

The SPCA Montérégie Newsletter Summer 2023

Annual fundraising campaign

Your generosity ensures that our Society will always be there to help animals

Dear Members and Friends

As we slowly return to a sense of normalcy, I hope that you, your family, and your beloved companion animals are doing well. Our

your beloved companion animals are doing well. Our dogs love this time of year when they can run free and play in the fields. Meanwhile, our cats delight in the gentle breezes of warm summer days, enjoying the open screens in their enclosures.

During the pandemic, there was a marked increase in pet adoptions. Countless dogs and cats found loving homes with families who may have never experienced the joy of having an animal before. Many of these animals remain cherished members of their adoptive fami-

lies. However, the sad reality is that a considerable number of them were returned to shelters once the pandemic subsided. We are seeing a constant flow of animals brought to our door. The rising costs of veterinary bills and pet food have placed a burden on some individuals, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford the care of their animals. In addition, circumstances such as the passing of an owner, illness, or rental regulations have resulted in animals being surrendered. For instance, we welcomed Betty, a dog whose owner brought her to the shelter on the back of his bicycle. Another dog, Lucky, arrived in a taxi, while a third dog found his way to us thanks to the kindness of a FedEx driver who spotted him running alongside the road. Thankfully, he was reunited with his family! Both Lucky and Betty have since found new homes.

Our aging buildings are taxed with these extra animals. We are bursting at the seams! The good news is that we are in the preparatory stages of breaking ground on a new 6,700 square foot building for our dogs. We have already secured two thirds of the required \$2.7 million, and now we invite our loyal and generous supporters to contribute to the Building Fund, helping us reach the remaining balance needed to commence the project. The need for these new facilities is great. Your generous donations, regardless of their size, will have a meaningful impact.

We thank everyone who has played a role in keeping our shelter operating seamlessly throughout the years. Our appreciation goes out to our dedicated veterinarian, staff members, and the countless volunteers who contribute their time and efforts in various capacities, including running our programs (Foster, Sponsorship, and Adoption), walking dogs, and maintaining the shelter. Please visit our website to explore ways in which you can get involved or make a contribution.

Linda Robertson Founder/Director





SPCA Montérégie

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www.spcamonteregie.com

Rescue, Protect, Adopt



An exclusive sneak peek of the highly anticipated new building.



On an ordinary day at the shelter, an extraordinary event unfolded. A taxi pulled up, and to our astonishment, a joyful black Labrador stepped out, wagging his tail with excitement. His owner had been rushed to the hospital by ambulance and made arrangements for the dog to be brought to us. We named him Lucky.

Adorable Charlie (left) was adopted by Chantal and Christian in 2018. Paying it forward, she now sponsors Malycia (right), a long-time shelter resident. Recently, she surprised Malycia with a special gift – a little pink dinosaur





that brightened her world. This touching tale inspires us to follow in Charlie's pawprints, spreading ripples of happiness around us.

Annual Dog Walk

What an incredible event it was! The 2022 Dog Walk surpassed all expectations and touched our hearts in the most amazing way. It was a sight to behold - wagging tails, smiling faces, and the pure joy of dogs and their humans walking side by side. We are immensely proud of the community spirit and generosity displayed by everyone who participated. Together, we raised an astounding amount of \$47,450 for the shelter. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the generous donors and dedicated supporters who made this day truly unforgettable. Be sure to keep an eye out for future announcements and updates regarding the next edition of the Dog Walk.



From left to right, Nancy Valcourt and Bear; Catherine Hélie and Loki; Rachel Gauthier and Odessa.

15th Annual Book Sale

The SPCA Montérégie Book Sale returned after a three-year hiatus, raising an impressive \$8,698. The meticulous organization and eye-catching display of books were spectacular! The event also featured raffle baskets, a gift boutique, and a bake goods counter. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser by generously donating or purchasing books. We are also grateful to the new volunteers who joined us this year, offering their time and skills to assist in various tasks. And special recognition goes to the Book Sale Committee for their tireless efforts in making this event a success.

