

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sails 'n Tails**
Auction at
Alderbrook
Resort & Spa,
Saturday, May
12th starting
at 5:30pm
- **Lakeland**
Village Rum-
mage Sale,
Saturday,
August 4th

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Thanks to 6
you!

From The 'Littered' Desk of The President

It's officially spring, and according to Tennyson, "in the spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love". Well, that can be applied to young Tom cats too. The season has already begun in the feral cat population. Although it can seem like an impossible task, we are committed to trap, neuter and release as many feral cats in Mason County as we are able to do. We would love to have assistance in this project. Please call the office if you have any interest in helping our volunteers.

Along with spring comes our gala dinner auction at Alderbrook. It will be Mother's day weekend, May 12th. If you have never attended in the past, consider

coming this year. We have a wonderful dinner, both live and silent items to bid on, a fifty-fifty raffle, and much more! Ticket information and a list of items that will be available for bid can



**It takes a lot of hands
(and paws!) to get the
job done!**

be found on our website, humanesocietyofmasoncounty.com.

It is with mixed feelings that I am passing the baton to someone

new next month. My two year term is up and it's time for a fresh face at the table. I have enjoyed my time as president even as I wasn't able to do all the wonderful things I thought I could. That seems to be par for the course; there are never enough days or enough time to do it all. I will stick around and help as I can, my love for animals won't let me sit home and do nothing. There will always be "things to do" and even more so when the shelter is up and running.

Faithfully, Lynn

HSMC President

Sails 'n Tails Is Almost Here!

We are less than a month away from Sails 'n Tails 2018 and are very excited about our auction donations this year: Historical trip to Charleston SC, photo safari in South Africa, culinary trip to Tuscany Italy, a case of wine from Thurston Wolfe Winery, a hexagon Gazebo, many local restaurant gift cards, and incredible silent auction items for you, home and health. The donations are better and big-

ger and we are very excited to present Sails 'n Tails again this year.

Come celebrate Mother's Day weekend with us at the beautiful Alderbrook Resort and Spa and Sails 'n Tails 2018.

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to our sponsors this year: Local Wrench in Belfair, Tractor Supply in Shelton, Windermere Property Manage-

ment in Allyn, Edward Jones of Belfair, and The Shoppers in Shelton. Our sponsors make Sails 'n Tails possible and we greatly appreciate their support!!!!

~ Brenda Gardner, HSMC Vice President & Auction Coordinator





Pywacket ~ A Limerick

There once was a cat named Pywacket.
When he sat on a chair he would crack
it.

Though he ate all the time,
He also drank wine.
So Port and Merlot were a habit.

This cat of the Persian persuasion,
Was white but not a Caucasian.
His breeding was such

He'd put up a fuss,
And consider each touch an invasion.

Pompous and prissy he knew how to
prance,
Winding 'round legs and trying to
dance.

When he wanted his way
Which he did every day,
He would pose in a glorious stance.

Pywacket was large there is no doubt.
Some would even consider him stout.

So it was no surprise
When he met his demise
And the Doctor said it was gout.

By Lynn Soderlund, HSMC President

*"A dog will teach
you unconditional
love. If you can
have that in your
life, things won't
be too bad."*

Robert Wagner

Spay & Neuter Program

The Humane Society of Mason County's spay & neuter program continues to provide a great service to our county.

During January through March 2018, HSMC paid for 31 spay and neuters at a cost of \$1,786. And at the end of March, we still had 22 vouch-

ers pending.

The majority of the spay and neuters continue to be cats, but we do see our fair number of dogs too. Over the years we have been providing this service for our county, we hope that HSMC has been instrumental in reducing the

number of unwanted litters of puppies and kitties.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of our program's assistance for their pet, download a form from our website and submit to us today.

~ Blanche Valverde, HSMC Director Spay & Neuter

Muttley Brewfest 2

Friday, February 9th marked our 2nd Muttley Brewfest, *The Fur-ever Love Event*.

