

UPCOMING
EVENTS

- **Muttley Brewfest at Bent Bine Brew Co. in Belfair, Saturday, February 2nd**
- **10th Annual Sails 'n Tails Auction at Alderbrook Resort & Spa, Friday, March 22nd**

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Waggin' Tails

VOLUME III, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2019

From The Littered Desk of the President

Wow, another year has flown by and here we are almost through January 2019 already.

2018 was a very busy year with our Spay and Neuter, Foster Cat, and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs in particular, and you will learn more about them within this newsletter. We also became Network Partners with Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, the nation's leading organization in animal welfare.

Our year was also busy with many events we either hosted or participated in and hopefully you were able to join us at one or more of these events:

February - Our first Muttley Brewfest Fur-ever Love event at Bent Bine Brew Co. in Belfair

May - our 9th Annual Sails n' Tails Auction at Alderbrook Resort and Spa in Union

June - Habitat for Humanity Block Party at their Shelton Location

July - Tahuya Days (in Tahuya of course)

August - Lakeland Village's annual garage sale in Allyn

August - Muttley Brewfest at Bent Bine Brew Co.

September - Open House/Adoption Event at our office in Allyn

September - Murder Mystery Dinner at Little Creek Casino in

Shelton

October - Spooktacular dinner at Casper's Pizza & BBQ in Belfair

November - Santa Paws at McLendon's Hardware in Belfair

We want to say thank you to all of the businesses listed above who helped support the Humane Society by allowing us to hold our events at their place of business. And of course, we want to



Ellie enjoying her favorite spot to hang out

thank all of you who attended or donated to these events. Without your support, we couldn't continue to provide our programs to our community.

In regards to events, our 10th Annual Sails n' Tails Auction is coming up on Friday, March 22nd. This is our biggest and most important fund raiser of the year. As I believe most of you know, we are committed to building our own shelter so that we can provide companion animals a second chance.

Speaking of second chances, I would like to introduce you to Ellie. Ellie became a member of our family just a little over 8 years ago. Ellie was found in a barn when she was a very small kitten. It was the middle of winter and happened to be 17 degrees that morning. She began walking towards my husband and after taking just a few steps she collapsed. He immediately scooped her up and wrapped her up in a warm coat and brought her to our home. She was so weak that our only option was to feed her with an eyedropper. We were so concerned that it may have been too late for her but with our persistence and her strong will she is still with us to this day. She loves to sit on a lap, as long as it has a blanket on it, and her favorite toy is a piece of paper that is crumpled into a small ball. She will bat that piece of paper all around the house. She is a very much loved member of our family.

I am sure we all have experienced or heard similar stories and this is the reason our board and volunteers do what we do for the love of animals. We hope you continue to support us in any way you can so that we can achieve our mission of building our shelter.

~ Tina Nutt, HSMC
President



Program Updates



Callie, 8mos, came to HSMC with an eye infection & seeks a forever home

“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”
C.S. Lewis

Brody enjoys his visit with Santa Paws



2018, was a busy year for the Humane Society of Mason County’s many programs.

Last year, we paid for 121 spay/neuters of owned dogs and cats in our county, further helping to reduce the number of unwanted (and unexpected) puppies and kittens. The total cost to this program was \$7,324. Our spay and neuter program is funded solely by donations, including our fix a friend plea at our annual Sails ‘n Tails Auction, this year to be

held Friday, March 22nd, annual Lakeland Village Rummage Sale in August and our October Muttley Brewfest event.

With the addition of an emergency vet fund, HSMC was also able to provide 10 Mason County residents who needed emergency veterinary care for their pets with the funds to seek immediate veterinary attention.

Our Foster program also had a busy year finding homes for 105 cats and kittens. This was

done through help from our friends at PetSmart in Lakewood, Facebook posts, Pet-Finder.com and our first open house held at our office in Allyn. We sadly lost two adult cats in this program, one to kidney failure and one to a likely heart issue. Many of the cats and kittens that come into this program are not in the best shape, so we are very grateful to the volunteers that have been foster parents and nurse these furbabies until a forever home can be found!

