



THE WISE ALTER-NATIVE

NEWS FROM THE PENINSULA SPAY/NEUTER PROJECT

PO BOX 306, BURLEY, WA 98322 ♦ (253) 884-1543 ♦ WWW.PSNP.ORG

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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.

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Whiskers Wine & Dine a Howling Success

In a sure sign of the Atkin's diet decline, PSNP wine and dine a crowd of over 100 enthusiastic animal welfare supporters at our first ever Whiskers Wine & Dine (WWD) fundraising event. Thanks to the hard work of event co-chairs Holly Bukes, Kim Owen, and Kelly Wolff, PSNP earned almost \$7000 to support our low-cost spay/neuter programs.

"It was a great windfall for us," said PSNP President Chris Kim, "But equally important, it was great to see so many people come out to share their hopes and dreams for the companion animals in our communities."

The event featured a vegetarian pasta dinner, dessert auction, silent auction, and local artists selling their wares. See pages 4-5 for complete WWD'05 coverage.

WWD'05 SPONSORS

**The Peninsula Gateway
Petco Foundation
Physicians Compliance
Connection, LLC
Le Garmaché
Ms. Shelley Ryan**

Spay/Neuter License Plates Coming Soon

On April 18th, the state of Washington took a major step forward for animals when Governor Christine Gregoire signed a bill authorizing the creation of the state's first ever animal-friendly license plate.

The new plates may be purchased for vehicle registrations effective January 1, 2006 or after, at an initial cost of \$40. After that, the new plates may be renewed for an annual fee of \$30.

Once production and other management costs are met, the bulk of the sales proceeds will be placed into a special fund to be used to support low-cost spay/neuter initiatives in the state. The fund will be managed by the Washington State Federation of Animal Care and Control, of which PSNP is a member.

Initial legislative analysis of this plate forecasts nearly \$250,000 to be generated over the next five years for this fund.

Pervious efforts to create an animal-friendly plate for Washington have never succeeded, but recently relaxed

requirements for specialty plates gave hope to Ann Labe, an independent animal welfare activist who initiated this current effort.

Thanks Ann for your "dogged" determination to make this a reality for our state!

OUR REPORT CARD

January-March 2005

- ✓ 171 pet cats and 6 feral cats altered at local veterinarians
- ✓ 313 feral cats altered through the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic
- ✓ 42 dogs altered at local veterinary clinics

Our 2005 Year End Goal:

- Alter 1400 feral cats
- Alter 600 pet cats
- Alter 150 dogs

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

While the Port Orchard and South Kitsap economies have stagnated behind rising house and gas prices (not to mention an impending bridge toll), the Port Orchard City Council has more important issues to weigh in on. They have to stop the evil people feeding the city's feral cats.

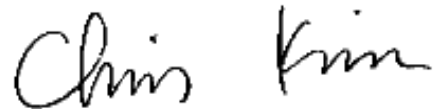
Of course, it's not the people themselves who are the issue, though some of the Council members seem mystified why people would care so much about homeless cats. The real issue is those darn cats! It seems that despite a complete lack of scientific evidence to support such claims, Port Orchard's City Council believes feral cats are wreaking havoc on our local ecosystems.

For some unknown reason, these outdoor wild cats are actually urinating and defecating outside! Why the Council seems to feel cat feces are more objectionable than raccoon, opossum, deer or bird droppings is mystifying. Must be the witchcraft thing. Next thing you know we'll be burning midwives at the stake again.

Perhaps the Council mistakenly believes feral cats are apparently wiping out Port Orchard's wild birds. According to Councilwoman Rita DiIenno, a self-trained amateur ornithologist, these cats eat more birds in a day than a stadium full of Seahawks fans on Hooter's \$1.99 Buffalo Wings night. And I always thought that habitat destruction as result of human encroachment was the main cause of wildlife species decline.

All sarcasm aside, the efforts of the Port Orchard City Council to criminalize the feeding of feral cats is so absurd it's stupefying. Worse yet, the hypocrisy of Councilwoman DiIenno, the new ordinance's sponsor, is intolerable. According to her election website, www.ritadiienno.com, Councilwoman DiIenno promises to "seek greater citizen input before changing ordinances to ensure such act is necessary and would result in a benefit to the community."

