



PAWS FOR A WHILE...



July 2012

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One Happy NASAP Family

We first adopted Goldie through NASAP, nine years ago. We knew the moment we met her that we belonged to one another. Goldie has been a sweet companion to our two boys and our cats. My 13 year old said two words define her, "dumb love". She's always so friendly, happy and lovely, and a bit of a bull in a china shop. She loves to smile at everyone.



In February we found a mast cancer tumor in her ear. We were very worried about the diagnosis, as it looked to be Stage 2 of 3 and inoperable. Fortunately, with the loving care of our vet and friend she was able to remove the tumor. Goldie is doing great.

She's now 11 years old, we think, and she's going to live until she's even older. We decided to get another little dog now because Goldie's such a sweetie and would help the new dog integrate into the house and be trained. Goldie has taken to our newest addition, Rosa. They play and sleep alongside one another. Goldie seems younger now and so happy that we brought her a friend. We love Goldie to bits.

Then came Abbey, our sweet girl adopted from NASAP three years ago. Abbey was a skinny, streetwise, teenage mom found under a school portable with a new litter of kittens in the bitter cold of winter. She lost half of one ear to frostbite. When we met her, the last of her kittens had just been adopted and she was alone. At first sight she calmly walked around us purring the whole time. We picked her up and she snuggled into our neck. We knew she was meant to come home with us. When she first came home she was petrified of the new place, sounds, smells and our lab, Goldie. She hid for over a month and it took lots of patience and work to get her settled in.



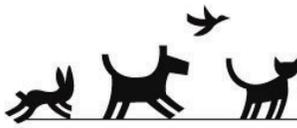
Soon after, she began to follow our lab around and before we knew it, the two were inseparable. Abbey has so much love to give to anyone who goes to her. She has the softest coat ever and a little pink nose. She is obsessed with spaghetti sauces. We think she must have scavenged outside of an Italian restaurant and associates Italian food with comfort.

Abbey and Goldie work in cahoots with one another sometimes. We think they plan "steak-outs". We've caught Abbey dragging a large marinating steak off the counter top and running with it. Then Goldie and her both ate it. The whole time Abbey was on the counter Goldie was watching the door to see if anyone was coming. The two have become best buddies.

Abbey looks through the glass doors to the backyard and watches Goldie and mews announcing, "my dog is out there!". Only to stop mewling the moment Goldie comes in, then runs to her and licks her all over, kneads her and snuggles in with her. It's so endearing.

When we got our newest addition a few months ago, Abbey was not impressed with our energetic six month old Rosa. She would turn her nose up, bat at her and hiss. Within six weeks though the two have become companions as well, laying and playing together. Abbey now goes to Rosa to clean and lick her too.

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NORTHERN ALBERTA SOCIETY
for **ANIMAL PROTECTION**

One Happy NASAP Family (con't)

Abbey loves to sleep on your chest or feet, and anyone who pets her soft coat immediately falls in love with her. We are very grateful for our dear Abbey.

Last, but not least we brought home Rosa. She has bonded with her pack - Goldie our lab, Abbey our cat and all the members of the family. At first when she arrived she was very afraid of everything, especially men and boys, other dogs and any strangers to her. She stuck closely to the only female adult in the house, and cowered or piddled all the time if anyone else came near her or spoke to her. It took some time and with some great advice from a trainer, the boys and Dave began hand feeding and walking her, which quickly taught her that she could rely on the males to meet her needs and began to trust them. She was like a different puppy after that.



She's a sensitive smarty who is quick to learn and very responsive. Now she approaches strangers cautiously for hellos and pets, loves her daily walks at the off leash park. Rosa heels beautifully off and on leash, and has amazing recall off leash. She cuddles and plays with Goldie our lab. Rosa has even started sleeping next to the cat and playing along with her. She's quick to snuggle to you and enthusiastic about bones, balls and any stuffed toy with a squeaker in it.

Her pretty eyes have a happy disposition and her cuddly nature has endeared her to everyone. She's been a wonderful addition to our family.

Thank you NASAP!

Angelique, Dave, Carter, Finn, Abbey, Goldie and Rosa.

