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Winter 2010
Issue 27

Manager's Corner

By Deborah Wood, Animal Services Manager



Our Shelter as a Community Gathering Spot

I love the fact that the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter is now a hot spot for children's birthday celebrations. We often have great kids come by the shelter who have asked their friends and families to give donations to the shelter for their gifts.

My heart strings were really tugged recently when a group of four girls came excitedly into the shelter. They'd spent the morning at one girl's birthday party. One of the craft projects was decorating headbands with dog ears. They arrived, wearing their floppy ears, and brought a donation of \$100—plus food, shampoo and toys for the animals. We gave them a tour of the shelter so they could meet the animals that benefited from their kindness. The kids had a blast.



Emily Scowden decided to have a birthday party with an animal theme and to have guests bring items to donate to the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter. From left: Toria Larson, Kendra Dominguez, Emily Scowden, Danielle Scowden.

We took a snapshot of the girls in front of the bust of Bonnie Hays, the one-time County Commissioner and community leader for whom our shelter is named. I really feel that she was smiling at what she saw that day.

We are changing the definition of what a public animal shelter is—and what it can be. I remember visiting the old animal shelter when it was at the Fairgrounds in Hillsboro. I wasn't much older than our birthday party girls. The tiny building was crowded with multiple dogs and puppies in every run. I can still remember the smell of the place; it was as if the filth had seeped into my nose and lungs and would never leave. It was a place of sadness and despair.

Now a visit to our shelter is a time for celebration. We do the hardest work that any kind of animal shelter can do—open our doors to every stray in the community. And we do it in a way that makes us proud.

continued on page 4

ADOPT—Bring Home Some Love This Holiday Season

Happy Endings/New Beginnings

Reunions by Microchip/Microchip Miracles

Every year, we reunite about 1,200 lost animals with their owners. Here are two of our favorite stories from this year:

Photo courtesy of The Hillsboro Argus



Happy tears at the reunion of Shannon Reyes and her Pomeranian Sophie.

Sophie the Pomeranian: It sounds like a tale from a Disney movie. An adorable six-pound Pomeranian somehow made her way from Phoenix, Arizona to Hillsboro, Oregon. Nine months after she zipped out of the door of her Arizona home, Sophie was brought in to the Bonnie Hays shelter by a good Samaritan.

“When we called her owner, it took awhile for our shelter technician to understand what the owner was saying—she was hard to hear through her happy tears,” says Deborah Wood, manager of Animal Services. Trouble was, owner Shannon Reyes’ husband had recently lost his job, and finances were a huge barrier. A Phoenix news station picked up the story and a generous viewer offered frequent flyer miles so that the Reyes’ could pick up Sophie. It was a joyful reunion. Sophie still clearly remembered her loving owner, greeting her with delighted wiggles and wags.

Eliza the Cat: Glenn and Sonja Rysko live in a rural area outside of Newberg. A year after their 10-year-old cat Eliza went missing, they’d given up hope of ever seeing their beloved kitty again. But one day they received a call with amazing news—a good Samaritan who lives in Aloha had brought Eliza to the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter. Today Eliza is safe and sound, happy to be back at home with the Rysko family.

There are important lessons to be learned from these stories: The first: **these happy reunions could never have happened had Eliza and Sophie not been microchipped.** Microchips are the leading reason for the reunifications at the Bonnie Hays shelter. You can have your dog or cat microchipped at your veterinarian’s office or by appointment at our shelter.

Another lesson: **if you find a lost animal, take it to your county animal shelter.** What may appear to be an unloved or abandoned pet may simply be a lost pet – with a frantically worried owner. Remember – bad things can happen to nice people’s pets. Help these animals find their owners!

New Beginnings

So far this year we’ve found homes for 835 cats and 614 dogs. Here are two of those new beginnings.



Fennel, a Dachshund/Pug mix, spent weeks at the shelter waiting for his forever home. We couldn’t understand it, what with Fennel’s winning, laid back personality. One of our dedicated volunteers made a short video about Fennel and added it to his profile on petfinder.com.

When Lily Johnson saw the video, she knew she just had to meet him. After taking him home, Johnson sent us a wonderful update:

“Fennel has been thriving! We started him on glucosamine about a week after we got him and he has gotten more mobile every day. This has not only helped him lose some weight, but has also made his walks much more fun. We have been trying to walk him twice a day to get the weight to drop off and it seems to be working. He is great on a leash and appears to love kids when he meets them. He is totally housetrained, which is awesome. Best of all, he and his brother Rusty seem to really get along well and have been spending a lot of time every night relaxing together on our couch. Fennel is one of the most laid back dogs I have ever met and we constantly get compliments on how great he is. He is in a good home and very happy.”