Shelter Build Update

The Humane Society of Mason County has unfortunately halted all further developments on our five acre track next to the North Mason High School football field.

HSMC halted all further developments because we were informed that our property was under consideration for one of the four project designs for the new SR3 Freight Corri-

dor Project.

The SR3 Freight Corridor Project (aka, Belfair Bypass) is still under study by Washington State with an expected completion date of July 2019.

Once the State has a finalized design, the State will then begin the process to acquire the land involved in the chosen project plan.

HSMC will keep everyone informed as we learn of our fate with this beautiful five acre site as the need for a shelter and safe haven for abandoned pets in our county is only growing.

~Brenda Gardner, HSMC Board Member

Santa Paws Came To Town

November brought us another great and successful Santa Paws event raising over \$1,100 for HSMC! We would like to thank all who came out to support us by getting their picture taken with Santa.

Santa Paws was won-

derful, as always!, with many furbabies visiting to ask for their Christmas wishes.

We also want to thank our very gracious host, McLendon’s Hardware in Belfair, for always providing us with a great venue for this fun holiday event, and to our photographer, Jim Nutt, for sharing his photo talents and

time.

In an effort to keep costs down and provide everyone with their instant holiday memories, we went digital and each supporter received their photos immediately on a thumb drive.

We hope to see you again next year, Ho Ho Ho!

Ask A Vet ~ Grain Free Diets: Healing or Hurting?



Dr. Nancy Isbell of Belltowne Veterinary Clinic

the heart muscle which ultimately results in heart failure and death. There are dog breeds with familial or inherited risks of cardiomyopathy, the Golden Retriever included. Low taurine

levels have been documented in many of these patients, even those on a grain-inclusive diets. Correcting the taurine helps but does not cure these dogs of their heart disease.

Recent studies at UC Davis showed a group of patients with cardiomyopathy and low taurine levels, whose heart disease resolved by diet change alone. (Not all). Investigation has shown that these pets were on grain free diets with a heavy percentage of legumes for two to ten years. Some brands of dog food may be more commonly represented in this group.

The FDA is actively working with cardiologists, nutritionists and institutions to research this diet connection. Some of the associated diets came from “boutique” dog food companies who have met AAFCO standards for nutrition, but

who have not necessarily done actual feeding trials. This is important as scientists investigate if some of the unique meats (especially kangaroo) may have a different nutritional profile, and whether nutrients in legumes may actually block the ability to process taurine precursors in the body. These are on-going studies.

What are our current options?

- 1) Switch your pet’s diet if possible
- 2) Monitor for any cardiac changes (heart enlargement, murmur, cough, weakness, arrhythmias)
- 3) Measure your pet’s taurine levels (plasma AND whole blood) BEFORE supplementation
- 4) Supplement with taurine (250-1000mg twice daily are the current recommendations)

If your pet is breed prone to cardiomyopathy (Goldens, Cockers, Boxers), please speak with your veterinarian about testing, supplementation and diet changes.

Grain free diets for our pets have gained popularity over the years. These foods are based on legumes or potatoes for their carbohydrates and extra proteins. They are especially popular for food intolerant pets who may react to proteins or common grains like rice, barley or wheat. These patients may have signs of inflammatory bowel disease, chronic ear issues, scratching and chewing, or anal sac problems.

In July, 2018 the FDA had accumulated reports of cardiomyopathy occurring in 30 dogs and cats who were on grain free diets. The first reports were in Golden Retrievers. Since then, 300 dogs who had been on grain free diets have been identified with cardiomyopathy. Many had low taurine levels.

Cardiomyopathy is a disease that leads to weakening and dilatation of

“Money will buy a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail.”

Josh Billings

Introducing Paw Perks!

