

Fall 2014

The Retriever

THE HALTON HILLS CAT REMOVAL OF 2013...A LOOK BACK



It's hard to believe that it's been just over a year since we received the call from our Animal Protective Services Manager and OSPCA Agent Laura Mackasey that she would be returning to the shelter with the first of over a hundred cats. This call signalled the beginning of a journey for the 110 cats that were removed from the home in Halton Hills, from horrible neglect to health...a journey that many of the cats are still on today.

It took several days to ensure that all the cats had been removed from the disgusting conditions inside the home. Truly a hoarding home, there were many places that the timid and shy cats could hide and we wanted to be sure that we had rescued each and every one of these poor kitties.

Sadly, we removed 5 deceased cats from the home...ones we weren't able to rescue and ones that haunted the dreams of our dedicated APS Officers for weeks to come. Our officers are strong, used to seeing things that



would deeply trouble you and I... but what they witnessed in the house in Halton Hills stayed with them for many days.

As charges were laid against the owner of the house, Ruth Zaccarato under the OSPCA Act, it was incredibly busy back at the OMHS as an extra trailer was rented to house the kitties. Our Animal Care Team worked around the clock preparing cages with warm blankets and fresh food and clean water for these badly neglected cats. OMHS registered veterinary technicians worked with local veterinarians to assess the health of the cats and design a unique treatment path for each one. In a few cases, the cats were so very sick, with so many health challenges that the veterinarians felt that the

kindest, most humane thing we could do would be to end their pain and so, surrounded by staff who loved them for that brief time that they were part of our shelter family, local veterinarians helped them to pass.

For the majority of the cats the next few weeks and months were a time of veterinary surgeries, visits to the veterinary clinic, check and re-checks on their condition. During this time we were so grateful to local and national businesses who stepped up to donate important items like paper based cat litter; and the generous people of our community dropped by with cat beds and blankets, canned cat food and treats, making financial donations too, all to help these 107 cats have a

brighter tomorrow. In total, just over \$45,000 was raised to help the cats which was a huge help in caring for all these cats, many of whom are still part of our shelter family today.

The wheels of justice often turn much slower than we would like and it took close to a year for sentencing of Ruth Zaccarato for the pain and suffering she had caused to these wonderful cats. Ms. Zaccarrato pled guilty to two counts of "permit distress and fail to provide care necessary" and was sentenced to: a Lifetime Prohibition from owning, caring or living with any animal; two years probation; 30 hours of community service. Lifetime Prohibitions are rare in court and in the case of Ms. Zaccarato will ensure that she can never neglect an animal in the future.

THE HALTON HILL CATS TODAY... AND TOMORROW

Today, there are 59 of the original Halton Hills cats in our care. Of these 59 special cats, 15 are currently ready for the love of a “forever” home and we are actively promoting them in our shelter and on our website in hopes of finding the purrrfect families for them. Unfortunately, some of these cats are so timid and shy that even one year later, we are hoping to place 25 of them in special foster homes so that they can learn to love and trust...and to see what a loving home is really all about. The remaining 19 cats are still overcoming their health challenges and we are confident that each and every one will find a forever home once they are ready to be made available for adoption.

After reading this update, you may be wondering...how can I help? As a reader of The Retriever we know you care about homeless, abused and neglected animals...and these Halton Hills cats have never needed your help more than right now.

- **Fostering** – Perhaps your family would like to foster a pair of Halton Hills cats. We are looking for foster homes that would be able to take a pair of cats, they are more comfortable having a buddy. Foster families should have some cat knowledge and appreciation for working with timid cats. They will need patience! They need a room that can be closed off from the rest of the house (ideally a spare bedroom usually works). These cats would not thrive in a busy or loud environment so a home with children might not be the best option but it could depend on the home. Fostering periods are likely about a month or so



at a time. Some will be more and some less depending on the progress of the cat. We can usually work around things like being away for weekends. If you and your family would be interested in fostering these special kitties, please contact our Community Outreach and Education Manager, Heather White at heatherw@omhs.ca or by phone at 905-845-1551 ext 14.

