

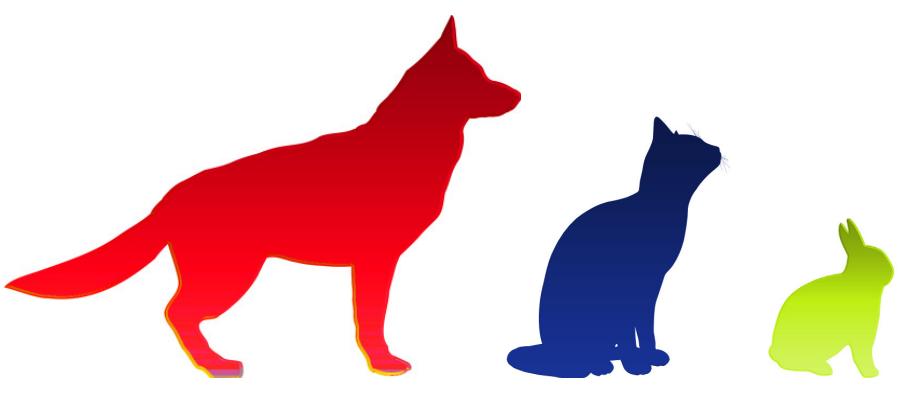
PAW TALK

FALL 2017



make
happy
@ happen
the
Humane
SOCIETY
Tacoma & Pierce County

Tonga adopted October 2017



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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

What is a Community Cat?

By Patty Rusnak, Community Cats Manager

“Community Cat” is a term that has evolved over the past decade to describe a cat’s lifestyle rather than the temperament or ownership of the cat. Community Cats include stray and pet cats in addition to feral-behaving cats. The commonality is that they spend most of their time outside, and usually less than 2% are sterilized.

Why do we care about Community Cats?

Kittens born from Community Cats are the biggest contribution to cat overpopulation, and they impact the Humane Society daily. Good Samaritans bring us kittens that they find outside, but leave the mother of the kittens behind; oftentimes she ends up mating again. Female cats can go into heat at four months of age and have multiple litters of kittens in one year.

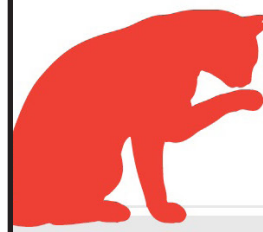
How can you help?

If you are caring for or know someone that is caring for an outdoor cat, please make sure they are aware of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). TNR is a process through which free-roaming cats are humanely trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, and returned to their outdoor homes – no more new litters of kittens!

For more information on our Community Cat Program or the TNR process in general, call us at (253) 284-5812 or email pattyr@thehumaneociety.org.



A healthy, neutered outdoor cat.



ABOUT TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR)

the **PROBLEM...** It's estimated that **tens of millions** of feral and stray cats freely roam the streets of the United States and breed rapidly!

Doing nothing and using ineffective approaches are what have resulted in the current overpopulation problem. Trying to rescue all of the feral cats and find them homes is impossible given their numbers and their limited socialization. Removing or relocating all of the feral cats invites new unneutered cats to move in and the cycle of reproduction starts again.

the SOLUTION...

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the **only method proven to be humane and effective** in controlling free-roaming cat population growth. TNR is about:

- Population control and **permanently reducing** the number of cats in an area
- Lowering cat intake into shelters, thereby **lowering shelter euthanasia rates**
- **Reducing the spread of disease**
- The returned, spayed/neutered colony **guards its territory**, discouraging unneutered cats from moving in and beginning the cycle of overpopulation anew

