



## Breezy's Attacker to Serve Two Years in Jail — Longest Sentence Ever for Animal Cruelty

The man who beat Breezy the dog nearly to death with a shovel was sentenced in June to two years in jail for the attack.

It's the longest sentence in Canada for animal cruelty-related crimes.

Steven Helfer, 24, pleaded guilty in December to animal cruelty for the attack on Breezy, in addition to other crimes, and was in court on June 19 for sentencing.



Breezy with her forever family, Sheila and John.

"This sentence is the longest we've ever seen in Ottawa and perhaps Canada for animal cruelty," said Bruce Roney, OHS executive director. "Breezy was hit over and over in the head with a shovel and a rake and she almost didn't make it. This happened at the hands of someone who was supposed to love and care for her. Everyone who cares about animals and animal welfare can have some satisfaction today."

In addition to his two-year sentence, Helfer will not be allowed to own an animal for 25 years and will be on probation for three years.

"So many people were touched by Breezy's story," Roney said. "We're pleased the seriousness of the crime was recognized. Animal cruelty is not acceptable to our community. The courts sent that message loud and clear."

Breezy, who barely survived the Oct. 16 beating, was adopted in March. She spends her day taking long walks along the river with her forever family, Sheila and John.

Breezy's recovery and happy ending was only possible thanks to you! 🐾

No Matter How Long It Takes to Find Forever Homes, Animals Like Lyla Have a Place at the OHS

*Without you, hunger and fear would be their constant companions*

Lyla's days are pretty predictable — four walks, a warm place to sleep, toys to play with, and food to fill her tummy.

Like many long-term residents, after more than a half year at the Ottawa Humane Society, Lyla has settled into a routine. She does a lot of people watching from the big window on her pod: could that smiling couple in the adoption gallery be her new forever family?

Since she was surrendered to the OHS with her four-day-old puppies last Christmas, Lyla has not faced a day feeling hungry, cold or afraid. She doesn't have to roam the streets alone, in the

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## Contact Numbers

<b>Main</b>	<b>613-725-3166</b>
Emergency	613-725-1532
Lost & Found	613-725-9998
Fax	613-725-5674
Dispatch/General Info	ext. 221

## Departmental Extensions

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If you have a story idea or comment, please contact ohs@ottawahumane.ca via e-mail 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

# From the Executive Director's Desk

## Have Your Say About the Future of Your Humane Society



By the time you read this, you may have already received an online survey that will ask you to consider the goals of the OHS. It will also ask you to list any important goals that you feel may have been overlooked.

The survey will ask you to explore a number of key questions that will help guide planning at the OHS for years to come. What should be the formal and informal jurisdiction of the OHS? How should we balance caring for the animals that need our help today with the need to make sure fewer need our help in the future? In what directions should we expand our services? How will we pay for services in the future?

Planning, raising the funds, building, and finally moving into our new West Hunt Club shelter were each momentous tasks. What you may not know, at the same time, the OHS Board of Directors developed a strategic plan. Considering all that was occurring at the time, this was a pretty amazing feat! The resulting plan was a great piece of work that carried us through the move and until now.

In addition to the huge goal to replace our decrepit old shelter, the plan identified six broad goals:

1. Lead our community in advocacy for the welfare of all animals;
2. Create a more humane community through our programs, leadership, education and advocacy;

3. Strive for the highest level of animal care through adherence to best practices;

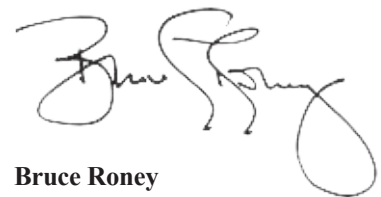
4. Achieve more responsible pet ownership through our programs, leadership, education and advocacy;
5. Increase development results through enhanced engagement opportunities;
6. Strengthen the board through informed discussion and process, good governance and a balanced profile.

**With your help, we can plan for an even brighter future for Ottawa's animals.**

The plan has now reached the end of its life, and the board has asked that the OHS embark on a new one. This time, the OHS has the luxury of time, and so will consult with

our community far more broadly than was possible before. This is a chance for you to have your say in the future of your humane society.