Happy Tails

Arthur

Arthur was born to a stray mother cat (Cuddles) out in the country. Luckily, a kind family found Cuddles and took her in before she gave birth to her four lovely kittens. Unfortunately, the family had too many animals and became overwhelmed. When the kittens reached seven months of age, the family of cats was transferred to the Whitecourt Homeless Animal Rescue Foundation (WHARF). WHARF had lots of cats in care at the time so Cuddle's kittens came to NASAP for rehoming. All were immediately vaccinated and fixed. Three of Arthur's siblings (Gilbert, Humphrey and Constance) have already been adopted into wonderful forever homes.

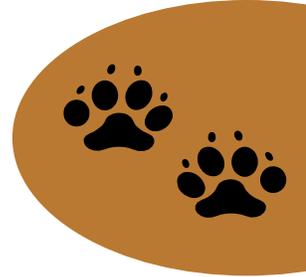
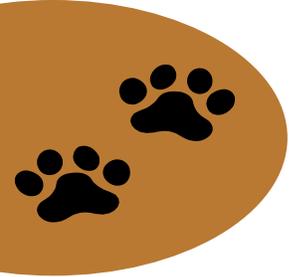
Three months ago, out of the blue, Arthur suffered a severe episode where he appeared almost intoxicated. His tongue lolled out of his mouth, he drooled, his pupils were hugely dilated and he stumbled around in a zombie-like state. The vet initially diagnosed him with hepatic encephalopathy, a condition when toxins in the blood are not properly cleansed by the liver and result in neurological effects. After three days of hospitalization, fluids and medication, he seemed to recover. Unfortunately as soon as his course of medications ended, he suffered another episode right away.

It was confirmed (via ultrasound) that Arthur has a large extra-hepatic liver shunt. He was born this way and it explains his small stature compared to his brothers. Surgery was a potential option and was attempted twice, once at Calgary Trail Pet Hospital and most recently on April 25th at Guardian Vet.

Unfortunately Arthur's case is exceptionally rare and the specialist determined during the second surgery that he did not have much normal vasculature to his liver. Blocking the shunt would have probably made things worse for him in the end. Arthur will be treated with medications for the rest of his life to try to control his symptoms.

Arthur's glowing personality must have really impressed the staff at Guardian because today he was adopted by one of the vet technicians that assisted with his second surgery. We are so pleased that Arthur has found a permanent home, and owner with the knowledge





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Arthur (con't)

and experience to help him thrive for as long as possible, despite his medical challenges. Best wishes and luck to Arthur in his new forever home!

Toby - a dog with a purpose
left paw prints on hearts

Who would have thought that a dog famous for breaking toilet tank lids, in fact six of them, would leave behind such a beautiful legacy, and paw prints on hearts around the world. That dog is Toby, a NASAP rescue success story.

Toby's story, like most rescued dogs, is an interesting one. He was surrendered by his first family, who loved him very much, to NASAP rescue organization in Sherwood Park when he was five years old. He was overweight, under-exercised and on a number of medications including human Prozac and anti-anxiety medication. Through the love, gentle care and training by the NASAP foster parents, Toby was adoptable three months later.

I fell in love with this Chesapeake Bay retriever when my husband Christopher showed me his photo on the NASAP website. The pink floppy tongue, bright golden and brown eyes with a twinkle, and a smile that would melt hearts. We were delighted when the adoption was final and Toby joined our family.

Toby with his booming bark followed us everywhere, and seemed to be almost perfect. I soon learned that love was not enough for this Chessie. About six months in, we discovered that Toby might have come with some baggage. The first sign of trouble was when Christopher returned home from work to find that he was unable to get into our house. After turning the door knob and pushing on the door, it was clear that something was blocking the door. Christopher went around the house and crawled through the kitchen dog door and as he climbed through, he could not believe what he saw. There was not one part of the house that didn't have disasters in it.

The kitchen chairs were slid into the living room, the planter pots were emptied and dirt was everywhere, the water cooler had been tipped over and Toby had created a muddy concoction leaving dirty paw prints throughout the house. Everything had been knocked off the kitchen counter, water taps running in the bathroom, and toilet tank lids were smashed on the floor. As Christopher went to the front door, he was surprised to discover what was blocking him from getting in the house. Toby had turned

the foyer table upside down and slid it in front of the door, emptied all the contents of the front hall closet, pulled the boot racks from the closet wall, and pushed the items in front of the door. The downstairs was in a similar mess as the upstairs. It took us hours to clean the house.

We enjoyed our walks to the Sherwood Park off leash park where we often ran into Toby's foster parents from NASAP, Dave and Yasmin and the pack (their dogs and Toby's friends).

