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*Helping People &  
Animals Since 1974*

*Registered charity number  
119254498RR0001*

## Potential Adopters Waiting and Hoping

There are some animals that come to Burlington Humane Society that touch people's hearts. One such kitten was Truffles. He was a tiny four month old kitten that was found with a puncture wound and upper respiratory infection. After being lovingly cared for at one of our community veterinary clinics, we brought him to Burlington Humane. Although he was not yet available for adoption, he was very easy for people to love. He had a very sweet and affectionate disposition and melted the hearts of all who met him.



*Truffles*

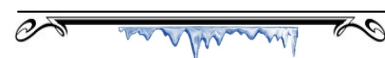
One potential adopter, Dale, was particularly smitten with him and phoned continually to find out when he would be available for adoption. Truffles was just about ready; he just had to get the all clear from the vet. As soon as that happened, Burlington Humane advertised him on our website and Dale phoned on cue, mentioning that she would be here in a few hours. When Dale arrived she was escorted directly to Truffles' room, but was horrified when she saw another lady already in the room and holding him. Dale was in a panic and had a sense that the other lady was going to take him. Her fears were realized when the lady came out of Truffles' room with the Adoption Counsellor announcing she was going to adopt him.



*Dale and Truffles*

Dale was so disappointed. She said, "Oh, I was afraid he would be adopted before I got here." The lady stopped and asked, "Were you interested in adopting Truffles?" "Oh yes," Dale replied. "I have been coming all week and

Continued on page 3. See "Truffles"



*Happy Holidays from the Board  
and Staff at Burlington Humane.*



December is *Home for the Holidays* month. We will be open on the first three Mondays in December. We will be closed Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.



## President's Message

By Jenn Merritt

As 2019 comes to a close, so does Burlington Humane's 45th year of providing care and compassion for homeless cats and dogs in our community. Our success is rooted in the dedicated people that are involved with Burlington Humane day to day, some for nearly half a century. There are so many people who play a role in Burlington Humane's "village," helping one cat, dog, kitten or puppy at a time.

Each animal that comes through our doors at Burlington Humane is provided with compassionate care by dedicated staff from arrival through adoption. Our Animal Care Supervisor, Marsha Locke, works with the Animal Care Workers to create a care plan based on any health concerns from medical and behavioural issues to nutrition. Once that is completed and the animal is comfortably settled into its environment, Feed and Clean volunteers help keep the animals fed, clean and provide some companionship and socialization for each. Volunteer dog walkers help the dogs settle in with exercise and basic training.

Volunteer receptionists field calls and assist potential adopters in finding that special animal for each person. Finally the Adoption Counsellor completes an adoption, answering questions and explaining any specific issues an animal may have to help the adopter and animal settle in their new home. A bell rings as each animal is ready to leave and volunteers and staff all congregate to wish that adopter and animal a happy future. Many times there are tears when a special animal is adopted, especially those who have been at the shelter a long time!

### ***"Burlington Humane"***

The Podcast of the Burlington Humane Society.  
Available from our website or subscribe on iTunes.  
Keep up with all the latest Burlington Humane News, Events and stories related to pet care.

Our amazing Executive Director, Doug Shirton and Alex Zych, our multi-tasking Volunteer Coordinator/Fundraising Coordinator round out the shelter staff, both working their jobs and filling in where needed.

Over 300 volunteers plus staff and donors comprise Burlington Humane's Village and everyone has an individual and special love for the animals.

This holiday season, please consider donating to Burlington Humane to help us continue our good work for the animals of Burlington into 2020 and beyond. On behalf of the Burlington Humane's board, we wish you all health and happiness in the New Year as we continue to strive to find forever homes for our animals!



