

# Home Again Animal Rescue Newsletter



January 2025

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Happy New Year!! Here at Home Again we have been exceptionally busy finding new forever homes for the community's rescued dogs and cats. We couldn't do this important work without your support, so thank you for reading this newsletter! Watch our Facebook page for the announcement of our Give Back raffle winners, and thanks to each of you who purchased a ticket.

Thank you again to those who donated funds to Home Again last year. Just a reminder that we rely completely upon donations and fund-raisers—Home Again receives no government funding. Everyone assisting with fostering, and management, and adoption of our rescue animals is a volunteer taking time out of their lives to help cats and dogs find happiness in forever homes! Your donations help us in this mission and mandate.



## Happy Tales — A Special Home Again Newsletter

In this edition of the Home Again Newsletter, we are going to highlight the stories of a number of adoptions. Each one is unique, and we're so thrilled to have a small part in matching the right dog or cat to the right family!

Remember that the cats are inscrutable and paparazzi-shy. You'll read a number of tales about dogs and their new families, but the cats would prefer not to broadcast their new happiness!!

If these stories inspire you to adopt a new family member, please go to our website at [homeagainbancroft.ca](http://homeagainbancroft.ca). On our site you can see all of the cats and dogs who are currently up for adoption. We are constantly adding new potential family members, so check back regularly to see if your dream dog or cat has been posted!



## Happy Tales—Adoption Stories!



### Rosa (Laurie Bond)

Our family adopted Rosa on Thanksgiving weekend! She only walks on 3 legs so I assumed when she got off her leash that I could catch her... no I couldn't, she ran like a rabbit. I was at the cottage surrounded by woods and thought for sure I would never see her again.

Put her picture and location on Facebook and a couple of hours later I got a text that a cottager found her!

We just love her! She is the sweetest dog!

## Happy Tales—Adoption Stories

Have you ever been to Saturday at Pet Valu? Chances are you've met this beautiful woman Mary Freeman who works tirelessly to make sure cats and kittens are adopted. Here is her story:



### Buddy and Trixie (Mary Freeman)

Home Again's Buddy (on the right) rescued me. I was in my 13th month of mourning my dog when I got Buddy to foster. Snapped right out of that funk! Buddy was adopted by a partially blind lady who used a motorized chair and he became her service dog, welcome at the beach and in restaurants.

I went on to foster 25 dogs and puppies, and adopted number 17, Trixie (seen with Mary on the left).

She became the ambassador to other foster dogs and puppies, telling them, "I go through the door first. Outside is where we pee." After 10 years together, she is the best dog to ever come in this house. Happy new year Home Again Alumni.



### Louie (Carol Simmons)

Louie came to live with me March 2 of this year. He is an older dog, but there are days he still acts like a pup. He loves his twice a day walk around our neighbourhood, greeting the neighbours and their dogs.

There was some concern about my 18 yr old cat and how the interaction would go when Louie arrived. Before Home Again Rescue's representative left that Saturday, Louie and Squirt were sleeping together.

Things haven't changed as you can see from the picture attached.

Thanks for Louie.

## Happy Tales — Adoption Stories



### **Sunny and Hunter (Anessa Dunn)**

Sunny is one of the three that were found on Quarry Road in Bancroft. I was one of the lucky ones who secured them. One was already caught and taken into the pound and now is still up for adoption through Home Again!

Sunny and Shadow stayed in my garage while they decompressed and we were able to fall in love with them. Sunny was the one that won our family over with his perfect brown eyes.

He is the sweetest soul. He has some puppy in him. He came with all the demands so that part was easy peasy! He absolutely loves his crate and we often find him sleeping in it with the door open during the day! He is perfect with my young boys and I couldn't have asked for a better pup!!

But we can't forget about our Hunter boy. Hunter was also a foster fail and we fell in love with him the moment we met him. We brought him home around this time last year and ever since he has kept us on our toes with his silliness and suborn personality.

He loves to run laps around the yard with our two other dogs, and really likes to push my buttons then quickly does something adorable and I forget about all that!

He loves to snuggle at the end of the day after playing all day long. He is protective of his people and very loyal.

This will be his 2nd Christmas with us and we can't wait to spoil him!

I can't thank Home Again enough for taking on these three dogs on Quarry Road. You are all so amazing and all those animals are lucky to have such an amazing organization in Bancroft!

Again, thank you so much for all the support and kindness with our pups!!



## Happy Tales — Adoption Stories



### **Cleo (Dannielle Switzer)**

Over a period of about five years, Dannielle and her family have fostered approximately 100 dogs and puppies!! She is an important part of Home Again.

### **Cleo's Happy Ending through Home Again!**

Cleo was a foster that came through as just a 13 week old pup, along with her sister. Shepherds are my favorite breed and it was my dream to someday have one of my own when the time was right. When Cleo arrived we had unfortunately just lost two of our dear seniors also found through Home Again. My heart was hurting and I didn't know if it was time. The moment she got an inquiry though I knew then I was the only one for her.

