

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

A little extra TLC went a long way for a 10-month-old pup named Zoey

A few months ago, we received a call from a man who needed help rehoming his dog. He was unable to provide his dog, Zoey - a ten-month-old Great Pyrenees mix - with the training, activity and attention she needed as an active, still-growing pup.

When she arrived, she had her overall health assessed by our team and veterinarian. Notably, she was not spayed and lacked the confidence to stand upright or run around and play as dogs typically do; instead, she would keep close to the ground and would crawl close to the floor if and when she needed to move.

Under our care, she was vaccinated, dewormed, spayed, groomed, microchipped, and most importantly for Zoey, was socialized by our dedicated volunteers.

By receiving so much one-on-one attention from our volunteers and staff, Zoey began to rebuild her confidence and started standing a little taller. She even started to run around, play, and would roll over for a



Zoey, a 10-month-old Great Pyrenees mix spent a few months at the shelter before leaving for her forever home in October. Under our care, she was spayed, microchipped, dewormed, vaccinated, socialized and more.

belly rub - this was major progress for her.

After several weeks, the time came when Zoey was ready for adoption.

We got to know her true personality and the type of family that would help her thrive. Fortunately, it didn't take long before they came into the shelter, met Zoey and filled

out an adoption application right away.

A few days later they picked her up, and we're told she's settling in extremely well. Her new family continues to socialize her with humans and other dogs, and have told us that she is loving the attention she's receiving, and all of the walks she's been on.

Be sure to say, 'Hello,' to the new faces at Bide Awhile Animal Shelter when you visit next

There has been a lot of change at the shelter over the last few months, with a few farewells, well wishes and welcomes, seemingly all at once.

Our long-time bookkeeper and administrator, Mary, has been an integral part of the team for the last eleven years, and this past September, she began her retirement. We wish her the absolute best and thank her for her dedication and commitment to the shelter.

With that, we would also like to extend the warmest of welcomes to our new administra-

tor and bookkeeper, Wanda. The next time you're at the shelter, be sure to say, 'Hello.'

On a more difficult note, in the early summer, our shelter cat, Fiona's, health started to decline. Her health became progressively worse quite quickly, and sadly, she passed away in mid-August. She spent the last seven-plus years calling Bide Awhile her home, and will be greatly missed by the Bide Awhile community.

Finally, you may have seen - or even heard -



our extremely chatty, new girl at the shelter. Pumpkin (left), a 10-year-old tuxedo cat, came in several months ago and was extremely overweight. She has been on a very successful weight loss journey and was, until a few months ago waiting to be adopted.

While Pumpkin has lost weight and is doing well, she is in the early stages of renal failure, and will be living out her retirement as the new Bide Awhile Shelter Cat. Be sure to meet her when you visit us next!



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New program effective at reducing overpopulation

One of the problems we often face at the shelter is that people will call for us to take in some kittens that their cat has had, and before they get to the shelter, they have given a couple of them away to friends and family.

When this happens, there is no guarantee that these kittens will receive the care and medical attention they need, such as vaccines, deworming, blood tests, microchipping, and being spayed or neutered.

Receiving just a few from the litter means there are still cats out there contributing to pet overpopulation.

So this summer, we tried a new approach - one that kept us extremely busy rescuing mother cats and their kittens; we offered to spay the mother cat at no cost to the owner, so long as we receive *all* of the kittens.

This way, every kitten in the litter received

the proper care they needed, but also, we can ensure participating cats and kittens would not have any unwanted litters going forward.

When they arrive at the shelter, they occupy one of our six maternity wards, and over the last few months, they have been consistently full due to the number of kittens we have been able to take in.

With the huge success of the program this summer and into the fall, we hope to continue this program next year to see that more kittens make it to our shelter, and receive proper care.

We are always striving to find new ways help care for our four-legged friends, and it is because of your support that we are able to help.

Darrold Gould
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Looking ahead to 2019

It is my distinct pleasure and honour to be serving as President on Bide Awhile's Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 year.

As we turn the corner toward the end of the year, I find myself looking forward to what next year will bring. 2019 marks a very special year in Bide Awhile's history.

We are celebrating 50 years of being in operation, working tirelessly to improve the lives of our animal companions, people and our community.