### **BHS Directors and Staff**

President	Jenn Merritt
Vice President	Jolene Regan
Secretary	Patricia Howard
Treasurer	Karen Hunter
Stores Liaison	Carole McArthur
Education, Donations & Membership	Mary Hopkins
Pet Therapy Co-Chairs	Regula Mueller Silvia Patrizio
Directors:	Karen Fowler Andrew Mack April Mraud David Rosati
Executive Director	Doug Shirton
Animal Care Supervisor	Marsha Locke
Adoption Counsellor	Kimberley Richards
Animal Care Workers	Gilda Theurer Chelsea Rodrigues Ammar Al-Jailawi
Admin. Assistant	Julia Henderson
Volunteer & Events Coordinator	Alex Zych



## Executive Director's Message

By Doug Shirton



The seasons are changing and along with that comes a change in routines and priorities. This is true with Burlington Humane as well. During summer and fall we were full to the rafters with kittens. Some kittens were found as strays and brought directly to Burlington Humane while others were born in foster care and came to us once they were weaned and old enough to be adopted.

The shelter seems quieter now that many of the kittens are gone and the ones that are still here are entering the adolescent phase of their life. Most of the cats we have now are adult and senior cats. These cats make wonderful pets and are perfect for those who want a pet whose personality is established and their behaviour is fairly predictable. Most are not too rambunctious and are perfect for those seeking a calm, laid back pet.

We know that everyone has something they can offer

an animal at BHS. Those with a comforting and reassuring nature can help stray animals learn to trust again. Animals that have been surrendered and cannot understand the change in their life situation deserve a forever home that provides consistent loving support. And there are older pets who long for a quiet home to live out their senior years.

For those who have the desire to help an animal with special needs, there are many animals that are looking for that special home where they will find the love and care needed to live their most fulfilling life. At Burlington Humane, there truly is an animal for everyone. We may not have your perfect pet here right now, but we will soon. If you are ready to fill that special place in your heart, come to Burlington Humane and see if your perfect furry friend is here. We love matching adopters with their soul mates.

## "Truffles", Continued from Page 1

waiting for him to become available. As soon as I saw he was available on the website, I came as quickly as I could." The lady smiled and said, "Then you should take him. I just came here this morning and met him for the first time, but if you have been waiting for him, then he was meant for you."

The listening volunteers and the Adoption Counsellor were stunned. This had not happened before that any of them could remember. Dale was beside herself with appreciation and thanked the lady immensely. The Adoption Counsellor also thanked her and assured the lady that she would eventually find the right cat for her. There were many cats that needed someone with such a big heart.



*A very appreciative Dale and her new friend.*

### Stocking Stuffer Ideas



Catnip mice, Feliway Diffusers, Gift Membership or In Honour donation for that hard-to-buy for animal lover.

Don't forget to visit our second hand stores, the Loft and the Attic.

# From a regular house pet to a professional: The making of a therapy pet.

By Silvia Patrizio

With curiosity and eagerness, a cast of canine characters enters the meeting room at Burlington Humane Society, with their volunteer owners in tow. These lovely dogs, of all breeds and sizes, have arrived for their screening assessments with hopes of becoming therapy pets.

BHS has offered its pet therapy program to retirement and nursing homes throughout Burlington since 1984. The program currently comprises of a small army of approximately thirty enthusiastic pets, both dogs and cats, each ready to share companionship and affection with local seniors. In spite of all their valiant efforts, the need for new participants is great.

However, not all pets will qualify to wear the coveted BHS Pet Therapy bandana!

As a group of dogs and their owners sits and waits patiently in the meeting room for the assessment, the professional animal behaviourist makes her entrance. She greets each dog, first softly, then more aggressively while touching his paws and tail. The candidate needs to maintain a calm demeanour, as his future clientele might greet him unpredictably. And he will meet a wide range of different people while on the job. Being versatile, highly sociable (not too shy) with a predictable temperament are the predominant prerequisites. The trainer will observe each dog as he walks on leash alongside his owner, and how well he obeys the 'sit' command. Candidates should never jump up because residents can be fragile, and the dogs should never growl at other dogs because they will need to work as a team. Therapy pets participate in public spaces and must, therefore, be ready for any unexpected circumstances, such as sudden loud noises (like objects falling onto the floor) or navigating around unusual devices (such as wheelchairs and walkers). And of course, the therapy



pet must demonstrate good personal hygiene. Nobody wants to hug a dirty dog.

Our feline candidates are put through similar hoops. Screened independently, these endearing creatures must demonstrate their agreeable, loving nature. They are often too willing to show off their alluring personalities. BHS is proud to be one of the few organizations that offer cat therapy, a new dimension to the existing pet therapy program that has seen significant growth during the past year.