Some of the questions will not be easy — few questions at a humane society are. But we think that they are as important to you as they are for us. Please participate in the survey when it hits your inbox. If you have other thoughts about the OHS and our future, please submit them by the end of September to ensure that your views become a part of the new plan. If we don't have an email address for you, call Marilena at extension 223 for a link to the survey or a paper copy, or just write or email me at brucer@ottawahumane.ca with your thoughts. With your help, we can plan for an even brighter future for Ottawa's animals. 🐾



**Bruce Roney**  
Executive Director



# You Are Helping Us Give Vulnerable Kittens a Fighting Chance

The summer is the busiest time of year at the OHS, with stray or abandoned cats arriving by the boxful in need of help. To help cope with the growing demand, the OHS launched the Kitten Brigade program last year — a fast-track foster initiative that boosts our number of foster homes and places some of our most vulnerable cats and kittens into temporary homes as soon as possible. Thanks to you, we helped close to 120 cats and kittens through this program last summer, and this summer we hope to help even more.



Staff and volunteers are working hard to provide hundreds of orphans a second chance.

This year, with your help, the OHS has taken efforts a step further and launched Project Orphan Kitten to meet the extensive needs of the youngest and most fragile animals in our care. From providing special vitamin injections to cleaning these tiny creatures, and helping them to eat, staff and volunteers are working hard to provide hundreds of orphans a second chance.

Your support has helped us save the lives of nearly 100 kittens through the orphan kitten program and look forward to helping even more with your help.

If you are interested in volunteering for either of our kitty programs, contact us today at [volunteer@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:volunteer@ottawahumane.ca). 🐾

## By the Numbers – Kitten Season



Cats fostered last year



Number of cats needing foster care last summer\*



Increase in foster volunteers this year over last

\*From June 1, 2013 to Aug. 31, 2013.

### No Matter How Long It Takes... cont'd from page 1

dark, digging through garbage to feed her starving pups. All this is only possible because Lyla has you to care for her until the right person comes along to give her the happy ending every homeless pet deserves — adoption.

Lyla's eight puppies gained their strength with a dedicated OHS foster volunteer — a program only made possible because you care. They were all spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and safe and warm, until they grew big enough to go to their forever homes.

Many animals who come to the OHS spend months getting the care they need to be ready for adoption, from surgeries for broken legs to spays or neuters and vaccinations. Like Lyla, some spend months in the Adoption Centre waiting for the right match.



### Now Lyla waits for someone to open the door to her pod and say, "I choose you, Lyla."

Lyla was adopted in March but returned when her new owner got very sick. Thanks to you, the OHS was there to give Lyla another chance at a happy life when she was returned to the shelter again, after her new owner could no longer care for her.

Now she waits for someone to open the door to her pod and say, "I choose you, Lyla." No matter how long it takes, until then, Lyla will spend her days at the second-best place possible, the OHS, getting the care she needs until she meets her forever family.

We can care for Lyla and animals like her because of you. More are waiting for your help right now. 🐾

# Your Love Helped Give Charlie the Great Dane a Second Chance

Last month, Charlie hit another milestone. This time, it wasn't another five pound jump in his weight after coming to the OHS nearly starved last January, though every pound he'd gained to augment his once emaciated, 53-lb frame was celebrated by Charlie's dedicated foster volunteer and the staff at the OHS.

No, this time it was even better news — Charlie had found his forever home!

It had been a long journey for the gentle giant: six months in the care of the OHS that began with no certainty he'd even survive his ordeal.

When he was surrendered to the OHS by someone who'd bought him from the Internet, OHS agents allege Charlie had been without enough to eat for a long time — and it showed. His ribs were visible through his thin skin. He was so emaciated that he needed to wear a coat to keep warm enough.

By the time he left the OHS, Charlie had more than doubled his starting weight. He went to a home with Lynda, Ian and even a couple dog friends — there will be much playtime ahead for Charlie and his new family!

Even though Charlie has had his happy ending, there are 350 more animals that will arrive at the OHS this week alone. They have nowhere else to turn. Your support means that like Charlie, these animals get the help they need too. 🐾



Charlie before



Charlie after

## OHS Agents Charge Two People for Not Seeking Care for Sick Dogs

Two pet owners who allegedly didn't get the proper medical care for their sick dogs have been charged with neglect in cases so severe they resulted in one animal being humanely euthanized and the other losing an eye.