From left to right, Roger Huber, Renée Cayer, Andrée Cayer, Peter Wu, Anna Hayes, Lynn Knox, Joanne Finch, Pat Geary, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Gail Edwards and Bob Copp. Absent from photo: Laura Munt, Christina Lees, Cathy Valenti, Isabelle Agnessi and Tracey Tedd.



Making a Difference, One Calendar at a Time!

Our 2023 calendar raised over \$21,000, thanks to our dedicated team, distributors, sales outlets, and talented photographers! Save the date: the 2024 calendar arrives on August 15. For more info, visit our website or contact



us at spcapublicity@yahoo.com or (514) 926-5870.

Every Little Life Deserves a Chance

Charlene Murray (seen here with her dog Loki) volunteers as our Foster Family Mentor, providing guidance to foster families. She recently took on a particularly challenging case when she fostered a pregnant cat who had been surrendered to the shelter without ever receiving proper veterinary care. She was underweight and infested with fleas. Being a foster family is not always easy, but it is undeniably life-saving.



Celebrating Our Devoted Volunteers

We would like to shine a light on two remarkable individuals who have been dedicated volunteers for many years, continuously supporting us in countless ways. During the holiday season, Cathy and Pat generously invested their time and effort to participate in numerous Christmas fairs to raise funds for the shelter. These events are no small feat, and despite the busyness of the season, they tirelessly represented us at fairs in Greenfield Park, Chambly, and the grand fair at Centennial High School. Pat dedicated countless hours to crafting her highly sought-after fabric catnip bags. Cathy showcased her exceptional talent through her intricate hand-

Cathy and Pat embody the true essence of volunteerism.



crafted stained-glass ornaments and wooden fretwork pieces. Cathy donated all the proceeds from her sales to the shelter, totaling more than \$2,500. Through their selflessness and unwavering commitment,



Pat (left) and Cathy (right) at the 2022 Dog Walk

Foster Program The Foster Program offers a safe haven outside the shelter environment for orphaned kittens, nursing

mother cats, seniors, animals with health issues, and those requiring extra care or time to find their ideal homes. Our dedicated team includes Stéphanie Morin, Tamara Grodzicky, Charlene Murray, Cindy Haché, Cathy Valenti, Guylaine Duquette, and Denise Huard. We are actively seeking new foster families. If you have a spare room and can provide assistance, please reach out to us at adoptionspcamonteregie@gmail.com.

Did you know? Our foster families undertake the challenging task of caring for up to 80 kittens at a time during the demanding kitten season, spanning from spring through fall. This highlights the crucial significance of spaying and neutering to curb overpopulation.



Krispy

Daisy

Daisy, a gentle 11-year-old tabby cat, was diagnosed with diabetes and surrendered to our shelter when her elderly owner could not provide the necessary care. Fortunately, Tamara stepped in to foster Daisy, and we enrolled her in the Sponsorship



Program to cover medication costs. Great news! Daisy's diabetes is now in remission, and she's eagerly awaiting that special someone who will love her unconditionally. Her story highlights the importance of having a contingency plan for unexpected circumstances.

Vick

Vick, a stunning tabby cat, arrived at the shelter as a stray. Despite being adopted twice, he faced disappointing returns due to owner allergies and difficulties adjusting to a lively family setting. Vick also required medical treatment for a severe infection, spending weeks confined in an infirmary cage, which led to weight gain. However, under the dedicated care of his foster dad Alain, Vick has made a full recovery. He is now ready to be adopted, preferably in a calm, single-cat environment.





Sultan

Meet Sultan, an affectionate grey cat fostered by Tamara. At only 8 years old, Sultan's challenging past has aged him prematurely. Arriving at the shelter already declawed, he was adopted then returned due to persistent coughing, a common health issue among cats rescued from the streets. While his health has improved in foster care, ongoing medical concerns make adoption less ideal. Sultan will happily spend his retirement years in his current foster home.

Sponsorship Program

Through our Sponsorship Program, we provide essential support for the care, rehabilitation, and general well-being of animals in need. They may have been waiting for adoption for a prolonged period or require specialized attention due to factors such as age, trauma, behavior issues, or medical conditions. As a sponsor, you contribute to vital expenses like veterinary care, medications, specialized diets, training, and enrichment. To sponsor a dog or cat, please email us at parrainagespcamonteregie@gmail.com.

