When Bailey first arrived at the OHS in July, he was writhing in pain and unable to stand. After getting hit by a car, an OHS agent brought him to the shelter to get the life-saving care he so desperately needed.

OHS staff gave him pain medication to keep him comfortable and antibiotics to prevent infection. X-rays revealed that both of his front legs were broken and if he were to ever walk again, Bailey would need highly specialized surgery to pin and plate both legs.

The four-hour surgery was a success, but Bailey had a long road to recovery ahead. He spent the next eight weeks in the critical care unit at the OHS where he received daily bandage changes and regular care from the vet.

In order for his bones to heal properly, the 45-pound rough collie had to remain in his kennel in the clinic. To brighten his days, a dedicated canine enrichment volunteer visited Bailey five days a week. The volunteer fed him treats in a puzzle toy, interacted with him, and blew bubbles which Bailey would excitedly pop with his nose.

Bailey was neutered at the end of the summer and by Thanksgiving, his legs had healed enough for him to go to a foster home where he’d regain the strength in his legs.

Soon, Bailey will be off to the Adoption Centre. Because you care about giving animals like Bailey a second chance, he will be spending Christmas safe and warm in his forever home.

Simba’s family knew something was wrong when the six-year-old cat started urinating outside of his litter box last spring. A vet visit revealed he had a urinary tract infection and crystals in his bladder. His family tried treating him with antibiotics and a prescription diet, but when the house soiling didn’t stop and the cost of his care continued to rise, they made the difficult decision to surrender him to the OHS in May.

Simba spent the summer recovering in a foster home. A prescription diet helped clear up the crystals in his bladder, and his foster volunteer discovered that he didn’t have any accidents if he used a covered litter box.

You Give Special Needs Pets like Simba Their Second Chance at the OHS

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People sometimes ask me how I can stay positive while working at the OHS, surrounded by animals with such sad stories — homeless, abandoned, victims of cruelty and neglect. It’s true, some days working at OHS is very hard. Sometimes on those days, I do a little walk-around. It is a motivator for me because more often than not, the stories of hope, of our community’s deep kindness, and of second chances make up for the latest horrendous story. You see, I have a front-row seat to the difference you are making for animals every day.

I see our amazing staff working hard to ensure that all animals get the care they need. Not only the physical care, but increasingly, emotional care. Sometimes I stop to say hello to Joan, a veterinary technician assistant who has worked for OHS for an astounding 44 years. I think of the numbers of animals that she has cared for and that she is still hard at it after so many years. I see the difference she still makes and I feel better.

In our Adoption Centre, I see excited moms, dads and kids looking for the perfect match to complete their family, while giving a little cat, or dog, or even gerbil, a second chance. I see animals still waiting and I know that, though they may wait a while, all of them will find forever homes.

In our clinic, I can see surgeries that are giving new life and new hope for animals that otherwise would have to be euthanized. In critical care, I see injured animals who had nowhere else to turn getting the care they need. In our new mobile spay/neuter vehicle, I see the end to cat overpopulation and the end to a great deal of suffering that comes with it.

I peek into our foster reception and see the foster volunteers waiting for their furry friends to see a vet, get a vaccination, or one of the many procedures that the animals in their care need, knowing that those volunteers have committed their time and their energy to a little life. I see the dozens of other volunteers performing countless tasks all around the building, all to help the animals. And I feel better.

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I see the children attending our camps. I know that they will leave with a new perspective, a more compassionate outlook toward animals and, I hope everyone around them. Sometimes, just reading the statistics helps: more than 15,000 children reached every year, and I know that those young people may not repeat our cruel and uncaring history with animals. I see young people bringing in their birthday money to give to the animals. Through them, I see the future and it’s a lot brighter. And I feel a lot better.

Yes, here at the OHS, there is pain, there is sadness, but everywhere around me I see hope, compassion and second chances. I know that all of you make it possible, and I hope you feel better too.

Bruce Roney
Executive Director
By the end of the summer, Simba was ready to find his new home. His history of urinary tract infections meant that Simba would need to stay on a prescription diet and would need at least two large litter boxes that need to be cleaned daily. His special needs did not deter Faith, who adopted Simba the day after Thanksgiving.

The special needs adoption program at the OHS gives older animals and pets with manageable conditions a second chance at finding a forever home. Thanks to you, special needs pets like Simba have a safe place to be while they wait to find their perfect match. 🐾

A hungry squirrel stuck in a peanut butter jar would have surely died if the Good Samaritan who found him did not call the OHS for help.

