

The Paw Print

BELOVED JACKSON AND TROUT, STILL LOOKING FOR A FUR-EVER HOME. (SEE PG.6)

IN THIS ISSUE

The First Issue!

The Etobicoke Humane Society is excited to announce our first online newsletter, **The Paw Print**. Our goal with this newsletter is to keep all of our friends, donors, members, volunteers, visitors, adopters and foster parents up to date on what's happening at this very special and unique place. We will tell you about our upcoming fundraising events and how you can participate.

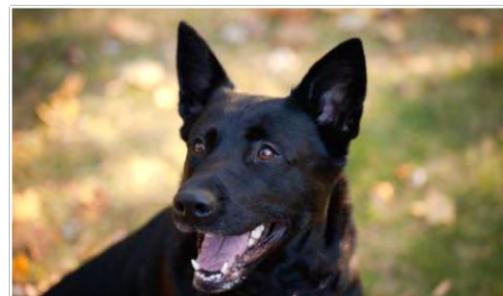
The Etobicoke Humane Society is a charitable, independent animal shelter that relies 100% on donations to keep our doors open and with our caring and dedicated volunteers, we are able to provide an amazing place for our cats and

dogs to live until they find their fur-ever homes.

Every cat and dog that comes through our doors has their own story to tell and we will share many of their stories that will touch your heart. We often have specific needs for our animals and this newsletter will help us reach out into the community.

Please help us spread the word about the Etobicoke Humane Society by sharing this newsletter with others.

Happy Reading!



Dog Section

An introduction to our dog team and how our dog volunteers work together to make sure the dogs are properly trained and taken care of.

Page #2



Hoopla: A Very Special Dog

A heartwarming story about our fostered love bug, Hoopla, and how she weathered through the hardest of times.

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Welcome to Our Dog Section!

By Larisa Duravetz

The dog side of the EHS has been a busy place over the past few months! Beyond taking in owner surrenders, we have been reaching out to other local rescue organizations, as well as those beyond the GTA, in order to help more dogs in need. Pixel, our little German Pinscher came to us from a local family that could no longer give her the care she needed. Noodles, a Lab-husky mix has come to us from a rescue in Quebec that pulls dogs from remote Northern communities. Carmella (pictured right), a lovely hound mix, is from one of our partners in Kosovo.* And finally, Brenda and Effie are Formosan mountain dogs that came to us all the way from Taiwan, where recent typhoons have caused severe damage to shelters housing hundreds of dogs. All the dogs that come to our shelter receive full vaccinations, are spayed/neutered and microchipped before they move on to their forever homes. Our volunteers' dedication and hard work has allowed us to take in more dogs than ever before!

We have also implemented a number of exciting new initiatives that will help our dog



shelter increase its capabilities and capacity. We're especially proud to introduce our Behavior, Assessment, Rehabilitation and Training (BART) team. They use their expertise to provide an individual plan to help each of our dogs overcome any issues they may have and allow them to become better adjusted and balanced pets. The BART team uses positive reinforcement to teach our dogs how to follow basic commands, walk well on a lead and generally be on their best behavior. Thanks to the BART team and all our volunteers, visitors that come to our

shelter are impressed with how friendly and welcoming our dogs are, and the positive shelter environment we provide.

* For more information, please see www.etobicokehumanesociety.com



Warehouse Cats

By Samantha Martin (as described by Tammy)

In Tammy's words:

Rabbit (DSH brown tabby and white neutered male, approximately 2-3 years old -FIV)
Rabbit (top) is a quiet and gentle cat who stood in the background while everyone else would eat and wait until they were finished eating before he would eat. As gentle and quiet as he is, he was terrified to be picked up, and would pee or poop in fright and then look embarrassed about it. I have been working real hard on him ("Rabbit therapy") and now he loves to be pet and smoothed down and get chin scratches. He is getting used to being fed all day and baby talked to. I am so proud of him and I love his one floppy and one scrunchie ear.

Atticus (DSH black and white neutered male, approximately 1-2 years old - FIV/FeLV)
Atticus (bottom) is a big strong boy with an unbelievable personality. He has a very striking appearance that makes everyone take a double look. He LOVES to sleep under blankets! Every time I make up his bed he messes it up so he can sleep all cuddled up in it. He almost has a dog personality as he comes when you call him and almost listens when you talk to him and sometimes he talks back or argues☺.

