

Paw Talk

A publication of the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County – William Gazecki Animal Shelter

Fall 2015



A Healthy Head Start

Boots was just a few days old when he was found by a worker at a waste disposal site. He was wet, covered with dirt, and all alone. He needed help. So after a quick, unsuccessful search for a mom, the young man tucked the tiny kitten in his shirt pocket and brought him to the shelter.

Boots is a 'neonate kitten.' Orphaned or separated from their mom while still nursing, and unable to eat on their own, neonates are fragile and in need of special care.

In past years, neonates were placed in a shoebox with a hot water bottle and housed in the same bank of metal cages with the other, older foster kittens. Towels had to be stuffed between the bars to keep the kittens in, and it was noisy and stressful for the tiny babies.

But this year, thanks to donations from theittybittykittycommittee.com community, Boots was placed in our new Neonate Room. This small area connects to the regular foster room, but is quiet, warm, and contains a row of special hospital warming cages which keep the kittens at a steady temperature and humidity.

Little Boots was bathed, bottle-fed, and was soon sleeping peacefully in his special enclosure. Before the end of the day, he was on his way to an experienced foster home for round-the-clock care. But during those critical hours while he was at the shelter, Boots was able to get the intensive care and nurturing he needed. Thanks to our generous donors, neonate kittens now have a place to call their own.

Humane Heroes

A Day in the Life of Shelter Volunteers

8:00 am: The parking lot is empty as Janie drives up to the Humane Society to start her volunteer shift. She heads for the kennels, where staff is busy feeding and cleaning. Brutus, a big, goofy Rottweiler mix, starts wagging from head to toe when he sees her. He knows what's coming up.

As she heads out the door to take him for a walk, another volunteer steps in to prepare his enclosure. By the time they return, Brutus has a new blanket on his bed, fresh water, and a large Kong toy filled with treats to keep him busy. Several other volunteers join Janie, each walking a dog while enclosures are cleaned and readied.

9:00 am: Pet Food Pantry volunteers Karin and Tara are busy filling bags of pet food for other volunteers who will be delivering supplies to



Michelle and Muffet head out for a walk and some cuddle time.

low-income seniors later in the day. Additional volunteers are helping clean and feed the cats and rabbits, preparing them for the day.

11:00 am: Bath Brigade volunteers Shirley, Kathy, Anne and Maria arrive. Staff members have identified dogs and cats especially in need of grooming, and soon they are up to their elbows in suds. They take their



Chico is comforted by volunteer Sarah.

time, knowing the animals need the hands-on attention as much as a bath.

They will spend most of the day transforming flea-ridden kittens and matted dogs into happy, comfortable pets. Since they are on full view during their grooming, people often stop to watch. And some even fall in love.

1:00 pm: The afternoon dog walkers arrive to repeat the process of exercising the pups. They may also take them out to the play yard for a game of fetch, or simply sit quietly with them. Cats are petted, kittens are played with, and all the animals get some attention.

2:00 pm: Erica, Laura, and Drew identify some of the more rambunctious dogs and bring them upstairs for a treat-filled session of “clicker training.” The dogs learn to focus, sit, and remain calm in exchange for a treat. This training could help win them new homes faster.

3:00 pm: The last group of volunteer kennel, cattery, and rabbit attendants arrive for the final shift of the day. Sarah soothes cats and counsels potential adopters, while staff is answering phones, processing adoptions, reuniting lost pets with

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2
their families, and welcoming a steady flow of homeless pets into the shelter. And everywhere you look, volunteers are helping the staff “Make Happy Happen.” Whether it is filing forms, scheduling low-cost spay/neuter surgeries, bottle-feeding orphaned kittens, greeting customers, assembling adoption packets, or helping with dozens of other tasks, it all makes a difference.

5:30 pm: Wayne stops at the shelter on his way home from work to take dogs for a final evening walk. Foster volunteer Dixie picks up a litter of five-week-old puppies that arrived that afternoon, and David and Deb return from a day of trap-



Drew and Cocoa enjoy a training session.

ping Community Cats and transporting them for spay or neuter surgery.

By nightfall, all the animals are clean, fed, exercised, and nurtured. They don’t know it, but they owe much of their comfort and contentment to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy that day.

It is impossible to express how much volunteers contribute to the Humane Society, and make our life-saving work possible. Thank you volunteers!

