



# An OHS Cinderella Story

**O**n a late January night, Jake, an emaciated Newfoundland mix, was rushed to the OHS. He was found wandering the rural roads of Dunrobin dragging a length of chain. The chain was attached to a collar that was embedded in Jake's neck, and that was only the beginning of his troubles.

Upon arriving at the shelter, Jake began vomiting, and needed immediate attention to save his life.

"It was unimaginable," said Dr. Shelley Hutchings, OHS Chief Veterinarian. "The collar had cut into him and the skin had grown overtop, leaving two ends of chain dangling from each side of his neck. The area was heavily infected, and the hair coat around his neck was matted with discharge."



Because of you, Jake was able to receive life-saving surgery to remove the collar and clear away infected tissue.

With you at his side, Jake made an incredible recovery. In the loving care of a foster volunteer, he regained his strength, put on some much needed weight and worked on his manners to one day fulfill his dream of finding a forever home.

Last spring, you made Jake's dream come true and he found the forever home he always wanted.



Jake's journey was only possible for one reason: YOU! In just a few short months, you helped transform Jake from an abandoned, malnourished pup to a healthy dog living his best life.

From us, Jake and his new family, thank you so much for caring.



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



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 Fostering 255  
 Administrative Assistant 297  
 President & CEO 232  
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 Community Events 263  
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 Humane Education 235  
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 Volunteering 231  
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 Media 261

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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

# First in the Country

I tend to get credit for a lot of the good things that the Ottawa Humane Society does and the organization that it has become. While that is very flattering, I know it takes a lot of people to make an organization work. At the OHS, it's a slightly magical combination of a professional staff, committed volunteers, a progressive board of directors, and a supportive community.

Early this spring, we found out that, after submitting hundreds of documents and a two-day virtual site visit from industry experts, the OHS became the first humane society in the country to be accredited by Humane Canada.

The Humane Canada accreditation covers all aspects of sheltering and animal management, including such things as the facility and sanitation, medical and behavioural health, and adoption. It also covers programs in outreach, education, and advocacy. Humane Canada views the accreditation as an assurance that the accredited organization is a leader, and is accountable, community-oriented, effective, humane, progressive, and transparent.

In 2016, the OHS also achieved Imagine Canada accreditation — a distinction that belongs to only two humane societies in the country. Imagine Canada



examines board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, and staff and volunteer management.

Between the two accreditation systems, all aspects of the Ottawa Humane Society have now been examined and accredited by external evaluators.

I am very proud of this, but it isn't my achievement. It belongs to everyone at the OHS and everyone who supports its work — everyone who is committed to doing the best possible job for the animals and the community every single day.

**Bruce Roney**  
 President & CEO



# Warming Up From a Cold Start

Found frozen on a porch, Gerda, a two-year-old cat, was rushed to the OHS with mere minutes to live.

Gerda's body temperature and blood sugar were too low to be measured. She was emaciated and dehydrated. Her tail hung limp and one of her hind legs was broken with the bone exposed.

Because of you, Gerda's life would be much longer than a few minutes. The OHS clinic team worked quickly to raise Gerda's body temperature and blood sugar to stabilize her and save her life.

With Gerda's life no longer hanging in the balance, the next step was figuring out what to do about her damaged leg and tail. Ultimately, amputating both was the best course of action for Gerda's well-being.

Thanks to you, Gerda had somewhere to go in her darkest hour and was able to receive the care she desperately needed.

After her surgery, it was clear that Gerda was not adapting well to life in shelter. To make her more comfortable and to help her feel more confident around people, Gerda moved into the care of a foster volunteer to continue her recovery.



Gerda has since completed her medical recovery, but she is still working on trusting people. Gerda has been hiding frequently in her foster home, but one morning, her volunteer was pleasantly surprised to find cat hair on her sofa.

Thank you for being there for animals like Gerda and saving lives every day.

