



ISSUE 5 | Summer 2015

What Community Means to Us

Many people think that an animal shelter is only about taking in homeless animals, getting them healthy, spayed or neutered, micro-chipped and licensed, then finding them new homes and families. Certainly that is what we do here 365 days a year. Yet, there is so much more that goes on, and so many more lives touched in incredibly different ways.

Did you know that HSSW works closely with Clark County Adult Corrections staff on the **CAT ADOPTION** program that engages Larch residents in fostering cats until they are ready for adoption?

Or, that we work with the Clark County Juvenile Corrections team, hosting three 8-week **YCLP** programs (Youth Enriching the Lives of Pets) that provide juvenile offenders with a curriculum that highlights responsibility, patience, and compassion by providing enrichment activities for our community's homeless pets; consequently enhancing the lives and character of these young offenders and the values of our community.

Or, that last year, we helped more than 700 families in need of cat and dog food and litter through our **LEND-A-PAW** service, so they could keep their animals fed and healthy?

And, that 53 animals were sheltered, for up to 60 days, in our **Safe HAVEN** program, at no cost to owners who were in hospice, nursing homes, rehab centers and domestic violence shelters?

Last year, we expanded our youth education programs by 25%, adding **HUMANE ACADEMY** for youth grades 7-8, preparing them to become volunteers in our teen volunteer program. Really, preparing them for life.

And these are just a few of the unexpected things you will find your Humane Society involved in. We continue to outreach in our community, creating new partnerships and identifying new ways to help people + dogs + cats. It's our passion, our vocation and our responsibility to our community. We couldn't do it without the help of our 500+ volunteers. Working together, we are making it happen!

Stacey A. Graham, President

The Kittens are coming!



With temperatures rising, HSSW prepares for the annual "kitten season": the birth of hundreds of adorable, tiny kittens. Summer is a great time to adopt a little one into your family. And this year, we've added more ways to adopt that also keep kittens out of the shelter and lead to healthier, happier lives for our cats.

NEW TERM IN KITTEN HEADQUARTERS: Pre-adoption
 Keeping kittens out of the shelter is always ideal. Tiny immune systems can only handle so much. This year, you can meet and pre-adopt kittens while they are still in foster care. Contact a foster parent, or go to an off-site adoption event, meet a kitten, complete an application, pay the adoption fee and when your kitten is spayed or neutered (as soon as they reach 2 lbs in weight), your kitten is ready to go home with you!

WAYS TO ADOPT A KITTEN WITH HSSW

- 1 Check out our **kitten list** online. It lists all kittens in foster care with gender, coloring and age and the date when you will be able to meet that kitten for **pre-adoption**. This list is great if you're interested in a specific kind of kitten. Find that cute orange kitten you've always wanted and put the date on your calendar when they're ready to meet you for pre-adoption.
- 2 View **kittens in foster care** and ready to meet you for **pre-adoption** on our adoptable cat list online. These kittens have a photo and a description and are ready to meet you and be "pre-adopted."
- 3 Meet adoptable, ready-to-go-home-today, **kittens at HSSW**. Kittens weighing more than 2 lbs when they come to HSSW are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and available for adoption. These kittens are listed on our adoptable cat page online at southwesthumane.org.
- 4 Meet kittens at an **off-site adoption** event on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. These little ones may be ready to go home today or available for pre-adoption (fill out the application, pay your adoption fee and take them home after they are spayed/neutered). Find an off-site adoption event near you listed on our website.

PEOPLE + DOGS + CATS

Reunited and it feels so good!

More than 4 years... that's the last time Joshua and his wife saw their cat, Raffles. He was an indoor/outdoor cat who enjoyed time on the back deck - even an occasional walk on his harness. In January of 2011, Raffles was on the back deck, but he didn't come back that night. The next day, weeks later, months later... still no Raffles.

Then, in April of this year, Raffles was brought to HSSW as a stray. HSSW staff scanned Raffles for a microchip. Joshua's information popped up. They were reunited after more than four years apart. We don't know Raffles' story while he was gone, but we know he was missed. Pets go missing - sometimes they come back and sometimes they don't. But so often on the other side of a lost pet is a family that's missing them. Scanning for a microchip is one of the first steps in helping families reunite.



Joshua and Raffles, reunited after 4 years thanks to a microchip.

What to do if you find a lost pet

- 1 Call HSSW (360-213-2621) to place a found pet report over the phone. This will help us provide information to families calling to search for their lost pet. After this, you can choose to bring the animal to HSSW where we'll take care of him or her, or keep the pet at your home while trying to locate the owner.
- 2 Have the animal scanned for a microchip. You can do this at the Humane Society or your local vet. If a microchip is found, the owner can be contacted immediately.
- 3 Post a found pet poster in the area where you found the animal. Download a template poster on our website.