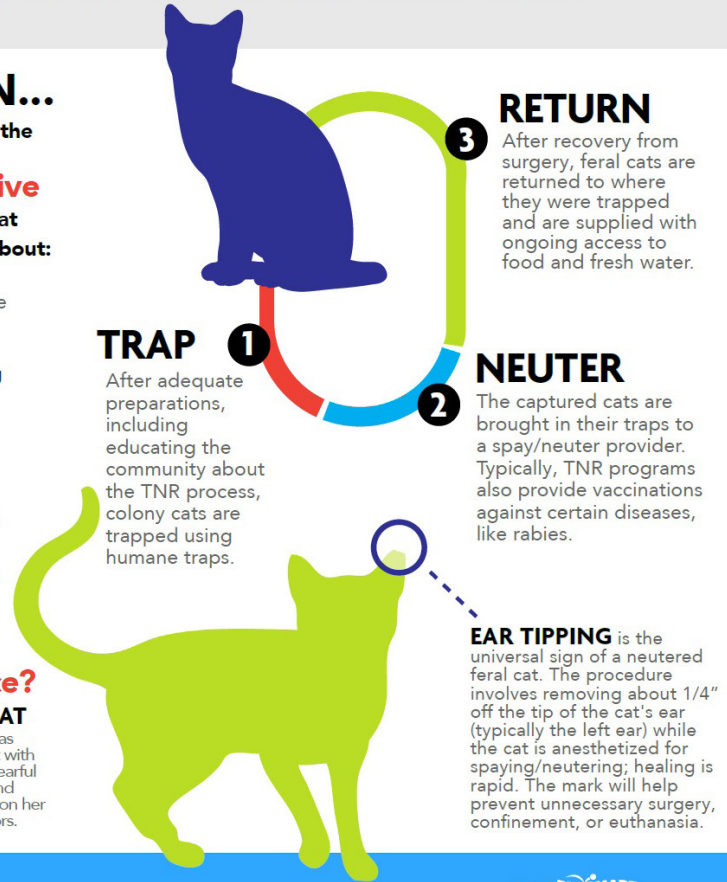
What's the difference?

STRAY CAT

A tame cat who has become lost or has been abandoned; she has been socialized to people at some point in her life.

FERAL CAT

A cat who has little contact with humans, is fearful of people and usually lives on her own outdoors.



RETURN

After recovery from surgery, feral cats are returned to where they were trapped and are supplied with ongoing access to food and fresh water.

TRAP

After adequate preparations, including educating the community about the TNR process, colony cats are trapped using humane traps.

NEUTER

The captured cats are brought in their traps to a spay/neuter provider. Typically, TNR programs also provide vaccinations against certain diseases, like rabies.

EAR TIPPING is the universal sign of a neutered feral cat. The procedure involves removing about 1/4" off the tip of the cat's ear (typically the left ear) while the cat is anesthetized for spaying/neutering; healing is rapid. The mark will help prevent unnecessary surgery, confinement, or euthanasia.

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Litter Box feng shui

By Jerica Marterella, Cattery & Cat Receiving Supervisor

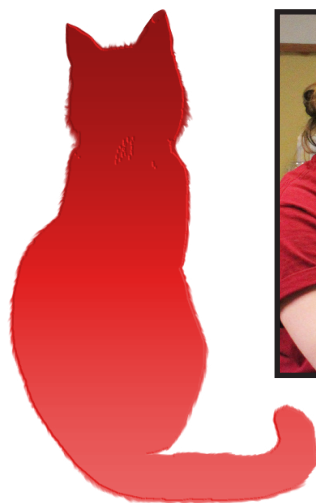
One of the biggest disagreements cats have with their owners is where to put that pesky litter box. As humans, we think about what's most convenient for us, and who really wants a toilet in their living room? Yuck! So we shove the litter box in nooks and crannies so it's out of sight. Little do we know we are setting ourselves up for disaster!

Imagine this, your cat is using the restroom, minding his/her own business when this large metal box starts roaring and shaking violently. From that day on your cat may vow to never set foot in the room its humans call “laundry” again. So where does your cat go to the bathroom now? Perhaps on a lovely pile of clothes or maybe the couch?

I think we can all agree that we want to avoid this. By placing the litter box in quiet rooms we can avoid loud noises such as the washer or a flushing toilet from scaring our cats out of using their box.



Cat Services includes, from top left, Stel Lusich, Tabitha Kaup, and Colton Kitt. Bottom left: Jerica Marterella and Laura Ifft. Not pictured: Sarah Bonsell.



Our Cat Foster team: from left, Jenni Quates, Patty Litwin, and Sarah Anderson. Want to jump right in and foster cats and kittens yourself? Visit www.thehumaneociety.org to sign-up today.

coming soon
The Itty Bitty Kitty Committee
Cat Colony Room!

COMMUNAL LIVING: FREEDOM FROM FEAR

Cats confined to a small space are often aggressive due to distress. The wide open space of our Petunia Louise Cat Colony Room eases cats into Humane Society living, helping them to feel more at home.



Our cat colony room fit Chantelle to a tee. Here the love bug could socialize through the large, glass windows, and perch herself on visitors' laps, expanding her view of life and decreasing the likelihood of panic.



Shy Rebound came out of his shell with more room to roam, and even took to running on a cat exercise wheel, combating mental suffering by getting the blood flowing!

Let's talk dogs

By Cecily Joque, Kennel Supervisor

Humane Societies can be stressful places for dogs. Dog kennel staff and volunteers work very hard to minimize stress as much as possible while our dogs await new homes.

The Humane Society emphasizes positive reinforcement methods based on current scientific research to keep dog-human interactions free of fear; staff and volunteers utilize treats as a reward system and also as a way of creating happy associations in the kennels. For some dogs,

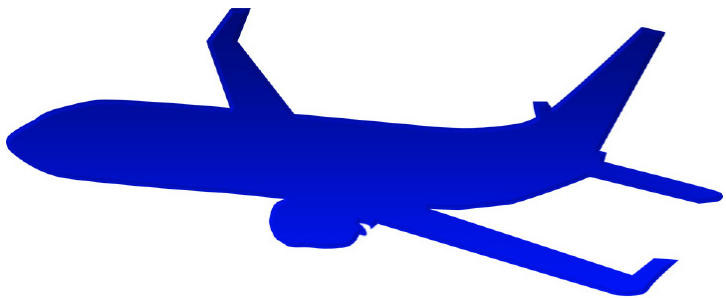
however, the opportunity to play with a toy or engage with another dog is more motivating than high value hot dogs. It's all about meeting each individual dog where they're at.

To help keep boredom at bay, puzzle toys and chew bones are offered so dogs in our care have something to do in their kennels when they are not directly engaging with a person.

In the future, the Humane Society hopes to utilize play groups to help dogs develop or maintain sociability as well as offer exercise.



Dog Services includes, from top left, Alexander Yeatman, Hailey Warner, and Nathan Van Ness. Bottom left: Brandy Boston and Cecily Joque.



Saving lives with Animal Transport

By Aubrey Clement, Animal Placement Supervisor

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County's Animal Transport and Rescue Placement Program is in full swing saving lives! The staff members at the Humane Society are on a mission to help save as many animal lives as possible by collaborating with and supporting both local and out-of-state shelters, rescue groups, and animal welfare programs who find themselves overwhelmed by full kennels. Because Washington State is a leader in education and resources for spay and neuter, our local Humane Societies are seeing a reduction in animal intake. This reduction in intake means open kennels, and open kennels means we are able to bring in more animals that need us. The Humane Society wants to help eliminate the need for senseless euthanasia due to space or time by supporting our partners and taking in animals from both local

and out-of-state shelters on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

Because of generous donations and support from our community, we are able to give back to some of the groups we work with by not only saving the lives of their animals in need, but also by providing funding for spay and neuter, vaccines, and transport costs. We are also able to take in medically needy animals from groups who lack funding to provide the medical care needed to treat their animals.

The Humane Society is also committed to help when we get the call! Whether it is wildfires in Washington or hurricanes in Texas, we are ready to help whenever and however we can.

Thank you to all who support Humane Society programs like Animal Transport and Rescue Placement.