This new measure meets neither criteria. If only Councilwoman DiIenno heeded her own advice.



Port Orchard City Council Enacts Anti-Feral Ordinances

An agenda item added at the last minute and approved with little discussion at the March 14th Port Orchard City Council Meeting has South Kitsap feral cat caretakers outraged and apprehensive.

Listed on the agenda as simply "Adding a New Section 7.04.21 Relating to Animals," local animal welfare enthusiasts had no warning of the actual intent of this measure - the criminalization of feeding Port Orchard's stray cats.

With the support of the notoriously anti-feral cat Kitsap County Animal Control, the measure passed by an easy 5-2 margin. The new section now declares it "unlawful and a public nuisance" to leave food out and unattended, creating or having the potential to create a public safety and/or health hazard.

With no guidance language suggesting how to define "potential" public safety/health hazard, the new section provides Kitsap County Animal Control carte blanche to enforce the law as they see fit. This also provides a new avenue for neighbors with grudges.

Similar ordinances have been on the books in Bremerton and unincorporated Kitsap County for some time. However, the single-minded determination of

Councilwoman Rita DiIenno to make sure this ordinance was added with little challenge bodes ominously for the region's homeless cats.

Fortunately, feral cat trap-neuter-return efforts may continue. In fact, after the March 14th Council Meeting, Councilwoman DiIenno agreed to allow representatives of Animal Rescue Families to provide TNR services for stray cats in her own neighborhood. These are the same stray cats that were the impetus for her efforts to add the new anti-feeding ordinance in the first place.

Still, feral caretakers have already come forward with reports of fellow citizens threatening to report them for feeding their colonies of managed feral cats. Since many of these good samaritans have limited resources to defend their actions in a court of law, the likely outcome is healthy feral colonies being suddenly left without their regular food source.

Although the ordinance has already been passed, it's not too late to register your concerns. Contact Port Orchard Councilwoman Rita DiIenno at (360) 895-0177, email rita@ritadiienno.com, or write her at 1003 Hull Ave, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

ASK DR. KRAFT

Fact and Fiction Behind Pediatric Spay/Neuter

For many years, veterinarians have recommended that pets be surgically sterilized between 6 and 8 months of age. In the 1970s, when this practice still went unchallenged, an estimated 20 million cats and dogs were being destroyed in shelters yearly across the nation. The conventional method of birth control clearly was not working.

Shelters and rescuers wanted to find homes for young animals that came to their door, but they were faced with a dilemma. If they sent babies less than 6 months old out the door intact, they knew from experience that they would be seeing their offspring in a matter of months. Because spay/neuter contracts are only honored about 40 percent of the time, and because veterinarians weren't willing to neuter at less than 6 months of age, shelters and rescuers were inadvertently contributing to the very problem they were trying to solve.

.....
 • **Dr. Deanna Kraft, DVM, performs** • In response to this
 • **spay/neuter surgeries for the** • burgeoning pet
 • **Humane Society for Tacoma&Pierce** • overpopulation crisis, a
 • **County and is the newest member** • question was asked: Why
 • **of the PSNP Advisory Board. Each** • can't we spay and neuter at
 • **forthcoming issue of the Wise** • a younger age?
 • **Alternative will contain a veterinary** • A few veterinarians
 • **question, and response from Dr.** • began practicing early-age
 • **Kraft. Questions may be submitted** • neutering (a term
 • **via email to mail@psnp.org.** • appropriate for both males
 • • and females) sometime in
 • • the 1970s, but it wasn't

until the early 1990s that it became widespread. The veterinary profession was divided on the issue from the start, mainly because the practice had not been subjected to the normal years of scientific study and research to determine what potential long-term side effects might result. However, some veterinarians were more concerned about the already well-established side effect of postponing the surgery until the pet became older: *death by euthanasia and neglect of millions of pets every year.*

Today, some questions and concerns remain regarding early-age spay/neuter even though, with the proper guidelines, the benefits are overwhelming. Here are some important points to consider:

1) No scientific studies were ever conducted that proved neutering at 6 months to be the "ideal age." Prior to this practice, veterinarians actually recommended that pets be allowed to have at least one litter or one heat cycle before being spayed. The mistake in that advice was discovered years ago, but we still battle this persistent myth.

