

# BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

*An adorable adoption update on our former shelter cat, Pumpkin*



It's been just over four months since we picked up Pumpkin from Bide Awhile on Boxing Day 2019 and we're happy to report that she finds all four cat beds in our apartment to her satisfaction. A lady of fine taste, she doesn't seem to like cat toys but a lazy scratch or two across our Persian rug seems to do the trick. She holds office hours by the patio from 9 to 5, but she's not so much interested in the pigeons that line the railing as she is the garbage

collectors and whether they are going to come over and pet her (no, sorry girl). We look forward to her becoming even more comfortable in her new home, and maybe claiming another spot or two for some good naps.

We want to express our gratitude to the Bide Awhile staff for connecting us with Pumpkin, and creating their unique palliative care program.

## Annual General Meeting and Summer Open House **POSTPONED**

**We are working to select a new date and will keep you updated**

*The gift of pet ownership during times of social distancing and isolation*

There are numerous scientific studies that prove pets can help heal what ails us. Simply petting a cat can lower blood pressure. Some dogs can detect seizures or sniff cancer before traditional methods. Pets can help with PTSD, reduce our anxiety, guide the blind, and become therapy animals. Other health benefits include exercising by walking your dog or playing with your cat. For some, they are a reason to get out of bed every day.

Our pets provide us with companionship and entertainment, and they teach us to appreciate the simple life - like curling up in a ray of sunshine. They teach us unconditional love and they don't care if our hair is done, if our clothes are the latest style, or what mindless

movies we enjoy. All they ask from us is for a safe, loving home — and an endless supply of treats.

In times where we are social distancing; missing our family and friends, our pets are there for us, giving us their company and listening intently to our stories and cuddling with us on the couch. They have become our co-workers as we work from home. I must say, my human co-workers never followed me on my bathroom breaks.

Our pets are our family and getting through these times would be much more difficult without the distraction and comfort that comes from my three goofy dogs.

The Shelter has had to adjust as well, but we have recently reopened to adoptions so more people and cats can find comfort, joy and happy

furevers together. If you need some super cute entertainment, rewatch our videos from the kitten cam.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you again and hearing about your furry loved ones. May your days be filled with purrs, cuddles, hugs and sloppy kisses from your fur family.

**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**



## *The challenges and opportunities for Bide Awhile during times of adversity*

It's now been over six months since I started my new position as Executive Director at Bide Awhile; a role I embraced as I was looking for something new and different, with different challenges. Though I anticipated challenges, I did not realize what the future had in store for all of us.

I've learned many things in my short time working with this gifted team. Bide Awhile is well-positioned to look after and find homes for the vulnerable cats and dogs that have been put in our care. Our shelter may not be always full, but we excel at finding the perfect forever home for each and every animal in our care. We have wonderfully dedicated staff, board members and supporters. It was great meeting so many of you at the Christmas open house.

I've also learned that in order to make our animal shelter financially

stable, we need to raise more revenue throughout the year. We had many exciting fundraising events planned, and were looking forward to growing our monthly giving community — The Kennel Klub. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many, if not all of our events have been postponed.

This is a difficult time for all of us as we struggle with isolation, loss of work, and the uncertainty of the days ahead. Even though we face adversity, we're still determined to provide excellent care for cats and dogs in need. If you'd like to help us in our mission, I

ask you to please consider becoming a Kennel Klub member, with a monthly donation from as little at \$5 per month, now or when you can in the future. Every little bit allows us to continue doing what we do well: providing a safe place for the lost and abandoned animals in our community and finding their perfect home.

Thank you for your consideration. May you stay safe in these unprecedented times.

