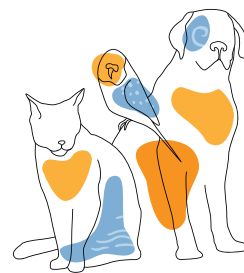




— THE —
paw PRINT
FALL 2024



You helped this black cat turn his luck around

Boris was tiny and defenseless when he faced a terrible danger. Thank goodness for caring people like you, who changed the course of his little life.

Boris was having the worst day of his tiny life. He'd lost or become separated from his mother. Wobbling along a busy road just outside a local high school, cars rushed by, narrowly missing him.

When he saw two students rushing towards him, he didn't realize they were trying to save him. Terrified, he dashed through a storm grate, falling into the dark, cold sewer below.

The two students called the City, but nothing could be heard down in the sewer. It wasn't until 3 days later that the same caring young ladies peered down into the darkness, and heard a tiny, frightened mew. They immediately called us.

A RESCUE JUST IN TIME

Our animal protection officers Natalie and Melissa rushed to the scene. They could just make out the tiny, soaking-wet bundle of fur, tucked into a sewer pipe. They worked with city staff to get the grate open, but several attempts to get Boris out—from coaxing him with food, to setting a live trap—failed.

Boris was soaked through, weak, and starving. It was clear that his life was in danger if we didn't get to him quickly. The only solution left was to flush the pipe. And with one mighty gush, Boris took a water-slide into a waiting net.



Wrapped up in a warm blanket, Boris was rushed to the Humane Society. Our medical team immediately got to work, placing him in an incubator to get his temperature up. He was weak, badly underweight, and in need of a medicated bath.

But thanks to generous people like you, Boris got the care he needed right away. And once he was feeling better, this resilient little kitten came to life.

Boris has a huge personality. Goofy and playful, he would charge up to us to practice his hunting skills, only to start purring and ask for cuddles once he'd "caught" us.

And after such a heartbreaking beginning, Boris' life was about to change forever—thanks to you.

YOU HELPED BORIS FIND A FOREVER FAMILY

Katherine Ryan has always had animals in her life. "Cats, dogs, horses, snakes, hamsters, you name it," she shares. When she moved from Calgary to Windsor, she knew a big part of feeling at home would be welcoming a new pet into her family.

She was excited to share the experience with her partner and his two young boys, who had never had animals before. "Having animals was



We're so grateful we can count on you



Dear Friend,

With Thanksgiving on its way, I want you to know how incredibly grateful we are for you. **We couldn't be there for our community's animals, if you weren't there beside us.**

I'd especially like to thank you for making our annual *Putts for Paws* golf tournament a huge success. Not only did we have an amazing time as a community, we raised much-needed funds to feed, shelter, and care for animals in need.

As the colder months set in, more animals will be coming to our doors. Kittens like Boris and dogs like Jack, in dire need of safety, shelter, and the love of a family.

Feeding and caring for beloved pets has also become much more challenging for many, as families contend with the soaring cost of



living. We are doing everything we can to keep pets safe, happy, healthy, and in their homes.

No matter how busy it gets, no matter how many animals need us, we'll be there. Because our hearts are in this work, and I know yours is too.

It's because of your support that animals like Boris get a second chance at life, and for that, I can't thank you enough.

Wishing you a good fall and a happy Thanksgiving,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Brush".

Scott Brush
Director of Development

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a big part of making me who I am. For the boys, what a great way to learn empathy and compassion," she shares.

Katherine started following the Humane Society online, until one day, little Boris appeared.

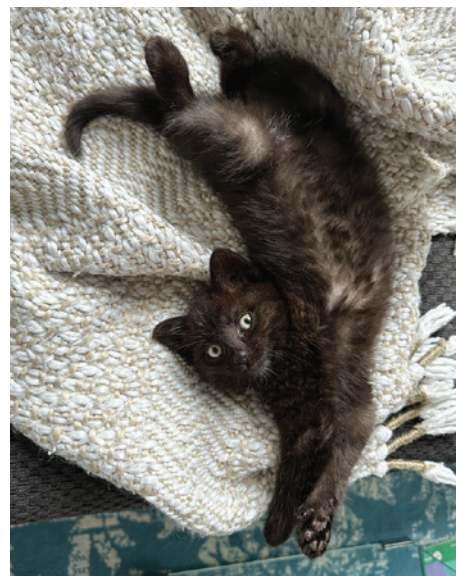
"I've always had a soft spot for black cats," she smiles. "They're often overlooked. And when I heard his story, I just knew it was meant to be!"