- **Adopt** – If you have been considering adding a new cat to your family, please consider the Halton Hills cats. The adoptable cats are being housed in a separate trailer at the OMHS and our staff would be delighted to introduce you to these wonderful cats who truly deserve a “happily ever after”. As with all of our adoptable cats, they have been spayed or neutered, all vaccines up to date, come with a free bag of cat food and 6 weeks of free

pet insurance courtesy of our insurance partner, Pets Plus Us Pet Insurance. You’ll also get that “warm down to your toes” feeling that comes from changing the life of a badly neglected cat forever.

- **Donate** – We are so grateful to everyone who donated to help the Halton Hills cats when they were removed from their terrible living situation. The initial donations of over \$45,000 have been completely depleted caring for these special kitties and we currently have incurred an additional \$35,000 in caring for them. You may make a special gift to the Halton Hills cats by including the words “rescue cats” in the notes

section of our online giving via our website omhs.ca or by listing “rescue cats” in the note section of your cheque or on our donation form. 100% of your generous gift will be used to care for these amazingly resilient cats as they learn to trust and battle back from their health challenges.

It has been an incredible year, advocating for, caring for and finding forever homes for these wonderful cats and we will not rest until each one has the “happily ever after” they deserve. Please join us and help these cats in whatever way you can...they...and we, thank you!

METAL FOR MUTTS & MEOWS... YOUR FALL CLEAN UP BEST FRIEND!

Fall is a great time to do a clean up around your home or business. If what you are cleaning up is metal or electronics we hope you'll "paw" it forward and bring them to our METAL FOR MUTTS & MEOWS METAL RECYCLING BIN. Just drop it in the bin and the wonderful folks at Moffat Recycling will turn your metal and electronics into money for our homeless animals! Here's a partial list to give you some great ideas on what can go into the bin...but the possibilities are endless, if it's metal or electronic we'll take it and use it to make miracles happen for homeless and abused animals.

Lawn Mowers
 Gas Barbecues
 Charcoal Barbecues
 Snow blowers
 Metal garden furniture
 Metal beams
 Metal shelving
 Metal siding
 Metal ladders
 Metal cans
 Pots and pans
 Metal flower pots
 Computer terminals
 Computer Desktop
 Laptops
 Cell phones
 Electronics
 Batteries
 ...and so much more!

GINGER'S HAPPY TAIL!

We are always so delighted to hear back from our alumni families and never more so than with Ginger and her family. Ginger was adopted by Ed and Rose back in 2007 and every year they send us a wonderful update on sweet Ginger, new photos and their annual donation to help all the animals still waiting for a home like Ginger has. We recently received their yearly update and wanted to share it with everyone:

On September 4th, 2007 we took home from the Oakville Humane Society, a one year old Yorkshire terrier/Shih Tzu cross who was named Girlie. We renamed her Ginger and would like to provide an update and to provide a contribution so other Gingers may find their forever home.

In April at her yearly check up, our veterinarian pronounced Ginger to be in excellent health. He did recommend that both our dogs be placed on diet food - Ginger does like to eat! He also remarked on how little tartar was on Ginger's teeth. Rose does brush her teeth every night and Ginger actually looks forward to the flavour of the toothpaste!

