

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE GANANOQUE AND DISTRICT HUMANE SOCIETY

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Canadian Charitable Business Number 891915431RR0001

Do you believe that every companion animal deserves a chance to live and find a forever home? As one of the few NO KILL Humane Societies in Ontario, the Gananoque and District Humane Society will not put down one adoptable animal to make space for another. Only suffering animals, too sick or injured to be saved or too dangerous and aggressive to be rehabilitated and adopted will be reluctantly and gently released from their misery. We are proud of our better than 90% success rate in saving the lives of those with nowhere else to turn. Despite their best efforts, most Humane Societies have no choice but to put down adoptable pets for lack of space and money to care for them. We are grateful that in our 21-year history, our supporters have never forced us to make this agonizing choice.

We are also proud that 94 cents of every dollar we raise contributes directly to animal care with the balance covering essential expenses such as heat, light and building repairs. At our Shelter you will find no starched uniforms, no shiny new equipment and no fancy offices. We are totally volunteer managed and volunteer run. We have no paid staff and all our volunteers serve without any pay. Seven days a week, 365 days a year you will find our handful of dedicated volunteers working in our Shelter, cleaning, feeding and comforting lonely and frightened pets while we prepare them for adoption.

To continue our success we need your help. The recession has hurt us badly. Donations and adoptions have dropped significantly leaving our NO KILL Shelter seriously overcrowded. Costs are skyrocketing and the need for our animal welfare services is mushrooming. Regrettably we receive no Government funding to cover operating costs. To pay for medical expenses, food and all other animal care we rely on adoption fees, donations and continuous volunteer fundraising. If you believe that a loving home should be the first choice for homeless animals please help us in one of the following ways.

ADOPT A PET: See all our adorable companions on our website at www.ganhumanesociety.ca

BECOME A VOLUNTEER: We need Shelter helpers, fundraisers, drivers and many others. Call us at 382-1512 or email us at humanesociety@bellnet.ca for details.

SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS: We run numerous functions throughout the year. See our website for the next scheduled events.

BECOME A MEMBER: For only \$20 a year you can join our Humane Society and we will keep you informed of our hopes and dreams, successes and challenges for a full year. Complete the membership application on our website or just send us your cheque or money order to our Shelter address marked "Membership".

MAKE A DONATION: Giving up the morning coffee and muffin once a week for a year would save about \$240 annually. That \$240 donated to the Gananoque and District Humane Society would prepare one animal for adoption and feed it while we find the right home. If 1000 people made this life saving choice our entire annual budget would be covered with money left over to expand our services and save even more pets!

To donate by direct withdrawal from your bank account complete the Monthly Giving Form on our website and send it to us with a blank, void cheque. Donations by cheque or money order can be mailed or delivered to our main Shelter address. To donate by credit card go to www.canadahelps.org and follow the instructions on the site. All monetary donations over \$10 will receive a Canadian Charitable Donation receipt for use with your income tax.

Wherever you live, if you love animals and have room in your heart for some who have had little love in their lives, please support the NO KILL philosophy of the Gananoque and District Humane Society.

Please share our story with your friends and relatives. You may post this article on your Facebook page or personal website provided you do not make any changes to the text.

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Other ways to help

- 1) Do you have a credit card that gives you merchandise points, cash back or air miles? Did you know that most cards allow you to use your rewards to purchase gift certificates? Donate these gift certificates to the Gananoque and District Humane Society. We will use them to purchase items we need to improve animal care or as prizes in draws and other fundraising events. To be most useful the gift certificates should be from national Canadian retailers with store locations in Ontario.
- 2) Did a kind friend or relative give you a thoughtful gift that just does not fit your décor or personal taste? Donate that gift to us and we will use it to raise money to cover expenses.
- 3) Business Owners:

Are you stuck with out of date or out of style merchandise that the manufacturer will not take back for credit? Donate the item to us for use in our fundraising efforts.

Do your suppliers send you free product or provide promotional trips or gifts as sales incentives? We can use them if you can't!

Does your store carry pet supplies? Have you considered running a promotion for the Humane Society? Asking your customers to buy a bag of cat litter or treats to donate to us will make them part of an important cause, demonstrate your caring heart and increase your sales as well.

When you received your last supply delivery, did someone accidentally drop an item or tear a bag and now you can't sell it and the supplier won't accept it for return? Donate it to us. Our pets don't complain.

- 4) Do you, a friend or relative or your favourite pet have a birthday or special day coming up? Throw a party! Instead of gifts, ask your guests to contribute money or other items that our Humane Society could use.
- 5) Do you belong to a club or do you have several friends who love animals as much as you do. Organize a fundraising event to benefit the Humane Society. It does not need to be elaborate. A barbecue, a cool drink stand, a pencil sale can raise significant amounts with a little effort.
- 6) Does your company or association have a charitable giving programme? Would our organization qualify for their support? Please ask.
- 7) Are you planning to buy an item that is on sale for half price or on a "2 for 1" promotion but you only need one. Donate the other one to the Humane Society. We will find a way to use it.
- 8) Do you have a drawer full of Canadian Tire money or gas station coupons that you never get around to using? Donate them to us and we will use them to reduce our expenses.
- 9) Did you know that it is possible to take out an insurance policy to benefit your favourite Humane Society in the future and that you can get a charitable donation receipt for the premium payments? Did you know that there could be significant tax advantages to making a gift of money or property in your will or donating assets such as stocks or bonds to the Humane Society during your lifetime? Contact us for details. You should obtain independent legal and financial advice before selecting any of these options.

And perhaps the most important way to help all animals, please, please spay or neuter your pet.

The Gananoque and District Humane Society works with and supports other local Humane Societies and Rescue groups. Anything we can't use right away will be shared with other needy pets. Nothing will be wasted!