When an OHS officer arrived she found the squirrel with his hind-end stuck in the opening of the jar. Unable to wiggle his way out, the squirrel chewed a hole through the top of the jar. His head was stuck in the hole and sharp plastic edges were digging into his neck.

The officer carefully brought him back to the OHS to enlist the help of a veterinary technician. The technician sedated the squirrel and the officer was able to cut him free from the plastic container. After an examination revealed he had no injuries and the sedation wore off, the officer released him into the wild.

From early spring into the fall, OHS officers are busiest responding to calls for injured and sick animals. Because of your support, the OHS is able to be there for Ottawa’s animals in need. 🐾
The OHS Goes Mobile

It’s the cat’s Meow: The OHS Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic officially launched in September and is certainly catching a lot of attention in Ottawa! Demand for this new service for low-income cat owners, and interest from the community at large, has already been overwhelming.

By providing subsidized spay/neuter surgeries to cats of low-income owners, the mobile clinic is reducing cat overpopulation by preventing unwanted litters of kittens, many of which end up on the streets or at the OHS as part of the more than 5,000 cats cared for at the shelter each year.

The program also supports the human-animal bond by helping people keep their pets rather than resorting to rehoming, abandoning, or surrendering them to the OHS due to behaviours such as spraying, repeat unwanted pregnancies, or roaming away from home to find a mate.

The OHS is forming new relationships with community centres and organizations, housing providers, and commercial centres in the neighbourhoods targeted by the program. This allows the mobile clinic to meet at-risk pet owners where they are – both geographically and financially – to make spay/neuter services accessible to those who otherwise could not afford veterinary care for their pets.

Upon discharge, participants receive information about why veterinary care is so important for their pet and signs that might indicate that their pet needs to see a vet. It has been heartwarming to hear the gratitude expressed by program participants so far.

This new program is partially funded by PetSmart Charities of Canada this year and also relies on donations from you. The clinic will help extend OHS services and impacts beyond the shelter walls, and support pets and pet owners in Ottawa. We believe that taking spay/neuter services to the streets will help keep more cats off the streets and out of shelters.

Need a great idea for a holiday gift? Warm Hearts Raffle tickets are available now!

Warm a furry friend’s heart this year and give back over the holidays to family and friends by supporting our Warm Hearts Raffle! Tickets are a great deal at $5 each or five for $20. It’s a cash lottery and first prize is $5,000, second prize is $2,000 and the third prize is $1,000. Even better, if you purchase tickets on or before Jan. 13, 2017, you qualify for our early bird draw and a chance to win a Sony 48” HD LED TV!

The grand prize draw date is Feb. 14, 2017. With only 8,500 tickets available, buy now so you don’t miss out! Contact the coordinator: events at the OHS by email at events@ottawahumane.ca or by phone at 613-725-3166 ext. 238.
Holiday Delivery Program

It was the night before Christmas when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, well maybe an OHS mouse. The OHS is seeking families who would like to have volunteer elves stop by during Hanukkah or Christmas morning to deliver their new furry family member. Be it a cat or dog, bird or guinea pig, rabbit or hamster, the OHS wants to help families responsibly create a holiday memory they will never forget. Regular adoption procedures still apply so parents hoping to fulfill their child’s special wish should come to the shelter to speak with an adoption counsellor who will help match your family with the right pet. For more information on the OHS Holiday Delivery Program, please call our Adoption Centre at 613-725-3166, ext. 258.

Zoe (A189217) is looking for a quiet new home to call her own. This laid back girl loves chin rubs and ear scratches.

Chili (A188367) is an intelligent and happy boy who’s looking for a lap of his very own to curl up on.

Eloise (A183044) is an easy going kitty looking for a new home to relax in. Reading a book, and having a cup of tea? She’ll be right there beside you.

Lydia (A194286) can be a little shy at first, but once she gets to know you, she loves belly rubs! She’d love a new family that can help her come out of her shell.

Tiger (A194929) is a happy, social and active pooch who is looking to please everyone he meets. He’d love an athletic family to go on adventures with.