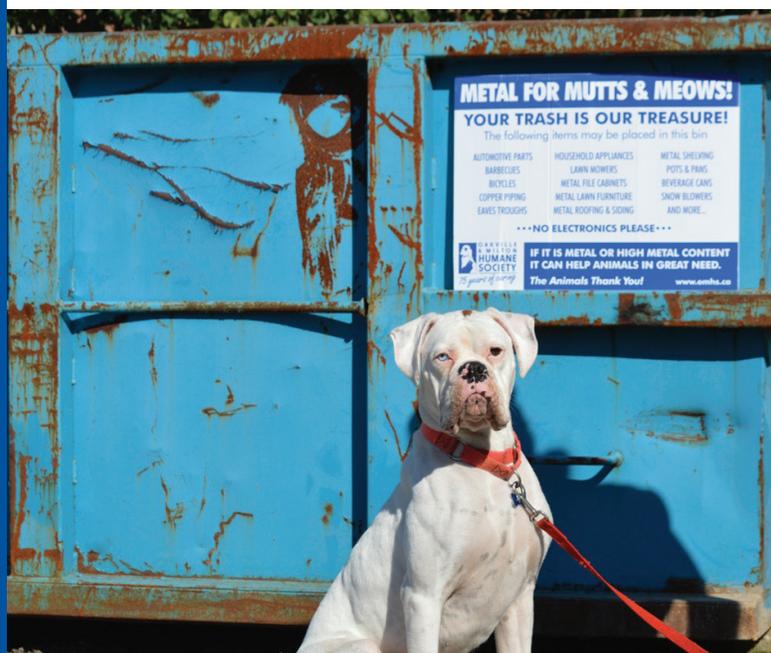
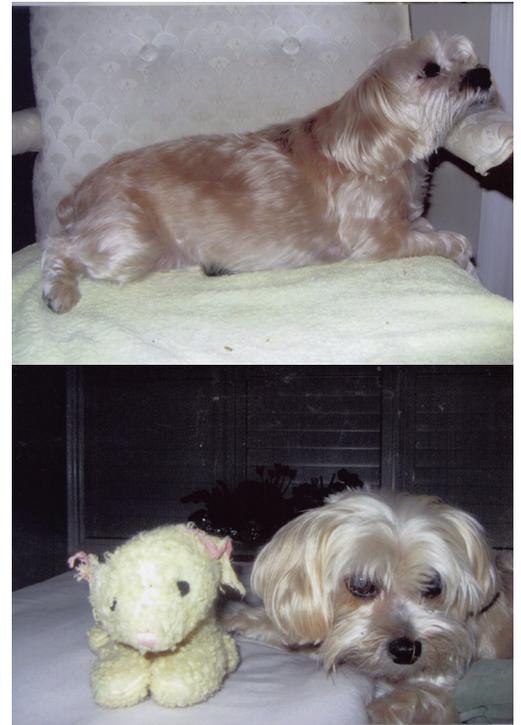
The pictures of Ginger this year have morning and night themes. In her morning mode Ginger is sitting at the front door in her guarding the house position. In the night theme, she must have a toy to sleep with so "Kitty" is dragged onto the bed. Kitty has been in the other photos we have sent as it was one of the original toys that Ginger's previous owner had left with her. We know by the numerous number of toys and the fact that the owner brought her to the OMHS to re-home her, that Ginger's owner was very caring.

We have enclosed our yearly contribution to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society. May you continue to assist other Gingers. We are truly grateful that owners such as Ginger's bring animals to your shelter so that they can find their "forever" homes. Ginger has

provided so much enjoyment to us and to our visitors. Ginger has become the family greeter and will run to visitors with one of her toys to greet them. Of course, she must sit with company with a look that says "Am I not a great dog?"

Yours truly,
 Ed and Rose

Ginger has the home we wish all our animals will have...one where she is loved and cared for, for the rest of her life. We hope you will consider joining Ed and Rose in making a gift to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society. There are so many animals that need our help and each gift is the gift of hope for these orphaned, homeless, abused and neglected animals.



News Regarding The Charlie Fund



The Charlie Fund of OMHS was created in 1985, with a Border Collie whose leg was too badly infected to save and had to be amputated. "Charlie" recuperated quickly, was adopted and lived a long and happy life.

This situation brought to light our need for a medical fund that provided emergency and specialized veterinary care to homeless animals. The Charlie Fund has cared for more than 1,000 animals over the years, and without this fund many might never have survived. It has been very successfully managed and fund raised during the last 20 years under the Chairmanship of Anne Smith.

Sadly, Anne has decided to "semi-retire" due to family obligations, effective June 1, 2014. For most of us, Anne is the Charlie Fund so this is going to be as hard for us to let go as it is for her.

Anne's long history with the shelter began in 1991, volunteering in the front office with dog licensing and dispatch. For many years, Anne was the assistant editor for the shelter newsletter "The Retriever". In 1993, Anne was elected to the Board of Directors where she held various positions, including President. Many of the policies and philosophies we have today are a result of her leadership.

In 1994, Anne found her passion and was appointed as Chair of the Charlie Fund. But her commitment to the shelter did not stop there; she continued to volunteer and assist in the Animal Care department.

Over the years, Anne has also successfully worked for numerous other shelter needs, including drives to raise more than two hundred thousand dollars for various needs: in 1999, a sprinkler system; in 2004, cages for cats and kitten condos; in 2005, renovations to existing Animal Health Rooms and a new exam room; in 2007, our two cat socializing rooms. Many projects were made possible because of the relationships Anne developed with major sponsors.

Although Anne calls it "Semi - Retired", we will never let her walk too far away from shelter activities and the animals she cares so much about.

