



How You Saved a Senior Dog

No pet should have to survive on their own. Living in constant cold, pain and stress as they wonder where their next meal will come from, where they will find shelter to sleep through the night, and if they'll ever have someone to love again.

You save hundreds of animals from enduring a life as a stray, lost and alone, which is why Dew Drop's story will break your heart. At 10 years old, Dew Drop should have been resting and relaxing in the comfort of a forever home, curled up in a dog bed and with a doting family to take care of her every need.

But she wasn't so lucky.

She was fighting for survival on the streets. There was no one to give her a proper meal or to take care of her lovely fur. When she arrived at the OHS, she was thin and her coat was covered in awful mats. We shaved away the worst mats to provide her some relief, but we made a terrible discovery.

One of Dew Drop's legs was badly injured and horribly infected. She couldn't put any weight on the leg and it was clear she needed help and fast. Our veterinarians quickly provided her pain medication and antibiotics. Examining her leg revealed that the injuries were too severe and we needed to remove her leg to ensure she could live her best life.

Thanks to your incredible support, Dew Drop had somewhere to go to receive shelter, life-saving care and love in her hour of need. After her surgery, she rested and recovered in the comfort of a foster home and we closely monitored her progress every step of the way.

Now, because of you, Dew Drop has a bright future and will receive all the love and attention that a sweet, senior pet so desperately deserves.

You give comfort, hope and home to animals like Dew Drop and make second chances possible. Thank you for being you.



Dew Drop before surgery



Dew Drop after surgery



Dew Drop recovered and feeling fabulous

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 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

Caring for Animals by Caring for Each Other

I have often reflected that, at the OHS, we only see the tip of the iceberg. The animals who come to us, do so only after everything else has gone wrong. The injured stray cat whose defeated family gave up looking for him months ago, the beloved family dog whose owner just couldn't afford to care for her anymore. But for every animal who comes into our care, there are dozens more in the community who still need help, each with their own story.

When I reviewed the results and comments from our recent community consultation, I read some heartbreaking stories. An owner who still can't forgive herself because she had to give up her dog while she was recovering from an injury. Another owner who lives in constant fear that if her pet gets sick, she won't be able to afford veterinary care. The person who said they live in isolation, and although they would desperately love to share their life with a pet, they are afraid they can't afford one.

Despite these heart-wrenching tales, I am optimistic. Because I also read that our community wants to do more to help keep pets in loving homes. Our community identified pet affordability nearly three times more frequently than the next most significant issue, and they want more to be done about it. This result came out in force: fully 94% stated their support for the OHS providing some form of veterinary care assistance for income-qualified pet owners. That is



Wellness clinics for income-qualified pet owners are one of the ways the OHS is helping to keep pets and their families together

a community that cares, and one that I'm proud to be part of.

Our community also wants to see the OHS able to do more to help animals coming into our care, more advocacy to protect animals from cruelty, mistreatment, abandonment and

general irresponsible pet ownership, and doing even more to promote and provide spay/neuter services. Our community also wants more support for stray and feral cats, and to make sure that dogs are bred responsibly, and that our community has access to safe spaces and training for dogs.

Our path forward is not just becoming clearer, it's becoming more urgent. We need to do more. And with your support, I believe we can. We can help more animals in distress who come to us for care, and we can ensure fewer animals need to come to us in the first place. Doing so, we will reduce the heartbreak that happens when beloved animals are needlessly torn from their homes — their families.

I am grateful that the OHS can rely on the support of such a caring community to help animals in need today, and to build a better, more compassionate, future for all.



Sharon Miko
President & CEO

A Dog in Need and a Broken Machine

There are many jaw-dropping, heart-wrenching stories of animals who come to the OHS in desperate need of life-saving care. It's because of you that emergency care is available for the animals who can't wait and have nowhere else to go. For every dramatic story, there are dozens of other tales that are more simple. A pet might just be a spay/neuter or dental surgery away from finding their forever home. They might not need any veterinary care at all and just need the basic day-to-day care of food, shelter and love.

