

Paw Talk

A publication of the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County – William Gazecki Animal Shelter
Summer 2015



The Million Cat Challenge

There's a "cat revolution" progressing across the country, and the Humane Society has proudly joined the ranks. After decades of struggling with cat overpopulation, researchers from the UC Davis Koret School of Shelter Medicine and Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida have developed a realistic solution to ending cat euthanasia. It is called the Million Cat Challenge, and it aims to save one million cats in shelters in North America over the next five years.

How? By developing programs to manage when and how pets enter

the shelter, preventing disease while they are in the facility, and streamlining their placement. It's a multi-faceted approach, involving changes at many levels, but the staff is already seeing some exciting results.

One of the first changes was to open the shelter later each weekday morning. This allows staff the time to care for the animals and to answer phone calls from people wishing to relinquish a pet. The staff can provide counseling and alternatives, but if the animal does need to come to the shelter, an appointment is made to

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Vintage Tuesday

In an effort to help older pets find loving homes, the Humane Society has declared every Tuesday to be “Vintage Tuesday.”

Once a week, adoption fees are waived on all dogs and cats eight years or older. The special is a great away to spread the word that seniors make wonderful pets, and sometimes it’s the extra incentive an adopter needs to decide on an older animal.

Introducing Vintage Tuesdays!

Adoption fees are completely waived for dogs and cats 8-years-old and up every Tuesday.

make happy @ happen
the Humane Society
Tampa & Plant City

Silver whiskered dogs and cats make great pets!

Please note: this weekly special does not apply at Petco or PetSmart locations.



So far, it’s been a success. In the first three months of the promotion, 148 pets aged eight years or older found loving homes.

Million Cat Challenge

Continued from page 1

admit the dog or cat. Appointments help to manage the shelter population and ensure the optimal environment and outcome for each pet. By gathering more information from owners during the intake process, staff can “fast track” highly adoptable animals, and identify pets in need of special care. This reduces the amount of time a pet stays at the shelter, and also minimizes disease.

Another big change was to create larger enclosures for all cats. Studies show a direct correlation between cage size and stress-related disease in cats, so portals were installed to combine two smaller cages into one

large enclosure. Cats are also given a box for hiding, which further reduces their stress.

Shelters that have embraced this challenge find that they can care for the same number of animals, but by decreasing the length of their stay, fewer enclosures are needed, as there are fewer pets in the shelter at any one time. This allows staff to provide better care for the animals, which leads to healthier, happier pets and quicker placement.

The Humane Society is excited to be part of this revolution

in cat care, and invites you to learn more about this program at www.millioncatchallenge.org.



Installing a portal between two cages creates twice as much living area, reducing stress and increasing comfort.

Fleece Comfort

When a shelter cat finds its forever home, it's a cause for celebration. Especially for those cats who have been waiting awhile. But taking a cat from its familiar environment in the shelter to a new and strange home can be stressful.

To help ease the transition, we provide every cat with a small fleece "security blanket" while it is at the shelter. This single layer of fleece is placed on top of the cat's bed and stays with the cat while it's at the shelter.

When it goes home, the fleece goes in the box with the cat, along



with its toy and scratching pad. This gives the cat something comforting, with its own smell, to help acclimate it to its new home.

Home at Last!

Bentley was recently reunited with her family after being missing for four years!

The sweet shepherd mix escaped the Miller's yard on Valentine's Day in 2011, and her family had given up hope of ever seeing her again.

When they received a call saying Bentley was at the Humane Society,



the Millers couldn't believe it. Bentley had come to the shelter as a stray,

and her microchip traced back to their number.

The Millers were ecstatic to see their friend, but Bentley was even happier.

As soon as she saw them, she became a blur of kisses and wiggles.

Humane Society's Amazon Wish List

The Humane Society has a Wish List on Amazon.com, where you will find descriptions of needed items which can be purchased and shipped directly to the shelter. Just go to Amazon.com and search for "Tacoma Humane".

Thank you for helping animals with your donation!





