



Oct 2009  
15th Edition

# The *pet chat!*

## Mississauga Humane Society Newsletter

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*Nyla (adopted 3 years ago) & Daddy Nori-masa who will be moving to Japan next year. He will be taking Nyla with him!*

**ADOPT/FOSTER A PET  
SAVE a LIFE**

## MISSION

To rescue as many homeless companion animals as possible, and find them **FOREVER HOMES.**



*(From left) Vinny, Sulley & Philip in their foster/adoptive home*

## President's Message

The past few months have been very challenging for us. The loss of the Petcetera Cat Adoption Room in June and the shortage of funds due to the recession have made our rescue work even more difficult. Thanks very much for the help and support of our foster parents, volunteers, adoptors and donors who responded to our Emergency Appeal for Funds in July. The response was very encouraging. Still, FUNDS and FOSTER HOMES are needed all the time.

I have very exciting news. We are going to have a new Cat Adoption Room! Yes, we have made arrangements with Global Pet Foods on Burhamthorpe/Central Parkway, Mississauga for a new Cat Adoption Room to be set up in their store. We expect the room to be ready by late November.

The festival season is approaching. Before you start to shop for gifts for the ones you care about, I have a GREAT IDEA! In the spirit of the season, how about making a donation in the name of a family/friends? It is a GIFT OF HOPE, as it will help SAVE LIVES. A gift unwanted may end up returned to the store, a toy would only last for a while, but a gift like this will be the most meaningful gift you will ever give. Not only that, you will receive a tax- receipt for your gift! We will send an acknowledge card to the recipient(s) of your gift. Your family/friends will be very proud to receive such a gift. Instead of spending time shopping in the mall, just call or email us and we can arrange to "deliver" your precious gift!

Lily Chan, President

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EDITOR: LILY CHAN

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Tina Kendall, Vice President  
Carla Costa  
Elizabeth Jimmink



Betty & Wilma



Bwana



Kitty/Skipper

# HOME SWEET HOME

Some of our adopted pets in their FOREVER HOMES



Winnie



Dora & Diego



Chancellor



Mitzi & Nicky



Frankie & Chico



## RESCUE & ADOPTION STATISTICS

### Jan – Sep 2009

Number of Dogs Rescued	83
Number of Dogs Adopted	76
Number of Cats Rescued	368
Number of Cats Adopted	262
<b>TOTAL RESCUED</b>	<b>451</b>
<b>TOTAL ADOPTED</b>	<b>338</b>



COLUMBIA, MO - Pets could be called "Wonder Drugs"

Pets lower hypertension, spur exercise and improve psychological health. If this appeared in pill form it would be called a WONDER DRUG, an US expert say.



Pets are of great importance to people especially during hard economic times. Pets provide unconditional love and acceptance, and maybe part of answers to societal problems-*inactivity* and obesity!

# OSPCA, MAS & MHS - We are NOT the SAME!

By Tina Kendall, Vice President

At first glance, **Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA)**, **Mississauga Animal Services (MAS)** and **Mississauga Humane Society (MHS)** appear to be the same – animal welfare groups. All three groups take in and adopt out pets. They all have web sites with pictures of cats and dogs. ***This is far from the truth.*** Each of these groups is a separate organization with its own agenda. For your pet that ends up with one of these groups, it may be the difference between life and death.

## **Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA)**

The OSPCA is an animal welfare organization with over 50 province-wide branches. It is also a registered charity, which means it can receive donations. In 2008 it was given a five million-dollar grant by Government of Ontario and has net assets of \$23, 347, 386.. Their Annual Report shows that only 61% of your donated dollar goes to animal care, the other percentages are for management/administration, fund raising expenses etc.