The screening assessment is not intended as a stress test. Regardless of whether or not they are accepted into the BHS program following the evaluation, all candidates will all go home to be loved by their owners because they are all wonderful pets. But for those pets whose personalities coincide with BHS requirements, they will go on to perform an invaluable service to the community and love every minute of it!

When a new therapy pet has performed 10 hours of community service, he will be awarded with the official BHS Pet Therapy bandana to wear with pride!



# *There's no Place like home For the Holidays*

## Meet Some of our Animals Looking for a Home

### Double the Love



*Aspen*



*Astrid*

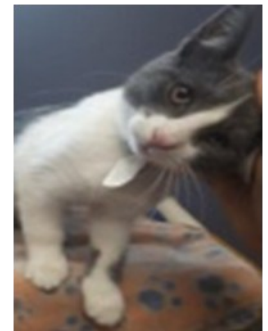
Aspen and Astrid are a mother-daughter bonded pair. They came to us six months ago as owner surrenders. Their previous owner was experiencing some health issues and was no longer able to care for them. They are gentle and affectionate cats who have been waiting six long months to find a new home. They are often seen grooming each other and taking naps together. This lovely duo would love nothing more than to love and be loved in a home of their own. Please think of Aspen and Astrid if you are considering adding felines to your family.



### A Box Full of Kittens

BHS was alerted to a box full of kittens. Super sweet and 8 weeks old, discarded in a box without a care for the dire consequences that could have unfolded. We are grateful that a miracle transpired and they were discovered by a hiker near a hiking trail.

Thankfully the finder sought our assistance and we welcomed them to BHS. There are two kittens left from that litter, Tesla and Ferrari. We know that soon their happy ending will be complete and they will find families to love and cherish them the way they deserve.



*Tesla and Ferrari*

## **Burlington Humane 2020 Calendar**

2020 Calendar



Napoleon



Start the new year  
off right with our  
**Burlington Humane  
2020 Calendar.**

*Makes a great gift!*

Available at Burlington  
Humane for just \$20.00

## Christmas Bake Sale & Open House

*December 7th 2019*

Open House: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Gift Baskets, Bake Sale, Silent Auction

Visit our shelter to meet our animals and staff! Purchase our delicious goodies and buy some great gifts for your furry friends.



Join us for our

### *Burlington Humane Kids' Club*

Thursdays, 7pm -8pm,  
10 Week Sessions  
For 8-12 year old  
animal enthusiasts.



### *Professional Activity Day Camps*



Perfect for children ages  
6-8 years.



## Ways to Help



Have you ever wondered how you could support your local shelter without necessarily giving a donation?

- **Gift Baskets for your pet** - Don't forget your four-legged friends this Christmas. Shop early for the best selection of great gift baskets for cats and dogs. Available at BHS.
- **BHS Calendars** - Purchase your 2020 Burlington Humane calendar featuring shelter animals from 2019.
- **Christmas cards** at the shelter. All proceeds go toward food, housing, and medical care for the animals.
- **Canadian Tire money** - Help support the animals by donating your Canadian Tire money.
- **Shoppers Drug Mart Optimum Points** - You can help the shelter provide the love and care the animals need by going to [shoppersdrugmart.ca](http://shoppersdrugmart.ca) and donating your points.

## *Burlington Humane Wish List*

*Durable Dog and Cat Toys*

*Cat Crates/Carriers*

*Cardboard Scratch Pads for Cats*

*Facial Tissues*

*Healthy Cat and Dog Treats*

*1/4 Measuring cups*

*8.5 x 11 Printer Paper*

*Canada & U.S. Stamps*

*Gift Certificates from Pet Food or Grocery Stores*

*Royal Canin Kitten/Cat and Puppy/Dog Food*

We are a Royal Canin sponsored shelter and ideally like to feed all of our animals Royal Canin food. However, from time to time we get 'picky' cats and therefore like to have other options in case such as: Purina Kitten Chow, PVD Kitten (canned), Hills Science Diet Pate, Friskies, Whiskas & Snappy Tom.

