

The Scratching Post

Timmins & District Humane Society Monthly Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 9 September 2015

ADOPTED!
These furry friends recently found their forever homes:

Roots Rosco

Midnight

Sir Mix-A-Lot

Lena Coco

Sharpie Bronte

Mariana

Ozzy Rascal

Purkins Kenai

Tina

Jude Peach

Cupcake

Foster Nala

Xerox

Beanie Storm

Tucker

Champ Junior

Eclipse

Sheila Trecartin: Pet Communicator provides answers to pet owners

It wasn't just a chance to speak to these two dogs, it was a chance to get answers to a mystery that so many people had been waiting for. When Buddy and Griffin met renowned pet communicator Sheila Trecartin, it was a chance for them to tell their story.

On August 21, as part of a fundraising event hosted by Joseph Stanlake at Unforgettables Home and Garden Décor All Occasion Gifts, Sheila gave a voice to the only two witnesses to a tragedy that left an entire community and many others grieving.

On July 24, 2015, Eric Hardman disappeared from his home, after heading to a wooded area behind his farm with his two canine companions. When Eric didn't return a few hours later, a massive search ensued.

Unfortunately on August 2, 2015, on what would have been his 69th birthday, Eric was found deceased.

However, many questions still remained about what led to the series of events that day.

If only Griffin, who suffered horrible wounds that day, and Buddy could speak...



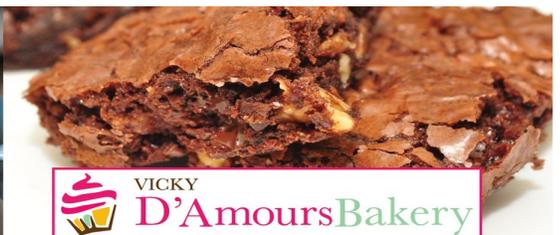
Thanks to Sheila, Griffin spoke of his traumatic attack and the emotion he still carries from that day. Buddy, the fierce protector and loyal friend, still holds on to guilt that he couldn't do more and the sadness he feels at the loss of his favourite person.

In the end, the dogs did the one thing they wouldn't have been able to do without the help from Sheila—they provided closure for their mum Glenna Delaurier Hardman, who left the reading with a strong sense of comfort.

She finally had the answers she sought, calling the experience "amazing" and stating that it "truly helped" answer her questions.

Whether other participants got the closure Buddy and Griffin's owner received, or simply learned what their pet's favourite toy is, Sheila provided a chance for pet owners to learn more about their pets than ever before and maybe even a little bit about themselves.

Thank you, Joe and Sheila, for putting on such a unique and unforgettable event.



214 THIRD AVENUE (705) 531-3361

Gucci: A special boy—R.I.P.



The staff and animals at the Timmins & District Humane Society would like to say a special farewell to a very unique dog whom we've all come to adore.

Gucci, a Shar Pei, came into the shelter in February 2012 at the age of two. He had already had several homes that never lasted long due to an extreme level of separation anxiety. It took more than two months of foster homes and potential forever families before Gucci found his perfect match.

We were ecstatic to learn that Gucci would spend his final days in a wonderful forever home, but deeply saddened to hear that Gucci lost his battle with cancer this month.

"We are so happy we took a chance with Gucci and stayed patient through the first

year; the payoff was more than worth it," Gucci's owners wrote in an update earlier this year. "He's the sweetest and most loyal friend. He's a fierce protector and gentle playmate to our infant son and a great companion to our Border Collie/Springer Spaniel."

Often times, an animal comes into the shelter who may be considered a "difficult adoption" case, but often times, those animals are the ones who touch the hearts of staff a little more than usual. Gucci was definitely one of those dogs. It only took a few minutes for his old soul to melt your heart.

We can't thank Gucci's owners enough for giving him a chance. He was lucky to have spent his final years with you. RIP, sweet boy. You will be missed.

Meet Venus! TDHS' newest shelter dog



Just like anyone who loses a pet, the Timmins & District Humane Society clearly felt the empty presence left behind by Daphne, the quirky Border Collie who passed away on July 21, after living at the shelter for just over a year.

