



the
**PAW
PRESS**
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HOPE. CARE. COMPASSION.



GUELPH HUMANE SOCIETY NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Guelph Humane Society's (GHS) Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Lisa Veit as its executive director. Veit has served as acting executive director since Adrienne McBride's departure in March 2022.

"Lisa brings extensive experience and expertise to this leadership position," says Meaghan Middleton, GHS board chair. "Her knowledge in animal sheltering and welfare is vital to our growth as we build on our past successes and enter this new era in GHS's strategic development. The board is thrilled to have her at the helm."

Veit has dedicated her career to advancing animal care and welfare.

Since joining GHS as associate director in 2015 Veit has championed significant program development, including: strengthening the GHS Cares program to preserve the human-animal bond during challenging times; advancing the organization's nationally recognized wildlife program, one of the most innovative programs of its kind in Canada; and playing a central role in capacity planning to reimage and relocate GHS to its new location at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd.

Prior to GHS, Veit held leadership roles as a member of the Ontario Veterinary College Health Sciences Centre's management team and as Ontario SPCA's director, animal care and wildlife services. She is a past board member of the Association of Animal Shelter Administrators of Ontario and served on Humane Canada's Accreditation/National Standards Advisory Committee.

"This is a very exciting time for GHS as we build on our 129-year history of delivering critical services and original programs that meet the needs of the people and animals living in Guelph and Wellington County," says Veit. "I'm passionate about the essential role animals play in our community and proud of our team's work to advance animal welfare, promote compassion and enhance the human-animal bond."

Veit holds a BSc in wildlife biology from the University of Guelph and a MSc in biology from Queen's University. She lives in Guelph with her family and adopted pets—two dogs, two cats and a guinea pig. 🐾

IN PHOTO: LISA VEIT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GUELPH HUMANE SOCIETY WITH HER ADOPTED GUINEA PIG, DAISY.(ABOVE), TOM (COVER), JACQUELINE ON HER ADOPTION DAY (RIGHT).



FINDING FUREVER HOMES, FASTER

The early fall can be challenging for many animal shelters.

"Historically this is a slow adoption period for the Guelph Humane Society (GHS)," says Lisa Veit, GHS's executive director. "For some it may not be an ideal time to welcome a new family member, especially when faced with competing priorities such as the chance to squeeze in a last summer vacation or getting kids ready for the school year."

The threat of low seasonal adoption rates, combined with the trend in animal intakes rising to pre-pandemic levels, is creating financial and capacity pressures for many animal shelters. Shortages in veterinary care are compounding the issue, as any delay in access to care results in delays in adoption readiness.

"If the adoption of one animal takes a few extra days the costs may seem incremental," says Veit. "Multiply those costs over 45 days for several animals and the additional expenses can add up quickly."

At the end of August, GHS was nearing capacity with approximately 180 animals in its care—60 of which were ready for adoption.

"Donations to GHS's greatest need are of tremendous importance to us," says Veit. "Funds cover much more than providing a safe place for vulnerable animals. They also help pay for necessities such as food, specialty diets, medications, behaviour training, and basic and advanced medical procedures."

On September 16 and 17 the GHS held a successful in-person 'Study Buddy' adoption event which resulted in **30 animals finding their happy tail** including 19 cats, four dogs, three rabbits, three guinea pigs and one canary.

"We are grateful to community members that took part in our event," says Veit. "We still have many animals in our care. Your support through adoptions and donations is greatly appreciated by our entire team." 🐾



Roger Matz has been a dog owner most of his adult life. It was an introduction to a purebred West Highland terrier more than 40 years ago that evolved into a passion to give back through adoption.

"I like older dogs... underdogs (no pun intended) because no one else seems to want them," says Roger. "I came to realize that there are so many dogs in need and while I can't help them all, I can provide a good home to some." Adding, there is no substitute for the personal reward in doing so.

When he spotted Aspen's profile on the Guelph Humane Society's (GHS) website Roger immediately sent in an inquiry. GHS's intake and behaviour coordinator, Melissa Stolz, responded within hours.

Roger considered three different dogs from three different agencies, but he knew Aspen was special.

"I prefer a shepherd mix of her size with that hint of a silver muzzle," Roger shares. "She has

a beautiful trusting face and eyes. After just three weeks it seems like she has been with me forever."

For Roger, giving back goes beyond providing a new home for animals, like Aspen. "Through my experience as a dog owner I understand the costs associated with care," Roger says. "Shelter adoption fees are low and if a dog needs extra medical care and attention those fees don't begin to cover it."

It was this generous thinking that inspired Roger to make a \$1,000 donation to cover Aspen's medical and dental expenses while in GHS's care. "I am fortunate to be in a position to help," he adds.


At age 71 Rogers says Aspen will be his last dog. "I see the future when I am 80 and she is 14 and we will mosey down the street at the same slow pace," he says. "If I had a checklist of all things I ever wanted, in all of the dogs I have ever had, she fills them all — she is just perfect." 🐾

CRITTER CAMP

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANIMAL CAREGIVERS

- GHS **Critter Camps** run throughout the summer and offer weeklong opportunities for students, grade one to eight, to learn about the key role animals play in our community. Curriculum includes proper animal care and responsible pet ownership, animal behaviour and socialization, how to interact with wildlife, an introduction to insects and the importance of our pollinator friend, the bee. GHS Summer Critter Camp by the numbers:

45 Total # of GHS Critter Camp curriculum hours that expose kids to proper pet care and responsible pet ownership




156 # of Guelph/Wellington kids that took part in GHS Critter Camp


315 Total # of hours of educational animal-themed program hours of GHS Critter Camp



35 Approximate # of critters each camper learned about during GHS Critter Camp



780 Total # hours of individual experiences to interact with animals across the entire program



2022 GHS Summer Critter Camp was made possible in part with the support of the Guelph Community Foundation and Pollination Guelph.

