

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

ADOPTION UPDATES



MIA

In 2011 I adopted a 2 year old pit bull from Bide Awhile named Mia. She is now 10 years old, and she is to this day one of the best

things to happen to me. I remember when I first set eyes on her, I just had to have her. It took about 20 minutes in one of the activity/meeting rooms for her to come close enough to me to even sniff my hand, she was so shy and unsure of herself and her surroundings. I was told that during her long stay she had buddied up with another pooch and they were nearly inseparable, but that other dog had since been adopted. I was told that since then, Mia had retreated within herself and wasn't her happy yet cautious self since her pal had left her.

Mia had some ongoing skin issues during her stay at Bide Awhile and for more than a few years in my care as well. We tried every diet and ointment under the sun!! My partner and I finally put her on a Raw Food diet and she has improved tenfold.

Thank you for being there for my pup when no one else was. Both her and I are forever grateful.

- Ashley



BENNET

After my dog Darcy passed away in 2016, I didn't think I could love another pet as fully as I loved him. Then, fate brought me Bennet (formerly Ben). He is my first cat and has shown me the most unconditional love I could ever imagine. I adopted him in mid-January and we immediately bonded when I brought him home. Bennet is incredibly affectionate and loves to snuggle, especially when it involves face rubs. His favourite things to do are curl up on my lap, keep me company in the kitchen when I'm cooking, and wake me up before my alarm goes off. Every day that we're together, he fills a bigger place in my heart and I feel like he was sent to me to help me recover from losing my dog. Thank you so much for bringing us together and for giving me the most wonderful cat to love. I believe we were meant to find each other and I am so grateful that we did thanks to Bide Awhile.

- Whitney

GABRIEL

It has been 5 months since we adopted Gabriel. His rough start to life followed by what had to be the most amazing hand-rearing



a little kitten could receive has enabled him to be the most affectionate cat I have encountered. Visitors to our home remark how friendly he is to everyone. He is also extremely smart, has a taste for small stuffed toys and nylon stockings!

He is enjoying life playing with his human siblings, snuggling by our heads in bed at night, incessant suckling and kneading and enjoying a warm spot to sleep and three square meals a day (plus whatever his paws can snatch from a dinner plate when heads are turned). He has certainly brought much joy to our lives :)

Thank you again for entrusting us with such a special kitten.

- Amy



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FUREVERS

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES WITH US AT BIDEAWHILE.ORG/50YEARS

Final Executive Director's Report

As many of you know, this will be my last newsletter report as I am stepping down from my role as Executive Director this summer. It has been a privilege and an honour to be a part of Bide Awhile for the past 30 years.

I would like to thank past and present members, donors, board members, staff and volunteers. Without your support, it would have been impossible to move forward.

Bide Awhile's strength has always been the fact that we have a dedicated group of people who continue to go above and beyond to do what's best for the animals in our community and within our shelter. This has been, and will continue to be, Bide Awhile's legacy and what sets us apart from other shelters. It has been a great 30 years, and I look forward to cheering Bide Awhile on from the sidelines.



Darrold Gould
Executive Director

Community Outreach

The Communications and Community Outreach (CCO) committee was formed in 2018 as an amalgamation of the Public Relations and Education committees. The goal of CCO is to promote the Bide Awhile brand including our mission, programs, and community connections.

This year, CCO worked on several initiatives, like providing support for the shelter's 50th Anniversary events. We are working on a communications plan for the shelter, which we hope to have in place very soon!

Our most exciting initiative is the development of the Youth Ambassador Program (YAP), with support from Scotiabank. This program came about after shelter volunteers noticed young teens visiting our events tables wanting to know how they could get involved. As the minimum age for shelter volunteers is 16, we wanted to find a way to reach out to youth between the ages of 12 and 15.

