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The leaves are pretty much off the trees and all of our hills have gone from green to orange/yellow/red to grey. There's still warmth in the sun, but also those nasty November rainfalls that are cold and hard-hitting. Stay warm, and thank you for showing an interest in Home Again!



Quilt Raffle Winner

Drum roll please!! Congratulations to the winner of our first prize quilt, Deb Fox!! We were thrilled to award the quilt to our friend at Mystickal Paths New Age Shop, and hope she enjoys its warmth and beauty for years to come.

Stay tuned for our next raffle!! We're excited to present it to you soon!!

Hunter's Corner and the Phenomenon of Stress Stacking



Look at that face!! Blissfully asleep, happy and relaxed. However as frequent readers of this column know, Hunter's integration into our home was not the simplest.

Hunter came from a reserve in Northern Manitoba, where he had been (we think) running with a pack of dogs. He had nicks and cuts all over his body, a horrific ear infection and was overall in rough shape. He was also distrustful of people, particularly men. Because of some unique behaviours he exhibited, we're pretty sure he was abused.

The dog we had before Hunter was a bit of a dream. We had Rosie since puppydom, and she loved everyone, humans and other dogs, stayed within the perimeter of wherever we were after scoping it out, and was just a happy, trusting and relaxed dog. Naively, I was expecting Hunter to be the same.

The first night, Hunter ran away. Not far, but away. Over the first few months he ran a couple more times, bit my husband, and was not particularly happy. Although we didn't know at the time, he also had a case of heartworm. At one point I was crying, thinking we couldn't keep this dog if he continued these behaviours. But we had made a commitment to him, and worked together to make him the happy dog he is now.

At the time, we didn't know anything about a situation called stress stacking. Stress stacking is when a dog experiences many separate stressful situations that happen one after another without giving the dog an opportunity to calm down in between. As a result, a dog becomes overwhelmed and often acts out in a big way (lunging, growling, even biting) to a small stressor. Essentially, their stress level has built up to a point when they react in a negative manner.

We instinctively worked to remove Hunter's stressors. We didn't try to make him meet the dogs of the neighbourhood. I changed the time of his walks so that we didn't encounter as many other dogs. We took down the crate that came with him; it was never a sanctuary, only a reminder of moving from one place to another. And as much as possible, we led with encouragement so that he knew that this was now home, we had his back, and he wasn't going anywhere else.

The day he first played with a toy, almost a year after he rescued us, I cried again. But this time they were happy tears.

When you add a new dog to your family, give him time. Let him decompress and relax in his new environment. Don't expect too much from him too soon. And let him know that you're his friend, his advocate, his human.

As an aside, people stress stack as well. Your coffee burns your tongue, you're out of bread so no toast, your shoelace breaks, you're having difficulties at work, your car is problematic and all of the sudden you're experiencing stress stacking. Breathe, resolve, move forward.

Dogs and Puppies for Adoption

Rather than trying to give each dog's individual story in this newsletter, we are displaying those who are available right now. If one of them looks like someone you'd like to add to your family, please go to www.homeagainbancroft.ca for more detailed information.



Frank



Bella



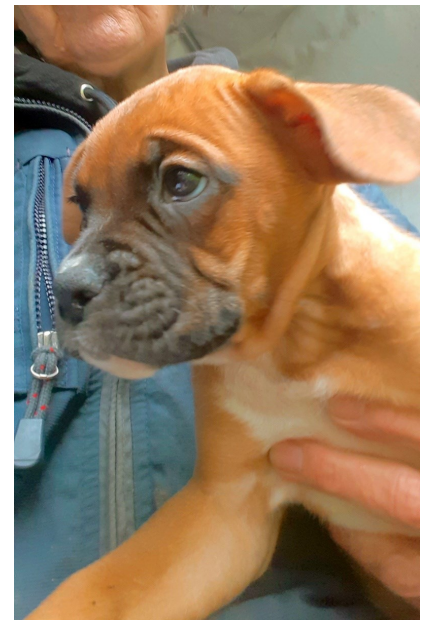
Dude



Rocky



Fudge



Lola



Dudley



Crystal

More Puppies!!



