

YOU AND YOUR PET

Doesn't everyone need a Buddy?

JUDITH-ANNE KOLU

Upper Credit Humane Society volunteer

The answer to that question— doesn't everyone need a Buddy?— is a definite "yes", especially if it is this particular "Buddy".

Buddy is a young seven-year-old Mastiff mix and yes, she is a female. She was surrendered when her family could no longer afford to take care of her and she had to leave the home in which she had spent her entire life and this sudden arrival at the Shelter left her bewildered and shaken and slow to adjust.

Our wonderful compassionate staff and volunteers decided that "Buddy" could not be put in the general Shelter population because her gentle heart would just "snap in two", so Buddy has made her home in the office where I have met her several times. Of course she has her daily exercise breaks, but has adapted well to the hurly burly of the main office, phones ringing, people coming and going, other animals arriving and leaving.

Buddy greets you with tail wagging and even an "alert" bark if the office is empty to let her new friends know there is a visitor.

I was told she is an amazing dog, and one look at Buddy was instant love. This dog exudes love and a quiet serenity that even those who see so many can see she really deserves that title "amazing dog". She approaches you, inspects you in a ladylike manner and is immediately wanting to be petted and admired. This gentleness extends to other dogs, cats and children.

Buddy is also described as a sort of "peacemaker" and "a nanny dog", one who just wants to love other pets and be loved back by everyone. One of her favourites is Obi and she certainly shows that he is special to her by giving lots of kisses to her pal. Buddy enjoys wrestling and playing and having had all that interaction, what's better than to curl up on your bed and take a nap?

Everything about Buddy is a positive and her ONLY negative is the fact that the other part of her lineage besides Mastiff could be part Am Staff which our Ontario law designates a breed who has to wear a muzzle in public. This is ludicrous in Buddy's case and no one has yet had the heart to put this horrid apparatus on

her, so she would have to bear the indignity of this unsightly muzzle and be trained to wear it. The writer finds this abhorrent as Buddy is as much danger to people as an 18-month-old toddler!

Buddy, described also as the "gem of the Shelter", is going to need knee surgery. She tore the ligament several years ago which her owners never had repaired. Her surgery will cost over \$400 plus the work, time and money for her rehabilitation. She has lived with this injury for several years and has lost all the muscle mass on the injured leg. She is very "top heavy" due to her front legs having to do all

do the same.

Some of the animals the Trooper's Fund (i.e. you the public) have helped are:

- The pointer puppies— Freddy, Gunner, Jasper who were rescued from a horrendous life and had multiple problems from neglect. You paid for their operations on hips, eyes, teeth.

- Lava, a dog that had an infection in her head and shoulders that required major vet care, surgery and medication.

- Genevieve, a feline who had been shot with a pellet gun in the eye and was in dreadful pain, and nearly lost her sight but after surgery through the Trooper

Fund, her eye was saved with some sight— truly amazing.

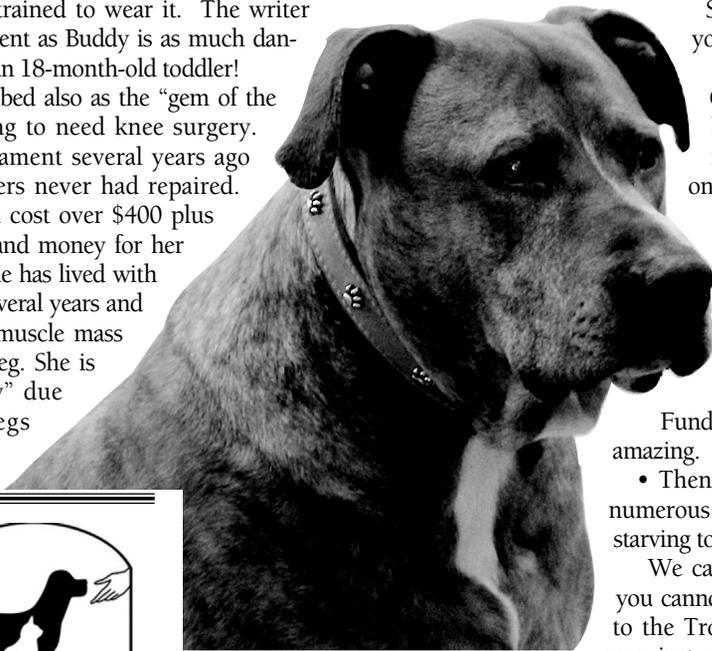
- Then there are those dogs and cats which are numerous who have had dental surgeries instead of starving to death, because it was too painful to eat.

We cannot help Buddy without your help, so if you cannot adopt her, can you help her by donating to the Trooper Fund on her behalf. If you are not sure, just come into the Shelter and meet this darling girl, and you probably will be the first to make a donation such is the power of Buddy.

In summary, Buddy needs a very special family, and after surgery if we cannot place her in her final home, we would be happy to place her with a foster family while she recovers from the surgery and therapy. The Shelter is not an optimum place for an animal post surgery, but she will be kept until a suitable family can be found.

The writer, staff and volunteers are hoping that once more the public will come through for us either to adopt Buddy, foster Buddy or donate for her surgery, we cannot do any of this without you!

To meet Buddy, call the Shelter or drop by during our hours of business and fall in love with this super girl who is special to all who meet her. The Shelter can be reached at 519-833-2287.



Pet of the Month



UPPER CREDIT HUMANE SOCIETY

the work and she will need physical therapy after healing to gain back all that muscle mass. She has also (like so many of us) developed

arthritis in that leg and will need ongoing supplements. It is her very essence of being that we feel this surgery is absolutely necessary— she gives so much on a daily basis to all she meets, both human and canine and we are hoping we can give her peace and a life free of pain.

We are once again asking for the public's help through our nearly deplete Trooper's Fund.

Since setting up the Fund, many animals have been helped and gone on to find excellent, loving homes and a bright new future, we are hoping that Buddy (our special girl) will be able to

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