CCO has partnered with St. George's YouthNet to launch the YAP. In the fall, a group from the YouthNet program toured the shelter. They were engaged and enthusiastic, and asked lots of great questions. Members of CCO will be meeting with YouthNet this spring to introduce them to Program materials which focus on topics like bringing home a new cat or dog, kitten behaviour basics, and what it means to be a responsible pet guardian.

CCO is considering another name change for next year in order to better reflect its focus on advocacy and community education. Stay tuned!

Carolyn Baker
CCO Committee Chair

A Bittersweet Farewell

Last winter we made the bitter-sweet announcement that Darrold will be retiring from his role in the summer of 2019.

Darrold's official title for the past thirty years has been Executive Director, but he has been much more to many over that time. Mentor, educator, spokesperson, rehabilitator (especially with dogs!), and above all else, a relentless advocate for animal welfare like no other within our community. His unwavering high standards in animal care have made Bide Awhile the gold-standard in animal shelters that it is today.

We have seen his relentless pursuit of animal advocacy through the dozens of media articles and interviews. My personal favourite is the "Ghost Pet" Documentary released in 2013 (found on YouTube) where Darrold discusses stray cat issues here in HRM.

During his time with the shelter, he has worked with over 200 board members, countless donors and volunteers, and aided in the rescuing and rehoming of thousands of animals. He has created and implemented a number of programs that have enabled Bide Awhile to help more animals each year. Not just by helping those looking to re-home their animal companion, but also programs that prevent the overpopulation of animals, among other initiatives. I've often said that Darrold sees members of our community in their most personal moments. From elation when someone is rescuing their new companion, to heart-break when having to surrender their loved-one, whatever the reason. His resilience is what I admire and respect the most about him and I think it's safe to say that I am not alone in that thought.

At Darrold's request, we will not be holding a special retirement celebration. Deciding to retire is not always an easy decision. We invite you to please join us at the Annual General Meeting and Open House on June 1st, where we plan to showcase Darrold's rich history with Bide Awhile.

Kate Peddle
President

JOIN US AT OUR
SUMMER OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, JUNE 1 FROM 1PM - 3PM
67 NEPTUNE CRES., DARTMOUTH

50 Years of Distinguished Service – Thank You to our Volunteers!

50 Years of distinguished service – that's what Bide Awhile volunteers have given to the homeless and unwanted animals of our community.

In our early years volunteers were known for their hands-on care. They worked in challenging circumstances and stretched every hard-earned dollar to its limits. In 1969, advocating for "strays" was a novel idea, but they persevered. Their compassion and hard work led to the Shelter that we and our animal guests know today. Although staff provide the hands-on care and Darrold Gould our Executive Director guides Shelter operations, volunteers are as vital as ever. As Darrold has often said "Bide Awhile would not exist if it weren't for our volunteers".

Today's volunteers are busy on many fronts: raising the funds that keep the Shelter going, promoting responsible pet

ownership and helping our community to value the animals sharing our world.

Participate in the Bluenose Marathon on our behalf, fundraise in your workplace, celebrate with us as we walk the Natal Day and Pride Parades, join a committee to add your ideas and your voice – these are just some of the ways you can support Bide Awhile as a volunteer.

We know that 50 years of saving the lives of animals in need is a mighty accomplishment. Behind every success story stands our team of dedicated volunteers and that is a remarkable legacy worthy of our heartfelt gratitude.

Stephanie Willan
Volunteer Committee Chair

Spring Fundraising Update – A Big Year for Bide Awhile

Fundraising continues to be a critical source of income to support the work we do. We recently held an inaugural fundraising event called Pours for Paws, which was hugely successful. We hope to make this an annual event and look forward to our supporters joining us again next spring.

The **2019 Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon** is scheduled for June 6th-9th, and we are actively recruiting runners/walkers who would like to add the Charity Challenge to their race and help us raise funds for the shelter. Contact us for more information on running with our Tails in Motion team in any Blue Nose event.

Cat Yoga continues at the shelter on an approximately monthly basis. Visit our website for upcoming dates or to register.