2) Even the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), a notoriously conservative organization, has endorsed early-age sterilization as a safe and effective means of helping to reduce pet overpopulation.

3) From a surgical standpoint, pediatric animals are much lower-risk patients, due to differences in their anatomy and physiology.

(cont. on page 6)



**SIMON
SAYS...**

Two Paws Up...

To all the good people who came together to create an animal-friendly license plate for Washington, especially the following:

The Washington State Federation of Animal Care and Control Agencies, chaired by Steve Pierce of the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County, for financing the initial \$2000 application fee.

State Senator Bob Oke and Representative Pat Lantz for sponsoring the bills and helping guide them through the labyrinthine legislative process.

And of course, Ann Labe, chief pot-stirrer and signature gatherer!

Thanks Guv'nor!

Two paws up for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle for declaring that there will be no open hunting season on feral cats in his state. His announcement was made in response to a vote taken by the state's public policy-making Conservation Congress, narrowly supporting a proposal to allow hunting of feral cats to protect Wisconsin's wild birds.

According to Doyle, the act "holds us up as a state that everybody is kind of laughing at right now."

Trust us, Jim, we weren't laughing. But thanks anyway!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM WHISKERS

THERE WAS ART...

Roxine McQuitty, multimedia artist (in long jacket) assists jewelry artist Christine Lutschg in setting up her display table.

Deanna Kraft, watercolors, and Steve Portteus, a maker of ceramic relief pieces also displayed their wares.



...AND FOOD

A gourmet "spay-ghetti" dinner featuring two pastas, a red and white sauce, bread and salad was provided by Port Orchard caterers Le Garmaché.

It was enjoyed immensely by everyone, though some probably fudged their South Beach diet numbers.



...AND LOADS OF GOODIES

For the silent auction, donors provided a wide variety of items, which were organized into theme baskets. The most sought after baskets included the party-to-go washtub filled with a variety of spirits and mixers, and the dine-around-town basket which included gift certificates for a number of local eateries.



Special Thanks to all

.....

Ms. Kristin Bullman of Salon Vlasa
 Anthony's Home Port, Gig Harbor
 The Keg Steakhouse & Bar
 Consolidated Restaurants, Inc.
 Angelo Mendi Boutique Salon
 Ms. Jacqueline Foss
 Ms. Tyra Blaisdell
 Mrs. & Mr. Jan & Milt Bukes
 Chirp & Co. / For PetSake
 Harbor Lights Restaurant
 The Beach House at Purdy
 Affairs Cafe & Bakery
 26 Bark Avenue Gifts
 The Cake Studio, Inc.
 Ms. Nancy Heinemann
 Ms. Lucinda Fulton
 Green Cottage Pets
 Ms. Carine DeLeon
 Ms. Pat Lynch
 Albertson's
 Ms. Jill Baxter
 Mr. Dan Kyler
 Ms. Holly Bukes
 Columbia Bank
 Judson St. Cafe
 Costco
 Bloom
 Ivar's
 Java Harbor
 Ms. Christine Bush
 Ms. Linda Lee Foster

Thank you all

WINE & DINE 2005

of our WWD Donors

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Stephanie's Special Pet Care Services

Mrs. & Mr. Vicki & Dave McCormick

Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Patti Marek

Susanne's Bakery & Delicatessen

No Place Like Home Pet Care

Paws-n-Kisses Pet Grooming

Mor Mor Bistro & Bar

Ms. Eleanor Vandenheuvel

Salty's, Redondo Beach

Mi Clinical Skin Care

Puget Sound Pet Pavilion

Ms. Margaret Sheppard

Mr. Fred Oldenburg

Starbucks, Gig Harbor

Roman Meal Company

Ms. Marilyn Williams

Dr. Timothy Quinn

Ms. Patty Rusnak

Ms. Kim Owen

Sylmar Dogwear

PetPuccino, LLC

Ms. Anita Speir

Ms. Kelly Wolff

Seattle Lighting

Mustard Seed

Fred Meyer

QFC

Tully's

Ms. Elvira Pearce

Mr. David Wemmer

Ms. Julie Tollkuehn

for everything!

Martha Stewart
has nothing on
WWD Co-chair
Kim Owen (except a
criminal record).