The Humane Society of Mason County is pleased to announce the launch of Paw Perks on February 3, 2019!

What is Paw Perks? It’s a new ‘perks’ program for HSMC members. Just show your membership card at participating businesses, and get your free perk, it’s that simple.

A paw-some thanks to our participating businesses who are offering the following to HSMC members:

- ◆ Bent Bine Brew Co., Belfair— receive \$1 off a pint every day! (guest brews excluded)
- ◆ Casper’s Pizza & BBQ, Belfair — receive free bread sticks with an order of a large (16”) Bulldog Pizza (a \$7 savings!)
- ◆ Maddy’s Old Town Flowers, Belfair — receive 15% off on any purchase of \$25 or more!

And that’s just the beginning, so be

sure to check our website for more perks updates.

Memberships to HSMC start at just \$20 and are tax deductible, so what are you waiting for? Become a member today.

Now membership definitely has its privileges!



Max wants you to get your Paw Perks



TNR Update



Leo, formerly Ralph, was dropped out a car and watched as his owner drove off, but he now enjoys a purrfect life thanks to his new family

“Not everyone is in the position to help other animals, but everyone is in the position NOT to HARM THEM.”
Anthony Douglas Williams

We finished 2018 with 109 feral spay/neuters to our credit. Although some people were able to absorb the cost of the surgeries, many were not, and they all requested help with the transports due to the sometimes irresponsible behavior of the felines. (No one wants male cat urine in the family vehicle!)

This program was financed by a \$2,500 grant from The Community Foundation, \$921 from the Give Local South Sound fund raiser and \$750 from three individual donors. The purpose was to provide spay and neuter surgery for homeless cats being cared for by compassionate people who don't own the cats, but provide food and shelter for them. Most of these cats are feral, afraid of humans, and will not allow the caregiver to touch them. Some of them are what is now being called “neighborhood” cats, meaning they belonged to someone at one time or another, but have been abandoned, or lost. These are the ones who come up to the door, but for many reasons, are unwanted in the house. These cats can touch your heart, they are homeless through no fault of their own, and need human assistance to survive.

We have spent the grant money, along with the additional funds. The grant paid for eight additional traps to go with the seven we already had. Canned food and blankets to use in the traps came from HSMC sup-

porters, and for the more sophisticated ferals who couldn't be enticed with 9 Lives, our transporter used fried chicken with great success. For the most part, trapping was scheduled to match the days that Northwest Spay & Neuter Center's transport shuttle was available. In some cases, that was not possible and our driver made the trip to NWSN Center in Tacoma.

The biggest challenge was neighbors of the caregivers, who were asked not to feed the cats the day before the traps were to be triggered and apparently thought we were harming the cats by not feeding them. They fed the cats and delayed the trapping process on several occasions.

One sad aspect of the program was discovering the number of female cats that were pregnant when we trapped them, and many of the females who were as young as five months have been in heat. Another sad fact is that the majority of the cats were less than 2 years old. Only two of the cats were estimated to be six years old by our veterinarians, and both were categorized as “elderly” for feral cats.

One positive outcome of our TNR Program was the taming of one “neighborhood cat” who has become the faithful companion to an 88 year old lady living on disability. According to her daughter, caring for the cat has made her a lot more active, and subsequently healthier.

Another benefit of this grant has been the ability to help caregivers with large numbers of cats. These people had done what they could with their own funds to get the numbers down, but with our help, they were able to neuter as many as eight cats at a time, making the chance of an unwanted pregnancy while they were accumulating funds for additional surgeries much less likely.

One of the older male cats had an eye infection and an abscessed ear. We were able to treat both injuries while he was anesthetized and return him to his colony.

Our Foster Program veterinarian, Dr. Irwin, donated medication when a group of feral cats were found to have ear mites.

We have been able to spay or neuter, vaccinate, worm, treat fleas and provide some much needed basic medical care for 109 cats. We have also provided 700 pounds of food to assist caregivers, many of whom are on a limited budget, something we couldn't have done without these funds.