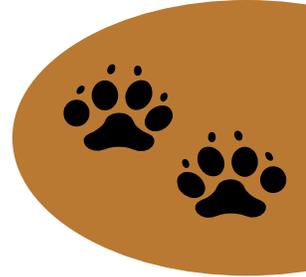
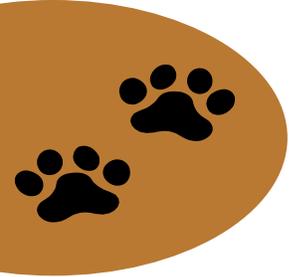
Despite our love for Toby, there were many occasions we wondered if Toby was the dog for us. After continued house disasters and an effort to turn things around, we spoke to our veterinarian again, and he referred us to Maggie, a local canine behaviourist with an extensive background working with dogs and their owners.

The first meeting with Maggie was at our house and after observing Toby in his home surroundings she concluded that Toby needed a job... a purpose. We explored Pet Assisted Therapy organizations, upon Maggie's recommendation, and were delighted when we learned Toby had passed all the tests (temperament, behavioural, etc.) with Chimo Pet Assisted Therapy Project in Edmonton. Shortly thereafter, Toby received his first volunteer placement at Alberta Hospital Edmonton. Wednesdays became Toby's days. He has been volunteering for four years, and has won the Chimo Reese Award for his volunteer work.

Not only did Toby benefit from this volunteer role, I did too. Wednesdays were Toby's day; he loved volunteering at the hospital. Toby was as excited after four years as he was on his first day. He would bark with excitement as soon as we pulled onto the road where Alberta Hospital is located. It was as if he was saying "hurry up! I want to see my friends." With a tail that wagged nonstop, and two barks to say "I'm here" or "I've arrived" Toby intuitively knew how to connect with patients, give unconditional love and acceptance, and build trust.



Passionate for playing fetch, Toby spent hours chasing his Kong and tennis ball across the grounds, always bringing them back with a bark and a smile to the patient. Toby's pet therapy role became therapy for the therapy dog. You see,



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Toby (con't)

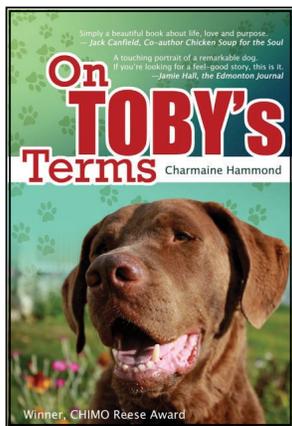
his behavior improved – the house disasters and anxiety decreased, and Toby became more confident.

The patients made a beautiful scrap book about Toby, and when they showed it to me, Toby put his head on the table to carefully examine and enjoy each and every page.

There are so many beautiful memories of Toby in his Chimo volunteer role at Alberta Hospital, ones that I will treasure forever. Every Wednesday I witnessed my dog step into his passion and purpose, to be the dog he needed to be. He became a teacher for us, helping me overcome perfectionism, and he taught us about perseverance, and patience. He also inspired me to write.

In 2009 I wrote a short story titled Volunteering From the Heart, a short story about his volunteer role with Chimo at Alberta Hospital Edmonton, which was accepted into the "Chicken Soup for the Soul, What I Learned From the Dog". Toby inspired me to keep writing. On the heels of the Chicken Soup story came Toby's memoir, "On Toby's Terms", published by Bettie Youngs Books in October 2010. It has won awards, and has been a best seller in Canada and the US.

Before the book went to print it was signed to become a motion picture. In 2012, Toby's story... "On Toby's Terms" will be on film for the world to see. Toby's new children's book, "Toby the Pet Therapy Dog and His Hospital Friends" was released October 2011, and is a beautifully illustrated book that teaches children about kindness, community service and friendship. His second book Toby the Pet Therapy Dog Says be a Buddy, Not a Bully", will be released in 2012.



Toby packed a lot of living and a lot of love into his 10-1/2 years. We just don't have long enough with our beautiful pets. Bigger than life, Toby has raised more than \$11,000.00 for local Edmonton area charities, presented to almost 10,000 students across North America, enlisted more than 7,000 students on his kindness mission, and met celebrities like singer Rick Springfield and Apolo Ohno. But most of all, he lived and loved in a big way... On Toby's Terms.

As a tribute and legacy to Toby, we have continued his mission of making the world a better place. February 14, 2012 we launched "A Million Acts of Kindness – Toby's

Global Mission".