Kim made the table decorations with a scroll saw, some
leftover lumber, and chalkboard paint.



Big Plans Announced for Pierce Animals

Keynote speaker Jim Dugan of The Dugan Foundation gave real hope to attendees by sharing his plans of creating a local community where there are no more homeless animals.



On October 1, at this year's Furball, Jim hopes to reveal an architectural rendition of a planned Pierce County animal welfare campus.

The campus plans include a shelter/sanctuary, adoption center, and high-volume spay/neuter clinic.

VOLUNTEERS COME OUT

Thanks to all of our volunteers for their hard work making this a success!

Chris Dysart

Michele Kennedy

Melissa Roos

Lea Vickery

Jo Frey

Lisa Palmer

Chad Vickery

David Wemmer

Special recognition goes to the WWD Planning Committee who gave generously of their time, talents and resources:

Holly Bukes, Co-Chair

Kim Owen, Co-Chair

Kelly Wolff, Co-Chair

Tyra Blaisdell

Dawn Brekke

Tracy Kim

Cindy Lumsden

Vicki McCormick

Yvonne Rose



Vicki McCormick, above, helped indecisive dessert auction winners with their selections.

David Wemmer, far left, and Chris Dysart gave up their Friday night to pour wine.

Pediatric Spay/Neuter (cont.)

4) Recent studies published in the Journal of the AVMA found that neutering before 5-1/2 months of age was safe in cats and male puppies, but was associated with a higher incidence of bladder infections and urinary incontinence later in life in female dogs. They concluded that “for female dogs . . . delaying [neutering] until at least 3 months of age may be beneficial.”

We can neither fully accept nor ignore these findings until more evidence is gathered. As it stands, we must weigh the risks versus the benefits on an individual basis regarding whether to spay puppies younger than 3 months. If the puppy is in a controlled situation, then it may indeed be wise to wait and have the surgery done between 3 and 6 months of age.

But if a shelter or rescue group has younger puppies that they cannot hold until that age and need to place in homes, where they will no longer have certain control over their future reproductive fate, the benefits of early-age spaying outweigh the risks in these cases. Until a better alternative arises, these puppies need to be sterilized prior to adoption to keep them from having even more puppies, and therefore an even greater dilemma just a few months down the road.

Overall, in determining which animals are eligible, the patient's weight and health are more important factors than age. After five years of private practice and nine years of full-time involvement in spay/neuter, I have found that healthy kittens and puppies weighing at least two pounds can handle the procedures exceptionally well, if the proper conditions are met.

The anesthetic protocol must be specifically geared to their needs, and the surgery must be performed in a delicate and expedient manner by a surgeon trained in pediatric neutering. The patient must be in good body condition (a score of 1 or 2 on the Tuft's University Animal Care and Condition Scale), and they should be bright, alert, active, and showing no signs of illness or injury. They should be free of parasites, and be started on an appropriate vaccination protocol.

I feel very strongly that animals not meeting these criteria should not be put through surgery until their issues are resolved, even if it means extra time in the shelter or in foster care. Individual lives should not be risked for an elective procedure that can be postponed for a few days or weeks.

Current statistics do show a significant drop in shelter admissions and euthanasias in recent years and, without question, early-age neutering has helped to produce this trend. This procedure, if performed on those kittens and puppies who meet the criteria outlined above, and by a licensed veterinarian who has been properly trained in pediatric neutering, is a safe means of preventing thousands more unwanted litters of puppies and kittens.

It is a pivotal strategy in aiding our animal shelters and animal welfare groups in their quest to make pet overpopulation as much a thing of the past as the misguided mantra to “let her have just one litter.”

IN HONOR

Happy Birthday to Paul Luvera!
Julie Harrison

IN MEMORY

Please accept this donation in memory of Oddie, who will live in the hearts of Julia and her family, and all of us who were lucky enough to know him. We miss you, sweet boy!

The Kennedy Family

In memory of Blue Eyes, Naomi's Stove Shop kitty.

Ted & Linda Dennis



This donation is to honor the memory of Shep, our beloved dog and family member. We miss you every day and our hearts ache to have you near again. We will always remember the love and joy you brought to our lives, and hold you close in our hearts forever.