The very same day, she filled out her online application, and within an hour, she got a call. Just a few

hours after that, she was bringing Boris home!

"He's so confident and curious. He wants to be a part of everything!" Katherine laughs. "The boys fell head over heels in love with him. They play with him constantly, they build him cardboard castles..."

"Thank you for giving kittens like Boris a chance," she shares. "Otherwise, who knows what would have happened to him? And thank you for giving my family this opportunity to have Boris in our lives. It means so much to us."



Jack learned how to be part of a family, thanks to you!

Every day, your support helps dogs heal from trauma and overcome behavioural challenges so they can find their forever family.

All too often, a dog will lose its home, or be deemed “unadoptable” because of behaviours that arise from trauma, neglect, or lack of training. In most cases—with time, patience, and care—those behaviours can be overcome.

“It’s about giving these dogs the best quality of care we can give them while they’re here, and setting them up to be adopted and thrive with their families,” Brooke Dumouchelle, Manager of Behaviour Programs, says.

YOU'RE GIVING DOGS A SECOND CHANCE

Brooke’s team works with every surrender and every stray to assess any behavioural issues and put a plan in place to help them. In the past few years, many more dogs are arriving with tough behavioural issues, from reactivity to separation anxiety.

“It’s rare now that a dog comes in without any behavioural issues to work on.”

Every day, Brooke’s team works with dogs like Jack.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, WHERE WOULD JACK BE?

Jack was 7 months old when he arrived—a Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix bursting with energy that he didn’t know how to direct. He was fearful of many people, and was nervous about being touched.

“He had a prong collar on when he first got here,” Brooke says. “It took us some time to get it off, because he was so scared of people reaching for his neck.” We’ll never know everything Jack went through before he arrived, but clearly he was traumatized.

“He was shut down. It’s almost like he didn’t know how to be a puppy,” Brooke says.

But Brooke and her team didn’t give up on him. And neither did you.

With gentleness, patience, and positive reinforcement, Jack slowly started to come out of his shell and learn how to behave as part of a loving family. When he was ready, Jack started to work with our



volunteers, getting the outdoor play and enrichment that a herding dog like him needs to thrive.

Finally, the day came when Jack was ready for his forever family! He is now thriving in a loving home, in no small part thanks to caring people like you.

“It takes a village to care for these dogs. It takes our donors, our volunteers, and our fosters. Thank you so much for giving them a second chance.”

PAWSITIVE NEWS ► Here’s just a few of the ways you’re helping animals in need*:



3131

animals adopted into their forever family.



172

animals got emergency care when their owners were in crisis.



14,897

animals treated, housed, rescued, and cared for.

Jennifer Colebourn: A heart for animals in need

When she retired three years ago, Jennifer Colebourn knew she wanted to give back to the community. With her lifelong love of animals, she knew the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society would be a perfect fit.

For over two years, she's poured her heart into caring for countless animals at the Humane Society. Her roles are many—from cat enrichment to making pupsicles to cool down our resident canines. Most recently, she made the commitment to foster cats.

"I've had so many favourite cats," she says with a smile. "It would be

impossible to choose just one. I tend to have a soft spot for the seniors."

"The overwhelming feeling that we're helping these animals get adopted fills my soul," she shares.

"Giving them unconditional love and patiently bringing many of them out of their shells, and encouraging their best self to shine—it never gets old."



Thank you to Jennifer and all of our amazing volunteers! If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at the Humane Society, please visit windsorhumane.org/volunteer/.



Share the love

Why do you support the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society? We'd love to hear from you! Tag us on social media to share why you care!



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