



Alliston & District Humane Society

Alliston & District Humane Society
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Fall Winter 2018/19

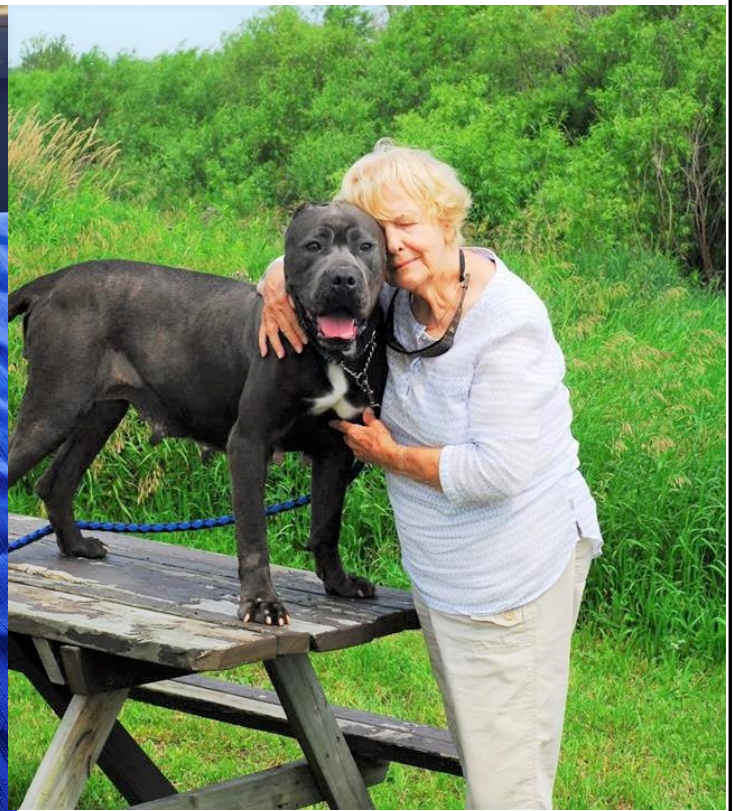
705-458-9038

www.allistonhumane.com

Charitable Registration # 13529 8081 RR001

The Alliston & District Humane Society News is a bi-annual newsletter.
Editor: Jane Clarke info@allistonhumane.com 705-458-9038.

ADHS Celebrates 30 Years of Helping Animals in our Communities !



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Cute and Stinky

You know their little waddle when you see it. You definitely know the smell when they're around. That's right, we're talking skunks today. While most people consider them a nuisance, and a stinky one at that, what sort of terrible things can we really expect from these little critters? Are they really as pesky as we think?

Skunks generally inhabit abandoned dens of other mammals, but will occasionally dig their own. You may find them taking residence under a deck or perhaps in a pile of wood. While it may be annoying to see the little holes they've dug up all over your lawn, they are just digging for grubs and other little insects that can be a real problem for your grass. Aside from insects, they are also known to eat mice, shrews, squirrels, and bird eggs. They usually breed in late February and March, with their young usually being born in May. If they decide to move in under your deck, the best course of action is to leave them be. Chances are they'll move along after mating season, and they'll provide some good pest control while they're with you! And if I'm being honest... they're pretty cute.



As humans invade and destroy their natural habitat, skunks naturally need somewhere to go. I think we can let them stick around for a little while, considering we are the ones that are taking their space away. Incidentally... they seem to rather enjoy cat food, should you ever feel the need to provide a meal for them. If you can live with the smell, they're pretty nice to have around. Just remember that they are wild animals, and respect them as you would any other wild animal.

Jeremy Nagy



Did you know that ADHS provides wildlife services to our communities? We have 3 trained wildlife officers who provide advice, vet care and placement of injured animals in licensed rehabilitation facilities.

Wildlife officer Ernie Ogle holds a coyote pup rescued from a ditch after his mother was hit by a car and then moved to a rehabilitation center for treatment.



