

Pet Tidings

From the Peninsula Friends of Animals

OUR COMMITMENT: To accommodate spaying and neutering of the greatest possible number of cats and dogs in our community as a solution to the pet overpopulation problem; and, ultimately, to build a modest no-kill shelter with associated low cost spay and neuter clinic.

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FIRST ANNUAL YARD SALE & BAZAAR SET FOR SAT.-SUN., JULY 7-8

Make your plans now to attend the gigantic and exciting first ever Yard Sale and Bazaar to benefit Peninsula Friends of Animals. The happening will take place on Saturday, July 7 and Sunday July 8 at 223 Secor Road in Sequim. The location is easy to find! Secor intersects with River Road just about 1/2 mile south of the 101 bypass.

In addition to an incredible selection of quality merchandise that will be available for sale at bargain prices, there will be homemade baked goods and homespun arts and crafts especially created to benefit this event. Additionally, Dr. Linda Allen of Pacific Northwest Veterinary Hospital has generously offered to run an inoculation clinic on Sunday featuring reduced rate pet vaccinations with half the proceeds going to PFOA.

We're actively soliciting donations now! If you have quality items for the yard sale, if you can whip up some baked goods, if you can donate some homemade crafts or if you have the time to help coordinate various aspects of this fun occurrence, please contact event organizer Gary Del Mastro at (360) 417-8129 or the PFOA message center at (360) 681-7393.

Inside: Sightless Kitty
Finds His Way from
California to Port
Angeles...With a Little
Help From His Friends



NONPROFIT STATUS NOW OFFICIAL!

Peninsula Friends of Animals is now the proud owner of 501C3 status. In other words, we are officially recognized by the government as a nonprofit charity!

One important aspect of our new and more respected position in the community is that we are now more likely to qualify for grants that may be available from time to time to help organizations like ours to continue to do our work. Additionally, nonprofit status means that your donations to PFOA---starting immediately---are tax deductible.

If you've been considering making a donation but have been holding out for the confirmation of our 501C3 status, *now is the time!*

Remember, the more generous the donation, the greater your tax write-off. Feel free to use the donation form on the back page of this newsletter or mail your donation to Peninsula Friends of Animals, P.O. Box 404, Sequim, WA 98382.

AMAZING HUMAN CHAIN LEADS SIGHTLESS CALIFORNIA KITTY TO NEW P.A. HOME

Imagine surfing the Internet and coming across an absolutely adorable and affectionate young cat who is doomed to life in a shelter simply because he is blind and no one has offered to adopt him. Imagine also that you can offer a wonderful home and have a burning desire to rescue this sightless little boy and bring him to live with you so that you can attend to his special needs. Imagine that you live in Port Angeles and that Braveheart, as he is so aptly named, is stranded in a small desert town in south central California after having been dumped unceremoniously into a shelter drop-shoot.

That is exactly the situation Sandy Linton was facing last April when she called Peninsula Friends of Animals for help regarding this charmer of a kitty who was born with his eyelids sealed shut. "We don't have any other pets. We can devote 100% our attention to this one little guy who needs it so badly," she insisted. "Is there anything that can be done to get him up here?"

Stepping into action, PFOA volunteers Nancy Campbell and Ann Gilson put their heads together. Their search for discount airfares on the Internet didn't yield any satisfactory possibilities, so Horizon Airlines was called to see if they could offer a low cost fare for a needy feline and his human flying companion. The agent with whom they talked, Holly, couldn't come up with a deal on fares but was sympathetic to the cause. "I fly for free and could take a carrier with me on a flight to Burbank," she offered. "We could then try to make a connection with someone from Braveheart's home town of Tehachapi who might bring him to us at the airport. We could then bring the kitty in the carrier on board the plane with us for the \$50 fee charged by the airline and return him to Seattle on the same day."

The logistics of making this all work were almost mind-boggling. The exchange had to be made in a twenty minute time period between when the plane set down in Burbank and the time it took off for Seattle. Additionally, the Horizon employees were flying *standby* so there was no guarantee they'd be able to connect in any convenient manner at all.

