



the wise *alter-native*

NEWS FROM PENINSULA SPAY/NEUTER PROJECT

Volume 7 Issue 3

Me & My Shadow, As Close as Can Be

By Stephanie Galindo

One day in early spring a little black cat came strolling in through Diane Tabor's cat door in Port Orchard, seeking friends, attention and snacks. The young tomcat was so sweet and gentle that Diane wanted to keep him. She and her husband, Frank, had lost their 17-year-old Siamese, Sammy, a few months earlier. But Frank had recently had hernia surgery and was not ready to add a fifth critter to their household, particularly since one of their present four companions was a rather assertive little Eclectus parrot.

Diane went through her neighborhood knocking on doors to see if anyone knew about the stray kitty, but no one had heard of a missing cat and there were no fliers posted in the area. So she called her daughter, Danelle, in Bremerton. However Danelle had just suffered an incidence of Bell's palsy, which causes extremely sudden partial paralysis of half of the facial muscles for a transitory time (generally up to a year). With two young sons in the house, she just didn't think she could afford additional bills at the time, though she had a great yard for the kitty to play in and loved cats.

A few days later, Diane was talking to a friend about finding a home for the

kitty, when the friend suggested that the Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project might be able to help out. Diane donated \$50 to PSNP towards the cost of the kitty's neuter surgery, and the helpful PSNP volunteer even picked up the cat and delivered him to his new home with Danelle in Bremerton. The kitty loved his new family right from the start, and he was named Shadow because he followed everyone around.

When I visited a month later, as a pet photographer, I was surprised to find such an extraordinarily cooperative kitty. Not only was I able to get good photos of Shadow in the first few minutes, but he went up to each of his family members, especially Zack the Pirate (age 8), getting and giving loves all around. Shadow clearly adored his new family and had made himself right at home, even hanging out when Danelle's partner, Matt, holds band practice in the living room! His favorite game is playing ball with Thomas (age 10), who tosses a ball for Shadow to catch and roll back! He loves to exchange loves with his new family, and they were sincerely grateful to PSNP for helping this incredibly sweet kitty find a happy new home.



Save the Date!

September 22 is the 5th annual Harbor Hounds Charity Dog Walk. Spend the day in Gig Harbor with your furry friend. See brochure inside for details.



January-June 2007

- ✓ 228 pet cats altered at local veterinarians
- ✓ 206 pet cats and 477 feral cats altered through our partnership with the Feral

Cat Spay/Neuter Project

- ✓ 134 pet dogs altered at local veterinarians
- ✓ 129 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



COALITION: HUMANE

Spay/Neuter Clinic – Update!

Since we first told you about our goal to start a Humane Alliance model spay/neuter clinic in Pierce County, we have been busy! In order to start such a clinic, we need to raise \$200,000. We are happy to announce that we are half way to our goal, thanks to a very generous \$20,000 challenge grant offer presented by Don & Eleanor Vandenheuvel, and we are confident that we can meet it! These caring individuals have been supporters of both PSNP and the Humane Society for many years.

Our priority for the time being is fundraising, as well as increasing awareness of this project in the community. We've been fortunate to have talented volunteers design fliers, brochures, posters and other promotional materials for this purpose. And "Dine to be Kind" was so well received that we will offer it annually. PSNP volunteers have also been working to identify and apply for potential grant funding from various sources both locally and nationwide.

Coalition members have been busy conducting microchipping clinics, staffing outreach events and present-

ing programs at service clubs around the area. This activity will continue with a flurry during the summer months. We hope to see you in person as we are out and about this summer. If you see us, please stop by to say hello!

PS – We are often asked about the appearance of the word "HUMANe" in our coalition's name. Some of you may know the answer to this riddle, which can be found in the six-year-old history of PSNP. The original name of the organization, which is still on file with the IRS, is "Humans United to Minimize Animal Euthanasia". The acronym fits the word "HUMANe" with the exception of the "n" in the word animal, thus the altered letter "n".

