



# The Scratching Post

Timmins & District Humane Society Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6

June 2015

**ADOPTED!**  
These furry friends recently found their forever homes:

Puma Prince

Francesca

Ned Ripple

Tuxedo

Andy Dactyl

Jasmin

Crosby Bubbles

Smokey

Honey Tasha

Hazel

Pizza Bensen

Plinko

Moo Boss

Senator

Skipper Leaf

Fender

Griffin Darwin

## A sad goodbye: R.I.P. Dottie



With a tiny whimper, Dottie stole our hearts. These very hearts broke as we thought of the pain

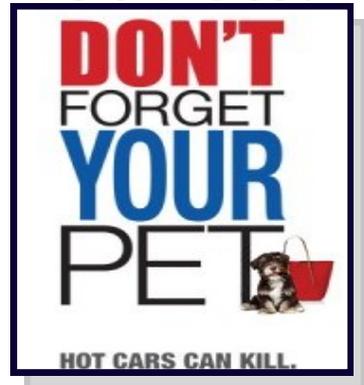
Dottie had to endure. We all watched as this tiny dog, who turned out to be about 18-years-old, fought the battle of a lifetime—first through the pain of an infected mouth, then through the recovery of surgery, and always without the truth being known about her neglectful past. Dottie arrived at TDHS a short time ago, in early May. Within the month, TDHS staff and Dottie's caring foster family saw an improvement in little Dottie as her personality began to shine. We searched high and low for information regarding Dottie's life before she came to us, to no avail. We continue to ask that anyone

with information pertaining to Dottie contact TDHS. However, as much as we loved her, as much as it appeared as though she was getting better, Dottie's aging body was getting weaker. On May 14, 2015, those who fell in love with Dottie gathered by her side to say goodbye, and shortly after, Dottie passed peacefully. She may not have been with us long, and she was never able to tell us what life was like before we met her, but we hold close to our hearts the thought that we made her life just a little brighter. Just as she did ours.

## Take the Pledge: No Hot Pets!

A quick run into the grocery store. A short coffee visit with an old friend. It may seem harmless, but to your furry friend, it could mean the difference between life and death. As Mother Nature basks Northern Ontario in warm summer rays, more and more pets will become victim of hot car deaths. This summer, the OSPCA and humane societies across the province, including TDHS, are encouraging owners to be aware of the dangers of leaving a pet unattended in a hot vehicle

through the popular "No Hot Pets" campaign. Even on mild days, even when parked in the shade and even when the windows are open, animals are put at risk by being left in a vehicle. Temperatures within the vehicles can reach deadly levels quickly on a warm summer day. Those who witness an animal suffering from excessive heat (excessive panting and drooling, lethargy or unconsciousness) are asked to call TDHS at 705-264-1816, the Timmins Police at 705-264-1201 or the SPCA at 310- SPCA.



Visit [www.nohotpets.ca](http://www.nohotpets.ca) for more information.



**COFFEE WAREHOUSE**

VICKY  
**D'Amours Bakery**

214 THIRD AVENUE (705) 531-3361

## Scrappy's long journey home



It was a cold October day when Scrappy arrived at TDHS. Little did anyone know the journey she would face over the next five months.

Shortly after arriving, much to the surprise of TDHS staff, Scrappy gave birth to two bouncing baby boys.

These births meant that Scrappy would have to put her own adoption on hold while she cared for her babes. The little family quickly moved into a foster home until the boys grew big and strong enough to find their own forever homes. But that's when the first of Scrappy's bumps in the road began.

Scrappy's boys, Sparrow and Turner, quickly found their forever homes, but time and time again Scrappy was looked over. She spent time in

temporary foster homes, but always made her way back to 620 Mahoney Rd.

An eyelid surgery, spay and three potential forever homes later, staff decided it was time to think outside the box for their special Scrappy. Pilots N Paws was contacted and arrangements were made for this girl to be flown on a private flight to Toronto Humane Society.

Just a short time later, TDHS staff were over the moon to hear that Scrappy had finally and very deservedly found her forever home.

"She's the sweetest girl, and I never understood what took so long for her forever family to find her," said shelter manager Christine Bradshaw, who often acted as foster mom for Scrappy. "I couldn't be happier for her."

## Working toward the same goal

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Very often it takes a province to save a pet.

Each day throughout Ontario, hundreds of animals are finding their way into shelters for various reasons. Most will go up for adoption. But it takes a special group of people to ensure these animals—from cats and dogs to horses and even pigs—find the perfect forever home.