Bear

Bear, a brindle German Shepherd mix, spent a lifetime chained outdoors, enduring extreme weather conditions. Bear finds joy at the shelter, bonding with caretakers and fellow canines. Embracing his newfound freedom, he exudes strength, energy, and a love for playtime and nature walks. However, his aversion to enclosed spaces due to a lack of indoor living experience presents a hurdle in finding a permanent home. Nevertheless, Bear's resilience and loving nature make him truly deserving of affection and care.



Frosty

Introducing Frosty, a spirited 2-year-old Labrador Saluki (Persian Greyhound) mix who was discovered wandering the streets of Qatar. After enduring a grueling 16-hour flight and experiencing rejection from his adoptive family, Frosty arrived at the shelter overwhelmed with fear and confusion. But with loving care and patience, Frosty has embarked on a healing journey, rediscovering trust. Each day, his boundless curiosity and energy bring joy to those around him. While he remains cautious, Frosty is making progress with unfamiliar faces and other dogs. Our hope is that

someday he will find a loving family who accepts him as he is.



Vinnie

Vinnie, our regal Doberman, entered the shelter at two years old in 2020. Hailing from Manitoba, he was bred for reproduction. Vinnie's strength is awe-inspiring, making leash walks a challenge. With a sharp intellect and keen senses, he remains atten-



tive to his surroundings, always curious. Beneath his imposing presence lies a tender soul yearning for connection. Vinnie is waiting patiently for someone who will embrace his vibrant spirit and cherish his unique personality.

These stories serve as powerful reminders of the countless lives we touch and the remarkable impact that adoption has on both humans and animals alike. To view our animals for adoption, visit our website. For more information, please reach out to us at adoptionspcamonteregie@gmail.com.





Rosie, a charming four-month-old kitten, found a loving big sister. The brave teenager and her mother had recently escaped the horrors of the war in Ukraine and settled in Québec. Unfortunately, they had to leave their cat behind, but Rosie's adoption brought joy and comfort to their hearts. It's a heartwarming tale!

GOLIATH

Goliath, a tiny two-month-old kitten, arrived at the shelter in a state of great distress. Found abandoned in a ditch, he suffered from a severe eye injury. Sadly, his littermates met even more tragic fates, as they were either struck by cars or preyed upon by wild animals. To alleviate Goliath's suffering, he underwent an enucleation surgery to remove his injured eye, and his tail was amputated. Yet, despite the difficulties he faced, Goliath had an incredible will to live and an extraordinary level of energy. Once he had sufficiently recovered from his surgery, Goliath was adopted by Josée and her daughter Alice, who embraced his uniqueness and are completely devoted to his well-being. Despite needing additional surgery, he is now healthy and happy. Goliath, a courageous and determined little cat, defied all odds and inspires us with his zest for life.



KIWIE

Kiwie, a striking tabby cat, faced the horrible experience of being abandoned and left to fend for herself on the unforgiving streets. But her days of hardship are now behind her, as she has found security in the arms of her new loving mother. With the assurance of endless love and care, Kiwie can finally embrace a life filled with happiness.



MR BLACK

Meet Mr. Black, a stray who found his way to our shelter. This all black 9-year-old cat faced medical issues as his head was severely crooked, causing him to walk in circles. In addition, he tested positive for FIV. His sweet and gentle nature immediately captivated everyone's hearts. And fortunately, a foster family took him in, recognizing that his condition prevented him from being housed with other cats available for adoption. Despite a serious vestibular condition in both ears and the development of diabetes from treatment, Mr. Black's strong will to live and sweet disposition remained intact. He even enjoyed a winter in Florida where he rested under the warm sun. The happy ending? His foster family adopted him, unable to part with such an affectionate and grateful cat. We wish Mr. Black a long and happy life. Special thanks to his parents Patricia and Ed, who also adopted from our shelter Tristan, a 3-legged cat, and Neptune, another FIV+ cat, completing their feline family.



BASTET

Bastet, an exquisite Bombay cat, found herself abandoned due to her difficulties in coexisting with other felines. Despite waiting for several weeks at the shelter, her patience paid off when we discovered the ideal companion for her. Now, this Goddess is basking in a life of contentment and adored by her loving human companion.