Dine to be kind

The first annual "Dine to be Kind" was held on June 21. Local restaurants and clubs offered a percentage from the day's sales to the Coalition: HUMANe clinic fund. Coalition volunteers greeted diners and shared information about the need for a full-time spay/neuter clinic in Pierce County. DTBK committee chair Patty Rusnak stated, "This year's donations will be used to help open the clinic, with subsequent years' funding being used for continued support as needed for other programs." A special thanks to the Spar Tavern, Harmon Brewery, Babblin' Babs Bistro, The Ram in Lakewood, and Club Sapphire for opening their hearts and cash registers to help save animal lives. As always, thank you to our volunteers. If you know of a restaurant that would like to participate in this fundraiser please contact Patty at prusnak@psnp.org.

From the Board

By Holly Bukes

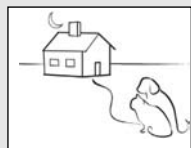
For years, I have seen the benefits of animal welfare organizations working together. Conference after conference, I would listen in amazement at the talk of progress various communities were making on behalf of homeless pets. The common thread in every success story was the ability of those involved to work together, recognizing that they agreed on 95% of everything and disagreed on 5%. Yet, they made the choice to focus on the 95% rather than debate the 5%. What a difference a choice like that can make.

With the advent of Coalition: HUMANe these benefits are now being realized in our own community and it's very exciting to see! Gone are the days where each organization works independently. Here to stay are the days where we all

work together for the benefit of animals. And regarding that old saying about accomplishing more working together than we can as individuals? Well it's true here too! If you haven't read the updates on the spay/neuter clinic project, please do and you will see for yourself.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners in Coalition: HUMANe. They include Companion Animal Rescue Society, Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County, Paws and Claws Animal Rescue and Puyallup Animal Rescue. We could not have accomplished what we have to date without the help of each and every one of our member organizations.

Holly



PSNP PO Box 1202
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Holly Bukes, President
Vacant, Vice President
Christopher Kim, Treasurer
Shelley Ryan, Secretary
Tracy Kim, Director
Kim Owen, Director
Patty Rusnak, Director
Nancy Wolf, Director

Advisory Board
Jeff Irwin, DVM
Deanna Kraft, DVM
Matt Rusnak, Attorney
Bob Walter, Humane Educator
Mike Leonard, Peninsula Gateway
Newsletter
Fran Orenstein, Designer

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 Spotlight: *Carlene Easterwood*

By Nancy Wolf

We were very lucky to snag one of our most dedicated volunteers early in the days of our organization. Carlene Easterwood first came to us as a client, trying to catch and sterilize some stray cats in her neighborhood. No stranger to handling animals, Carlene readily took to trapping and caring for the frightened felines. She was so impressed with our work that she wanted to help. And boy, has she!

First she helped with a huge project, the trapping of cats in the Palmer Lake area of the Key Peninsula. Then she helped with transports to and from the clinic in Seattle where PSNP gets most of the feral cats altered. She started volunteering for that clinic monthly and has been doing so ever since. But it doesn't end there. Carlene also sponsored clinics and supplies for the clinics. Without her support, many cats would not have received flea treatments, and her donations of vaccines helped PSNP afford to spay and neuter more and more cats and dogs.

Carlene has hung in with us for over 6 years, and we feel very lucky for that. Thank you Carlene!



Enrichment Corner: *Pets of Ancient Civilizations*

By Kim Owen

I recently came across an article about the Chiribaya people, who lived in ancient Peru prior to the rise of the Inca Empire. The fascinating part was that these people were a pre-Columbian culture of dog lovers who built pet cemeteries, and buried their beloved animals with their favorite treats, blankets and other objects for the afterlife. Some were even buried with their caretakers. Way to go Chiribaya!

I decided to delve a little deeper into the whole ancient pet thing, and came logically to the Egyptians. The Egyptians revered their animals, especially the feline. Not only were animal cults all the rage, but it was punishable by death to even accidentally kill a cat. Way to go Egyptians!

