



Our Best Friends

You're Building New Pathways for Animals Like Angel

If you've ever broken a bone, we don't need to tell you how awful it is. Even worse is breaking a big bone like your femur. And somehow even worse than that is being injured and not knowing who will take care of you, how you will ever heal, and when or if you can expect life to return to normal.

Angel, a sweet five-month-old dog, went through all of that. She may not have known it, but she had an incredible friend to the animals — you — at her side the entire time. She was limping on her hind leg when she arrived at the

OHS. Our veterinary team examined her and discovered that her femur was broken.

Casting her leg was not an option, but thanks to you, there was another pathway for Angel.

Angel received orthopedic surgery from the skilled hands of an OHS veterinarian. Dr. Mary Thompson stabilized Angel's leg with metal plates and a pin. Cautious at first, our team walked Angel with a sling to ensure she had enough time to heal and that

she wasn't pushing herself too far. In a matter of days, it became clear that she was recovering extremely well and could walk on her own.

Angel finished her recovery in the loving care of a foster home and she was soon ready to start the search for her forever home. Thanks to you, Angel quickly found a new, loving family and is living her happily ever after.

Thank you for making second chances possible for animals who desperately need you.



Angel's orthopedic surgery



Angel recovering in the OHS critical care unit



Angel fully recovered and ready to find her forever home

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR ANIMALS IN NEED

Contact Numbers

Main **613-725-3166**
Fax 613-725-5674
Client Services/General Info ext. 221

Departmental Extensions

Adoption Centre	ext. 258
Lost & Found	223
Fostering	255
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If you have a story idea or comment, please contact 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

The Brilliant and Nuanced Future for Animals

These past months I've found myself thinking almost entirely of what's next for the animals, the Ottawa Humane Society and the community at-large. To me, the way forward and the OHS's role in the future of animal welfare are vividly clear.

Pets and their people need more support to stay together; including access to basic pet care supplies, veterinary treatment for underserved pet owners and programs to help manage a pet's behaviour. A new veterinary clinic for pet owners who typically wouldn't be able to access veterinary services will potentially be the cornerstone of these efforts.

The OHS needs to expand and enhance services available for Ottawa's homeless animals — increasing our capacity for care (the volume and complexity of animals we're able to provide for on any given day), and bolstering our own veterinary and behavioural services to ensure more animals can receive a second chance. To do this, we need to make the OHS an even better place for the community, our staff and our volunteers.

We need to continue building the next generation of pet owners and caring people by creating learning opportunities for young people in our community. We're fortunate that Ottawa is already full of people who care about animals, but this group can be better mobilized to advocate for, and secure meaningful wins in improving legislation that protects animals. The Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act has proven inadequate in saving animals from horrific neglect and abuse — advocating for improvements



to the act is imperative for the well-being of our community and its animals.

At the OHS, all of this feels obvious and a natural progression of our current efforts for the animals — but this was also my greatest worry about our plans. When something receives overwhelming support, it's usually not an indication of the initiative's quality, but instead suggests that feedback didn't come from robust and varied sources.

Often the most meaningful growth sprouts from the harshest criticism, and that's why in August and September, we brought our thoughts forward in a community consultation. Through workshops, focus groups and an online survey, more than 3,000 people reviewed and provided feedback on our proposed future direction for the animals.

I'm relieved to share that my fears were largely unfounded. Our proposed direction enjoyed a positive reception from the participants, but this wasn't just a reaffirming pat on the back. Much of the feedback offered valuable nuance we hadn't considered and perspectives that will help us avoid missteps and ensure our plans are as inclusive as possible.

We are still hard at work finalizing our strategic plan, but with the insight and interest of our community and the support of our board of directors, I can safely say the OHS is moving towards an even more brilliant future for the animals.



Sharon Miko
President & CEO

Shelter From the Cold: Heart-Warming Endings YOU Made Possible

Winter is sometimes called “slow” season at the OHS, meaning we don’t see the same overwhelming number of animals common in the spring and summer. There may be fewer animals at the OHS during the winter, but the need for the life-saving services you make possible never goes away.

During the winter, animals who are lost and alone with no one to care for them have an even harder time fighting for survival.

Each year, you save animals during the darkest and coldest season. You might remember Jake and Gerda, two homeless animals who you saved in their time of need.

On a late January night, Jake, an emaciated Newfoundland mix, was rushed to the OHS. He was found



Jake before



Jake adopted

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 found his forever home.

