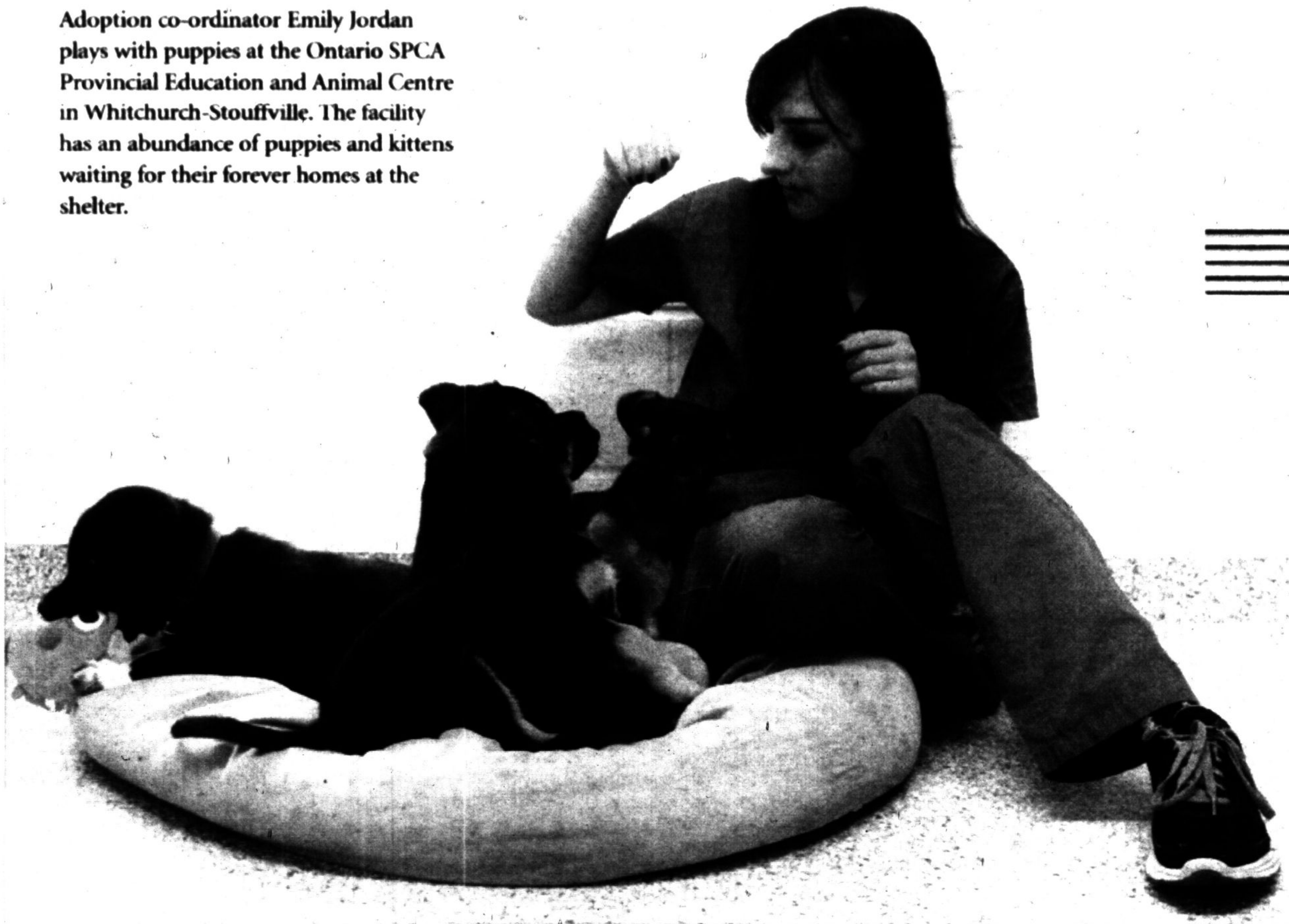


Adoption co-ordinator Emily Jordan plays with puppies at the Ontario SPCA Provincial Education and Animal Centre in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The facility has an abundance of puppies and kittens waiting for their forever homes at the shelter.