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**Become a member and show your support!
Support your local humane society!**

All membership fees go directly to the care of the animals. An individual membership is \$25 dollars and a family membership is \$35 dollars. A junior/senior membership is \$20. Go to www.allistonhumane.com to complete an electronic membership form and pay via PayPal, CanadaHelps.org or print the form, complete and mail in or drop off at the shelter. We could not help all the animals we help each day without your continued support. Thank you!



Thank you to Dr. Holly Spring, DVM (left) and Danielle Best, RVT from Simcoe Veterinary Hospital in Barrie for taking care of all the furry friends who came into PetValu, Alliston for a microchip at the ADHS April microchip clinic, including these five bundles of joy!

ADHS runs microchip clinics several times a year with the support of the vets and technicians who donate their time to this worthy cause.

Our next microchip clinic is on September 22 9:30-1130 at Simcoe Veterinary Clinic, 2 Steel Street, Barrie. For the low cost of \$25, you can ensure your pets' safe return should they become lost.

Also on the 22nd of September, Coldwell Banker Ronan Realty will be hosting a pet adoption event in support of the "Homes For Dogs Project" at the Alliston & District Humane Society from 12:00 - 4:00pm. They will have snacks and goodies for each family that adopts an animal on this day and will also accept donations of food, supplies or cash.

Just moved?

BE SURE TO CALL DIANNE 705-435-2588



**Our representative will bring gifts and greetings,
along with helpful information about the communi-**



Reflections of a Kitten Foster Mom

My name is Santanna and I volunteer at ADHS as a foster mom and a kitten coordinator. As a foster mom, it's my privilege to nurture little kittens until they're healthy enough to go to new forever homes. This comes with a lot of ups and downs and, you get attached to every single one, at least a little bit. Then when they find that perfect home and move onto their new life, all of the ups and downs are gone and all you feel is an overwhelming sense of pride and happiness, as a spot opens up for another kitten in need.



Occasionally, there's a kitten that you just can't let go of. We jokingly call this a foster fail, because the point of fostering is to find the kittens a new forever home. But sometimes that new forever home is your home. My sweet Dice and I bonded over our similar circumstances.

I was in a car accident seven years ago that left me confined to a wheelchair. This was a life-changing horrible event, but it gave me the blessing of having the time to save so many kittens in need. I am now home during the day and can foster and help raise kittens in need, as well as bottle feed abandoned kittens.



I started volunteering for our amazing shelter last year and that's when I got the call about a special litter of kittens born to a mom from a feral colony. Two of these sweet kittens had physical disabilities. Dora, the little female, was missing half of her back limb but got around perfectly fine and managed to climb scratching posts and leap upstairs with no problem. Thankfully, not long after,

Dora found her perfect forever home with a friend of mine.

Continued on page 8



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Volunteer Corner

This is the eighth in a series of articles about volunteers that help make our organization run.

Janet Dickson: Lover of Wascally Wabbits!!!

Janet and Silver



Alliston & District Humane Society has them all...and they are not your simple garden variety bunnies. We have purebred and designer rabbits such as Lionheads, Flemish Giants, Rex, and French Lop. Our small animal team is dedicated to attending to the care of these temporary residents before they are joyfully adopted by loving families.

Janet Dickson is an enthusiastic high energy volunteer, who has been with ADHS for over three years. A former human relations professional who currently works for her husband's business, she lives with her husband and daughter on a farm in Mulmur with her 4 dogs, 7 cats, 2 horses and many, many rabbits. We wonder where she got them all!!! Her rabbits have lucked in with Janet who keeps them all as pets in her house or in special stalls in her barn. They also have a free roaming area outside to frolic in the grass. Janet has been an animal lover since a child, and it shows!