The feline status rose to that of sacred animal and esteemed deity and a lot of Egyptian parents even named their children after cats. They began to appear on every day objects such as bracelets, clothing, cosmetic pots, and mirrors. Cats figured into dream interpretations, and elaborate festivals where they celebrated the cat goddess, Bastet. Almost every household had a cat, but they were not considered a pet, but protection.

No one can pinpoint the exact time that cats became domesticated, just that the Egyptians were the ones to do so. This is mainly due to the fact that the Egyptians didn't distinguish between the wild and tame cats. They do know that the relationship did start with the cats helping to keep the snakes, rats, and mice from getting into the village's food granaries. With this the grateful villagers began to leave food out for the felines, and thus began the symbiotic relationship. Tomb paintings with cats as part of family life began to show up 500 years after the first attempts of domestication. If you would like to read more, pick up the book by Jaromir Malek: *The Cat in Ancient Egypt*.

Ahh, the lives of our furried ones in this day and age, everything our little companions could ever want or need is just a Visa card away. After all, the pet industry is a multi-billion dollar a year money-making machine. It does this animal lover's heart good to know that we weren't the first to pamper our loyal companions for all that they give to us, and I hope that we won't be the last!



Coyotes have sure been out a lot lately. Might be a good idea to lock your cats up – at least at night. This has been a public service announcement from me. You're welcome. Sometimes it's really hard to be this awesome.

Two Paws Up

Speaking of "awesome," did anyone see that full featured article in USA Today about the impact of effective spay/neuter programs across the country (www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-07-04-spayed-cats_N.htm)? I mean granted, they didn't have my handsome face in it, but other than that it was quite well written and inspired some excellent responses from readers. How excellent to see spay/neuter covered on a national stage like that!

Stay Tuned

For developments related to California Assembly Bill 1634, aka the California Healthy Pets Act. This controversial bill would require spay/neuter for most cats and dogs six months and older in the state of California. While we support the intent of the legislation, we would feel better if the mechanics of the legislation were spelled out more clearly – for instance including a provision to provide quality low-cost spay/neuter clinics in areas where they're most needed.

This bill will likely have been voted on in committee by the time this newsletter reaches you. If it passes, then it'll move to the full assembly docket. If not, it dies in committee. You can check updates at the official AB1634 website at www.cahealthy-pets.com/home.htm. If nothing else, this bill has generated some great discussion and interest in companion animal overpopulation.

Keep Your Eyes Open

Especially if you live in rural parts of Washington where people are known to abandon animals. In the last Washington State Legislative Session, Senate Bill 5227 was passed which upgrades the penalty for animal abandonment from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor. While that's not quite the "life in a Turkish prison with no hope for escape/parole/etc" that we were urging, it's at least a move in the right direction.

Next time you see someone dump a dog from a car at the end of Herron Road or any of our other notorious dumping sites, be sure to get a license plate number and call your local authorities. While the chances are that home probably wasn't the best one for Fido or Fluffy, at least you can give these people a little of what they deserve.

Thanks to our own State Senator Derek Kilmer for co-sponsoring this legislation.



I am truly pleased with the results of your services. I have had several cats spayed/neutered in the past two years. The two that were feral live on my back porch (at least most of the time). They are doing well and the neighborhood is better for it.

Sherry S, Tacoma

I really appreciate the help with my cats' needs. My boys just couldn't let them go, so I'm making sure we don't have any more babies. I just can't afford it. It's going to be

hard enough to pay for food and vaccinations. I do believe in being a responsible pet owner. I want to thank you so much for your help! If it wasn't for your help I don't know when I would have been able to get this done. I couldn't even do one at a time this winter...there is no such thing as a "spare" dollar when you live on \$627 a month! So again, thank you for all your help.

