

EVENTS

Annual Events - Save These Dates

Walk/Run For the Animals
Saturday, May 3, 2014

Cats & Dogs & People (Oh My!) - Dinner & Auction
Saturday, October 4, 2014

Contact:

HUMANE SOCIETY FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
1100 NE 192nd Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98684
360.693.4746 | southwesthumane.org

 [facebook.com/humanesocietyforsouthwestwashington](https://www.facebook.com/humanesocietyforsouthwestwashington)

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 [pinterest.com/hssw](https://www.pinterest.com/hssw)

 [instagram.com/humanesociety_SWWA](https://www.instagram.com/humanesociety_SWWA)

Hours:

ANIMAL ADOPTION HOURS | ANIMAL RECEIVING | LOST & FOUND VIEWING

Tuesday – Sunday, 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. | 360.693.4746

Closed Mondays



WAG



Humane Society FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

PEOPLE + DOGS + CATS

ISSUE 2 | Fall 2013

southwesthumane.org



It has been a very auspicious fall. The first Saturday of every October, we host our annual dinner-auction, Dogs & Cats & People (oh my!) Dogs and kites greeted our guests outside the Hilton Vancouver Washington... amazing characters from internationally-renowned Imago Theatre walked among the crowd inside...furry little kittens made softies of even the toughest gentlemen. While dining and bidding in our magical, mystical animal park, our guests generously helped us beat our goal and last year's total. A fun time was had by all!

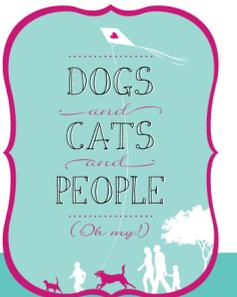
Then, after seven months of meeting and discussion, the Board of Clark County Commissioners agreed to sign a two-year contract with HSSW, including a phased-in fee schedule that aligns costs of services with fees charged. The Board also announced their intention to request further changes to the contract in coming months. We are inviting our stakeholders to Community

Conversations about our future and hope you will join us in November. (Check our website for dates and times.)

Saving the best for last. We announced an endowment/capital campaign, *Unleashed*, to help us achieve financial sustainability. Our goal is \$6 million over the next five years, with 70% committed to our endowment and 30% supporting operations, new projects, building maintenance and renovations. Four very generous and strategic donors have already committed \$2.3 million to this effort that includes both planned and annual gifts. Yahooooo!

We're on a new path toward a sustainable future....more matchmaking and completing families coming your way.


Stacey A. Graham
President/Executive Director



INSIDE

ADOPTION STORIES

Pets Looking For Homes

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer: volunteer@southwesthumane.org
Donate: southwesthumane.org/donate
Donate An Auto: 360.693.4746 x301

OFFSITE...NOT OUT-OF-REACH

More volunteers are needed



LESLA OSILLA



LOIS SAASTAD

When people come to the shelter to volunteer, usually they have a very specific image in their mind of what they want to do. Some imagine themselves walking dogs and playing fetch, others imagine sitting in the shelter and lovingly stroking a cat while talking to a prospective adopter.

Whatever they're imagining, it usually takes place in the shelter.

HSSW is looking to increase the off-site volunteer base at both PETCO locations. There are many perks to be enjoyed.

PETCO volunteers don't have to go through the same training required for shelter volunteers, the volunteering schedule is much more flexible and the locations are easier to access for people who live on the west side of the city.

Volunteers also get to spend time socializing with the cats and less time cleaning up after them.

Lesla Osilla, a volunteer at the Hazel Dell PETCO, decided to volunteer with the Humane Society after her husband retired from the Marines. Volunteering had always been important to her; and as a self-proclaimed "cat person," she jumped at the opportunity to work with cats.

After attending a volunteer training class, she saw a need for volunteers at the shelter's offsite PETCO locations. In addition to working at the ReTails Thrift Stores, Osilla works twice a week at PETCO, tidying

cages cuddling cats and talking with prospective adopters.

"I enjoy volunteering at PETCO because it gives me the chance to socialize with the cats on a personal level," Osilla said. "I get to play with and brush the cats. I really get to know their personalities."

Lois Saastad also decided to volunteer with the Humane Society because she loves animals. After retiring, she wanted to help make life better for the shelter's cats, and committed to work offsite at the PETCO Jantzen Beach location, Lois was one of the first volunteers to sign up three years ago when the shelter first partnered with the organization.