As a small animal adoption coordinator, Janet is careful to interview and screen potential adoptive families who are interested in taking home a guinea pig, rabbit or other small animal. She sees the most important part of her role as an educator. ADHS has a large population of pet rabbits, all spayed and neutered, but Janet finds many prospective adopters have no idea how fragile rabbits are, nor what is required to keep a rabbit happy and healthy. She discusses habitat, feeding and the need for exercise with everyone, and demonstrates the options for a more open living area, litter training, and x-pens to allow exercise. She discourages anyone from totally caging rabbits. Some adopters come looking for a rabbit to bond with an existing rabbit, and Janet walks them through selection, a meet and greet, and an adoption. She finds that being available by phone is important and she helps adoptive families with issues that arise that might otherwise result in rabbits being returned to the shelter. It's all about a 'good fit' on both sides. Janet notes that all rabbits have personalities, and interesting quirks and behavior that make them lovable pets. Her current favourite rabbit for adoption is Silver, a four year old silver rabbit who needs an open concept living area, and a patient and experienced owner. Silver displays some cage aggression simply because she has been at the shelter too long. She would love a home of her own and some time to settle in and show her real personality.

Janet is also an enthusiastic fundraiser for ADHS and can be found at many local events such as the Beet-on Honeyfest, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt, that give visitors a chance to interact with some of our rabbits. Janet and her daughter Ashley set up the first annual ADHS Halloween dance and they participate in events near her cottage in Kincardine, selling animal stuffies in return for a donation to ADHS.

Janet's wish list includes a higher profile for the small animals in the care of ADHS. She finds many people are simply unaware of the number of small animals the shelter has and need to be encouraged to "adopt don't shop". Too many of the rabbits we get come to us after events such as Easter. Space is also a constant concern for the rabbits in particular, who like any other animal need to get out and get some exercise. The small animal team is hoping for an outdoor rabbit play area sometime in the near future (budget permitting) and would love more media opportunities to showcase their programs.

ADHS Reading Program Takes Flight

Picture This: A child enters a shelter animal room, cozies up in a cushioned corner with the book of his choice, and begins to read aloud. Before long some cats cuddle up to him while others linger nearby, ears perked.

Many people think of a shelter as a sad and depressing place where animals are jammed into cages waiting for the new family that will never come along. At the Alliston & District Humane Society, we do things differently than most shelters. Walking through the doors here you will find hope; you will find animals who need assistance and volunteers who work to provide whatever the animals need; you will find animals in various stages of intake, medical treatment, and rehabilitation; and most importantly, you will find animals preparing to go to their new homes.



Connor Hodgins practises his reading with ADHS cats

Hope lives in many forms when you walk into the doors of our shelter. It lives in the animals who walk or are carried into the shelter doors; it lives in the hearts of the volunteers and it lives in the adopters who are looking to welcome home a new family member.

While our programs are designed to support the animals we help, some of our programs also offer support to our community. One of these programs is our brand new Reading Program. It's not easy to learn how to read and sometimes it can be embarrassing to stumble over the words you are reading. When you are reading to an animal, it doesn't matter if you stumble because the cat won't laugh at you; the dog won't smirk and the rabbit won't giggle. Learning how to read takes time and practice. This free program offers aspiring readers a place where no one will judge them by their abilities.

The animals are learning many important social skills during this program including how to remain calm as people walk by, to enjoy the presence of a human without having to be the center of attention, to develop exercise needs that are more manageable for adopters, and to be accustomed to downtime which is important to success in the home.

The Reading Program at ADHS is now available only as a pre-registration due to space limitations at this time. Sessions run once a week for one hour during which the readers come to the shelter, settle down near an animal and read aloud. ADHS currently has two active sessions with additional sessions coming soon.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering with this program, please visit the reading program page on our website.

www.allistonhumane.com

Emily Day,

Dog Coordinator, Reading Program

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Cash is always welcome at our shelter open houses or in the many donation boxes around our community. You can also contribute by volunteering, providing a foster home, running or contributing to a fundraising event and donating items listed on our wish list available at allistonhumane.com.



Please help ADHS reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned animals in our communities.

SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS

Please check your yellow pages for the veterinarian services available near you.

The OSPCA provides **high volume, low cost spay and neuter services** at their clinics in Barrie and Newmarket.