Elizabeth C, Belfair

I found Dolce, a ten month old female brindle pit bull, in a classified ad. The previous owner found her in Yakima running around on the road without an owner in site (just more

proof that there is plenty of irresponsible breeding going on). He was good enough to bring her home and give her shelter but his older dog was very protective, so he thought it would be better to give her to a good home. I instantly fell in love with her. She's gentle, loves my cats, and is very smart. I found PSNP through a referral, went to their website, downloaded the application, and within two weeks, had my coupon for the spay, as well as a coupon for \$25 that I used for her vaccinations. PSNP is the most responsible effort out there when it comes to trying to keep from needless euthinization of these great animals. Thank you so much!

Eli David K, Tacoma



Don't Forget to Mark Your Calendar

Come see us at:

Aug 18 – National Homeless Animals' Day
Aug 19 – Community Pet Adoption Event
September 22 – Harbor Hounds, Gig Harbor,
www.harborhounds.com

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Cash

Credit Card Payment: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

How did you hear about Harbor Hounds?

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Harbor Hounds

MAIL YOUR CHECK AND/OR FORM TO
P.O. Box 611, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Sorry, I'm unable to make the walk, but
please accept my donation to help the cause!

\$ _____

WAIVER RELEASE PLEASE SIGN AFTER READING BELOW

X _____

Signature (by parent/guardian if participant is under 18)

In consideration of your acceptance of this form, I hereby for myself, my dog, my administrators, my heirs and assigns, waive and release any and all right and claims for damages I have against the organizers of this walk, their associates and representatives or sponsors for injury or illness which may directly result from our participation. I also agree to obey all traffic laws, exercise all safety precautions, avoid littering and respect the property of others. I also give full permission for the use of my name and photograph in connection with this event. I further state we are in proper physical condition to enter this event.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TOPDOG



SHOWDOG



GROUP HERITAGE
Riggs N' Company

WORKINGDOG

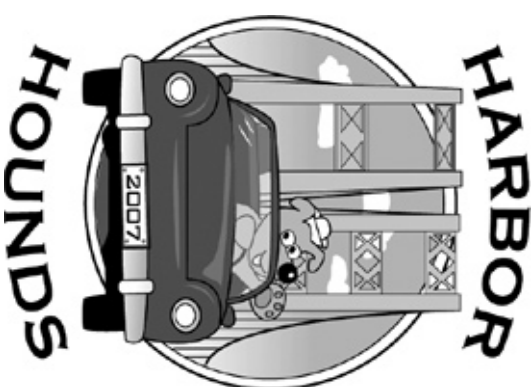


HOME GARDEN



2007 HARBOR HOUNDS 5TH ANNUAL

DOGWALK



Skansie Brothers and Donkey Creek Parks
Downtown Gig Harbor, Washington

SEPTEMBER 22, 2007
10AM - 3PM

For more info visit www.harborhounds.com
or e-mail info@harborhounds.com
253.241.9403



PAWS FOR A CAUSE!

The fifth annual Harbor Hounds dog walk benefits the Prison Pet Partnership Program, Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project and Gig Harbor Mid-Day Rotary. Enjoy a day of fun with family and your furry best friends.

GET INVOLVED

Last year several hundred people participated in Harbor Hounds with dogs of all shapes, sizes and breeds. Participation is easy: complete the registration forms (right), and arrive with your dog on September 22, any time between 10am and 3pm. Enjoy a leisurely walk along the waterfront. As you walk, have your entry card stamped by event staff. At the end of your walk, place that card in a bowl for a drawing. The walk will take place rain or shine!

GETTING THERE

No matter what direction you're traveling from, getting to Gig Harbor is a snap. The exit to take will depend on the park at which you start your walk. **Pre-registered walkers must begin at Donkey Creek.**

STARTING AT SKANSJE BROTHERS PARK

Traveling east or west on State Route 16, take the City Center/Wollochet exit. Head east and down the hill on Pioneer Street, turn left on Harborview and go another 100 yards. The park will be on your right.

STARTING AT DONKEY CREEK PARK

Traveling east or west on State Route 16, exit at the Burnham Street ramp, take the roundabout to Burnham Street and go about two miles before coming to Harborview. Turn right at the fork and continue to the corner of Harborview North. Watch for parking signs.