On Sunday, April 28 we held our 7th annual fundraiser with **Grafton Street Dinner Theatre**. It was a great success and we cannot wait until next year!

Planning for our **2020 calendar** is well underway. Submit your photos in our pet photo challenge and give your pet a chance to be featured next year.

Bide Awhile is selling **Rain Barrels!** You can order online and a portion of the sale of each barrel or accessory is donated back to the shelter. Barrels will be delivered to the shelter for pickup

on Friday, May 10th – just ahead of Mother's Day. Visit <https://rainbarrel.ca/bideawhile> for more information or to order.

Our planned monthly giving continues through the **Kennel Klub**. Thank you to our ongoing supporters. If you are interested in joining the Klub please visit our website or phone the shelter.

Our **Summer Open House** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 1st** and will again include a bake and craft sale. Mark your calendars and join us for this great family event.

Our committee is actively investigating and analyzing some potential new fundraisers and planning for our 50th Anniversary celebrations. Please stay tuned on our Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter feeds, and check out our website. Events will be shared as they are confirmed!

Allison Coffin
Fundraising Committee Chair

BIDE AWHILE'S
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HAS A NEW DATE
SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - 10AM-12PM

SAVE THE DATE

We are now recruiting runners and walkers for the **2019 Blue Nose Marathon**. Join our **Tails in Motion team** as we train and fundraise for the event, which is taking place the weekend of June 6 to 9, 2019. Sign up at www.blunosemarathon.com under the Charity Challenge tab.

Our **Summer Open House** is taking place on **Saturday June 1** from **1pm to 3pm** at the Shelter. We are located at 67 Neptune Crescent in Dartmouth. This is an excellent opportunity to tour the shelter, meet our staff and animals, and learn more about us. Come with an empty stomach as there will be a bake sale, as well as books and crafts up for grabs!

We will be at **Doggie Expo** taking place

at the RBC Centre located at 261 Commodore Drive in Dartmouth from **11am-4pm** on **Sunday, June 9**. Be sure to come by our booth and say hello.

Our **2020 Annual Calendar** is in production. Be sure to submit your pet into our pet photo contest for \$20 a photo. All submissions will be featured in the calendar, with the contest for the feature photo spot.

Catch Bide Awhile in the **Pride Parade** on **Saturday, July 20** and the **Natal Day Parade** on **Monday, August 5**.

Cat Yoga Sessions continue at the shelter. Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for upcoming dates and session times.

THANK YOU

SPINCO for hosting Spin it Forward on Friday, April 26, donating all money from the 5:30pm classes at their Bedford & Halifax locations, to Bide Awhile.

Citco for their continued support through casual day donations.

Stampin with Jen and Deena hosted a card making workshop for us in April, donating their time and all of the supplies!

Grafton Street Dinner Theatre held their 7th annual fundraiser in support of Bide Awhile on Sunday, April 28th. The night was full of laughs, great music and delicious food. Thank you for another successful year!

Businesses who host Casual Days, hold our Cat Banks and sell our Calendars play a key role in some of our fundraising initiatives, and we thank you all, so much, for your continued support.

Everyone who continues to support Bide Awhile. Support can come in many forms: volunteering, adopting from us, donating, attending our fundraisers or liking us on social media.

We do not receive any government funding, so fundraising and donations are a huge part of how we keep our charitable organization running. It costs, at minimum, \$350 per animal to go through our shelter and we help hundreds each year. Your generosity and support allows us to continue finding forever families for lost and abandoned animals. Thank you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING BIDE AWHILE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS?
EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT [DARROLDGOULD@BIDEAWHILE.ORG](mailto:darroldgould@bideawhile.org)



SKILLS WE ARE SEEKING

- COMMUNICATIONS
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- ADMINISTRATION

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, MAY 10

GET SOCIAL!

