

News

COVID-19: Ensuring Our Animals Are Protected



In this issue of Fetch we want you to know we are thinking about you during these unprecedented times. Given the situation, it's natural for you to feel anxious, isolated and concerned about yourself and your pets. That's why I want you to know you can count on the Oakville & Milton Humane Society (OMHS) to continue to provide services where we can, including making sure you have the information and resources to help ensure the safety and health for you, your family, and your beloved pets.

The decision reaffirmed last week by the Province to declare animal shelters an essential service, including OMHS, is good news for everyone who wants animals to have the best possible care during this crisis. OMHS was active in a coordinated letter writing campaign to our Provincial government involving Humane Canada, the Ontario SPCA and animal shelters across the province, all with a desire to make animal shelters an essential service. This has been just one aspect of a larger dialogue amongst key stakeholders whereby OMHS continues to be an active participant fighting for a strong animal welfare system.

To protect the health and safety of the public and our animals, we have decided to remain closed to the public until at least May 4th, including our Barkin' Bin thrift store. While our doors are temporarily closed, I want to assure you that our dedicated staff and volunteers are working **tirelessly** to continue providing critical medical support, food, enrichment, and loving care to each and every one of our dogs, cats and small animals in our care. This includes our Animal Protection team, responding to emergency calls 24/7 for sick and injured wildlife in Oakville and Milton, and rescuing stray animals in Oakville. We continue to take in surrendered pets for emergencies only (through scheduled appointments) and are reuniting lost pets with their families.

All this would not be possible without our staff and volunteers who have displayed unwavering commitment to the well-being of our animals under tremendously challenging times.

This pandemic will undoubtedly leave an enduring mark on all of us, but it's also proving to be an opportunity for the community to come together for our common love of animals.

For example, we have had a wonderful response from the community willing to take in foster animals. We have been on-boarding many new foster homes over the last two weeks. Most of our animals are now in foster care and we will still continue to place those remaining and those that may come to us during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have a spare room in your house and feel you could offer that space to a needy cat, we would love to hear from you. We still have a need for more [foster homes](#) for cats.

It's been especially inspiring to witness so many friends of the shelter who have continued to go above and beyond to demonstrate their support for our shelter. I am grateful, because more than ever, we need your continued support.

I encourage you to explore below the various ways you can make [areal difference](#) today in the lives of the animals we care for at the shelter.

As the COVID-19 situation remains fluid, we will continue to evaluate our operations and share regular updates with you. In the meantime, take care of your pets, yourself and your family.

Sincerely,

Rick Perciante
Executive Director
Oakville & Milton Humane Society





2021 Calendar Photo Contest

You asked, we delivered! The Calendar Pet Photo Contest is back for another year. The contest begins April 6th. Make your pet a star.

[Sign up here](#)



Your Donations will be Doubled

Become a monthly donor by April 15th and your 2020 donations will be matched. No matter the size of your monthly gift, it will make a life-saving difference. [Learn more](#)

Alumni Update

From Puppy to Guardian, Sunny Brightens Lives



For our pawstive post of the month we have a wonderful alumni update to share from Andrea and Alex who adopted a pup (Venus) from our shelter just over a year ago. Since the puppy was so bright and happy they renamed her Sunny!

Andrea and Alex report that Sunny has grown from a sweet, rambunctious young

pup into a "strong, smart, beautiful, friendly, and affectionate young dog." Sunny proved she is a real fighter by overcoming Parvo while at OMHS. Parvo is a highly contagious virus that often causes serious infectious gastrointestinal illness in puppies and young dogs.

She has already accomplished much in the past year, including

passing a puppy obedience class and puppy masters class with flying colours! She loves to go on hikes, share and play with all of her toys, socialize with other dogs and people, and cuddle up with her family.

Recently, Sunny has become a big sister to Harper, Andrea and Alex's new baby girl, who she loves! She checks on Harper after coming in from her walks, cuddles up with Andrea and Alex when they hold the baby, and even comforts her when she cries.

"We are so thankful that OMHS helped bring this goofy, loveable pup into our lives and our family. Thank you so much," says Andrea in her update to us. Thank you Andrea and Alex for sharing your alumni story with us!



Events



Mission: Pawsible Going Virtual!

Although COVID-19 has us social-distancing, it won't stop us from our mission to connect our communities of Oakville and Milton in a fun and educational way! Keep an eye out on our social media channels to learn about some new and different ways to get involved in supporting the shelter. Coming soon, your chance to experience Mission: Pawsible - virtually!

Wildlife in the Spring

Spring Tips

Spring is the time of year when many wildlife species begin to have their babies. Attics, chimneys and sheds are common wildlife den sites. Wild animals can cause plenty of damage and sleepless nights, but there are humane methods and techniques available to safely remove wildlife from your home. Trust only qualified professionals to protect your home from wildlife this spring.

[Learn more](#)



Coping with COVID-19

COVID-19: What You Need to Know to Protect Your Pets



As communities respond to COVID-19 it is important to have plans for your pets as well as yourself. To help keep families together, OMHS encourages you to include your pets in the plans you make in response to this emerging situation.

This includes proactively identifying a caretaker who could help with pet care in the event that you no longer

can. If an emergency caregiver's assistance is needed, make it easier for them by having all of your pets' information in one place.

At this time there is no evidence to support that our companion animals, particularly dogs and cats, can develop the disease or transmit the disease to humans or other animals. The best place for people and their pets is at home, together. Your veterinary office will have the most up to date information about pet health. Here are some [additional steps](#) you can take to protect the health of your pets.

Update on Our Current Services and Temporary Cancellations

While our shelter is temporarily closed to the public in response to

COVID-19 there are still a number of services you can access and ways you can help.

Services continuing:

(Please call us regarding the continued services below at 905-845-1551)

- Donations over the phone or online
- Reuniting pets with owners
- Accepting stray animals
- Owner emergency surrenders (appointment only)
- Sick/injured domestic and wildlife calls
- By-law investigations
- Assisting the police
- Families in Transition program



Services temporarily cancelled:

- In-kind donations (Wish List items). For the safety of our staff we can't accept items at this time. Please visit our **Wishlist** and Facebook page for updates on how you can support the shelter. Thank you for your understanding.
- In-person donations (**donations** can still be made online)
- Children's programs
- Public visits/tours
- In-person licensing (licenses can be purchased online or over the phone)
- Adoptions
- Barkin' Bin thrift store
- Cremation services

Oakville Parks, Dog Parks, Remain Closed



The Town of Oakville has joined the Province of Ontario and Halton Region in declaring a state of emergency to support Public Health officials' efforts to "flatten the curve" and slow the spread of COVID-19.

The town is following the advice and direction provided by the provincial and regional Medical Officers of Health and has enacted its emergency planning operations including closing facilities and focusing efforts on delivering essential and

critical services.

The Town reminds residents that they can now be fined \$750 or more for congregating in parks and other public areas if they do not maintain a safe physical distance of at least two metres apart.

Parks, courts, dog parks and public washrooms are now closed. Signs are being installed to remind users to practice social distancing when outside. Please do not use park equipment and play structures as they are not sanitized. Trails remain open. Practice social distancing when on trails.

Click [here](#) for updates on the Town of Oakville's COVID-19 response and [here](#) for Milton's. While Oakville's parks are temporarily closed, there are still many [games and activities](#) you can enjoy with your dog that don't require a lot of space.

[Lost a Pet?](#)

[Found a Pet?](#)

[Dog Licenses](#)

[Pet ID Kit](#)



Oakville & Milton Humane Society

