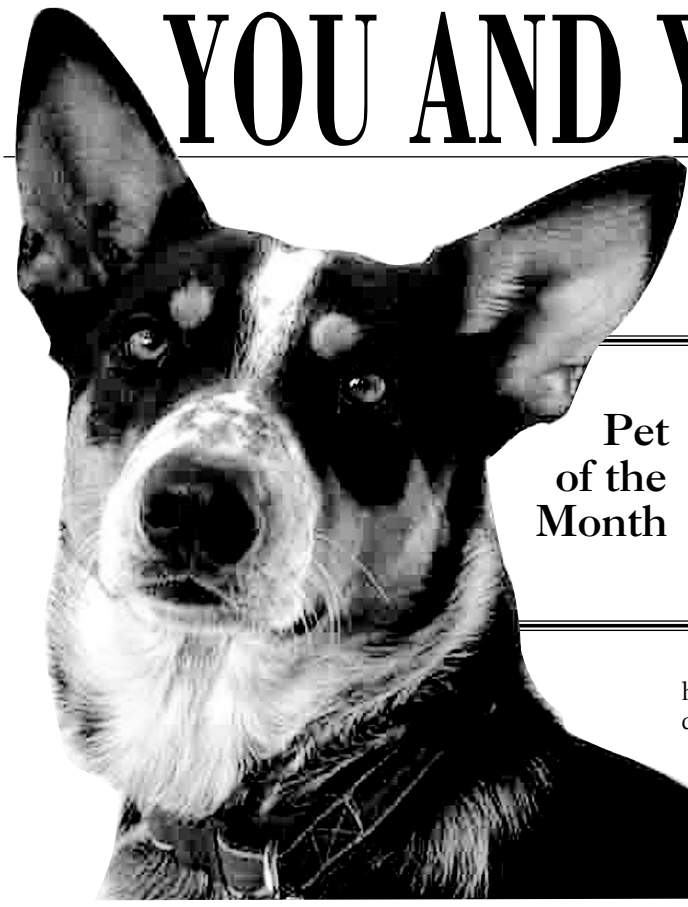


YOU AND YOUR PET



**Pet
of the
Month**



**UPPER CREDIT
HUMANE SOCIETY**

Does no one want to meet me?

Dreaming? No, I am awake and it is the caregivers who are here for me. What is that song, *Another Day in Paradise*? Well not exactly. The Shelter was supposed to be for my transition, a temporary housing to allow me to find my forever home— is this all I am going to get, am I not worth more?

I know that the Shelter staff and volunteers love me and are as bewildered as I as to why I am still

here, while even newcomers to the "gang" are in and out so quickly you don't get time to give them the once over.

My main focus in life is the now desperate search for those people who will actually want me. If you ask my caregivers they will tell you that as a "teenager" I do have boundless energy (meant for "rounding up cattle") or in the meantime anything that moves but is that really a negative if steered in the right direction? Others of my kind have found homes through

UCHS and I am hoping that my luck too will eventually turn.

I have a very lively brain, boredom makes me anxious, when I see someone heading in my direction. I become overexcited and am told I do "not present well" whatever that means. I think leaping in the air and showing agility is fun and my alacrity at this type of exercise is unsurpassed.

I have been praised by my caregivers for my intelligence, my willingness to listen, my knowledge and execution of commands. Now, I will tell you a secret— this can easily be improved further with food as a lure. I love my treats... more about that.

I actually blossom when I am able to go with a caregiver on a long hike, my behaviour is such that I am let off lead, and I support that decision by showing how I keep them in sight, do not run away, just enjoy the freedom and special time with them. On returning to the Shelter, I know that those treats I talked about before are in my pod and I am eager to check them out and return to my pod promptly to their delight.

I weigh in around 50 lbs, am undoubtedly handsome (so the canine ladies say), with a beautiful tri-colour coat exhibiting

beautiful merle markings and I possess a unique tail which has an amazing kink in it (natural in many of my kind).

I am thought to be too rambunctious for preschoolers, but will share the house with another dog, especially if they are like Callie who I adore (note: another resident who is leaving Blake for her new home and who he will miss adding to his duress).

I truly am a good boy, loving, called "wonderful" and am a victim of circumstance— imagine if you were confined for hours, wouldn't you be running around, stretching muscles, enjoying the elements, wind in your face, snow at your feet, playtime would almost be too much to bear especially if you were a teenager!

I would love the brain drills of training classes and want a life of companionship and exercise to tire my body and stimulate my mind. I am definitely not a lazy boy but rather, active, friendly, and oh, so ready to be molded into the dog you want me to be. Active adults please come out and meet me, give me a chance, time is hanging heavily on my paws and sadness is a word I do not want to get to know.

My little heart is beating quite quickly because I feel now we have had this "heart to heart" you will come to meet me, fall in love with me and take me home where I will love you as much, or more than you love me. I am anxiously waiting with anticipation in my eyes— call the Shelter at 519-833-2287.

I know you will ! I know you will!

The UCHS Thrift Shop, in Moore Park Plaza, is welcoming spring with Easter items and spring clothing. The March Auction features a 10K gold Celtic Knot ring. View at www.uppercredit.com, or visit the Shop for other auction items. Volunteers are still needed; please call: 905-702-8661.

The Upper Credit Humane Society presents *Spring Thaw—A Taste of The Bistro Riviere* on Sunday, March 30, 2-5 p.m. Experience finger food samples of some of the culinary delights from the kitchen of Chef Thorntin Macdonald. Cash bar, door prizes, raffle and silent auction. Tickets are \$35 per person and are available at: UCHS Shelter, 519-833-2287; Thrift Store, 905-702-8661; Judith-Anne Kolu, 519-855-6532; Darlene Hill, 519-853-4313 and the Bistro Riviere, 519-833-1121.

Upper Credit Humane Society volunteer Judith-Anne Kolu usually writes the articles about pets needing a home but Blake "wuffs"— he has taken over his own destiny and will write about his plight himself. So here is Blake speaking on his own behalf.

My name is Blake and I am a one-year-old neutered male Australian Cattle Dog (aka Blue Heeler) who is "wasting away" at the Upper Credit Humane Society.

I can still remember the day when I was picked up as a stray. I was petrified from my ordeal and literally shook with fright when I was brought to the Shelter. What was going to happen to me here? But warmth, food and kindness were offered to me and my fear abated.

However, I must have been here for what seems years to me— months they say— but time hangs on your paws when day after day life is not a "bowl of cherries". I wake up in my pod, yawn and stretch and look forward to today being THE DAY my new family come to get me and I live happily in their home as part of the family forever.

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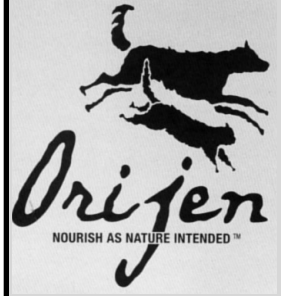
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