Brownie (A195956) is a friendly guinea pig who’d love a new family that will spend plenty of time with him. He loves head rubs and cuddles and will return the affection with happy little squeaks!
Meet Rachel McGregor

Rachel McGregor has supported the Ottawa Humane Society since 2001 as both a donor and a dedicated volunteer. We are thrilled to share her story and how she helps the animals 365 days a year!

I have had at least one cat in my household for as long as I can remember, and most of the cats we have raised have been rescues, which is why the Ottawa Humane Society is a cause very close to my heart.

I first learned about the Ottawa Humane Society when I was in my 20s — a good friend of our family was a member of the Auxiliary, and my first dealings with the OHS was through buying raffle tickets and crafts at the Auxiliary sales.

Since then, I have been involved with the Ottawa Humane Society in many meaningful ways.

My charitable giving to the OHS started after university when my employer offered payroll deductions through the United Way, and I chose to support the animals; now I contribute directly through the PAW monthly giving program. Further to that, in 2010, I gave a gift to support the building campaign and was thrilled to learn that there are various naming opportunities all throughout the shelter. Being a cat lover, I am very proud to see my name on one of the cat condos in the Adoption Centre.

In addition to my charitable donations, now that I am retired, I also volunteer my time working in the Buddy & Belle Boutique. I really enjoy talking with customers and helping them choose the right items for their newly adopted pets!

Because of my PAW donations, I receive a regular email telling me how my money was spent that month. It really shows me that I am making a difference for Ottawa’s animals.

If you’d like to become a PAW monthly donor, or are interested in a naming opportunity at the Ottawa Humane Society, please call 613-725-3166 ext. 254. Or, to become one of our more than 750 volunteers, check out our website at www.ottawahumane.ca/get-involved/volunteering.

Rachel’s donations are now made in memory of her cat Mickey (pictured here), who she recently lost after almost 17 wonderful years.

Meet Teena Stoddart

Teena Stoddart, a Sergeant with the Ottawa Police Service, has been a very active volunteer with the OHS since the late 1990s.

Since joining the OHS, Teena has accomplished a number of fantastic things, including the record-breaking sale of Warm Hearts Raffle tickets. For eight straight years, she has held the title of Top Seller. She’s done this by enlisting police members to help sell tickets — this year she’s already on track to exceed last year’s total of 500!

Teena also holds positions on two OHS event committees, including the Wiggle Waggle Walk and Run and the Furball, and took an active role fundraising for the new building campaign.

Because of her many efforts and countless hours in 2014, Teena was honored with our Community Spirit Award. This award is given to members of the community who go above and beyond to give back to the animals. True to Teena’s character, she continues to find ways to give back to the animals in the care of the OHS.

Teena is, and has always been, very clear on why she dedicates her time to the OHS. When asked why she does it she said:

“As a police officer, I see my role as protecting all living beings against human predators, and being an advocate for those victims. Animals are living beings that are ultimately defenseless. They will never be able to tell anyone that they are, or have been, abused and/or neglected. They need an advocate. In addition to wanting to protect animals, it is a natural fit for police and the Humane Society to partner. It is a well known, documented fact, that violent serial offenders start their abuse with animals.”

Every day, we see the difference donors like Teena make in the lives of animals. You can give them a second chance at love and happiness too. If you’re interested in fundraising or volunteering for the OHS, please call 613-725-3166 ext. 238 or email events@ottawahumane.ca.
Community Kudos

The OHS would like to shout out a big “Thank You!” to Marie Dyck and her colleagues at Equitable Bank. This amazing group of Humane Heroes held a best costume fundraiser with a theme of Rio 2016 at their workplace, raising $160, which was matched by their employer for a total donation of $320. Marie Dyck wanted to show her love for Ottawa’s animals and selected her favourite charity, the OHS, to be the lucky recipient.

To see other humane heroes who have helped the animals at the Ottawa Humane Society, please visit www.ottawahumane.ca/communitykudos.
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Join us!

Santa Pet Pics – Nov. 26 – Dec. 23, 2016, at 245 West Hunt Club Road

Critter Christmas Family Event – Dec. 4, 2016 at 245 West Hunt Club Road

Warm Hearts Raffle Early Bird Draw – Jan. 13, 2017

My Furry Valentine Family Event – Feb. 11 at 245 West Hunt Club Road

Warm Hearts Raffle Grand Prize Draw – Feb. 14, 2017

Hoppy Easter Family Event – April 15 at 245 West Hunt Club Road

Visit our website at www.ottawahumane.ca for more information