

Pet Talk



WINTER ISSUE 2017

FROM RAGTIME TO RICHES

The story of Miss Magoo
the one-eyed kitten and
her miraculous recovery

KWHS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

The scope has changed
but the vision remains

GLORIA'S PLACE 1ST ANNIVERSARY

The gem in the heart of
Stratford turns one year old

KWHS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

\$90 Campaign

Initially serving as the local dog pound, the Kitchener-Waterloo and North Waterloo Humane Society has been delivering animal care and compliance within our communities for ninety years. Today, the KWHS is the fourth largest humane society in Ontario.

The scope of what we do has changed since 1927 but the vision remains the same – to be a proactive leader in providing humane support through care, education, advocacy and compliance to promote the well-being of all animals.

In 2016 alone, we achieved so much:

- Our Animal Care Team cared for over 2300 animals with over 1400 re-homed (adopted) including 77 over the age of 8 years. More than 600 animals were returned to their owners. Over 30 animals were taken in through our Emergency Boarding Program. (Emergency Boarding provides short-term care for the pets of persons who are victims of abuse or loss of residence, are facing hospitalization or incarceration, and have no other option.)
- Our Animal Hospital performed over 2500 surgeries and launched a Community Assistance spay/neuter program. Having on-site veterinarians and registered vet technicians mean that pets brought to KWHS, whether the pet is a stray or a surrender, are immediately triaged and diagnosed for care.
- Our Education Program reached 27,512 children through 116 school visits. Camps offered on PD Days, and over school breaks provided children with hands-on animal experience as well as introducing responsible pet ownership. The KWHS birthday party program was voted Waterloo Region's favourite party site; more than 1800 children attended parties at the KWHS centre.
- KWHS is contracted by the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo to provide education and enforcement of the cities' animal control bylaws. Officers supported the region's residents, answering over 1400 calls and processing 700-plus investigations. By working with the communities, animal control is able to address

John McCaig, 1927, First Inspector



Provide 6 Days
Of Care
\$90

Provide Feline
Spay/Neuter
\$90

Provide 1 Month
Special Diet
\$90

concerns and work towards resolutions that reflect the best interests of both people and pets.

- Expertise in our field means that we are the go-to for the Capacity for Care Program, an animal care management program that focuses on reducing the length of stay for animals in the centre. Animal Care staff have presented webinars for shelters and animal care programs in the US. As a leader in animal welfare, we share our knowledge and experiences with other Humane Societies, hosting visits from the Kingston, Niagara Falls and Winnipeg Humane Societies.

Community support has brought us this far but to keep moving forward, we will need your help. In celebration of our 90th Anniversary, we're not holding a big party (although we thought about it). We'd rather concentrate on helping the animals in the community we serve.

Your Anniversary Donation of \$90 to our pets will make a lasting impact... \$90 can do a lot!

MISS MAGOO

FROM RAGTIME TO RICHES

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the sight of kitten Miss Magoo literally left us speechless. This little girl, weighing a meagre 550g, had one eye so badly ruptured it was dislocated from its socket. Despite her feisty response to being held, Miss Magoo was clearly in pain and needing emergency care.

Both KWHS and SPHS have trained Registered Veterinarian Technicians on site who immediately triage incoming pets. The team in Stratford quickly identified that Miss Magoo would need surgery to remove the damaged eye and arranged her transfer to the KWHS Animal Care Hospital. In no time, she was sedated and being operated on.

Every day the Vets and RVTs see how the single act of removing pain can change the whole demeanour of a lost pet. Miss Magoo woke from her surgery a new kitten, purring and rubbing her head in the hands of her care team.

Having an on-site hospital means that pets can recover in the comfort of their own space with daily monitoring by trained staff. This has significantly reduced the recovery time for most pets undergoing surgery. After several days, Miss Magoo was able to go home with a foster volunteer who continued to gauge her progress. Through the attention of this foster family, Miss Magoo quickly gained weight, returning to health and returning to the SPHS where she was placed for adoption.



**LOVING, UNIQUE, AND
ADORABLE, SHE WAS
QUICKLY ADOPTED!**

If Miss Magoo could talk, she would surely thank the team of people who gave her this second chance. From the citizens who brought her to the SPHS, to the trained professionals on site, to the many donors whose generosity funded this complicated surgery, to the adoptive family – each had a role to play.