Boris was one of these stories. Or so we thought.

Boris is a handsome, four-year-old boxer mix, and we were giving him a routine dental procedure — X-raying his mouth to figure out exactly what kind of treatment he might need before



Boris and the machine

starting the search for his perfect match. He was sedated, and we placed the X-ray machine in his mouth. Suddenly, Boris twitched and pinched the machine with his teeth. To our shock, such a small movement managed to irreparably break the equipment.

The damaged machine was a serious setback — without it, our veterinary

clinic would fall behind in providing dental care and animals would face an even longer wait before finding their forever home. It was expensive to replace, and thanks to your support, we are prepared to absorb unexpected costs to ensure the animals can still receive the treatment they so desperately need.

However, the cost was great and unexpected. We reached out to you and the community to help recover the expense of replacing the equipment, and you responded in a big way. Ottawa fully covered the cost of the new X-ray equipment and ensured that Boris and more animals like him could receive the essential dental care they needed to find their perfect forever homes.

You're always there for the animals who so desperately need you. We can't thank you enough for your selfless generosity.

You're There for Our Community's Most Vulnerable Animals

It's hard to imagine something more distressing than seeing a momma cat and her kittens lost and alone with no one to look after them. Momma is of course the best caretaker for her newborn kittens, but the dangers she and her little family face in the outdoors are immense.

Thanks to you, there is a safe place for these families and momma cats who are about to give birth. Ivy was one of those cats. She arrived at the OHS, heavily pregnant and ready to bring new kittens into the world. But her kittens weren't born as smoothly as planned. They were tangled in their umbilical cords and needed the gentle and caring hands of OHS veterinarians to free them and return them safely to momma.

If she had still been lost outdoors, the fate of Ivy and her family may have been very different. But caring people like you make sure that these little families and other

homeless animals in need have somewhere safe to go and receive the life-saving care they so desperately deserve.



Ivy and her kittens

Feline Flood — More Than 90 Cats and Kittens Arrive at OHS

In late 2023, more than 90 cats were admitted to the OHS in just a few days. Whether found lost and alone, brought in by a heartbroken family who could no longer care for them, or kittens who were just recently born, the cats came from a number of sources — and you were there to protect them. The unexpected surge of cats put a strain on our resources, but thanks to your incredible support, we're prepared to weather any storm for the animals.

The needs of the cats varied wildly. Our veterinarians examined and assessed each one, charting out and planning the care they would



A pair of kittens found lost and alone at Tanger Outlets were among the 90 cats brought to the OHS in just a few days

need for a happy, healthy future with their forever family.

Each cat's story was unique. One tale that stole the hearts of our team and the community was a pair of kittens who were found lost and alone at Tanger Outlets in Kanata. They came to us with a cat cold (or an upper respiratory infection) and needed close monitoring through days of sneezes and eye goopies. Now the kittens have fully recovered and found their perfect forever homes!

The huge number of cats was unusual and even rivalled some of our busiest weeks in the summer.



There has been a recent and concerning trend of large intakes of cats and kittens arriving at the OHS.

Thanks to caring people like you, there was somewhere safe for these cats to go to receive the care and support they so desperately deserve. By raising your voice and reminding our community of the importance of keeping cats indoors unless on a leash and harness with their owner or in the safety of a catio and of the importance of spaying/neutering our pets, you are making a difference.

Thank you for being there when the animals need you most and helping to keep our community's cats safe.

Community Kudos

Our community has many young heroes who are hard at work supporting Ottawa's animals! From craft sales to school events, our community is saving lives and standing up for the animals who need them most. Visit our website to read more about these Humane Heroes: ottawahumane.ca/kudos

Meeting Deep and Complex Needs

Thanks to your incredible support, the animals can receive the life-saving care they so desperately need in times of crisis and have somewhere safe where they can rest in comfort. And this isn't the only way you help the animals.

