



# The Scratching Post

Timmins & District Humane Society Monthly Newsletter

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## GIVING PETS SECOND CHANCES

### ADOPTED!

These furry friends recently found their forever homes:

Peewee      Wilson

Diva      Freeway

Festa      Kendall

Khloe      Charlie

Gretchen      Bear

Bailey      Aspen

Gandolf      Carli

Willow      Diesel

Buddy      Buttons

Mister      Storm

Marley



In 2005, the Timmins and District Humane Society was still new to its current form.

It had recently become a place where not just pets who had lost their way could find warm bed and a full bowl of food, but where people who could no longer care for their pets could hope they would find a new forever home and where those subjected to abuse and neglect could rest and recuperate.

But it was also a time when the number of those being admitted jumped substantially. In an area that can hold up to 23 dogs and 60 cats, they were reaching

capacity on a regular basis. A decision was quickly made that healthy, adoptable dogs could not be euthanized just because of a lack of space.

By 2006, the Second Chance dog transfer program was in place and soon staff were working with other shelters and rescue groups across the province and dogs were being loaded up and transported sometimes hundreds of kilometres to receive their second chance.

But it wasn't just about finding a place for these dogs, it meant getting a proper vehicle (which was done with the help of a

successful grant application) as well as willing volunteers to drive hundreds of kilometres at a time.

To date, more than 2,000 dogs have made the journey to places like Sudbury, North Bay and Barrie and even as far as Newmarket, Toronto and Niagara Falls. That's more than 2,000 dogs that would have been needless euthanized had the transfer program not been in place.

While the same cannot be said about cats, as over-population in cats is an issue facing most communities, there has been

positive steps forward. More than 200 cats have participated in the program, most recently 20 cats were taken in by the Toronto Humane Society, many of which found forever homes within days of arriving.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction," said shelter manager Christine Bradshaw. "One day it would be nice if the cat population was under control, and stray dogs aren't as common, but for now we're just happy to be able to do more of what we love to do.

"And that's save lives."



The Timmins Gaming Centre, formerly known as Timmins City Bingo, is giving back to abused, unwanted and neglected animals in the City of Timmins. On March 4, 15 and 18, 2015, between 1:45 p.m. and 4 p.m., proceeds from these bingos will go toward the care of the animals at the Timmins and District Humane Society.



COFFEE WAREHOUSE



VICKY D'Amours Bakery

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## Young at Heart

When Kia was brought into the shelter back in January 2013, she had a lot of strikes against her. This senior lady was already 11 years-old, black in colour and had been brought in to be euthanized by her owner after having bit a child.

None of these are good signs in the shelter world, as healthy, young colourful puppies can even be difficult to adopt out at times.

There's a harsh reality in the world of shelter life and that's that older, black dogs can be the most difficult to find forever homes for. The only

answer we can determine is personal preference, as we've seen how sweet, loving and loyal these dogs can be.

Lucky for Kia, it was determined that she wasn't aggressive, just in pain from arthritis.

After receiving proper medication, Kia was lucky enough to find her retirement home with shelter manager Christine Bradshaw.

"Even though she's an older dog, she still has energy to spare and definitely keeps us on our toes," Christine said.

## New View on Life

Most often animals become our teachers, rather than those who learn from us.

Such was the case of Jack, the sweet tabby, who came to the shelter as a stray with a serious eye injury.

Suffering through the severe pain of this unknown injury, Jack was sweet and instantly warmed the hearts of all who met him.

At the time he arrived, the TDHS veterinarian advised Jack's best chance at a full and happy life, would require the removal of his eye, because of the severity of the injury.

Within a couple of weeks, Jack had healed from his

ordeal and was up for adoption and ready to face the world.

"We always see these animals with certain afflictions, injuries and pain that would make most people cringe," said veterinary technician Christina Dobbyn. "They show us strength we may never experience, bravery we wish we had and a way to move forward like no other.

"It's truly remarkable what we learn from them."

Jack spent more than two months waiting at the shelter but is now living in his forever home where he is receiving all the love and affection that he deserves!



## Leaping Lizards!!

By Phillippe Levis



*~Phillipe Levis is a third year student veterinarian at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario. He has been working at TDHS since 2005~*

In August 2011, TDHS rescued two green iguanas found in deplorable conditions and suffering from many diseases. As you can imagine, we don't usually deal with such large reptiles, far from the usual dogs and cats. Emaciated, malnourished, discoloured and stained with fecal matter – they needed immediate medical attention! They were admitted to the Avian and Exotics Service at the Ontario Veterinary College. Reptiles being ectotherms (meaning they don't produce body heat like mammals do) are absolutely dependent on external sources of heat to maintain an adequate body temperature (over 32 C), and keep their immune/digestive system functioning. These poor lizards hadn't had a heat source in over 3 weeks, and were being fed an inadequate diet.

I'd like to focus on Quazi, the male of the two. Quazi was septic – which means he had a whole body

inflammatory response due to an infection. He had abscesses on both his tail and his nose and multiple broken bones in his fingers. He also had Metabolic Bone Disease, which causes weakness and brittle bones due to a lack of calcium in the diet and no UVB light. Certain reptiles, like iguanas, metabolize vitamin D through a long process beginning in the skin from the sun's UVB rays. Without UVB in a captive setting, the reptiles grow weak, and take calcium from their bones in order to sustain metabolic demands.