In short, this is a supported organization that has its own vested interest in waylaying competition from any other charity or rescue group. This is obvious in that in the recently passed Bill 50 has a section that prohibits any organization other than an OSPCA. affiliate from using the term “Humane Society” as their organization’s name. Why would the OSPCA care about this in that it doesn’t use the term itself? The result is financial harm and distress to such organizations as the Mississauga Humane Society, Toronto Humane Society, and the Humane Society of Canada amongst others. It is an attempt to provide the OSPCA with a monopoly.

The OSPCA remains the sole organization that you must turn to if you discover cruelty or neglect towards animals. Their officers have the power of the Police. They can obtain a search warrant and enter your home. Despite their power however, puppy mills, abuses in animal research facilities, and circuses still continue. Moreover, whether or not the OSPCA actually takes action depends upon their own judgment. This means that the OSPCA is a law unto itself.

## **Mississauga Animal Services (MAS)**

MAS is just a City department. Any person who happens to look up the web site for the City of Mississauga’s Animal Services is given the impression that this part of the municipality exists for the care of our pets. The reality is that **it is simply a City-run pound.** This is the government’s terminology for:

**“... premises that are used for the detention, maintenance, or disposal of dogs or cats that have been impounded pursuant to a municipal by-law.”**

Many people in the public confuse Animal Services with our Society. The sad truth is that although MAS do adopt out some pets to the public, at least as many pets are killed due to lack of space/poor management. **Animal Services** (used to be called **Animal Control**) exists to “**control the pet population**”. They enforce the By-laws and operate on a complaint-based system. Its purpose is not to care for the animals but to look after the needs of the citizens who complain. If your neighbor who hates cats happens to see your cat in his/her yard, all he or she needs to do is complain. Animal Services has the right to come, take your pet, and kill it the same day. There is no mention of this on their website, but it is there in black and white, in the *Animal Care and Control By-laws*.

Animal Services are also legally allowed to sell your unclaimed cat to a research facility. This is worse than an immediate death as it means a form of torture.

**Animal Services** Officers, unlike those of the O.S.P.C.A. **do not have the legal right to enter your property.** These municipal officers do not deal with urgent issues of neglect or abuse. If you willingly allow them to enter your home then you give them the opportunity to fine you or worse. By-laws vary from one City to the next. You will be treated like a criminal for something that is perfectly legal on the other side of the street.

Animal Services may force you to license your cats that they can see sitting in your window and never sets foot outdoors. This money does not go to better the lives of the animals but to pay employees’ salaries.

## **Mississauga Humane Society (MHS)**

We are a **100% volunteer-run charity** dedicated to rescuing and finding homes for companion animals. These include those in pounds, surrendered by owners and stray cats. Where resources allowed, we also help in promoting other animal welfare issues. We receive no support from the Government/City/OSPCA. We do not have a business venue, a shelter or any paid staff. Almost every penny we receive goes directly to the care of our rescued animals.

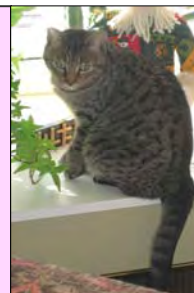
**WHO will you donate to when the next request arrives in the mail?**

# Kitty LOVE Stories

by our ADOPTORS

**Libby** is making herself quite at home these days. She was quite skittish for the first week, but is now used to Dave and myself and even plays and cuddles with our son Connor when he gets away and comes home from university. She has put on some weight and likes to chatter at the birds and squirrels through the window.

The talking is quite endless but I like it and she is good company when I am alone. Here is a picture of her taken a couple of days ago. She doesn't like the camera!. Blessings to you and yours and good health and happiness for the coming New Year. -- **Chris, Dec 2008**