Over the years, TDHS has not only worked with other OSPCA branches and humane societies, but we've worked with other rescue organizations, too. These rescues are run by important people who volunteer their time and often their own homes to care for pets in need. They range from those that deal with specific breeds or size to those who take on the more

difficult adoptions with behavioural or health issues.

Once in a while, a pet comes into TDHS requiring a little extra care, sometimes because of its past, sometimes just because of the breed or species it is.

Because of partnerships created between TDHS and these rescues, animals like Dakota the Dane, Pumba the Pig and Clover the Senior Diabetic Dog have moved on to get the care they needed. "It's our job to help them on their journey," said shelter assistant manager Alicia Santamaria. "If they require a little extra, we'll do whatever we can to make sure they get it, wherever that may be."



## Over-population is killing them



It's easy to cuddle their soft fur and watch them run, play, and learn about the new world around them. There's no question about it—puppies and kittens are adorable! There is, however, a harsh reality to face and litter after litter enter the world,

adding to a problem they had no choice in. Day in and day out, shelters and rescue organizations, not just in Timmins but across the province and even across North America, continue to face an influx of unwanted and neglected pets. Pets that never asked to be born but now take up space in a shelter already bursting at the seams.

"We see anywhere between 50-60 cats alone come through our doors every month," said TDHS adoption worker Krystle Fletcher, adding that there's another 20 or so dogs.

While the Second Chance Transfer Program at TDHS ensures that no healthy, adoptable dog faces euthanasia, the ugly truth is that the same cannot be said for cats due to the overwhelming number of

strays and surrenders that we see each and every month. The sad reality is that in most shelters, far more cats are brought in compared to those adopted out.

According to the Ontario SPCA, cat rescue organizations in Toronto estimate there to be close to half a million homeless cats living on the streets of Canada's largest city. Spaying and neutering your pet is strongly encouraged, not just for over-population, but for health reasons as the procedure aids in the reduction of certain cancers. Every pet adopted through TDHS is spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

"We used to get twice as many cats as we do now, so we like to think people are seeing the importance," Krystle said. "We can only hope that this trend will continue. Spaying and neutering saves lives."

# Looking for forever homes...

## Coco

Shy and timid at first, Coco has long been waiting for her forever home. Coco is one of the shelter's longest residents, having been surrendered with her seven babies late last year. Since then, all the tiny kittens have found their forever families, while mom continues to wait for that special, loving person to come through the door. While this sweet girl will require a family that is willing to work with her to bring her out of her shell, she has come a long way since her first few days at TDHS. Come visit Coco and show her how amazing a forever family can be.



## Whiskey

In 2005, a sweet little girl made her entrance into the world. Without a care, she ran and played with her brothers and sisters until one day she had a new family. One of her very own. They named her Whiskey. Little did Whiskey know of the adventure she would face. Nearly a decade later, no longer able to live with her family, Whiskey's sweet soul shines through her kennel at Timmins and District Humane Society. Whiskey is crossing her paws that she'll have a second chance at a forever family, one that will look past her age and see the love she has to give. If you're looking to bypass those rambunctious puppy days, look to Whiskey, who is guaranteed to provide the dignified loyalty that only a senior dog could possibly know how to give.

## Community ROCKS: Car and Doggy Wash with Kia of Timmins & Imerys Talc



Truck full of mud? Dirty dog got you down? If so, stop by the Timmins and District Humane Society's Car & Doggy Wash fundraiser! You are invited!

This fundraiser, sponsored and organized in-part by Imerys Talc, will be taking place on Saturday, June 20 at Kia of Timmins. Various staff members and volunteers will be there to scrub down your mutts and trucks from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

But soapy suds certainly are not all you will find at this fundraiser; we will also have a bouncy castle to keep the kiddos entertained as well as a barbecue (beginning at 11 a.m.) to satisfy lunchtime cravings. Several adoptable TDHS doggies will also be there to greet customers and to hopefully win the hearts of forever families.

Imerys Talc is a long-time supporter of TDHS' animals in need. For anyone unaware, "Imerys Talc is the world's

leading talc producer, employing 1,000 people on five continents and supplying around 15 percent of global demand from 9 mines and 15 processing plants throughout Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Spain and the US".

Imerys Talc has quite a presence here in Timmins, they are definite animal lovers, and we are fortunate to have their support with this fundraiser.

