



ISSUE 9 | Winter 2016

We all need second chances...

do overs....opportunities.....possibilities....hope. That's really what HSSW is all about. For dogs and cats....for gently used household items and for people. The expansion of our Larch Corrections Center foster program is just the latest example of people and animals working together to create second chances. You will read in today's newsletter all about the launch of the Larch Pet Training Camp, our new dog foster program at Larch, which follows a very successful cat fostering effort.

What is so inspiring about our work with the Larch cat and dog handlers are the changes that happen to the handlers and to the animals as they spend several weeks and months learning and growing and loving one another.

I have attended celebrations of more than 75 adoptions of our Larch cats, and recently the first Larch Pet Training Camp dog graduation. All lives are changed in this process. Handlers are learning new skills, the unconditional love of a companion animal and the pride that comes from a job well done. The animals gain confidence, learn skills and tricks (at least the dogs do) and the soft touch and soothing voice of a loving foster/trainer.

I am very proud of the HSSW dog and cat teams and our volunteers who are committed to the success of this program. The confidence and support of the Larch Corrections Center administration and program teams....but most of all I am proud of the handlers and the animals. Everyone wins in this work.... including the new families that welcome these beloved pets into their homes.


Stacey A. Graham | President



First graduating class of the Larch Pet Training Camp!

A CHRISTMAS Tail



 The store within the store is filled with everything for the holidays.

Sometimes, it feels like Christmas

year-round at ReTails Thrift Store where holiday items are donated 52 weeks a year. These items are sorted, priced and boxed and readied for A Christmas Tail's opening. We describe the holiday store as a "store within a store." A Christmas Tail started three years ago by volunteers of HSSW and ReTails Thrift Store. Each year, more and more shoppers anticipate the opening.

Several volunteers work throughout the year on the holiday merchandise. Liz Gayhart and Kathy Little put in hours each week to keep the items moving through the donation process. They also are instrumental in merchandising and displaying holiday items to get ready for opening day. Items in the store include anything you can think of for the season... wreaths, trees, ornaments, décor, linens, serving pieces, stockings, snow globes and lights.

More merchandise comes into the store as people get ready for the holidays in their own homes. A great way to support the animals is to donate items you would like to "retire" from your own collection or shop for something new. Last year, ReTails sold more than 27,000 individual items. This year, more than 40 pallets of merchandise were available on opening day. And shelves are continuously restocked so new treasures appear daily.

**A Christmas Tail is open regular store hours:
Mon-Fri, 10 am to 7 pm | Sat-Sun, 10 am to 6 pm**

This time, Lassie needed help! X-ray saves the day

BEING "X-RAY EQUIPPED" CHANGED LASSIE'S LIFE, AND IT WILL CHANGE THE LIVES OF MANY MORE DOGS AND CATS YET TO COME.



There's a black box in front of you, and you need to know what's inside. However, you can't look inside! You can feel it, you can observe it, and you can use all your knowledge about what that box could contain. But, you can't look inside! Pretty tough to tell what's in the box, right?

That's what it was like for clinic staff trying to make a diagnosis for a dog or cat in our care before being equipped with full-body and dental x-ray machines. Thanks to a generous gift from the Banfield Foundation and a group of passionate supporters, HSSW has been able to diagnose and treat animals here at the shelter using this radiology equipment, and it's changing lives!

Being able to "see clearly" helped save the life of one very special dog, Lassie. She came to HSSW when her owner passed away. When the clinic team examined Lassie, they felt something odd in her abdomen. Something solid, that shouldn't be there.

Dr. Lauren Overman took an x-ray and discovered Lassie's abdomen was filled with large bladder stones, some as large as limes. Ouch! The clinic team was able to perform a surgery to remove the stones, nearly 30 in total.

Nine days later, after recovery, Lassie was adopted to a loving family. Together, her adopted family and clinic team came up with a game plan so Lassie would not have to go through this again, including a special diet.

Being x-ray-equipped changed Lassie's life, and it will change the lives of many more dogs and cats yet to come. Thank you again to Banfield Foundation and our caring supporters who invested in HSSW to make the future of our community's animals much brighter.

ACCREDITATION will benefit dogs and people



Tara and her dog, Abner

Tara Zimmerman, HSSW's enrichment coordinator, just added some letters behind her name that mean great things for dogs and people in our community. Tara is now a CPDT-KA, or a Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge Assessed, according to the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers.

After completing a year-long course, and performing 300 hours of training. Tara was assessed on the foundations of positive reward-based training, ethics and behavior. We are proud that Tara passed her exam with high marks, earning this prestigious accreditation held by 2,000 others worldwide.