Here is a picture of the sweeties. From left to right are **Savannah, Shadow, & Pepper**. **Savannah** isn't much of a lap cat but she's so sweet "helping" us to wake up. She does it by gently snuggling into our necks & gently putting her paws on our cheeks (while purring very loudly of course). She loves to rub against our legs constantly. **Shadow** still suckles and we think he probably will for his whole life. He suckles himself to sleep and the blanket they are on is his favorite. He loves to pounce on toes at night and he is surprisingly strong as he can get teeth and claws through sheets, comforter, and 2 layers of comforter cover. He also has the loudest purr we've ever heard. We can hear him throughout the house and the whole bed vibrates at night from him. **Pepper** is the clown of the bunch and a true lap cat. He has to be around "helping" with everything (tying shoelaces, jigsaw puzzles, etc.). He has this "thing" about grapes. He'll empty the whole fruit bowl, get the grapes off of the stems, and play with them like balls. We've found them all over the house! Take care & best of luck with the society! - **Gary, Jan 2009**

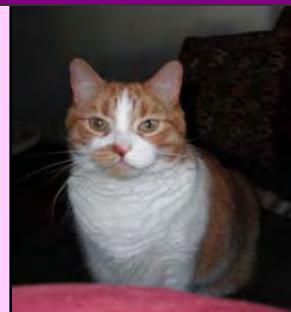
We adopted **Farley and Dudley** (the cats) in November 2007 when they were 7 months old. They have been a very welcome addition to our family - **Farley** became fast friends with our dog Jake and loves to play with him. **Farley** is the boss of the house and expects that Jake and Dudley will follow along. It's very funny to watch them interact with each other. We have learned that **Dudley** is "gifted", which makes him more special to us. We are thrilled that they have joined our family, and happy to rescue them. Thanks for the dedication of all the staff and volunteers who run the society. **Philip, Feb2009**



How are you! Is it any quieter without **Kathleen**? Wow, she's chatty! Even at night. I had to close my bedroom door with them inside to keep her quiet. But last night I left the door open slightly and Kathleen stayed with me while **Frankie** ventured out and played with the bottle caps. Here are some pictures. They are doing well. I give Frankie her salmon twice a day; mostly just leave it on the towel in the closet for her to eat! She is using the littler box and eating well! She is just a little shy still to come out during the day.

Kathleen likes to follow me around. We play with her string a few times a day and she plays with her paper and caps whenever. I've had to place them high up during the night because of how noisy they are on hardwood flooring. I'm sure my neighbours don't like hearing it below! Visit any time! **Marijka, Sept 2008**

Thought you would like an update on 14-year-old **Jasper** whom we adopted this past February. He is still doing very well. An absolute delight to have around. He has adapted beautifully and the three of us just love him. He has the run of the house and lets us know he owns us not vice-versa. His time is spent playing with his favorite toy mouse and getting all the attention he can muster. As my husband is retired, he is never alone. His sweet, placid personality is just wonderful and he fits right into our family's lifestyle. **I do wish more people would consider senior cats.** They give so much and are grateful for every bit of attention and love that we shower on them. All the best. **Judy, Aug 2009**



# Puppy LOVE Story

*EmmyLou (Chloe) – a gift being driven by irony*

by Crystal Best



We have all witnessed the commercials on television. The ones designed to tag at every ounce of our humanity and to pull at our heart strings with their keen cries and calls for much needed donations. We hear the captivating sad music and view the slow video montage of a neglected or abused animal. "How can anyone do this to an animal?" we ask ourselves. "Why is it that people assume making a dollar is better than considering the well being of a breathing, feeling being?" "Why is it than in this day and age, we must *still* encourage people to spay or neuter their pet?"

**My story may sound a little crazy; because it is ...I see it as a gift being driven by irony.**

As a young child, on a few occasions, my older sister would tie me to a chair and make me watch television programmes dealing with the plight of unwanted and mistreated animals. I would bawl and mourn for every animal in each episode. I wanted so badly to give my juvenile allowance to save each and every animal. I could have closed my eyes and directed my attention elsewhere, but like other animals lovers, something within me made me want to make a difference for a little friend without a voice. Over the years, my family donated generously to such societies and we loved the furry members within our family.

