



gerdy's Newsletter

Volume 1  Winter 2005/2006

gerdy's
RESCUES
& ADOPTIONS

LES RESCAPÉS
DE GERDY

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site at www.gerdysrescue.org.
And you'll also find us on
www.petfinder.com.

We would be pleased to pro-
vide a printed copy of the
Newsletter to a friend on
request.



Dear Friends,

The past year and a half has flown by and it has been an incredible time on several fronts.

At the beginning of 2004, a small group of friends with like minds, and many talents, encouraged me to establish

Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, and to put my time, effort and my 20 years of experience in animal welfare into an initiative focused on what was best for the animals.

Since that time, we have established Gerdy's as a non-profit entity, receiving registered charity status in April 2004, established a volunteer Board of Directors, created a distinctive logo and a lively, bilingual website, worked out a very fair and caring relationship with a well-known vet clinic in Montreal and continued to widen our circle of friends.

I can't say enough about this group which has allowed me the freedom to do what I love best, rescue and match animals with the right people and homes. I believe that good people know good people, and "word of mouth" has been a powerful channel to help us place cats and dogs - and even a cockatiel and a mouse - where they belong!

But the reality is most rescues don't start with a happy story, and some take longer than others to end with a happy tale. We have placed more than 220 spayed and neutered dogs and cats in caring, loving homes so far. The large majority were healthy happy souls who just needed a little help and another chance. Many of these were adopted within a couple of weeks of coming in.

But we've also had more difficult cases, who needed more extensive medical help and to be given time to trust again. I continue to be touched by the compassionate response from families who are able and willing to share their lives with these special-need cats and dogs.

"Adopting a dog or cat may be the only opportunity a human ever has to choose a relative." M. Siegel



Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions Trivia



Speediest adoption:

Hershey, the Chocolate Lab: Within an hour of taking him in, Hershey was picked up by his new dad, who had been on our waiting list for a sock-eating Lab.

Most heartwarming adoption:

Beau, a nine-year old Husky mix spent the first five years of his life in a no-kill shelter. He was adopted and, after four wonderful years of being adored, he found himself homeless again after his owner died. He now has a new and loving home where he can peacefully live out his senior years.

Still waiting expectantly:

There's always someone!

Youngest adoptees:

Sunny, an eight-week old Bernese pup

Thomassina, a five-week old Calico kitten

Oldest adoptees:

Ambrose, a 12-year old cat, who'd been around the block a few times

Tommy, a 13-year old Bichon

Most traveled:

Holly, a four-month old Shepherd mix, found hitchhiking on the 401

Weigh-in:

Sol, the Rottie, at 100 pounds vs. **Caramel**, the Pom at 3 pounds

Quadruplets:

Kaya, Cody, Buster & Keaton, Boxer mix pups (all adopted)

Calvin, Capucine, Clara & Clyde, kittens (all adopted)

Extreme makeover:

All those who went from shaggy to shorn, dog and cat alike!

Every rescue's favorite human:

Gerdy



our Wish List

To find loving and caring homes for all our rescues

To make them feel safe

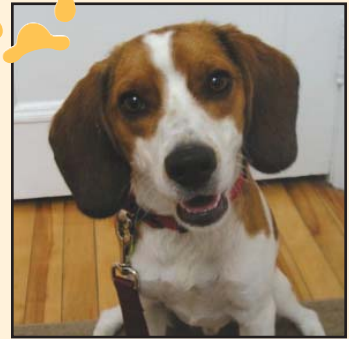
To make sure they will never go hungry again

To bring those who are sick back to health

With Your Help

Happy Endings

Casey, Brigit and Bob are now safe, happy and much loved pets.



At the age of 10 months, **Casey** was already on his third home. He was within a day of being euthanized when we took him.



Bob was a stray who came to us in pitiful condition. He was starving, flea-ridden and had a badly injured and infected tail, which had to be amputated. He's now contentedly reincarnated as a Manx cat.



No longer wanted and disposable, **Brigit** was thrown into the Lachine Canal to drown. She was able to swim to shore and was rescued by a passer by.

Adoptions

We charge an adoption fee to help cover our out-of-pocket costs.

But the fact is that these fees cover less than half of the real costs involved in rescuing, treating, caring for, sometimes training, and placing.

That's why fundraising is so critical to our success. One hundred per cent of what we raise goes to caring for and placing the animals!

Are there cats and dogs in need of a good home? Unfortunately, yes. And we get calls almost daily asking us to take in another animal.

