



ISSUE 6 | Fall 2015

As you will read in this issue, in September, we accepted a transport of dogs from South Korea of primarily Asian Tosa and Jindo mixes. They had lived their entire lives in cages, were afraid of humans, had no spatial boundaries and acted essentially like very big, goofy puppies - that just happened to be 1 to 3 years old.

Teams of volunteers and staff worked with these dogs for nearly two months, and it has been amazing to see their progress and observe the love they have received. Many are already living with their new American families, and we expect them all to go home by the end of the year.

These are just 25 of the more than 1,200 dogs we will receive this year from shelters in California, Washington, Texas, Oregon and now, South Korea. Most often, we rescue these dogs from shelters overwhelmed by the large numbers of stray animals. We pay no money for these animals, and we write grants and seek donations to cover the costs of their care. We do this to save them, and to meet the growing need in our own community for dogs to adopt in a diversity of sizes, ages and breeds. And, we are still able to find homes for the local strays and surrendered dogs we receive daily.

It really does take a village to make a difference. The boundaries of our village grew a little broader this year. When you work or volunteer in an adoption center-shelter, some days are very hard. And, some days are incredibly rewarding.

Stacey
Stacey A. Graham,
President



ho ho Whole Lot of Holidays at ReTails Thrift Store

Pet Portraits with Santa

A CHRISTMAS Tail Holiday Boutique Now Open!

Jingle jingle jingle. That's not bells you hear, that's the sound of more money in your Christmas pockets! ReTails Thrift Store's A Christmas Tail boutique is open now through December 31 and bursting at the seams with all things holiday. When you deck your halls this year, do it with A Christmas Tail and you'll not only be fully fabulous, you'll be supporting the Humane Society and the dogs and cats. Don your front door with a wreath, create a beautiful entryway table scene, buy a fully-decked-out tree, or spice up your dining room with new dishes and serving pieces. A Christmas Tail even has new, giftable items, so you can get it all done in one place! All year long, volunteers have tucked away treasures for this special boutique. From merchandising, pricing and re-stocking, A Christmas Tail is a labor of love managed by fabulous volunteers. When you stop by to stock up on all your holiday décor, make sure to say hi!

A Christmas Tail & ReTails Thrift Store
5000 East Fourth Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, WA 98661

For winter store hours, visit:
southwesthumane.org/retails-thrift-store/shop/



December 4, 2 - 6 pm
December 5, 12 noon - 4 pm
\$15 per family @ ReTails Thrift Store
Over the river and through the woods to... ReTails we go! That's right, with a jolly "ho, ho, ho" Santa will be making his annual stop at your favorite thrift store to spread some holiday joy and pose for a photo with the entire family (including your pet!). Join us for a holiday memory to cherish for years to come.



PEOPLE + DOGS + CATS

How to ADOPT a dog or cat from HSSW

You know we're the matchmakers.
But how does it work?

1 Go online

Whether you're looking for a playful kitten, a happy dog or just want to browse, our website is the best place to start. Updated every two hours, you can view photos, bios and ages for all of our adoptable animals online. If you've got your heart set on a certain characteristic or breed, checking our website often is the best way to find a potential new family member.

southwesthumane.org/dogs-and-cats/



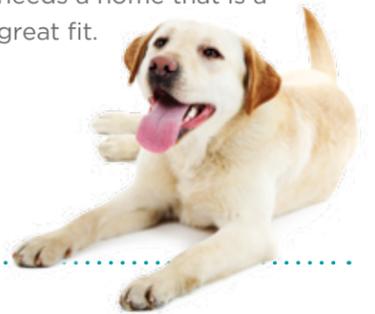
2 Application

Completing an application gives us an idea of how to best match you and a new family member. Print and complete an application at home or at the shelter. We ask you to tell us about your home, daily life and experience with pets to help find the right fit. Work hard and love to relax at home? Maybe a snuggly dog is right for you. Live in a tiny house and hate to go outside? Maybe a giant, active dog is not right for you. Whatever you're into or not into, there's a perfect pet for you.



3 Who would you like to meet?

Once we receive your application, let us know who you'd like to meet. You can meet with up to three animals per day. Before you get cozy with your potential cat or dog, our adoption counselors will share as much as possible about the animals. We'll also address anything that we think might be a challenge to a happy home. We see 8,000 animals every year; and even if the animal you had your heart set on isn't the right fit, there will be another amazing pet who needs a home that is a great fit.



4 The beginning of your love story?

You've talked with an adoption counselor and you're ready to meet your potential new family member. Exciting! Our trained animal care staff will help you do what we call a "social," spending time together in one of our social rooms. This could be the beginning of your love story! You'll get an idea of their personality, and have the chance to ask our staff any questions. Keep in mind, the shelter can be a little stressful for some animals, and personalities may come out more once at home.



5 Pre-adoption heart to heart

Ready to move forward after your social? You'll sit down to talk to one of our adoption counselors to review any medical or behavioral concerns you'll need to consider, and ask you questions about your plans for integrating your pet into the home. The prospect of bringing home something incredibly cute and fluffy is exciting and fun, and it's easy to get wrapped up in love. This is the time to think through all of the real-life impacts of bringing home a pet. We want you to be successful, and our goal is always life-long placement with each of the animals. If it's a good fit, we'll send you home with great info to make you the best pet parent ever. And, we'll always be here if you need some advice.



6 Let's make it official

Get ready, you're about to adopt a brand new family member! Our ReTails Pet Store has everything you'll need to make your new pet comfy, from plush beds, irresistible treats and food to fabulous collars. Plus, adopters can purchase a starter kit for 10% off! Next, you'll review your adoption contract, your new pet's medical history and receive a certificate for a complimentary vet exam. Your adoption fee includes spay or neuter surgery, microchip ID and national registration, select vaccinations, free veterinary exam with a local participating veterinarian, animal training information and 30 days of free pet insurance. You'll need to register your pet's microchip with your info in case you are separated from your pet, so you can be easily reconnected.



7 Home - Match made!

Now it's time to bring your new pet home, and the fun begins! We're always here in case you need advice, but we know you'll do great! Want to find out more about adoption? **Call us at 360-693-4746**

HELP!

A new program for people and their pets who need help, now.

Sometimes life is unexpected, and things happen that you can't control. My cat was hit by a car, I need help! I have to go to the hospital and no one can watch my dog, help! I can't afford cat food this month, help!

WE WANT TO HELP!

We've created a new program, Help!, as a way to assist people and their animals with a little help, now. Help! might be funds for emergency, life-saving veterinary care. In 2015, HSSW helped 22 people and their pets stay healthy and happy together through financial assistance for vet care.

Help! can mean providing temporary housing for pets. With our Safe Haven program, we shelter 50 animals each year, providing relief for families facing a temporary hardship or displacement due to domestic violence, temporary homelessness and medical emergencies.

Help! also can be a meal for your pet. Through Chow!, our pet food assistance program, 700 families received a little help from HSSW with free pet food.

WE CAN'T CONTROL THE UNIVERSE, BUT WE CAN HELP! To learn more visit us at southwesthumane.org.



In September, HSSW joined an effort led by the Humane Society International (HSI) to give 25 beautiful dogs a whole new life. Rescued from a life as livestock in South Korea and brought to the U.S. to be cared for as loved pets in wonderful homes, these dogs are a testament to the resilient and adaptive nature of animals, and their capacity for abounding love.

From living their entire life in cages, in a world without love or sufficient food and water, to our Adoption Center-Shelter, it was quite a transition. For these dogs, absolutely everything was new: leashes, collars, people, doorways, grass, toys, and treats.

Sights, sounds, smells, that's a lot of world to get to know! Our staff developed a tailor-made program to slowly introduce our new friends to the world with the help of very dedicated and patient volunteer teams.

"The process of being able to weigh each dog and put on collars took several days, something that takes five minutes for most dogs," says Tara Zimmerman, Canine Enrichment Specialist. Some dogs were clearly extroverts and some were introverts, and weren't so sure about human contact.

"We took things as slowly as we needed to; and with persistent and gentle encouragement, we got there."

For the first few days, volunteers took turns sitting in kennels periodically dishing out treats until the dogs were more and more comfortable, eventually coming to the front of the kennel on their own, sniffing for yummy treats. Slowly, they began to go through doorways without fear, to walk on a leash, and even to sit.

Some new experiences, like learning to walk on a leash, are helpful for transitioning into life in a home, and some are just fun.

"They love to chew on things so we started giving them frozen buckets of food that hang in their kennels; and for the first few days, they would play bow and bark at their lunch," laughs Tara.

Goofy is one word that sums up these big, adult puppies.

"They are just learning the concept of personal space, and how to use their bodies. They fall off of their beds, and run like they don't know their back legs are attached to them," said Tara.

As of early November, nine of our South Korean dogs have gone to new homes.

"I was talking on the phone with a new adopter, and we had to stop because Audrey was barking at her own reflection in the sliding glass door," Tara jokes.

Adopters completed specific applications and interviewed with our staff before being matched with a South Korean dog. Because we are dedicated to the success of these adoptions, and the extraordinary circumstances they came from, patience is the name of the game. We work with each dog on a daily basis until they pass specific behavior benchmarks showing they are learning to adapt to American life as a beloved house pet. These are just 25 of the 1,200 dogs we will receive from other shelters this year, and they are teaching us new things every day. We are proud to give these dogs a new "leash" on life.