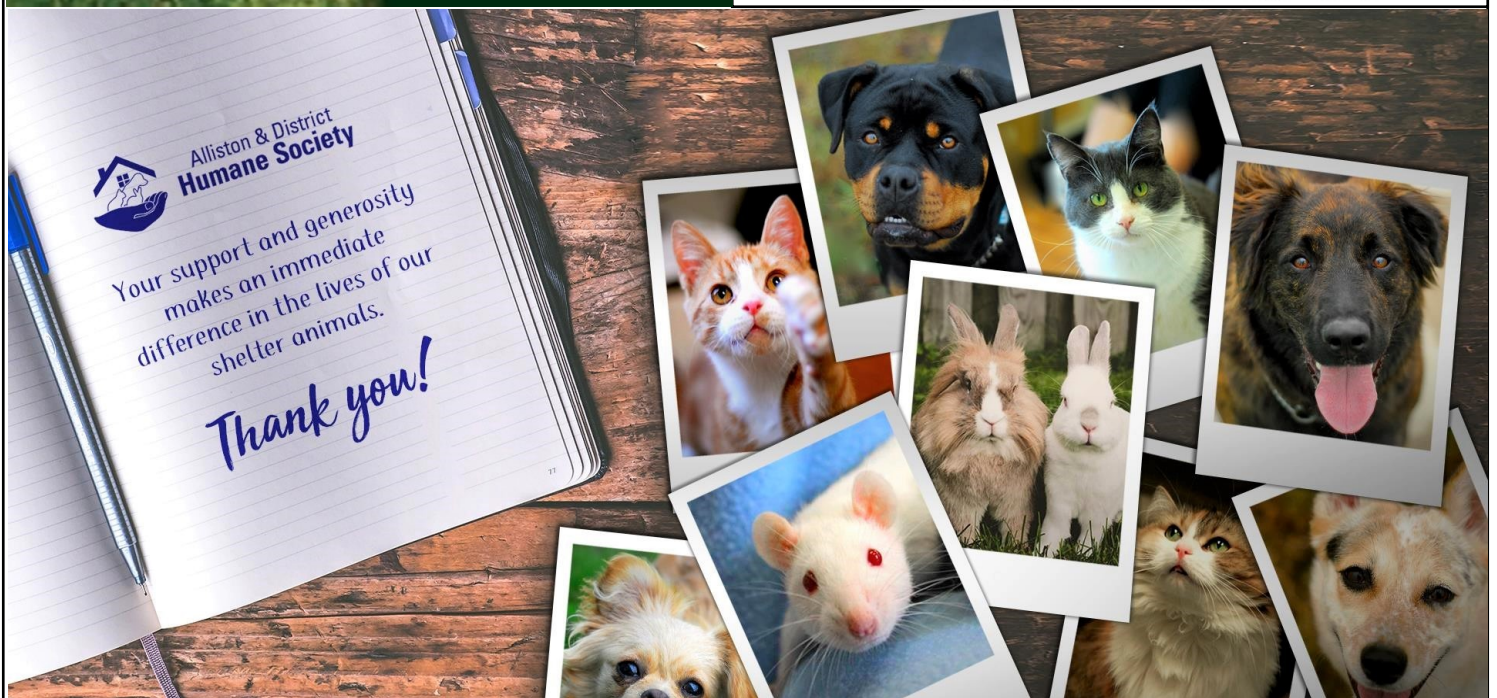
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Reflections of A Kitten Foster Mom Continued from page 4

That litter however had another adorable little white kitten with two black dots on his head that we called Dice. Dice had a back leg that was short and deformed and his other back leg stuck out to the side kind of like a chicken wing. When Dice came to us, the only way he could get around was by dragging his back end. After a bit of homework, we decided to help Dice build up his rear muscles by getting him to swim in shallow water. After some swim therapy and stair therapy, he was strong enough on his back end to walk on his little leg. Dice now does stairs, manages to get up on his small scratching post, climbs up onto the bed with help and lives a wonderful, happy life. This sweet little white kitten with his special back legs definitely won over my whole heart. His strength and struggles with adversity only made our bond stronger and made me relate to him even more. It was a surprise to no one when I decided that Dice's new forever home was going to be with me and my husband.