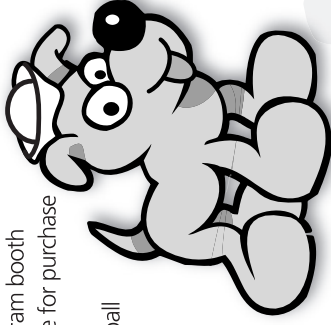
HOW TO REGISTER

You can pre-register or sign up on event day. If you pre-register, you will start the walk at Donkey Creek Park. If registering the day of the event, sign up at registration tables at either park. Check the web site for registration locations. Online registration is available, too. Please note that there are no refunds.

ENTERTAINMENT & VENDORS

Before and after the walk there will be plenty to keep you, your family and your four-legged pal busy:

- Book signing by Jessica H. Stone, Ph.D.
- "Doggie on Deck, Life at Sea with a Salty Dog"
- People & Doggie Massage from Gig Harbor Massage & Spa
- Service dog training demonstrations at Prison Pet Partnership Program booth
- Food will be available for purchase
- Microchipping
- Jet City Jumpers fly ball
- Shopping galore
- Variety of contests



ACCOMMODATIONS

For a list of inns and bed & breakfast establishments visit www.gigharborguide.com. If you plan to spend the weekend, Gig Harbor has a number of hotels that accept pets.

PLAYING IT SAFE

We want the event to be comfortable, fun and accessible for everyone wishing to participate.

Please follow the guidelines:

- Do limit the number of dogs to 2
- Do bring a leash for your dog(s) (no tension leashes, please)
- Do walk on the sidewalk with your pet
- Do bring proof of your dog's vaccination record (tags or paperwork)
- Do not bring puppies under 4 months old
- Do not bring dogs "in heat"
- Do scoop up your dog's waste during the walk
- Do understand that in situations where a dog (or dogs) display aggressive behavior the walker (pet owner) will be asked to leave the event

CONTESTS

New this year! Please visit our website or e-mail info@harborhounds.com

SIGN UP TODAY!

DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS
SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

Walker's Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
E-mail: _____

EARLY REGISTRATION

If you want to walk with your dog, you must register.

TOP DOG

\$30 PER DOG

(limited to the first 100 dogs)

Register in advance of the walk at this level and it will land you a Harbor Hounds T-shirt, commemorative 2007 baseball hat, bandana and a goodie bag.

Check your T-shirt size: ☐ SM ☐ L ☐ XL

STANDARD

\$22 PER DOG

(\$26 on day of event)

This level lands you a Harbor Hounds T-shirt.

Pet receives a bandana and goodie bag.

Check your T-shirt size: ☐ SM ☐ L ☐ XL

HOUND

\$10 PER DOG

(\$12 on day of event)

Pet receives a bandana and goodie bag.

Purchase additional 2007 T-shirts for \$12 each.

(\$14 on event day)

Check your T-shirt size: ☐ SM ☐ L ☐ XL



PARKING

Please see our website for information.

Thank! YOU!

for your support

We send our heartfelt gratitude to the following friends who gave so generously during the second quarter of 2007.

Kevin Anderson
Jo Anne Ashley
Liz & Ray Bond
Milt & Jan Bukes
Nancy Campbell
Constance Carter
Susan Detloff
Theresa Dufault
Jim & Julie Dugan
Leslie Englund
Melissa Evangelos & James Sylvanus

Shirley Ewing
Dr. Michael Flatley
Joeseppi's, Inc.
Joanne & David Kemp
Daniel Kyler
Stephen & Patricia Marek
Roger McClennan
Nell Nystrom
Dawn & Doug Olson
Physician's Compliance Connection
Dr. Timothy Quinn
Kathleen Repass
Wallis Roarke
Roopair Specialties, Inc.
Rotary Club of South Tacoma
Sherry Sinclair
Martha Tebbenkamp
Mary Vitullo
Bob & Dixie Walter
Marilyn Wilfong
Julian Woodward
Margo Gooding, in memory of Rhonda Pennington
Janet Azevedo, in honor of Bruce Pennell

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

PAW'S APPLAUSE

an amazing Coalition: HUMANe logo, brochure and other promotional materials. We get nothing but compliments!