Interested in volunteering at the Humane Society? Find out more at www.thehumanesociety.org/get-involved/volunteer, and plan to attend one of our next volunteer orientations: Friday, October 2 or Sunday, October 4 from 10:00 am to noon at the shelter.

Welcome Home

When the Christie family saw the elderly stray wandering down a busy road, they knew they had to help her. They took her home for the night, and in the morning brought her to the shelter. The sweet shepherd mix had had several seizures while in their home, and they were concerned for her health. They knew that at the Humane Society, she would get the care she needed and have the best chance of being reunited with an owner.

The dog was placed under veterinary care, and received medication which controlled her seizures. When no owner came forward, she was

made available for adoption.

Meanwhile, the Christies hadn’t stopped thinking about her. They kept tabs on the gorgeous salt-and-pepper girl, and when they saw she was available, they came down to the shelter to adopt her. Maddie was delighted to see them, and the Christies were happy to welcome her home.

A few days later, Mrs. Christie posted an update on the Humane Society’s Facebook page, letting us know that Maddie had settled in. “You can’t go wrong with an older pet,” she advised. “They want to give you more love than you can imagine!”



The Christie family with Maddie.



PRESENTED BY



\$303,000 Raised for Homeless Pets!

Something special happens every fourth Saturday in July, when people, their pups, and even the occasional cat, come together in support of the Humane Society. Dog-A-Thon 2015 broke every record, with sponsors and vendors contributing \$48,875; individuals and teams raising more than \$250,000, and donations, micro-chips, sales, food trucks and other revenue adding up to a grand total of \$303,000 to help homeless animals!

Saturday, July 25, 2015 couldn't have been more perfect for a celebration. Cloud cover and a slight breeze meant that more people and pooches than ever turned out for this fun event. The 1,500-plus crowd shopped a record number of vendors, enjoyed herding dog and other



demonstrations, participated in contests and showed off their pets. Food trucks were new this year, providing a variety of fare to hungry walkers while donating a percentage of their proceeds to Dog-A-Thon.

You couldn't miss the excitement in the air as crowds of people gathered to celebrate the joy of pet ownership and the Humane Society's success. Humane Society Executive Director, Kathleen Olson, even dyed her hair bright pink for the occasion, to show she was "tickled pink" at reaching zero euthanasia for shelter cats.

The funds raised by Dog-A-Thon 2015 will help thousands of homeless pets find their forever families; provide more than 1,300 orphaned, ill,

Continued on page 5



Dog-A-Thon 2015 presented by



Continued from page 4

or un-socialized foster pets with the food, medication, and support they need to thrive; spay or neuter more than 3,000 pets for low-income

Top Individuals

- Laurie Cinotto
- Diane Chervenak
- Paul Doty
- Walt Sommers
- Dan Kyler
- Sarah Miller
- Chad Osvog
- Jenn Trettin
- Sherry Johnson
- Sarah Anderson

owners; and help more than 5,000 families receive help feeding their pets through our Emergency Pet Food Bank. Humane Society

staff, volunteers, and board members appreciate all of you — our generous members, sponsors, vendors, and

Top Teams

- Theittybittykittycommittee.com
- Team Maggie
- Doty's Doggies
- Tacoma Dog House
- BFF - Boeing Furry Friends
- Pets for Life Ambassadors
- KO For Pets
- The Scooby Gang
- Quincy and Wilks Raise da' Funds!
- Best Buy

participants – who have made a difference in the lives of our dogs, cats, rabbits, and other small mammals.

When passionate people come together, good things happen. Thank you!!!

Virtual Community Makes a Difference

Theittybittykittycommittee.com team does it again!

In 2015, the Itty Bitty Kitty Committee — headed by Tacoma artist, writer, and foster mom Laurie Cinotto — and their followers raised more than \$155,000 for all things cat! The Committee breaks the common misconception that Dog-A-Thon is just for dogs, and shows how powerful it can be when we combine our forces for good. All around the world, donations poured in for specific feline-related shelter programs — Foster/Head-Start, Senior Cats, Special Needs, Spay/Neu-



Laurie's foster kittens are irresistible in their miniature fundraising set.

ter of cats, Pet Food Bank / Meals On Wheels, and a new room to quarantine cats with ring worm.

It's easy to be inspired by Laurie and her band of cat lovers, who are as humble as they are generous. To all of you, our whiskered friends say the biggest of thank mews!

Lend a P.A.W.