The SPHS believes that Every Animal Deserves a Chance. Happily, Miss Magoo has one.

Behind The Scenes

It is easy to overlook the human members of KWHS. However, behind every purring cat or contented canine, is a staff member who completed the intake, or arranged the kennel, or simply answered the phone. These seemingly unsung heroes join together to ensure every pet brought to the centre has a second (or maybe third) chance.

Meet Charlene

“The simple reason I do my job is to help the animals in our community.” Charlene has been doing jobs and helping animals at KWHS for 37 ½ years!

Following high school, Charlene found a position on the Animal Care Team. After ten years, when an opportunity came up at reception, Charlene was happy to try on a new role. Her easy-going personality and customer service savvy made it an easy fit.

Charlene’s commitment to the pets extends beyond her 9 to 6 reception position. She is often found volunteering at the special events and is the most prolific donor to staff pot lucks. Charlene walks her talk. She and her husband have three spoiled cats at home (all adopted from the KWHS). Her dog “Popeye” who passed away three years ago and was the joy of her life, was also adopted from the KWHS. “I do this work for the gratification of knowing our pets and wildlife are cared for safely. I know the pets inside the centre are safe,” says Charlene.

“Less of a co-worker, more of a best friend, Char is the best reason why I love to come to work every day. It’s a joy to work with someone who is as crazy as me and appreciates the same moments at the front desk as I do,” says Arleen, Charlene’s reception co-worker.

AWASCO salutes Charlene, one member of a dedicated staff team who place the pets’ welfare at the heart of their jobs.



GLORIA'S PLACE 1ST ANNIVERSARY



In 2012, when the shelter on Douro Street became a community-based Humane Society, volunteers were quick to point out the need for a new facility. More than 40 years ago, volunteers who could no longer accept the lack of care for homeless pets in Stratford-Perth came together and through their own donations and hard work built that shelter. Five years ago, volunteers and staff recognized that the time had come to build on that history and create something new – a more welcoming, more efficient centre that would focus on enriching the lives of both pets and people throughout the Stratford-Perth communities.



On November 4th, volunteers, donors, adopters and the general public came together once more; this time to celebrate the realization of a dream.

Today, Gloria's Place, the home of the Stratford-Perth Humane Society, offers programs and supports not just for lost and abandoned pets but for children; the pet-owners of tomorrow. With a dedicated team of volunteers, dogs are walked regularly and enjoy one-on-one time with an adult. Cat socialization volunteers come daily to play with the feline guests, ensuring they are comfortable around humans and will fit easily and quickly into adoptive families. Children's programs include summer day camps and on-site educational opportunities through tours and birthday parties.

This gem in the heart of "smart city" Stratford was made possible through many personal and corporate donations. However, it was a bequest from Gloria Staines that capped the campaign and gave the centre its name.

The impact of community donations cannot be overstated. Through your continued support, the SPHS will enhance the volunteer program, launch school visits to reach local elementary students, and continue to care for the needy pets of our communities.

Thank you for caring enough to give.

OUR COVER STORY

HANDSOME BEAU'S FRESH START



Imagine your body covered in hives. Itchy red hives that even scratching does not alleviate. For a dog, a case of mange is very similar. Symptoms include relentless itching, fur loss, and dry skin. If left untreated, mange can cause permanent scarring.

One look at Beau, a stray dropped off to the Stratford-Perth Humane Society, and the staff knew to act quickly. Because mange can be extremely contagious, Beau was isolated from all other pets in the centre. Medically, he was a mess. Personality-wise, he was a gem.

Beau's journey from being lost and unhealthy to having a fresh start lasted one hundred and seventeen days.

Donations to the Humane Societies of Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth enable us to treat illness and infection on-site, giving the pets a better chance to recover quickly and move on to better futures.



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**KITCHENER-WATERLOO
HUMANE SOCIETY**

250 Riverbend Drive
Kitchener, ON N2B 2E9
519-745-5615
info@kwhumane.com



www.kwhumane.com



**STRATFORD-PERTH
HUMANE SOCIETY**

125 Griffith Rd
Stratford, ON N5A 6S4
519-273-6600
info@sphumane.com



www.sphumane.com