Our friends and supporters from Bent Bine Brew Co. in Belfair hosted our event and once again donated \$1 from each pint sold and great prizes for our raffles. Pints for the night included Paws Off My Amber and My Dark Irish Setter.

Casper's Pizza & BBQ also partnered with us again, serving up a delicious BBQ pulled pork slider, and donated 50% of the meal ticket sales to HSMC.

Pet Town generously donated some great prize baskets and one of our HSMC volunteers donated an amazing jewelry, wine and chocolate basket (just in time for Valentine's Day) that generated lots of raffle sales.

Thanks to all the many people

and pets that joined us, we sold close to 100 meal tickets, over 100 pints and lots of raffle tickets! And after a few hours of fun, you helped us raise over \$800 for HSMC's Almost Home Shelter building campaign ~ Cheers!!

So when is Muttley Brewfest 3? Stay tuned as the *Dog Days of Summer* are right around the corner!

Experts were called in to make sure Paws Off My Amber was brewed just right



Ask A Vet ~ When to Spay or Neuter Your Pet



Dr. Nancy Isbell of Belltowne Veterinary Clinic

ing many litters. While studies indicate that anesthesia and surgery are safe to perform at this age and there were no adverse consequences seen over a

couple of years, I have observed some changes in these pets: male cats neutered early have very small penises leading to a high risk of life threatening obstruction in cats prone to FLUTD: female dogs, often have hormonal urinary incontinence occurring at a younger age (2-3 years) instead of the more typical 9-12 years: male dogs have a very lanky altered build.

What are the controversies? Male dogs, neutered under a year of age, may express hip dysplasia more often, but weight gain and genetics were not evaluated in studies. Research on the increased incidence of cruciate ligament rupture in dogs who are neutered also have mixed results. The reason is unknown.

Some studies suggest that spaying or neutering is associated with increased risk of cancer, but the results varied greatly between studies, different breeds and even the sex of the pets. Neutering does not

cause prostate cancer, but if the cancer develops (not common), prior neutering may enhance growth. Early neutering has also been associated with increased noise phobias but lessened separation anxiety. Testosterone may be protective of cognitive dysfunction

My suggestion? If you have a large breed like a St Bernard, delay neutering until they are 18-24 months to allow the growth plates to close. We have more time to alter male dogs as the diseases seen in intact males develop later in life. For female dogs, spaying before or after the first heat minimizes breast cancer risk and limits the work to control unwanted matings and bleeding. The age of neutering male dogs may also be affected by the need to control unwanted behavioral issues.

For cats, allow development to occur (often 6-8 months of age). Having adult teeth fully erupted is a good marker.

There are many gonad-sparing options for birth control including vasectomy, hysterectomy without removing the ovaries, and chemical sterilization. Ask your veterinarian about the risks and benefits of these procedures.

Q: When is the best age to spay or neuter your pet? Is it true that large dogs' growth will be hindered if you neuter too early?

A: We have known for years that spaying/neutering decreases the risk of mammary, ovarian, vaginal, testicular, and perianal tumors and hernias. Even 2 heat cycles can increase the risk of breast cancer in dogs. Neutering has also been shown to decrease spraying, fighting, and roaming behavior in 80-90% of male cats. Urine marking, mounting, roaming and aggression were reduced or eliminated in dogs. Studies show that animals who are altered can live up to 25% longer than their unaltered friends.

Humane societies are neutering cats and dogs as early as 8 weeks of age, driven by people who adopted intact pets and didn't neuter, leav-

"In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods; they have not forgotten this."

Terry Pratchett

Fugs' Facts ~ All About Cats

Do you have 'bezoars'? Thankfully, neither do I, but cats do and depending on the breed, they can have a lot of them. A bezoar is the technical term for a cat's hairball¹ ~ even their names for nasty things they can cough up are fancy!

Cats can make about 100 different sounds too (101 if you count the noise they make coughing up a

bezoar!), compared to us dogs who make only about 10 sounds² (all of which are related to food, take me for a walk, rub my belly, and oh yes, food!).