Very different from mammals He was admitted to ICU, where he was provided with tons of humidity and heat, as well as his favorite greens. The next day, he went to surgery and had his tail amputated and was placed on intramuscular injectable antibiotics for a few months to control the infection. Although it was a very long road to recovery, frothed with multiple

follow up appointments and a great deal of personal care, 3 years later he is doing amazingly well. He is much more muscular, climbs around his enclosure throughout the day and is a very curious creature! He has regained his vibrant green and orange colours, and is fed a balanced diet of many fresh vegetables – although his favorite treat (by far) are bananas.

This serves as a reminder that reptiles, especially larger ones like green iguanas, are difficult pets to care for and require a lot of knowledge, money and responsibility. Quazi and Razu were lucky to have been surrendered to TDHS that day in August, but unfortunately a lot more of these animals suffer in silence from improper husbandry and do not have the same fate. Like any animal, pet ownership is a privilege so ALWAYS do your research before adopting any exotic species!

# Looking for forever homes...

## PUMA

It would be nice to say that Puma's story isn't uncommon, but unfortunately, it's a tale told many times. Sweet Puma came to the shelter as a tiny kitten, along with his two brothers. The trio spend several months at TDHS before finding their forever homes. Sadly, Puma returned as an adult, his new family unable to continue to care for him. And so this handsome, charismatic boy has started his search once more. A typical curious guy, mischievous and always on the go, Puma is sure to add flair and fun to his final, forever family.



## SCRAPPY

Scrappy is one of TDHS' longest resident dogs...ever. And while she has had enjoyed the love of a foster home or two, she still needs a forever home. Shortly after arriving at the shelter last fall, Scrappy gave birth to two beautiful boys. Since then her babies have found themselves their own forever homes and the staff was sure this sweet and playful gal would shortly follow. But it wasn't meant to be...yet. Scrappy is in need of a special home which strong leadership skills and no cats. She recently underwent eye surgery and has given everyone a run for their money when it came to making sure she got the medicine she needed. But once Scrappy knows you're loyal to her, she'll show you what real unconditional love is. Scrappy deserves the love of a caring family. Are you and your family the right fit for her?

## Xstrata employees donate \$1,000 to animal



TDHS and the animals it cares for have received a huge financial boost thanks to one of its volunteers and the generosity of a local mining company. Dan Blanchard, secured the donation through

Kidd Operations and its Community Engagement Recognition Program. The program offers full-time Kidd employees who volunteer a minimum of 40 hours per year with a registered non-profit the chance to apply for a donation of up to \$1,000 in support of their organization's special project. The money received by TDHS will help cover the cost of surgeries, medications and supplies in 2015. Any other volunteers that self-identify as a full-time Kidd employee can also apply, while those employed elsewhere are encouraged to see if their employers offer similar programs. The staff, volunteers and especially the animals are grateful for this wonderful contribution.

## BAKE SALE!!!



Get your sweet tooth ready, while helping save the animals in the community.

The Timmins and District Humane Society is having its annual Spring Bake Sale on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the Porcupine Mall beginning at 11 a.m.

Those wanting to contribute some goodies can contact the shelter at 705-264-1816 for more information.

## How you can help!

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)  
 Pet toys  
 (please no rope toys or raw hides)  
 Cat/dog treats

**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!

## Staff Profile—Danielle Leblanc



'Saving one animal won't change the world, but it will change the world for that one animal.' For just over a year and a half Danielle LeBlanc has been repeating this to anyone who

asks her how she could possibly work in an animal shelter environment knowing it can't be easy.

Starting off as a part-time weekend kennel care worker, she has now taken over a full time position and is not only a kennel care worker but is also the animal control officer for the City of Timmins. She hopes to keep moving forward in this career and to someday become an SPCA agent; to be able to do a little extra to better the lives of the animals around her.

Having been part of the shelter for only a little time, she already understands the importance of doing anything she can to help the shelter animals. With the

help from her family, she has fostered four dogs, one being Chief, a boxer who needed to have his back right leg amputated due to being hit by car.

"We are all very happy to have been a part of his journey to recovery and to his new life", says Danielle.

Now having two dogs herself, Grady, a 9-year-old border collie mix adopted from TDHS 7 years ago, and Benelli, a 6-month-old lab terrier mix formerly known as Rome adopted from TDHS this past month, Danielle would highly recommend to anyone looking to welcome a new pet into their lives to come check out the ones at TDHS as they are truly wonderful animals.

## Volunteer Spotlight—Tina Walsh

When Tina Walsh first began a career in animal care, things were a far cry from what the Timmins and District Humane Society has become.

In 1994, there was no shelter to house animals. There was no clinic to help spay/neuter animals in their care. In her 21 years as a volunteer with TDHS, Tina has seen the organization grow into what it has become.

"A friend of mine got me involved," Tina said, of how it all began. "And of course I love animals."

She's seen it all in more than two decades, and like so many others there are animals she'll always remember, some she'd prefer to forget, and others that found a forever home with her.

Recently, Tina's cat, Socks, which was adopted from the shelter, passed away at the age of 20. She has yet to find a new companion pet, but whenever she is in the shelter, Tina can be found spending time with resident cats until she is ready for one of her own.

One animal in particular that stands out among the others for Tina is a Malamute named Grizzly. Extremely attached to Tina, the gentle giant refused to get into a vehicle she wasn't in. And the caring animal lover that Tina is, she would go above and beyond, finding herself a place on the floor of the vehicle so Grizzly would be comfortable on the seat.

A true "Jane of all trades", Tina can be found at the shelter every Thursday helping with



spay/neuter clinics, cleaning and, in her off-time, even volunteers at the Timmins Gaming Centre where proceeds often go to the Society. **Thank you, Tina!**

620 Mahoney Road  
 Timmins, ON  
 P4R 0H6

Phone: 705-264-1816 Fax: 705-264-3870

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