

The Scratching Post

Timmins & District Humane Society Monthly Newsletter
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ADOPTED!

These furry friends recently found their forever homes:

- Tori Walter
- Temple Taylor
- Toutoune
- Frankie Gracie
- Colorado Croft
- Bubblegum
- Shane Lux
- Kai Reese
- Master Chief
- Todd Penny
- Jewel Travis
- Salvatore Taz
- Bailey Martin
- Chewy Rogue
- Russell Troy
- Ryan Barbi
- Kirby Fisher
- Shadow Biscuit
- Samual Price

Spay/Neuter: Not just about pet population



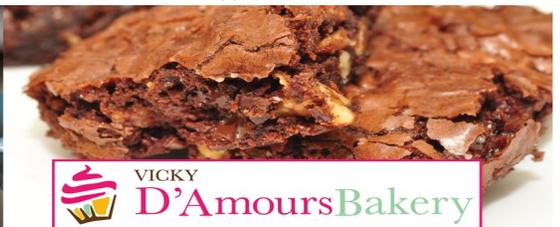
A new one found his way into the shelter almost every other day, sometimes several in one day. It's of course, not uncommon for unneutered male dogs to be found wondering and brought into TDHS as strays, but recently it's been heartbreaking. In one weekend, more than half a dozen animals were struck by vehicles. Some were lucky enough to survive their injuries (like Wrangler, pictured above, who is now up for adoption), while others sadly, did not. It's a heartbreaking scenario that staff are seeing all too often lately.

While some are cats, either homeless or left to wonder by their owners, many are dogs. Even more so male and almost always they are not neutered. Driven by a natural instinct to find a female in heat, these dogs' lives are put at risk as they make their way through town. "We always promote spay and neuter not only because it will save your pet from certain cancers, but also because it could help in the effort to keep them from running away," said Timmins Animal Control Officer Danielle LeBlanc, adding that it is also against city bylaws to allow animals to run at

large. "It's heartbreaking to receive a call that an animal has been hit by a car," she added, saying sometimes an owner can be found, while other times, the animal dies or goes through this entire ordeal without his family by his side. Such was the case with Wrangler, a beautiful black Labrador mix who Danielle found after he was struck by a car. Wrangler was lucky, having suffered only minor injuries, but it's probably been a confusing time for him as he heals in a strange place with no familiar faces around him. It's been a disturbing trend as of late at TDHS. Of the dozens of dogs that have come through the doors recently, not a single one has been a female. All were unneutered males, either surrendered by their family for behavioural issues (which can often be curbed with neutering and training) or found wandering the streets of Timmins. "We sometimes receive negative feedback due to the fees associated with retrieving an animal from the pound," said Danielle. "But I hope these people understand that the care we provide to these injured animals costs the shelter a significant amount of money." In an effort to save lives, TDHS would like to thank residents of Timmins in advance for their support in this matter.



COFFEE WAREHOUSE



VICKY
D'Amours Bakery

214 THIRD AVENUE (705) 531-3361

White Paw: Wild dog to couch hog!



When White Paw was first introduced in an edition of The Scratching Post, it was to tell the story of his rescue along with 10 others who showed the plight of many Northern dogs.

A couple months later, he appeared again; this time, as he searched for his forever home.

Now he comes to you as a success story, having found his forever family—putting behind him the story only the scars on his face can tell.

Today, White Paw, known now as Kai, lives among a pack of seven others, including cats and dogs. His new mum describes his as curious and loving, with just a hint of teenage rebellion

that keeps everyone on their toes. He loves to play and swim and is often found curled up on the couch with his feline family members.

"I become more and more proud of him every day," said his mum Chelsey Romain, an Agent with the Ontario SPCA. "He has clearly been through so much, and while we're still working on a few things, he has proven himself to be an amazing dog and best friend."

Dogs that have lived in the wild will also have a few quirks that will require time and patience, but those who have welcomed these dogs into their lives also know the lesson in forgiveness and resilience that comes with them.

Canine parvovirus strikes again

If the staff at TDHS has learned anything this year, it's that there is no safe season when it comes to Canine Parvovirus.

While originally known to be a virus seen more often in the Spring, Parvo has crept into the city of Timmins and here at TDHS as recently as October.

Young Hades (pictured at right) was patient zero this year, followed by four other pups.

"Due to associated costs, many shelters choose not to treat dogs who've been infected with Parvovirus. Instead, those dogs are put down. At TDHS, it's always been our policy to treat for Parvo," said Shelter Manager Alicia Santamaria.

"Once diagnosed, dogs in under our care begin important medical support immediately."

While the virus, which causes severe vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy, can be fatal if not treated, all patients who recently came through TDHS with Parvo have been treated and survived or are on their way to fully recovering.

The incident of this most recent bout of Parvo is a reminder of the importance of ensuring all dogs are vaccinated, and for owners to ensure all feces is removed from public areas, as Parvo is contracted through direct or indirect contact with feces.

Those with puppies showing signs of Parvo are urged to contact their veterinarian immediately.



Caring for your pet: In case of emergency



It can be a scary situation for many pet owners. Your precious fur-baby gets hurt or become very ill. A visit to the veterinarian is required and so is a lot of money. It's the reality many face when it becomes clear OHIP can't help when it comes to the furry members of the family.

While an overall free pet health care is non-existent, there are ways out there that pet owners can ensure they are covered should Fido need extensive veterinary care.

There are several kinds of pet insurance available out there, some that provide different coverage plans, other provide discounts for multiple pet homes.