On average, cats spend 2/3 of every day sleeping², and 1/3 of their waking hours cleaning³. That means a nine year old cat has been awake for only three years of its life, and



has spent much of that time cleaning itself!

And approximately 1/3 of cat owners think their pets are able to read their minds¹... tell me Felix, what am I thinking now??

¹ Fogle, Bruce. *Cats*. New York, NY: Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2006.
² Piven, Hanoch. *What Cats Are Made Of*. New York, NY: Gineeo Seo Books, 2009.
³ Clutton-Brock Juliet. *Cat*. New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc, 2004.



A Rocky Story



Rocky letting us know he's in need of a bath ~ dirty fingers don't lie!

"Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever."

Karen Davison

Happy to be visited by our caring volunteers



We've decided to take a chance and let you in on a possible life saving adventure from the very beginning, when we aren't really sure of the outcome. Hopefully, you will be as excited (and nervous) as we are. This is a story about Rocky, and his possible redemption because a compassionate human thought he was worth saving.

The story begins with a young woman coming to the HSMC office to ask for assistance for her cat last year. She needed to have her spayed and couldn't afford to pay for it. She also had a car that was not reliable and needed assistance getting to the clinic after the volunteer helped her fill out the spay application and approved it. The volunteer drove the cat to and from the clinic for her surgery and (we thought) that was the end of the story.

A few weeks ago, this same young woman came back to the office to ask for assistance with a dog that had been abandoned at her rental house. The previous owners had been evicted and left the dog behind, chained to a tree, using a man's leather belt as a collar. The chain they used to restrain him was approximately 6 feet long with very large heavy duty links that quickly shrunk to about 4 feet because the dog was jumping and twisting. They left a decent dog house and the young woman provided a blanket and a couple of sweaters to keep him warm. She came to HSMC asking for food and talked about him with Corie, our Thursday office volunteer. Corie decided that the dog was not in the best possible situation for his size and breed, and contacted Hazel, an HSMC volunteer and board member, who offered to go to the woman's house to evaluate him.

'Rocky' turned out not to be the hulking monster who disliked humans and terrorized other animals as we had been led to believe. He greeted us with a wagging tail and head butts. He is a 65 lbs. dog who has spent his entire 3-5 years chained to a tree with neighboring dogs wandering into his yard and occasionally attacking him. He lunges whenever he sees other dogs walking by his house and the pressure on his throat and windpipe has possibly damaged his trachea. Corie solicited her husband Josh to help with the project, and they provided a harness and a 40 foot plastic covered steel tether to keep the dog in his yard. They also took him out on a leash for walks and allowed him to play on the enclosed high school baseball field on the weekends. He was affectionate and greeted them with joyous barking and friendly nuzzling each time they arrived to take him out for a run.

After two visits, they decided to give him a much needed bath. Off he went to Pet Town in Belfair where he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and cavorted in the tub like a puppy. The groomer at Pet Town clipped his nails and he seemed quite content to allow her to work on him. He was returned to his yard and the following week, when the volunteers came to get him, they discovered he had been injured during the previous week. An appointment was made at our partner veterinary hospital, and Rocky went for an evaluation and vaccinations on April 12.

In the meantime, Hazel has contacted Adopt- A- Pet to ask if he can be placed on their waiting list after he has been vetted and taught some basic obedience, such as walking on a leash, sitting and coming when called. Corie has also been contacting other rescues to see if they can help re-home him. Keep in mind this is a 65 lbs. Pit Bull that has never been treated as a family dog, never been off the chain, had a bath, played ball, been hugged or (gently) played with. What we are hoping for is a happy ending; a dog that is bright enough to learn basic obedience (that he should have been taught years ago), and to allow his new guardian angels to help him be the "good dog" he has shown every sign of becoming.

~ Hazel Bellinger, HSMC Secretary & Foster Program Director

Almost Home Foster Cats & Kittens



Maeve, still looking for her forever home

Our Foster Program Director is thrilled to announce that HSMC has successfully placed 20 cats and kittens so far this year! We were also able to re-home one older male cat

who had been abandoned in our landlord's rental units. And a big "Paws Up" to our friends at PetSmart and Pet Finder for giving us a great forum to help find homes; we couldn't do it without you!