So after 5 years of fostering I had a fail! Cleo is now just shy of a year and is working hard to become a good Home Again ambassador! She loves going places and getting out on the town. Even people that are sometimes a bit nervous of her breed end up falling in love with her lazy ear and quirky ways!



Thank you Home Again for helping me find my soul pup!

Editor's aside: Cleo is my Hunter's girlfriend!! Hunter goes for a sleepover occasionally, and the minute he realizes that's where he's going he starts whining and wagging his tail. They play non-stop, and when he gets home he's a) annoyed that he's no longer with his bestie and therefore sulky and ignores me and b) exhausted!



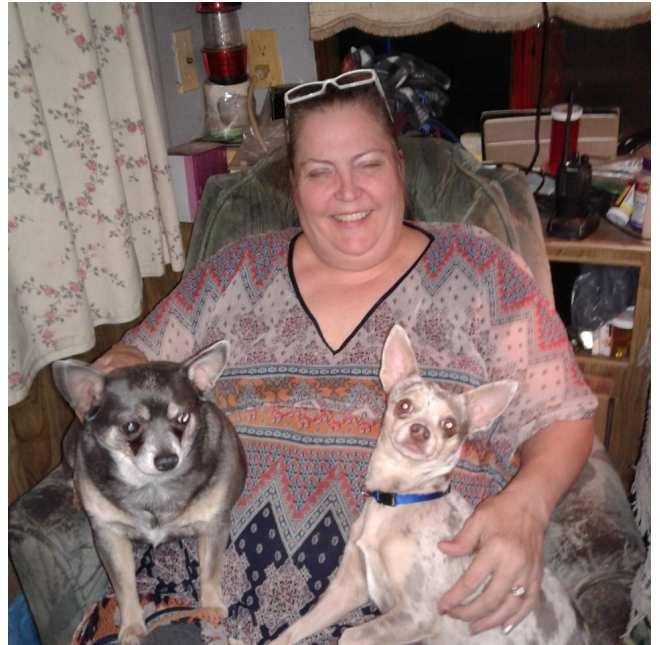
### **Oliver and Fergus (Cliff Bittman)**

Oliver is a gentle, sweet dog who loves his "pony" - aka Fergus.

Fergus is energetic and loves to be outdoors. He even likes to clean up after himself!



## Happy Tales — Adoption Stories



### **Poncho and Roxy (Shaunia Loughran and Mike Lemko)**

We first fostered our now dog Poncho in 2020. We chose to adopt him. Our dog Ebony passed away in March 2023 and we had been discussing adopting another dog from Home Again and we feel very fortunate that we were able to do.

Home Again told us there were several chihuahuas that were looking for a forever home. This got our attention as that was exactly the breed of dog we were looking for. Poncho is the reason we were leaning towards getting another chihuahua.

We were able to meet Roxanne (Roxy) at her foster home. We fell in love with her after our first meeting. I even knew that she took to me because after I took her off my lap it wasn't long before she jumped back up! We left without Roxy that day, but it was with the knowledge that she would be coming home with us a week later. After being spayed, and being given some healing time, she was going to be a member of our family!

On December 15th we signed the papers to make Roxy an official member of our family! So far its been a wonderful week of getting to know Roxy and her us. Poncho is starting to accept Roxy as an addition to our family.

We're so grateful to Home Again, for all that they do and for allowing us to adopt two loveable fur babies!

## Happy Tales — Adoption Stories



**Brandy. Born September 27, 2009. Crossed the Rainbow Bridge on March 31, 2022.**

**(Janice Hawkins)**



I was asked if I would foster one of three Jack Russell Terriers. I had just lost three fur babies in a row (age related). I learned that it's never a good idea to have so many fur babies in and around the same age. I said yes, even though fostering a JRT was not something my sister wanted to do. My rescue JRT Freckles, who I loved dearly, passed on September 9, 2010. She was a very busy little dog.

I digress. We picked Brandy up at the Pet Valu in Bancroft. She was a shadow. There was no light left in her eyes. It was clear she had given up. She was 17 months old.. Her stomach was shaved. I'm guessing they were hoping for a pregnancy after pulling her out of her crate to breed multiple times. Not sure what they were expecting from a puppy.

She was surrendered to Home Again as her worth was only measured in what she couldn't produce.

Her first outing had her legs splayed as she had no muscle tone. She couldn't navigate stairs either. She didn't know what a chew was, or what playing involved (my sister taught her to play). She peed every time she saw a cord, whether it was an extension cord, or the vacuum cord.

On her first short walk, she collapsed and started convulsing, her brain so overwhelmed with the unknown that she suffered sensory overload. She wasn't trained, so unknowingly two weeks later I purchased a big crate to keep her out of trouble for the two hours between me leaving for work and my sister starting her day.