If you are interested in helping either of these wonderful cats, please contact cats@etobicokehumanesociety.com

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Bowl-a-thon

On October 24th, EHS held its 3rd annual bowl-a-thon fundraiser at Planet Bowl in Mississauga. Teams named Fuddy Duddy Buddy, Hoopla's Hound Dogs, Twitching Whiskers, & Finnegan's Furry Friends spent a fun filled afternoon raising over \$9300 for the animals at our shelter! A special thank you goes out to Lush Cosmetics, Kat Callaghan, Z103.5, Planet Bowl, Royal Canin and many others who generously helped us out by sponsoring the event. Join us next October 2016 for the 4th annual EHS bowl-a-thon!



St. Olave Craft Sale

- St. Olave's Anglican Church- 360 Windermere Avenue (in the heart of Bloor West Village)
- Sat. Nov. 14th, 2015
- 10am-4pm
- Christmas Craft Show and Coffee House

Come and visit the EHS table, selling hand crafted items by EHS volunteers and stocking stuffers for your cat or dog.



Elsa (DSH orange tabby spayed female, approximately 2 years old – FeLV)

Elsa (shown left) is wicked loveable. When you pick her up she is like a slinky.... all over you getting kisses and she holds onto your arm with both paws as I try to feed her. She will follow me outside to the upstairs office and wait out front until I come back out and follow me down the hill.... she is a total puppy cat. I guarantee anyone who adopts her will have to love Velcro cats because she is all about hugs and kisses. **If you would like to help Elsa please contact the EHS at: cats@etobicokehumanesociety.com**

Tammy's Warehouse

By Samantha Martin

At the Etobicoke Humane Society, all of the volunteers share a passion for helping animals. Through the course of advancing our mission, we often get to meet some amazing people, like Tammy.

Tammy works at a concrete warehouse that her family's construction company owns. Located in Toronto's west end, the warehouse contains heavy machinery, supplies, tools, sand and gravel.

A few years ago, during an especially harsh winter, Tammy noticed that feral cats were seeking shelter in the warehouse. Through a gap underneath the warehouse garage door, more and more cats entered the warehouse to find refuge from the bitter elements. Because it was the only way for the cats to stay warm during the winter, Tammy refused to fill that gap, even though the workers complained that the warehouse was losing heat. For one particular cat, who was too scared to come into the warehouse but remained shivering in the cold, Tammy even built a heated dog shelter in the yard with special heaters ordered from Minnesota.

In time, as Tammy began feeding the cats every day, a community of cats grew at the warehouse.

For probably the first time in their lives, the cats had someone to care for them. Tammy said it's just her nature to help when an animal is in need.

"I can't help it," said Tammy. "If I see something that's hungry I have to feed it, I

can't go home knowing that something is hungry."

Many feral cats suffer medical issues from living hard lives on the streets, and Tammy's warehouse cats weren't any different. Some had missing eyes, severe ear mites and infections, open sores and wounds all over their bodies, while some even had maggots on them that were actively eating the flesh off their bones.

The animal lover that she is, Tammy began trapping the cats and taking them to veterinarians to get them help. Many of the cats, of varying ages, were given medicine and treated, but unfortunately some were in such bad shape that they had to be put down. Others passed away on their own before Tammy could trap and get them to the vet. For those who didn't make it, Tammy buried them under a special lilac tree, always with some "treats for their journey, wherever that is."

Inevitably, some of the cats began having litters of kittens all over the warehouse, so in addition to paying for their medical expenses, Tammy set out to get each of the cats spayed or neutered. As Tammy was not a registered colony caretaker with access to free spay/neuter clinics, she paid for all of the spay/neuter surgeries herself.

"The way to save 1000 cats is to fix one of them," said Tammy. Prior to EHS getting involved, Tammy had spent more than \$10,000 out of her own pocket to help these cats.

Despite her best efforts to catch and fix as many of the warehouse cats as she could, several of the female cats became pregnant this spring, and the situation had reached a crisis point.

Cont. on page 4.

Tammy's Warehouse Cont.

Tammy faced a possible tripling of the warehouse cat population as a result of these new litters and reached out to various other humane societies and rescues across the GTA and southern Ontario for help.

After Tammy was turned down by all of them, the Etobicoke Humane Society received word of her plight through a mutual vet, and stepped in to help.

Since March, EHS has taken in 58 of the warehouse cats and kittens. All the kittens except for the most recent litter who just arrived have been adopted. What is more remarkable as well is that all but 4 of the adult warehouse cats taken in by EHS have also found their forever homes. Although many of these cats are a bit shy and have been homeless their entire lives, they have also known love from Tammy over the years,

and are thriving in the shelter and in their forever homes. None of this would have been possible without the help of our generous donors and volunteers, and of course Tammy, for refusing to give up on these cats.