Nevertheless, the plan was set. Sandy and her husband, Darrell, would go to Sea-Tac to deliver a carrier to Holly and her friend, Amy. The ladies would then take the carrier with them on their flight to southern California. In Burbank, they would meet an animal welfare worker from Tehachapi who had agreed to transport Braveheart over 2½ hours between the shelter and the Burbank airport. Then the Horizon employees would bring Braveheart back to Sea-Tac airport with them in the passenger compartment. There they would meet again with the Lintons who would take Braveheart on the final leg of his trip to his new home in Port Angeles.

Improbable as it seems, the plan worked! The Lintons spent from 9:00am to 9:00pm at the airport to see the Horizon employees off and then to be there to greet them and their precious cargo on their return.

Braveheart is now happily settled in his new Olympic Peninsula home! He feels his way around, checking out sizes and shapes of things, and almost immediately learns how to navigate the rooms and furniture in his environment. He also has a new name, Mocha, to reflect his distinctive coloring. It has been said that everyone who has had anything at all to do with this little guy *just loves him!*

Nice going PFOA volunteers, Horizon employees and Tehachapi animal welfare workers! It took a lot of people working together in a common cause to pull this off. You are an example and an inspiration to us all.

Giving an Animal Away? Beware of "Second Class Dealers"!

This is kitten and puppy season as evidenced by the abundance of people giving away these young animals from boxes in front of stores. If you are inclined to give away an animal in this manner, be aware that there are people whose intentions regarding these animals are less than honorable and often cruel. One of the worst problems is what's known as "second class dealers." These unscrupulous souls are known for "adopting" every available animal and then selling them to laboratories for research or breeding the animals in order to have a steady supply to sell in the future. Such dealers are known to operate on the Olympic Peninsula.

Ask questions of the people who offer to adopt animals from you. If possible, ask to see the home to which the animal is going. If your gut feeling is that an animal might be in danger, tell the potential adopter that you've changed your mind. Then call Peninsula Friends of Animals at (360) 681-7393 for assistance. Better yet, call us before you offer animals to strangers. We have a strict screening process in place that assures each animal who comes into our care will go eventually to a safe, secure and loving home.

ZERO-KILL GOAL A REALITY... AND IT'S CHEAPER!

The sometimes staggering overpopulation of homeless cats and dogs here on the Olympic Peninsula and elsewhere often leaves people thinking that the only answer is the rounding up and euthanasia of as many of them as possible. Nothing could be further from the truth! As has been shown by hundreds of private shelters nationally and by growing numbers of city shelters as well, pet population control that emphasizes spaying and neutering rather than killing is not only more *humane* but is *cost-effective*.

Communities nationwide have recently instigated policies aimed at curbing old-fashioned practices that result in the killing of 10 million cats and dogs in this country yearly. Most of those animals are adoptable and 2 million are purebreds. Las Vegas has succeeded in reaching its no-kill goal with an energetic and aggressive education and adoption program in conjunction with a high volume, low cost spay/neuter clinic. Although 20,000 animals pass through the shelter there each year, virtually no healthy and friendly cat or dog is euthanized due to lack of an available home. The reduction of pet overpopulation in the city as a result of the vigorous spaying and neutering program has assured every adoptable animal of finding a loving and protective environment in which to live.

The logic of this newer and wiser approach to animal population control is that *if animals are kept from breeding, money won't have to be spent to kill their offspring*. Prevention isn't only kinder; it's less expensive. A study in Houston showed that it costs nearly twice as much to round up, house, kill and dispose of homeless animals than it does to spay or neuter them and then shelter them long enough to be adopted.

Zero-euthanasia is a realistic goal that saves animals from undeserving deaths and saves the community from having to come up with the money to do it. Breaking the cycle of uncontrolled breeding is the means toward accomplishing that goal.