This sweet little boy, disability and all, is an amazing addition to our home and I don't know what it would be like without him. We realize that he might need a little extra TLC as he gets older, special food, and regular vet trips but when he waddles up to us and paws to be picked up, every little bit of it is worth it. Not only has he made our lives better, he is an amazing help with the foster kittens. He is so gentle and sweet with them that I can let him curl up and cuddle even with the youngest kittens. Fostering has brought so much into my life and of course it's brought me my sweet little Dice.

Interested in becoming a foster home?

We provide the food. YOU provide the love. A foster home provides one of our animals with a temporary home where it can feel like a valued family member. Foster homes not only spare animals from the stress of confinement in a cage in our shelter, but also provide them with a loving home environment and adequate socialization, which makes them more adoptable.

Many of our rescued animals stay in foster homes until adoption. By fostering, you are helping to save the life of an unwanted animal. Fostering also gives you and/or your own pets the benefit of pet companionship without the worries of permanent ownership! There are also times when short-term medication foster homes are needed.

Foster home applications are available at <https://allistonhumane.com/volunteer>



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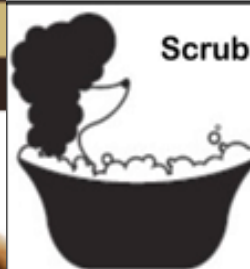
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Please make cheques payable to the **Alliston & District Humane Society**.
All donations over \$20 are eligible for a charitable donation receipt. Thank You!

ADHS Dog Rescues: New Mexico 2018

The ADHS kennels are busy places. At any given time of day or evening, you can see dogs being groomed and petted, walking our paths with volunteers, training and playing. Kennels are being cleaned, dogs arrive from municipalities and joyful dogs are released to their new families.

While our kennels are often full, ADHS always takes the opportunity when we have space, to bring in dogs from other locations that face euthanasia if they are not transported to new homes. A rescue of small and medium sized dogs from New Mexico occurred in May of 2018, for a total of ten dogs from this American state this year. These dogs come from a high kill shelter that takes in over 300 dogs per month, and can only place 7 % of their dogs with local families. The other 93 % will be euthanized unless they can be transported to other locations that can find them homes. Every week, for example, 35-45 dogs are sent to rescue groups in Colorado. This shelter is so crowded that multiple dogs are housed in one kennel and kennel cough runs rampant. Despite efforts from animal supporters and free vaccination clinics, the spay neuter and vaccination rates in this area are very low. 5-10 of these dogs are transported every other week to shelters in Ontario that can guarantee them homes. This shelter works very hard to transport dogs to areas that can guarantee their adoption.



ADHS takes as many as 3 or 4 transports per year when we have space. Our intake is constrained by the weather patterns: these dogs cannot be transported by airplane when it is too hot or too cold. A Toronto charity pays for all transportation costs and ADHS volunteers are up for 24 hours driving to Buffalo to receive the dogs, move them through customs and transport them to ADHS and get them settled. ADHS adopts all of these dogs within a week or two, and often has wait lists and multiple families who hope to see these personable, spayed, neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped small and medium sized dogs join their families. These rescue dogs from New Mexico have vet treatment before transport and are able to move into homes quickly.

The question often asked by the public is why ADHS does not bring in outside dogs solely from Canada. Vice President Jane Clarke states, "An animal life is a life is a life. We are a no kill shelter and if we can help any organization save healthy animals from euthanasia, we have a responsibility to assist". ADHS dog coordinator Emily Day notes that sadly, it often comes down to costs when rescuing dogs from Ontario. ADHS takes dogs facing death from high kill pounds in Ontario, does rescues every year of dogs from northern Ontario reservations and also works with other Ontario rescues. ADHS must pay the transport costs for Ontario rescue dogs, as well as any medical costs. Ms. Day notes that dogs coming to ADHS from northern reserves will often have costly medical issues including heartworm, broken legs, and other conditions that require time, attention and financial support to solve. ADHS is a charity with no paid employees that relies exclusively on its donors to operate. Ontario dogs are rescued through our facility as space and finances allow.