PRINCESSE, A TALE OF RESILIENCE AND LOVE

Princesse, a lovable two-year-old white Husky, embodies the most endearing qualities of canines. Overflowing with gratitude, she expresses her affection through warm hugs and kisses. She walks effortlessly on a leash, responds to basic commands, and eagerly extends her paw for a friendly shake. Her curiosity and intelligence shine as she explores her surroundings, her gentle eyes filled with wonder.

Sadly, Princesse's short existence was marked by immense cruelty. Chained to a dilapidated doghouse, she endured relentless confinement, harsh elements, isolation, and the denial of her basic freedom. However, fate intervened when dedicated volunteer Cindy Haché rescued Princesse from a life of misery. Since arriving at the shelter, she has been showered with love, care, and attention.

Princesse's resilience in the face of overwhelming hardships is a constant source of inspiration for all of us. While she patiently waits at the shelter, longing for a loving family to call her own, we cannot help but reflect on the countless other dogs who endure a lifetime of suffering at the end of a chain. As a community, it is our shared responsibility to be advocates for these innocent beings who are powerless and desperately in need of our help.



BIZOII

Bizou, an adorable and affectionate ginger cat, has recently embarked on an amazing journey... from being a stray to becoming the first cat in a family's home where he will receive a lifetime of love. With open arms and hearts full of warmth, this family eagerly embraced him as a treasured member of their household. Life is beautiful.



VANESSA

It was love at first sight between Vanessa and her caring adopter. We are truly happy knowing that this gentle cat will now be showered with all the love and affection that she deserves. Wonderful cuddles in store for her for years to come.



Sakuro, an incredibly affectionate feline, was found freezing in a desolate field, covered in dirt and cow manure, desperately crying out for help. But now, thanks to the kindness of his adoptive parents, his future is much brighter. Sakuro will get to experience the joy of being cherished, surrounded by affection and care, for the rest of his life.



CHLOE

Chloe's family made the difficult decision to surrender her to the shelter last fall, unable to take her with them due to their move. It was undoubtedly a very sad situation. On a happier note, a beautiful new chapter of Chloe's life unfolded when a loving family, Lee Anne, John, and their children Alyssa and Grayson, opened their hearts and home to her. Chloe's favorite pastimes include chasing squirrels, bird watching, playing fetch, and enjoying some downtime on the couch. Her family is absolutely smitten with her. "We are so very grateful to have Chloe in our family. Blessed is a much better word. She's amazing."



BUD

Bud's life hung in the balance when he was rescued: a few hours more and he would not have made it. Dehydrated, emaciated, and neglected, his sad state mirrored the hardships he had endured. After receiving immediate care at the shelter, Bud defied the odds. He improved quickly and continued his recovery in the calm environment of his new forever home. His troubled past made him a bit challenging to care for, and after two failed adoption attempts, Bud finally found the perfect person who embraced him unconditionally, flaws and all. Their connection is unbreakable, and they are soulmates for life.





NALA

Nala, a delightful mix of Husky and German Shepherd, was surrendered to the shelter by her guardians due to the arrival of a baby in the family. Despite the heartbreak of parting ways after being by their side since she was a puppy, Nala's fortunes turned when the perfect family walked through our doors. They were instantly captivated by her intelligence, affectionate nature, and remarkable understanding of the word "cuddle." It was a match that surpassed all expectations!



Ludo, a seven-year-old cat, experienced the heartache of abandonment when his family moved away. He became depressed and lost his zest for life. Thankfully, his compassionate adopter is determined to provide him with the tenderness he deserves. Ludo finally found his happy ending.



Since January 2022, we celebrated 97 dog and 639 cat adoptions (247 from foster families and 392 at the shelter)! Our staff, foster families and volunteers all played a vital role in these successful adoptions. Special thanks to members of our dog team (Rachel Gauthier, Philippe Guérin, Catherine Hélie, Vincent Touchette, Nancy Valcourt) and cat team (Valerie Ann Gray, Stéphanie Morin, Zakia Poulin, and Sakina Poulin).