Tara is using her training to pass her knowledge to the Larch Pet Training Camp, where residents of Larch Corrections Center (LCC) work with shelter dogs through a six-week training program. Guided by positive training techniques, the handlers at Larch learn the basics like focusing and responding, and work their way up to more advanced commands. The goal is to help dogs who need a little more training become great family dogs, and provide Larch handlers with an enriching experience and opportunity to contribute to their community.

Tara's accreditation and the Larch Pet Training Camp are founded on positive reward-based training which rewards dogs for doing

the right thing. When a dog sticks close to your side while you walk, they are rewarded, rather than using punishment for negative behaviors, like yanking on a choke collar when a dog pulls on the leash. This technique strengthens the bond between dog and handler while building trust and eliciting the behaviors that make dogs great family pets.

Five handlers and dogs recently graduated from the program, and the dogs returned to HSSW to find their forever family. Each LCC resident spoke at the graduation about the joy it brought to help animals gain confidence and skills and found that it helped them in turn. Some residents had not touched an animal since their incarceration many, many years ago.

We are thankful for Tara's hard work and commitment to continued education as the best way to create strong bonds between pets and staff. We are excited to see our volunteers learn from her skills and help strengthen the bonds between people and animals.

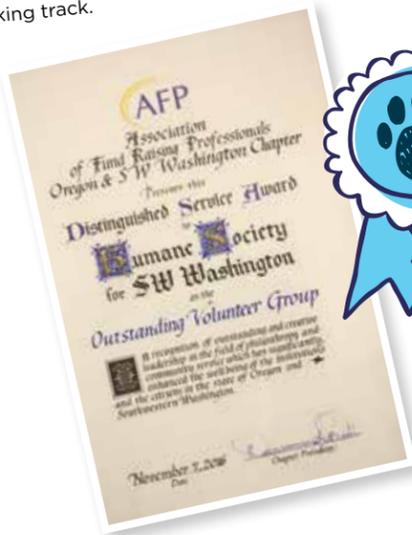


Two graduates of the Larch Pet Training Camp showing off what their team (people + dog) learned together.

HSSW Wins Outstanding Volunteer Group Award



Mary, dog walking volunteer, takes a lap around the 1/4-mile walking track.



Before the sun comes up, they're up. With red aprons stuffed with biscuits and bags peeking out, rousing sleepy (and not so sleepy) dogs for a morning stroll. Coaxing kitties out of corners, putting load-after-load of laundry in the largest washing machines you've ever seen. Dusting off donated dishes and stocking shelves. Seven days a week, all year long, even on Christmas.

More than 760 volunteers generously give their time to make the Adoption Center-Shelter and ReTails Thrift Store operational. This dedicated group contributed 104,000 hours in 2015, which is equivalent to 53 full-time employees.

Shelter and thrift store volunteers are faithful. They are kind. And they are absolutely indispensable. We have always believed our volunteers are some of the best around. Recently, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter presented HSSW with the **2016 Outstanding Volunteer Group** award in recognition of the service of our volunteers and our graduated training program. This prestigious award includes past award-winners Medical Teams International, SOLVE and the Clark County Food Bank.

HSSW's volunteer program, led by volunteer coordinator Jim Waigand, is unique not only in the sheer number of amazing people who choose to serve animals, but also because of its unique training program that allows volunteers to increase roles and responsibilities over time through education and training. Volunteers have the opportunity to take classes taught by staff and work in different departments with varying duties. Lead volunteers, called mentors, follow volunteers in training to make sure duties and training are consistent and efficient.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a volunteer or our programs, visit us online at <http://southwesthumane.org/engage/volunteer/>



Good Kitty

You've heard the phrase, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks," but what about cats? Here at HSSW, we believe in equal opportunities for both cats and dogs, and that cats are capable of learning, too! HSSW is developing a training and "kitty zen" program for cats.

KITTY ZEN

The just-launched "kitty zen" program helps cats waiting for their lucky kennel in the adoption cattery enjoy their stay with us. Each cat receives a "hidey box" in their private kennel suite, allowing them to curl up for a peaceful nap, and drift off listening to classical tunes played throughout the room. Recently, Grades 3 & 4 Kids Club students decorated some of the "hidey boxes" with well-wishes and pictures of their hopeful new families. So cute. All cats also receive a personalized fabric kennel cover hung over the kennel door for added privacy in their suite.

KEEP CALM AND PHEROMONE ON!

For kitty guests who need a little more spa treatment during their stay, animal care staff also spray Feliway, which mimics a cat's natural pheromones. When cats rub their faces against objects in their environment, it releases a pheromone that marks their territory as safe and secure. This spray mimics that pheromone and helps create a sense of familiarity and security which helps comfort and reassure cats.