New Beginnings, continued



Suki spent months looking for her forever home. The pretty 9-year-old tabby and white cat didn't seem to catch anyone's eye here at the shelter. Then her luck changed – for good. We placed her in our outreach program at Nature's Pet at Orenco Station. She sat like a queen in the window of the store where she finally met her new person, Katherine Bay. Katherine tells us,

"[My dog] Jack and I would pass by Suki in the window on our walks everyday. She is so friendly and curious about everything, she caught our attention and we became acquainted. It's like she was meant to be a part of our family. I am thankful that my neighborhood Nature's Pet has this partnership with our local animal shelter, because it gives cats like Suki special exposure to the public. I love her so much and wish all cats could have the same good fortune of finding a home. I feel very lucky!"

Ways to Help the Animals

Adopt a shelter animal. We always have lots of cats and dogs waiting for loving homes. You can view animals available for adoption at by visiting our Petfinder page, accessible through our Website (washingtoncountypets.com) or come by the shelter and meet your new best friend.



Volunteer at the shelter. We love our volunteers! Our volunteers help us care for the animals in a way that makes us proud. If you'd like to share your passion and work for the animals, call Shirley Toth, our volunteer coordinator, at 503-846-7149 or see washingtoncountypets.com and click on "Get Involved."

Donate food or supplies to the shelter. For a copy of our Wish List, click on the donate tab at washingtoncountypets.com.

Donate money to the shelter. Every penny you donate will go directly to the care of our animals. For more information, call Kathy Andersen, our development officer at 503-846-7141 or visit our website at washingtoncountypets.com and click on "Donations."

Donate your vehicle through our Cars For Care Program. Simply fill out our form at washingtoncountypets.com and we take care of the rest! You must have a title and the vehicle must have an engine and be towable. Speeds Towing will pick up your car, boat, RV or motorcycle. It will be sold at auction and the proceeds will benefit the animals at the shelter.

Help the animals at the shelter by donating your old stuff to GivSmart. Visit www.Givsmart.com/animals or call the shelter to convert your discarded clothing, household goods and other items into cash for the animals.

Spay or neuter your pets and feral cats and kittens. Having trouble affording the surgery? Check www.asapmetro.org to see if you qualify for the Spay and Save Program for cats and kittens and the Oregon Spay/Neuter Fund at www.oregonspayneuter.org for both cats and dogs.

Become a pet foster parent. We especially need safe and loving foster homes for kittens and their mothers. Occasionally we also need foster homes for dogs who need socialization before they are ready for adoption. Please visit the shelter for a foster care application.

Follow us on Facebook. Visit the Bonnie Hays Animal Shelter page and click "Like." We'll be sure to keep you posted on all the latest shelter news!

Proudly Doing the Hardest Work a Shelter Can Do

Did you know that the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter is the only shelter in our county that admits stray animals? We are an "open admissions" shelter—which means that we have the hardest job of any kind of animal shelter. We take in the animals that are lost, the dogs that are running frantically through the streets, and the cats that may have been injured when they were loose.

While private shelters can choose to only bring in healthy, friendly, adoptable animals, we are here to help every lost or abandoned animal.

Last year, we brought in about 6000 stray and abandoned dogs and cats. (Plus a few pocket pets, a couple of chickens, a ferret and a few parrots—you never know what animals will go missing.)

Our first step is to reunite the animals with their owners. Every animal that comes in to our shelter is scanned for a microchip. Their pictures are posted on our web site (www.washingtoncountypets.com) within an hour. We also comb through on-line networks (such as Craig's List) to look for lost pet postings.

If no owner comes to claim a dog or cat, we complete a health and behavioral assessment on the animal. Adoptable animals are placed in our adoption program. Animals that need more behavioral or medical help may be placed with local rescue groups.

We take great care of our adoptable dogs and cats until they find their forever homes—there is no time limit for their adoption. Every animal is spayed or neutered, brought up-to-date on its shots, and microchipped. Our volunteers walk every dog three times a day, and give extensive socialization to our cats and dogs.

While most shelters that accept stray animals are dismal last stops for animals with sad lives, our shelter is a vibrant, lively place that provides a new beginning for animals that come here. Unlike the vast majority of "open admissions" shelters around the nation, no healthy animal is euthanized at Bonnie Hays just to make room for other animals. We are truly a safe haven for animals in need.



Manager's Corner, continued from page 1

We have a corps of about 140 volunteers that care for our animals, scrubbing cages, playing with cats, taking every dog on three potty walks a day, writing ads on Petfinder.com, socializing animals, and doing countless large and small things that make the animals' stay here a happy one. Because of all this, our adoption rate is about four times the national average for dogs and about six times the national average for cats.

