



## Gulliver's Travels

**I**t was a warm afternoon in early October when an emergency case burst through the doors of the OHS. Gulliver, a one-year-old, orange tabby cat, had been shot.

The bullet had shattered his jaw, breaking teeth and leaving metal fragments and infection in its wake. When he was brought to the OHS, it appeared that he had been suffering from the wound for several days.

Gulliver needed extensive surgery and the cost was steep, at \$3,500 for the surgery alone

You made sure that Gulliver got the care he needed — in an incredible way. Gulliver's story spread around the Ottawa community fast, and support for him rose up across the city. In the end, you raised enough money to help 10 cats just like Gulliver.

Perhaps Gulliver knew how many people there were cheering and rooting for his recovery. Maybe he knew you were willing to open your heart to an animal like him. He must have known all of it, because his recovery has been a continuous journey of positivity.

Even on his very first day, with a gaping wound in his face, Gulliver was a friendly cat, offering headbutts to anyone who wanted them. In a couple weeks, he was already eating comfortably and no longer needed IV fluids. In a month's time, Gulliver yawned for the very first time, an incredible return to normal behavior that signaled the strides he'd made towards recovery.

Gulliver's travels have been long and arduous. But he's had your loving support throughout his journey, and as chief veterinarian Dr. Shelley Hutchings described him on one of his very first days at the OHS, "He's a sweet and stoic cat, who — with surgery and intensive treatment — has a good chance at recovery. He really has a will to survive. Despite the extensive injuries he is dealing with, he is affectionate and surprises me every day with his progress."



Gulliver on arrival.

You make sure there is a place for Gulliver and animals just like him to go in their darkest hour. You give wounded, sick, vulnerable animals a safe and comfortable place to recover. You make second chances possible for Ottawa's homeless animals.

From all of us and all the animals, thank you for everything you do.



Gulliver on the mend.

**THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR ANIMALS IN NEED**



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If you have a story idea or comment, please contact [ohs@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:ohs@ottawahumane.ca) via email or by mail to the OHS Newsletter Editor. Submissions of pictures and articles are welcome; however, they may not necessarily be used. Articles may be edited for length and content.

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*To lead Ottawa in building a humane and compassionate community for all animals.*

## From the President and CEO's Desk

# Your Kindness and the Suffering it Prevented

The day I am writing this, Ontario is in lockdown and a handful of people have begun to receive vaccinations. The "light at the end of the tunnel" that we have all been hoping for is still a pinprick in the distance, but it is there.

At the OHS, we have been planning our full reopening for the day that it is safe. We have missed the life that children and youth attending programming at the OHS brings us. We have missed the visitors. We have been saddened by the loss of innovative programming that has been put on hold or moved online. We are looking forward to the likelihood that over the year, our lives will return to something that at least resembles normal.

I have been reading that many people are thinking of what they want their post-pandemic lives and communities to be. Surprisingly, many do not want to return to the way things were. Some want to maintain aspects of our lives during the health crisis. Most frequently cited is the desire to maintain the sense of community that came with the times: neighbours helping neighbours, family and friends connecting in new ways, and a sense that we are all in this together.

In the last year, most of us have had to face challenges, some greater than we may have ever faced in our lifetimes. There has been suffering all around us. Some of us

have lost loved ones, livelihoods and businesses. Many people have experienced dramatic increases in anxieties, depression and loneliness.

But, in the midst of all of this suffering, animals in the care of the Ottawa Humane Society have not suffered.

Throughout the crisis, animals in distress still had a place to go. Lost animals were returned to their families. Animals were fed and cared for. Those that needed medical treatments and surgeries still received that care. And when they were ready, those without homes found forever homes in the midst of a pandemic.

This was possible for one reason only: you made sure it happened. You opened your heart and wallet to the most vulnerable. While there may not be a lot to celebrate about 2020, the kindness of our community is surely one.

On behalf of all of us at the OHS, and most especially the animals, thank you for your kindness. Thank you for coming together as a community, and thank you for ensuring the animals haven't suffered.

**Bruce Roney**  
 President & CEO



# The Animals You Saved on Giving Tuesday

Last year, Dec. 1 marked Giving Tuesday, and you took the opportunity to double your donation, making a huge difference for Ottawa's homeless animals. Here are some updates on the animals who you provided life-saving care for this Giving Tuesday.



## Hamu

Hamu arrived at the OHS with a broken hind leg and nowhere else to go. Because of you, he was able to get the treatment he needed to mend his leg. Now, Hamu saunters around like a cat whose leg was never broken, happily purring away in his forever home.



## Purrella

A car struck Purrella, crushing her pelvis and causing her a tremendous deal of pain. You made it possible for Purrella to receive pain medication to relieve her suffering and for her to receive the necessary treatment to repair her hip. Purrella is still resting and recovering in OHS care, but thanks to you, she will be able to find her forever family.