# Donations - March 2019 to October 2019



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Thank you everyone for all of your wonderful support! With your generosity we can continue to provide aid and care to homeless and abandoned animals. Knowing that our community cares is a true blessing. We hope to continue to make you all proud!

## In Memory of People

Ellen Waugh  
Karen Lymburner  
Mary Curow  
Sigmund Gigler Sr.  
Eva Martin  
Sylvia Fuller  
Lillian Romagnoli  
Julie Brouwer  
Carol McNutt  
Ann Bean  
George "Buzz" Wightman  
Diana Constantineau  
Barbara Bland Lewis  
Bambina Patrizio  
Rosanne McNicol  
Byron Kwant  
Jack Holden  
Mugsy Earl  
Roma Beaumont  
Joan Rogers  
Maureen Brown  
Carol O'Hare

## In Memory of Pets

### Cats

Bennie & Jessie MacKay  
Babe Kumpf

Roxy Bodalja  
Timbit Armstrong  
Sadie Zeijlmaker  
Snuggles Head  
Felicia Vipond  
Morris Routery  
Link Ehsan

### Dogs

Emma Ng  
Gracie Borchetta  
Oakley Miller  
Athina Kitzul  
"Angel" Titterson  
Jezzie Halldoron  
Sam Howard  
Emma Cavallin  
Dakota Toth  
Iziaih Dion  
Morgan Brown  
Cleopatra (Cleo)  
Shanahan  
Patti McCulloch  
Rascal and Cami  
Barkley Kott  
Holly Reichman  
Bella Jones  
Sophia Rose Orosz  
Angus Rossall  
Lucy  
Eddie Plessas

## In Honour of People:

Mary Lindo  
Betty Leron  
Emma Kenel  
Haddie Cumpson  
Erin Passmore & Greg  
Stopelli  
Betty Laron  
Claire's 6th birthday  
Robyn Neville-Kett  
Jennifer Fowler

Ivan & Kika Veljkovic  
Cam Lester  
Raquel Ahearn  
Filip Veljkovic  
Wells Morgan

## In Honour of Pets

### Cats

Straj Feuti

### Dogs

Bawer Denninger



## Christmas is Here at the Loft and the Attic

Everything you need to get ready for the season is right at your fingertips, and all at bargain prices!

Purchase a wide variety of gently used Christmas decorations. Bargains always available on candles, crockery and clothing, even warm coats for your pets.

### The Attic

479 John Street

### The Loft (At BHS)

740 Griffith Court

### BHS Clothes Available

Greet the winter holidays in style with our t-shirts, hoodies and hats.





## Black Cats Need Homes Too



*Bran*



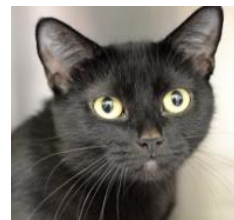
*Ebony*



*Kennedy*



*Rain*



*Shadow*



*Tika*

Burlington Humane adopts out cats of all sizes and colours. Big, small, calico, tabby, short and tall, we adopt them all. Unfortunately, black cats are often overlooked and take far longer to find homes than their more colorful counterparts. We have some really amazing black cats who would fit nicely into many homes, but sadly they are still waiting to be chosen by a human companion.

But why do they take longer to adopt? Is it superstition? We really don't know how often superstition prevents people from considering a black cat as a pet. However, did you know that in other countries black cats are considered to be good luck?

Could it be that colourful cats draw more attention to themselves? Perhaps. We believe that the best way to choose a new furry feline is to have an idea of the personality traits of your future cat. Do you want a lap cat or an independent cat? A cat that can handle other pets or a busy home, or is a cat who needs a quieter environment something you can consider?

Black cats would like you to know that black is just a fur colour. If you are willing to meet black cats the next time you are looking for a kitty, you may be surprised and find the cat you have been imagining in a package you didn't imagine.

BHS currently has six black cats and kittens awaiting their forever homes. Bran, Ebony, Kennedy, Rain, Shadow and Tika would love for you consider them for your next companion pet.



### WE ARE PROUDLY INDEPENDENT!

Burlington Humane is a member of Humane Canada.  
We are not associated with the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA.



## A Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

