

Community

Snowball's chance for survival depends on costly operation

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

When you open the door at Andrea and Karl Campone's house in Acton, you're almost bowled over as three shaggy dogs with wagging tails joyously greet you.

It's not until you make your way into the home that the family felines slink in, inspect you for a moment and pad away in disinterest.

As you settle into your chair with a dog lying at your feet and the other pets make themselves comfortable on the couch, you notice the shelves lined with the smiling faces of the family pets.

It doesn't take long to realize the Campones are honest-to-goodness pet lovers.

But animal love has put them in a situation they can't cope with space-wide or financially so the couple is appealing to the public

for help.

Last week, while driving down Hwy 401, Karl caught sight of a dirty, matted dog walking slowly down the expressway lane of the highway. Immediately, he stopped the truck to save the animal from the possible death trap of speeding cars.

Little did he know much more would have to be done to save the shaggy trooper.

After bringing the dog home and cleaning it up, the Campone's had themselves a fluffy, white, purebred Spit' - a dog selling for several hundreds of dollars as a puppy.

Assuming such a valuable and beautiful dog would be sorely missed by its owners, Andrea hung up posters reporting the dog found and placed a lost and found ad in a Mississauga paper. As of yet no one has called.

Andrea named the Spitz "Snowball" and watched as the dog adjusted to her surroundings. She also noticed the dog was 'scooting' and knew the dog needed to have its anal glands expressed, a common occurrence.

Expecting the procedure to cost \$30 at the most, Andrea brought the animal to the Veterinary Clinic on River Street in Acton and learned the dog had abscessed teeth and a tumor, possibly cancerous, in its breast. She was told Snowball would have to be given antibiotics for a gum infection, would have to have her teeth scraped and be operated on to remove the tumor for her to be healthy. Total costs for the operation were estimated at \$300.

Since the Campone's didn't really own the animals and considering the animal is approximately 10-years old and may have cancer, they had to make a decision whether they thought it was worth it to go ahead with the expensive operation or put the animal to sleep.

But Andrea says it didn't take them long to decide to give the Spitz every chance for survival.

"From my point of view, if you have an animal, you have to give it a chance," she said. The person who owned the animal before likely didn't have the same point of view and dropped Snowball off on the road somewhere so they wouldn't have to pay for the dog's care believes Andrea. "It's not the dog's fault it was considered a disposable pet. Snowball shouldn't be put down because she was considered inconvenient or because her health care would be costly."

Unfortunately, the Campone's say they just can't afford to pay for the treatment Snowball needs and have started a fund to raise money for the operation. They've now found another vet who believes she can do the operation for \$200 so that's the amount they're hoping to raise.

After the operation, they plan to put their energies towards finding a good home for the dog. Although the couple would love to keep her themselves, having an energetic Beagle cross and a leggy Irish Wolfhound leaves little room for another dog. Lack of funds also dictate that the couple find another home for Snowball.

They say Snowball is a quiet dog who's very good in the house and loves swimming.

If you're interested in helping Snowball out, jars have been placed in 'Pamper Me' and the 'Leather Town Feed Store' in Acton. Anyone who thinks they can provide a good home for Snowball can call Andrea at 853-4668.



"Snowball", the Spitz, is all smiles now that Andrea (seated) and her husband Karl Campone of Acton rescued after she was found running up and down Hwy 401 last week. Now Snowball needs \$200 worth of surgery to live and the Campone's are asking for help. (Herald photo)



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