Each one who is adopted opens the door for the next one.

Noah is a gentle, friendly and playful 2½ year-old Malamute/Husky mix with no issues to speak of.



Brandi is a beautiful 1½ year old, semi-long haired tabby, who was found under a balcony nursing six kittens. Her kittens have all found homes but she is still looking for that special someone.

Our 200th adoption: Kiwi



Kiwi is a five-year old Maltese. His previous owner was hospitalized and could no longer care for him. Kiwi had pretty much been a lap dog and had lived with his owner in a nursing home, where he loved being the center of attention. We knew his adoption would mean quite an adjustment for him.

We received more than 30 calls for Kiwi. He now shares his new home with two cats and a human, who is retired and can devote all her time to him. They garden together, take walks and travel regularly to the U.S. to visit the grandchildren, who think he's just great!

Bogart's Story

We learned a lot from **Bogart**, the Basset. He taught us that you never give up trying to find the right home. Bogart, who has attitude and character to spare, is affectionate and loving, but also stubborn, determined and selectively deaf! Mind you that pretty well describes a Basset.



Photo: Bogart (front) and Roxie

Abandoned by his original owners because he barked too much, he was adopted to his second home. It was a good home, but Bogart soon decided that discipline and obedience training were not for him. So he came back to us. His next home was a foster home, where he ran rings around its various occupants.

But his story has a happy ending. With the help of *Basset Rescue of Ontario*, who very generously put him up on their web site, Bogart finally met the love of his life, the fair Roxie, a very pretty but equally determined Basset. At their first meeting, much to Bogart's dismay, his Basset charms failed to work on her. She took one look at him, growled and put him in his place. "I'm top dog here so you'd better get used to it." He hasn't looked back since.

We would like to thank Jack, Suzanne and Roxie for taking Bogart into their home and into their lives. He's finally found the home he needed.

"Saving just one dog won't change the world, but surely the world will change for that one dog." (Unknown)

Spay and Neuter

I cannot stress enough the need to spay and neuter. *The Dorothy Bond Foundation for Animal Welfare*, for example, helps underwrite the cost of spaying and neutering the animals we place. None are placed without this procedure, except for kittens and puppies too young to be sterilized at that time. However, we book their appointment for spaying or neutering when appropriate. The cost is included in their adoption fee.



Jasmine, herself only nine months old and desperately thin, was dumped in a cardboard box in Longueuil with four tiny kittens she was still nursing. Her previous owners chose to have her declawed on four paws but not spayed. She was one of the fortunate ones. Jasmine

and her kittens all found loving homes.

Breaking the cycle

The simple fact is that an unsplayed female cat, her mate and her offspring, producing just two litters a year, with 2.8 surviving kittens, can total 67 cats after two years, 11,801 cats after five years, and 370,092 cats after seven years. And so on, and so on!

Community outreach

As part of our Spay-Neuter & Release program, we contributed financially to help sterilize a colony of feral cats in St. Lazarre, Quebec, with *Lucky Rescue*.

We're also helping very responsible individuals look after a feral cat colony in two Montreal boroughs.

We've made selected distribution of donated pet food to fixed-income seniors, referred by the CLSC, to help them keep their pets.

Gerdy gave media interviews and responds regularly to enquiries on the needs and challenges of caring for cats and dogs in the community.

Bobby was abandoned and left in an empty apartment to fend for himself when his owners moved. He was so badly matted, he had trouble walking. He has been adopted.



Thank You

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for having so generously supported me throughout the past year and a half and for continuing to do so, so that I can continue to help those who need help the most.

My heartfelt thanks to the small army of volunteers and supporters who have lent us a hand throughout the year.

You have very generously helped us foster, board, train, walk and groom our cats and dogs. You have donated pet food, accessories and supplies and provided advertising space to feature them.

You helped us design our logo and our web site as well as maintain it and graciously provide translation services.

You held fundraisers throughout the Greater Montreal area, on the West Island, South Shore, and in Hudson and St. Lazarre-Vaudreuil and contributed your own time, money, imagination and networks of friends to ensure our success.

My thanks also to the members of my Board for their counsel and advice, and for their skills on so many levels, where mine are few. We have built a very solid team and I appreciate your patience and camaraderie, during the good times and, especially, when the going gets tough.

Everyone's support makes it all possible. Thank you so much.

"Our cats are the greatest things on four legs since Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers" - Gerdy Cox-Gouron