In order for HSMC to continue the TNR program, we need additional funds for 2019. All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

~ Hazel Bellinger, HSMC
 Secretary

Muttley Brewfest ~ Furever Love Event, II



Presley can't wait to get his paws on MB prizes

It's almost time for our next Muttley Brewfest hosted by our friends at Bent Bine Brew Co. in Belfair.

This will be our 4th event to be held on Saturday, February 2nd from 4pm to 8pm, and they keep getting better and better! With more prizes, great beer and great eats provided by Tempting Eats and Treats from Shelton.

Bent Bine will be drawing for door prizes, and we will have great raffles

too. All proceeds from raffle sales, \$1 from each Bent Bine pint sold and a percentage of food sales will help fund our spay and neuter program.

So just like *Groundhog Day*, doing the same thing over and over does get better every time! Come raise a pint (or two) and cheers to fixing furry friends.

Kids and friendly leashed dogs welcome (we'll also have some special treats for your furbaby).

"Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day."

John Grogan

10th Annual Sails 'n Tails 2019

Our incredible auction committee is busy preparing for our next annual auction in March at the beautiful Alderbrook Resort & Spa in Union. Please note a date change from previous years to Friday, March 22nd.

Tickets are now available on line and everyone on our mailing list will receive an email for registration by the end of January.

We have several very exciting trips and items that will delight our auction supporters, including trips down under and to Ireland!

GOLDEN TICKETS will be sold again at a limited amount of 50 tickets, giving the lucky winner first pick of a live auction item. And register by March 8th, and you'll be entered to win 100 Kitty Bucks to spend at the auction.

Hope you can join us this year for our 10th annual SAILS 'N TAILS 2019!

For more information, please visit our website or Facebook page.

~ Brenda Gardner, HSMC Board Member

Fugs' Facts: Fido, Don't Leave Home Without Him

It's a well known fact that dogs love car rides, it doesn't matter how long or how short, we love them! It can even be just a trip to end of the driveway, and I'm ready to hop right in the car; the car keys jingle and I'm ready to jangle!

But the downside to a car ride is being left inside the car while your human goes into a store or elsewhere, which as we know is also

dangerous on very cold or hot days. If you take us for a ride, we better be going in with you too!

Thankfully Belfair is a great dog friendly city with many places that allow friendly leashed pets to come inside and enjoy some shopping or just hanging out.

Some of these paw-friendly businesses include McLendon's Hard-

ware (we can also join you in their Port Orchard location), Pet Town, Root Cellar and Bent Bine Brew Co.

So next time you're running into town, let us tag along! And be sure to check Facebook or Instagram for dog friendly venues in other towns you may be visiting because thankfully, WA is going to the dogs!





**Nate, 5 months,
looks for his forever
home & is currently
in foster care**

**“Whoever said
that diamonds are
a girl’s best friend,
never had a dog.”**

Unknown

A Happy Tale, A Mystery & Some Good Information

At HSMC our office volunteers often get calls about lost and found pets. One such call about a dog that was found in Belfair near the Sandhill school came in and the volunteer had to decide as to what would produce the best result. The caller stated that the dog was walking with a limp, that he had the dog confined. But, he also said he had young children who were curious; he was concerned about their safety. The volunteer decided that she could temporarily place the dog as a foster more easily. She silently prayed that this was the best advice due to HSMC still being without a ‘brick and mortar’ shelter.

In time, the finder of the dog came in to the office carrying a medium-sized black and white dog. It was obvious that the dog was an older ‘guy’ and the volunteer had to close the office temporarily to get the dog settled into the safe confines of the foster home since the office made the dog terribly nervous and vocal. Luckily, the dog was not a problem once settled in to the temporary quarters. He relaxed and fell asleep.