To learn more about these dogs visit southwesthumane.org/dogs-and-cats/dogs/south-korea-rescue-dogs/



Rides to the Rescue

Donating your car or truck will make a difference!



Jeff & his dog, Gabe:

"I wanted to donate my vehicle to a cause that I care about; and since animals are such an important part of my life, the choice was simple! The entire donation process was super quick and easy. I filled out an online form and my Blazer was picked up by the towing company the next day!"

Our online vehicle donation form makes the donation process quick and easy! southwesthumane.org/vehicledonation
HSSW partners with Sergeant's Towing for the pick-up and auction of all donated vehicles. Sergeant's returns 90% of the sale proceeds to HSSW.

Thank you to Sergeant's Towing for loving the animals too.

Quick FAQ's

- We accept all types of vehicles: cars, trucks, boats and motorhomes
- Your vehicle doesn't have to run - don't worry, we tow!
- Proceeds go directly to our programs and services
- So far this year, 32 vehicles have been donated, raising \$32,500 for the animals!



WALK/RUN FOR THE ANIMALS

Kick-off Party Thursday, January 28, 2016 @ 6 pm

More than 1,000 walkers, runners and 600 dogs helped us break fundraising records in 2015, and we had an awesome time doing it. We want to celebrate Walk/Run's 25th birthday with you in 2016, so join us for our kick-off party! Sure, we're one of the only dog-friendly timed 5k runs in the NW (walkers welcome too!), and sure, we have the best Party in the Park for you post Walk/Run, but we'll also have bigger, better, surprises for you, because... it's a big year. We're turning 25!



SUPER FRIENDS OF HSSW



A strategic partner and champion of good health for shelter animals, the ASPCA has generously awarded HSSW a \$10,000 grant making a significant difference in the health of the animals in our care. Healthier, happier and in great homes, thank you!

Kitten Fosters & Adoption Event Partners

It takes a village and this year our "village" of supporters helped find homes for more than 500 kittens. Thank you to all the volunteer foster families that endured late nights, early mornings and bottle feedings to care for these little ones (sometimes only days old) until they were old enough to be adopted. And a special thanks to our partners at All Natural Pet Supply, Mud Bay, Natural Pet NW, Orchards Feed, Pet Pros, ReTails Thrift Store and Woodin' You Pampered Paws for hosting adoption events to help find homes for these fuzzy little kittens.



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 pm | 360.693.4746
Closed Mondays

RETAILS THRIFT STORE:

5000 E FOURTH PLAIN BLVD, VANCOUVER, WA 98661
Shopping Hrs: Mon. - Fri. 10 am - 8 pm | Sat-Sun 10 am - 6 pm
Donation Hrs: Daily - 10 am - 5 pm
360.693.4746 x 400

FIND US:      

MOBILE DONATION TRAILER: 1100 NE 192ND AVENUE,
VANCOUVER, WA 98684 (HSSW Parking Lot)
Donation Hours: Daily - 10 am - 5 pm

Cuddle Squad



December 16 & 17

Tired of the same old office party? Potlucks got you down?

Skip the gift card bonus this year and bring some holiday joy to your workplace with Cuddle Squad! Turn your office into a holiday snuggle-fest with adorable and adoptable puppies, kittens, dogs and cats. Not only will you enjoy some quality snuggle time, you'll also be treated to holiday cocoa and cookies served by HSSW staff and volunteers! It's the answer to your holiday wishes!

All proceeds benefit the dogs and cats of HSSW. Submit an application online at southwesthumane.org/cuddle-squad by Dec. 4.

Estate Planning

Gene Christian, is an estate planning expert who provides an overview of the critical components of a thorough estate plan.

Gene makes estate planning easy by explaining the documents needed and suggesting questions to ask your advisors.

TALK TO GENE ABOUT:

- HSSW's new Home Again pet guardian program
- Updating an older will
- Avoiding transfer tax on your IRA
- Setting up a trust for your children/grandchildren

Schedule a complimentary personal, and confidential appointment with Gene, call 360-213-2617, or email fundraising@southwesthumane.org.

2015 Dinner-Auction, Huge Success!

"Vintage Carnival" truly was a magical night. From the puppy cuddle booth, circus performers, guests decked out in red, gold and black, mini-corn dogs and popcorn, and vibrant décor, every inch of the event was fun, festive and filled with joy. All made possible by 300 donors, 25 sponsors, 600 guests and more than 75 volunteers. Thank you to our community for helping us celebrate People + Dogs + Cats and exceed our fundraising goal!