It is amazing to think about where Bide Awhile started in 1969 and how far we've come since then - starting in an empty wing of a Spryfield vet clinic, to a garage on Bayer's Road, then moving to a house on Eaton Avenue, and today, in a purpose-built facility that was designed specifically with animal care in mind. It is due to the support from our members and community that we are able to continuously rescue and rehome so many animals each year.

My personal history with Bide Awhile began back in 1993, when I visited the shelter on Eaton Avenue as an elementary school student. I was there to learn about why animal shelters exist and how to be a responsible pet guardian. It is these programs - that still exist today - that make Bide Awhile's presence in our community such an important one; making a difference in the lives of hundreds of animals and people each year is what the shelter is - and always has been - all about. Our vast supporter, volunteer, and donor base clearly feel the same way, as they have continued to support us for all those years.

Thank you.

In 2019 we will celebrate our success and support with activities throughout the year, starting with our annual calendar. We plan to share even more success stories from over the years, so please contact the shelter to share a story of how your life has been changed by one of our previous residents.

We are also planning a special event to thank you - our supporters - for making the difference in our organization since the beginning. Without you, we wouldn't be where we are today!

Kate Peddle
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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DIXIE

When we visited Bide Awhile in October 2008 – just to look – Wanda, as she was then known, was not the most rambunctious

kitten, nor did she appear to be very interested in getting to know us, but she was, hands-down, the prettiest of the bunch!

She was born at Bide Awhile two months before our visit to an expectant stray who had been rescued and was living at the shelter. We decided she was the one for us, and we claimed her right away!

A couple of days later, we brought her home and renamed her Dixie. She has been a bundle of joy ever since.

Dixie is my first cat, and she does all of the things I expected a cat to do. She crams herself into any box that is left on the floor; she gets into all kinds of places that you wouldn't think she'd be able to, and she loves sitting on the window ledge surveying her territory.

She has also debunked every myth that I had heard about cats; she is loving, attentive, friendly, sociable and chatty, and she really likes to be close to "her people." She taught me about the "head-bonk," and she sits up straighter when she sees me reaching out to pat her. She greets us at the door when we come home – it's usually to tell us that we are late with her supper, but sometimes it's just to welcome us home.

She also comes to meet whoever else might be coming in. She has the uncanny ability to pick out anyone who is allergic to cats or who is not a cat-lover, and she immediately rubs up against their leg as if to say, "You're gonna love me just like everyone else does because I am awesome!"

Dixie likes to wrap herself around my neck, or lay across my shoulders when I am working at the computer. Sometimes, she will even sit on my shoulder...like a very large bird. She takes up residence on my lap and "kneads" me whenever I am sitting on the couch. She lies on my chest, and lays her head on my chin when I lie down to read. She makes it hard to see the book, but I can't – or won't – move her.

At night, she can most often be found sleeping on my pillow. My husband says she is my shadow, and I wouldn't have it



any other way!

Thank you, Bide Awhile, for all that you do, and for introducing me to the wonderful world of cats!

Patricia

ARTEMIS

Formerly known as Terri, Artemis (or Artie for short) was quiet and patient her whole ride home.

When we let her out, she quickly got the lay of the land; tracking down her litter box, grabbing a quick bite to eat, and claiming herself a spot on the couch.

She spent her first evening with us testing out the acoustics of her new home, meowing noisily as she investigated each room. This was, of course, after we had decided to go to sleep.

Artie is a wonderful addition to our home. She's social, playful, intelligent and extremely quirky, and after less than a month, it's already plain to see that she'll be a blessing for years to come. She hops up in bed with us every night, and is adored by everyone who comes to visit. We've made an Instagram account (@artietabico) for anyone who cares to keep up with her wily, feline escapades.

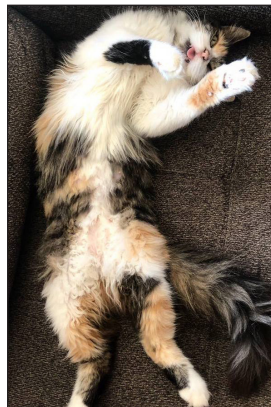
Thank you, Bide Awhile, for our furry new family member!

Isaac and Sonia

IVY

I wanted to give you guys an update on Ivy (Prue) and let you know how amazing she is doing! It took her a few days to come around, but she is showing me her personality!