Perhaps it was fate since that same week, Venus came into the shelter as a stray.

Adoption worker/receptionist Krystle Fletcher spends much of her day in the presence of the various shelter dogs over the years, as they are often found curled up for a nap behind the reception desk. Krystle felt that things got lonely after Daphne's passing, and being able to help a senior dog enjoy her golden years is something

that's important to the staff at TDHS.

"We've always had a shelter dog, as long as I've been here," Krystle said. "The dogs we pick are often difficult adoptions because of their age or attentive care they require."

"Venus is the sweetest dog; she loves everyone.

We're happy to be able to provide her with the next best thing to a forever home. She's part of the TDHS family now and will be getting the care she needs as the little aging beauty that she is."

Venus is a Terrier cross who's approximately 12-years-old. She's already settled into a routine of greeting visitors and looks forward to seeing her canine and feline friends each day. Come say hi!

Find unconditional kitten love at TDHS!

What's better than watching a couple dozen kittens frolic and play? Watching a couple dozen kittens find their forever homes!

A situation has arisen at TDHS that is usually reserved for spring. A time where the shelter is overrun with kittens, born of feral and abandoned unsplayed mums. As of late August, the shelter has been caring for upwards of 25 kittens, all of which are looking to find families of their very own.

"It's not unusual for us to have this many kittens at one time," said receptionist/adoption worker Krystle Fletcher, "but we rarely see it at this time of year."

But as with every type of animal seen at TDHS, space is always limited, which is why shelter staff are hoping forever families will



come forward. At a price of just \$190.00, approved adopters will get a dewormed, vaccinated and spayed/neutered feline friend, complete with six pre-paid weeks of pet insurance.

Kittens who don't get adopted quickly grow into adult cats, becoming increasingly difficult to adopt out. While summer often sees low adoption rates in general, this is especially true for adult cats.

"The reality is that most of these kittens will find homes before the adults do, and that includes their moms," Krystle said. "But what's important is we find all the animals in our care their forever homes."

Anyone interested in adopting is urged to contact the shelter at 705-264-1816. Our animals await your visit!

Looking for forever homes...

Mario

Mario and his brother Luigi are currently the TDHS' longest resident cats, having arrived in February of this year. The brothers were found by concerned citizen in the dead of winter by a garbage dumpster. It took quite a while for Mario to accept the new world around him, but now he as well as Luigi are eagerly waiting for a forever home to call their own. Both cats would do best in a home without dogs.

SPONSOR ME!

Visit the link below to find out how you can help Mario and others like him.

<http://tinyurl.com/nrfuhsz>



TEEKO

They don't come much more handsome than our Teeko! This beautiful boy came to the shelter because his previous owners suffered from allergies. He is a typical Husky type dog who loves to run and has energy to spare! He is looking for an active family that can keep up as well as teach him some big boy manners. Teeko would do well with some obedience training and requires plenty of exercise. Knowledge of the Husky breed (they are a stubborn but intelligent bunch) would be an asset. Come meet Teeko and see if you can offer him the forever home he deserves!

SPONSOR ME!

Visit the link below to find out how you can help Teeko and others like him.

<http://tinyurl.com/nrfuhsz>

Community ROCKS: Walk-A-Thon nets more than \$9,000



Wag-A-Tail-A-Thon mascot Zeus (right) and his adoptive brother Marley hanging out at this year's walk-a-thon fundraiser. (Photo by Rob Rungis)

The sun was shining and pet owners from across Timmins joined together to help TDHS help raise much needed funds!

Between donations, an online auction, and the event itself, supporters helped the 14th Annual Wag-A-Tail-A-Thon net more than \$9,000.

All proceeds from the event go toward the care of animals that come into the shelter either through surrenders, strays or cruelty investigations.

As a non-profit organization, TDHS depends on the support of animal lovers across the district to help us continue this work.