After the passing of our much loved 15 year old Dairy Queen addicted family dog, named Shaquille, a void became increasingly evident in our hearts and home. One day, during my father's routine doctor's appointment, he was given the choice of commencing an exercise regime to save his life or face the morbid thoughts of planning a funeral. Within hours, Dad was on the computer searching for a "walking buddy".

Dad wanted an elderly companion, as adoptive parents sometimes overlook them and we looked forward to welcoming an older dog. We searched various animal shelters online and found an 8-year-old dog up for adoption by the *Mississauga Humane Society*. Perfect we thought and we were filled with anticipation when our application was accepted. We were excited as we prepared to bring this new addition into our family but, ironically, the foster family decided that they could not part with the dog for which we had applied. We were disappointed.

Fortunately the Society referred us to a gentleman John who was a foster 'doggy Dad'. He advised us that he had a wonderful *young* dog that filled our criteria. He explained that she needed to be worked with and had some 'issues' since she came from an abusive background. This resulted in some social and behavioural issues. Our family was ready to take on the challenge and I drove a total of 8 hours that day (June 2008) to see EmmLou, a coonhound beagle cross (then named Chloe). When I pulled into the farmhouse foster area, she was among the other dogs. She was the first one I saw and I thought, "Wow ...she's so pretty!" We completed the adoption process. With EmmyLou confused and panting in the passenger seat...we both set on a new journey to a better life.

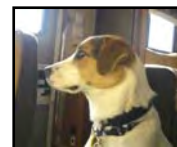
Perhaps, in my own mind, I thought EmmyLou would leave the pain and disappointment of her past in the silhouette of the place she had briefly called home, but, as she was socialized, the lessons she taught my family and myself increased our interest in becoming stronger animal activists.

The adjustment period, obedience training, our learning to "speak and understand dog" and EmmyLou's learning to understand the confusing humans took about two weeks.

(to be cont'd)

## Puppy LOVE Story (contd)

**EmmyLou (Chloe) – a gift being driven by irony**



She seemed to be beside herself, lying in her luxury dog bed, taking long naps with plenty of toys and love surrounding her. Witnessing her change from an uncertain, untrusting frightened soul to a smiley and very vocal dog, demanding plenty of belly rubs was amazing. (She acts like she is fainting and the belly rub bring her back to life.)

She has become an avid adventress with Mom and Dad in their motor home. She enjoys travelling and has never created a problem - aside from the one time she ate the screen door when Mom and Dad went grocery shopping. Growing pain, lessons learned were all part of the growing bond between us. We call her Dad's 'personal trainer' with her strict demand that my father walk her twice daily - rain or shine.

My father's health and stamina have increased immensely. We developed a deep appreciation for

the patience and dedication of the foster families who take in animals and for the generous donors who make this all possible.

The irony of this piece is that our family was given the opposite of what we expected. The lessons and the true beauty of it - was, of course, EmmyLou, but she brought us together as a family. Her shady and shaky past made us throw ourselves into learning and adapting to give her a better life but in the end, the challenges and learning lessons with her have turned this journey into a gift. We continue to count our blessings with EmmyLou in our life

Thank you again for the gift of love from Ms Belly Rub Extraordinaire, aka EmmyLou, aka Emmy Losers, Stinky Poopers, etc. As you can tell, she's well loved.

**Forever grateful for this "HAPPY TAIL"!**

**- Crystal Best**

## STEP of COMPASSION

**"Putting the CHICKEN before the EGG"**



Nearly all of the eggs produces in Canada come from hens who are kept in battery cages – tiny cages that don't allow the hens to do any of the things that are natural to them. The battery cage was designed to help produce the highest number of eggs as quickly and as cheaply as possible. Today, the average hen can produce 300 eggs in a year; 64% more than they could produce 40 years ago. The hens pay the price. It is standard to keep 5 to 7 hens in one battery cage. **Each hen lives in a space smaller than a sheet of notebook paper. They are not able to run, nest, perch, peck, scratch or do anything natural.** They remain in these cages until they can no longer produce eggs 'efficiently' (about 18 months), or until their bones become brittle and their bodies are unable to stand. Too bruised

to be sold as whole chicken meat, they are slaughtered for use in ready-made foods/low-grade chicken products.