Unfortunately, EHS is a small shelter and can only do so much. While most of the cats at the warehouse have been rescued, there remain 5 cats who snap tested positive for the feline leukemia virus (FeLV), 1 cat named Rabbit who snap tested positive for the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and 1 cat named Atticus who snap tested positive for both FeLV and FIV. There are also a couple of feral cats who may not be capable of socialization. These cats urgently need to find homes or placements before Tammy has to move out of her current warehouse at the end of this year. It is not clear what will happen to them if no placements can be found, as there will be no one left at the warehouse to feed or take care of them.

EHS is doing its part for these cats, and has brought into the shelter a bonded pair including a FeLV cat (see spotlight on Jackson and Trout below), **but Tammy desperately needs help from the community for the remainder of the FeLV/FIV cats at the warehouse.** EHS has visited the warehouse and attended vet appointments for these cats, and seen firsthand how sweet and beautiful they are. Apart from carrying the virus, they are all young and healthy and friendly, and don't show signs of any disease. They need homes where there are no other cats, or where the only other cats already have FeLV or FIV.

If you would like to help any cats left at the warehouse, please contact us by email at cats@etobicokehumanesociety.com and we will put you in touch with Tammy. Time is running out for these cats, so please forward to everyone you know, and ask them to pass it on as well.

Our Holiday Drive

Dear Friends of the EHS,

As another year comes to an end, and we fast approach the Holiday Season, the Etobicoke Humane Society launches its annual Holiday Fundraising Campaign. In continuing our mission to protect, care for and advance the welfare of animals, and with the demand for our services ever increasing, we need the financial support of our community to continue our work.

Your donation goes directly to helping more rescues and saving more lives. Your donation provides food for hungry animals and care and compassion for injured souls. Your donation goes to veterinarian expenses which range from standard check-ups to treatment of more acute conditions that may require prescription medication and even surgery. We rehabilitate, rejuvenate and re-energize our four legged friends in preparation for a brighter future with loving families just like yours.

During this festive time we give thanks for all we have and we think of those who need our help. At this time, we ask for your help with a request for donations.

We provide four different ways to accommodate donations:

1. Visit our website online at: www.etobicokehumanesociety.com
2. You can also donate online at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/16584>
3. Call our office at (416)-249-6100 between the hours of 10:30am – 4:30pm
4. Or visit us in person and stop by the shelter between 10:30am - 4:30pm.

On behalf of all dogs and cats from the shelter, past and present and all of the dedicated volunteers, we thank you for your ongoing support.



Feral Cats

By Amanda Murgel (Junior Columnist)

Feral cats are domestic cats that have lived in the wild for most or all of their lives. They are usually the offspring of stray or abandoned cats who were once pets. Because of these circumstances, they have been forced to fend for themselves, and have had little to no interaction with humans. This means that they are often distrusting of people and can be very difficult to socialize (although as Tammy's warehouse cats have taught us, not always impossible.)

There are ways to recognize whether a cat is feral or not, as long as you know the signs when trying to identify one. Look for things like collars, the state of its fur, and whether it approaches people and/ or human things. If the cat has a clipped ear, then it has been previously been trapped and fixed as part of a Trap-Neuter-Return program for feral cats. If it is crouching low on the ground, backing away, and doesn't make eye contact, it is most likely to be a feral cat.

When you have identified that the cat is feral, it is best to call the OSPCA or local animal control. They will deal with the cat with two possible ways. The first is the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), which is geared towards lowering the feral cat population. Animal control organizations do this by capturing stray/feral cats and neutering/spaying them so they cannot produce any more litters. According to web site of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, stray and feral cats are "humanely trapped, examined, vaccinated, and surgically sterilized by veterinarians." They are then returned to their former habitat to live out the remainder of their natural lives, often with a registered colony caretaker who

comes by regularly to feed them. Others suggest resolving the problem with relocation or eradication, but this option is much less popular and humane. These are both disadvantageous because of the "vacuum effect". This means, the area in which the feral cats are living provides them with an adequate amount of food, water and shelter, so relocating or putting down the existing cats will eventually result in more cats flocking to the area.

If you would like to take a more active role in helping with the feral cat over-population, you can register for and attend a Trap-Neuter-Return workshop with the Toronto Feral Cat Project (<http://www.feraltoronto.com/>) and become a feral cat colony caretaker. Once registered, this will allow you to access free spay/neuter clinics run by Toronto Animal Services and the Toronto Humane Society so you can trap feral cats on your own and get them fixed. Alternatively, you can volunteer to help out an existing colony, by helping to feed, build and maintain shelters, drive cats to and from spay/neuter clinics, and offer a room in your home for the cats to recover a few days after their surgery before they are released.

