



# Alliston & District Humane Society

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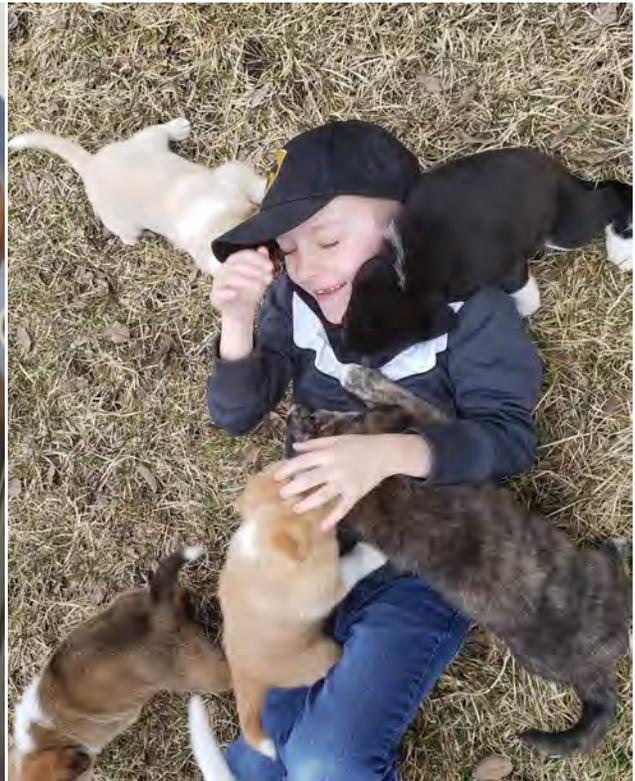
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[www.allistonhumane.com](http://www.allistonhumane.com)

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

## Puppy Love at ADHS!!



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## An emergency



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#### Hares

Baby hares are born March - September and are fully furred, eyes open and able to hop around within hours of birth. The mother hare will leave the young for long periods of time. She returns to nurse them twice a day. Unless the baby has obvious signs of injury, it is important to leave the little one where it is. Handling the babies will, in most cases, kill them.

#### Fledgling Birds

Many species of birds cannot fly when they first leave the nest. They often need several days to gain flight and learn survival skills from their parents. During this time it is vital that kids are educated, pets are confined and caring individuals do not pick them up.

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#### Fawns

A fawn found curled up in the grass, under a tree or in a field is completely normal. The mother leaves the baby for much of the day and generally only returns under the cover of nightfall. Picking the fawn up will separate it needlessly from the doe. Unless there are visible signs of injury or a dead doe is found nearby, the fawn should be left alone.

One evening after enjoying the beach all day, you head home to the comfort of your bed. While driving, you narrowly miss a few raccoons that are gathered around their mother, who has been hit by a car. What do you do?

Walking through a field on your way to a picnic on a sunny day, you happen to spot a fox that seems to have broken a leg. What do you do?

These examples, along with many other possible situations, generally leave us floundering as we try to figure out how to help. When these types of things come up... and they do...it can often be frustrating trying to get in touch with the right people to provide assistance. Helping with injured and orphaned wildlife is a part of what the ADHS does. With the nicer weather, we tend to see more wildlife. So if you don't know what to do, read on.

So what should we do in these instances? First and foremost is always safety. If you find dead or injured animals, approach them only if you're absolutely certain that they do not pose any danger to you and that you do not pose any danger to them. That will be pretty

much never. What you **SHOULD** do is call ADHS (705-458-9038) and leave a message on the designated wildlife line. ADHS has volunteers that are both experienced and well trained who can provide assistance. Procyon Wildlife, our local wildlife rehab, can also be contacted at (905) 729-0033. In the event that it is a deceased animal, the best option is to call the public works department for proper disposal.

Another substantial issue that goes hand in hand with helping is not helping. Despite our best intentions, we can sometimes do more harm than good. Just because a parent isn't around doesn't mean that an animal has been orphaned. Rabbits, deer, and many bird species often spend the better part of the day away from their young. It isn't uncommon to find a pile of baby bunnies in the grass or a fawn curled up under a tree. In most situations, these babies are perfectly fine. Rabbits that are born wild tend to do especially poorly when taken in and cared for. I have seen this a number of times, and it is heartbreaking to realize later that they likely would have survived if not for some human "help". If you happen to come across some seemingly abandoned little animals, the best thing to do is leave them right where they are. Their mother will likely be back later in the day to feed them. If they are in danger or the mother does not return, it may be appropriate to intervene.