Frozen on a porch, Gerda, a two-year-old cat, was rushed to the OHS with 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 was 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



Gerda before



Gerda adopted

and tail. Ultimately, amputating both was the best course of action for Gerda’s well-being.

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 and went on to find her forever home.

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

We don’t know for sure how many animals will need life-saving care this winter. But we know that with your help, no animal will be left behind or forgotten.

Rabbit Overpopulation: A Snowballing Issue

You might know that the OHS's rabbit population has been climbing steadily in the past couple of years. For context, the total number of animals at the OHS is rising, but has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. Rabbits, on the other hand, have set a new record for total number in our care since 2012.

The trend is concerning especially as rabbits often come to the OHS in entire unsterilized litters, suggesting that even though there are many rabbits in our care, there are many more in the community who will arrive at the OHS eventually.

A common question is where are they coming from and why now? It's likely the pandemic is playing a significant role in Ottawa's bunny crisis. In 2020, pets were in high-demand — so much so that some people were frustrated with the OHS when they saw how few animals were available for adoption. While we enjoyed a glut of forever homes available for the animals, breeders also saw similar fevered demand. Reputable breeders had lengthy waitlists for animals, but others saw an opportunity to fill the demand for pets, ready to offer hopeful families an animal sooner rather than later.

In some cases, the promise of a pet today was simply a scam and families were fleeced for thousands of dollars. Other times the pet was real, but came at a steep price to itself and the new owner with falsified veterinary documents and hidden, costly health conditions.

As demand for pets normalized, sellers who had overbred animals were left with pets who weren't selling and were proving costly to care for. Reports from B.C. indicated that litters of unsold puppies were being abandoned, likely because of the falling interest in acquiring a new pet.

In Ottawa, we are seeing a similar situation, except with bunnies rather than puppies. A quick search online will show pages of sales listings for rabbits. They may not have the several-thousand-dollar price tag of puppies, but irresponsibly breeding rabbits for profit damages the well-being of the animals and contributes to pet overpopulation.

The good news is that you're helping to push back against the wave of rabbit overpopulation and ensure that all bunnies have a loving home. Thanks to your support, every rabbit adopted from the OHS is spayed/neutered, ensuring they won't produce more bunnies in need. You also are helping to get the word out about the rabbit crisis. With your support we ran a special promotion in the summer for rabbit adoption and close to 30 rabbits were adopted as a result (many more came into our care, but it was still an excellent number of adoptions).

Thanks to you, we can continue to advocate against irresponsible pet breeding in our community. Thank you for being there for the animals and helping our abundant bunnies get their well-deserved second chances.

Some of the beautiful bunnies you are saving:



Cuddling Up with a Foster Animal

Your incredible support helps the animals at the OHS and animals staying with foster volunteers in the community. You make sure these animals receive all the veterinary care, training support, food and toys they need while enjoying their foster home.

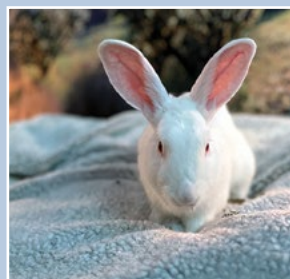
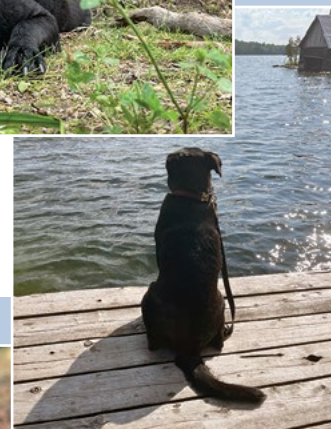
Because of you, animals who are recovering from life-saving surgery, who need extra support to manage their behaviour, or who are stressed staying in the shelter have a temporary home where they can get the one-on-one care they need.

We're always looking for more people to join this life-saving program. If you want to cuddle up with a foster pet this holiday season, email us at volunteering@ottawahumane.ca.

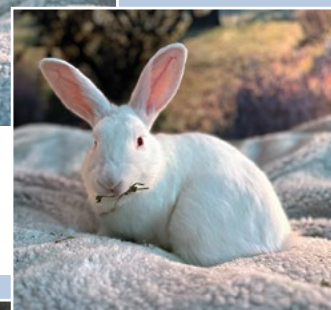
Or, if you'd rather bask in the warmth of all the foster homes you're supporting, here are some of the animals who spent time with our foster volunteers!