Helping animals has never been easier! Increasingly, our members have become monthly donors by joining the Humane Society's P.A.W. program (Pre-approved Automatic Withdrawal). By having a set donation deducted from a credit card or checking account each month, P.A.W. members know they are saving the shelter money while doing even more to help animals.

For some people, a small donation each month is easier than a single gift,



and really adds up for the animals! P.A.W. members receive our newsletter, as well as a yearly summary, but are not mailed fundraising appeals or thank you letters. It's a convenient way to know you are helping animals in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

If you are interested in learning more about the P.A.W. program, contact Helen, the Humane Society's Development Associate, at 253-284-5802, or HelenH@thehumanesociety.org.



Humane Happenings

Upcoming pet-related events

PetSmart Charities Adoption Event

11:00 am - 7:00 pm, Friday, September 11

PetSmart Tacoma

11:00 - 6:00 pm, Saturday, September 12

PetSmart Tacoma

Noon - 4:00 pm, Sunday, September 13

PetSmart Tacoma

Humane Society dogs, cats, and rabbits will be available. Adoption fees will be \$50 or less.

The Humane Society will be at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup Sept 24th-27th

Ongoing Pet Adoptions

Daily during business hours at the following locations:

PetSmart Tacoma - Cats

Petco Tacoma - Cats and Rabbits

Petco Federal Way - Cats and Rabbits

Petco Bonney Lake - Cats and Rabbits

Petco Lakewood - Cats and Rabbits

Petco Puyallup - Cats and Rabbits

Petco Gig Harbor - Rabbits only

Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital - Cats

Feline Foster Training

William Gazecki Animal Shelter

10:00 am, Saturday, September 26

2608 Center Street, Tacoma

No RSVP needed

New Volunteer Orientations

William Gazecki Animal Shelter

2608 Center Street, Tacoma

2nd Floor Classroom

Open to the first 100 people

10:00 am - Noon. No RSVP needed

Friday, October 2 & Sunday, October 4

Other

Pet Loss Support Group

Meets at 10:00 am

2nd Saturday of every month.

William Gazecki Animal Shelter

2608 Center Street, Tacoma

No charge; all welcome

Bunny Mani-Pedi Day

(nail trims, basic grooming)

No charge, all welcome, RSVP Required

(thebunnyladies@yahoo.com)

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The first Saturday of every month.

IN HONOR GIFTS

Agustin & Dulce Lasso
Ivan Lasso & Alexandra
Hernandez
BajlijiMikeBee
Sanna Wasankari
Beamer & Emily
Christopher McLean
Bella
Margaret Robinson
Bridget Boly
Jasmine Davis
Kathleen Leonard
Charlene Butterbean
Bianca Stoner
Cheryl Phillips
Gordon Phillips
Chewy
Lois Baker

Dina DeCaro-Shaw
Tovi Standal
Fred DiLeonardo Feline
Cathy Skortz
Ginny Rawlings
Joan Bowen
Grechen Longfellow
Pam Longfellow
Itsy Bitsy
Claire Christian
James Puckett & Lorelle Parker
David Carr
Karin Carr
Jason & Andrea Pestana
Monique Nadeau &
Joseph Schneider
Kaelyn Walker
Sharon Jenkins

Kathleen Olson
Maddie's Fund
Katie Mee Hogan
Debra Kusmerz
Gina Zinn
Kelly Grimm
Tammy Grimm
Linda Bostrom
Steve Huffman
Nancy Miner
Cassandra Hirmer
Patricia Reynolds
Teri Rideout
Purrina
Sandra Schierman
Richard Teasley
Lois Baker

Rita N. Hopkins
Gayle Hopkins-Welch &
Dale Hopkins
Rosie (Bao) Hunt Alumni Class of 9/2012
Jane & Dale Hunt
Smudge
Sherry Jenkins
Tiffany Campbell
Cheri Warner
Tris McConaghy
Joan & William Kellis
Uncharted Waters
Jane Murray
Willow
Jacqueline Foss
Xica, Shelby, Calvin & Ginger
Linda Spence-Noyer

IN MEMORY GIFTS

Aerial
Robert & Phyllis Davis

Agathe
Martineau Lamarre & Sylvie Warren

A.J. Krogstad
Barbara Krogstad

Ali
William & Lael Dick

Alice K. Trayers
Anonymous

Allie
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Amy Eileen Dyckman
The Dimmer Family Foundation
Margaret & John Toynbee

Andrew A. Jordan
Ronald & Robin Richardson

Angel
Ellen Covington & William Fox
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Ann Rule
TNG Friends

