



gerdy's Newsletter

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gerdy's
RESCUES
& ADOPTIONS

LES RESCAPÉS
DE GERDY

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www.petfinder.com.

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

Si vous désirez recevoir une
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Dear Friends

Thank you all for the support - finan-
cial and encouraging words - you've
given me. The encouragement means
a lot; it reminds me that good hearts
are still out there when at times all I
see is an animal alone and suffering.

This season I have to appeal for your
continued financial help. I stretch
each dollar contributed, but we've
had some difficult medical work that

needed to be done (see the stories of **Lady, Nicki** and **Meli** on page 4) before
these animals could be adopted into the life they deserve. The "elastic" is almost
stretched to its limits but I have made sound decisions and have no regrets.

I do not seek out these difficult cases, they find me. Some I can help, sadly others
are too far gone to save and I can only offer a kind release. We have also had a
few **compassionate placements**, mostly 'senior' dogs or cats who, through no
fault of their own, have been given up or abandoned, but who are healthy and still
have a good quality of life. The stories of **Pal, Moka** and **Nikita** are on page 3.

In the past two and half years, we have placed over 300 dogs and cats. The dogs
I take on have to fit in a home environment, whether they go to live with a fam-
ily or a single person. I do not pick and choose; purebreds or mutts, it makes no
difference, and the adoption fee is the same regardless. The adoption fee covers
one-third to half of our medical and boarding costs, which is why your donations
are so important. We are one of the few rescues that adopts out both cats and
dogs. We also do not run a shelter, so we need to foster or board our cats and
dogs, and thus can only take in a certain number at a time. This is why we des-
perately need:

Foster homes for cats. Cats get placed more slowly than dogs. My cats are
healthy and if you just offer space for one, it would help a lot;

Foster homes for dogs. A home or two with someone home during the day
that could foster a healthy dog for two days only. Dogs have to have intra-nasal
bordatella vaccine to prevent kennel cough with a two-day wait before I can
take the dog for boarding. If you are able to foster for longer, that would cer-
tainly help us out too.

Thank you again, friends, I appreciate your continued interest and hope this
Newsletter gives you a glimpse of how your support can make a difference in an
animal's life.



Gerdy

Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions Trivia

Youngest:

Teddy, six-week old chocolate tabby, wise beyond his years

Lightweight category:

Katou, at 7 lbs

Family Ties:

Mother-daughter: Jodie & Moe

Oldest:

Alivia, a 10-year 'young' Golden, who acts like a kid

Heavyweight category:

Buster, at 110 lbs

Brother-sister: Tim & Tara

Desperate Housewives Looking for a Home:

Mimi, Leslie, Mia, Funny Face and Friendly Face - Glamorcats all

Canine Canadian Idol:

Dakota 2 - An all-around winner!

Kitty Survivor - Montreal:

Sweet Kittie - Thrown out of a car

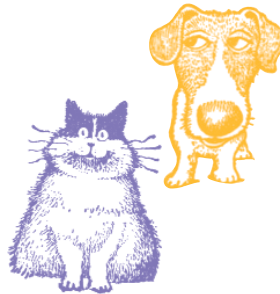
Dancing with the Stars:

Buster is looking for a partner

Our Own Dr. Phil:

Ming, a cat who loves to talk and give advice

Everyone's favourite human, as always: Gerdy



Still looking for homes

Tugboat Annie



Annie was discovered locked inside a broom closet when the bailiff was called to open up a hastily vacated apartment. She

had been in there for at least a week. She has suffered no lasting effects from her ordeal. She's about three.

Mia

Abandoned and rescued by a vet clinic,

Mia became a blood donor and saved the lives of several cats who needed emergency transfusions. She's affectionate and curious, quiet and dignified. She's two.



Happy Endings: Snow White, Jennie and Teddy are now safe, happy and much loved pets.



Snow White had been a stray for some time. It turned out she was also deaf. How she survived outside amongst all the traffic is a miracle in itself. She now lives happily with a 'hearing' cat and manages to be in charge of the household!



Jennie was found tied to a post near a park on the South Shore of Montreal. She had been there for several days. She had no tags on her collar. Nobody thought to untie her, but at least they brought her water. Finally, someone had the decency to 'rescue' her and take her to their home. After weeks of waiting expectantly, she has now found her forever home.



Teddy, six weeks old, had been dumped from a car traveling along a busy boulevard. A woman spotted him - huddled and frightened - in the middle of the road. She stopped and, with the help of three others, saved him from certain death. He now lives contentedly and companionably with Uncle Spike, his mentor.

Adoptions

Compassionate Placements - Pal, Nikita and Moka

Our compassionate placements are often senior dogs or cats who still have a lot of mileage left on the odometer, or who have a treatable condition, but whose chances of being adopted are slim. Older dogs and cats make the most wonderful pets and are grateful for the affection and care they receive. We do not charge an adoption fee in their case; our reward is finding them a home.