🐾 -A debt of gratitude to PSNP volunteers Tyra Blaisdell, Vicki McCormick and Yvonne Rose for working tirelessly on the organization of PSNP's

annual garage sale – this year held in 2 locations!

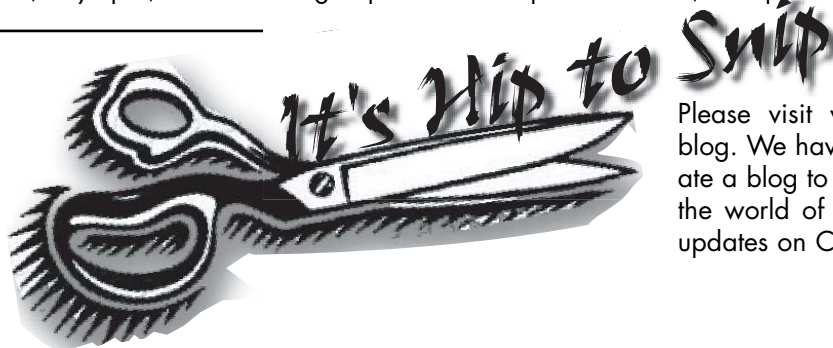
🐾 -To Peninsula Gateway cub reporter Hugh McMillan – thanks for the great article in the Gateway on our Coalition: HUMANe clinic effort!

🐾 -Thank you to Jayme and Companion Animal Rescue Society volunteers, as well as PSNP volunteer Sheri Kennedy, for stepping up to the plate and organizing microchipping clinics to help raise funds for Coalition: HUMANe

🐾 -Thanks to PSNP volunteer Christy Johnson for designing

Community Pet Adoption Day

If you or someone you know is looking to add a pet to the family, please consider attending this event, to be held August 18 at the Olympia Armory from 11am – 3pm. A minimum of 7 animal welfare groups will be participating in this collaborative effort to find homes for homeless pets. Incidentally, August 18 is National Homeless Animals' Day. What a wonderful way to acknowledge this date, by adopting a pet in need. The Olympia Armory is located at 515 Eastside St SE, Olympia, 98501. The groups involved represent Pierce, Kitsap and Thurston Counties.



Please visit www.hiptosnip.blogspot.com/ to see our new blog. We have so much news to share that we decided to create a blog to keep PSNP friends and supporters up to date on the world of spay/neuter. In particular, watch for news and updates on Coalition: HUMANe.

We Have Plans for your Money

In less than five years, you'll get to keep more of it! That's because you won't have to spend any of it on the needless killing of perfectly adoptable cats and dogs. Unfortunately this isn't the case right now. Our tax dollars are still being used to euthanize homeless animals because too many dogs and cats are allowed to contribute to the burden of companion animal overpopulation.

However, if we keep making the kind of progress we are

today, there's a good chance we can end this cycle soon. And if five years isn't soon enough, you can always send a little extra money our way so we can speed things up. We're on our way to opening up a high-volume low-cost public spay/neuter clinic, and with your help, we'd like to open our doors before the end of the year. Any amount you can contribute is greatly appreciated and it all goes to help the animals. Thanks for your support!

☐ \$25 neuters one male cat!

☐ \$50 spays one small female dog!

☐ \$100 alters five feral cats!

☐ Other \$ _____

☐ For the clinic \$ _____

☐ Send me a tax receipt via postal mail.

☐ E-mail an electronic tax receipt (note email address below).

☐ Update my contact information (note corrections on back).

☐ Please send the latest PSNP newsletter to someone I know

Name/Email _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

PSNP PO Box 1202
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(253) 884-1543 • www.psnp.org

We now accept all major credit cards! Go online at www.psnp.org and click on How You Can Help



NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 1347

Humans United to Minimize Animal Euthanasia
DBA Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project
PO Box 1202
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED