

# Milestones

## 1991-2020

Animal Alliance's *Project Jessie*  
saving lost and abandoned pets  
from researchers

By Liz White, *Director*

# Saved!



*Buddie*

ANIMAL ALLIANCE  
OF CANADA'S  
PROJECT  
JESSIE

# Victory!

Bitsey says thank you for protecting the lost dogs of Winnipeg by making City Council stop selling them to research.



*(see story on page 9)*

Bitsey wants you to know how grateful she and her family are for stopping this terrible practice.

## PROJECT JESSIE

## 1991 Campaign to ban the sale of pet dogs and cats to research

In 1991, when Animal Alliance was less than a year old, we launched an ambitious campaign. Our goal was to convince the Ontario government to amend the Animals for Research Act and ban the sale of pet dogs and cats to research.

We had very little money but we did have determination, passion, a sound plan and – most importantly – a small but unwavering band of supporters. We targeted Ontario because, at the time, it was one of two provinces forcing municipalities to sell lost and abandoned pets to researchers. Ontario would be a precedent.

We worked for several years to convince the provincial NDP government to amend the Act. We were so close to winning but at the 11th hour Premier Bob Rae intervened and overruled the will of his MPPs.

## 1991 Oshawa

NEWS HEADLINE

**City refuses to send  
dogs to research labs**  
*Council confirms earlier decision*

In a parallel campaign, we approached the municipalities to convince them to stop selling their lost pets to research. We began in Oshawa, a smaller city just east of Toronto.

We thought it would be an easy victory. Who would want to sell lost pet to researchers? We battled for two years. The researchers ran a campaign of fearmongering. The fight for the animals generated enormous controversy. Universities and hospitals pitted themselves against the residents of Oshawa and their pets.

Ultimately, compassion and facts prevailed and Oshawa became Ontario's first municipality to stop selling lost pets to researchers.

## 1991 Bowmanville

Our next target was Bowmanville (now Clarington), a 20 minute drive east of Oshawa. We hoped Bowmanville Council would adopt Oshawa's new compassionate animal policy.

No such luck. The Council steadfastly refused to stop selling pets to researchers. So we developed a second strategy. We would buy the dogs and cats for more than the researchers would pay.

The pound keepers agreed and told us that they would call to have us pick up any animals targeted for sale to labs.

## 1991 Project Jessie is Born

NEWS HEADLINE

**Project Jesse to save  
the animals**  
*by Kathy Everson*

Our first call came quickly. A research facility was sending a van to the Bowmanville pound to pick up a little dog named Jessie. She had been surrendered because a divorce was splitting up her family. Could we come immediately?

How could this request have come so fast? We weren't ready. We were just putting the rescue network together. We desperately searched and finally found a nearby volunteer who quickly drove to the pound. But we were too late. Jessie became another victim of the researchers.

## 2000 Alberta Universities Act

NEWS HEADLINE

Saturday, January 29, 2000

### Many mistaken for strays

At least 12 pets a year rescued from U of A lab

By DOUG BEAZLEY, EDMONTON SUN

At least a dozen family pets come close to dying on a University of Alberta lab table every year, due to mistakes made at the city pound, says the head of the Edmonton Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In 1993, the Animal Services, City of Calgary, ended the sale of their dogs for research. Seven years later, in 2000, the University of Alberta agreed to stop taking lost pets for research from the Edmonton pound. With two major cities no longer providing pets to research, we were able to convince the Alberta government to remove the section of the province's University's Act to end the sale province wide.

## 2002 Beagles - University of Guelph

In 2002, Project Jessie rescued 52 purpose bred beagles from the University of Guelph. These were not lost pets but they had been subjected to experimental procedures. And they needed our help.

Losing Jessie crushed us. We decided we could never let it happen again and Project Jessie was born in the memory of a little dog we never met and were unable to save.

After Jessie, not a single dog or cat from Bowmanville went to research. Today, the Bowmanville pound has become a progressive and humane animal service programme.

Project Jessie staff and volunteers continued to approach municipalities that were selling to researchers and convinced them to stop. We were so successful that even the aggressive opposition from the University of Guelph and the Ministry of Agriculture could not stop councils from saving their lost pets.



*Nicky, one of the first animals rescued.*

A colleague, who volunteered at the University reached out for help. We stepped in and placed every single beagle into a loving home.



## 2002 Royal and Laurie Bishop

Royal, a gentle 13-year old golden retriever wandered off his property and was found by a neighbor. No knowing where Royal belonged, she called the animal control officer.

Royal was the beloved companion of Laurie Bishop. When Laurie found Royal missing, she spent endless days searching desperately for him.

She called the pound keeper who kept changing his story as to what had happened to Royal. What the pound keeper did not tell Laurie was that he had immediately sold the gentle elderly dog to researchers at the University of Guelph.



