

the wise *alter*-native

NEWS FROM PENINSULA SPAY/NEUTER PROJECT

Volume 7 Issue 2

Our Big News!

Perhaps you've heard...it's time to get ready for the first low-cost, high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter clinic in Pierce County! Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project (PSNP) has formed a coalition with other local animal welfare organizations in order to start offering affordable spay and neuter services to our community and beyond.

PSNP applied for, and was accepted into, the Humane Alliance National Spay/Neuter Response Team program, a program sponsored in part by PetSmart Charities and the ASPCA. Humane Alliance is located in Asheville, North Carolina and it has created a nationally recognized high-volume, high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter clinic to serve its community.

The goal of its national program is to help other groups develop and start model spay/neuter clinics around the country, providing mentoring and assistance in replicating their best practices model. They have helped create 21 such clinics around the country.

Recently, three representatives from Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project traveled to Asheville, donating their time and travel expenses. Holly Bukes, Patty Rusnak and Kelly Wolff spent a day at the Humane Alliance clinic – touring the facility, observing the operation and gaining important information and training in order to bring a spay/neuter clinic to Pierce County.

Back here at home, Coalition: HUMANE, a project of PSNP, has been started in partnership with the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County in order to get our community spay/neuter clinic up and running. Several area rescue and adoption groups have also joined this effort to help end pet homelessness.

You know our track record! Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project has been offering spay/neuter assistance for just over five years yet we have become one of the top ten providers in the entire state of Washington. We are excited to take this next step in order to help the animals.

We need to raise \$200,000 to cover the cost of equipment, renovations and start-up operations. To date, we've raised \$55,000 of this funding. Provided we can raise the necessary funding, we anticipate having a clinic operational by the end of 2007. Please visit www.coalitionhumane.org for more information.



**COALITION:
HUMANE**

January–March 2007

- ✓ 129 pet cats altered at local veterinarians
- ✓ 156 pet cats and 364 feral cats altered through our partnership with the Feral

Cat Spay/Neuter Project

- ✓ 55 pet dogs altered at local veterinarians
- ✓ 40 pitbulls altered at local veterinarians

Our 2007 Goals

- ✓ Alter 1,200 feral cats
- ✓ Alter 1,200 pet cats
- ✓ Alter 175 dogs
- ✓ Alter 125 pit bulls



Thank! YOU!

*for donating to the spay/neuter
clinic at Whiskers Wine & Dine!*

Michelle Akers
Sandra Alvstad
April & Joel Anderson
Connie Baier
Peter Boucher
Holly Bukes & David Wemmer
Deloree Burd
John & Sharon Ciccarella
Diana & Gary Covington
John & Renee Denney
Steve Desmond
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Dale Perry
Kathleen & Steve Pierce
Lynette Raffel
Randy Rosen
Shelley Ryan
Judy Scott
Kathy Stephenson

Chad & Lea Vickery
Tim Wedrosky
Glen & Shelly Wilkerson
Kelly Wolff
Kathy Woods

Garage Sale 2007

Yvonne Rose & Vicki McCormick will host dual garage sales to benefit PSNP this summer. Please start collecting your saleable items for us! If you can keep them until June, it would be very much appreciated. For more information please call Yvonne 253.509.0555 or Tyra 253.265.3885. No clothing or computer equipment please. Thank you for your tax deductible donations!

Special Award

Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project was selected by the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County (HSTPC) to receive its annual Service Award. This award is given to an individual or organization which does extraordinary work in the service of animals. Board Member Patty Rusnak accepted the award on behalf of PSNP at the HSTPC Annual Meeting on March 21. Thank you for this special recognition.

From the Board

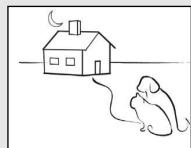
By Patty Rusnak

Those of us who tirelessly seek to end animal suffering, whether by rescue or through prevention, at times feel overwhelmed and hopeless in our quest. It is at these times that we must remember that great civilizations and movements have been developed by people uniting together for a common purpose when competition has made life more difficult or resources scarce. At the beginning of the year, PSNP and the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County both realized that it was becoming more and more difficult to handle the excessive amount of cats that were overwhelming both organizations.

