over yet. She's still receiving care from the OHS and isn't healthy enough for adoption yet. Without you, Elsie wouldn't have had any hope. From the surgery, to the medication and tests, to the dental work, you gave Elsie a path to recovery. For that, we cannot thank you enough.



The Ways You Can Make a Difference

Donations are the best way to help animals who need a second chance. They help the OHS afford costly surgeries, medical care, food and shelter for the more than 8,000 animals that come into OHS care each year. Did you know the OHS also accepts in-kind gifts of supplies, food and more?

Learn more about the other ways to give by visiting ottawahumane.ca/donate/wish-list/.



Community Kudos

Student Champions!

- **Keira Hayes** and **Kyra Lauter** from École élémentaire catholique Laurier-Carrière
- **Brooke Ingraham** from Stittsville Public School
- **Olivia Pulice** and **Emily Gillingham** from Jockvale Elementary School.

A big round of a-paws and thanks to these fantastic students who raised money for the animals these past few months. The animals and all the staff are extremely appreciative of all your efforts and hard work. Way to go!



Olivia Pulice and Emily Gillingham in Grade 5 at Jockvale Elementary School.

To see other OHS heroes, visit ottawahumane.ca/communitykudos.

Something for Everyone

The OHS offers a wide variety of programs and seminars, with something available for every age group.

For children — The OHS hosts birthday parties, visits classrooms in schools, holds PD day, March break and summer camps, runs field trips and even offers behind-the-scenes tours for Scouts and Guides groups! All of these programs include educational lessons about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership, and are complemented with animal interaction.



For adults — The OHS teaches beginner and advanced Pet First Aid courses, hosts informative seminars and offers a series of obedience classes for all types of dogs. Adult programming also includes preventative pet health workshops for low-income pet owners, and specialty presentations about the role of Pets in Canada for newcomers.



For teens — The OHS offers a number of programs where youth can learn all about their post-secondary options in the animal-care field and collect their mandatory volunteer hours for high school. Through the L.E.A.D. program which runs four times per year, at-risk youth are paired with adoptable dogs to facilitate a dog training program — increasing dog adoptability and giving youth a sense of accomplishment and pride.



For seniors — The OHS holds special seniors' day events twice each year and visits a number of seniors' groups in the community through the Brightening Lives Animal Visits program.



Thank you for making this happen! If you'd like to learn more about one of these programs, email programs@ottawahumane.ca or visit ottawahumane.ca.



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need you.

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PAW

monthly giving saves lives

Join us!



Warm Hearts Raffle
— Friday, Feb. 14



Bake for the Animals
— Feb. 24–March 1



20th Annual OHS Garden Party
— Wednesday, May 13

For more details, check out the events calendar on the
OHS website at ottawahumane.ca/events.



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