

JULY 2021

NEIGHBOURS

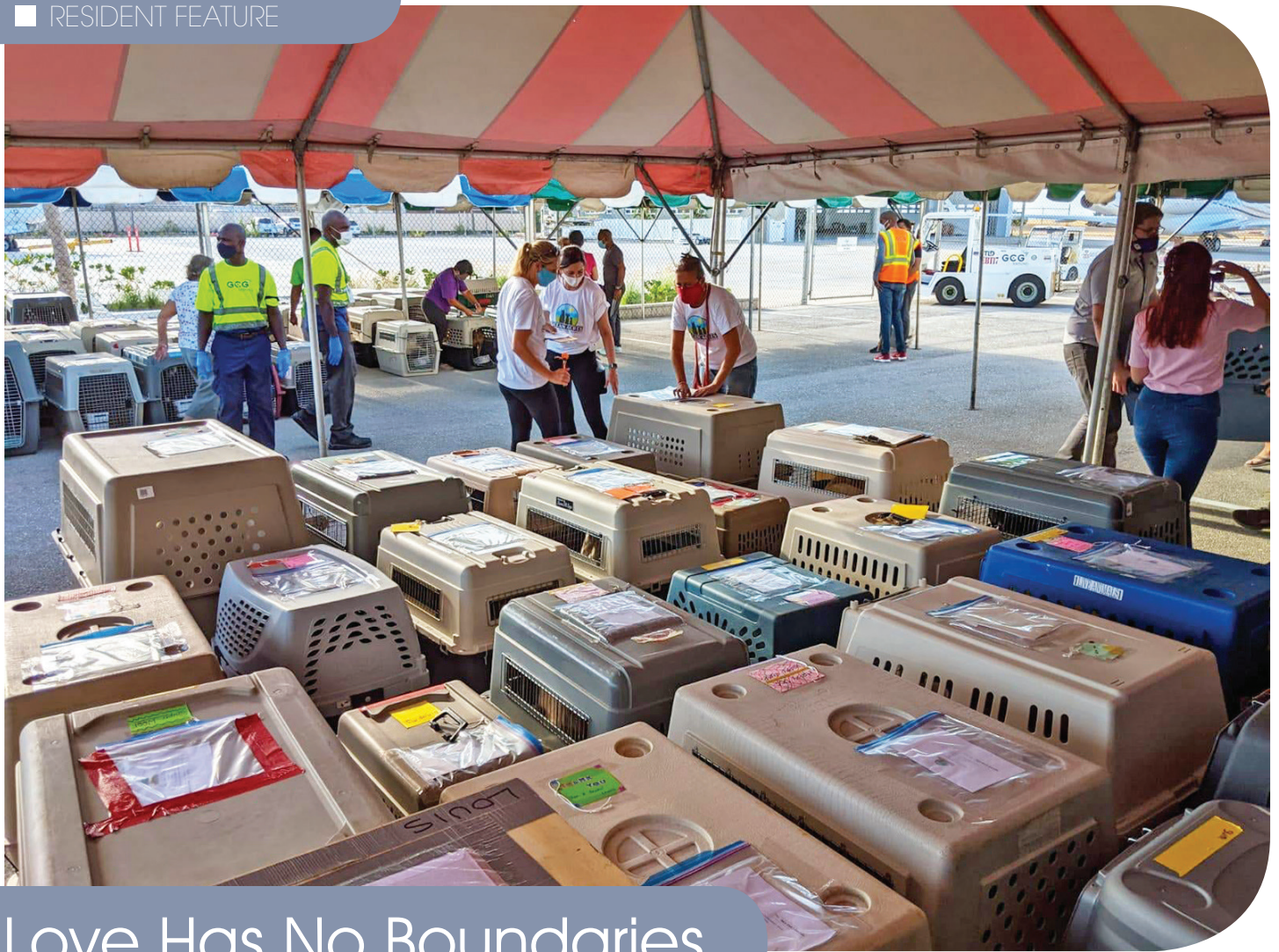
of Mississauga Road

An exclusive
magazine serving
the communities of
Mississauga Road,
Sherwood Forrest,
Erindale At UTM,
Sawmill Valley and
Indian Road



Love Has No Boundaries

at the *Peel Animal
Rescue Society*



Love Has No Boundaries

PARS volunteers helping to rescue dogs and cats from Barbados and get them adopted.

at the Peel Animal Rescue Society

By Annette Torchia

Photos courtesy of PARS

“Love has no boundaries.” That’s the phrase Lily Chan used to describe her work rescuing homeless dogs and cats from all over Peel Region and other parts of Canada, as well as from around the world. Lily is the Founder and President of Peel Animal Rescue Society (PARS), a non-profit dedicated to the rescue of homeless dogs and cats, and has over 22 years of volunteer experience working to better the lives of our four-legged friends. Prior to starting PARS, Lily worked for the Mississauga Humane Society. Under her leadership, the Humane Society rescued over 8,000 pets in need. But when she left the Society, Lily’s work wasn’t done.