"We deal with a lot of situations where it's clear

an owner loves their pet, but they simply can't afford the care it requires and we are called in," said Ontario SPCA Agent Chelsey Romain. "Owners need to remember that there's a lot more that goes into caring for an animal other than food, shelter and love."

Before acquiring a pet, owners are encouraged to look into pet insurance or another way to save money to ensure they are prepared should an emergency arise.

"There is no excuse to let an animal go without appropriate and necessary care," says Ontario SPCA Senior Inspector Lynn Michaud. "If you are unable to care for your animal, contact your local Ontario SPCA to discuss what options are available."

Looking for forever homes...

EMMY

The sadness often seen in Emmy's eyes is justified. This sweet young girl came from a deplorable conditions, only rescued after her previous owner passed away. She was one of several cats rescued and the only that remains to find her forever home. Emmy's forever family will have to be patient and loving as she continues to navigate this new world and learns that she is safe and loved. Come meet Emmy and see if you can offer her the forever home she's been waiting for.

SPONSOR ME

Visit the link below to find out how you can help Emmy and others like her



DOYLE

Happy go-lucky and full of spunk! Young Doyle is one many dogs that came into TDHS recently as a stray never claimed by his owner. This active boy is looking for a forever family that can keep up. As nothing is known about Doyle's past, his new family needs to be prepared for a period of adjustment and likely some basic training. If you believe your family is the one to give Doyle the second chance he's been looking for, drop by the shelter to meet this special, loving boy!

SPONSOR ME

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

Community ROCKS: Holiday Home Tours

Unforgettables Annual Holiday Home Tour



Proceeds towards "Buddy's Fund"

in support of



Timmins & District Humane Society

Is it Christmas yet?!?! The holidays may still be several weeks away, but Unforgettables Home & Garden Décor All Occasion Gifts is already preparing for this year's Unforgettables Annual Holiday Home Tour!

The event proved to be an amazing success last year and it's easy for those who attended to know why! It's a time to enjoy a day or evening out on the town with loved one, touring local homes beautifully decorated for the holidays by local businesses.

"We are so thrilled to be a part of this event again this year. This is such a significant event because it not only encourages people to support their local humane society, but it also encourages people to shop local," says Shelter Manager Alicia Santamaria, "which is something we should all keep in mind, especially around the holidays."

Tickets for the November 13 & 14, 2015 event are available at participating businesses, including Unforgettables, Perfect Settings, In Style Events and Décor and the Timmins & District Humane Society. Get into the holiday spirit and ensure you support local business, help save the lives of TDHS animals and get some amazing decorating ideas for your own home this year!

How you can help!

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— Dan Blanchard

Dan is one of TDHS' committed volunteers who contributes endless amounts of time and energy at the shelter. His volunteerism at TDHS has even caught the attention of his employer — Glencore-Kidd Operations has donated \$1,000 to TDHS in recognition of Dan's fantastic efforts.

Dan's a stand-up guy with a great sense of community, and he's always willing to lend a hand. He shows up to volunteer with a smile on his face and almost always with a round of coffee in hand. Dan, we can't thank you enough for your hard work and generosity.

Take a peek at Dan's interview below.

What made you want to become a volunteer at TDHS?

Growing up, it was always an important part of my family to help others. I also love spending time with animals. Those two aspects seemed to go hand in hand when I decided to start volunteering in July 2014.

What activities and tasks do you help with as a volunteer at TDHS?

I started out as a dog walker, then received training on how to clean and maintain the cat and dog living areas. Recently we've also been able to start a maintenance committee, fixing things around the shelter.

Do you have any animals? Did any of them come from TDHS?

My girlfriend and I have two cats, Bailey and Coco. We come from New Brunswick and Bailey is from a shelter down there. We adopted Coco almost a year ago from TDHS.

What was your best volunteer moment or biggest accomplishment as a volunteer at TDHS?

One of the first dogs I walked. His name was Diesel. He was 106 pounds of pure muscle and had the energy to match. He was quite the handful at first, but after a month of constant walking and training, he became quite the good companion, and shortly after he was finally adopted. It was great to see the transformation.

What would you say to anyone pondering the idea of becoming a volunteer at TDHS?

It not only helps out the animals in need, but it also helps to build character and responsibility in a person!



From staff and animals at TDHS, thanks again, Dan, for all your hard work and dedication!

'Tis the season for pet pictures with Santa

It's that time of year again! TDHS is bringing back its highly anticipated, seasonal fundraising event. Pet Pictures with Santa is a special family event that TDHS is happy to bring to pet owners of Timmins year after year for a good cause.

Not to mention, the photos that come out of this event are adorable, festive, and some of them are downright hilarious!

"During the holidays, our pet photos with Santa normally bring in around \$2,500-3,000 in fundraising dollars," said TDHS Manager Alicia Santamaria, "So in addition to all the fun we get to have while putting on this event, we also see it as quite an important fundraiser for our shelter animals."

Pet photos will take place from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. on the weekends of November 28&29, December 5&6 and December 12&13.

This year, the pet photos will take place at Logikal Code located at 7 Balsam Street South in Timmins. TDHS is appreciative this business has offered us a location in which to keep this fundraiser going. [Thanks, guys. We look forward to it!]

This year, there's also been talk of incorporating a Christmas Grinch into the equation. "We've invited the Grinch to our event this year with hopes that he'll agree to pose with some pets for a few photos as well." said Alicia. Stay tuned to find out if he'll choose to join us or not!

www.timminshumanesociety.ca

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