



# How You Gave a Blind Cat Named Rolly His Second Chance

Meet Rolly, a small blind cat who was in OHS care earlier this year. Rolly might be considered a “special needs cat,” but don’t let that fool you — he’s as energetic and playful as they come.

For months, Rolly made all OHS staff and volunteers smile whenever they got to interact with him. These smiles were usually followed by sadness because Rolly was having such a hard time finding his forever family.

Rolly’s special needs made him more difficult to adopt out. Without interacting with him or seeing how well he gets along with people, many viewed his blindness as a burden. Of course that wasn’t at all the case.

After months of being overlooked by passersby, Rolly started to become depressed. He would meet new people every day, but they never brought him home. That’s when the OHS started experimenting with the power of social sharing to get him adopted. Several social media posts, videos, a blog, television and print media ads were all used to share Rolly’s story with the community.

The response was amazing! In just a few weeks hundreds of supporters had shared Rolly’s story online, all hoping they



could help find his forever home. Finally, one sunny day in August, a young family came to the OHS and fell in love with Rolly. He has been living happily with his forever family ever since.

In the end, the many dedicated OHS supporters who shared his story helped make Rolly’s adoption possible. Whether sharing the posts on social media or donating to help the OHS provide care during his lengthy stay, supporters just like you gave Rolly the second chance he so desperately deserved.

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



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 Lost & Found 223  
 Fostering 255  
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If you have a story idea or comment, please contact [ohs@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:ohs@ottawahumane.ca) via e-mail 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

# Update on Animal Cruelty Investigations in Ontario



As previously reported, in March 2019, with just a few weeks' notice, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) announced it would no longer be enforcing animal cruelty legislation in Ontario and set a hard deadline for the end of June. The OSPCA refused the province's request to extend the work until new legislation could be introduced.

Since then, much of the animal protection work has fallen to the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) with the OHS assisting with training and advice and of course, continuing to care for the animal victims of crime. There are a number of nuances in Ontario's animal welfare legislation, and it must be enforced in a very specific manner in order to remove and protect animals and to support successful prosecution. OPS has about 800 officers: getting information to all of them has proven a significant challenge.

The Ontario government was slow to put "boots on the ground" here in Ontario's second largest city. To be fair, the government had to amend

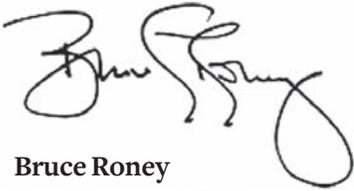
the OSPCA Act in order to appoint officers as the OSPCA refused to cooperate in appointing them themselves. Under the previous language in the act, only the OSPCA could. Still, once this legal hurdle was overcome, the provincial government was slow to put any resources into Ottawa. In fact, it was several months before the officers were available in Ottawa, and the two are only available during banker's hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. By contrast, when the OHS provided the service, it was available from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m., 365 days a year. The OHS reached out to the chief inspector to plead that the two officers be scheduled separately to cover a longer day and weekends, but this was declined. As a result, the majority of the work continues to fall to the already busy local police.

As to new animal welfare legislation, the Ontario government is still indicating that a bill will be introduced in January. However, it has been tight-lipped as to what the new legislation will look like. And it is not clear what, if any, consultation will occur. Certainly the timeline is ambitious and if there was to be meaningful consultation, it needs to begin very soon.

In the meantime, the OHS has been working with its national partner, Humane Canada, and its colleagues across Ontario to

develop recommendations for the new legislation. My counterparts across the province and I have been meeting with our local MPPs to brief them.

Most important of the recommendations is that the work requires not just legislation, but also resources for enforcement, otherwise the risk is that crimes against animals will fall in priority, animal lives will be put at risk, and crimes will go unpunished.



**Bruce Roney**  
President and CEO

## Invest in Ottawa's Homeless Animals

When you give an in-kind gift of stocks or securities to the Ottawa Humane Society, you are investing in the care and well-being of Ottawa's animals. These gifts are easy to make and can provide much-needed funding to care for animals. Simply complete the online form at [ottawahumane.ca/stocks](http://ottawahumane.ca/stocks), send it to your broker and our accounting department. Making a gift of appreciated stocks is the most tax-effective way to give an outright gift during your lifetime or as part of a legacy gift. Stocks donated to a public charity are not subject to capital gains tax. A donation of stock can convert an unnecessary asset for you into a meaningful gift to the animals.



