

# Benjamin

A loving story about a dog and his lasting impact on the animal kingdom



the **Benjamin**  
Project



Photo by David Shaul

**Honouring the Goodness of Pets  
and Eliminating Animal Cruelty from the World**

# History



- ◆ My birthday in May 2000

OSPCA in Newmarket – a shelter like GHS:

*“We have a little boy here. He’s not glamorous but is the most laid back dog we have ever seen”.*

And this began a love affair with this little boy  
that lasted 13 years





# Love at First Sight



Saturday May 6, 2000





# Our First Walk!





# Anticipation!!



- ◆ May 7-10: Expectant parents!
- ◆ May 10: Benjamin was ours!



*Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.*

- Anatole France

# Off to Benjamin's Forever Home!





# Things to Think About

- ◆ What are your responsibilities in your pet's care? Or, what will they be if you get one?
- ◆ Would you consider getting a pet from an animal shelter or rescue place?
- ◆ Why are there so many shelters in the first place? Could we have a world without shelters one day?





# A Dog Shelter in Thailand

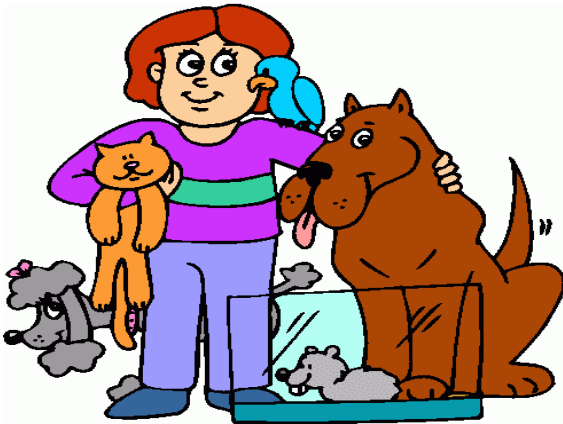


# Puppy School!



# Pets Need Playtime!

- ◆ Why do you think that is?
- ◆ What happens if a pet doesn't have enough stimulation?
- ◆ Do you or are you prepared to take time to play with your pets?
  - ◆ **Before school? Lunch time? After school?**



# Benjamin and a Baby Skunk!



# So Intelligent!



- How did Benjamin know which way to go each time?



- Why do you think Benjamin lay down with the baby bird?

# Did you Know?

*A pet is always sensing things and communicating with us and other animals*

*We just have to learn their language!*





Photo by David Shaul



Photo by David Shaul



# Athletic, Fun-loving, and Curious





Photo by David Shaul



Photo by David Shaul



Photo by David Shaul















# Animals help People and Society

Can you think of any examples of  
how dogs do this?



# Dogs Act As:



- ◆ Guides for the blind
- ◆ Visitors for the elderly in nursing homes
- ◆ Rescuers in natural disasters and war zones
- ◆ Protectors for people with an illness – for example, seizures
- ◆ Companions for children in stressful situations – for example, in exams at school
- ◆ Herders for farmers





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*A “seizure dog” is one that has been specially trained to live and work with people who have epilepsy. Some are trained to bark and alert parents when a child is having a seizure outside or in another room. Some lie next to a person having a seizure to prevent injury. And some work is being done in training dogs to warn before a seizure occurs, which gives the person time to lie down or move away from a dangerous place such as a hot stove.*

*MedicineNet.com*

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# Did you Know?

- ◆ Elephants cry when one of their family dies
- ◆ Dolphins rescue people from drowning
- ◆ Geese fly in formation



- ◆ Apes groom one another



- ◆ Salmon return to their place of birth to lay their eggs



# Storm Saving Baby Deer



Tarra & Bella

# Peyo, the Therapy Horse





# Hachiko – A Tale of Superhuman Faithfulness



# Other Things to Think About

What will you do if you:

- ◆ See a dog in a car on a warm day with the windows closed?



- ◆ Hear about a puppy mill which breeds dogs in terrible conditions?
- ◆ See someone mistreating an animal?



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*If you see a pet locked in a car on a warm or hot day,  
even if the windows are a little open, do something about it!*

*Call the police or a place like the Humane Society.*

*See the Ontario SPCA's website [hotpets.ca](http://hotpets.ca) for your pledge  
to not leave your pet in a vehicle.*

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# Did You Know?