In preparation for her semi-retirement, some fundamental changes to The Charlie Fund process have been put in place. Brenda Dushko is now very active in the fundraising for The Charlie Fund. But this was only the first step; the next was to find the right caring, dedicated individual who could take on both the management of the Fund and also the relationship with the dedicated major Charlie Fund donors. The search was a hard one as no one really could fill the shoes that Anne was leaving behind.

Anne was relentless in her search for the right person to take the reins and was lucky to find someone who cares for the animals and The Charlie Fund as much as she.

Corine Telawski has agreed to join the Charlie Fund Committee as Chair. Corine has lived in the Town of Oakville for eighteen years with her husband Michael (previous Board Vice Chair) and their two adopted cats Daytona and Winston. Corine is an IT Director with a local firm, and in her free time Corine enjoys working in her art studio with paints and pastels. Michael and Corine enjoy travelling together and are over half way towards their goal of visiting all provinces, territories and states in North America. The Charlie Fund is near and dear to them, as Daytona is a recipient of its benefits and without the Charlie Fund, Daytona would not be part of their family.

Please join me in welcoming Corine to the Charlie Fund Committee and thanking Anne for her dedication to the shelter and as Chair of the Charlie Fund for all these years, but most importantly thanking her for only Semi- Retiring!

To make a gift to the Charlie Fund in honour of Ann Smith's extraordinary commitment to the Fund and the injured and ill homeless animals it serves go to omhs.ca and click on the DONATE NOW button or you may send a donation to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society indicating The Charlie Fund in Honour of Anne Smith in the note portion of your cheque.



Anne



Corine

DIANA AIKIN...50 YEARS OF CARING

We are so deeply grateful to our volunteers...you are the unsung heroes of the Oakville & Milton Humane Society, carving out time from your busy lives to help the orphaned, homeless, abused and neglected animals in our care. Whether you walk dogs, socialize cats, help in the office, help at events, stuff envelopes, stuff goodie bags...any and all help that you give makes a difference every day.

Diana Aikin is our longest serving volunteer at the shelter and recently celebrated 50 years of volunteering and donating to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society. Diana was named Volunteer of the Year in Oakville for her incredible commitment to our cause...here's Diana's story:

Diana Aikin began volunteering for what was then The Oakville Humane Society after being asked to help with a tag sale by a friend. A life long animal lover, Diana readily agreed and so began 50 years of helping the Oakville & Milton Humane Society.

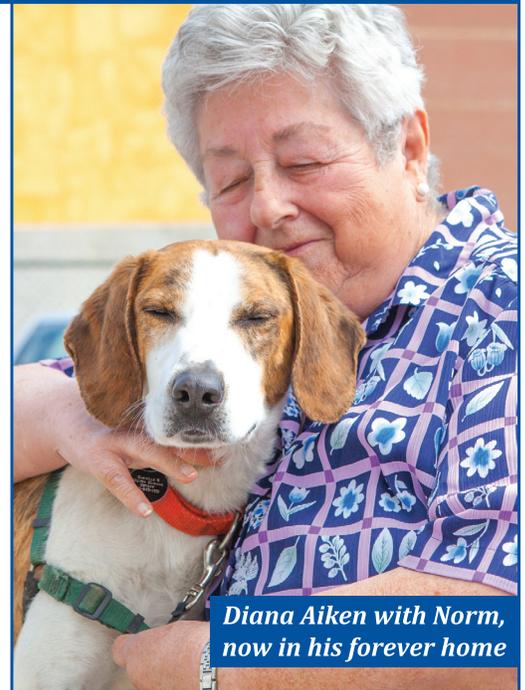
In the late 70's Diana spear headed the spay/neuter program of the Oakville Humane Society. Knowing that spay/neuter was the only way to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats in the community, Diana actively fundraised so that dogs and cats could be spayed or neutered before going to their new homes. That first year they were able to afford to do two spays and a neuter. Fast forward to today, when that same program now ensures that every dog, cat, puppy, kitten, rabbit and ferret is spayed or neutered before being made available for adoption!

During her time as a volunteer Diana has chaired the Ladies Auxiliary, sat on the OMHS Board of Directors and has been the Board Chair for our organization. She has volunteered as a foster parent, fostering shelter animals until they were ready for a "forever" home. Diana was part of our Bingo team, braving the smoke filled bingo halls in years past in order to raise important funds for the shelter.