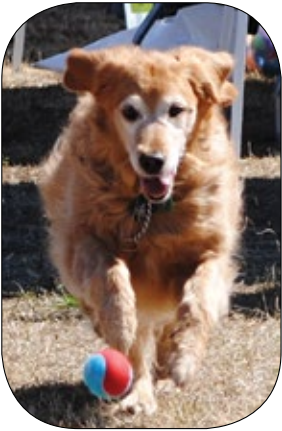
PRESENTED BY



Saturday, July 25, 2015, 9:00 – 2:00

Join Us for the Humane Society's Signature Event to Help Homeless Pets!

For 25 years, the Humane Society has celebrated the joy of pet ownership with its signature fundraising



Walk for Homeless Pets. Every July, more than a thousand pet owners, animal welfare advocates, and community partners come together to support shelter

animals through the Dog-A-Thon, and on Saturday July 25, the tradition continues.

Last year, individual and team walkers brought in an incredible \$253,000, which directly benefitted homeless animals at the Humane Society. Dog-A-Thon pledges provide shelter, veterinary care, rehabilitation from cruelty and neglect, and many other essential services for lost and abandoned animals in our community. With your help, we plan to raise even more in 2015!

Make a difference in the lives of animals with these easy steps:

1. Raise pledges using the attached pledge form.
2. Create your own fundraising page at www.firstgiving.com/dogathon. Customize it with stories and photos, and encourage friends and family to contribute.
3. Form a team of two or more, and multiply your fun!
4. Join us on Saturday, July 25 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at pet-friendly Fort Steilacoom Park. Prepare for a jam-packed day of scenic trail walks, pet-related vendor booths, demonstrations, contests, entertainment, food trucks, and much more! Everyone is welcome, with or without a canine companion.

Thank you for giving the most vulnerable among us a second chance at life. See you at the Dog-A-Thon!



Dog-A-Thon 2015 is presented by



What Kind of Dog is That?

By Cecily Joque, Dog Care Coordinator and C.P.D.T. - KA

When you visit the shelter, you will see kennel cards describing dogs as “Lab mix,” “Pit bull/Shepherd mix,” “Chihuahua mix,” or other combinations of breeds. But how do we know what breeds are in the mix?

If an owner brings us a dog, we rely on their identification. They may know what breed the mother was, at least. But if a dog is a stray, or the owner is unsure, how do we make the best guess possible?

It’s not always easy. If there are only two breeds in the mix, it may be fairly obvious. A Golden Retriever/Basset Hound, for instance. Or a Pug and Beagle. But many mixed breeds are the offspring of generations of mixes, and the predominate breeds can be difficult to determine. Specific breeds become more jumbled with each generation, and even with DNA testing, it can be complicated.

Size, shape, coat type, and color are all taken into consideration. Does the dog have floppy ears or erect? Is the tail short and stubby, long and thin, or bushy? Coat color can give us some indications as well. A black and tan coat with a saddle pattern may indicate the dog has German Shepherd in him, especially if he has other shepherd traits, like a long nose and erect ears. A short, tricolor coat with long, droopy ears may indicate a Coonhound mix, and a large,

fluffy dog may have Golden Retriever or Chow Chow in their ancestry. First impressions are important – if at first glance the dog looks like a Labrador, it is likely to be a lab mix.

When we aren’t sure, we consider the “law of averages.” Even if a dog looks like it might have some Catahoula Hound, or Patterdale Terrier, those breeds are unusual, and less likely to be represented. Labradors, Pit bulls, and Chihuahuas, on the other hand, are much more likely to be reproducing in our community.

The last and probably the most important factor in guessing a dog’s heritage is experience. Shelter staff see thousands of dogs every year, and quickly develop an instinct for a dog’s breed and character traits.

Knowing what breeds are represented in an individual dog can be helpful up to a point. Potential adopters like to know, and it can sometimes give us an indication of the dog’s character traits. But genetics can play tricks on us, and in the end it’s the dog’s personality and temperament that really matter. And whether a dog is a purebred or a mix of many breeds, personality matters more than looks, and our shelter dogs have the potential to make lifelong loving companions, no matter what the breed.



Based on her looks and personality, I judged this sweet pup to be a Jack Russell Terrier mix.