## Elvis Purrsley

With his ruptured eye, we could only imagine how much pain Elvis was in when he arrived at the OHS. Because of you, Elvis got the tender, loving care needed to rest and recover. We are proud to announce Elvis has left the building! Elvis is now living happily ever after in his forever home.



## Tiffany and her 12 puppies

Tiffany gave birth to 12 puppies only hours after arriving at the OHS. Thanks to you, Tiffany had somewhere safe to raise her little family. Better yet, Tiffany and every single one of her puppies have been adopted to complete a forever family of their own. Who knew that one small family could complete so many families? You were there for Tiffany and her babies!

All of these great success stories are only possible because of one reason: you. You dug deep and made the difference for these animals. You chose to graciously offer your support on Giving Tuesday and double your impact for Ottawa's animals. From the bottom of our paws, thank you, thank you very much.

# Your Pet and Your Will — The Dos and Don'ts

**M**ost of us see our pets as family. We worry about what would happen to our pets if anything ever happened to us. A pet's needs are immediate, so planning in advance is important to ensure a smooth transition and positive future for your pet. Fortunately, you can include your pets in estate planning, but it's important to know how pets can and can't be included in your will.

Although we consider them family, under the law, pets are property. This means that you cannot leave money or belongings to your pet in your will nor through a trust. A pet cannot be a beneficiary (recipient) of any part of your estate.

One option is to bequeath (give) your pet to someone through your will. Because caring for a pet can be costly, it's important to consider also leaving funds to the pet's guardian. It is essential to discuss your plans with the potential guardian before finalizing your will, as not everyone is able to take on the responsibility of owning a pet.

Another option involves setting up a trust for the pet's guardian. This allows you to provide instructions for the care of your pet and include a trustee to oversee the use of the specified funds. There are a number of things to discuss with your lawyer when considering setting up a trust, such as a residual beneficiary in the event your pet passes away, and the "reasonable test" as it pertains to your pet's healthcare instructions.


For those who do not have a friend or family member who is willing and able to take on a pet, the OHS offers the Pet Stewardship Program. This program is here to help you leave your pet to the OHS in your will, and to provide the OHS with important information regarding the needs and preferences of your pet and your desires for his or her future home. Through this program, the OHS maintains ownership of the pet, places him or her in a suitable steward home, and provides lifelong veterinary care through the funds allocated to the program in your will.

Whatever provisions you make for your pet, it's important to start planning now. Have discussions with your friends or family members to see if they are able to care for your pet. Remember to share important information about your



pet's needs, routines and veterinary care provider. Consider if, and how much, money you should provide to the guardian for the future care of your pet. Of course, discuss any plans and questions with your lawyer to ensure your wishes are properly included in your estate planning.

If you have questions about the Pet Stewardship Program, or would like more information, please contact 613-725-3166 ext. 268 or [legacy@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:legacy@ottawahumane.ca).

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HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR PET UPON YOUR DEATH OR DISABILITY?  
SOME PEOPLE MAKE INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY. OTHERS MAY NEED TO CONSIDER NEW  
OPTIONS AS PART OF THEIR ESTATE PLAN. THIS MAY INVOLVE MAKING SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN YOUR WILL AND/OR  
POWERS OF ATTORNEY, REQUIRING LEGAL ADVICE. FEEL FREE TO CALL OR SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH BRAD  
EVANS TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR ESTATE PLAN.



## LEAVING A LEGACY

# Meet Jim Whitehead

Jim Whitehead has chosen to leave a legacy gift to the animals in his will. We met with Jim to thank him and learn what inspired him to make this generous decision.

“As a little boy, my most loved and trusted companion was a cat — a tabby named Puss. She cried with me, comforted and headbutted with me. That was long ago and yet my memories of Puss, her warmth and compassion, remain with me so clearly.



Jim's late, beloved wife, Pat Whitehead, and their cat, Callie.

When I was employed in a remote community, many miles distant from my wife in Ottawa, I sought out another companion. Upon entering an animal shelter, I was surprised and delighted to be chosen by a cat we subsequently named Callie. We loved our Callie dearly and shed many tears when we had to say goodbye after 15 years with her.

That was also many years ago, and I am now on my own. I again long to share my

home and my life, as well as my love, with another cat.”

Jim enjoyed more than 35 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Pat. Jim described Pat as an admirably creative, artistic and generous person. After a challenging eight-year battle with Alzheimer dementia, Pat passed away in 2018.

Jim explains that, after losing his beloved Pat, he was left wondering, “What am I going to do now?” Jim lovingly notes that the decision to leave a legacy gift is credited to his late wife: “It’s Pat’s generosity. Pat guided me to generosity of money and spirit. I found a new purpose.” Jim has named several charities in his will and explains his new purpose is in sharing and memorialising Pat and her generosity with these organizations.