By no means am I trying to deter people from helping wildlife; quite the opposite. Sometimes animals need our assistance. The key is identifying whether or not they really do and then approaching the situation appropriately.

Although it is always tempting to provide immediate care to animals in need, it is best left to people that are trained to deal with such situations.

ADHS wildlife officers Ernie Ogle and Tania Perrier provide advice and assistance 365 days a year. ADHS does not house wildlife but does assist in finding appropriate placements when necessary.

Jeremy Nagy



### Consider becoming a member of ADHS!

**JOIN NOW!**

**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](http://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!

**Alley Cat Allies**  
**Microchips Save Lives**



Microchip implantation is quick, simple, inexpensive, essentially painless, and virtually stress-free for animals.

**What is a Microchip?**  
Tiny technology, smaller than a grain of rice, that is implanted just under the animal's skin between the shoulder blades. It's a permanent ID with a unique number that corresponds with contact information in a microchip registry.

**What is a Scanner?**  
A device that detects microchips using one of three low radio frequencies (125kHz, 128 kHz, and 134.2 kHz). There are different types of scanners, but only universal scanners detect all three microchip frequencies.

**How it works:**  
A veterinarian implants a microchip under the animal's skin through a quick injection, like a routine vaccination. No anesthetic is required.

**A microchip...**

- Is a permanent ID tag
- Can last a cat's full lifespan
- Helps reunite lost cats with their families or community cat colony

**Take these three steps to save cats' lives with the help of microchips:**

- 1** Get cats microchipped during a veterinary visit, low-cost microchipping clinic or Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) initiative.
- 2** Register the microchip with the microchip company's database and/or with a free database such as Found Animals Registry.
- 3** Keep your registered contact information updated, especially if you move or your phone number changes.

**Did you know?**  
Cats with microchips are over 20 times more likely to be reunited with their families than those without microchips.

Get detailed information at [alleycat.org/MicrochippingSaveLives](http://alleycat.org/MicrochippingSaveLives).

### Protect Your Pet with a Microchip!

ADHS holds regular microchip clinics at various times during the year. Check our Facebook group or website for more information.

### Our next clinics will be held:

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at Pet Valu Alliston – Dr. Dassanayake

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 12 Noon at Pet Valu Angus – Dr. Patel

The cost is \$25 cash. First come, first served. Cats must be in carriers and dogs must be leashed.

Thanks to our local vets who volunteer their time for these clinics and local Pet Valu stores that donate their venue for these events.

**Just moved?  
New to the area?**

**BE SURE TO CALL DIANNE 705-435-2588**



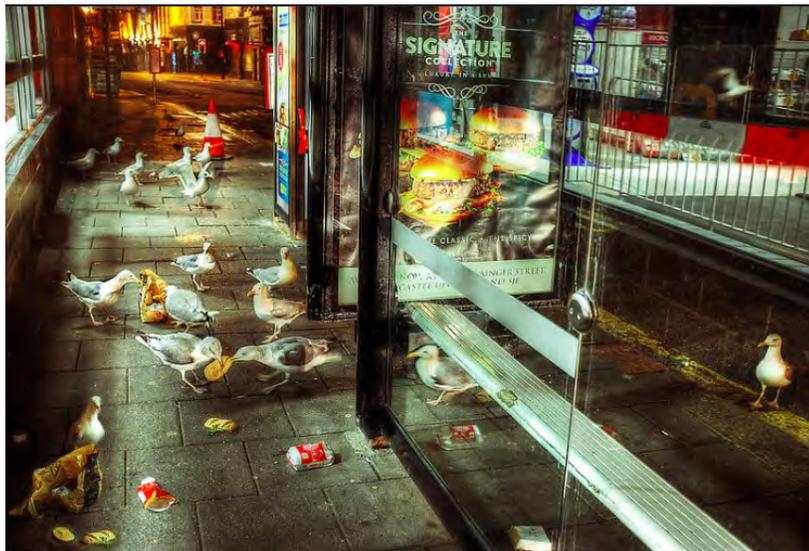
**Our representative will bring gifts and greetings, along with helpful information about the communi-**



### Urban Wildlife

Some of us think urban areas have no wildlife, but wherever you find humans, wildlife is living right there alongside of us. Some animals were here before us and some have adapted. People may see these animals, as a nuisance, since they may not realize the services these animals provide.