- 
- ❖ *75% of young people who commit an assault have an **early record of animal cruelty***
- 

- 
- ❖ *Animal cruelty laws in Canada refer to animals as 'property' instead of **living beings with real feelings***
- 

MedicineNet.com



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*Researchers have noted that when children grow up in a home with a dog or cat they are less likely to develop allergies.*

*Same is true for kids who live on a farm with large animals.*

*MedicineNet.com*

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*We have a duty of kindness to all animals.*

*We have a duty to prevent cruelty to all animals.*

*We have a duty of humane treatment towards all animals, which includes that euthanasia should be considered only as a last resort after all other options have been exhausted and then only in the case of irremediable pain or loss of a significant quality of life, or if the animal is a proven and significant danger to the safety of the public.*

*We hold that animals who become human companions should be treated with respect, dignity and valued for their social interaction and contribution to humanity, such that they should not be considered simple property, but rather sentient, living creatures in their own right.*

*We hold that human caretakers of animals and potential caretakers are to be highly valued and considered as partners in our ongoing efforts to educate the general public on the inherent value of animals, including the need to spay or neuter in order to reduce suffering in the urban wilds.*

*We hold that we as humans have a responsibility for the animals whom we have domesticated, and that we will strive for an Animal Bill of Rights that reflects all of the above.*

- The Toronto Humane Society was founded February 24, 1887 by John J. Kelso and held its first public meeting in January, 1888.



# Chilling!











# King Benjamin



# Chilling with Daddy



# Having a Cool One





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## Remember: Water on Demand!



*Always have a bowl of water out if you have a dog and always carry water as soon as the weather gets even a little warm.*

*You can get a water bottle at any pet store. Don't leave home without it!*

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# Bliss!



# One Happy Doggy!





# A Love Affair

















# Dinner is Served











# Remember!

Never feed raisins, grapes, or chocolate to your dog, and check with your vet about onions and garlic.

And always consult your vet if unsure about the contents of any food item.



# Illness & Loss







- ◆ Animals get the same diseases people do.
- ◆ And they can suffer a lot.
- ◆ But they are so courageous!
  - *they never complain*
  - *they still love you*
  - *they count on you to take care of them*



- ◆ They also need you to help them ease their suffering and help them pass on if /when that time comes.
- ◆ This is the most difficult thing to do, but it is part of your responsibility as your pet's best friend.





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*“Sometimes our lives are touched by gentle friends who stay only for awhile but remain forever in our hearts..” –*

Anonymous

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the **Benjamin**  
Project

- An initiative to raise money for animal shelters  
& for education on responsible pet & animal care

# “Honouring the Goodness of Pets and Eliminating Animal Cruelty from the World”

- ◆ My first book **Benjamin**
- ◆ A children’s book!
- ◆ Telling Benjamin’s story in schools and to groups like you
- ◆ Lots of *Benjamin Boosters* worldwide who love their pets and treat all animals with respect!

All net proceeds from book sales & any future items  
go to animal shelters & to education

Do you Want to be a  
*Benjamin Booster?*



# Artwork from Kids Fair at CNIB Community Hub in Toronto Nov 17, 2018



And Now, Time for  
Art Work Here!



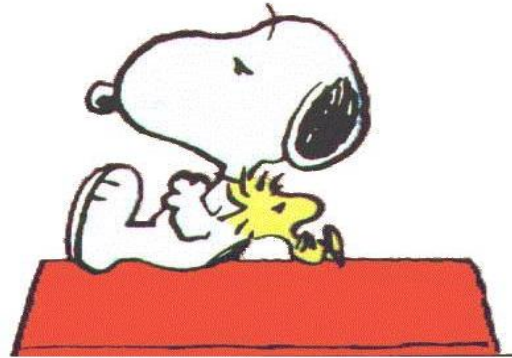


“Yes!”

I want to be a *Benjamin Booster*

Count me in!





- What do our pets teach us?
- How can we use this to make the world a better place?
- What can we do to make the lives of all animals as good as they can be?

# The Things I Learned Today:

- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_



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*“They are angels in our midst, pure goodness, without guile, without vengeance or malice or pride, attentive and capable of selfless love in ways that we (as humans) can only aspire to.”*

*Alex Colville, Canadian painter, speaking in Toronto in 1994.*

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