Are you looking to add a new fur baby to your family? If so, we currently have a litter of 10 week old

kittens (black & white males and Calico females) and a litter of identical tabbies who were born on February 28 that will be looking for their forever homes shortly. The older litter will be going to the veterinarian for their spay/neuter surgeries and tests, and then will be heading to PetSmart Lakewood by the end of April to find their forever home!

For more information or to complete an adoption form, please visit our website.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

TNR & Barn Cat Program

HSMC is proud to announce we have had 17 TNR (Trap, Neuter & Return to owner) cats receive spay/neuter surgery, flea prevention, wormer and vaccines since January. We currently have 5 families on the waiting list and have just purchased eight new traps with the grant money we received in January. If you have, or know of anyone who has feral cats in their area who have not been spayed or neutered, please contact our office. A TNR coordinator will get in touch and set up a schedule to provide instructions, traps, transportation and funding to

facilitate this life saving mission. Remember: one female intact cat can conservatively produce 16 kittens in one year.

We have three former TNR cats who have become so friendly with their caregivers that they can now be considered adoptable. One lucky guy will be going to their new senior apartment in the coming months, but this new housing arrangement prohibits more than one cat. Blackie is an indoor/outdoor neutered 5 year old male in good health and Miss Oreo is a 7 year old spayed female. She has lived in the shop for the past 5 years.

Both cats will be homeless when their caregivers move. If anyone is interested in adopting a friendly "neighborhood" cat, please contact the HSMC office and ask about the "Haven Lake" cats. Pictures will soon be posted on Pet Finder.

We have also helped three families in the past month who had overwhelming medical bills for family pets, and needed our assistance with the veterinary bills to enable their pets to have a comfortable life. If anyone can donate for this worthwhile project, please indicate on your check that it is for the **Veterinary Assistance Fund**. If you would like more information about the fund, please contact our office.

Shelter Build Update

As you know, HSMC acquired land in Belfair near the North Mason High School. Progress on our land development is currently on hold unfortunately as we are still investigating a viable power source. Our Group B water well has been installed, but final approval of the well cannot be granted until the power issue is resolved. Once the power issue has been resolved, our next

projects will be to install the power lines, clear the land, and install boundary fencing for security.

Once we can complete our next projects, we look forward to taking advantage of our property to host Pet Fairs and other events as we anxiously await the construction of our much needed shelter in Mason County.



Our Almost Home Shelter cake at Sails 'n Tails 2017





Humane Society of Mason County

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Email: info@humanesocietyofmasoncounty.com

Website: www.humanesocietyofmasoncounty.com

Keep up to date with HSMC:

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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 and become a member today

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

Thanks to you!

For the second year in a row, HSMC was the grateful recipient of the Sandhill Elementary School's **Destination Imagination** Food Drive for the Animals.

We received 401.85 pounds of cat and dog food and treats. The group is comprised of Regan Medley, Ryker Medley, Danielle Larkin and Seth Miller. Their teachers are Mrs. Elliot, Mrs. Eide, Mrs. Guide, and Mrs. Hancock. The pets who receive food from our food bank and the HSMC volunteers who dispense it are very grateful!

And we would also like to give a big thanks to our friends at Tractor Supply Co. in Shelton who donated over 200 pounds of dog and cat food to HSMC in February.

With this food, we help those in our

county that cannot afford to feed their pets, in addition to helping feed our many foster animals.

HSMC was also the lucky recipient of a \$100 donation by Faith in Action Thrift Store who let us participate in their March Fins, Furs and Feathers sale and donated their raffle sales to us.



Food donated by Tractor Supply Co. in Shelton

THE HUMANE SOCIETY
MASON COUNTY

PRESENTS
THE 9TH ANNUAL
SAILS 'N TAILS
A SILENT
AND
LIVE DINNER AUCTION

SATURDAY
MAY 12TH
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