Best of all, we're a joyful, engaging place where four sweet girls in floppy ears can have a great time, and remember this day as a day of celebration.

This is what an animal shelter should be about.

Debra

Animal Services Officers

Our officers respond to about 7,000 calls for help each year. Examples of these calls include investigating abuse and neglect of dogs and cats, saving animals in danger as they run loose on a highway, and helping the victims of dog bites. We also license 44,000 dogs in Washington County.



Three year old Sophia Deleganes asked her friends to buy gifts for the dogs and cats at Bonnie Hays for her birthday.

Dealing with Domestic Abuse: Helping Animals and Helping Families



There is a frightening overlap between domestic violence and animal abuse.

There are plenty of sobering statistics. About two-thirds of children in a survey of domestic violence shelters reported that they had witnessed the abuse or killing of an animal. In another study, it was found that up to 48 percent of survivors of domestic violence didn't seek help or returned to their abusers because of their animals. And it's a sad cycle: Children who witness animal abuse are

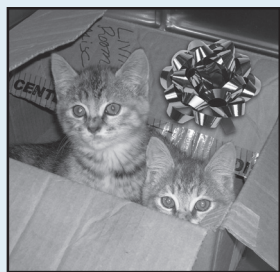
eight times more likely to perpetrate violence when they are older.

Washington County is doing something to change these sad statistics!

Washington County Animal Services co-leads, along with the Washington County District Attorney's office, a County multi-disciplinary team on the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence and child abuse. This effort brings together law enforcement, social services, advocates for survivors of domestic violence, and animal experts to address the problems. Now, when a policing agency responds to a domestic violence call, they know to call Animal Services if they see an animal cowering in the corner. Similarly, if an Animal Services Officer responds to an animal neglect call and sees children in squalid conditions, our officers call the appropriate social service agency.

We are intervening in meaningful ways and working together to help children, adults and animals. When we do this, we have a stronger, safer community for everyone.

Adopt (or not) for the Holidays?



Are you thinking of adding a pet to your family this holiday? Depending on what's going on at your home, it's either the best of times or the worst of times to bring home a new four-footed family member. Here are questions to ask yourself:

Time at Home? Pets need some quiet time to adjust to a new home. If you have time off during the holidays and are planning to spend time at home, it can be a great time to welcome a new pet. If you're planning to be away from home this holiday season, it may be best to wait until you're back from your travels to welcome a new pet.

Busy time or quiet contemplation? If your home is a hectic hub of activity for all your friends and family, it's best to wait for a quiet time to adopt a pet.

However, if your biggest commitment is bringing rolls to someone else's house for the holidays, this quiet time can be the perfect opportunity to bond with a new cat or dog.

In it for the long haul? The holidays are sweet and fleeting but adopting a pet is a long term commitment. Keep in mind that many dogs will live 12 to 15 years and an indoor cat can be a part of your family for 15 to 20 years.

Visit washingtoncountypets.com to meet loving pets waiting for a forever home.

Donations: Friends of the Animals

compiled by Louisa Bruce, Administrative Specialist II

April 1 - October 31, 2010

Animal Patron

\$10,000+

Anonymous

Animal Friend

\$500-\$9,999

Boehringer Ingelheim
Jim Crossland
Sue Dauntless
Intel-United Way
Kaiser Permanente-
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Jackie and Doug Nelson
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Jerry Page
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Animal Advocate

\$50-\$499

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Bernard Bueffel M. D.
Eugene Buell
Ron Bullock
Roy Burger
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Dale Call
Marcia Callender
James Carter

Harvey Chan
David and Deborah
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Aleksandra Chojnacka
Karla Clark
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Juliana Copeland
Megan Covarrubias
Lisa Cox
Betty Crabtree
Gloria Darling
Jim and Joanne Davis
Lowell Davis
Jana and Paul DeCarli
Nancy Devine
Daniel and Toni Dewey
Julia E. Dixon
Brenda Doyle
Kevin Dressel
Brady Drew
Ryan Dutcher
Robert Edmondson
Lynette and Frederick
Eliton
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Melvina Fox
Phil and Ann Frainey
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Elizabeth Furse
Jennifer Gaines
Venkatesan Ganesh
Kimberlee Geer
Friedrich Gehne
James Genovese
Sally Gibson
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Sandra Giuntini
Danette Gonzalez
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Lillian Anderson
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B. J. McIntosh
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The Philippine American
Chamber Of Commerce
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Clarice Blachly