The good news is that more and more consumers are putting the welfare of hens first. They are demanding that hens are raised out of cages and are willing to pay a little more to ensure hens can live free from the intense suffering of life in a battery cage. Companies, governments and schools are responding. The European Union has passed legislation to have battery cages banned by 2012 and California is phasing out battery cages, sow stalls and veal crates by 2015. In Canada, 16 municipalities are reducing or eliminating their use of cage eggs.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO: Choose cage-free eggs, and look for these labels:**

**FREE-RUN** (Hens are allowed to move freely in barns)

**FREE-RANGE** (Hens are allowed to move freely and sometimes have access to the outdoors)

**ORGANIC** (This is the best choice. It stipulates the largest space requirements, prohibits the use of antibiotics in feed and hormones and requires nest boxes, perches a rooting material and is verified by third-party inspector.

- Excerpt from WSPA NEWS Fall/Winter 2009

# WALK-A-THON 2009

Our biggest event of the year, the **Annual Walkathon**, was held on Saturday, Sep 19, 2009. We could not ask for better weather! It was a day filled with fun. There were coffee & donuts, veggie BBQ, pizzas, MHS store, silent auction, raffle draw, dog obedience demonstration, "Ask the Vet" and Dog Physic. I am pleased to report that a total of just over \$20,000 was raised. We would like to thank our **Walk-a-thon Committee** (Amita Singer, Gordon Burleigh, Anne Sinclair, Susan Worsley, Tina Kendall, Betty Karafilis & Lily Chan) who put in a lot of time and efforts in making this event a success!



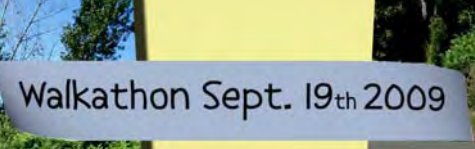
We would like to thank Councillor Carolyn Parrish for coming and giving the opening speech at the Walkathon, and the generous donation of the coffee, doughnuts and veggie dogs. Councillor Parrish has been instrumental in making some major changes at Mississauga Animal Services. She insisted that the City pound give the friendly pitbulls a chance and that it not be an automatic death sentence just because of their breed. She also played a major role fighting for Rambo who was slated to be killed and instead, thanks to Carolyn, is now living in a wonderful home out east. Due to Carolyn's effort friendly pitbulls will now be sent to rescue instead of being put on death row. Some of you may remember Krinkles, the cat that was killed while his owners were in Europe. Councillor Parrish had the stray hold on animals changed from 3 days to 10 days, thus allowing owners more time to reclaim their pets. This is a major win for the animals in Mississauga and we cannot thank Carolyn enough for her dedication and hard work concerning the animals.

Carolyn's next project is to try and stop the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores in Mississauga, as we all know these puppies come from puppy mills and the only way to shut down the mills is to stop the demand of puppies. We wish Carolyn every success and know that if anyone can do this it will be Councillor Parrish. Whenever we have an issue or a concern re the animals in Mississauga we know we can call Carolyn and she will respond immediately and we are extremely grateful for her dedication to the animals! Thank you Carolyn, you have been a tremendous asset in our constant efforts to make it a better world for our 4-legged friends!

**We would like to give a BIG VOTE OF THANKS to all of the sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers for their support of our Walk-a-thon.**



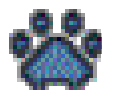
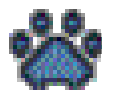
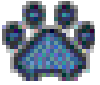
Thank you Dorothy Avery  
Mother Knows Best Obedience School



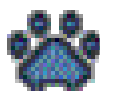
Thank you Eglinton  
Animal Hospital

Thank you  
Boston Pizza





Walkathon September 2009



# News & Events



## LCBO Fund Raising Day

On August 21st, a fund raising day was held at the Meadowvale LCBO store. The activities included BBQ, sale of loot bags, silent auction and bake sale. A total of \$3000 was raised. A special vote of thanks to Sue Namedof who organized this event.