Suzanne Bédard (with Abby), our dedicated volunteer for cat adoptions, is known as a cat whisperer. She possesses an extraordinary talent for recognizing the unique potential in each cat and tirelessly advocates for their well-being. Suzanne takes the time to form a personal connection

with each cat before presenting them for adoption. Since joining the cat team in May 2020, she has facilitated over 900 heartwarming adoptions, paving the way for countless happy endings. We are immensely grateful to Suzanne for her unwavering commitment.



DAISY

Daisy, a gentle American Staffordshire Terrier, arrived at the shelter injured and suffering from allergies. We provided the urgent medical attention she needed. However, her previous owners remained elusive. Then, something magical happened before our eyes. Her new family came to the shelter... to meet a different dog altogether. But Daisy's playful antics and resilient spirit instantly won their hearts, creating an unexpected love story that unfolded from both sides. From a lost and injured stray to a cherished member of a loving family, Daisy's journey is truly heartwarming.



Fuzzy Osborn and Patricia



home at last

Happy Tales from Home



VANILLE

Vanille, a charming Boxer mix, was discovered as a stray near Sherbrooke. Despite our tireless search, her previous owners were never found. From the moment we first saw her, it was clear that she was one-of-a-kind, radiating pure happiness. A wonderful family wanted to adopt Vanille, but faced a hurdle due to breed-specific legislation. Weeks of anticipation followed as we awaited the DNA test results. Finally, everything fell

into place, and Vanille joyfully embarked on her journey to her forever home, her tail wagging with enthusiasm!



Imagine a cold February day when Anna Hayes, a volunteer from Saint-Mathias, discovers an exhausted stray cat and invites her into her home. Fuzzy Osborn had been struggling outdoors since the fall. Anna brings her to the shelter, and we make a surprising discovery – she has a microchip! Without delay, we contact Patricia, her owner living in Verdun, and the rest is history. Fuzzy Osborn's story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of microchipping our pets.



Nancy Valcourt (with Shadow), a devoted dog caretaker at the shelter, has recently taken on the responsibility of overseeing dog adoptions. With her natural talent for forging deep connections with our four-legged companions, she wholeheartedly dedicates herself to finding loving homes for these deserving dogs. Nancy's deep love for our canine friends is truly heartwarming.

In Memoriam

The next edition of the newsletter will feature a full list of names.

We remember the shelter animals who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge: Bruce, Chapa, Freddy, Joey, MacGregor, Marcus, Mia and Watson. Rest in peace dear ones.



MILOI

"He was a no nonsense, self-reliant and very determined Parson Terrier who unexpectedly nuzzled himself right into our home and hearts, then sadly left us three and a half years later. What a character! Thanks Milou."

—Phil Godin and Marie-Sylvie Claveau

In loving memory of Gerdy Cox Gouron, who sadly passed away last winter, we deeply honor her and remember her lifelong dedication. Gerdy, in collaboration with Linda Robertson, selflessly worked for many years to provide care and improve the lives of abandoned animals. In the early 2000s, Gerdy founded Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions, an organization that carries forward her enduring mission. Today, her legacy remains alive,



leaving a profound and lasting impact on the lives of animals in need.

Pictured from left to right are Gerdy, Linda, Gerdy's late Aunt Helen and the late Dorothy Bond of the Bond Foundation, which financed the sterilizations of thousands of animals on the South Shore with the assistance of Jocelyne Beaupré, a volunteer of the SPCA Montérégie.

TRAVELLIN' GAL

"Adopted from you in 2002, she enriched our lives immeasurably. She brought joy to us every day and filled our hearts with love. Thank you for bringing her into our lives. Seen here on vacation with her family in Nova Scotia."

—Sandra and Gerry Berthiaume



Building Fund O \$

Preferred language O English O French

BINGO

"He was the most perfect dog companion and friend to any person lucky enough to be with him – and I was that lucky." –Anne-Marie Roth, founder of CRIB (Centre

 –Anne-Marie Roth, founder of CRIB (Centre Rehabilitation for Injured Birds, now operating as Le Nichoir)



WILLA

"Willa came into our home November 2013 at two years of age. She died December 2022. She was the love of our family. She loved the snow and playing Hide and Seek with us. We have been left with a huge void."