Kennel Enrichment

The purpose of enrichment is to reduce stress and improve well-being by providing physical and mental stimulation, encouraging species-typical behaviors (i.e. chewing), and allowing animals more control over their environment. At the Society, we offer these activities and more:



Scent-Sation Staff or volunteers spritz a few squirts of calming spray or pet-safe deodorizing spray while walking throughout the kennel. The scent and visual stimulation of spraying the deodorizer provides a multi-sensory experience!

Box o' Fun Smaller boxes are stuffed inside larger boxes, and treats are placed between the layers. The pooch is then encouraged to satisfy their appetite for destruction!

Quiet Time To teach a dog to behave in a calm manner, a volunteer may quietly sit on a chair/stool at the mid-point of the kennel, ignoring the dog. With raised bed removed, soft bedding is placed towards the front, and any movement towards this bedding is rewarded with praise and/or marked with a treat. Once the dog relaxes on the bedding, the volunteer alternates between petting and marking with a treat, aiming for increasing increments of calm behavior without interaction.



Cookie adopted March 2017 Wings of Rescue



465 DOGS TRANSPORTED



Hannah adopted October 2017 Project Freedom Ride

13 CATS TRANSPORTED



Hop time: freedom to express normal behavior

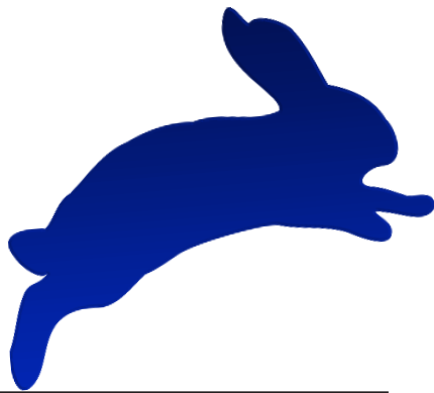


During hop time, Cassidy finds mustachioed rabbit Mr. Miyagi to be quite a curious little fellow.

enrichment with volunteers and customers who happen by. It's during this time that the rabbit's personality can really shine.

When a rabbit is truly free and comfortable with its surroundings, we can identify whether the rabbit is shy, standoffish, or interested in interaction via petting or holding. Rabbits have a whole spectrum of personalities and often form attachments to certain people. No one rabbit is alike.

Hop time can be a very peaceful time here at the Humane Society, and we could always use more helping hands! Visit www.thehumanesociety.org to see a schedule of General Volunteer Orientations, and you'll be well on your way to making a difference in the lives of our furry friends.



While the rabbits are at play, Shawn and Justen deep clean cages. Rabbits can be very particular about the cleanliness of their homes.

Every morning, the lobby and visitation rooms are a flutter with movement as resident rabbits take part in "hop time." During hop time, rabbits are given free reign to explore and stretch their legs, which is normal behavior



These two are as thick as thieves both in and outside of hop time.

for the Lagomorphs. By providing sufficient space and proper facilities for exercise to take place, Humane Society rabbits thrive.

While hop time takes place every morning, we do our best to offer exercise sessions throughout the day. Not only does this afford rabbits a break, keep them slim and trim, and allow for mental stimulation, but it also paves the way for socialization and



Sunday morning hop time crew. From left, Lucinda Summerfield, Justen M, Shawn Snyder, and Cassidy Hart. Bottom center: Krysten Srail.

Looking to adopt? Consider a rabbit



Some members of our stellar rabbit team. From left, Bryanna Shaw and volunteers Brenda Jones and Jenni Thoma.