The owner of **Pal**, 9, never came back to pick him up at the boarding kennel. He had already been diagnosed with Addison's. He is now living with Sheila and her extended family, where he is the center of attention.



Nikita, 11, and **Moka**, 9, were kept in a barn for the past four years, following renovations to the

house. Moka has been adopted and is settling in very well in her new home. We are hopeful that Nikita will also find her forever home!



Cindy's Story - A real miracle

Cindy was a bewildered yellow Lab who thought she belonged to someone who would cherish her forever. Unfortunately, her owners did not feel the same sense of loyalty to her after two years together. Through no fault of her own, they decided to replace her with a new dog. This sweet, trusting, and frightened girl came to us.

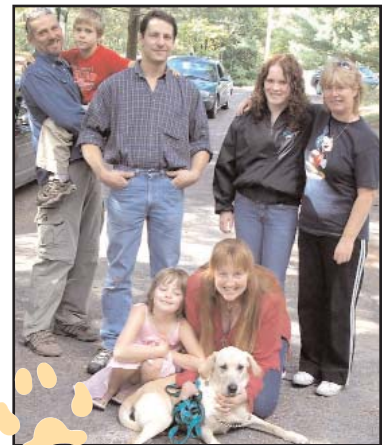


We thought we'd place her in no time, she was such a sweetheart. But Cindy was one of those dogs who don't do well out of a real home. She lost confidence; she was confused, and all the stress of boarding - in spite of excellent care - resulted in her soiling her space and becoming a nervous wreck. No one wanted a dog like this. We were heartsick for Cindy, as time passed she got worse and stress made her super-excited. She was headed for a doggy breakdown.

Just when the situation couldn't become more bleak, her angels came in the form of a whole and extended family. They wanted her, no matter what the problems. They committed themselves to her on the spot and - miracle of miracles - she lay down quietly at their feet as they gently petted her; there was an instant bond between them all.

We got a beautiful and inspiring letter from Cindy and we quote excerpts from it:

"We played in the back yard until I was really tired. They all wanted to love me at the same time. I gave everyone as much love as they needed, I really did my best. I fell asleep after supper on the couch with Mom. When the Smiling Man went to the car, I thought he was getting ready to send me back, but no! I later fell asleep in his arms and he was really proud of me when I woke him in the night to go out to pee. The next day the family went out for a while and left me with my grumpy new brother dog. I was soooo good! Mom came back with a big bag of toys, new collar and leash and -- a new dish! Even Murphy, my grumpy brother was excited. They bathed me and they said I smelled so pretty and that I was ready to start a fresh life with them too! I think she was right. I think that I must have done something they liked at some point, because they keep telling me I'm good.



They even changed my name to Grace, because they say that I am a gift from God! I like that name a lot and I let them know by coming when they call me by it."

Footnote: The grumpy Murphy was won over by Gracie's charm in no time!

"Grace comes into the soul, as the morning sun into the world; first a dawning; then a light; and at last the sun in his full and excellent brightness." *Thomas Adams (1640)*

Medical attention required



The funny 'bunny-hop' that **Lady**, age two, exhibited when she ran off-leash proved to be severe hip dysplasia in both hind legs. The pain must have been very real, but this tough cookie somehow put up with it. Surgery (arthoplasty)

has been done on the worst of the two hips, and the second hip will be operated on in the spring. Her adopted family tells us she has made a remarkable recovery and credits her daily swims in the pond with building muscle tone!

Nicki had been abused when we got him. He had a fractured leg and a large hematoma on his head that required medical attention. He has made a full recovery and is happily adopted.



Meli was thrown out of a car and rescued by a family that witnessed the scene. This five-month Rottie mix suffered bruises and scrapes, and a couple of hernias on her hind quarters. One has been successfully operated and the other will be done when she is spayed at six months. Despite her cruel treatment at the hands of humans, she remains a gentle, trusting and affectionate pup. Meli has also been adopted.

When we took **Hank** in, we were shocked to see how badly he had been neglected. Fleas, hot spots and kennel cough were only the tip of the iceberg and were quickly treated. We were devastated when he tested positive for heartworm.



Hank recently had his second heartworm treatment and continues to recover well. He is being cared for by a wonderful foster family and is being kept as quiet and unstressed as possible; this means short walks to do his business, no running and no playing with other dogs during the recovery period.

If left untreated, heartworm disease is nearly always fatal. Moreover, the treatment procedure is not without risk. The critical time is immediately after the injections are given. Heartworm disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, does exist in Quebec. This is why prevention is so important.

"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person"

- Andy Rooney



Our 300th adoption: Babe



Unfortunately, certain dog breeds have earned a bad rap. To look at Babe is to see a beautiful, serene and gentle Rottie. When the family who wanted to adopt Babe told us they had two Yorkies, we had some misgivings whether she would be too big and clumsy around these delicate tiny dogs. But on our follow-up visit, imagine our surprise when Babe simply looked on while they stole her toys. Who rules the roost? Yep, you guessed it, the Yorkies.

