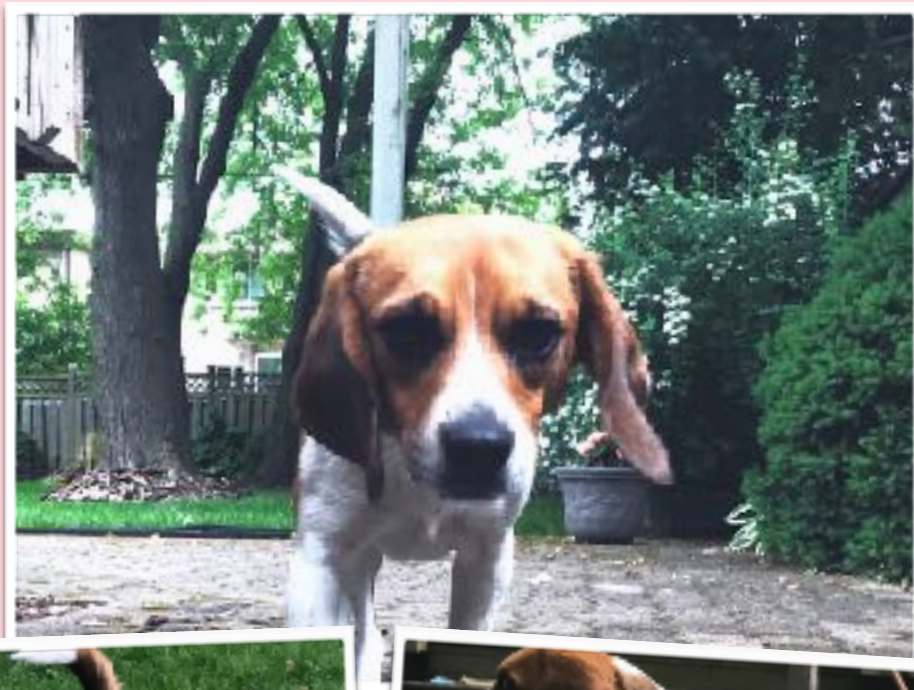


# Mere's Story

By Maureen Boag



for Animal Alliance of Canada  
August 2018

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# 3156533 was born, May 12, 2016. She was born on one of the largest farms in North America that breeds beagles and other animals for medical research and testing. Beagles are strong, healthy dogs that will withstand much more punishment than most dog breeds will, and sadly, their kind, gentle, good natured personality makes them a perfect subject. Beagles are used for biomedical research and toxicology testing.

A male beagle, Oscar, had owned me for 17 years and I wanted another one. I had done quite a bit of research on beagles used for research and I decided I wanted to rescue one. I got in touch with Beagle Freedom Project in California, who have agreements with numerous labs, to release their beagles after testing. BFP informed me that no labs in my area release their beagles. They are euthanized when they are no longer useful. I read somewhere during my research, that beagles are tested until half of them die, then the surviving beagles are put into further tests. They are tested on until their organs are so severely damaged no amount of drugs could keep them alive. ITR Labs in Montreal, is one of such research facilities. After an undercover investigation, ITR was also exposed for animal cruelty on CTV's W5.

ITR Labs buy their beagles from the same farm that #3156533 was born on. Fortunately she was one of the very few lucky ones.

This girl was purchased by a vet school, where the beagles are used for training vet students on spaying, neutering, shots, examinations, ECG's, EKG's etc. The beagles are just about one year old when they arrive at the school. On the advice of Liz White, I got in touch with the school in the fall of 2017 and they invited me to visit. The beagles all had names. They were no longer just numbers. I wanted a female this time. There was no replacing Oscar. So I chose Meredith.

I went to visit Mere every month through the fall, winter and spring. She lived in a stall with concrete floors that she shared with 7 other beagles. The floor was where they slept and eliminated on, as well. The stall was cleaned often and the dogs were well fed and cared for. They were taken for short walks, weather permitting, but not on a daily basis. At least they had each other.



On Apr 27, 2018 I was allowed to adopt Mere. Many people think that animals bred for research are not the same as our companion animals. There is no difference. Mere was smart (she was house trained after only 3 mistakes), she was funny, gentle, good natured and loving. She enjoyed life so much. She loved to take her leisurely 45-60 minute walks, twice, sometimes three times a day. Rain or shine. She had to smell every blade of grass, every tree, every bush, every post and roll numerous times on every walk. She had her own fenced in, shaded backyard to race around in for exercise and to lie in the sun, which she loved. She

was out from morning till night. I had to force her into the air conditioned house at times when the weather was too hot. When she did come in, she loved her cozy bed where she always felt so safe and looked so content. Mere wasn't too interested in meeting other dogs. I guess she had had enough of dogs, but she was sure a people person. When she saw someone walking towards her, her tail would wag non-stop. Mere also had to share the house with Belle, an 8 year old ornery, rescued cat. From the day Mere arrived, she understood Belle was the boss and Belle knew Mere would never be a threat.

On all our walks together, I would tell everyone walking their dog or anyone who just wanted to pat Mere, her story. People were shocked. Some couldn't believe we still use dogs and other animals for research in Canada.



On Aug 9, 2018, Mere died suddenly as the result of an accident. My heart is broken. I have never lost a companion animal suddenly and never one so young. I will never stop loving that beautiful little girl.

MP Elizabeth May is currently sponsoring federal petition e-1689, Use Of Animals In Research. The petition opened for signing May 28 and closes Sept 25. Less than 1400 people have signed to date. The use of animals for research, is archaic and outdated. There are modern, superior, more accurate, less expensive methods now in use at the University of Windsor, Ontario's, Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods. CCAAM is

headed by a scientist from Physicians Committee For Responsible Medicine, a group of over 12,000 American doctors and scientists, who are opposed to testing on animals.

I know it will be years before our politicians will vote to ban the use of animals in research. There are too many businesses and jobs that would be impacted. But at least we can let them know that many are against it and that there are modern, scientifically advanced methods now available.

Please consider signing this petition for Mere and all the animals that suffer needlessly in labs across our country. I am also sending my MP an email, informing him about CCAAM, letting him know my thoughts on animal research and that I signed petition e-1689. You may also want to do the same.



<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1689>



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