I have never heard a dog scream before. With teeth chattering, she peed and crapped all over the inside of the carrier. I let her out.

I guess that was shy she sat on the round of her bum too, since that would be the most comfortable way to sit in a wire cage.

When I had her fixed, she was sedated first. When I had her teeth cleaned, I had her sedated. She never, ever went into a crate again.

She never made a peep. For three years sh only barked quietly in her sleep. She would cry out and have nightmares that would wake me out of a dead sleep. I would pet her and tell her she was safe, from what I'll never know, but it was evident that she was broken by whoever had her before us. It still makes me cry, I'm crying now.

How could a "certified breeder" get away with this? How could anyone do it? I will never understand it.

I'm happy to say we were foster failures, and Brandy lived a good full life with us, finding her voice, her confidence, and happiness. We loved her and she loved us back, and there isn't anything purer than a fur baby's love.

## Happy Tales — Hunter (and a bit of Rosie)

Although we didn't adopt Hunter from Home Again, his story has been told so many times that I feel as though he is an honorary alumnus. His story may help you realize that rescue dogs have hidden trauma that can be overcome with patience, time, and love.

In February of 2021, our Rosie crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. She had been our first dog and we loved her dearly.



About a month later, I received a call from a friend who runs a small dog and cat rescue based in Toronto. She had heard of a dog who had been rescued from Northern Manitoba who needed a home. We weren't sure if it was the right time to adopt, but this dog desperately needed a home and we had a void in our home that needed to be filled. We agreed to take Hunter. Hunter was transported, along with a vanload of other dogs, from Manitoba to Toronto. We had foster angels who looked after him for a couple of days, and then we drove to the city to pick him up.



Hunter looked apprehensive and scared. This is a picture of him on the way home, in his crate. He was withdrawn. We were so accustomed to bouncy Rosie that his quiet car ride made us sad. We got to Apsley, and he started to bark. And bark. And bark.

We were concerned that we had just adopted a dog who hated car rides.

The reality was that we were so tuned in to Rosie that we forgot that other dogs communicated in other ways. Poor Mr. Hunter desperately had to go to the bathroom. Once he did the barking stopped altogether.

Our first weeks were problematic—Hunter slipped his leash twice and did a runner. But never far, and he always waited when we found him



Hunter began to settle in. Initially, although he was loving and gentle with us, he was aggressive with strangers. And he hated dogs that were his size or larger. Understandable, given that he spent the first few years of his life fighting for his very existence. When he came to us he had scratches and cuts all over—you can still see some of the scars from his earlier days.

We gave him toys, and walked him often to socialize him, and mostly gave him lots of love to build his confidence. He was completely uninterested in toys, and didn't really seem to know what

to do with them. Ah well, we said, he's just not a toy dog.



## Hunter's Story Continued



Almost a year after Hunter came to live with us, we heard a loud squeaking. There he was, playing with Waldo the Whale!! Tossing it up in the air and squeaking, squeaking!!

It was like a switch had been flipped and all of the sudden he was a different dog. He became more social, didn't bark at all other dogs, and just in general seemed to become happier.

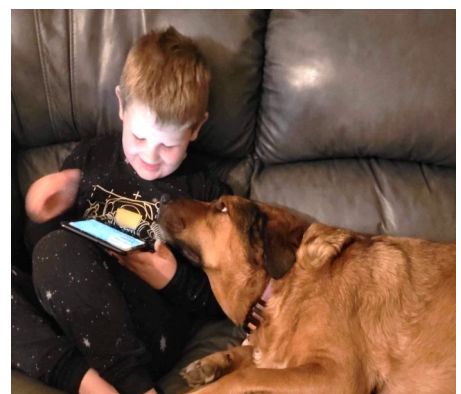


In March of 2022, we took Hunter to our vet for his annual check up and vaccinations. At that time we received the bad news that Hunter had heartworm, an incredibly invasive parasite.

The treatment for heartworm is horrible. It's a series of antibiotics and steroids coupled with three very painful injections over the course of two months. Even more difficult is that it's critical to keep your dog quiet—no running or excitement, just slow, careful walks.

This picture shows the injection site on our poor boy's back.

Hunter was a true soldier, and we realized that likely some of his bad behaviour could be attributed to the pain from the heartworm.



And this is Hunter now! Happy, thoughtful, loving—he loves his little boy who lives with his girlfriend Cleo, he's happy to see the dogs next door, and he's a wonderful dog. I promised him he would never be hurt at the hands of a human again, and in return he has given me so much laughter and love that I'm not sure who got the best out of the exchange.

Hunter's story emphasizes the fact that a rescue dog may not immediately adapt. Show patience and love and let him grow into his personality with the confidence and support of his new family!