By Aubrey Clement, Animal Placement Supervisor

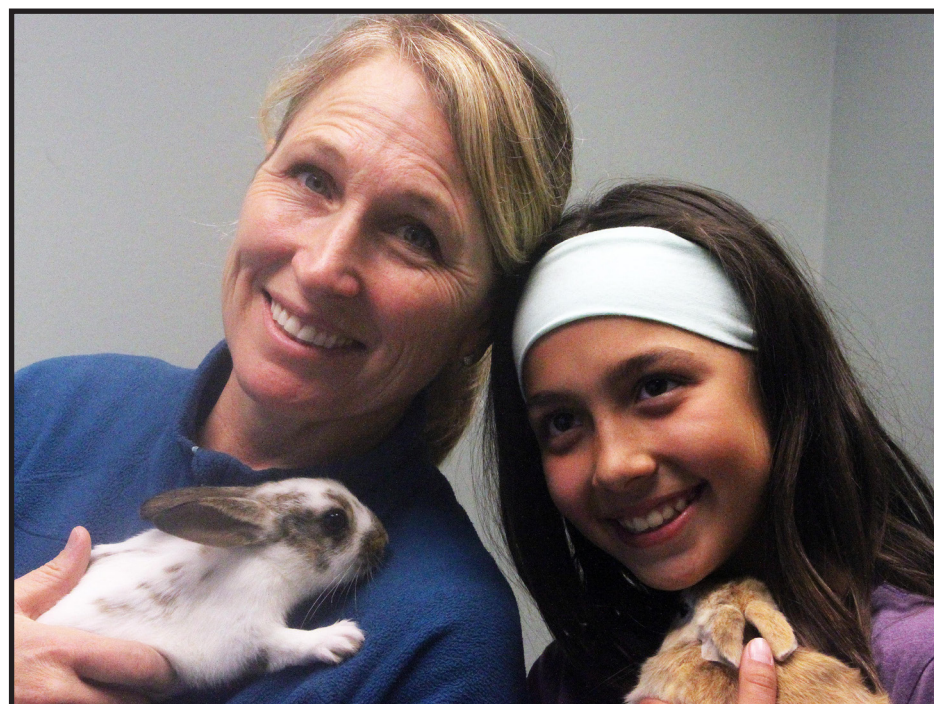
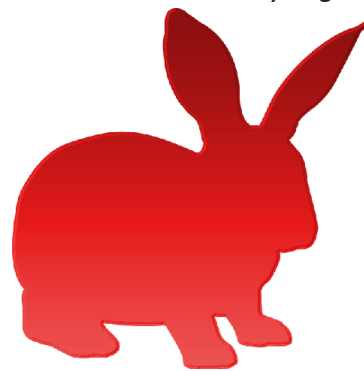
Dogs, cats, and rabbits, oh my! Wait, what rabbits? The Humane Society has rabbits? Yes, that's right, the Humane Society has rabbits! In fact over the last five years, the Humane Society has seen 900 rabbits come through its doors with 202 in the last year alone. Approximately 160 rabbits were adopted in 2016.

Long gone are the hutch bunnies of the past; say hello to the house rabbit of the future! Over the past 10 to 15 years, rabbits have grown in popularity and can now proudly tote the label of third most popular house pet. And of course, your local Humane Society

embraces them as such.

Rabbits are very social animals and make great companions who are best suited to living indoors with their families. They can bond with you, cats, other rabbits, and even dogs! Rabbits are sweet, gentle souls who show their love in big ways. If you haven't had a chance to hop in and see our bunnies, we invite you to do so.

For information on our rabbits, please visit our website at www.thehumanesociety.org.



For Mary Stewart and her daughter Annie, fostering is a family effort! Become a small mammal foster yourself by visiting www.thehumanesociety.org.

FUN FACTS

- * Rabbits are called Lagomorphs
- * Their teeth continuously grow, which makes a proper diet very important
- * Rabbits can be trained to use a litter box
- * They sleep with their eyes open
- * They can reproduce every 28-30 days, hence why spaying and neutering is vital
- * Rabbit jumps and twists are called binkies, and they can even purr!

The healing power of a donor's gift

By Claudia Tanis, Director of Development

Mimzy is a perfect example of the life-saving work you become part of when you give a gift to the Veterinary Treatment Fund. Mimzy came to the Humane Society with a fractured front leg. Veterinary staff developed a treatment plan for Mimzy, but they knew it was going to take time if her leg was going to heal. That's when Alexander opened his heart and home to foster Mimzy during her treatment.