More indirect ways of helping include getting your own cat spayed/neutered and microchipped, and kept indoors at all times. You can also help by donating or volunteering for charities who help to rescue and socialize stray cats, such as the Etobicoke Humane Society. In the end, it's best for you to be educated about the problem, and to spread awareness to others, so we can all help each other in reducing over-population.

UP FOR ADOPTION AT THE EHS!



Luffy

Hi there! I'm Luffy, a beautiful, DSH orange tabby. I love being pet, and when you do, I start up my purr engine. I'm still looking for my fur-ever home, maybe you'd like to help me with that? Come and see me today at the EHS, and we'll fall in love! **Please contact cats@etobicokehumanesociety.com if you would like to adopt me!**



Sasha and Angel

Hello! I'm Angel (left), and this is my brother, Sasha (right). We are two eight year old bonded besties. We love to take catnaps, sitting wherever we can fit! If you'd like to adopt us together, come to the EHS today! **If you would like to adopt us, please contact the EHS at cats@etobicokehumanesociety.com**



Moty and Zum Zum

Hiya! I'm Moty (right), and this is my sister, Zum Zum (left). We are about 5 years old, and bonded forever. We love lying on the couch, and purring like crazy when you pet us. If you'd like to meet us, come by the EHS for some warm cuddles! **If you would like to adopt us together, please contact the EHS today at cats@etobicokehumanesociety.com**

Jackson and Trout's Story

By: Amanda Murgel (Junior Columnist)

In early September, the Etobicoke Humane Society found out that one of the beautiful young orange tabby cats at Tammy's warehouse, named Jackson, was facing possible amputation of his leg due to the high cost of surgery to repair it (\$3,000) after an injury. EHS immediately stepped in, and with the help of generous donations from volunteers and the Embley Park Foundation, brought Jackson and his best friend Trout under the EHS umbrella, and covered Jackson's surgery.

Jackson and Trout are 1-2 year old bonded best friends. Although from different litters, they have been together since they were kittens. Jackson and Trout do everything together, and always hold each other or touch when they sleep. They are bonded like brothers. EHS was initially planning to bring them into the shelter a few months ago, but in a devastating turn of events, Tammy found out (when she got them neutered and snap tested) that Trout was FeLV (feline leukemia virus) positive. At the same time, Jackson tested negative.

In order to keep them together without getting Jackson sick, Jackson had to be vaccinated against FeLV. Since then, Jackson has been extra affectionate and cuddly with Trout, and holds him like he knows that his best

friend is sick and doesn't have much time left.

It's heartbreaking to imagine Jackson alone, without Trout, but according to our vet, 80-90% of FeLV infected cats die within 3-4 years of initial diagnosis. Trout is thankfully not showing any signs of the disease yet, and he is not on any medication. He just wants to cuddle and be loved, and spend the next years of his life with his best friend Jackson. With any luck, they may even grow old together.

At the shelter, Jackson and Trout wait at the door of their room, beckoning volunteers and visitors to come in and give them attention. They love to climb onto laps (often jockeying for position on laps big enough to hold them both!) and give kisses and head bumps for affection. They desperately need a home with no other cats, where they can roam and play, and a person or family who love and cherish them for the sweet extraordinary cats that they both are.

Having spent their whole lives in a cold concrete warehouse, they are now ready and eager to find a warm cozy home for the next chapter of their lives together.

If you or someone you know may be interested in fostering or adopting these two, please contact us by email at cats@etobicokehumanesociety.com.



Hoopla's EHS Journey

By Diane Wani

Hoopla, 10 year old Staffordshire Terrier Mix was surrendered in July 2014. Her owner rescued her from the Toronto Humane Society in 2005 when she was 1. She had always been muzzled although she did not fall under the Ontario Pit Bull Breed ban.

Three weeks later, she required surgery to remove an intestinal blockage (\$3,000). We were curious about her genetic makeup and the results from a

DNA test indicated that she was mostly German Shepherd, part Weimaraner and part Great Dane!

Life in the shelter was hard for Hoopla, and in September 2014 she went to a foster home. In January 2015, she was diagnosed with a failing heart and was given 6 months to live. Hoopla is on 5 different medications (\$350 per month) and the fluid is drained from her abdomen every 3-4 weeks at a cost of

\$100 per draining. Her second follow up ultrasound cost \$600.

Hoopla is an amazing dog, very happy and is full of life and has much love to give. Her foster family loves her dearly and she is a very lucky girl to have an amazing home and family.