Thank you, Jim, for honouring Pat, Puss and Callie through a legacy gift for the future of Ottawa’s animals.



It's a hard question:  
**What if my pet  
outlives me?**

## Plan for your Pet's Future

A Free Webinar

March 24, 2021

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Register Now:

📞 613-725-3166 ext. 268

@ [legacy@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:legacy@ottawahumane.ca)

# Lending a Hand for the Animals

Always, and especially during the public health crisis, the safety of our staff, volunteers, the community at-large and, of course, the animals, is our highest priority. Our commitment to safety resulted in a suspension of most of our volunteer programming. In 2020, OHS foster volunteers have opened their hearts and homes to 1,225 animals. We cannot thank our foster volunteers enough, and we are proud to say that another group of volunteers has been helping the animals during the public health crisis: our volunteer vets.



Since early September, our volunteer vets have given their time, talent and expertise to perform spay and neuters, dental work and other operations for Ottawa's animals. Many hands make light work, and the volunteer vets have made quite a difference for the animals, providing more than 150 surgeries since their return.

YOU make these surgeries and life-saving operations possible, providing our volunteer vets with the tools and equipment needed and ensuring that the animals have a safe, comfortable place to rest and recover.

## Supporting Partners, Strengthening Our Community

Throughout this public health crisis, you've been here for Ottawa's animals, ensuring they have what they need to make life-saving care and second chances possible.

Your enduring support has reached not only the animals in our shelter, but has flowed out from our doors to reach animals in the community with our rescue partners. In 2020, your support provided more than 2,800 dogs, cats, rabbits, domestic birds, wild birds, wildlife and even farm animals in our community with critical resources through the OHS Emergency Partner Support Program.

Birch Haven Rescue and Rehabilitation's founder, Gwen B. says, "The impact of the Emergency Partner Support Program is priceless and invaluable. Great dogs will be adopted to great homes saving lives and reinforcing that rescue dogs are wonderful additions to any family."

You have also provided five partner sterilization days that spayed/neutered almost 60 cats who would not have been able to obtain these services without you.

Because of you, more live-saving care and happy endings were possible inside and outside the OHS.





# Community Kudos

Since the start of the public health crisis, the OHS has faced a number of challenges including cancelling most events. But that didn't stop you from creating safe and healthy alternatives to help support Ottawa's animals. Here are some of the Humane Heroes who stepped up for the animals this winter!

## Amira, Alina and Jacob

Meet Amira, Alina and Jacob! These amazing siblings wanted to do something special in loving memory of their golden retriever, Jack. Following physical-distancing guidelines, this trio sold baked goods and lemonade to their neighbours to raise money to help the animals. A big thank you to Amira, Alina and Jacob for their generous support — you are heroes to the animals!



## MacGowan's Christmas Tree Farm

Kudos to the MacGowan's Christmas Tree Farm. In the spirit of the holiday season, they collected donations from customers and donated a percentage of sales to help Ottawa's animals. Thanks to MacGowan's Christmas Tree Farm for their generous support! We are so lucky to have you as part of our community.

## David and Firaol

Shout out to David and Firaol! These two classmates were given a school project and they wanted to work on something they cared about. They sold t-shirts and donated the proceeds to help vulnerable animals in their community. Due to the public health crisis, they weren't able to drop off the donation in person. With the help of their school, they were able to issue a cheque and deliver the donation by mail — another great way to make a contactless donation. A big thanks to David and Firaol for being outstanding members of our community. You are heroes!

## Ding Dong Bark

A big thank you to Maks and Zala, two young entrepreneurs who own Ding Dong Bark, a business centred on making dog biscuits to raise money for the Ottawa Humane Society. With the help of their professional taste tester pooch, Ozzy, Maks and Zala were able to collect more than \$170 and doubled their donation through Giving Tuesday. Thank you, Maks and Zala, for being amazing heroes!



We are so grateful to be part of an amazing community, thank you all for your incredible support!

To see other OHS heroes, visit [ottawahumane.ca/communitykudos](http://ottawahumane.ca/communitykudos).

# PAW.

monthly giving saves lives

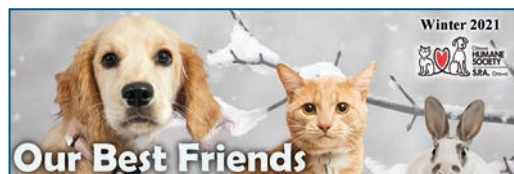


[ottawahumane.ca/pawupgrade](http://ottawahumane.ca/pawupgrade)

## Here for Ottawa's animals and their owners.



[ottawahumane.ca/admissions](http://ottawahumane.ca/admissions)



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