Diana has always been a donor to the shelter as one of our first monthly donors as well as making individual gifts to help the shelter that has held her heart for over 50 years.

Always mindful of the hard work and dedication of the staff, each year on April 1st Diana hosts a pizza lunch for the staff in honor of her birthday and the incredible dedication and commitment of our staff.

Diana is happy to share that she has "failed" at fostering, adopting several of her fosters and most recently she has adopted a 15 year old cat from the shelter that she has named "Dusty" and who is the light of her life.



Diana Aikin with Norm, now in his forever home

Today, Diana continues her commitment to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society as an ex-officio on our Board of Directors where her experience, history and commitment is of great support to our current Board.

HO HO HO...THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

It looks like the leaves are turning, but before you know it will be time for our annual visit from Santa and our incredible Pets Pics with Santa Event! This year we will be doing three sessions and all three will be at Rens Pet Depot on Trafalgar Road! Easy to get to, easy to park and the folks at Rens Pet Depot are amazing shelter partners for the OMHS.

Our Pet Picks with Santa sessions are really special, local pet photographers donate their time and talent, our staff and volunteers make sure you and your pets have a terrific time and **100% of your photo package price goes to help pets not as lucky as yours this holiday season!**

So "save a date" and plan to bring your furry and feathered friends for a special photo with Santa and make a memory that will last a lifetime.

PET PICS with *Santa*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29th
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th
Noon to 4pm

REN'S PET DEPOT • 4002 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, ON

*All dogs must be on leash. *All cats & small animals must be in carriers
**The OMHS reserves the right to refuse any animal deemed dangerous



Tippy....A Long Distance “Happy Tail”



When little Tippy the wire haired fox terrier came into our care as the result of an investigation, we were not sure what her outcome would be. Most of the time she was a happy, carefree little terrier, but occasionally her hind legs would stiffen and she would find it difficult to walk or play. After many, tests and consultations it was determined that there was no diagnosed cause and that we hoped with lots of exercise in a forever home, her hind leg issues would resolve over time. We set about finding a special home for this special dog, one that would understand that while she might get a little “stuck” from time to time, her wonderful personality and sweet nature more than compensated for it.

That home came in the form of Mark and Caroline who took sweet Tippy into their hearts and their home and quickly fell in love with this sweet girl. We would hear from Mark and Caroline from time to time with photos and updates on how much Tippy’s hind leg issues had improved and how much they loved this sassy terrier!

Most recently we heard from Mark and Caroline and are happy to report that Tippy is now a world traveler with a new home with her family in Ireland...here’s what they had to share along with a photos of their new life in Ireland.

“Just thought you may like an update on Tippy (Winnie). Mark and I decided to relocate to Ireland as Mark’s visa for Canada was running out. We got Tippy an international microchip and went through a mile of paperwork and she successfully entered Ireland in July. She absolutely loves being a country dog. Now that we’ve given her drops she is free to roam through all the fields she wants. She is still getting stronger and her cheeky personality is a lot of fun. After more than a year with her we really feel that she is coming into her own. She is vocal about everything! She clearly tells us when she is hungry, wants out or even when she wants a walk!!”

Your donations make “Happy Tails” like Tippy’s possible. In many other shelters, a dog with a difficult to diagnose physical or behavioural problem would not make it to the adoption floor...becoming a sad euthanasia statistic. Your gift to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society is the gift of “yes” to dogs like Tippy who need a second chance at “happily ever after” no matter what or how long it takes.

Gatsby... A Happy Tail In Rhyme

Gatsby is the much loved cat of Ronald and Dixine, dividing his time and affection between their homes. Dixine is a poetry lover as well as a cat lover and has written this lovely tribute to the very handsome Gatsby.



This pussy cat is sure not small and, in fact, is very tall
He sports four snow white paws, although he lacks in all front claws
He always wears his formal dress completed by his pure white vest
Long white whiskers frame each cheek, the tip of his nose the colour rose
And underneath a white bow tie to compliment huge emerald eyes
A muscle walk becomes his gait, for dinner he is never late
His manners are impeccable, he never eats the entire bowl
He loves to strike unique positions, he has the gift of intuition
His handshake is a pure delight, he prowls the house throughout the night
His kisses are reserved for few, my fortune his he loves me too
His voice is definitely a bass, each morning he is in your face
His breakfast he is quick to taste
His wisdom is beyond his years, his frown reduces friends to tears
He loves to play, catch is his game and GATSBY is this kitty’s name

Bette Segee, A Lifetime of Loving Animals, A Legacy Gift to last a Lifetime



Bette Segee was born in Amherst Nova Scotia in 1926 and was an animal lover for her whole life.