Increasingly, we're seeing more dogs come to the OHS with complex behavioural needs. The path to recovery for veterinary needs is often straightforward; bones can be mended, infections can be cleaned and treated; and dental and spay/neuter procedures are largely routine. Helping an animal overcome a challenging behaviour isn't so direct, but thanks to you, these pets have a pathway to success.

It starts the very moment an animal arrives at the OHS. Our intervention services team assess all of our new arrivals to figure out if they have behavioural needs and what support they will need to change or manage a challenging behaviour.

Depending on the needs of the animal, the shelter may not be the best place for them to work on their behaviour. The shelter can be busy, noisy and full of strange smells — a stimulation overload. Loving foster volunteers give the animals a break from the shelter and the one-on-one attention that makes a huge difference for some of our more complex animals. Your support provides the food, veterinary care, and daily supplies an animal needs in a foster home.

And dogs with complex behavioural needs are not the only ones who enjoy extra TLC. Our canine enrichment volunteers ensure that every homeless dog sheltering at the OHS receives the daily play and mental stimulation they need to stay happy and healthy while they wait for their perfect forever home.

You make sure so much more can be done for Ottawa's homeless animals, and we can't thank you enough for your support.



Marty is one of our incredible canine enrichment volunteers

DONOR PROFILE

A Life-Saving Legacy

We're very fortunate that Ottawa is a community that cares deeply about animals. Marie Loy is a part of the OHS 1888 Legacy Society and has committed to making a lasting impact for Ottawa's homeless animals. Find out what inspired Marie to make this generous commitment:

The Ottawa Humane Society is doing incredible work in providing a helping hand to these animals, and I'm grateful for the positive impact they've had on my life.

In 2012, my family faced a heartbreaking loss when we said goodbye to our two beloved dogs who battled cancer. It felt like losing cherished family members. The void they left took time to heal, and it wasn't until I saw Toby's picture on the Ottawa Humane Society's website that I felt ready to open my heart to another furry friend.

Toby, soon renamed Mr. T, became an inseparable part of our family. From the first moment in the get-together room when he sat on my lap, I knew he was the one. He brought joy and laughter into our home, immediately making friends with our cats and becoming the best guard dog – regardless of his size.

Now, at around 15 years old, Mr. T is still going strong despite facing various health challenges, he continues to bring happiness to our lives,

doing zoomies in the house and chasing balls outside.

The OHS played a crucial role in connecting us with Mr. T, and I want to ensure that they can continue their important work in helping animals find loving homes. By leaving a bequest, I hope to contribute to their mission and support the well-being of countless furry friends who deserve a chance at a happy life.

May Mr. T's story inspire others to open their hearts and homes to animals in need. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these loving creatures.



Marie and Mr. T

We are so grateful for the life-saving generosity of Marie Loy and caring people like you. Thank you for helping to make Ottawa an even more humane and compassionate community.

OHS Auxiliary — A Mighty Team

Formed in 1949, the OHS Auxiliary supports Ottawa's animals, raising funds for programs like foster care and adoption and for essential supplies like medicine, food and equipment.

The OHS Auxiliary regularly hosts craft sales featuring lovingly hand-crafted items to help raise more funds for Ottawa's homeless animals. This group's passion and tenacity for the animals is inspiring. A huge thank you to the OHS Auxiliary for everything they do for Ottawa's homeless animals!



The Auxiliary hosted a craft sale at our Holiday Open House in December

YOU Make Forever Matches

"Train your dog" is one of the best tips for building a better relationship with your pet and setting both of you up for a happy and healthy future. Your support helps provide training classes at the OHS for new adopters and pet owners who want to build a better connection with their pet dog.

On the surface, the classes are all about building the bond between people and their dogs, but there's much more to the lessons than "sit" and "stay." Training your pet is key to keeping pets safe, and building a pet-friendly community.

The City of Ottawa reported that the total number of bylaw calls per year for complaints about dog aggression increased by 17% from 2019 to 2022.

The cause of the increase is not certain, but theories include a greater demand for dog training than available supply, a lack of socialization for dogs during the public health crisis, behaviour challenges arising from people spending less time at home with their pets, and simply more dogs in the community.

