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

Continued on page 2
Introducing Vintage Tuesdays!

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

Silver whiskered dogs and cats make great pets!

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.

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 way 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.

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

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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!

www.thehumanesociety.org
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!
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.
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 nutritional 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

Irene Koth
Arthur & Doris Larsen
Darren & Susan Nelson
Russ & Gloria Odell
Alber & Johanna Pool
Jacobs & Kathinka Smit
Birdell Wangsno
Joan Webb
Mady Gosnell
The Hickman Family
Darren & Susan Nelson
Joseph W. Collins
Dale & Doreen Murray
Judi Zatterberg Davis
Glen & Kym Zatterberg
Julet
Linda & Jerry Killingsworth
Kurt Weydemann
Anonymous
Stephen Bridgerford
Elaine Eise
Carolyn Galloway
Martha & Roger Harding
Solweig Jensen
Karla Littenberger
Christianne Peyton
Cheryl Rosiny
Claudia Sargent Kiesling
Sarah Soja
Joe & Janice Steele
Grace Stone
Ivey Taylor
Shaun White
Lynne & Henry Wurzer
Bernice Yount
Karen Siegel
Linda Siegel
Kelley
Joanne Williams
Kim Williams
Martin Williams
KitKat & Keely
Patricia Berger
Kurt Weydemann
Ralph & Eleanor Cole
La Dawn C. Bryan
Lory & Ellie Viers
Ray Viers
Laila Syddal
Linda & Terrance Rogers
Lee Ann Hartley
Earl Hartley
Lenore Williams
The Graham Family
Leona Roupach
Susan Mower
Susan Perkins
Leslie Rae Kapral
Craig & Laura Bursey
Kimbryler & Fred Crase
Sharon Murrett
Richard & Anne Patterson
Chris Schweitzer
Sound Banking Company
Lil Besse
Ivey Taylor
Lilli
Jodi & Andrew Evenson
Linda Ackerman
Bev Sayle
Linh & Paul Tran
Tricia Hildebrandt
Sue Weeks
Horsehead Bay Garden Club
Teddy
Arthur & Eleonore Farnham
Terra Cott
Cynthia Burchfield
Thomas Clyde Boyle
William & Arlene Ross
Tina
Jeffrey & Janice Camm
Tom Names
William & Linda Gazecki
Tyler
Heidi & Chris Schooler
Vern Steben
VashonBargle Eagles RV Club
William Sieple
Angie Goldade
Wille & Junior
John & Kwanese Olson
Yogi,Acey, & Sammy
Pamela Nathan

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.

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The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County
2608 Center Street
Tacoma, WA 98409-7694
(253) 383-2733
www.thehumanesociety.org

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