**THANK YOU**  
Sue Namedof  
for organizing the event  
and the donation of  
prizes

**THANK YOU**  
Meadowvale LCBO Store  
for letting us organize  
the event at the store

**THANK YOU**  
The Volunteers who  
helped at the event



# HUMOUR TIME

Gibbletoons By Dan Gibson



Those can't possibly be real.

## The preacher buys a parrot

The preacher is buying a parrot.

"Are you sure it doesn't scream, yell, or swear?" asked the preacher.

"Oh absolutely. It's a religious parrot," the storekeeper assures him

Do you see those strings on his legs? When you pull the right one, he recites the lord's prayer, and when you pull on the left he recites the 23rd Psalm."

"Wonderful!" says the preacher, "but what happens if you pull both strings?"

"I fall off my perch, you stupid fool!"

# ANIMAL KINGDOM

## JASMINE the Surrogate Mother



In 2003, police in Warwickshire, England, opened a garden shed and found a whimpering, cowering dog.. It had been locked in the shed and abandoned. It was dirty and malnourished, and had clearly been abused.

In an act of kindness, the police took the dog, which was a Greyhound female, to the nearby Nuneaton Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary, run by a man named Geoff Grewcock and known as a willing haven for Animals abandoned, orphaned or otherwise in need. Geoff and the other sanctuary staff went to work with two aims to restore the dog to full health, and to win her trust. It took several weeks, but eventually both goals were achieved. They named her Jasmine, and they started to think about finding her an adoptive home.

But Jasmine had other ideas. No one remembers now how it began, but she started welcoming all animal arrivals at the sanctuary. It wouldn't matter if it was a puppy, a fox cub, a rabbit or, any other lost or hurting animal, Jasmine would peer into the box or cage and, where possible, deliver a welcoming lick.



Geoff relates one of the early incidents. "We had two puppies that had been abandoned by a nearby railway line. One was a Lakeland terrier cross and another was a Jack Russell Doberman cross. They were tiny when they arrived at the centre and Jasmine approached them and grabbed one by the scruff of the neck in her mouth and put him on the settee. Then she fetched the other one and sat down with them, cuddling them."

"But she is like that with all of our animals, even the rabbits. She takes all the stress out of them and it helps them to not only feel close to her but to settle into their new surroundings. She has done the same with the fox and badger cubs, she licks the rabbits and guinea pigs and even lets the birds perch on the bridge of her nose!"



Jasmine, the timid, abused, deserted waif became the animal sanctuary's resident **surrogate mother**, a role for which she might have been born. The list of orphaned and abandoned youngsters she has cared for comprises five fox cubs; four badger cubs, 15 chicks, eight guinea pigs, two stray puppies and 15 rabbits.

One Roe deer fawn. Tiny Bramble, 11 weeks old, was found semi-conscious in a field. Upon arrival at the sanctuary, Jasmine cuddled up to her to keep her warm, and then went into the full foster mom role. Jasmine the greyhound showers Bramble the Roe deer with affection and makes sure nothing is matted. "They are inseparable," says Geoff "Bramble walks between her legs and they keep kissing each other. They walk together round the sanctuary. It's a real treat to see them."

Jasmine will continue to care for Bramble until she is old enough to be returned to woodland life. When that happens, Jasmine will not be lonely. She will be too busy showering love and affection on the next orphan or victim of abuse.



## Thank You

to all of the people who contributed articles for this edition.  
A big vote of thanks to all of our dedicated foster parents, volunteers,  
adoptors, donors and sponsors.