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# A Very Merry Christmas for a Cat Named Augustine

It can't be easy waiting as long as Augustine did for her forever family. You see, Augustine was an adopt-from-foster cat in OHS care for more than a year.

She was cute and cuddly, but she was looking for a very specific home. By not residing in the OHS Adoption Centre like many other cats, Augustine had a hard time meeting any potential adopters, let alone that special someone she needed.

Augustine spent last Christmas without a family. She was able to receive enrichment from a volunteer, but it wasn't the same as the warmth of a forever family on Christmas morning.

It's not uncommon for an animal to spend a Christmas in OHS care: in fact, many do every year. But this year, as her foster volunteer flipped the calendar page to October, she was facing the prospect of two consecutive holiday seasons without a family. How heartbreaking that would be.

This year was different though. Augustine was determined to meet her family and have the merry Christmas she so deserved. And she did, thanks to you!

Your support provided for Augustine for over a year while she waited to meet her perfect match. You made her Christmas dream come true, and your continued support can help so many more animals like her find their loving forever families this holiday season.



# Outreach: A Year in Review

As we close out 2019, OHS staff and volunteers reflect on Outreach department highlights this year.



## March

Field experts Malena DeMartini and Casey McGee presented the largest seminar to date at the OHS on the topic of *Canine Separation Anxiety*.



## January

Expansion of the *Humane Education School Program* – we developed new online lesson plans and the new in-school Animal Welfare Club program officially launched. This means more children will learn about animal welfare.



## February

The first *Level 2 Pet First Aid* course was held, covering a number of advanced topics, including choking, bleeding, bandaging and burns.



## May

Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada partnerships were strengthened through the launch of the *OHS Pet Care Crest Program*.



## June

The contributions of 40 children were celebrated at the annual *OHS Buddy & Belle Awards*. They raised money for Ottawa's animals through lemonade stands, craft sales and collecting donations in lieu of birthday gifts.



## April

The *OHS Dog-Friendly Business Program* launched, whereby the OHS partnered with 20+ local businesses committed to building a more pet-friendly community.



### July

More than 350 low-income pet owners participated in the *OHS Pet Savvy Program* this year, where they explored topics related to preventative healthcare and wellness for their pets.



### August

Through the *OHS Youth Volunteer Program*, 30 youth completed their 40 hours of Community Service for High School, by assisting at *OHS Summer Camp*.



### September

The OHS hosted its first in-house *Adopt-a-thon Event* where close to 20 animals were adopted out into new and loving homes.



### October

In partnership with OCISO and Refugee 613, the Humane Education team held a successful "Pets in Canada" event for *Newcomers to Canada*.



### November

Close to 30 youth visited the OHS on Nov. 6 for *Take Our Kids to Work Day*, where they learned about post-secondary options in the animal-care field.



### December

These are just a few of the amazing accomplishments to celebrate this year. Thank you for continually supporting the growth of OHS Outreach programs – this important work to build a better future for animals is only possible because of your generosity and compassion.

# Walking in a Winter Wonderland

The animals who come to the OHS rely on close to 800 volunteers to help provide care for the animals, get through key daily tasks, offer amazing programs and services to the community, raise funds, and so much more. Honestly, there would be no OHS for animals in need without our dedicated and remarkable volunteers. Regardless of what is being requested, they always step up to the challenge, allowing us to reach ambitious goals and objectives. The OHS is eternally grateful for their ongoing support.

One amazing group of volunteers is our canine enrichment volunteers — specifically the volunteers who prioritize the needs of homeless dogs over the holiday season. While many are at home enjoying time with family and friends, these dogs are fortunate to have an amazingly dedicated team of volunteers visiting with them, ensuring they get the training and exercise they need to thrive in a shelter environment. These volunteers give their time on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and the busy days in between, to share their love with the



animals. Thank you to Raymond Clairmont, Ronald Aitken, Elaine Read, Mary Catherine Augusta, Lyane Mantha, Nick Few, Cindy Ladouceur, Robyn Rittmaster, Natalie

Pronovost and Donna Young for giving your time over the last number of years to celebrate the holidays with the dogs in OHS care — we can't thank you enough!