—The Fournier Family



"Beloved Joey, ten years at the shelter, yet always gentle and full of curiosity. Despite a difficult past, your trust in humans never wavered. Your affectionate nature and pure heart touched us deeply. We were blessed to have you as our loyal canine friend. We will treasure the memories of our time together, always! You are dearly missed."

-The staff and volunteers, SPCA Montérégie.



We pay tribute to Peter Hutchins, a lawyer who worked tirelessly for animal rights over many years. He and his team at Hutchins Legal went to court on a number of occasions on our behalf. Our team, Maraka the horse and Rock the dog are forever grateful.

We remember Brenda Roland Côté, a lifelong friend and dedicated supporter, who recently passed away. Brenda was married to Bob Côté for 59 years (a volunteer who produced our calendar for 22 years).

donation address Dog Walk O \$ Name Annual membership O \$30 Street I would like to make a donation! City Province Postal O \$20 O \$25 O \$50 O \$75 O \$100 Home phone Office O \$Other Email

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Annual Membership and Donation Form

Please Help Us Help Them

- Adopt and give a second chance to an animal in need.
- Become a foster family or sponsor an animal.
- Volunteer, fundraise, and share your ideas with us.
- Renew your membership and help us recruit new members.
- Donate generously to our Building Fund.
- Honor the memory of a loved one with an in memoriam donation.
- Make a tribute or special occasion donation.
- Include us in your estate planning through bequests, crucial for our survival.
- Consider donating securities.
- Donate your vehicle through Donate A Car Canada on our website.
- Purchase our calendars or reserve a day (or more).
- Encourage everyone to spay or neuter their pets.
- And ALWAYS HELP AN ANIMAL IN NEED.

Shelter Directory

Website: www.spcamonteregie.com

General inquiries: infospcamonteregie@gmail.com

or 450-460-3075

Volunteering: volspca@gmail.com

Adoptions and Fostering: adoptionspcamonteregie@gmail.com

Sponsoring: parrainagespcamonteregie@gmail.com

Calendar and info: spcapublicity@yahoo.com

Tax receipts and memberships: recureceipt@spcamonteregie.com

Special thanks to:

- Our members, donors, and adopters, whose financial support and generosity have sustained us for the past 34 years, allowing us to provide care for thousands of abused, neglected, and abandoned animals.
- Our dedicated employees and caregivers who show up at the shelter every day to care for our animals. Each one of you is truly special.
- Our incredible volunteers, whose selfless dedication and countless hours have made an immeasurable impact. Without you, our shelter simply would not exist.
- Our compassionate foster families, who open their homes and hearts to animals in need.
- Our invaluable sponsors, whose continuous support ensures that we can provide shelter and care for our dogs and cats for as long as it takes.
- Our devoted members and friends who go above and beyond to contribute to our mission.
- Our generous food donors: Global Pitou Minou & Co. (Brossard & Beloeil), Costco (Brossard), Gastronome (Sainte-Brigided'Iberville), Fido et Félix (Chambly), Chico (Chambly), Clinique vétérinaire Animalia (Saint-Hilaire), Clinique Vétérinaire (Cowansville), Centre Nutrition Animal (Iberville), Gourmet Animal (Iberville), Boutique Mougly (Marieville), Hôpital Vétérinaire Victoria (Saint-Lambert).
- Brome County News for hosting our "Pet of the Week" spot in the newspaper.
- Équipe Couture in Montreal for their generous contribution of \$2,000.
- Chico (Chambly) for donating \$551 and for their commitment to animal well-being.
- Lisa Soldevilla of P2 Naturel (Greenfield Park) for donating \$338 through her fundraiser.
- Nancy Parker of Toilettage Pattes & Griffes (Saint-Hubert) for selling over 100 calendars.
- Village des Valeurs (Longueuil) for their generous donation of blankets, ensuring the warmth and comfort of our residents.
- Global Pitou Minou (Brossard) for their continued support through their "Show Us Your Heart" fundraising campaign.
- Our amazing Newsletter team Jocelyne Bédard, Suzanne Bédard, Rachel Gauthier, David Leblanc, Diana McNeill, Stéphanie Morin, Cathy Valenti and Nancy Valcourt.



SPCA Montérégie

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