Recognizing that we needed to share our resources, Project Cat-Nip was started. Project Cat-Nip combines the

knowledge that PSNP has gained over the past five years working with feral cats with the generosity of funding and volunteer support from HSTPC and the veterinary services of the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project. Through this collaborative effort we are able to trap, transport and alter up to 150 cats each month. Essential to the success of the collaboration is accentuating each organization's strengths and knowledge - not our differences. To date, over 400 cats have been spayed or neutered. The challenges we have faced as individual organizations and collectively are the catalyst for Project Cat-Nip's success.

P-A Rusnak



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Gig Harbor, WA 98335

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The Wise Alternative is a publication of Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project, a registered dba of Humans United to Minimize Animal Euthanasia, an IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Detailed program & financial information can be found at www.guidestar.org

Volunteer Spot Light: *Yvonne Rose*

By Kim Owen

Yvonne started volunteering back in 1985 at Citizens for Humane Action Animal Shelter (CHA) in Ohio. In her 16 years of association with the CHA, she served on their board, was volunteer coordinator, worked adoptions every Tuesday and Saturday, organized the annual pet expo, garage sales, Gahanna Flea Market, craft fairs, and assisted with all other fundraising events. In addition to all of this, she participated in animal rescues and fostered hundreds of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens.

In 2001 she was named CHA *Volunteer of the Year* when then President, Mary Polisenso, stated, "It is a long overdue acknowledgement of all she has done. CHA deeply appreciates all Yvonne has done for us for so long, and the love of CHA and all its animals goes with her." Goes with her? In the Summer of 2001, she packed up her three dogs and five cats and headed out to Washington state, where she rented on Fox Island while having a house built across the Purdy Spit. It ended up taking close to 27 months due to difficulties with the original builder, but her home was finally completed

and she happily moved in!

During that time and with our good fortune, Yvonne found PSNP! She states, "I wanted to stay involved with animals, but Kitsap Humane Society was too far away and at the Tacoma shelter you couldn't walk the dogs. I found the PSNP booth at Harbor Hounds in 2004."

Yvonne got right to work with us on the very first Whiskers Wine & Dine, and since then has been a consistent committee member for the annual event. She has also been one of the organizers of our annual garage sale and has volunteered her time at events such as Paws for the Holidays and Harbor Hounds. Yvonne continues to donate her time and talent to all of our other fundraising efforts as well, including her creation of cute welcome mats from carpet samples that we sell at our outreach events. She states, "Everyone is so nice and welcoming, it is a privilege to work with all PSNP volunteers and for such a good cause." Thanks Yvonne!

**Alert! Effective in June,
we have a new mailing address.
Please update your records:
PO Box 1202,
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Enrichment Corner: *Are We All Nuts!*

By Kim Owen

It seems like almost on a daily basis new items are popping up to make our lives with our furried ones more enriching. According to one poll, dogs inspire 30% of the world's strangest products and services. So, after combing the internet and pet-related magazines, here are some of the ones I found to be rather interesting:

First, let us start off with the Bobble Pets. At www.bobblepets.com you can have a bobble head version created of either your cat or dog. For the mini-dashboard version it will set you back about 80 bucks, and for the regular version it is \$135. But who can put a price tag on love?

Do you have loads of overlooked squeaky toys lying around, maybe a dog bed that doesn't get used or, for those divas out there, unused clothing they are now wrinkling their nose up at? One woman was having this same dilemma and decided to open the first online pet-specific consignment shop. Consigners can even donate any profit they make to a pet rescue of their choice. So gather up your items and head

to www.anotherdogstreasure.com.

Feel like taking the furried one on a vacation? Well, many airlines are now offering frequent flyer miles for your pet. These so-called premier pet travel programs offered by Midwest, United, and Virgin Atlantic have increased the numbers of people traveling with their pets. Some of the airlines offer goodie bags which include water, treats, and toys. The flyer miles your pet racks up can be redeemed for either a below-cabin or in-cabin experience. In conjunction with this, more airports are offering deluxe spaces for those canine companions to get some exercise and potty breaks in between travel destinations.

Last but not least, there is now a new FDA-approved diet pill for pets. The drug is called Slentrol and is designed like any diet pill, to control your pet's appetite. Of course, there are those pesky potential side effects like vomiting and diarrhea. So why not just take your pet out for some much needed exercise instead!