IN HONOR GIFTS

Amelia Buelt
Anonymous
Elizabeth Buelt
Anna Guy
Shauna Mann
Aubri Wing
Angela Fernandez
Kris Fernandez
Bailey & Murphy Mulligan
Jo Anne Albertsen
Belle
Constance Hill
Charlene Butterbean
Bianca Stoner
Emma
Helen Klatt
Genie
Alissa Frederick

Georgia Macourek
Ellen Bakke
Catherine Douglass
Emily Happy
Glenda & Evan Garrett
Caren Skube
The Gorbaty Family
Judy & Bob Orlando
Gordie
Michael & Allyson Mandick
Heidi Schwartz
Bruce & Joni Douglass
Henry Buelt
Elizabeth Buelt
Shauna Mann
Itty Bitzy Kitty Committee
Patrick Nazzaro
Jamie Veitenheimer
Mom & Dad

Josh Money
Rodney & Christine Money
Kaelyn Walker
Sharon Jenkins
Kristin Gruel
Lynda Buermann
Laurie Cinotto
Patrick Nazzaro
Lisa Heyerdahl
Robert Duncan
Luna
Todd Clirehugh
Mary Massaia
Anonymous
Mateo & Mimi Caso
Diane Tilstra
Mischa Bellarin
Chris Tarrach
Mollie Hoff
Barbara Meadows

Monty
Jordan Lyon
Paul E. Doty
The Baker Family
Dianne Stoehr
Rita N. Hopkins
Gayle Hopkins-Welch & Dale Hopkins
Rob Alsbury
Kathy Paris
Ron Bender
Chad & Katie Osvog
Smudge
Sherry Jenkins
Todd Vincent
Marc Robertson
Xica, Shelby, Calvin & Ginger
Linda Spence-Noyer
Zeus
Walter Flamoe
Zoe & Salazar
Marlaina Wall

It's Raining Kittens!

Expectant mothers are often given a baby shower to provide them with the supplies necessary to nurture a new life. So why not throw a shower for a shelter that is expecting little ones?

Spring heralds the onset of "kitten season," when the Humane Society is flooded with litters of kittens from May until the autumn months.

Many of these kittens are too young for adoption, and need to be placed in foster homes while they mature.

To help these kittens thrive, the Humane Society provides whatever is necessary to support these young, vulnerable creatures. Foster families are given scales to track the kitten's weight, special food, probiotic nutri-



tional supplements, special bedding, and heating discs to keep them warm.

This year, the Humane Society decided to host a "Kitten Shower" to encourage donations of these vital items. The event was promoted in March and April, and soon donations began to arrive. Crates, beds, heating discs, bottles, kitten milk replacer... all the

necessities!

On the day of the shower, more donations arrived, and participants were treated to refreshments, games, kittens, and a demonstration of how our foster program works.

It was a lot of fun, and best of all, the foster program was flooded with much-needed supplies!



Humane Happenings

Upcoming pet-related events

Sunday, June 28

Tacoma Rainiers "K9 Innings"

The Humane Society will have a booth at this event with adoptable dogs. For more information, contact the Tacoma Rainiers.

Saturday, July 25

Dog-A-Thon 2015

The Humane Society's Walk for Homeless Pets

9:00 am – 2:00 pm at

Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood

www.thehumanesociety.org

Ongoing Pet Adoptions

Daily during business hours at the following locations:

Petco Puyallup, Tacoma, Federal Way, Bonney Lake, Lakewood locations - Cats and Rabbits