Lily has herself owned many pets over the years. She currently has one dog and two cats. “They are like my children,” she says fondly.

Her love of animals led her to start PARS in September 2019. She has since worked tirelessly with the society’s volunteers to rescue an average of 400 animals a year! Out of those, 250-300 get adopted by loving families. “The remainder of our rescues have to stay a little longer,” Lily explains. “Most rescued cats that we take in are stray cats who have lived their lives outdoors without knowing what living in a home is like. They never had human contact before coming to us. They are very scared and not ready for adoption until they are properly socialized in their Foster Homes. Dogs are typically more easily socialized. Cats usually take at least several months.”

PARS takes in stray cats, dogs and cats surrendered by owners, and dogs and cats from shelters. For feral cats in colonies, they implement the Trap, Neuter and Return program to prevent over-

DONATION WISH LIST

FOR CATS

- Kitten food (canned & dry)
- Cat food (canned & dry)
- Cat litter
- Cat trees/condos

FOR DOGS

- Dog food, canned
- Martingale collars
- Leashes (strong ones)
- Foldable crates (medium and big dogs)
- Dog beds



Willow



Foster families are essential to the adoption process at PARS.

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Lennie and Lizzie were among the lucky animals rescued from Barbados.

population of homeless cats in the future. Very senior animals and those with long term health issues are placed in loving long-term foster homes where they can experience love and compassion.

PARS does not have a physical shelter or location, or any paid staff, but rather relies on the selfless dedication of foster families and volunteers to house rescues. They partner with Pet Value and Global Pet Foods who set up Cat Adoption Centres in their stores. All animals at the time of adoption are checked up, vaccinated, spayed/neutered and microchipped (Some exceptions apply).

Fostering is the lifeblood of the organization. Given the absence of a physical shelter, it is essential to the rescue work and the well-being of the animals. As the PARS website outlines, "A foster home provides the animal with a temporary home where it can feel like a valued family member. Foster homes not only spare them from the stress of confinement in a cage in a shelter/boarding facility but also provide these animals a loving home environment and adequate socialization, making them more adoptable." Not only is fostering a positive experience for pets, but it is also rewarding and fulfilling for the foster parents, who reap the wonderful benefits of pet companionship while helping to save a life.

Lily encourages people to open up their homes and their hearts to animals in need of care. "We always need more homes. It can be hard work, adopting a pet, but it's worth it! Love has no boundaries!" And that's true for Lily in the literal sense as well. Besides taking Canadian dogs and cats, her organization also rescues pets from other countries where adoptive homes are scarce. These countries include the Cayman Islands and Barbados. Most recently, on May 29, they rescued many adorable Barbados 'Ruffugees', a total of 22 dogs and 14 cats! The rescue was very successful, and all the animals are now in homes. You can see some of their photos here.

To learn more about PARS, you can visit their website at peelanimalrescuesociety.com or their corresponding Facebook page, and see photos or read success stories

in the Happy Tails corner. Donations are accepted online, which help to cover the cost of veterinary bills, PARS's biggest expense. You can also donate other items by reaching out to PARS personally. "We are a small organization with limited resources, so any donations and exposure really helps the animals and speeds up the adoption process by reaching more potential families." Check out the Donation Wish List for a list of needed items. Volunteers are also always welcome. PARS is always seeking foster families for Shadow Cats (unsocialized cats rescued from the outdoors). Application forms can be downloaded online and sent to info@peelanimalrescuesociety.com.

Thanks to the hard work of Lily and PARS's close to 50 devoted volunteers, there are fewer homeless pets across Peel Region and in the world every day. Their kindness, generosity and abundant love is truly making a big difference. 🐾



Leo



PARS volunteers help socialize rescues so they are adoption-ready.



Lily Chan, founder of PARS, with her animal friends

Do you know a neighbour who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbour to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at atorchia@bestversionmedia.com