Two Paws Up

To The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) for their six years of lobbying efforts that finally led to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passage of H.R. 137 (S. 261), the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act. This law now makes it a federal felony to transport fighting animals and equipment between states, which gives local law enforcement officials some much needed weight behind their efforts to shut down dog fighting and cock fighting rings.

"This victory reminds us to never to give up, and that there are rewards for compassionate action and perseverance," said Wayne Pacelle, HSUS President.

Kudos also to Washington's own Senator Maria Cantwell, who helped co-introduce the legislation in the Senate. Interestingly, while the Senate

passed their version with a unanimous vote, 39 members of the House voted no. To see who these idiots are, check out <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll188.xml>.

Two Paws Down

To the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for their tragically bungled management of the recent massive pet food recall. By not providing veterinarians with a channel to report cases of poisoned pets, vets were left searching for much of this information elsewhere. Recent accounts suggest that tremendous numbers of animals have become ill and died from contaminated food, well before Menu Foods and others publicly announced the source of the poison and the voluntary food recall.

According to Christie Keith, editor of Pet Connection, a nationally syndicated UPS feature, the timeline of events surrounding the recall shows that the FDA really missed its mark in protecting consumers from feeding their pets contaminated food.

"Nearly one month passed from the date Menu got its first report of a

death to the date it issued the recall. During that time, no veterinarians were warned to be on the lookout for unusual numbers of kidney failure in their patients. No pet owners were warned to watch their pets for its symptoms. And thousands and thousands of pet owners kept buying those foods and giving them to their dogs and cats," Keith writes in an article printed in the San Francisco Chronicle.

When the FDA finally did step forward, they drastically scaled down the true impact. Their report cited only 12-15 confirmed pet deaths, but these were only the deaths reported by Menu Foods in their lab testing of the contaminated food. In Menu Food's testing, over 20% of cats became ill. Extrapolating this data, and comparing to independent vet reports and a comprehensive report from Banfield vet hospitals, the true number of illnesses and deaths is likely to be in the tens of thousands.

Keith's entire article can be found online at <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2007/04/03/petscol.DTL>



"I so enjoy getting your newsletter and noting all your accomplishments. Keep up the good work!"

Patty M., Puyallup

"Thank you for having a program like this for pitbulls. Not too many people care about them. Again, thank you."

Desiree M., Lakewood

"Thank you so much for your help in getting my pup, Aqua, spayed. I so very much appreciate it. May God continue to bless your project."

Diana M., Lakebay

"We were not aware of your work until recently and certainly applaud your efforts."

Earl & Jean G., Anderson Island

"Thanks a million for all the love and care you gave a gray feral cat. LaTonya returned the cat to my neighborhood this week after it had been neutered. I am duly impressed with the excellent handling of these animals. LaTonya saved this cat's life and I plan to take good care of it from now on. Just wanted to let you know how touched I am that individuals like yourself care so much to intervene in an effort to reduce the number of strays."

Anne B., Tacoma

Donor Thanks

We send our heartfelt gratitude to the following friends who have given so generously this year.

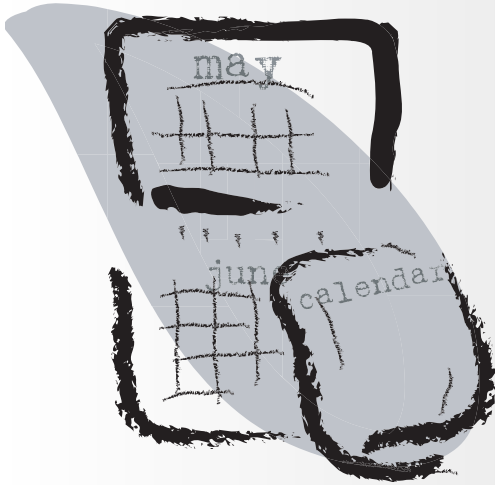
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Kathy Currie	Roger McLennan
Angela Dodge	Howard & Lorraine Pagel
Leslie Englund	Ona Shepard
Thea Fautenberry	Susan Wagner
M Sue Golden	

Thanks to everyone else who also gave during this time. No matter how much you give, it is always appreciated and always put to good use!