When Chloe, 8, was finally surrendered to the OHS to get the care she needed, her eye was in such bad shape it couldn't be saved. Rescue and Investigation Services agents allege the shih tzu's owner did not seek appropriate vet care for her infected eye. Chloe needed surgery to remove it — help she could only get because you care about animals in need.

Sandra Pryce first appeared in court on Aug. 7, charged with permitting an animal to be in distress and failing to provide adequate medical attention.

In the second case, agents allege a man didn't get the care his cancer-stricken, 15-year-old schnauzer needed. Pepper had an open tumour on her hind end and could barely stand when she surrendered to the OHS on June 26. Her fur was matted and caked with urine and feces. She had to be humanely euthanized that day to end her tremendous suffering.

Lawrence Goudie has been charged with permitting distress, not providing care necessary for the welfare of an animal, and not providing medical attention. He first appeared in court Aug. 7.

Animals like Chloe and Pepper can only get the care they urgently need because of your support. Read more about the work of OHS agents on our Facebook page at Facebook/OttawaHumane. 🐾



## Community Kudos



A big woof of appreciation to Mike and Bruce (third and fourth from the left, below) who held two fundraisers at the Centretown Pub. Mike and Bruce adopted Tyson, the German shepherd who arrived at the OHS after allegedly being abused and is now healed. A big thank you to Mike, Bruce and their friends at the Totototo Theatre for their hard work to help other abused and homeless animals.



Signe E, shown with Duke and her dad, raised \$185 for her ninth birthday for the animals at the OHS! 🐾

To see other humane heroes who have helped the animals at the Ottawa Humane Society, please visit [www.ottawahumane.ca/communitykudos](http://www.ottawahumane.ca/communitykudos).

## Cool Kids



Peter G, seen here with his dog, held a birthday party and asked his friends to give him gifts for the cats and dogs at the OHS instead of for himself!



Ethan M (pictured here with an OHS staffer and her dog) and a friend held a 50/50 draw at school and gave all the proceeds to the OHS. The winner of the draw was so inspired that he donated his winnings to the OHS! 🐾

To see more cool kids who have helped the animals at the Ottawa Humane Society, please visit [www.ottawahumane.ca/coolkids](http://www.ottawahumane.ca/coolkids).

# Thank You for All You Do for the Animals!

## Dave and Wendy Smythe from DS Plumbing

Dave and Wendy Smythe from DS Plumbing have been helping the animals at the OHS since 2009.

Dave and Wendy call themselves “animal crazy” and say they really admire all the work that the OHS does. New staff at DS Plumbing has to pass a very important interview stage before getting the job: being interviewed by the resident office cats, Tuxy and Jake!

Wendy, Dave and the DS Plumbing team supporting all of the OHS fundraising events — but the Wiggle Waggle Walkathon is by

far their favourite event. They also enjoy getting all dolled up for the FurBall.

Wendy and Dave have done everything from support the building campaign to rolling up their sleeves to set up the large inflatable mascot, Buddy and Belle, at events.

The OHS logo is proudly displayed on their company vehicles and they direct part of their profit to the OHS.

Thank you Dave and Wendy for all that you do for the animals at the Ottawa Humane Society!



Wendy and Dave pose with a designer doghouse at the Homes with Woofs fundraising event held in June for the OHS.

## Q&A with Team F.I.D.O. Captain Lydia Gagnon

**Q:** What inspired you to start Team F.I.D.O?

**A:** I started in 2007. I lost my first cat in 2003 to cancer. I was devastated. I wanted to start helping animals and named my team after him, Pumpkin's Heart.

The first year, my team came in second place for raising the most money, at \$1,270. The next year I got a dog so decided to name the team F.I.D.O (Fun Independent Dog Owners) and wanted to beat my previous year's total and try to get the number one spot.

Three members of my pack return every year and I recruit new pack members yearly. This year I have five members confirmed so far and think we will end up around seven members and seven furry friends.

Our pack starts fundraising for the next year as soon as the Wiggle Waggle Walkathon ends for the current year.

We raise money by selling a calendar, hosting barbeques, and silent auctions. This year we'll also run a garage sale with all the funds going to the OHS.



Team F.I.D.O., shown here, raises money for OHS animals by selling calendars, hosting barbeques, and silent auctions.

Team F.I.D.O.'s fundraising goal for this year is \$5,000!