*Royal, Laurie and Wally*

The University's animal care staff assessed Royal, deemed him too old for research and euthanized him the same day. Royal died as Laurie was desperately searching for him.

Government officials responsible for enforcing the Act – refused to help Laurie so she turned to us and we finally forced the government and the University to admit to Royal's fate.

Project Jessie launched a major media battle and forced the closure of the pound. However, the University of Guelph, which illegally bought Royal, was never held accountable and prevent another Royal from happening.

## 2002 City of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba

NEWS HEADLINE

**Stray dogs won't die in lab  
after city cancels contract**

We were successful in getting the City of Winnipeg to stop selling its lost dogs to the University of Manitoba. Despite a long time supporter who rescued Bitsey and who ran a 10 year campaign to stop the practice, Winnipeg Council resisted.



Together we acquire detailed information about what was happening to the dogs. Then we launched a city-wide campaign during Winnipeg's municipal election and made the plight of these animals an election issue. The stories of these dogs were heart wrenching and ultimately Council voted to end the practice.

## 2003 - 2020 Quebec

NEWS HEADLINE

**Quebec firms selling  
stray animals to labs**

As we did in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, we encouraged municipalities in Quebec to amend their by-laws to prohibit the sale of pets to researchers. In 2003, we began an exhaustive Freedom of Information search of all of Montreal's boroughs to determine how many dogs and cats were being sold to researchers. Board members and long-time supporters poured over the material we acquired.

Our work in Montreal sparked a 2011 CBC undercover investigative programme, Enquete. It exposed the handling of lost pets by a private pound contracted by the City of Montreal to care for its lost pets. The undercover footage exposed the cruel treatment of these animals. Montreal's current Mayor and Council have made a commitment not to sell their lost pets to research but very little is known about what is happening to them. Sadly, the City continues to use the same pound whose practices were exposed in the Enquete investigation.

## 2010 Live Terminal Surgeries

In the third decade, we forced the Ontario Veterinary College to end live terminal surgeries. The college requires students to purchase purpose bred dogs as part of their tuition. The students used the dogs to learn to perform spay/neuters. At the end, the university required the students to euthanize the dogs.

**The University of Guelph kills dogs like Rainbow. Why? We can find them homes.**

The University of Guelph's program requires students to purchase dogs for training. These dogs are then euthanized. We can find them homes.

**The NUTEP dogs, visit [www.ontariobestfriends.ca](http://www.ontariobestfriends.ca) or call 416-963-8844.**

For two years, we urged the College to end the practice as the world's leading veterinary colleges had done.

Needless to say, some students also wanted the practice to end because they had come to love their animals. With our help the college yielded and ended the practice.

## 2010 Saving dogs like Rainbow

However the dogs who survived needed our help and once again Project Jessie stepped in to organize their rescue and adoption. Our fight to end live terminal surgeries at the college led to the rescue of 32 sheep and 9 cows who were also facing certain death.



*Krista and Scout*

*Dear Liz,*

*I wanted to tell you that thanks to the publicity your organization gave these beagles, we are proud owners of a GORGEOUS 1 year old beagle!! Our first 'potential' dog was Mel (now Scout). I just tell you, it was love at first sight. She ran right to my husband Mark and covered him in kisses. She is always happy. She loves attention and has been spending most of every day outside playing.*

*Krista and Scout*



## 2017 - 2020 No Pets in Research

In 2017, we expanded our fight to stop the sale of lost pets to researchers, under the banner No Pets in Research. For three years, we have been searching for the sources of the approximate 12,000 pet dogs and cats still sold every year to researchers. We have made progress but we must continue the search.

The researchers, the universities, and the federal agency charged with protecting animals used in research, the Canadian Council on Animal Care, have been doing all they can to keep their pet buying secret.

The No Pets in Research campaign has three goals. One is to identify the pounds still selling pet to researchers and persuade them to stop. Two, pressure the federal and provincial governments to deny funding to researchers using lost pets. And three, get each province to pass legislation banning the use of pet dogs and cats in research.

## Gift of Compassion

Project Jessie is a “child” of the generosity and advocacy of caring people. Our child is almost 30 years old and going strong, all thanks to people like you.

We would be enormously grateful if you’d include in your generosity and advocacy the animals with whom you share your life and home, and with whom we all share this world.

A donation — your donation — to Project Jessie will help rescue pets at risk of being sold to researchers or suffering under conditions of cruelty and abuse. And, your contribution will help Project Jessies ‘No Pets in Research’ campaign to get laws passed that will ban researchers using pets in their often cruel experiments.

### You can donate online:

Visit Animal Alliance of Canada at:  
**AnimalAlliance.ca.**

Or if you would like a generous tax receipt, donate through our federally registered political party at:  
**AnimalProtectionParty.ca.**

# Saved!



*Morris and Hannah*



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