## Foster Volunteers Needed!

Since 1983, the OHS foster program has been sending animals in need of medical and behavioural intervention into foster volunteers' loving homes. In the beginning, the program focused on helping vulnerable kittens, puppies and animals recovering from medical conditions. Thanks to hundreds of caring volunteers, the program has expanded its horizons to help so many more animals get a second chance at a bright and healthy future.

The OHS learned a lot from the ongoing public health crisis. One important lesson that our foster volunteers taught us was how animals are best served in foster care. Growing our amazing foster volunteer team means even more animals can receive the extra attention they desperately need. The animals need foster volunteers who can tackle complex medical cases and tough behaviour issues.



The OHS is happy to provide all of the tools and training to foster volunteers — we just need more to give their time to help.

Foster volunteers save vulnerable animals. If you have the time and are up for a rewarding challenge, we would love to have you on our team.

Email [volunteers@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:volunteers@ottawahumane.ca) to join the team!

# Lives You Saved During the Public Health Crisis

The public health crisis has been going on for more than a year, and you have been there for Ottawa's animals every step of the way. Throughout these turbulent times, you have been an unwavering beacon of hope for the animals. Many will remember the past year for all the bad things that happened, but we want to look back at some of the lives you have saved.



## Keto

Keto was a sweet beagle puppy who arrived at the OHS with a broken leg. Thanks to you, Keto received the care he needed to repair his leg and he found a forever home where he could go back to being a happy, healthy puppy.



## Digby

The word "hernia" is enough to make many people squirm. We can only imagine how much pain poor Digby was in — struggling with a hernia at only nine weeks old. Because of you, Digby got the care he needed and soon found his forever home.



## Wendy Lou

Wendy Lou came to the OHS with a terrible, infected wound on her face. Because of you, she got the care that she needed and found her forever home.



## Gulliver

Shot and left for dead, Gulliver broke our hearts and you opened your heart to him. Now resting and recovering with a loving foster volunteer, Gulliver can look forward to a bright future, thanks to you.

## Kanina

Kanina was an adorable, eight-week-old kitten with a horribly injured tail. You ensured she got the care she desperately needed. Thanks to you, Kanina is living her best life with her forever family.

These are only a few of the stories you have made possible this past year. If there is anything the public health crisis has made abundantly clear to us, it is that people who care about animals are unshakeable in their commitment. Thank you for always caring.

# Community Kudos

Since the start of the public health crisis, we faced a number of challenges including cancelling most of our events. But that didn't stop our community 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 spring!

### Alexa, Acadia and Taylor

Kudos to these three Humane Heroes for taking the time to create and sell cards, scrunchies and cookies to raise money for the animals! Thank you so much for all your hard work and generosity.

### Aaron

On top of making a generous donation, this super kid also ran a bottle drive to collect money for the animals. Thank you so much, Aaron, for your hard work and incredible gift.

### The Merry Dairy

This meow-tastic group is selling cards by Francie – Creatures of Habit-at and is

donating 100% of the proceeds to Ottawa's animals. Thank you for your generous support!

### Abigail, Savannah, Clare and Mikey

These amazing kids held a "pay what you can" garage and bake sale in loving memory of their furry friend, Mocha, who passed away a year ago. Thank you for your generous gift, you are Humane Heroes!

### St. Peter High School

The school held a "Jean Day" and donated the proceeds to support Ottawa's homeless animals. Thank you for your kind gift!

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



# OHS Humane Education Contests

Ottawa's incredibly talented, animal-loving children and youth have submitted awesome creations for OHS Humane Education contests. There have been contests for writing, drawing, photography, videos and more! We would like to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who entered an OHS Humane Education contest this year and remind everyone to stay up-to-date on our current competitions at: [ottawahumane.ca/humanecontests](http://ottawahumane.ca/humanecontests).

Here are some of our favourites from recent competitions:



Gwenith's (14) spectacular photo of a chickadee.



Amelia's (13) beautiful coloured pencil drawing of a field mouse on wheat.



Olivia's (14) gorgeous drawing of Lemon the dog.