ONE 'ASPEN'ERATIONAL DOG

IN PHOTO: GUELPH HUMANE ALUMNI, ASPEN.



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CREATING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY FOR PETS AND PEOPLE

Access to veterinary care is one of the leading reasons pets are surrendered to animal shelters.

To help keep more pets and people together the Guelph Humane Society (GHS) launched a **no-cost spay/neuter program** this past spring. This GHS Cares program, made possible with a \$125,000 donation from PetSmart Charities of Canada™, is delivered in partnership with the Ontario Veterinary College's Kim and Stu Lang Community Healthcare Partnership Program.

The program breaks down financial and geographical barriers to basic preventive veterinary services—assisting Guelph/Wellington's most vulnerable community members in providing care for the pets they love.

"The bond between people and animals is one that all members of our community should be able to access," says Katherine Leonard, GHS's manager

"I am a low income, self-employed 60-year young senior. I am so very lucky to have access to this spay/neuter clinic and so is my dog. Without this my sweet Maggie Moon would not have been spayed in her young years," says Cynthia, Maggie Moon's mom.

of community programs and outreach. "GHS is committed to building a community that prioritizes healthy animals and equitable access to animal care."

To qualify, clients need to meet criteria that includes economic hardship or housing insecurity.

To date, the partnership has improved access to care for 107 pet owners and performed 146 surgical procedures for pets in our community. The number of pets served is expected to reach 300 by spring 2023.

"GHS Cares programs are made possible through grants and donor support," says Leonard. "Our goal is to continue to build partnerships with likeminded individuals, businesses and organizations to ensure the sustainable delivery of innovative programs that protect pets and contribute to creating a healthy Guelph/Wellington community."♥

IN PHOTO: PATIENT, GRANITE WITH VET STUDENT, RILEY.

GHS NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

KIBBLES & BITS

GHS launches Senior Support program

Emergency health situations can be traumatizing. Not knowing how a pet will be cared for when owners are in hospital can add to the stress. This is why the **GHS Senior Support program** was created. The program provides free boarding services for seniors in need of longer hospital stays. Senior Support also assists with rehoming a pet should a senior's health and living situation no longer support reunification. This GHS Cares program is made possible through a grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada™. Learn more at guelphhumane.ca.

Guelph Police recognize GHS with media award

GHS and Roger's TV received a 2022 media award for the Guelph Police K9 Unit segment which originally aired as part of the GHS's 2021 "There's No Place Like Home" Variety Show. The award honours initiatives that help make a difference in the community, promote positivity and humanize members of our local police unit.

GHS partners with Will Power campaign

GHS has partnered with Will Power, a national movement inspiring Canadians to think differently about charitable giving and support the causes they care about through a gift in their Wills. Willpower.ca has resources to show you how you can turn your Will into a powerful tool for change. Please reach out to give@guelphhumane.ca with any questions.



FOR THE LOVE OF CATS

Bob Reinholt baked good cookies and never met a cat that he didn't want to cuddle. Bob wrote these words that will be inscribed on a cat kennel named in honour of his memory through the **Guelph Humane Society's (GHS) Happy Tails Begin Here Kennel Adoption Program**.

Bob was a long-time lover of cats. He enjoyed taking pictures of them when he and his wife Judy would go on vacation. "Our home is full of reminders of our travels," says Judy. "There are photos of cats met throughout Europe, Asia and Central America."

Bob started volunteering at GHS when their son, James, came home from school one day needing to find a program that would meet the requirements of his community hours.

"I am not sure whose idea it was to begin with," says Judy. "But James was too young to volunteer on his own, so Bob volunteered with him on the weekends."

Once retired, he volunteered even more. "We are lucky we only have two cats, Jasper and Zoey, both from GHS," says Judy. "Volunteering at the Humane Society, I am sure he would have adopted more."

Bob's love and dedication to cats remained in his last wishes. Sadly, he passed away from cancer at age 73 this past September. The kennel named in his honour reminds us daily of his caring nature and compassion for animals.♥

If you have someone whose memory you wish to honour for their love of animals, please email: give@guelphhumane.ca.

IN PHOTO: BOB PETTING CATS IN ITALY.



BECOME A GHS SUPER PAWS MEMBER

& help us provide care
for **MORE** animals



\$25/MONTH = A WEEK'S
WORTH OF FOOD &
SUPPLIES FOR 2 CATS



\$100/MONTH = A WEEK'S
WORTH OF FOOD &
SUPPLIES FOR 4 DOGS

COMING EVENTS

Visit guelphhumane.ca for details.

November 7, 2022

Social Arts Paint Night

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Join us for a holiday Social Arts Paint Night and learn to paint a Snowy Owl. Come for a night of fun and meet some of the animals in our care.

November 25 & 26, 2022

Home for the Holidays Adoption Event

November 25: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

November 26: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Looking to add a new member to your family this holiday season? Join us for GHS's in-person adoption event. Registration opens soon. Drop-ins welcome.

December 3, 2022

GHS Holiday Open House

From 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Happy Holidays from GHS. Come celebrate the holidays with fun activities and see our new facility.

January 25, 2023

An Evening with Chickens

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Dr. Erin Preiss, Hockley Valley Mobile Veterinary Services and Samantha Westphal, Animal Care Manager, GHS share expertise on chicken health, nutrition and everything you need to know about building a backyard coop.

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