From family pets to her first dog of her own, a lovely American Cocker Spaniel, to Jennifer another Cocker and later Bentley her adorable gray miniature poodle, Bette loved her dogs. In later years, Bette adopted cats...the last being her much adored Alice, a long haired tabby adopted from the Oakville & Milton Humane Society.

Bette was a big part of the Oakville interior design scene and her shop Peartrees of Oakville was a "must shop" for home owners in our town.

Bette's love of animals and Oakville meant that from time to time she was able to donate to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society...her small, meaningful gifts helping to change the lives of the orphaned, homeless, abused and neglected animals of our town.

Bette wanted to do more and so, knowing that the Oakville & Milton Humane Society would need help for years to come, left a legacy to the OMHS in her will. This single gift was extraordinary, far more than she would have been able to do during her lifetime. It was Bette's way of "paying it forward" for the love and companionship she had with Alice the tabby cat and the many dogs and cats that had shared her life. Bette knew that there were so many orphaned, homeless, abused and neglected animals that needed to be loved like her pets had been...needed the help of the Oakville & Milton Humane Society to find the "forever" home they so richly deserved.

We will always remember Bette for her sense of style, her sense of humour, her generous spirit and her abiding love of animals. **In making a legacy gift to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society she has truly changed the future for homeless animals in need.**

For information on how to make your own planned legacy gift to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society please contact Kim Millan, Executive Director for the OMHS at kimm@omhs.ca or by phone at 905-845-1551 ext 24. The animals...and we, thank you.

FRANK APA AND LEXUS OF OAKVILLE TAKE THE P.A.T.C.H. CHALLENGE TO NEW HEIGHTS

It is rare to find a local businessman as committed to changing the future as Mr. Frank Apa of Lexus of Oakville. Mr. Apa has contributed to the P.A.T.C.H. (People and Animals Together Create Harmony) Challenge of the OMHS. The program is named after his late dog Patch who accompanied him to work each day and who personified the meaning of the Challenge. The beloved Shih Tzu died in August 2002 and Apa dedicated that month to his beloved dog in an effort to help change the future of homeless, abused and neglected animals in the community. To date The P.A.T.C.H. Challenge has raised over \$115,000 for humane education programming...truly changing the future of animal welfare!

Mr. Frank Apa and Heather White, Manager of Community Outreach and Education





You can change the world for JUST \$18!

Did you know that YOU can make a lifesaving difference in the life of an orphaned, homeless, abused or neglected animal today as a Friend for Life Monthly donor to the Oakville & Milton Humane Society.

For as little as \$18 a month, you will be there as we rescue the tiny two day old kittens, giving them the important KMR and all the care they need to grow up to be healthy happy kittens.

You will be standing behind our officers as they investigate animal cruelty, abuse and neglect...helping to care for these poor, abused and neglected animals as our officers are their voice in court.

You will be the hope the tiny baby squirrel needs as our specially trained veterinary technicians assess her, giving her immediate, lifesaving treatment...and then you'll be in the passenger seat as our volunteer wildlife drivers take the little squirrel to a wildlife rehab centre where she'll grow up and later be released.

You will be the time each and every animal in our care needs to find their own "happily ever after" no matter what...or how long it takes..

Without Friends for Life monthly donors like YOU, none of these things would be possible. Our Friends for Life give consistent life saving support we can count on each month... for all the animals that so badly need our help!

Become a Friend for Life Monthly donor today... and you'll start making miracles happen...today!



Charitable #11906 4350 RR0001 445 Cornwall Road, Oakville, ON Canada L6J 7S8 905-845-1551 www.omhs.ca

I want to help the animals every month!

I would like to make a monthly donation of: \$18 \$25 \$30 I prefer to give _____

Option A: Chequing Account. Please deduct my monthly gift on the 1st of the month.
Enclosed is a void cheque for processing

Option B: Credit Card. Please deduct my monthly gift on the 1st of the month.

Card No. _____ exp. _____ / _____

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ P/C _____ Phone _____

Email _____



THE ANIMALS THANK YOU!