Animals like birds and night scavengers such as foxes, raccoons and other small animals provide 24 hour clean up services. When these scavengers feast on roadkill and garbage, they are protecting our waterways and keeping our streets clean. Tick populations are actually lower in areas where foxes, opossums and raccoons are abundant. While foxes hunt mice, opossums and raccoons feed on the ticks found on the mice, killing thousands of ticks each season. Coyotes, bats and birds who help control rat and mosquito populations may help to reduce the spread of diseases.



Urban areas also provide valuable settings for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. We can also make our cities pollinator friendly by planting gardens, flower patches, rooftop gardens and community parks throughout our communities. Studies show that parks, trees and open green space in cities promote better mental and physical human health.

Wildlife and green spaces in urban areas provide incredible benefits for city dwellers. Next time you see a crow snacking on garbage don't forget to thank him for his service.

For more information see Becca Rodomsky-Bish's article on The Value of Wildlife to Cities at <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/the-value-of-wildlife-to-cities/>

Tania Perrier



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# Volunteer Corner

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

## Peggy Ely: Wearer of Many Hats

Peggy Ely is one of our dedicated volunteers and our Cat Team Coordinator, who comes in multiple times a week to ensure our cats receive the care and TLC they need so they can find their forever homes. To achieve this, she works shifts alongside the 35 plus cat team volunteers, scheduling, training and recruiting new team members as needed. The team works as a group to feed and monitor the basic health of the cats, as well as wash floors, cages, litter boxes, dishes and laundry. This role is integral to maintaining a bright, clean and healthy environment for our cats, volunteers, visitors and potential adopters. Of course, playing with and cuddling the cats is required!



Peggy also provides support to the cat program in many other ways. She provides transport services to and from local veterinary clinics for cat surgical and health care appointments in Alliston, Beeton and Barrie. She keeps close tabs on our inventory of dry and wet cat food and ensures that any food that cannot be used directly at the shelter is provided to local cat colonies. She has planned and helped with fundraising activities during the years she has been at the shelter and is often the BBQ chef at shelter events. She began volunteering in 2011 and has delivered newsletters, solicited funds and gifts for events, and picked up donations weekly in Alliston and Angus, with her car top down and her tunes blaring. Peggy's generosity and kindness shines through every time she takes a cat home to nurse it back to health because the shelter is too stressful, and every time she opens her home to a senior cat for hospice care. Peggy has seven cats of her own : Finn, Sookie, brothers Kurt & Kyle, Pea Jay, Stewie and Lizzy. Five of her seven are rescues out of ADHS who all had unique health requirements or emotional issues that made them difficult to adopt.

Jacque Taylor (Kitten Care Coordinator) says of Peggy: "Peggy doesn't just make a difference in the cats' lives; she also made a big difference in mine. I was lacking purpose in my life and always loved animals, so it was only natural that I apply to volunteer at the shelter. I was originally assigned to the socialization team to help cats with emotional needs when Peggy handed me a tiny two-week-old kitten and asked me to take it home to care for. She gave me a full ten minutes of instruction and loaded me up with bottles and kitten milk and sent me on my way. I had never seen a kitten that small but if Peggy believed that I could care for it, then that was what I was going to do. I spent the next 20 or so hours learning everything I could and feeding it every two hours. The kitten thrived and I named him Oliver the orphan. Now two years later, I am a Kitten Care Coordinator and continue to foster the wee ones. Peggy has supported me every step of the way and I couldn't have taken this path without her. She makes a difference in so many people's lives without even realizing it. Thank you, Peggy."