While we have not seen an increase in the number of people citing behaviour challenges as the reason they need to give up their dog, more dogs are arriving at the shelter with significant behaviour issues, and more owners are calling the OHS desperate for help to manage their dog's behaviour. Between consultations, private training, seminars and the group training classes, the OHS offers many supports for families struggling with their pet's behaviour — but the demand continues to increase.

You are helping more pets stay with their families and are ensuring valuable resources are available for families who have recently adopted their new best friend.



Herbie had been waiting for several months for his perfect match. Thanks to you, he found a home for the holidays

Unlocking the Power of Purpose: A Guide to Making a Lasting Difference

By Betty-Anne Howard

Are you eager to make a positive impact on the world, your community and, of course, the animals? If you've ever thought about your life's purpose or how you might find even more purpose in life, you're not alone. Many Canadians share this desire, aspiring to contribute to their community by supporting charities close to their heart.

There are myths and misconceptions that may come between Canadians and leaving a gift in their wills to charities. Let's dispel these myths and tackle one of the biggest barriers together.

Myth #1: Choosing Between Family and Charity

You don't have to choose between providing for your family and supporting Ottawa's homeless animals. You can do both. By redirecting money from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to the OHS, you will make a significant impact and leave a lasting legacy.

Do you know what your tax bill will be at your death? It can be huge. Knowing what you can expect to pay is a good starting point, and can help you plan charitable giving strategies that fit your situation best. Planning will help minimize those taxes and direct your savings to the causes that matter most to you.

What's most important is for you to be in a position of strength where you can make your own informed decision about how you'd like to have your estate distributed at your death.

Myth #2: Breaking Barriers: Overcoming Uncertainty

Another major barrier preventing Canadians from leaving gifts in their wills



is uncertainty about the best way to do so. The options can be overwhelming, leaving people unsure of where to turn for guidance and support in structuring their estate and legacy plans. Too often, I hear, "My Financial Advisor is an Investment Advisor; they don't handle estate and legacy planning." So frustrating! You deserve an opportunity to explore this topic in detail with someone who understands your values and can illustrate, in plain language, how charitable giving minimizes taxes while aligning with your purposeful life.

Exploring the Heart-Head Connection

To achieve your philanthropic dreams, you'll need to navigate your Heart-Head connection. The journey starts with your heart — your story and the impact you want to have now and after your passing.

Your heart represents emotions that propel you forward, while your head guides you through your thinking and mindset. It is crucial to dispel limiting

beliefs, such as the misconception that you must choose between family and charities. Leaving decisions to your kids might seem convenient, but it could limit opportunities to maximize your impact and reduce your end-of-life tax bill. Professionals with expertise in estate and legacy planning can facilitate this process.

Taking Action: A Call to Make a Difference

When your heart and head work together, a plan emerges. Whether you're just starting to consider your legacy or already have a plan in place, take the next step. Reflect on beliefs that may be holding you back from building the legacy you really want, think deeply about the impact you wish to have and ensure your plan aligns with your values and current economic factors.

You can make a huge difference in the lives of Ottawa's homeless animals. Will you consider leaving a legacy gift to help build a more humane and compassionate community for all?

Become a Monthly Donor!

Will you help keep Figgy Pudding, and more homeless animals like her, warm, safe and fed this winter?

Figgy Pudding came to the OHS hungry and hurting, with a badly injured leg. Sadly, her story is not unique. Many animals arrive at the OHS in desperate need of life-saving care.

Thanks to monthly donors, she received the medical treatment she so desperately needed. Her leg was beyond repair, and OHS veterinarians removed her leg to make sure she could live her best life. She is now living in warmth and comfort with her forever family.

Can Figgy Pudding and homeless animals like her depend on your help? Donate monthly today!

ottawahumane.ca/paw

613-725-3166 ext. 254



PAW.

monthly giving saves lives

February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

THANK YOU
for making these
essential surgeries
possible for thousands
of animals each year.



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