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

'Perfect time' of year to adopt new pet

Plenty of kittens, puppies at OSPCA

BY SEAN PEARCE
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If you have considered adopting a new furry friend, the Ontario SPCA Provincial Education and Animal Centre in Whitchurch-Stouffville has plenty of puppies and kittens in need of a loving home.

The shelter recently received one litter of puppies from Timmins and two others from Fort Erie, acting branch manager Jennifer Toof said, explaining one batch is prepped for adoption, while the others were to be ready yesterday.

Late summer may be hectic with the start of school, but she said there are a number of reasons why it is an ideal time to welcome a new puppy, kitten, bunny or small animal into your family.

Late August/early September is when many people's packed summer schedules start to wind down. "If I was getting a puppy, I'd get one now because that way you're not trying to house train it in the winter.

"It's really the perfect time."

Children enrolled in the centre's children's camp have made it their mission to find homes for all the puppies and kittens.

They have even named them after their favourite Toronto Maple Leaf and Ottawa Sena-

► If you're looking to adopt a new pet, drop by the shelter at 16586 Woodbine Ave. in western Whitchurch-Stouffville, to view or visit the animals in the adoption centre. For more, call 905-898-7122 ext. 306, e-mail peac@ospca.on.ca or visit peac.ontariospca.ca

tors hockey players and are eager to see which team gets adopted first.

They have even named them after their favourite Toronto Maple Leaf and Ottawa Senators hockey players and are eager to see which team gets adopted first.

Regardless of which "team" wins, Ms Toof hopes all the shelter's animals eventually find a wonderful home.

"Both puppies and kittens make great companions for singles, couples and families of all sizes," she said. "Please consider adopting one of these beautiful babies or giving a second chance to one of our many adult pets looking for their forever home."

Revamped Stouffville dog park celebrating grand opening

The leash will officially be cut Sept. 14 at the Stouffville Dog Park.

The off-leash park has been open for almost three years and is operated by the town, in conjunction with the not-for-profit Stouffville Dog Owners Association. It is located at the end of Sam's Way, just southeast of the Walmart plaza.

The off-leash park is about one-and-a-third acres in size with two sections. One is for any and all dogs to romp around in and the other is specifically for small and senior canines.

The small/senior dog play area has its own entrance.

The entire park is surrounded by permanently-installed six-foot metal chain link fencing to deter any diggers and leapers from escaping.

The grand opening will include doggie play time, vendor booths, prizes, a barbecue and face painting.

The celebration runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, go to www.freethepooch.com

Better stock up for Labour Day

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Workers will be putting their feet up instead of into a pair of work boots come Monday, as everything from liquor to grocery stores and the town hall are closed for Labour Day.

In Stouffville, The Beer Store, LCBO, NoFrills, Metro, Walmart and Canadian Tire are all closed Monday.

So, too, are all municipal facilities, including the library, pool, fitness centre, museum, arenas and town hall.

LCBO agency stores may be open on Labour Day, provided local municipalities do not object. York Region's only agency store is at the Foodland on Hwy. 48 in Mount Albert.

Businesses and facilities reopen Tuesday morning as usual.

But the leisure centre pool will be closed from Sept. 2 to 6 for maintenance.

WHY WE'RE OFF WORK

Why do we get the first Monday in September off every year? Is it so parents can get their kids ready for the start of the new school year, which begins the following day?

No.

Labour Day celebrates the "Nine Hour Movement" that began in 1869 in Hamilton and spread to Toronto's printer's union.

In 1869, unionized printers requested their work weeks be shortened to 58 hours.

The request was denied.

Three years later, the request became a demand, accompanied with a strike threat. The strike became a reality March 25, 1872.

Replacement workers were hired and it was revealed, the union's actions were illegal.

Three months later, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald passed the Trade Union Act, which legalized and protected union activity.

Almost all unions demanded a 54-hour work week moving forward.

Parades in support of the unions took place.

In 1882, an American labour leader saw, first hand, one of these labour festivals while in Toronto. When he returned to New York, he organized the first American labour day, Sept. 5, 1882.

On July 23, 1894, after much pressure, Sir John Thompson's government made Labour Day an official holiday.

Source: *The Canadian Encyclopedia*