Gail Garisto (Cat Socialization Team Coordinator) says, "Peggy is the best, as she knows the meaning of "team." From the first time I met her, she welcomed me with open arms and took me under her wing. I still learn a wealth of info from her every day. She is a great mentor and friend and always cracks me up with her quips."

ADHS is grateful for Peggy's reliable and dedicated support. Her ability to get things done and keep things moving is key to the cat team's success. You never know which hat she will be wearing today!

## ADHS's New Cat Roaming Room

Recently at ADHS we opened a newly renovated free roaming cat room, which includes access to a large outdoor catio.

This room, only four years ago, was full of small used cages that housed felines. Then three years ago, the small cages were replaced with half the number of larger cages and a makeshift open sleeping shelf on one side of the room. The open sleeping shelving unit was very popular with our felines.



The vision grew from there to provide open boxes and shelving all around the room to allow the cats to get more exercise and perch where they choose. Now the free roaming room provides temporary sanctuary and shelter for the many homeless, abused, forgotten and neglected cats that are ready for adoption after ADHS has provided needed health care and love.

Forward to 2018 and our extraordinarily talented volunteer **Willis Nakamura** who, upon hearing about our vision for this free roaming room restoration project, jumped at the opportunity to help. He built and installed all the gorgeous cubbies, beds and bridges. The cats are having fun! Another huge thank you to long-time volunteer and Cat Team Coordinator **Peggy Ely** for generously donating the funds to build all the gorgeous items the cats are now enjoying in the free roaming cat room.

In honour of these volunteers that helped to make this renovation possible, we will be mounting a plaque in recognition. We welcome you to come and see the amazing changes in our free roaming cat room. ADHS adopted 285 cats and kittens in 2018 along with providing health care and trap, neuter, release for more than 50 community/feral cats. ADHS is also instrumental in getting cats back to their homes when lost.

If you are interested in being a part of the Cat Team you can complete an online application form at [www.allistonhumane.com](http://www.allistonhumane.com). Peggy is looking for people who can commit to one 2-3 hour shift per week for at least six months, but hopefully longer.

- Qualifications:**
- 18 years of age minimum (family teams are welcome for under 18s)
  - Committed to animal welfare as well as self-motivated and energetic
  - Ability to follow protocol and work in a team environment



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## Would you like to contribute to ADHS ?

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P.O. Box 1455  
Everett, Ontario  
L0M 1J0

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](http://allistonhumane.com). ADHS also needs administration, maintenance, and cleaning volunteers.



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

### SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS

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L4N 3V9

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or 705-734-9882  
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[www.spayneuter.ontariospca.ca](http://www.spayneuter.ontariospca.ca)



## Canfel Foundation Supports ADHS Feral Feline Trap Neuter Release Program

The CanFel Foundation is a registered charity designated as a public foundation, established and generously funded by the late Sandra Bond in support of animal welfare. Ms. Bond was an early and passionate advocate for animal welfare and particularly supported programs designed to instill humane values in children and spay and neuter programs designed to reduce the number of unwanted companion animals.



**CanFel**  
FOUNDATION

One of the real frustrations for the ADHS cat team is our inability to provide adequate trap neuter release services for our communities. Our coverage area is full of cat colonies, particularly in trailer parks and on large rural spaces, as well as in town neighbourhoods and businesses; the many calls and emails asking for help overwhelm our resources every year. Any number of abandoned or feral cats have not been spayed or neutered. Here lies the major issue that creates cat overpopulation: A pair of breeding cats, which can have two or more litters per year, can exponentially produce **420,000 offspring** over a seven-year period. The sheer numbers of fertile cats in the area served by ADHS is staggering.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Canfel Foundation, ADHS will be able to continue to work on its long wait list of feral cat colonies requiring spay/neuter and shelter assistance. Feral and semi-feral cats in colonies are the least valued and most underserved animal group in our community. ADHS promotes humane TNR (trap, neuter release) and provides long term back up support for colony caregivers in the form of food and winter shelters to end the breeding cycle and ensure a better life for these cats. ADHS Feral Cat Coordinator Santanna Marrocco says, "I am thrilled we will be able to spay and neuter more feral cats in our communities with this grant. Our help ends the breeding cycle and puts feral cats into fed colonies or heated equestrian barns where they are provided with food, heat and supervision. Kittens and friendly cats in these colonies get a new life in loving homes."

