



# SPCA

## Laurentides Labelle

# Between friends

## Spring 2019



**Dear supporter,**

Once again, we want to say thank you for being part of our team. Each donation, no matter how big or small, allows us to pursue our mission, tackle new challenges and save more lives. Here are some examples of situations where your donations have significantly been useful.

## Plume

Plume arrived at our shelter on December 26, 2018. Her owner surrendered her as she did not want to live in the house but when she was outside she was extremely vocal, which neighbors did not appreciate. The owners were not able to help the situation as for Plume, it was out of the question to live in the house. When she arrived here, our magnificent Great Pyrenees was extremely stressed out. We confirmed that it was really difficult for her to be inside, as she was a lot more comfortable outside.



She was adopted by a good family who was totally aware of her needs. However, despite their best efforts to help her live in the house, they saw no improvement. She was returned to us in early February. As it is more difficult to observe home behaviors in a shelter environment, her short stay with this family helped us better understand what Plume was doing in a home environment. As soon as she was in the house, she was becoming extremely anxious; panting, shaking, was overly vigilant and was even trying to get out through the windows. If she was left outside, she would bark and howl constantly. With numerous follow-ups with our veterinarians, we got her on medication to reduce her anxiety.

Late afternoon on February 14, 2019, Plume was showing worrismatic signals; unable to lay down, efforts to vomit, arched back, stiffness, irregular steps, hard and swollen belly, panting. Our team immediately suspected a gastric torsion and reacted promptly. Plume was immediately transferred to one of our veterinarian partner, Clinique de la Providence, where a thorough medical exam and x-rays confirmed our suspicions; she needed an immediate surgery. During the procedure, her stomach was repositioned properly and fixed (gastropexy) to prevent recurrence. At the end of the evening on February 14, Plume was slowly coming out of a surgery that saved her life...

For her entire convalescence, Plume stayed at the SPCALL getting regular medical follow-ups and was administered anxiolytic, combined with medication to reduce her anxiety. In the following days, she made great progress. A few weeks later, we started looking for a new family for her.

We knew she needed space, ideally a farm where she could have lots of freedom, without any close neighbors so she could freely vocalize. She needed a place where she could freely choose to be inside or outside. We have finally found the perfect environment for her, where she can blossom and stay there for the rest of her life. Not too long after, we got great news from her new family ; she was perfectly adjusting. In addition, her medication was even reduced! Not only that, she has stolen (yes stolen) the couch as her dog bed!!! See pictures.



## Gremlin

Here is Gremlin's story. This small kitten arrived at the shelter in December in a very poor shape. Severely suffering from rhinotracheitis, he was all stuffed up, had infection in both eyes and was in a critical dehydration state. As it was not already enough he was heavily infested with parasites. Immediately, this sweet kitten started on oral antibiotics and eye drops. Subcutaneous injections were also required for many days as he was so severely stuffed up that he could not eat on his own. Our vets, technicians helped him eat for many days with wet food. Just a few weeks later, he had fully recovered and found his forever family!

Stories like Gremlin's are just part of our daily routine.

As you know, spring just started. For us, this means that many kittens will come through our doors. As soon as they arrive at the shelter, kittens often require more care than adult cats. Numerous veterinary evaluations are required, so are the treatments and careful follow-ups from out technicians. In addition, as they require around the clock support, kittens under 8 weeks of age must be sent into one of our network foster homes. Even when in foster homes, they need regular visits with our veterinarians, specially formulated replacement milk and lots of canned food, everything paid for by the SPCALL.



GREMLIN BEFORE



GREMLIN AFTER

These animals are lucky enough to be taken into charge by a dedicated team of professionals that will do everything possible to give them a fair chance at life. On their behalf, we sincerely thank you. It is with your generosity that we can make all of this possible.

## Did you know that... ?

- The SPCA Laurentides-Labelle was founded in 1985 by a team of veterinarians and dedicated volunteer citizens concerned by the well being of family pets.
- In 2004, the SPCALL philosophy changed so we became an SPCA without any unnecessary euthanasia.
- Since 2010, Dre Louise Charest and Dre Rachel Dionne are part of our team. Between the two of them, they provide 30-40 hours of expertise and dedication per week.
- In 2010, we became a certified representative for the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec pour l'application de la Loi provinciale sur le bien-être animal in 4 areas : Argenteuil, Rivière du Nord, Pays d'en haut and Laurentides.



- In 2014, we were the first in the province of Quebec to open a low cost sterilization clinic for lower income citizens.
- Since 2014, the SPCALL welcomes during the school year, 1 or 2 students for 2-3 days per week. Those students come from various special high school programs. We also welcome interns from animal health technician program for a work term during their last semester. The shelter environment work is a specialty and we help them increase their knowledge with direct hands-on experience.
- In 2017, our General Manager, Corinne Gonzalez, was elected as President de Association Québécoise des SPA et SPCA (AQSS).
- For the year 2018, we saved 1823 animals (dogs, cats and few exotic species) and our combined death and euthanasia rate is 2,2%.
- Today, we can rely on more than 20 dedicated employees (adoption counsellors, dog patrols, inspectors, animal behavior specialists, animal health technicians and veterinarians as well as over one hundred volunteers. Most of our team members have between 5 and 15 years of seniority.
- Our shelter activities are entirely financed by donations, adoptions, and municipal contracts.

## The SPCA Laurentides Labelle image is getting a makeover!



We are in the process of changing our corporate image, logo and web site. The current one has been there since 2011. Time for a new look! As our team continues to open their heart and shows dedication to animal rescue, our new logo will better reflect our mission.

In the upcoming weeks, keep a watchful eye on our website, which will introduce many new features.



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