Khloe's (6) Syrian hamster, Hammy, enjoying a carrot.

**It takes all kinds.**

**We're better for it.**

Diversity is a part of us. A commitment to equity and inclusion across race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, religion or ability is part of a truly humane society. **Ours.**

Ottawa HUMANE SOCIETY  
S.R.A. Ottawa

# In Memory

As a friend to the animals, you understand just how heart-breaking it can be to lose a beloved pet. Cam, an OHS supporter since 2017, lost her beloved dog, Cheyenne, in February. She understands the grief all too well.

“It was so hard to goodbye to Cheyenne,” said Cam. “Having my friends support me when I was so heart-broken really helped me.”

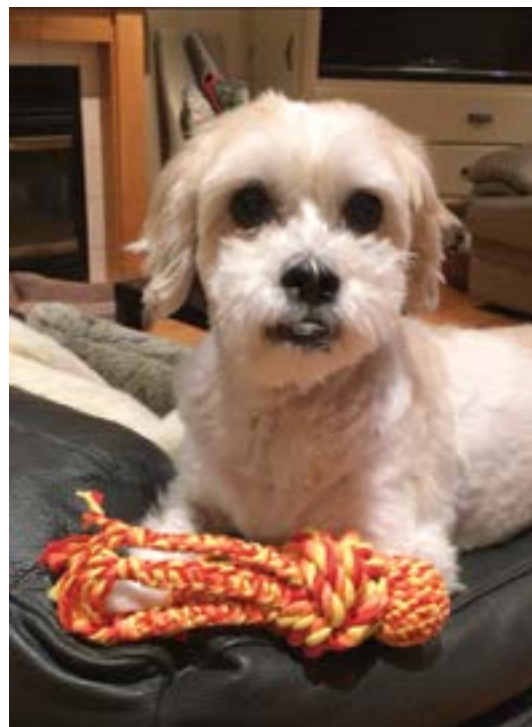
Many people suffer when they lose a pet and find it hard to move forward alone in the grieving process. Making an OHS pet memorial gift will

express your sympathies to a loved one and offer them comfort during a difficult time.

With your donation, the OHS will mail a personalized greeting card to the owner to let them know about your thoughtful gift. Or, you can go online to make a donation to choose an eCard to send your condolences. In both instances, you will receive a tax receipt for your gift.

“Knowing people understood what I was going through meant a lot to me,” Cam continues. “I didn’t feel so alone.”

To make a pet memorial donation, visit [ottawahumane.ca/PetMemoriam](http://ottawahumane.ca/PetMemoriam), or call us at 613-725-3166 ext. 299.



## Domestic Abuse and Pets

As someone who cares about animals, you will be shocked to learn about the disturbing link between domestic abuse of humans and pets.

Not every home is safe and the public health crisis has come with emotional and financial pressures, isolation and a lack of alternative housing. All of these factors drive increased frequency and severity of abuse in the home.

Studies show:

- 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters report that their batterer had threatened, injured or killed family pets.
- 13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence. Investigation of animal abuse is often the first point of social services intervention for a family experiencing domestic violence.
- Batterers threaten, harm or kill their children’s pets in order to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse.
- One study found that 87% of batterer-perpetrated incidents of pet abuse are committed in the presence of their partners for the purpose of revenge or control and 62% to 76% of such incidents occur in the presence of children.

- 25% to 40% of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave.

It doesn’t have to be this way. If you or someone you love is being abused at home, a safety plan for both people and pets is an essential part of leaving an abuser. The OHS will house pets on an emergency basis. Call us at 613-725-3166 ext. 221.





## More Ways to Help the Animals

As we approach the tail end of the public health crisis, in the interest of safety, we have made the decision to cancel this year's annual Wiggle Waggle Walk and Run. However, there are still many ways you can help Ottawa's animals! Consider buying tickets for an OHS lottery, hosting a community event for the animals, purchasing gifts for Ottawa's animals on our Amazon wish list or a simple donation can go a long way toward helping animals in need.



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