"During my shift, I take the kitties out of their kennels, put them into the visiting rooms and clean the kennels," Saastad explained. "I also spend as much time as I can playing, brushing and visiting with the kitties."

Despite being away from the action at the shelter, PETCO volunteers feel just as accomplished and excited when they come into the store and find that their best friends have gone home.

"I love to come into the store and see the cages empty," said Osilla. "It means they were adopted!"

Interested in volunteering at one of the PETCO locations? Attend a volunteer orientation to learn about the details. Dates and times are on the HSSW website (southwesthumane.org).

LET'S TALK

Sheltering facts

Over the next few weeks, the Humane Society for Southwest Washington will be holding Community Conversations with members of the staff, volunteers, donors and neighbors to exchange ideas and information. Here are just a few things that will inform the gatherings:

○ What's the difference between an open-intake shelter and a strategic-intake shelter?

An open-intake shelter is one that will take in all animals, including strays, despite the health or behavior, where it came from or the cost of sheltering. A strategic-intake shelter is one that limits the in-take to owner-surrendered and transferred animals.

○ What community programs are available through the Humane Society and how are they funded?

The Humane Society maintains a Community Fund. The Community Fund is like a "bucket" that the Humane Society pulls from to help community programs, such as:

- Lend-A-Paw, which provides one bag of free dog and cat food to low-income families per month
- Daisy Fund, which provides financial support to seniors whose companion animals are in need of medical services
- Spay & Save, which provides spay and neuter services for cats at a reduced cost to residents who meet low-income requirements
- Pet Vaccine Clinics, which offer low-cost vaccines
- Microchip clinics, which offer low-cost microchips for pets

- Safe Haven, which offers temporary housing when available for companion animals for families in crisis

○ What services are offered to municipalities by the Humane Society?

The HSSW supplies food, housing and shelter to stray animals brought to the shelter by residents or Animal Control officers. Our contracts cover basic food, shelter and medical care for a minimum 3-5 day stay. We also assist owners in reclaiming their stray animals, maintain records, and collect impound and licensing fees, which are then returned to the municipality. We act as a bite quarantine facility, and assist the County Animal Control department in collecting evidence for cruelty and neglect cases.

○ How did the Humane Society reach the estimated cost for sheltering an animal?

In 2010, the HSSW began to analyze its financial structure, specifically looking at what it costs to provide sheltering services to the various municipalities we serve. We calculated the costs of operating a shelter, including basic care, medical and behavioral services – staffing, food, equipment, medications, laundry, and many other expenses related to direct animal care. We then isolated those costs associated with the first 3-5 days of an animal's stay, in an effort to come up with a figure that reflected our true cost of sheltering. We did not include costs for administrative overhead, fundraising and outreach. We also separated the cost of operating our two thrift stores.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please visit us online at southwesthumane.org.

LONG TIMERS



Staff and volunteer favorites

Jamie

Hi! My name is Jamie and I can't wait to meet you! I'm 12 years old and definitely know how to get what I want. I sit by my food dish when I'm hungry and let you know with a meow when I'm ready for attention. My favorite things are belly rubs, my scratching board and fleece. I absolutely love sleeping on fleece! I like other cats and don't mind children, but I think I'd prefer a home without any dogs. They can be pretty intimidating some times. So, how about it? Can I join your family? (#57193)

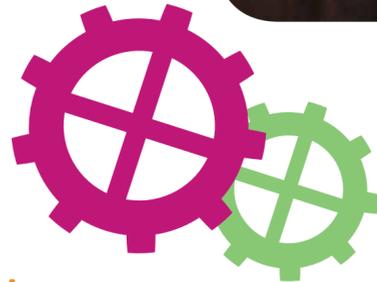


Lacey

Well hi there! My name is Lacey and I'm looking for my perfect match. I promise I'm just the biggest love bug! I love giving kisses, playing with toys and cuddling. I'm pretty clever too. I'm house-trained and don't mind being alone for a few hours while you're away. I know you'll be right back! I'd like a home with a big, fenced backyard and a family to call my own. And by family I mean the whole family! I could get along with your kids and your other dogs. You're on your way to get me, right? (#57498)

Spice

Hello! They call me Spice and I'm ready to get out of here! I came in as a stray in March and I've been hanging around here ever since. I've got a big personality to match my big physique! I like things my way and will let you know with my scratchy voice when I think things need to change. It took me a few weeks to get to know everyone here at the shelter. After I figured out how cool the shelter staff and volunteers are, I opened right up! I love attention and getting scratched under my chin. I'd prefer a house without any children, they don't seem to understand when I tell them no; but if they speak cat, I think we could get along. So what do you say? Let's blow this joint! (#56978)



MORE GOOD THINGS ARE COMING!