Aris

Kevin Krieg

Babe

Vernon Simmons

Bandit

Shirley and Alex Toth

Billie

Kass Walsh

Brownie

Janet Whitehead

Butch

Nancy and Homer Speer

Buttons

Stan Bird

Caesar

Norma Romero

Casey

Bob Thompson

Charlie

Kirsten Harfill

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Jessica Burbon

Cutie

Jana Reddoch

Cy

Kathryn Bilbao

Dusty

Chuck and
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Fletcher

Art Lutz

Fufu

Caitlin Vineday

Ginger

Marilyn and Dale Teed

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Indy

Janel Loveall

Jean Luc

Jean Longwill

Jessie

Charise Chernis

Junior

Theresa Koppang-
Weber Family

Koo Noo

Patricia Luebke

Linus

Schroeder's Den Day Care
and Training

Lloyd

Chris and Mike Rogers

Lucky

Marva and Rick Adams

Maggie

Marlene and Davis Miller

Misio

Kathy and Brad Andersen
Deborah Wood

Missy

Shirley and Alex Toth

Misty

Ken Rank

Murphy

Darrel Brady

Oliver

Gail and Gil Magilke

Posy

Florence Kawai

Prissy

David and Galeen Harle

Sadie

Mark Keaton

Sophia and Bleu

Angelica Bennett

Sophie

Jason Neumann-Grable

Stormy

Barbara Dame

Suki

Deborah Wood

Sweetie

Margaret Van Houten

Tahoe

David Geddes

Willy

Marva and Rick Adams

Your Pet

Nancy Seaman

Yukon

Valerie and Howard Hoy

Zelda

Deborah Wood

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The O.D.S Companies

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Lesley Jeffries

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Don and Pat Vandlac

Lexi

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Mazie

Donald and

Rosemary Thomas

Riley

Linda Lane

Vavoom

Pati Sjobring

Wiley

Scott and
Jean Mactarnahan

We Just Couldn't Do It Without You

Thank you to the hundreds of unnamed individuals and companies that donate food and other supplies for our animals.

You are far too numerous to name but your generosity means the world to the animals and to all of us who care for them. You fill bowls, provide comfort, and create a happy stay for the animals while they are here.

Donor Spotlight

Erwin Ashenbrenner passed away in Beaverton on November 26, 2009. He worked as a manager for Tektronix for many years and was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Esther. Mr. Ashenbrenner was a long time animal lover who generously remembered the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter in his estate. He designated \$62,000 to the Aurora Fund, the shelter's special account for neglected animals.

Anonymous Donor

Proof—as if we needed it—that we have terrific cats came in the form of a recent anonymous \$10,000 donation. All we know is that the donor adopted a kitty from us. That must be one very special, very loved cat!

The Margaret Thiele Petti Foundation

donated \$10,000 to the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter. The Foundation placed no restrictions on its generous gift. The shelter is using the donation toward the hiring of our first full time shelter veterinarian. Currently, two veterinarians working just a few hours per week spay or neuter all pets prior to adoption but have little time to provide more extensive medical care for the animals. The full-time doctor will diagnose and treat conditions that we would not have been able to treat in the past.

To make a donation to the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter, please call Kathy Andersen, Development and Outreach Officer, at 503-846-7141.





Bonnie L. Hays

SMALL ANIMAL SHELTER

WASHINGTON COUNTY

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Hillsboro, OR 97123

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You are invited to our First Annual
Holiday Community Party

Kick off our Home for the Holidays Campaign

*December 4, 2010
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.*

Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter
1901 SE 24th Avenue in Hillsboro

- 🐾 Bring your pet for pictures with Santa Paws
\$10 benefits shelter animals
- 🐾 Holiday crafts for kids
- 🐾 Adopt a Loving Companion
- 🐾 Fun and refreshments for the whole family!

For more information call 503-846-7041.

Thank you to our in-kind sponsors who include
Photographs by Kellie and Best Buy.

Animal Tales is a publication of Washington County Animal Services
& the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter

Our mission is to serve and protect the people and animals of
Washington County in a professional and courteous manner by:

- Educating our residents • Enforcing animal laws
- Promoting humane treatment of animals
- Providing shelter and care for lost and homeless dogs and cats
- Respecting the needs of our customers

Washington County Board of Commissioners:

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Department of Health & Human Services Director: Rod Branyan

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Andersen

Contact us at: Phone: (503) 846-7041 **Fax:** (503) 846-7074

E-mail: Animal_Services@co.washington.or.us

Web: www.washingtoncountypets.com or www.LicenseYourPet.com

Mail: 1901 SE 24th Ave., MS-53, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Business and Pet Lost & Found Hours:

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon., Tues. and Thurs. - Sat.; **12 noon-6 p.m.** Wed.

Pet Adoption Hours: 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon., Tues. and Thurs. - Sat.;
12 noon-5:30 p.m. Wed.



Be our friend. The Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter is
now on Facebook and we invite you to become one of the
shelter's friends.

www.washingtoncountypets.com

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