Anne
Her Co-Workers

Archie
Bruce & Juanita Hunt

Arlene McFarland
Sandy Lapham

Audrey Thomsen
Barbara Driscoll
Barbara Farron

B2 & Wallace
Laura Miller

Bailey
Millie Parmelee

Bailey Mulligan
Helen Hickman

Barney & Molly
Jacqueline Foss

Bill Hansen
IBEW 76
LU 76 IBEW Retirees Club

Blitz Sword
Brian & Peggy Sword

Bob (Robert) Otto
Anonymous
Wayne & Barbara Baker
Elizabeth Henderson
Yvonne Hughes
Cindy Johnston
Nancy & Robert Junka
Sara Kreamer
Jack & Angellea Loomis
Robert Olsen & Kaye Whisler Olsen
Wayne Paradis
Ely Smith
Kathleen Stevens-Barrera & Mario Barrera
Karen Wolf

Brady
Dawg Town Tacoma

Brandy Sword
Brian & Peggy Sword

Brooke Elenore
Lynn Pelegruti

Browning
Barb Anderson & Pete Young

Bubba
Alton & Marilyn Vicki Tart

Bubba Gump Hamblen
Joanne Hamblen

Buddy
Eric, Jo & Hannah

Bugsy
Tom Rawlings

Cali
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Carol Krusen
Diane & Bill Rolf

Carrie Kuhel
Browns Point Improvement Club
Helen Hickman
Dan Kiel
Pilkey, Hopping & Ekberg Inc.

Chester
Lynn Pelegruti

Chloe
Kathleen Grant
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Chopper
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Chuy
Jennifer McNaught

Clawed
Keith & Gail Plumb

Coco
Dana Chambers

Cody Max
Judy Johnson

Corbin
Amelia Higgins
Danielle Elise McGowan
Eileen, Michael Jr., Scott, Brady & Ash
Sandra McBride

David (Dave) Perkins
LeeAnne Denney
Margaret Gossett
John & Linda Kolb
Ardine Martinelli
Laura & Mark Polcyn
Walt & Grace Sommers

Dean
Bob Bjorklund
Diana Mitchell Sanford
Ruth Daugherty
Dugald & Norita Stewart

Dianne Laws
Paul & Nadine Rushfeldt
Willie & Faye Stewart
Chris Laws

Dolores Ruth Dingman
Norleen & Ronald Barclay

Dooney & Max
Sandi & Richard Trask

Dyson
Chad & Katie Osvog

Edward Doherty
Cherie Peterson

Elsie
Vicki Tart

Emily
Tom & Diane Pakar

Gabrielle
Guinivere Joy

Gimli & Legolas
Kimberley McDowell

Harley, Pushkin, Sally Sue & Mac
Marina Arbut

Harry Potter
Tom & Lynrae Hubbel

Heide Bahm
Daniel Kelley

Izzy
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Jambi
Laura Gardner

Jazzy
James & Janet MacDonald

Jetty, Lulu & Pugsley
Deborah & John Buckhalter

Joan Marie Lancaster
Edward Textor

John Gosnell
Mary Harrington
Don & Evelyn Townsend

John Sinkovich
William & Linda Gazecki
June & Bob Meadows

Jolie Koth
Linda Paine

Joy
Vicki Tart

Joyce (Gussie) Quinlan
Sally Boyle
Miles & Vicki Bradley
Gayle & Kelly Carolus
Dana Chambers
Ralph & Karen Davey
Maryalis & Wilfred Frink
Maudy Gosnell
Mary Harrington
James Haviland
Pat Ingram
Irene Koth
Katherine & Justin Kuravackal
Allen & Janice Matsumoto
Joyce Messer
Russ & Gloria Odell
Linda & William Paine
Bonnie Petrequin
Marguerite Richmond & Tam Jackson
Jeanne Werner-Spaulding

K-9 Officer Barney
Jon & Barb Beachner
Bluepearl Washington LLC
Carole Geis

K-9 Officer Tyler
Ivey Taylor

Kara Siegel
Linda Siegel

Lady
Ivey Taylor

Laurie Merta
Leslie Merta
Lawrence Huffines
Edmund & Mavis Scholtz

Leslie Kapral
Rosaura Burton

Linda Ackerman
Bev Sayle

Liv
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Lucy
Tim & Blanche Starkey