What to do if you've lost your pet

- 1 Check our online listing of stray animals currently in our care.
- 2 Download and fill out a lost pet report on our website. Bring the report to the shelter and our staff will check our records of stray/found pets.
- 3 Download a lost pet poster from our website and post around your neighborhood. Be as detailed and descriptive as possible and include a photo of your pet.
- 4 Visit the Humane Society at least every 3 days. We will check our in-house logs each time you visit.
- 5 Place ads in local newspapers and on Craigslist.
- 6 Don't give up - locating a lost pet can take time. It's not uncommon for weeks or months to pass before a pet is reunited with its family.

License and microchip. **Learn more** about reporting lost pets on our website: southwesthumane.org/dogs-and-cats/lost-found/

Photography tips and tricks

You don't always need an expensive camera to get a good photo of your pet. Even a cell phone can take a good photo. Capture the very best side of your cat or dog with these tips from our professional volunteer photographers, Rosie Richter and Erika Radek.

The best time to photograph pets is usually outside on an overcast day, or inside where there is a lot of natural light. Using a flash inside often causes pets' eyes to turn an unnatural color of yellow or green. Bright sun usually makes pets (and people) squint.



Shoot against a neutral background so your pet is the thing that shines in the photo. If you take a photo of a pet in front of a light pole or tree, it might make it look like the pole or tree is growing out of its head.



Catch light - adds more depth and life to your photos



Hold the camera very steady in order to get those eyes (and pet) in focus. Focus on your pet's eyes and see if there is a **catch light** (a white spot) in his or her eyes. Sometimes it helps to lean up against a tree so that you don't shake the camera and make the photo blurry.

Make sure your pet is comfortable and NEVER force them to do anything they don't want to do or anything that is unsafe. Work with your pet's personality, not against it. If your pet is high energy, try playing or exercising before trying to take photos so they're ready to sit and hold still for you.



Be mindful of your pet's emotions. A cat crouching in a corner, or a dog with its tail behind its leg, only shows a fearful animal. Be patient, if it's not the right moment to take a photo, try again later!

Post your best pet portraits on our

page!

HOME AGAIN

Pet Guardian PROGRAM



June Yamrick

June is passionate about animals, as evidenced by her more than 10 years as an HSSW animal care volunteer. Earlier this year, June came to us and asked for assistance - she wanted to make sure her estate was in order and that it accomplished all of her intentions. She met privately with Gene Christian, HSSW's Estate & Planned Giving Advisor and Brittany Gosselin, Vice President of Development for HSSW. It was during this meeting that June expressed a concern; she needed to make sure her animals would be cared for and re-homed after she passed.

Since formalizing our planned giving program last year, we have heard this same concern from a few donors. Who would care for their pets when they passed? HSSW went to work and created Home Again, a pet guardian program exclusively for planned giving donors.

Thank you, June, for inspiring us to develop this program. It will help countless donors to rest assured knowing that in the event of their passing, their beloved pets will be well-cared for and adopted into new loving homes.

Created exclusively for HSSW's estate donors

Through Home Again, HSSW will serve as temporary caregivers for estate donors' pets who outlive them. These pets will arrive at the Adoption Center-Shelter as VIP's and will be treated as friends.

Program Benefits

Up to six pets can be surrendered when donors enter a long-term care facility, hospice or after a donor passes. If needed, temporary boarding also is possible.

All pets enrolled in the Home Again program are treated as VIP's which includes access to the HSSW foster care program and veterinary team.

Staff and volunteers will make every effort to alleviate stress and anxiety through personal attention, grooming, exercise and socialization techniques.

TO ENROLL

Call or email Brittany Gosselin, Vice President of Development: 360.213.2619; bgosselin@southwesthumane.org

It takes a village

Along with all the obvious volunteer positions available, there are opportunities that you may not know about. Whether you volunteer at HSSW or at ReTails Thrift Store, there's something for everyone. If you want to become a volunteer, plan to attend an introductory orientation on the first Saturday or third Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Once you attend an orientation, you can decide what volunteer opportunity appeals to you. Here's a partial list of some positions that you might not ordinarily think about:

PACK WALKS: Fridays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

Walk a two-mile circuit, along flat, level ground along 192nd into a local park and back again. Level 1 through Level 3 handlers are invited to join. This is an open participation activity for any canine volunteer who has completed 12 shifts - whether walking or enrichment shifts. No weekly commitment. To join or inquire, please email Dog Enrichment Coordinator, Tara, at tzimmerman@southwesthumane.org.



K9 NOSE WORK: Fridays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

This is an indoor activity where dogs are worked individually in the Education Room as they learn to hunt, sniff and follow their nose to find yummy treats. Level 1 through Level 3 handlers are invited and we will train you in this new canine sport. To join or inquire, please email Dog Enrichment Coordinator, Tara, at tzimmerman@southwesthumane.org.