She loves to play with her toy springs and jingly balls. I also can't believe how affectionate she is. She loves giving head boops and will let out little chirps when she wants



some attention. Ivy is also a very curious cat! I don't think there is a place unexplored by her now! I'm not sure who needed who more; me or her. I cannot express how much joy she brings to me everyday.

I want to thank you guys for this opportunity, and how amazing this organization is. My adoption process was very easy going and because of this, I saw how passionate each and everyone of you are.

Kahlin

DIGBY

We just wanted to drop a quick update on Digby (formerly Brewster), who we adopted a little over a month ago.

The little guy has settled in nicely. He enjoys a good snuggle, but not nearly as much as he does playing; he's full of energy.

The sound of him galloping across the hardwood is a sure sign that something somewhere – whether toy, picture frame, or human – is about to be pounced upon.

We love having Digby as party of our home and as far as we can tell, he feels likewise. Thanks for connecting us with him!

Evan and Caite

LUNA

I wanted to give you guys a quick update on the little sweetheart I adopted from you. Her name was Clara but I changed it to Luna after her adoption.

She is very content and happy in her new home. She is very energetic, playful and has stolen the hearts of everyone who gets the chance to meet her. She loves chasing pretty much everything – including her own tail, and her favourite place to nap is right next to the window on the couch where the sun shines through! She really enjoys her sleep.

A huge thank you to Bide Awhile for helping me find my furbaby!!

Lauren



SAVE THE DATE

Boyne Clarke Trivia Night is taking place on Thursday, November 15 at the Lower Deck in Halifax. The entry fee is \$10 and there will be a 50/50 draw. The event begins at 6:30pm and we look forward to seeing you there.

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.bluenosemarathon.com under the Charity Challenge tab.

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

Our **Holiday Open House** is taking place on Sunday, December 9 from 1pm to 4pm 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!

Mark your calendars for our annual **Grafton Street Dinner Theatre Fund-raiser!** The event - which is full of excellent music, fun and a lot of laughs - takes place on Sunday, April 28 in downtown Halifax. Stay tuned to our social media and website for information on the show and how to get your tickets.

Our **2019 Annual Calendar** is hot off the

press and is available for just \$10 at the shelter, as well as various vendors across Halifax Regional Municipality, including:

- 4 PAWS Veterinary Hospital
- 5th Dimension Hair Design
- Acres Animal Hospital,
- Atlantic Cat Hospital
- Atlantic News
- Avon Animal Hospital
- Bank of Montreal - 254 Baker Dr.
- Basinview Animal Hospital
- B & R Pet Supplies
- Be Gorgeous
- Bedford Highway Veterinary Hospital
- Best Friends Pet Supplies
- Camp Bow Wow
- Carnegie Animal Hospital Limited
- Clayton Park Veterinarian Hospital
- Coconut Creek
- Companion Animal Hospital
- Dartmouth Veterinary Hospital
- Duggers
- East of Montreal
- Eastern Passage Village Veterinary Clinic
- Foreign Affair -Spring Garden Rd.
- Global Pet Foods
- House of Moda
- Lady Hammond Animal Hospital
- Lucy's Esthetics
- Middle Sackville Veterinary Care Centre
- Pipe and Piling Supplies
- Sackville Animal Hospital
- SPINCO Halifax
- Spryfield Animal Hospital
- Sunnyview Animal Care Center
- The Daily Grind
- Valleyfield Farm Ltd.
- Vetcetera
- Vet Wise

THANK YOU

Our **Blue Nose Marathon Tails in Motion Team** raised \$15,557 in 2018! Thank you so much to all of our runners and walkers, and to our wonderful trainers at **Next Level Fitness and Nutrition Training** in Bedford.

Princess Auto in Dartmouth hosted multiple barbecues in support of the shelter in 2018. They provided absolutely everything, while we helped with the cooking. September's barbecue raised \$418!

Good Robot's Goodwill Bot event brought the community together for pet trivia and pints, and raised \$284 for us!

MNP hosted a barbecue for us in May and raised \$260!

Throughout the month of July, **Krave Burger** fundraised a whopping \$699!

Stampin with Jen and Deena hosted a card making workshop for us in November, donating all of the supplies and raising \$240!

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 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!