More information about Toby, his story and the global kindness mission can be found on his website: www.ontobysterns.com

Foster Tails

Casey is a very sweet natured, gentle cat, who is very timid initially of new surroundings and people, but is very affectionate once he feels comfortable with his new home. While in foster care it has been determined that he unfortunately has some behavioural issues that necessitate finding him an acreage or barn home where he will be safe and secure but still have access to the outdoors.



When Casey first came into care it was thought that he was stressed out by other cats and needed to be in a home without other cats. We have recently tried him with other cats in a barn setting at his foster home. He is not at all fazed by them and is very gentle and friendly with them. He should do well on an acreage or heated barn-type home with other cats.

Like any domestic cat, he will require an annual health exam and vaccinations at the vet, and because he is medium-haired, his coat will require brushing to keep it in good shape. If you can provide a suitable, loving home for this big cuddle-bug please consider adopting Casey.

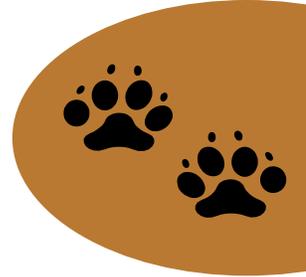
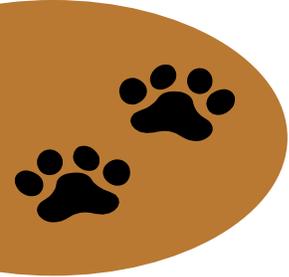
2012 Alberta Government Community Spirit Grant

The NASAP board would like to thank the government of Alberta for their approval of our Community Spirit Grant application. The funds were received in July 2012, and have will been utilized where most needed in the ongoing care for cats and dogs, and the education of the public.

Insurance

Any dedicated pet owner should surely consider getting a pet insurance policy. Like us, our beloved pets also age and suffer from health problems and unexpected medical emergencies. If this happens, the dedicated pet owner can provide the needed pet care without having to worry too much about vet service or surgery costs. Here are some of the benefits when you get pet insurance for your four-legged friend:

Going regularly to vet clinics, you probably have an idea



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Insurance (con't)

as a pet owner how much each check-up costs. These days with some insurance policies yearly check-ups and vaccinations are included. So not only do you have security in emergency situations, but you don't have to worry about the yearly costs of having animals. Health problems and costly treatments can be prevented with regular consultation with vets.

As they age, household pets can experience discomfort. Old dogs, for instance, often experience arthritis and joint pains. Your older pet is prone to more serious health problems. But with pet insurance, you can provide the needed medical care and assistance at a reasonable insurance rate, prolonging the life of your beloved household pet.

The cost of pet insurance depends on the listed benefits, terms of the policy, amount of the deductible, as well as type and condition of the pet. The best advice is to shop around for the best coverage deals from reputable insurance providers.

Buying pet insurance can also help NASAP! If you are interested in buying pet insurance, please see the advertisement below. For each policy purchased, we will receive \$25.



www.sheltercare.com



www.quickcarepetinsurance.com

NASAP 2012 Wish List

Please consider making a donation to NASAP from our 2012 Wish List:

- ♦ Cat litter (unscented clumping clay and yesterday's news "softer texture")
- ♦ Premium unopened dog, puppy, cat and kitten food (kibble and canned)
- ♦ New cat and dog toys of all types and sizes
- ♦ Puppy pads
- ♦ Scratching posts
- ♦ Litter for small animals (Sweat scoop & yesterday's news)
- ♦ Aspen wood shavings (no pine or cedar please!)
- ♦ Unopened small animal food (Timothy pellets and hay)

Casino

NASAP's casino was held on May 10th and 11th at Century Casino on Fort Road. It was a great success and I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who came out to help.

A special thanks to Angela Hunter and Iona Haggard for overseeing this event and ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

Geneieve

Yearly Membership

Yearly Membership \$40.00

Your membership in NASAP allows us to continue helping homeless animals. As well, you have the opportunity to attend our annual meeting and vote on the election of the Board of Directors.

To become a member visit www.nasap.ca and see the "How to Help" tab.

Cards Anyone?

NASAP will be selling all occasion cards as our next fundraising event. Keep checking our website and Facebook to get more details on how you can purchase a package and help support our homeless animals.

- ♦ Financial donations are always appreciated! Please see the "How to help" page or email donations@nasap.ca for more information.