Facebook: **Bide Awhile**

Twitter: **@BideAwhile**

Instagram: **@BideAwhile**

LinkedIn: **Bide Awhile**

Website: www.bideawhile.org

67 NEPTUNE CRES., P.O. BOX 50029, RPO SOUTHDALE DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA B2Y 4S2

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May 2019

The Beginning of Kitten Season at Bide Awhile

Dear Friends,

On March 4th, a beautiful Calico arrived at Bide Awhile. She was brought in by a concerned citizen who recognized her as a neighbourhood stray. Bide Awhile scanned her for a microchip without success and upon initial examination it was determined that she was pregnant.

Our Care Attendants began the intake process, estimated that she was around four-years-old, and named her Marla.

Marla began her stay in one of our six maternity wards, where in the early hours of March 21st (the same night as the super worm moon), she gave birth to four beautiful, healthy kittens - two boys named Lion and Turtle, and two girls named Cricket and Falcon - and so kitten season at Bide Awhile began!

Like all of our animals, under our care, Marla was checked for feline leukemia, vaccinated, dewormed, treated for fleas, and groomed. Once the kittens are weaned off Marla's milk, they will receive the same treatment and both Marla and her kittens will be spayed/neutered, and microchipped before being adopted to their forever homes.

It has been a truly incredible experience for the staff at Bide Awhile, watching the kittens grow from just hours old and not being able to open their eyes, to being five-weeks-old and learning to walk and play on their own, starting to eat hard food, and learning to use the litter box.

They are enjoying their stay in our maternity ward, and Marla has proven to be a patient, caring, and attentive mother.

Thanks to the concerned citizen who brought her to Bide Awhile, Marla and her kittens were able to receive a second chance at life.

The new journey for Marla and her kittens would not have been so successful if not for the amount of time and care we were able to provide them during their stay in our Maternity Ward. Some animals arrive needing significant procedures such as dental extractions or X-rays (which are extremely expensive), while others, like Marla and her kittens, require an investment for the duration of Marla's pregnancy, right up until the kittens are weaned off their mom, spayed/neutered and adopted off to their forever homes.

Even though we recover some of our costs through adoption fees, it is truly the support of our donors that helps us ensure that not only do our animals find loving, forever homes, but that they leave happy and healthy, ready to start their new lives.

With your help we are able to go the extra mile to help animals, like Marla and her kittens, that really need our care and resources. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$100.* It will help cover a portion of the cost of taking in one animal at the shelter. If that's not possible for you at this time, we would truly appreciate whatever you can give, and thank you for your kindness. You can do so by following the donate link on our home page, mailing us a cheque or visiting the shelter.

You can also become a monthly donor by joining the Kennel Klub; monthly contributions provide us with the stability of planning ahead and budgeting our resources. It is also the most convenient way to make your donation. Your donation will be used toward programs and services that improve the health and well-being of cats and dogs like Marla, and you will receive a tax receipt for the sum of your donations each January.

Thank you,

Darroll Gould

Executive Director, Bide Awhile Animal Shelter



**This appeal goes out with every newsletter, so if you've recently been asked, have made a donation, or if you are already a Kennel Klub member, please accept our apologies for asking again. We thank you for your support.*



I want to join Bide Awhile's monthly giving program, the Kennel Klub

I want to give \$ _____ each month for an annual contribution of \$ _____ .

- I have enclosed post-dated cheques **OR**
 Charge my donation(s) to my credit card on the 15th of each month
 Please begin my monthly contributions on the 15th of (month/year) ____/____
and end on (month/year) ____ / ____ .

(I may cancel my pledge at any time by notifying Bide Awhile in writing.)

***Please note** - Kennel Klub donation receipts will be mailed to the address given below in early January

I prefer to make a one-time donation.

- I have enclosed a cheque for a one-time donation of \$ _____ **OR**
 Charge my credit card \$ _____ .

MasterCard Visa Cardholder name: _____
Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry: ____ / ____
Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Province: _____ **Postal Code:** _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Email Address: _____