Warm wishes,

Sehne Connell  
Executive Director



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
MESSAGE



## Lend a hand to Bide Awhile's **KENNEL KLUB**

An easy way to donate monthly

[bideawhile.org/kennel-club/](https://bideawhile.org/kennel-club/)

## *Assessing and revamping our programming in preparation for the future*

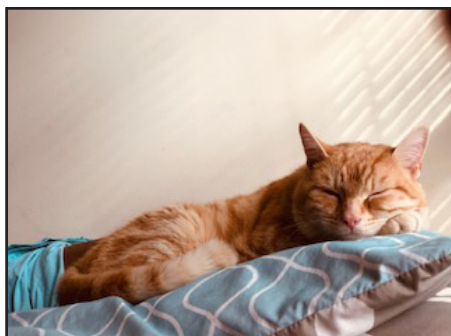
The Communications and Community Outreach (CCO) committee has for the past several months focused on assessing the state of programs and activities in various stages of development. Activities have included preparing and reviewing materials to support the development of a Youth Ambassador Program (YAP), including resources for the targeted age groups and program mapping. The YAP is a conceptualized program that would see area youth be educated on animal welfare and care practices in order to promote those concepts among

their peers. The CCO is currently considering how to advance this program and assessing ideas for distribution of the program content. Additional activities of the CCO include discussion of ways to revamp Bide Awhile's Reading Circle program and monitoring community events and tables Bide Awhile may wish to attend over the course of the next few months. The CCO has also spent time discussing the idea of animal advocacy and how it may apply to Bide Awhile and if the topic may inform the organization's strategic planning. The CCO plans to

bring the topic to the wider board for discussion in 2020.

As with other committees and general shelter operations, CCO has seen its activities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in our province with the cancellation of events, tables and other opportunities it would normally seek out or participate in. While conditions remain uncertain, committee members continue to monitor ongoing developments with the hope of reengaging in public events as social and economic conditions normalize.





OLIVER

**H**i! Just wanted to give you an update on Oliver (formally known as Kibble). I adopted him from you, back in December 2019. I knew the first time I saw him, I was going to bring him home. He is a very affectionate, friendly and sweet cat. He follows me everywhere, loves to cuddle and to be pet. Thanks for allowing me to adopt him and allowing me to be his forever home. Your organization is amazing. I am very grateful and appreciative of what you all do for those animals.

- Sara

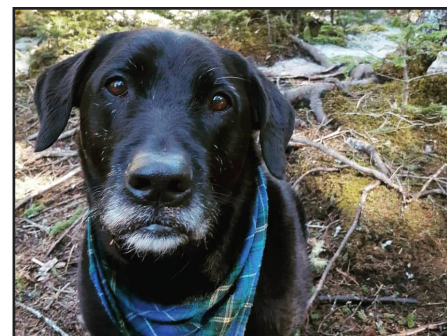


MAVERICK

**H**ey, we just wanted to let you know that Maverick (renamed from Cartman) is loving life in his furever home. He plays hard and snuggles and naps even harder. He loves to chase his toys around and jump from every height he can climb. That's all when he's not playing with Aliana (2 year old husky) or chasing Cleo (8 year old tabby who may not be as into the chasing as Mav is).

Christina and I want to thank Bide Awhile for letting us welcome this fun loving guy into our home and family.

- Jason



HARLEY

**I**wanted to provide an adoption update on Harley. I adopted Harley 8 years ago from your shelter. Knowing very little about his past, I took him in as an energetic, outgoing, and bright one year old lab mix. He has grown into a cuddly, silly, loving "good boy" and although he might be entering his senior years, he still has a playful love for the beach, long walks in the woods, and an overflowing toy basket. He goes everywhere with me and truly is my sidekick and best friend - we have so much fun together!

- Laura

## *Fundraising during a pandemic: An update on upcoming Bide Awhile events*

**O**ur thoughts are with not only our global community as we deal with the impacts of COVID-19, but also with our province during this tragic time.

Our focus for 2020 was to build upon successful past events and create new fundraising efforts to further connect with supporters and our community. Despite having to postpone our fundraisers, we are more dedicated than ever to providing hope and light in a challenging time. Be sure to check out our social media accounts for your dose of cute animals looking for their forever homes.