Maggie & Chance
Maudy Gosnell

Marley
Robert & Ingrid Sager

Martha DuBois
Don & Tara Cady

Mary Kelly May
Audrey Burglund

Maxie, Edward, Ike, Frank, Kayla & Sam
Kristin Nutt

Michael Stuart Rademaker
Joe & Sandra Gordon

Missy Paine
Linda & William Paine

Mommam
Prangri Suwanart

Olive
Lynn Pelegruti

Oreo Kraseski
Maryam Zia

Peanut
Jennifer Mitchell

Peg Hillman
Caroline Harris

Pen & Apple Wolcott
John Wolcott

Phil Austin
Dia Allds
Phil Proctor & Melinda Peterson

Phyllis Fisher
Elizabeth & Richard Hobbs
Robert & Donna Tessier

Pumpkin
Beth Richardson

Punkin Pi
Jeanette & Ronald Adkins

Quincy
Heidi Schooley

Rico
Elli Oleole

Riley
Douglas Rohner

Ripley Gilletti
Michelle & Frank Gilletti

Roger Walston
Jane Walston

Romeo
Stephanie Tiburzio

Rookie
Cindy Connally

Rosie S
Carolyn Smith

Ruffles & Mac
Wallis & Terrence Roarke

Sadie
Marguerite Richmond and Tam Jackson

Sam
Robert Briggs

Sammy
Gregg Marquart
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Scout
Chad & Katie Osvog

Shadow
Monica Moen

Sharon Lee Veitenheimer
Mary Sue & Charles Bergeron

Snaffle
Tamera Fletcher

Sophie
Amanda Michaels
Kali Raisl

Spanky
Dan & Leslie Sommerfeld

Squirrel
Kathryn Thompson

Sterling
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Sterling Smith
Norman & Lois Kutscha
Don & Eleanor Vandenheuvel

Steve
Christina Lui & Karl Hill

Stubby Tail
John & Suzanne James

Sweet Pea
John Clemens

Taro
Linda Bostrom

Teddy
Susan Schultz

Toby Fisher
Willa Price

Tom Kress
Charles & Domenica Aly

Victoria (Vicki) Connor
Kay Bechtholdt
Joseph & Beverly Dawson
Diane, Mary, Shirley & Miriam
Sharon & Nyland Evans
Sheri Hinds
Wendy Scott
John & Karen Trueman

Wallace
Tammy Guenzi

Walter Watson
Carol White

William Hansen
Debra Jones

Willie
Edward Chamberlain

Xiu Xiu
Cecily Joque

Yogi, Acey & Sammy
Pamela Nathan

Zeke
Heidi & Chris Schooley

Mission

The Mission of the Humane Society is to advance the welfare of animals and promote positive relationships between animals and people.

Vision

The Humane Society envisions a community where every pet has a permanent and loving home, every companion animal is spayed or neutered and all pets are treated with respect and compassion.

The Humane Society is a private, non-profit organization that relies on donations to fund its vital programs. The Humane Society is not associated with any government agency, nor is it affiliated with any national animal welfare organization.

Board of Directors 2015-2016

Chad Osvog, President
Barb Van Haren, Vice President
Paul Doty, Treasurer
Amy Bettesworth, Secretary
Christopher Marston, Past President

Julie Curtis
Heather Fancher
Melissa Hortsch
Regis Jackson
Marcy Kulland
Amanda Nathan
Walt Sommers
Jenn Trettin
Bob Zawilski

Leadership Team

Kathleen Olson, Executive Director
Marguerite Richmond, Development Director
Frank Strueby, Finance Director
Monica Wylie, Deputy Director
Kim Robbins, DVM, Chief Veterinarian
Matt George, DVM, Shelter Veterinarian
Aubrey Clement, Customer Service Supervisor
Jessica Emel, Kennel Supervisor
Sarah Anderson, Cat Adoption Coordinator
Cecily Joque, Dog Adoption & Behavior Coordinator
Carrie O'Connor, Spay/Neuter Coordinator
Alex Ropes, Volunteer Coordinator
Tony Casiano, Technology Manager
Robert Jones, Facility Manager

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County

2608 Center Street
Tacoma, WA 98409-7694
(253) 383-2733

www.thehumanesociety.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tacoma, WA
Permit No. 429



Shelter Hours:

Monday - Friday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Closed Sundays & Holidays

Directory:

Customer Service (253) 383-2733
Membership & Donations (253) 284-5823
Spay/Neuter Clinic (253) 284-5838
Volunteering (253) 284-5832

Found Pets List (253) 383-2733, press 1