Michele & Jon Kennedy



In loving memory of Phoebe (a.k.a. Feebers). You came to us 7 years ago as a foster dog and refused to be adopted by anyone else. We loved you for that and will always miss you, little corn dog, until we meet again.

The Kim Family

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Since vet bills can't be paid with good intentions, thanks to all who gave in the first quarter of this year. Not only do you help the animals, but you refresh our souls with your support!

Jode Baker

Penny Bergman

Michele Kennedy

Dr. Timothy Quinn

Anne Beattie

Constance Carter

Joan Mathison

Melissa & David Roos

WE GET MAIL

Thank you so much for the spay/neuter certificates for Patches and Oreo. It has made such a difference in the quality of their lives. Patches has become playful and affectionate once again....Your work in animal welfare is greatly appreciated.

Kathy Morrow, Port Orchard

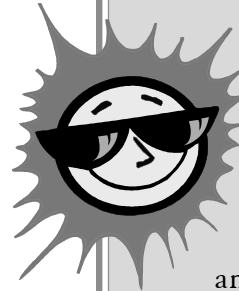
Thank you very much for helping us with our cat.

KimTyndall, Roy

Thank you for this ever so appreciated opportunity to finally be able to spay/neuter my pets.

Kim Hunsaker, Lakebay

PSNP Receives Spay Is The Way, Inc. Funding



For the third year in a row, PSNP has been the recipient of a grant from Seattle-based Spay Is the Way, Inc.

This year's grant is for the specific purpose of funding an increase in the number of dog spay/neuters we expect to perform this year compared to last.

In 2005 our goal is to provide financial assistance to spay/neuter 150 dogs, compared to last year's total of 110. For the first quarter of this year, we are already on track to break this goal.

Spay is the Way, Inc. is a registered IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit charity. For more details, visit www.spayistheway.org.

WITH YOUR HELP...

We CAN make a difference in the lives of companion animals in Pierce and Kitsap Counties! In just over three years, we have already removed nearly 4000 animals from the breeding cycle. That means fewer cats and dogs entering shelters and more time for those looking for loving, permanent homes of their own. We are an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, so no one is paid for their work. No donation is too small and all are needed and greatly appreciated!

Please return this self-addressed form along with your tax-deductible donation.

☐ \$30 alters one cat!

☐ \$60 alters one dog!

☐ \$100 alters five feral cats!

☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Check here if you'd like a receipt mailed to you (all donations are tax deductible up to the limits allowed by law).

☐ Check here if there are any changes/corrections to your name or address, and please note them on reverse.

☐ Check here if you know someone who would like to receive our latest newsletter, and print their information below



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____



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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**Bark and Bid Charity Auction****Saturday, May 14th, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM*****Best Western Wesley Inn, Gig Harbor***

All proceeds from this auction benefit the Prison Pet Partnership Program, a nonprofit organization helping homeless animals and inmates of the Washington State Women's Correctional Center in Gig Harbor. For more info, go to www.prisonpetpartnership.org.

Maritime Gig Parade**Saturday, June 4th, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM*****Downtown Gig Harbor***

Show your support for PSNP by marching with us in this fun family parade. Children and pets welcome! Email Chris Kim at ckim@psnp.org for more details.

PetsWALK**Saturday, June 4th, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM*****Kitsap County Fairgrounds***

If you can't get to the Harbor, you can still support homeless animals of Kitsap County by participating in the Kitsap Humane Society's annual dog walk. For more info, contact Kristen at (360) 692-6977 ext. 113.

Attention Shoppers!

Thanks to a new customer service loyalty program, Fred Meyer shoppers can now help PSNP earn rebate checks for needed supplies.

Unlike other grocery store programs that offer a lower price when a store card is presented, the Fred Meyer program actually offers a rebate equivalent to 1% of your total purchase.

The rebate check is mailed out every 13 weeks and may be used at any Fred Meyer location. PSNP can use the rebates to purchase items such as cat food to bait feral cat traps, office supplies, and special event supplies.

To help PSNP earn Fred Meyer rebates, simply provide the following PSNP phone number to the cashier during checkout:

Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project**253-884-1543****Fred Meyer Rewards****PENINSULA SPAY/NEUTER PROJECT****PO Box 306****Burley, WA 98322****FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

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