A thank you goes out to everyone involved with these dogs. ADHS volunteers make these rescue trips possible; the Toronto charity that pays transportation costs for New Mexico dogs and the shelter that tries to transport rather than euthanize healthy dogs allow many dogs to be saved every year. Finally, our adoptive families who give these friendly dogs a new chance at life save many canine lives every year.

What To Do If You Have Lost A Pet

ADHS is flooded with calls yearly, but particularly between April and October, from pet owners who have lost a pet. There are important things you can do to increase the probability of finding your precious family member.

First of all, microchip your cats and dogs. Found animals are routinely scanned by canine control officers, ADHS, and finders who take the animal to a vet for a free scan to see if there is a microchip. ADHS runs two low cost microchip clinics yearly and your pet is protected for the low cost of \$25. Always update your microchip information if you move or change phone numbers.

If you have lost a dog, canine control is your friend. Call your local canine control officer and make sure the dog hasn't been picked up and make them aware the animal is missing. Phone numbers for canine control can be found on the ADHS website.

<https://allistonhumane.com/lost-%26-found>.



Call the ADHS lost and found line at 705-458-9038 and leave a report. Let us know the name of the animal, a description and the specific location the animal is missing from. Indicate a township or street intersection. The 12th line doesn't mean much. Our lost and found volunteer keeps records and tries to reunite found pets with their owner.

Join the ADHS Facebook page and post a picture of your lost pet, with a description, location lost from and a contact number. Post the same ad on all local community Facebook pages as well as on lost pet sites such as Lost and Found Pets of Simcoe County.

Canvass your local area, hand out fliers with a picture and information about your pet and post the flier on local posts and bulletin board. Legible fliers work: in mailboxes, at post boxes, bus shelters, intersections, humane societies, vet clinics, groomers, grocery stores, in your car window, and local post offices.

Cats are much more difficult to locate than dogs, as they often hide in fear, particularly if they have been an indoor cat. Using a flashlight, check way back under decks & sheds and, in corners and under trailers and bins. Cats may not come to you when called. Rattle a bag or tin of treats & speak softly so as not to alarm them. Check up trees, on roofs, in shrubs, under vehicles. See if there are other cat owners near you who will help. You might have to ask people to open their closed garage or shed door

Finally, don't give up. The Toronto Star just featured a story in July about a cat who was returned to a Brampton family after 5 years. **This was possible because the cat was microchipped.**



!OPEN HOUSE!

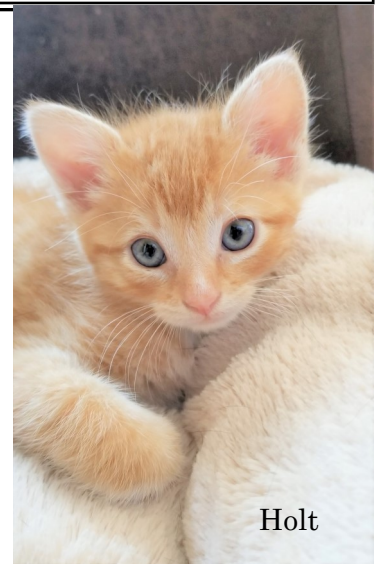
Please join us the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month for our Open House from noon to four pm at the shelter. Come and visit all the animals and meet our great volunteers, and drop off donations. One of our recent visitors sent us a lovely commendation:

“What a great place! I left with a smile on my face. Thank you all for working to make this wonderful organization. Everyone benefits from your hard work and enthusiasm. I became inspired, on such a dreary day, and I will be sure to pass on word about your shelter to others too.”



Fawn

Kittens ! Kittens!
Kittens! ADHS has lovable babies of all colours and sizes ready for adoption!



Holt

Adoption Corner

Call (705) 458-9038 or info@allistonhumane.com

The ADHS is a registered charity. All board members, volunteers and foster homes are unpaid. All funds raised pay for the current services and future programs. All cats and dogs over six months of age are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and dewormed. All kittens under the age of 6 months come with vouchers that allow owners to take the kitten to a local vet for vaccinations, rabies and spay or neuter.

Adoption Fees

- Cats \$160 Kittens \$200 Puppies \$400 Dogs \$375
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