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 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 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
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 trapping 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.

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!”

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.

www.thehumanesociety.org
$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, microchips, 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,
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 owners; and help more than 5,000 families receive help feeding their pets through our Emergency Pet Food Bank.

Top Individuals
Laurie Cinotto  
Diane Chervenak  
Paul Doty  
Walt Sommers  
Dan Kyler  
Sarah Miller  
Chad Osvo  
Jenn Trettin  
Sherry Johnson  
Sarah Anderson

Humane Society staff, volunteers, and board members appreciate all of you — our generous members, sponsors, vendors, and 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/Neuter 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!
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

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.

Feline Foster Training
William Gazecki Animal Shelter
10:00 am, Saturday, September 26
2608 Center Street, Tacoma
No RSVP needed

Other Ongoing Pet Adoptions
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
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IN HONOR GIFTS

Agustin & Dulce Lasso
Ivan Lasso & Alexandra Hernandez
BabyMaleBe
Sanna Wasanakri
Barner & Emily Christopher McLean
Bella
Margaret Robinson
Bridget Boly
Jasmine Davis
Kathleen Leonard
Charlene Butterbean
Bianca Steen
Cheryl Phillips
Gordon Phillips
Chewy
Lois Baker
Dino DeCara-Shaw
Toni Standal
Fred D'Ilario
Cathy Skorcz
Ginny Rawlings
Joan Bowen
Geochi Longfellow
Pam Longfellow
Jay Bitty
Claire Christian
James Puckett & Lorret Parker
David Carr
Karlin Carr
Jason & Andrea Pateana
Monique Nadeau & Joseph Schneider
Karen Walker
Sharon Jenkins
Kathleen Olson
Middle's Fund
Kate Mee Hogan
Debra Kuumerz
Gina Zinn
Kelly Grimm
Tammy Grimm
Linda Bostrom
Steve Huffman
Nancy Miner
Cassandra Hirmr
Patricia Reynolds
Toni Rideout
Purina
Sandra Schierman
Richard Tooasley
Lois Baker
Rita N. Hopkins
Gayle Hopkins-Welch & Dale Hopkins
Rae (Boj) Hunt Alumni Class of 9/2012
Jane & Dale Hunt
Smudge
Sherry Jenkins
Tiffany Campbell
Cheri Warner
Tris McNamnghy
Joan & William Kellis
Uncharted Waters
Jane Murray
Willow
Jacqueline Foss
Xia, Shelby, Gahan & Ginger
Linda Spence-Noyer

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.

www.thehumanesociety.org
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.