If you would like to help us achieve zero-euthanasia and home placement of every animal in *this* community, please consider joining as an *active* member for just \$10 membership fee per year. If you can't help actively but want to offer financial support, see the "How I Can Help" on the back of this newsletter. Please assist in any way that you can. Your contributions are tax deductible, so please give as generously as you are able. Together we can make our community a better place to live--both for our animal friends and for we human residents as well.

VET-SMARTZ!

ROUNDWORMS AND TAPEWORMS IN CATS AND DOGS

by Kathy Ponzio, DVM, Sequim Animal Hospital

Several intestinal parasites plague cats and dogs at different times in their lives. The negative effects of these parasites depend on the number and type present. In cats and dogs, the most important and common parasites are roundworms and tapeworms.

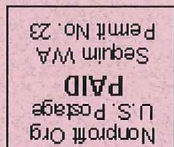
Roundworms are tan in color and 4-18 centimeters in length. The eggs of roundworms are common in the environment and are often shed by the mothers to young kittens and puppies. Roundworm infections are common in cats and dogs of all ages. Signs of infection include diarrhea and thinness but vary depending on the severity. Your veterinarian can test for roundworm eggs with a fecal flotation (egg identification) and then provide proper medications for treatment. Humans are susceptible to roundworms so it is important to clean up animal feces to prevent transmission to people. Children are particularly at risk and therefore should be taught to wash their hands after playing in the yard and before eating.

Tapeworms are tan, flat, segmented worms that can be up to 20 meters in length. We tend, however, to see only individual segments as they are passed out of the pet. Once dry, these segments look like grains of rice on the pet's bed or under its tail. Animals get tapeworms by eating another host for the worm. The most common hosts are mice and fleas. We tend to see tapeworm infections in adult animals although they can be found at any age. Often we don't realize animals have tapeworms until we see the segments. The symptoms they exhibit are similar to those evident as a result of roundworm infestation. Tapeworms can be diagnosed via a fecal flotation or by identifying the segments.

On the Olympic Peninsula, we are fortunate to have only a few varieties of intestinal parasites of which roundworms and tapeworms are the most important. See your veterinarian for more information on treating and preventing these and other parasites.

Got Plans for that \$300 Refund?

As you know, the government will soon be sending \$300 refund checks to single taxpayers (\$600 to couples). If you haven't already made plans for the refund (which should be arriving between July and September), please consider the advantages of donating it to Peninsula Friends of Animals. For every \$300 we receive, four cats and dogs can be spayed and neutered, tested for disease, vaccinated and treated for various parasites. You get a tax write-off and feel great about your ability to help. This is a unique opportunity for everyone to benefit--the animals, and the community at large.



Peninsula Friends of Animals
P.O. Box 404
Sequim, WA 98382

"HOW CAN I HELP?"

Make a cash donation. Nearly every animal that comes to us costs a minimum of \$75 in veterinary expenses. We rely solely on private donations. Your assistance can help us to continue to care for those already with us and enable us to care for others still in need.

Become an active member. If you have the desire and ability to get out into the community and work actively on our programs, we need you! Active memberships are only \$10 per year.

Sponsor an animal. For \$10 a month you can sponsor a homeless animal that we are sheltering. You will receive a picture and history of that animal.

Support our fund raisers. Please attend and support our fund raising activities including our upcoming Yard Sale & Bazaar.

Donate supplies. We are constantly in need of the following items: pet food, both dry and canned; kitty litter; bleach; stamps; envelopes; good quality copy paper. Please call ahead for pick up or drop off time.

I am making a donation. ___\$5 ___\$25 ___\$100 ___\$500 ___\$1,000

___Other amount (\$ ____). I understand that my donation is tax deductible for charitable purposes.

I would like to become an *active* member. I can help with animal rescue and placement, errands, public speaking, computer applications or other aspects of your operation. Yearly membership fee ___\$10

I would like to sponsor a ___cat ___dog for \$10 a month.

I would like to donate food or supplies. ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

PENINSULA FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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Access our web site! www.sequimjournal.com/pfoa

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