We had planned to host Pours for Paws again in April, as it was hugely successful in 2019. This event will be one of our first priorities to plan when we are able to return to

normalcy.

Our Blue Nose Marathon efforts were off to a great start, with our focus on finding runners to join our team. The marathon has been postponed to November 2020, and we are still looking for members to join our team. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please visit our "Tails in Motion" Facebook group.

Our annual fundraiser with Grafton Street Dinner Theatre was scheduled for May 3rd. It has been postponed and although we haven't selected a new date yet, we hope to hold this fundraiser in the fall.

Our Summer Open House that was scheduled for June will also be rescheduled for later in the year. We will keep you posted and will be sure to include our very popular bake and

craft sale.

In addition to these events, we have postponed our cat yoga sessions, trivia nights and third-party fundraisers. We would like to say thank you to The Lower Deck and Good Robot Brewing Company, for hosting fundraisers for us in 2020.

Planning for our 2021 calendar is underway and you can submit your photos in the pet photo challenge on our website until May 31st (or until we are full).

Contributions from our supporters are our sole means of financial support. Our monthly planned giving, the Kennel Klub, continues and is more critical than ever. Thank you to our ongoing supporters. If you are interested in joining the Klub please visit our website or phone the shelter.

# GET SOCIAL!

Be sure to follow Bide Awhile on the following platforms...



[www.bideawhile.org](http://www.bideawhile.org)

## Board Member Recruitment

Our board member recruitment process has been postponed to the fall.

Keep your eyes on our social media and website for the official call-out for applications in the spring/summer.



## *Volunteers – We invite you to join us on Timecounts!*

Our volunteers are everything to us! Bide Awhile Animal Shelter runs on donations, and as volunteers, you are the lifeblood of our fundraising events.

For many years we have been tracking our volunteers in an excel spreadsheet, but we felt it was time to take a step forward, so we are excited to announce that we are launching our new volunteer event management and database, through Timecounts. This volunteer management program will help us organize our events and will make it easier for you to see upcoming shifts and events we need assistance with, making it a great communication portal for us and our volunteers.

As a volunteer, you will be able to

log in to your Timecounts profile to tell us your volunteer interests and preferences, which will allow us to let you know when there is an event that would suit you, and at the same time you will be able to log in to view any upcoming events that Bide Awhile has throughout the year — so you will easily be able to see when our shelter open houses are, any parades we are looking for you to help represent us in, or if there is a craft fair shift that we need help with.

Thank you for everything you have helped us with in the past, and we hope that you please take a moment to re-register your volunteer application with us through Timecounts.

## THANK YOU

**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.

We would like to recognize the following businesses for their contributions to Bide Awhile. We tried to list everyone here but apologize if we missed anyone.

**BMO** for their donation of \$500 through their employee charity fund.

**Good Robot Brewing Company** for hosting Goodwill Bot on Monday, April 20th, donating \$1 from every product purchased, to Bide Awhile.

**Himmelman Elastomers** for their generous donation of supplies to our shelter.

**Intact Insurance** for their donation of \$500 to Bide Awhile.

**Kabuki Housing Co-Op** for their donation of \$200 to Bide Awhile.

**The Lower Deck** for hosting Trivia Night in support of Bide Awhile in February.

**N L Robertson MD Incorporated** for their donation of \$500 to Bide Awhile.

**Partner Canada Biomedical International** for their donation of \$500 to Bide Awhile.

**Petsmart Dartmouth Crossing** for hosting a food drive for Bide Awhile, collecting donations in their store.

**R & R Pools** for their donation of \$2,000 in December.

**Site Co-op Dalhousie University** for their donation of \$270 to Bide Awhile.

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 a minimum of \$350 for each animal we take in at the shelter, and we help hundreds of animals each year. Your generosity and support allows us to continue finding forever families for lost and abandoned animals. Thank you!

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