IN MEMORY

"In memory of Essex Vickery, who brought love, joy and comfort to our daughter, Lea Lyttle Vickery."

Chick & Lynn Lyttle, Roswell GA



Don't Forget to Mark Your Calendar

Come see us at:

June 2 – Maritime Gig Parade, Gig Harbor

July 21 – Dog-A-Thon, www.thehumanesociety.org

August – Community Adoption Event ~ date, location TBD

September 22 – Harbor Hounds, Gig Harbor, www.harborhounds.com

Katie Comes Home

by SD Galindo

Kathy Peck was grieving for her dog, a retriever she'd taken in from a Navy family leaving town. Finn had passed away at only four years old due to pancreatic cancer. She went online to share with some folks in a golden retriever forum and that's when one kind person offered her a free puppy. Discovering Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project was a blessing after the costs of Finn's illness and subsequent passing. Kathy was able to "pay what she can" toward Katie's spay and PSNP covered the rest. The PSNP partner veterinarian was someone she actually knew from a previous dog, a dachshund named Piddleman.

Kathy and her husband, Steve, had always liked the name "Katie", so Golden Oak Finn Jewel became "Katie" as soon as she got home on August 14, 2006. In the summer, the blackberries are really getting ripe here in the northwest. Once they got settled in, Steve and Kathy went out front to pick berries. After watching them for a few minutes, little 9-week-old Katie went up to the bushes and started picking her own berries and eating them! Kathy says, "It was so cute to watch her pull off a berry and then sit and munch on it!"

Now, Kathy fills a lot of her time with Katie's energetic companionship. Katie loves going out so much that the word "out" can't even be spoken in the house or she causes total havoc. She has really picked up on the "going for a walk process" too: if anyone stands up from a chair, Kathy says, Katie will run to the outside jacket/shoe stand and then to the back door. Katie

is learning, though; she is starting to heel, sit, lie down, and stop (a really important command to know!). Kathy and Steve give her lots of exercise, discipline, and love every day. Needless to say, there are a lot of people waiting to see Katie's newest pictures, too!



3rd Annual *Whiskers Wine & Dine* Exceeds High Expectations

Over 200 PSNP supporters turned out March 9th to celebrate five years of PSNP accomplishments at the Third Annual Whiskers Wine & Dine fundraising event. By night's end, more than \$27,000 had been raised to help with future spay/neuter plans.

This year's event was held at the Slavonian Hall in Tacoma's Old Town. The larger venue was definitely needed as the event sold out more than a week before, with over 50% more tickets sold this year than in 2006.

Catering was once again supplied by long-time supporter Le Garmache of Port Orchard, impressing guests with their inspired vegetarian options. New this year were wine hosts Jeff and Betty Ann Curry who presented an extensive selec-

tion of local and foreign wines for sampling, and Steve Gray, a local musician who provided contemporary background music while guests perused auction items and artist tables.

The highlight of this year's event, however, was the live auction conducted by professional auctioneer Laura Michalek. Accompanied by Master of Ceremonies Matt Thompson, Laura kept spirits high and pocketbooks open. After an entertaining visual presentation from PSNP Treasurer Chris Kim, Laura convinced the crowd to donate over \$7000 for Coalition:HUMAnE's planned low-cost spay/neuter clinic.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to, volunteered at, and came to Whiskers Wine & Dine 2007, it was a tremendous success!



Thank You!

*to all of our
donors & sponsors*

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**Vicki McCormick, Physicians
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Le Garmache Catering

**Tracy Kim,
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Greg Planich, DDS

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Wine Dogs USA

Your Health

Yvonne Rose

Send Money Now

Sometimes we make things too complicated by explaining too much and suffocating ourselves in minutiae. That all ends here. In case you missed the bold title, we'll say it again. We want your money. ASAP. You see, we have a detailed plan to save the lives of unwanted animals in our region – one that involves opening and operating the first nonprofit high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the south Puget Sound area.

- ☐ \$25 neuters one male cat!
- ☐ \$50 spays one small female dog!
- ☐ \$100 alters five feral cats!
- ☐ Other \$ _____

- ☐ Send me a tax receipt via postal mail.
- ☐ E-mail an electronic tax receipt (note email address below).
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