

Angel(a) to all creatures, great and small

BY JAMIE HARRISON
The Georgetown Gemini

The idea was so simple to Angela Mackey that it made too much sense not to do what she knew was right. With that, Mackey became a crusader for the rights of animals.

Working from her Moore Park area home, Mackey recalls the incident which turned her from a lifelong animal lover in to an activist, dedicated to doing all that she can to see that there are no unwanted animals.

"I've always been an animal lover, ever since I was a little girl. Our family had lots of pets," Mackey said.

A few years ago, a friend asked her what she wanted for Christmas. Where others might ask for an exotic vacation, a new car or a night on the town, Mackey's request was borne of the heart.

"I said I wanted an old dog that needs and home and doesn't have anybody."

She and her friend went to the Georgetown Marketplace and saw an information table set up by the Waterloo-Welington Alliance for Animals. There she learned that the Alliance is dedicated to rescuing animals which might otherwise go to research laboratories or be euthanized. She also learned that the Alliance had a policy of finding foster homes for these pets.

From Day 1 she was hooked. As a result, shortly thereafter, Rufus became part of the Mackey family.



PUPPY LOVE: Angela Mackey with her father, Raymond, and three furry friends. The dogs are placed in foster homes until they are adopted. (Jamie Harrison photo)

Rufus was 12-years-old, partially blind and deaf, and not in the best of health. As a result, Rufus died nine months later.

"I thought he was the least likely to be adopted, so it was well worth it," Mackey said of her short time with Rufus.

"He loved us so much in return, we signed the adoption papers and brought this gentle old Terrier home."

Currently the Mackey house has two dogs in full time residence, though others are in foster homes and

kennels throughout Halton Hills. In addition to working full-time at Standard Products, Mackey also ensures that each dog gets regular exercise, usually bringing them to her home.

"At any one time we could have up to four dogs here. The neighbours see me walking the dogs every day and ask where the dogs come from," she said, adding, "It keeps me in shape; walking the dogs and getting fresh air."

A not-for-profit organiza-

tion, the WWFA raises money through bake sales and car washes, subsidizing veterinary bills, long distance calls and the \$50 fee charged when an animal is released from the pound.

"It's really satisfying and rewarding knowing that you've made a difference in an animal's life; knowing that they don't end up in a research lab."

Anyone interested in becoming a foster home for a dog can call Mackey at 877-7650 or 873-0298.

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