Shop. Donate. & Unleashed

In early November, ReTails Store #2 will be moving from its location on 28th Street to its new home on Fourth Plain Boulevard. The hours will remain the same, but ReTails will have a whole new look!

Following some upgrades and a fresh coat of paint, ReTails Store #2 will reopen as a "thrift store boutique." It will feature stylish clothes, decorating items and everything else you need to revamp your wardrobe and home. Come shop and help out the animals at the Humane Society for Southwest Washington at the same time!



unleashed!

The 9th annual dinner-auction, Dogs & Cats & People (oh my!) was magical, with new surprises and entertainment. Animal stories were shared and paddles were raised as the community came together to help support more than 8,000 animals next year.

The most exciting announcement of the evening was the launch of HSSW's new financial stability campaign... *unleashed!*

unleashed! is a new endowment and capital campaign with the goal of securing \$6 million in commitments by December 31, 2014, \$4.2 million for the endowment in legacy commitments and donations, and \$1.7 million in pledges to be paid through 2018. It's an ambitious goal, one which the HSSW is well on the way to reaching. We have secured \$2.3 million in commitments.

unleashed! is just the beginning. From now on, the HSSW's focus is to:

- Unleash the love that the community has for companion animals
- Unleash the generosity of our donors, supporters and volunteers
- Unleash the creativity of our board, staff and key stakeholders to help us build a stronger, more sustainable foundation for our Humane Society in the years ahead

HOW I GOT MY GINGER

A letter from a former board member and adopter

I do prefer the older dogs. They are mellow, most of them are house broken and are so appreciative of a kind word.

The Humane Society had organized a fundraiser. When I entered the area, a volunteer friend who had recently adopted an older dog brushed by me with a yellow lab.

"This is Ginger. She is 10 years old and looking for a home. She is a peach."

As if on cue, I immediately piped up, "I'll take her."

She answered, "Okay, I'll take her to the shelter. See you tomorrow."

The party was very nice. I talked to several people and their dogs. Then on the way home, it all sunk in. I did not even get acquainted with the dog and do I need another dog? I have two at home. But I had said I'd take her. Thus the next day, I was at the shelter and there was her sweet face and beautiful eyes. I melted right down into my shoes. No problem with the residents at home.

We go walking in an off-leash area; and when done, she is waiting by my car. "Here I am. Where have you been?"

Even as she is slowing down, we still go to the park. We also became members of DOGPAW to help maintain the park she loves. She is 15 1/2 now and still loves to go and sniff around, but she loves most to be petted by the people who also tell her how beautiful she is. Her tail goes and goes.

I am so glad that I had the opportunity to give her a good old age and that I get to enjoy this "peach."

Thank you for fostering her.

Love, KATIE HART,
First HSSW Board of Directors Secretary



HEALTHIER CATS, HAPPIER CATS

Move 'em out faster

Everyone's had the common cold and a lot of cats at local shelters have suffered from the feline version of this inconvenient illness. A feline upper respiratory infection (URI) is common in cats that have been exposed to a lot of other cats in a high stress environment, such as an animal shelter.

The worst time for URI at our shelter is during the summer, in the midst of kitten season. During kitten season, the HSSW cattery is filled to capacity, leading to a lot of cats with runny noses and watery eyes. Treating this illness takes up staff time and resources and doesn't address the overall problem: overcrowding and stress.

"Recent studies have indicated that stress plays a large role in upper respiratory infections," said Lisa Feder, director of shelter operations. "We're working to lower our cats' stress levels by providing them more space and not moving them constantly."

To address this problem, Feder and the HSSW staff began tracking URI numbers in the cattery during kitten season of 2012. They tracked the number of cases and compared it to the number of cats and found that 30 cats is the maximum number that can be in a room without overcrowding.

Over the last year, the HSSW begun controlling the cat population by controlling intake numbers. This significantly lowered the number of URI cases and reduced the amount of resources spent for treatment. In the future, there are plans to cut "portals" in between cages to give cats more space and more hiding places if they are feeling stressed. This also allows the cat food and litter to be separated, giving the cats an even cleaner living space.

"Even with just controlling intake, our infection levels are decreasing," Feder said. "Our cats are healthier and, in the end, have happier lives."

“ Our cats are healthier and, in the end, have happier lives. ”