Ultimately no amount of treatment could save Mimzy's leg, and she had to undergo amputation surgery. The surgery went well and soon she was back to her happy self. There wasn't a dry eye when Mimzy's "happy happened." Her new mom saw her and just knew – it was love at first sight! Mimzy is doing well in her new home, playing like a normal one-year-old pup, soaking up all the attention she can get, and sleeping on the big bed with her new family.



"Thank you guys for all your support and for making Mimzy's adoption such a wonderful experience for my mom!" –Brandy

It will take more than surviving a car fire to keep our Mr. Burns down. Even while our vet team treated his multiple burns he was friendly, well-mannered, and quickly became a staff favorite, gobbling up all the treats he could. Of course his slight underbite only helped his charm.

"Happy happened" for Mr. Burns when Star decided to foster him while he healed. Still feeling the loss of her beloved Gussa, who had passed away just four months ago, Star didn't realize that Mr.

Burns would provide healing for her heart as well. Mr. Burns has made a full recovery, and Star made it official by adopting him and welcoming the charmer into her family.

You can donate online at www.thehumanesociety.org, or return the enclosed envelope with your gift.



"I believe it was meant to be." –Star



DID YOU KNOW:

\$5 can feed an animal in our care

\$10 can provide preventative vaccines

\$25 can fund a basic health screening

\$50 can offset the cost of diagnostic blood work

\$80 can support spay/neuter surgery for a cat or small dog

\$200 can vaccinate, feed, and cover care for a dog or cat for a week

\$500 can help defray the cost of a lifesaving surgery

Veterinary Treatment Fund

At the Humane Society, we see many pets who need medical care, just like Mimzy and Mr. Burns. They need treatment for disease, medication to ease their suffering, or surgery to improve or even save their lives. That is why we established the Veterinary Treatment Fund. Not only does this fund provide medical treatment of animals while they are in our care, but it also helps us give every pet the best chance for a permanent, loving home.

The fund has also helped cats like Koby and Myra. The pair was just seven-weeks-old when they came to the Humane Society with their other littermates. During their intake exam the Society veterinarian quickly determined things weren't quite right with the two little cuties' front legs. Both kittens had a deformity to one of their front legs, and the veterinary team knew the only option was amputation.

Despite their challenges these two kittens were thriving and displaying the normal frisky behavior of all healthy kittens.

Both kittens underwent surgery

and sailed right through. Within days, having only three legs was the new normal, and they were back to wrestling like nothing ever happened. After two weeks of recovery they were ready to find their forever home. Staff knew these two had a special bond and needed a home that would keep the tabbies together.

It didn't take long before the call went out on the Humane Society intercom that the tiny tripods were being adopted. Staff and volunteers came from throughout the building to meet the proud new owners of Koby and Myra, and there was no shortage of tears as everyone said farewell.



"Fostering Koby and Myra was the first time I had ever fostered kittens with this type of medical need. They taught me about overcoming physical limitations." –Robin

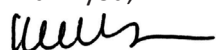
A message from Dr. Kim Robbins, Director of Veterinary Medicine

Dear Friends,

As a Humane Society veterinarian, I see myself as an advocate for all the animals in need in our community. I have a chance to use my skills daily to ease the suffering of those animals that come to us broken, diseased, or suffering from chronic neglect. My team and I work to make them comfortable, heal their wounds, treat their illnesses, and make them healthy for adoption.

None of these treatments are possible without support from people like you. I can assure you that our veterinary team at the Humane Society puts your donations to good use to serve as many animals in need as possible.

I hope you will consider a gift to the Veterinary Treatment Fund today.

Thank you,

 Dr. Kim Robbins, DVM

**Adopt. Foster. Volunteer.
Donate.**



Church adopted October 2017

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HS Retail Store Coupon

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*Read on for humane happenings
at your local Society!*



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