LAUNDRY: all shelter hours

Laundry is fun! ... all days, all hours...just like home! Use the mesh bags to transport and wash. Attend an orientation and sign up for a shift!



Offsite ADOPTION EVENTS:

monthly, usually Friday to Sunday, various locations
These important occasions are where HSSW really gets to shine, engaging new people and maybe getting shelter animals adopted. L2 and higher animal handling volunteers are necessary to help transport and show animals. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Waigand for dates: jwaigand@southwesthumane.org.

RETAILS THRIFT STORE: daily, year-round

See the other side of HSSW and a crucial part of our funding. ReTails Thrift Store is the best thrift store in town. Volunteers are needed in all areas of the store, front and back. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Waigand for orientation dates: jwaigand@southwesthumane.org.



ADOPTIONS AMBASSADORS: shelter open hours

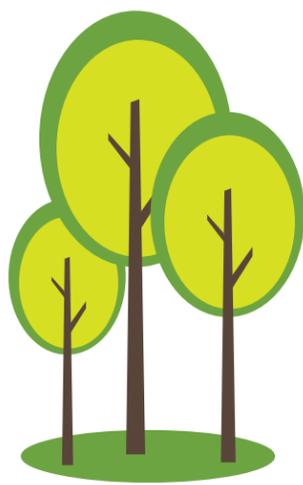
Make matches between families and shelter animals. Current and new ambassadors must attend a training course, offered monthly. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Waigand for orientation dates: jwaigand@southwesthumane.org.

Walk/Run for the Animals breaks record

More than \$150,000 raised at Walk/Run for the Animals

on May 2, the most raised in the 24-year history of the event. It was a beautiful day with 1,000 walker and runners, 600 dogs and a menagerie of other fun animals.

Can't wait to celebrate 25 years of Walk/Run on Saturday, May 7, 2016 in Esther Short Park! It's going to be even bigger and better. All for the dogs and cats.



Thank You event SPONSORS

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Super friends of HSSW

Sergeant's Towing

Already this year, 17 generous donors have given their vehicles to HSSW! Vehicle donations provide a significant source of revenue that benefit the animals in our care. HSSW wants to thank Sergeant's Towing, our community partner, for picking up and auctioning all of the vehicles donated to our organization. Sergeant's Towing returns a substantial 90% of the proceeds for each vehicle sale! We are grateful for their support of our mission and the work we do.

Do you have a vehicle you would like to donate? For more information, visit southwesthumane.org/engage or contact Julie Gaskell: 360.213.2619



CONTACT OR DONATE:

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

ADOPTION CENTER - SHELTER:

ADOPTION | ANIMAL ADMISSION | LOST & FOUND VIEWING
Tuesday - Sunday, 12 noon - 6:00 p.m. | 360.693.4746
Closed Mondays

RETAILS THRIFT STORE Shop. Donate.:

5000 E FOURTH PLAIN BLVD, VANCOUVER, WA 98661
Shopping Hrs: Daily - 10am-8pm | Donation Hrs: Daily - 10am-5pm
360.693.4746 x 400

MOBILE DONATION TRAILER: 1100 NE 192ND AVENUE,
VANCOUVER, WA 98684 (HSSW Parking Lot)
Donation Hours: Daily - 8am-5pm

FIND US:      

2015 Auction



More than just another fundraiser, this event is an experience not to be missed. The theme for 2015 is Vintage Carnival! The Vancouver Hilton will come alive with performers, decor, food and fun to match this playful theme.

Show your support for the dogs and cats. Mark your calendars for
October 3, 2015

Buy your tickets online

at hssw.ejoinme.org/tickets

\$100 per person, \$1,000 for table of ten

Retails

Paul MacKay and Pete Glover to lead ReTails operations

Paul MacKay, new Retail Operations Director, and Pete Glover, ReTails Thrift Store Manager, are at the helm and are leading ReTails Thrift Store. Paul and Pete are both musicians and both like cats. Paul was hired to direct operations for ReTails thrift store as well as retail operations for HSSW. Paul spent 18 years working for NIKE in various retail roles. Pete recently moved to the Northwest from Oakland, California, where he worked for the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, as Managing Director since 2008.

ReTails looks wonderful and is beautifully merchandised. There are new items on the shelves from moment to moment so the store is evolving and changing all the time. Sundays feature a Manager's Special, where customers can find deeply discounted items that mean great savings for customers. Pete and Paul are coming up with all sorts of ideas to make sure that shopping at ReTails means great merchandise to purchase and fun treasures to find. When you're at ReTails the next time, please say hello to Paul and Pete.

[Shop. Donate.](#)