Team F.I.D.O. challenges you to start a team of your own and join in their efforts at helping Ottawa's animals. Don't hesitate — register your team today! Check out the OHS website at [www.ottawahumane.ca](http://www.ottawahumane.ca) for details. 🐾



## Make a Gift of Love to Tomorrow's Animals

A legacy gift in your will provides a brighter future for the lost, abandoned, injured and neglected animals in our community. For more information please contact Greg Beck, manager: legacy giving at 613-725-3166 ext 268, email to [legacy@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:legacy@ottawahumane.ca) or visit [www.ottawahumane.ca](http://www.ottawahumane.ca).



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Thank you to the staff from Cedarview Animal Hospital for helping OHS animals on June 28 by volunteering to perform surgery! Their team included Dr. Kim Holzman and Dr. Nigel Gumley, registered veterinary technicians Jaimie and Sarah, and veterinary assistants Sarah and Leann. To learn how your vet team can help, contact [emilyb@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:emilyb@ottawahumane.ca) for more information.



On June 18, we welcomed 20 new members into the OHS 1888 Legacy Society, a special group of people who have made a gift in their will to the animals at the OHS. For information on how you can become a member, please contact Greg Beck, manager: legacy giving, at 613-725-3166 ext. 268 or email [legacy@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:legacy@ottawahumane.ca).

## Court updates

July 25.

### New Charges

**Mr. Justin MURPHY** faces charges for allegedly abusing his dog by throwing it against a wall. He first appeared in court July 10.

**Ms. Marie PARISE** was charged after her cats, Mango and Tango, were brought to the OHS, allegedly starving and covered in fleas. Her first appearance in court was June 26.

### Completed Cases

**Mr. John BENNETT** left his dog in a hot car in May for more than an hour. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one year of probation.

**Ms. Kayla BOUCHER** had been charged with failing to provide adequate medical attention and permitting an animal to be in distress after allowing her cat to suffer 10 days after her vet indicated the cat needed emergency medical care. On her last appearance on June 26, both counts were withdrawn after she complied with requests of the prosecutor.

**Mr. Steven HELFER** pleaded guilty to the October 2013 beating of Breezy the dog and was sentenced to two years in custody and three years of probation. In addition, he can't own animals for 25 years.

**Mr. Dylan WILCOX** pleaded guilty to causing an animal to be in distress for beating his black Labrador retriever. He was sentenced to two years of probation and must pay restitution. 🐾

### Pending Cases

**Mr. Brian BISCOPE** was charged with failing to provide adequate medical care for his sick Rottweiler. A trial has been set for Sept. 29.

**Mr. Daniel KENNEDY** was charged after allegedly throwing a rabbit to its death off a balcony. He is scheduled to go to trial on Feb. 10, 2015.

**Ms. Michelle MAYER**, of the Navan Animal Rescue Corporation, was charged in September 2012 with failing to provide suitable and adequate standards of care under the OSPCA Act for over 50 dogs in her care. She last appeared in court July 25.

**Mr. Trevor MIAZGA** was charged by police after witnesses said he choked and hit his dog while taking it for a walk. His next appearance in court is Sept. 4.

**Ms. Andrea NOEL** was charged Nov. 22 with four counts of failing to provide adequate food and water for four Pomeranian dogs that were found dead in her care. She is scheduled to go to trial on Jan. 6 and 7, 2015.

**Mr. Jason WOODRUFF** has been charged with failing to provide adequate food, water or medical attention and permitting an animal to be in distress after his emaciated Great Dane was sold on Kijiji. He last appeared in court

*Although legally mandated to enforce the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada, the Ottawa Humane Society does not receive any government funding or any funding from any animal welfare group to rescue animals in distress and only receives partial funding for investigations. The Ottawa Humane Society relies on donors like you to help perform this essential work in our community.*

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Have fun while helping the animals on September 7

[www.ottawahumane.ca/walk](http://www.ottawahumane.ca/walk)

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## Join us!



Look for the OHS – **Aug. 24** at the Capital Pride Festivities - City Hall



OHS Microchip Clinics – **Aug. 24 and Sept. 21** at 245 West Hunt Club Rd.



Wiggle Waggle Walkathon & Run for the Animals – **Sept. 7** at Queen Julianna Park, Dow's Lake

Visit our website at [www.ottawahumane.ca](http://www.ottawahumane.ca) for more information



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