Petco Gig Harbor - Rabbits only

PetSmart Tacoma - Cats

Metropolitan Veterinary

Hospital - Cats

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, June 5 & Sunday, June 7

Friday, August 7 & Sunday, August 9

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 MEMORY GIFTS

Agathe Martineau Lamarre
 Sylvie Warren
A.J. Krogstad
 Barbara Krogstad
Ajax
 Cynthia Burchfield
Ali
 William & Lael Dick
Ali, Little Bit & Penny
 Alene Farr
Allan Stewart Ross, Jr
 Gilbert McFadden
 Salvatore & Ann Marie
 Scuderi
Ana Maria Bormioli-Johnson
 Anthony Coe
Andrew (Andy) Jordan
 Skip & Judy Caviezel
 Ann Jordan
 Thomas & Carol Tamparo
 John & Audrey West
Angel
 Ellen Covington &
 William Fox
Angela Heiser
 Barbara & Donald Ford
Antoinetta Somsen
 Maudy Gosnell
 Arthur Otto
 Patrick & Linda Yates
Aunt Mary
 Eileen Walls
Ava
 Merlynn & Clifford
Gullings
 Susan Schultz
Bean
 Bob Bjorklund
Belmont
 Wayne & D. Morris
Benjamin
 Angela & Jeff Sorenson
Bernice
 Wendy Doub
Beverly Simon
 Levi Broderick
Bill Seiple
 Joyce Rowand
 Brent Stambaugh
 Pam White
Boston Boss
 Chad & Katie Osvog
Brandy
 Cynthia Burchfield
Bugsy
 Tom Rawlings
Carolyn M. Howard
 Claudia Sargent
Kiesling
Cassie
 Walt & Grace Sommers
Charlie
 Lynn Pelegruti
Cinder
 Patricia Kinnee
Clawed
 Keith & Gail Plumb
Coal
 Heidi & Chris Schooley
Cody Max
 Judy Johnson
Connie Sheehan
 Laura Bothel
 Patricia Kinnee
 Linda Lewis
Daisy
 Miriam &
 Howard Schwartz
Dave M. Kelley
 Sound Banking Company
Diana Sanford
 Harris & Mary Atkins
 Andy & Judy Cordell
 Charles & Jill Fischer
 Eric Knight
 Douglas Lewis
 Adaline Sanford
 Edgar Sanford
 Caroline & Jerry Smith
 James & Sally Will

Donald J. Pease
 Sharon Davenport
 Brent & Marian Robbins
 Julia Stewart
Dooney & Max
 Sandi & Richard Trask
Edward Doherty
 Cherie Peterson
Edward Robert Bowman
 Anonymous
Elaine
 Jan & Marc Turner
Eldoris Meier
 Heartwood Extended
 Health Care
Emma
 Debbie Fingerhut
Eugene D. Swanson
 South Puget Sound
 Carpenters - Local 129
Fiona "Fee" Suprenant
 Anne Pole
 Marguerite Richmond
Frances May Bennett
 Sandra & Terrance
 Bennett
Gabby
 Karen Kolley
Garry Hersey
 William & Linda Gazecki
Georgiana Wilson-Battle
 Patricia & Donald Clifford
 Lynn Epstein
 John Wolcott
Gimli & Legolas
 Kimberley McDowell
Goldie Bullock
 Rebecca Bullock
Graffiti
 Vicki Tart
Gunnar
 Linda Bostrom
Hank
 Robert Briggs
Harvey Bradley
 Lorraine Bradley
Honey
 Jessica Braun
Ian
 Rebecca & Brett Ofelt
Ichi
 Rick Henshaw
Irene Hinkelman
 Carolyn Frisell
Jake & Gretchen
 T. & Carol O'Connor
Jasmine
 Cynthia Burchfield
Jenny
 Cecily Joque
Jim Roberts
 William & Linda Gazecki
Joan & Ron Garner
 Barbara Anderson
Joan Sluka
 Judy Warden
Joann Nugent
 Anonymous
Joe Collins
 Ann Bonnell
 Marjorie H. Coyle &
 Family
 Laura & John Guenthard
 Thais Howard
 ILVU Local #22
 Michael McAboy
 Roann & Steve Milligan
 Candy Nigretto
 Kathleen & Larry Ringenberg
 Sharon Rothwell
 Heather Shadko
John Gosnell
 Anonymous
 Ria Bakker
 Meredith Beck
 Nicole & Matt Betcher
 Sally Boyle
 Dana Chambers
 Penny Drost &
 Paul Wooten
 The Dutch Club
 Margo Gooding
 Helen Hickman