It takes a concerted community effort to deal with the problem of abandoned, feral and breeding cats. ADHS thanks the Canfel Foundation for its second generous grant to our feral cat program.

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# Alliston & District Humane Society

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**Note To Corporate Sponsors: We will be contacting you for a digital file of your logo for your plaque.**

Please make cheques payable to the **Alliston & District Humane Society**.  
All donations over \$25 are eligible for a charitable donation receipt. Thank You!

## How great dogs like Bella are rejected because of an undeserved reputation

**Don't judge a book by its cover. Or a dog by her appearance.**

By Brandon Jones

Bella presses her moist nose between the bars of the playpen. She wants 18-month-old Charlie out of there. She wants to roll around on the carpet with him, play tug-of-war, then snuggle up when he grows sleepy.

A year ago Bella was pressing her snout between different bars, the hard metal bars of a small cage in a Canadian animal shelter. And she was mere days away from being euthanized. Her crime? Despite her mournful eyes, she remained unadopted after the common cutoff period of six months.

All because lovely, placid Bella had the misfortune to be labeled a Pit Bull. She ended up at the shelter only because her companion – an elderly woman for whom she had been a devoted friend and an enthusiastic protector – died suddenly of a stroke. And there was no friend or relative in a position to give Bella a new home.

Next stop the animal shelter. Caged there week after week, Bella was rejected outright by many potential adopters. Despite her friendly personality, she was seen as a member of a canine breed that is thought to be vicious.

Lucky for her, an informed young couple were able to look beyond her apparent breed, ending up adopting her as a pal for their son Charlie.

Across the country, perfectly gentle dogs like Bella are caged in shelters for months on end – and often end up euthanized -- because they 'look like' what is seen as an aggressive breed. Ontario has an outright ban on Pit Bull ownership; the animals are viewed as "potentially dangerous" breeds.

"It's impossible to judge a dog by its appearance," says Jaclyn Nelson, Dog Adoption Coordinator at the Alliston & District Humane Society. "Dogs are like people. Each one has a totally unique personality."



Gentle Bella almost missed out on joining a loving family because she resembles a Pit Bull, and that makes some people fearful.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

Although most shelter dogs are made up of several different breeds, workers often label an incoming animal by sight, checking a box on a limited list. Since “mixed breed” is not usually among the choices, they must guess – often incorrectly.

Even experts can guess wrongly. In one study, vets and breeders were able to correctly identify an animal’s pedigree only one time in four.

In any case, a dog’s appearance tells you nothing about its gentleness and tractability. For the simple reason that the outward aspect of an animal is the result of only *one quarter of one percent* of its entire DNA. A canine that “looks like” a Pit Bull may be a Labrador mix, a Boxer mix, or indeed any smorgasbord of breeds.

More important, the 99.75 percent of the animal’s other inherited genes may give it the playfulness of a Poodle, the sociability of a Shih Tsu and the resilience of an Irish Wolfhound. And for a canine who is being considered to become a new member of the family these are the crucial characteristics.

“It’s silly for someone to take one quick look at a mixed-breed dog and call it a Pit Bull or a Doberman or some other convenient label,” says Jaclyn Nelson. “And it’s unfair to the dog.”

Even for a dog who is genetically one of the four Terrier breeds that have come to be designated as Pit Bull, people should not be unduly worried. Contrary to common prejudices, these dogs are not inherently dangerous. As with any dog, proper training from a young age can make them into gentle, obedient, friendly animals – who are great with children.

Like Bella, who loves to make Charlie giggle by licking his toes.

Alliston-resident Brandon Jones is a retired journalist, editor and publisher



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# !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.”

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



## Adoption Corner

Call (705) 458-9038 or [info@allistonhumane.com](mailto: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. All rabbits are spayed or neutered.



Lots of beautiful guinea pigs for adoption!

## Adoption Fees

- Cats \$160 Kittens \$200 Puppies \$440 Dogs \$400
- Rabbits \$75 Senior Dogs 10+ \$180
- Hamsters, Rats and Gerbils \$10 Guinea Pigs, Degus \$30



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