TRAINING FOR CATS?

In addition to helping reduce the stress of cats in our care, HSSW will be launching a "good kitty" behavior program that will help cats with behavioral challenges become more adoptable through a behavior modification system. Depending on a cat's level of comfort and individual challenges, volunteers will work with cats on a daily basis using specific interactions to get them more comfortable with handling or with other cats.

"If a cat is extremely shy or fearful, we'll start with opening up the kennel door and giving that cat a treat. We'll work our way up to desensitizing the cat to petting, or being picked up, or being around other cats. We start very slowly, making sure we end each session with a treat or a toy or a little bit of canned wet food. The goal is to get them more comfortable with a broader range of experiences so they have more options for their perfect match," says Feline Supervisor, Angela Rowand.

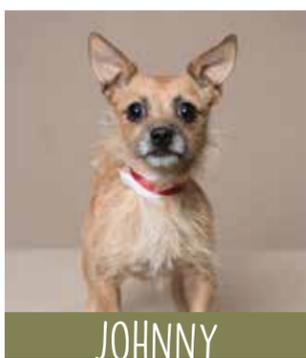
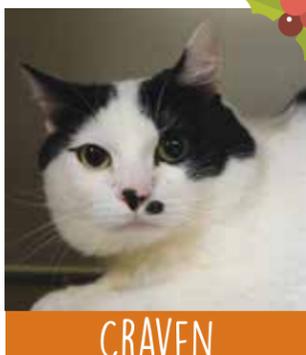
Angela also hopes to introduce a clicker training program just for cats, too. Volunteers would clicker train cats to approach the front of the kennel which just might attract their perfect adopter! Good things ahead for the life of shelter kitties!



Looking for a home for the holidays

Whether you've been naughty or nice, we know some dogs and cats that will never give you lumps of coal for Christmas. Because they don't have bank accounts or thumbs!

Adopt a shelter animal today and give them a home for the holidays!



2017 Walk/Run Save the date

The biggest collection of party animals in one place is back, all for the dog and cats, now even bigger with a 10k run! The 2017 Walk/Run for the Animals: 2,000 people, 1,000 dogs and all the cat-lovers you can take coming together for a dog-friendly timed 5k and **new 10k run**, and a fun 3-mile walk plus the Party in the Park afterwards. The fundraising competition is kicking off in January and the top teams are already recruiting! Which fundraising team will reign supreme? Dogs, cats, both??

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017
ESTHER SHORT PARK

BEER GARDEN • VENDOR VILLAGE • DOG AGILITY DEMOS • PET TRICK COMPETITION • VIP AREA

Info available soon at hssw.org/walk-run



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
RETAILS PET STORE
Tuesday - Sunday, 12 noon - 6 pm | 360.693.4746
Closed Mondays

RETAILS THRIFT STORE:

5000 E FOURTH PLAIN BLVD, VANCOUVER, WA 98661
Shopping: Mon. - Fri. 10 am - 7 pm | Sat. - Sun. 10 am - 6 pm
Donation: 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

Auction Recap

The bubbles that greeted auction goers at the Red Lion are just beginning to float back to earth as we look back on a wonderful evening spent with 600 animal lovers. The Golden Age of Hollywood was alive and so was the spirit of giving. Thanks to sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers, we raised more than \$458,000 for the dogs and cats. Our deepest gratitude for a fun night, and for funding that will provide adoption services, medical care, housing, food, toys, treats and love for more than 8,000 animals this year.

See you next year as we celebrate HSSW's 120th birthday at the 2017 dinner-auction

Saturday, October 7, 2017



Roll Over!

PERMANENT IRA charitable rollover! This tax benefit was signed into law December 2015, and allows people who are 70 1/2 or older to transfer their required minimum distribution each year...up to a \$100,000 maximum annually... from their IRA account(s) directly to charity without having to recognize the distribution as income. Feel free to ask your tax advisor - or Brittany Gosselin, Vice President of Development at HSSW - if this is a good choice for you.

Brittany Gosselin - bgosselin@southwesthumane.org or 360-213-2617

SAVE THESE DATES

2017 Walk/Run for the Animals
Saturday, May 6 @ Esther Short Park

Doggie Dive

Saturday, September 23 @ Lakeshore Athletic Club

Annual Dinner-Auction

Saturday, October 7 @ Red Lion Jantzen Beach

Pet Portraits with Santa 2017

Friday, December 1 and
Saturday, December 2 @ ReTails Thrift Store