The kind folks at Kia of Timmins have happily offered their location for this worthy fundraiser and we are so thankful for their generosity as well. With three organizations working together, this fundraiser is sure to be a success!

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

# How you can help!

## Staff Profile—Lynn Michaud



### How to donate:

The Society is always in need of the following

items:

Clean blankets, sheets, towels

Industrial garbage bags  
Paper towels

Dish soap  
Laundry detergent

Bleach

Canned pet food  
(cat and dog)

Kong Dog toys

Cat/dog treats

Monetary donations

### How to adopt:

Viewing hours are

Monday-Friday from  
10 a.m. to Noon and  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visit  
the shelter or our  
website to fill out the  
application and start

the adoption  
process!

### How to volunteer:

Volunteering means

everything from  
helping clean and

walking dogs to  
hanging out with cats  
and helping out at  
fundraising events.

Contact our  
Volunteer

Coordinator at  
705-264-1816 to learn

how you can  
get involved!

### Contact Us:

620 Mahoney Rd.  
Timmins, ON  
P4R 0H6

Phone: 705-264-1816

Fax: 705-264-3870

It's difficult to think about TDHS and not think of Lynn Michaud. It's like peanut butter and jam or yin and yang. One just doesn't exist without the other. A staple in Timmins' animal welfare world since the beginning, Lynn became an OSPCA Agent in 2003, and later was named manager of the newly formed TDHS shelter. As the first full-time employee, Lynn was tasked with not only covering

investigations, but was involved with adoptions, administration, coordinating volunteers and animal care (between the late 1990s and 2005, animals were housed in foster homes and at a private boarding facility)

Over the years, she quickly rose up the ranks of the OSPCA from Agent before finally becoming the Senior Inspector for the North region, covering more than 400,000 square kilometres.

With a background in child welfare, the switch to animals almost seemed like second nature to Lynn. She has always felt the need to be a strong advocate for those who may not be able to speak for themselves.

"I've always been passionate about animals, for as long as I can remember" said Lynn, who has 10 pets of her own, all adopted

through TDHS.

Most recently, Lynn handed over the reigns of the shelter taking on the full-time role of OSPCA

Investigator.

Having had the opportunity to be a part of both the shelter and investigations, she had to choose the path where her heart and

passion lay.

"I get to be an active part in helping these animals who may have been abused or neglected, who need someone to advocate for them," she said. "But I'm fortunate enough that I still get to be a part of the shelter life and see the outcome of the teamwork between

investigating and sheltering.

"We may remove them from sad situations, but sheltering is where we ensure they go to safe and loving homes, and I still get to be a part of that."

## Volunteer Spotlight—James Peters & Isobella Beatty-Peters

TDHS would like to recognize the fantastic father-daughter duo James Peters and Isobella Beatty-Peters this month for all their hard work as TDHS volunteers!

Bella and James started volunteering because Bella loves animals and because they were looking for a community-minded activity that they could enjoy together.

Bella and James volunteer mostly on weekends or after Bella gets out of school. Bella brushes and plays with the cats and walks the dogs while dad helps out with all sorts of maintenance tasks such as repairing broken kennels and other handyman duties around the shelter.

Bella's favourite part about volunteering is getting to help out local animals in need. Her best memory is when Diesel (a giant Saint Bernard) dragged dad into a creek. Oh boy—never a dull moment at the shelter!

James, Bella, and the rest of their family have two dogs at home, both of whom came from TDHS. Daisy is 5-years-old and is a wonderful girl (pictured left). Taco (pictured right) is a special, little Jack Russell and is fairly new to the family. Taco was extremely fearful when he first arrived at TDHS, so he was immediately placed into a foster home. When Bella and James saw Taco on the TDHS website and Facebook page, they had a feeling he'd be the perfect dog for their family, so they set up an appointment to



meet with him, and the rest is history! As you can see, Taco fits in with this family perfectly and just ADORES Bella. James and Bella also have a small dog

named Mika who came from an animal rescue, too. We think it's just so cool that James and Bella spend time together while volunteering at TDHS. Humane education is so important in our eyes.. We are confident that Bella will grow up to be a wonderful

pet owner.

TDHS staff and animals are lucky to have you as volunteers, James and Bella.

Thank you for all your hard work!

[www.timminshumanesociety.ca](http://www.timminshumanesociety.ca)

[www.facebook.com/TimminsHumaneSociety](https://www.facebook.com/TimminsHumaneSociety)

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