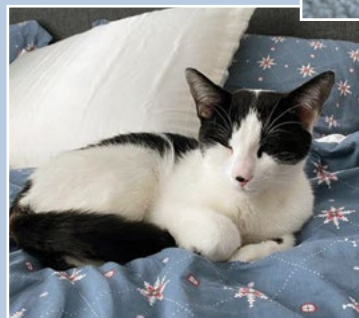
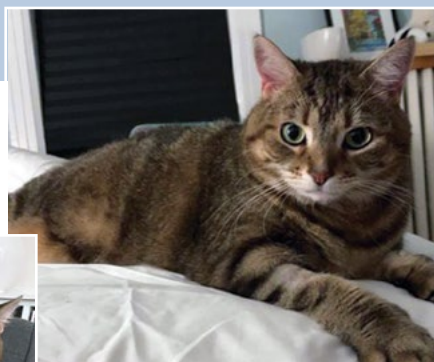
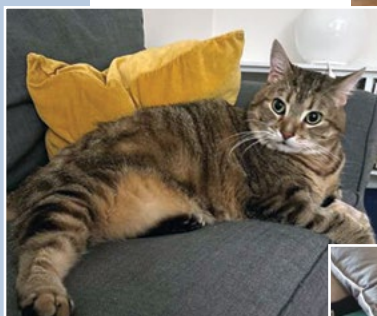
Dottie in a foster home from March to Sept. 2023



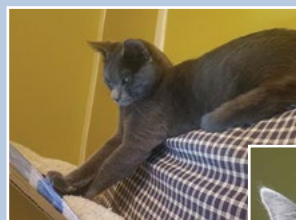
Pancake in a foster home from June 2023 to present



Coco in a foster home from Sept. 2023 to present



Naz in a foster home from May to June 2023



Sphinx in a foster home from Jan. to April 2023



Chloe and Chase in a foster home from June to July 2023



DONOR PROFILE

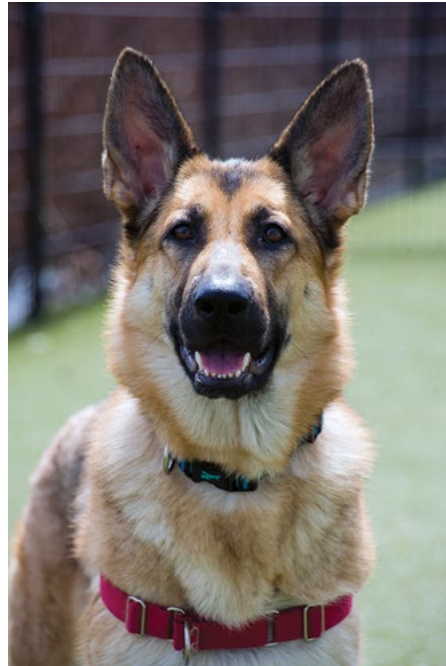
Animals Are Lucky to Have an Advocate Like Vivien

Vivien Sander is a loyal PAW monthly donor and an OHS volunteer, supporting Ottawa's homeless and vulnerable animals since 2015.

Vivien and her husband loved animals, providing a caring home for three dogs and eight cats throughout their 46 years of marriage. They always had German shepherds and adopted cats from the OHS. Sometimes animals adopt people, as was the case with their last cat, Lucky, who roamed into their lives and decided they would be his forever family.

After the passing of her dear husband, Vivien debated whether she'd continue to have pets. She wanted what was best for the animals and didn't want them to be home alone if she were to travel. But Vivien wanted to be around animals — to be there when they needed help the most and to make a difference.

As a volunteer, Vivien sees the difference donors make in the lives of Ottawa's animals. Vivien became a monthly donor because it was the best way to support the animals. She knows



her monthly gifts make it possible for homeless and vulnerable animals with nowhere else to turn to receive the medical care, loving attention, and anything else they may need. Since she has no pets of her own, by volunteering, Vivien ensures every animal in need has a safe haven until they find a new forever home.

Vivien is a leader in building a humane and compassionate community for all animals. "People don't give enough credit to what animals do," Vivien said when asked why helping animals is important. "A dog in my building is learning to become a therapy dog. A girl was sitting in the lobby all sad, and the dog went up to cheer her up. It's important to look after the animals because they look after us."