Irene Koth
 Arthur & Doris Larsen
 Alice Lesnicki
 Darron & Susan Nelson
 Russ & Gloria Odell
 Albert & Johanna Pool
 Jacobus & Kathinka Smit
 Birdell Wangsmo
 Joan Webb
Jolie
 Maudy Gosnell
 The Hickman Family
 Darron & Susan Nelson
Joseph W. Collins
 Dale & Doreen Murray
Judi Zatterberg Davis
 Glen & Kym Zatterberg
Juliet
 Linda & Jerry Killingsworth
K-9 Officer Barney
 Anonymous
 Stephen Bridgeford
 Elaine Dodge
 Carolyn Galloway
 Martha &
 Rodger Hartley
 Solweig Jensen
 Karla Litzenberger
 Christiane Peyton
 Chrissy Roston
 Claudia Sargent Kieszing
 Sarah Soja
 Joe & Janice Steele
 Grace Stone
 Ivey Taylor
 Shaun White
 Lynne & Henry Wurzer
 Bernice Youtz
Kara Siegel
 Linda Siegel
Kelley
 Joanne Williams
Kimi Williams
 Martin Williams
KitKat & Keely
 Patricia Berger
Kurt Weydemann
 Ralph & Eleanor Cole
La Dawn C. Bryce
 Marie Eier
Lady & Ellie Viers
 Ray Viers
Laila Sylstad
 Linda & Terrance Rogers
Lee Ann Hartley
 Earl Hartley
Lenone Williams
 The Graham Family
Leonne Raupach
 Susan Mower
 Susan Perkins
Leslie Rae Kapral
 Craig & Laura Bursey
 Kimberly & Fred Crase
 Sharon Murrett
 Richard & Anne Patterson
 Chris Schweitzer
 Sound Banking Company
Lil Bessie
 Ivey Taylor
Lili
 Jodi & Andrew Evenson
Linda Ackerman
 Bev Sayle
Lucia
 Patrick & Linda Yates
Maggie
 James & Barbara Radonich
 Deleva & Gary Ulseth
Marjorie Masonic
 David & Patricia Sollars
Melody
 Sandy Walimaa
Meow Meow Kitty
 Cynthia Burchfield
Midge
 Linda Bostrom
Mokka
 Doreen & Teri
Molly

Barbara Sullivan
Mommmam
 Prangrsi Suwanart
Mookie
 Robert Jackson & Gaylynn
 Wilke
Nancy Griffith
 Nancy Brown
Pat Hughes
 Robert & Patricia Price
Peanut
 Jennifer Mitchell
Pedro
 Doreen & Teri
Pen & Apple Wolcott
 John Wolcott
Penny Miller
 Shirley Lancaster
Penny Schmidt-Cottrill
 Connie Schmidt
Pepper/Duke
 Brian Pospisil
Pico
 The Holcomb Family
Pippen
 Heidi & Chris Schooley
Pumpkin
 Beth Richardson
Rajah
 Cynthia Burchfield
Ralph Clyde Eckart
 Margaret Cassella
 Walburga Eckart
 Barbara Singer
 William A.M. Burden & Co. LP
Ronald Williams
 Betty & Hamlin Kjelland
Roscoe
 Shirley Cornell
 Solweig Jensen
Roscoe Loete
 Steve Yester
Rudolph " Rudy" Giuntoli
 Judy Bickenbach
 Collette Hofer
 Deborah Johnson &
 Michael Farley
 Ronald Peterson
Sadie
 Bob & Sallie Cogswell
Sam
 Karen & Russell Ripp
Sam, Ken, Arne, Don, & Lorraine
 Donald & Cynthia Morris
Sampson
 Jazmin Studebaker
Sasha
 Lynn Pelegruti
Sharon Lee Veitenheimer
 Dorothy Bartnes
 Ardenne Bartnes
 Julia Coen
 Toni & Charles Veitenheimer
 Will Wood
Sophie
 Amanda Michaels
Stefani Sieber
 Anonymous
Sue Weeks
 Horsehead Bay Garden Club
Teddy
 Arthur & Eleonore Farnham
Terra Catt
 Cynthia Burchfield
Thomas Clyde Boyle
 William & Arlene Ross
Tiger
 Jeffrey & Janie Camm
Tom Names
 William & Linda Gazecki
Tyler
 Heidi & Chris Schooley
Vern Stieben
 Vagabond Eagles RV Club
William Sieple
 Angie Goldade
Willie & Junior
 John & Kwanae Olson
Yogi, Acey, & Sammy
 Pamela Nathan

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.

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The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County

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(253) 383-2733

www.thehumanesociety.org

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