Rocky



Daisy



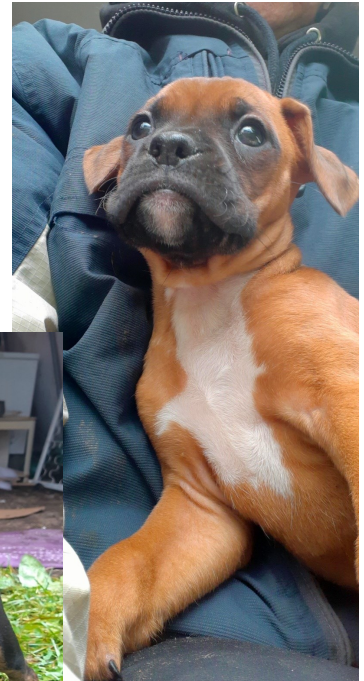
Oreo



Delilah



Diesel



Carmelle

Kittens Available for Adoption

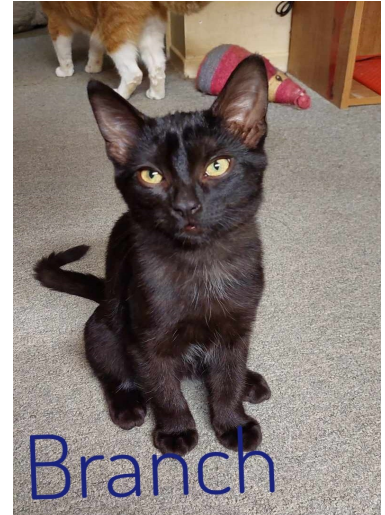
Please see www.homeagainbancroft.ca for more detailed descriptions and information!



Raven



Marley



Branch



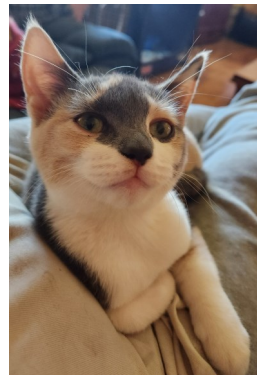
Canyon



Blossom

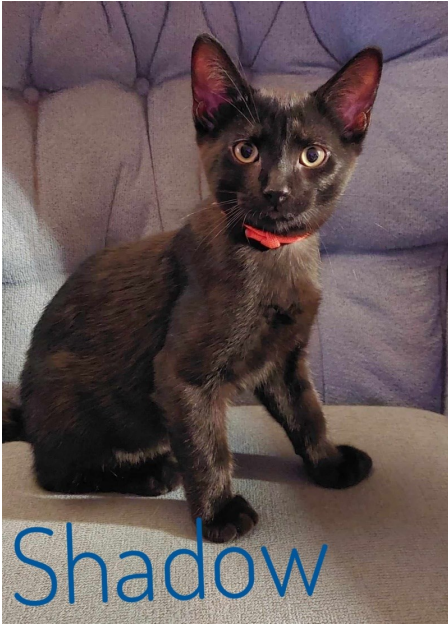


Charley



Zoey

More Kittens!!



Shadow



Tuxs



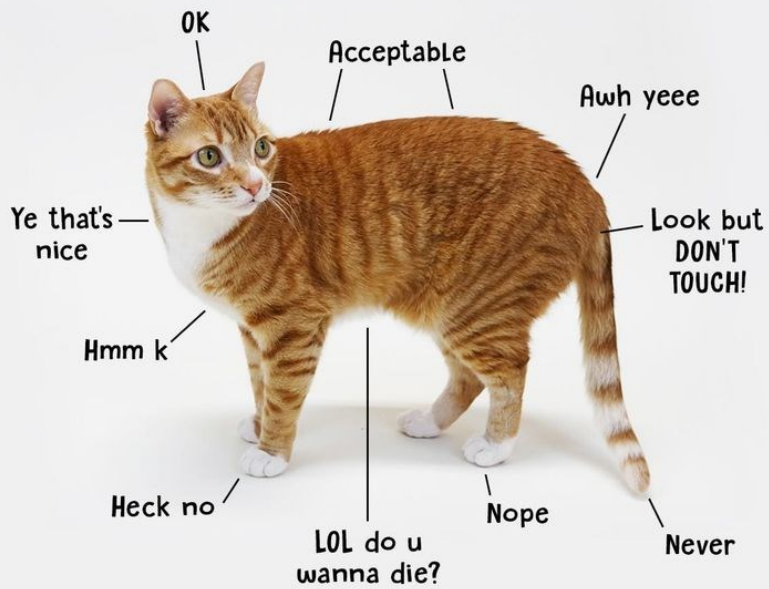
Benji



Stripie

Cat Petting Guide

coleandmarmalade.com



Stages of puppy development