Like Vivien, you can help Ottawa's animals receive the second chance they deserve. Give monthly at ottawahumane.ca/paw, call 613-725-3166 ext 254 or email paw@ottawahumane.ca.



Community Kudos

Our community has many young heroes who are hard at work supporting Ottawa's animals! Many awesome kids organized lemonade stands and garage sales in the summer – now that's amazing. Visit our website to read more about these Humane Heroes: ottawahumane.ca/kudos.

Keeping Families Together During the Holidays (and Beyond)

Deciding to surrender a beloved pet because you can no longer care for them is one of the most responsible, but most difficult decisions a family can make.

Surrendering a pet to the OHS most often comes from a place of love and wanting what's best for the animal.

But what if something could be done to keep a pet in a loving home with their family? What if there was a way to give families the support they need to avoid making a heartbreaking decision?

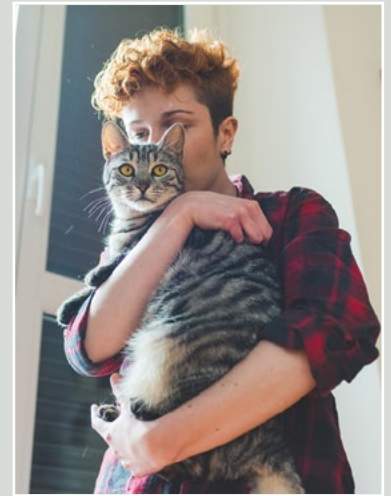
Thanks to you, families in Ottawa can stay together.

You support pets and their people through the OHS Emergency Pet Food Bank, making sure that essential pet care supplies are available to families in need.

You ensure pets at the OHS and pets in the community can receive the care they need when they need it. Your support provides accessible spay/neuter services and wellness clinics that would usually be out of reach for some pets and their families.

You make it possible for the OHS to be here for every pet who needs us. And you also protect pets from needing emergency, life-saving care at the OHS.

You are saving pets and their people every day. Thank you.



Transforming Scrap into Life-Saving Care

From donating, adopting, volunteering and more, there are many ways to help Ottawa's homeless animals. We're fortunate that our supporters also dig deep to be resourceful and creative in how they support Ottawa's pets. One friend of the animals, who has asked to be referred to as AC to remain anonymous, has contributed \$11,000 to the animals in seven years by collecting empty cans and bottles and returning them to the Beer Store for cash.

AC is retired and does not own a car. Three or four times a week, even during winter, she walks to the nearest Beer Store with carriers full of empties.

"I had started seeing a lot of bottles thrown away in the dumpster in my condominium building and I knew they were worth money," she explained. "It has become a retirement project because it seemed to have great benefit in terms of both the environment and giving to

charity. And it got me out walking." She chose to give to the OHS because of her long-standing love of animals.

Her friends, family, and neighbours have even gotten on board. "I have a treasured memory," she said. "Of the first time my grandson proudly presented me with an empty bottle he'd found." The same grandson convinced his teachers and schoolmates to choose the OHS as the organization to help through a school fundraising activity.

One of her friends spent a day off driving to small breweries to return empty growlers. Another friend drives AC when she has particularly large loads to redeem. Her son, who regularly visits friends in Toronto, dutifully brings back empties from his trips.

AC's neighbours also leave cans and bottles for her in their building's recycling room. Nothing goes to waste,



AC hauling a collection of cans and bottles.

even when AC is on vacation: "My cat sitter picks them up for me. She thinks it's a hoot!"

Thank you, AC, and thank you to everyone who finds unique ways to help Ottawa's homeless animals.

Become a Monthly Donor!

Animals like Hashbrown are counting on you to provide them with a new start at life and get them into loving forever homes.

Hashbrown is just one of the many animals in the care of the Ottawa Humane Society. This nine-week-old kitten had a swollen eye, a bloody face and was limping on her left leg.

Thanks to monthly donors, Hashbrown received the medical treatment she so desperately needed and had somewhere safe to rest and recover.

Will you help Hashbrown and other animals just like her by becoming a monthly donor?

ottawahumane.ca/paw

613-725-3166 ext. 254



PAW. 

monthly giving saves lives

TURN YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING INTO LIFE-SAVING CARE FOR THE ANIMALS



When you pay
with your BMO OHS Mastercard,
BMO will make a contribution to the
animals at no cost to you.



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