The following day, the staff at Belltowne Veterinary Clinic saw the dog to check for a microchip and evaluate the

limping and stiffness so persistent in this older, but very sweet dog. A microchip was found and the company (Avid) was contacted for information. A basic veterinary health checkup made the volunteer more certain that the dog was going to be comfortable and safe in temporary foster care.

As the information was given to the volunteer about the registered owner of the dog from the microchip company, she was relieved to find an owner at home. The owner was close to tears and had been searching for her dog for several days since he went missing. The thing is, the owner had been searching in her own local area of Gig Harbor and Pierce County. She was not aware that there is an abundance of Facebook (FB) and other websites for lost and found pets. The family that found this dog had taken a photo and posted it to several sites, but it was out of the owner’s area. A good FB page to search for a missing pet is: [Lost and Found Pets of Mason County Washington](#). But that just covers Mason County. There are also several other lost and found FB pages. So many people want to help through social media. Often some people will share the posts with other counties. There are many similar sounding pages such as, [Kitsap Lost and Found Pets](#), [Lost and](#)

[Found Pets of Pierce, Kitsap and Mason Counties](#). It can get confusing and overwhelming. If you are missing your pet, try to post on several of these sites because this little dog went missing in Gig Harbor but was found in Belfair.

The wisest investment you can make in your pet, besides spay and neuter, is a good microchip that is kept up to date with current information. How this older, somewhat handicapped dog who by the way is at least 15 years old, (maybe more since he was adopted from a Tacoma Shelter in 2003 according to the microchip) ended up in a parking lot near a church on Sandhill Road in Belfair when he lived in Gig Harbor is anyone’s guess. But there is no guess when it comes to how he fortunately found his way home. Microchips work, they save lives and time.

~ S. Cull, HSMC
Board Member



Humane Society of Mason County

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Providing a second chance for our animal companions

The Humane Society of Mason County (HSMC) is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization founded in 1986. We provide assistance and care to displaced, abandoned, and abused animals. We are committed to offering alternatives to euthanizing adoptable pets. We provide education about animal care and treatment to promote responsible animal ownership and the prevention of cruel, neglectful, or inhumane treatment of animals.

Get involved! Volunteer & become a member today

You can support us year round by shopping at AmazonSmile (www.smile.amazon.com), Fred Meyer (www.fredmeyer.com) or taking your Walk For A Dog (www.wooftrax.com)

Volunteer Spotlight

HSMC is an all-volunteer organization that without the wonderful people who donate their time, our organization wouldn't exist.

In this newsletter, we would like to highlight one of our outstanding office volunteers, Judy Hunter.

About four years ago, Judy moved back to the Belfair area from Spokane and retired. She had a desire to help the animals in need, and thus contacted the Humane Society Of Mason County.

Judy started working in our office one day a week, and after four years, still enjoys working every Friday in the office taking calls, assisting with mailings, greeting visitors, just to name a few things on her daily plate. And a few months ago, she took over the spay/neuter program for low-income residents of Mason County. Judy

enjoys helping people with their pets and helping people find their lost pets.

Judy's co-volunteers also have wonderful things to say about her help, and when it came time to vote for our first spotlight, the vote was unanimous by our Board of Directors. Our Secretary said of Judy, she "did such a wonderful job with "Thank



When not at the HSMC office, Judy enjoys spending time with her furbabies, Chloe and Brady

You" notes that I actually had several people comment on what a good job she did. She also stepped up to take over the Spay/Neuter bill paying which is a tremendous benefit now that another volunteer has retired. She is also a great back up when anyone on the office crew is ill or out of town, and she is meticulous about her computer entries from phone calls, etc."

Another Board Member also had this to say of Judy, "She has been a volunteer with us for several years now and is so positive and helpful all the time."

A big THANKS to you Judy Hunter, our pawsome volunteer spotlight!

HSMC is always seeking volunteers, if you would like to help out at our events, office, foster care or anything else, please give us a call or email.