In addition to the walk itself, attendees had the opportunity to find relief from the heat in the cool down area as well as test their dog's skills in the agility course. There was also an opportunity to have family pet portraits taken (courtesy of Rob Rungis of the Porcupine Photo Club) and a carnival-like atmosphere for the kids (the ones without fur). Pet Valu Hollinger Court set up a booth and had some fantastic giveaways

for animals and people alike. It was a great day!

"Thank you to all who helped with this event in some capacity—volunteers, staff, fundraisers, attendees, media and more. We couldn't have done this without you." said Alicia Santamaria, shelter manager. "We look forward to the next!"

How you can help!

Staff Profile—Phil Levis



The world of veterinary medicine will soon get a new voice for the welfare of animals. Long time TDHS employee (and former volunteer) Phil Levis is preparing to enter his fourth and final year of veterinary medicine at the University of Guelph and is putting a lot of stock into the knowledge he was able to learn in the nearly 10 years he has been a part of the shelter world. It all began due to a chance meeting with current Ontario SPCA Senior Inspector Lynn Michaud while

carrying out her groceries as an employee at his parents' store. "It's been so important to see the cruelty cases, the adoptions and their outcomes," Phil said about being able to gain shelter medicine experience. "I've gotten to see how shelters and veterinarians can work together to change things. "You see such a wide variety of cases here." And variety has been a large part of Phil's learning experience. Trying to gain as much experience as he can, Phil has filled his time off working in places like Thailand with elephants, wildlife in Laos, Wild Ontario, a raptor rehabilitation centre as well as various spay/neuter clinics in Australia, Costa Rica and Belize! "It's really important to me that I am able to see how veterinary medicine is done in other countries," said Phil. But with all the worldly travels aside, Phil is truly grateful for all that he's learned at TDHS. "I was lucky to have Dr. Carla Mascioli take me under her wing. I've

learned so much from her." Having spent so many years here, Phil's been able to see animals come in through cruelty situations, thrive with the right care and he's seen once unwanted pets get a second chance in forever homes. You may be wondering which lucky TDHS animals have made their way into Phil's home. Phil has adopted an iguana named Quazi and a pooch named Zoe, both of whom would not have survived without extensive medical care. "The success stories make it all worth it and it's been amazing to see how the shelter has flourished. I'm proud to say I work here." After first completing a three-year undergraduate degree in Animal Biology at the University of Guelph, Phil returned to Guelph to attend the Ontario Veterinary College for three more years of school. He'll be heading back this September for his fourth and final year. We're very proud of you, Phil, and we hope to see you back in Timmins soon!

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

Volunteer Spotlight—Tysh & Keyana Breault

This month, it's our pleasure to feature Tysh Breault and her daughter Keana in our Volunteer Spotlight! Check out what Tysh had to say about her experience volunteering with lovely Keyana here at TDHS thus far: "I've always had a love for animals and Keyana has inherited that same love. Throughout the years, I brought her to the shelter several times to donate items such as towels and sheets and to give the shelter cats and dogs special treats. Last year, Keyana stated that when she's old enough, she wants to work at TDHS. This sparked an idea to volunteer our time to help animals who are unfortunately homeless, with the hope that they find their 'forever home'. One of my best memories is when we arrived at our first TDHS volunteer function (the Car and Doggy Wash fundraiser at Kia Timmins sponsored by Imerys Talc). Keyana and I were given volunteer lanyards to wear for the day. I looked at the expression on Keyana's face when she read it. She was so extremely proud to wear it and so was I. Such a wonderful feeling! We have two family pets. Moka was adopted as a puppy from TDHS in 2012. She's a cute Shih Tzu/Terrier with a wonderful personality. Rex is a six-year-old Golden Retriever mix. We've only had him for a few months,

but he's an amazingly loyal new addition to the family." While surfing the Internet recently, Tysh read an enlightening bit of information about volunteering and thought to share it with our readers: "Volunteering gives us a sense of satisfaction for helping others, can lower stress, make you feel needed and appreciated, increase happiness and so much more. Volunteers gain a helper's high and a feeling of euphoria and energy." TDHS is always looking for more volunteers. Certainly in Tysh and Keyana's eyes, there's no better feeling!



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