**Raise your spirits with a new friend from the OHS!**

Last year, during the month of December, the community opened its hearts, and over 300 animals found their forever families.

A festive holiday-themed graphic with a red background and green holly leaves. At the top, a white text box with a green border contains the text: "Raise your spirits with a new friend from the OHS!" Below this, a smaller white text box with a green border reads: "Last year, during the month of December, the community opened its hearts, and over 300 animals found their forever families." At the bottom, three animals are featured: an orange tabby cat on the left, a black and tan dog in the center with its tongue out, and a grey rabbit on the right. A small elf figurine is visible on the left side of the graphic.

# Thanking the Community at Our Annual Meeting

This year, the OHS was pleased to once again recognize those who work hard to support animals at the Annual General Meeting. Each year the OHS awards volunteers and supporters who've showed dedication to the animals in one way or another. Here are this year's winners:

**Muriel Davies  
Kindness Award**

Dr. Katharine Jones

**Eleanor Prowse  
Volunteer Service Award**

Joan Dawson

**President's Special  
Recognition Award**

OHS Social Committee

**Special Recognition Award**

Ottawa and Valley Lost Pet  
Network

**Siobhan Sheflin  
Memorial Award**

Linda Lucker and Scott Ferguson

**Dr. James Hutchison  
Animal Welfare Award**

Dr. Kristen Flegel

**Media Award**

Katherine Dines (Magic 100)



Joan Dawson poses with OHS President and CEO Bruce Roney while receiving her award.

## Meet Marlene Mullowney – PAW Hero

**M**arlene has been a member of the PAW Monthly Giving Program for almost two years. Her donations, along with many others, allow the Ottawa Humane Society to continue to feed, shelter and provide veterinary care for thousands of animals each year.

*When we adopted Minou a couple of years back – I honestly felt a little helpless seeing all of these animals that were looking for a loving home and even though we adopted, I wanted to do more. I had looked around the OHS website and noticed the different options for donations – and I thought it (the PAW program) was a great idea. Each month, for a nominal fee, I could donate the amount that fit my budget, and that money could be used how the OHS saw fit.*

*By giving monthly, I find that I can actually give more than I could if I were donating a*



*lump sum once or twice a year. What I also think is important is that the OHS can rely on these donations on a monthly recurring basis which allows them to plan and predict where they can allot those funds.*

*I think each pet has their own quirks and behaviors and it is so much fun to get to know them and uncover their quirky behavior. Like many cats, Minou prefers*

*the box that a toy came in rather than the toy itself. We have set up a bird feeder close to a window, so she can watch birds feed during the day and act like she is hunting (quite comical to watch). Animals can provide us with companionship but also can help reduce our stress levels. Pets provide us also with loyalty, companionship, love and affection.*

Not only is Marlene a hero to Minou, but she's a hero to thousands of homeless animals every year. Thank you, Marlene, for your compassion and support for Ottawa's animals.

To learn more about the PAW Monthly Giving Program, please visit [ottawahumane.ca/hero](http://ottawahumane.ca/hero), or contact us at 613-725-3166 ext. 254 or at [paw@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:paw@ottawahumane.ca).

# THANK YOU PAW DONORS!

As a PAW Hero, YOU were there when Zoey needed you most. Zoey, an 11-month-old Plott Hound, came to the OHS when she had nowhere else to go, exhibiting food guarding behavior and conflict with other dogs. Thanks to your support, Zoey was able to receive a Behaviour Modification Plan developed by the OHS canine services team to work on her possession aggression and leash manners.

We are pleased to report Zoey is now happy in her forever home, going for long runs and playing games, all thanks to you.

It's because of PAW monthly donors that Ottawa's lost, abandoned and abused animals can get the help they need 365 days a year.

**PAW** 

monthly giving saves lives

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



## Join us!

-  Santa Pet Pics: Nov. 27 — Dec. 22
-  Warm Hearts Raffle:  
Early Bird Draw Jan. 17, 2020,  
Grand Prize Draw Feb. 14, 2020
-  PAWS 4 Wellness: Jan. 20, 2020
-  Bake for the Animals Week:  
Feb. 24 – 28, 2020



For more details, check out the Events Calendar on the OHS website at [ottawahumane.ca/events](http://ottawahumane.ca/events).



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