

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay up to date by following us on Facebook or visiting our events page at hsmcwa.org!

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From the Littered Desk of the President

I am so glad that 2021 is here and that 2020 is behind us. It was a tough year for everyone and for our organization it was no exception. For several months, our office was closed, our fundraisers cancelled, and veterinary offices severely limited the services they provided which temporarily halted our spay and neuter assistance and trap-neuter-return programs. Thank goodness we are now able to provide assistance to our community as these services have become available once again, not to pre-COVID levels but at least there is some availability.

This summer several projects were completed on our property near North Mason High School, the future sight of our animal shelter. Check out the article in this newsletter to get the details of all the work that was done.

I would like to acknowledge Dynamic Discs who sponsored Putts for Pets 2020 Disc Golf Tournament that was held on September

19th at the Shelton Springs Disc Golf Course. Dynamic Discs donated 30% of the proceeds from this event to our organization resulting in a donation of \$1,800. We thank Dynamic Discs for choosing our organization to support at this event.



One of Tina's stay at home furiends, Muggs

We have partnered up with The Shopper in Shelton to sell Humane Society merchandise, such as t-shirts, jackets, scarfs, coffee mugs, and hats. For every order placed with The Shopper they will donate the proceeds to our organization. Your order not only helps our organization, but supports a local business.

Please check out our website, www.hsmcwa.org, for full details and to place an order.

As we move into 2021 and as our organization continues to grow, we have a need for more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, we have several opportunities available from office help, transporting of animals, trap-neuter-return (TNR) assistance, event planning, and fundraising. We also have openings on our board of directors so if you have experience with grant writing, veterinary services, event planning, community development, or capital building campaigns and have an interest in joining our board, please contact our office at 360-275-9310 or email us at info@hsmcwa.org.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Waggin' Tails newsletter.

Happy 2021!

Tina Nutt
HSMC President

72 Cats Trapped In Shelton

In December 2020, the *Shelton-Mason County Journal* featured a story on our TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) program.

After a call came into our office in November about stray cats, a group of volunteers led by board members, Katherine Johnson and Lynda Haskell, traveled to Shelton where they

found a very large feral cat colony calling the area around Johns Prairie Road home.

The source of the cats was coming from around the home of an elderly woman who had been feeding feral cats in the area for many years. Due to the large number of cats and kittens on the property and

their poorly condition, it was a team effort to round them all up and take them to clinics and area rescues for spay/neuter and medical care, including Center Valley Animal Rescue. In all, 72 cats were trapped by this amazing and dedicated group of volunteers!



Property & Shelter Update



Cedar fence along the north property line was installed November 2020

It has been a long process, but we are finally making some progress on the property which was purchased in 2015 for a Humane Society of Mason County office and shelter building. This project has had some setbacks mainly due to the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Belfair Bypass project. The Humane Society board of directors did not want to spend any additional funds/resources on the property if the state would be taking part of it for the alignment of that roadway infrastructure. There were also additional setbacks with planning and dealing with the aspects of property development and county regulations.

This past August we cleared and graded the back half of the property for a better building site. A 500 foot plus gravel driveway was installed which now gives access to the front and back portions of the property as they are divided by a seasonal pond.

Then in November after the

proper land surveying work and corners were located, we had fencing installed. Fencing the five-acre parcel involved a partial cedar fence along the north property line to add security and privacy as there is a residence next to our driveway access. The rest of the five-acre property has 6 foot tall chain link fencing with a locked sliding gate at the access road. We would like to thank Manke Excavating (Shelton) and Patriot Fencing (Belfair) for their work on the project.

We are currently working with PUD #3 on design work to have power installed at the property. This will then provide us power to feed the already installed well and infrastructure for building and possible future events at the site.

Once we get some of this infrastructure complete, we anticipate moving forward with building design work. Some of this planning work, fencing for privacy and security, are guid-

ed by a special use permit that is required by Mason County. Any actual building done due to costs most likely will be in two phases. Phase one will be office and storage space, and phase two will be a kennel building designed to house cats and dogs. Hopefully, we will have all design work complete in 2021 and we will be working on our funding campaign.

Due to COVID-19, most of our normal fund raising was cancelled and this really hurt our efforts to direct money toward our building project. As this health situation has affected all of us, some may not have the resources to donate. If you are able, we always are thankful for your help. A general donation can be made to the Humane Society of Mason County or a specific one directed towards the building campaign.

Scott Gordon
HSMC Vice President

“A lot of shelter dogs are mutts like me.”
~ Barack Obama

Spay/Neuter & TNR Updates



Chain link fencing around the remainder of our property

Despite COVID-19 and limited services being offered by our veterinary partners, our volunteers kept busy in 2020 providing spay and neuter vouchers to community members in need. Last year, we provid-

ed vouchers for 73 dogs and cats to be spayed/neutered.

Our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) volunteers were also very busy in 2020. They assisted home owners who had feral cat colonies in their neighborhoods that needed to be trapped and neutered. A total of 129 cats were spayed/

neutered as a result of this program!

If you have a feral cat colony and need assistance to humanely trap, neuter and return these cats, please contact our office. We are also seeking volunteers for this program and provide training.

From Forest To Forever Home, Deimos' Lucky Tale



Deimos before (left) and enjoying his furever home now (right)



Meet Deimos! He showed up on my rural property on the Key Peninsula, skinny and with a bloody, injured leg. I have two other cats I rescued from my forest as kittens and they are 5 years old so I was concerned about this little guy. I called all the shelters, put up flyers and tried to find out if he had a home. I wasn't sure if he was truly feral.

He would not let me get within 6 ft of him so I put some food and water in my woodshed along with a kitty bed so that he could get nourished and build his immune system. He ate the food, but would disappear for a couple of days and then return. I was loaned a trap by a dear friend who is involved with the TNR, (trap-neuter-release)

program and after 5 weeks of feeding him in the trap, I caught him in August and had him neutered and immunized, the works. I let him rehab in my husband's office for two days after the surgery and when I came in to release him, I ventured a little pet on his head while he was chilling on the window sill. He did not shy away! In fact, he leaned into to me and when I opened the sliding glass door to set him free, he would not leave my side. In fact, he followed me wherever I went. I opened the door to our main house and allowed him in and he went to the cat tower and snuggled in. From that day forward, he has totally integrated into our family. What is more, he is the lap cat I have always wanted!

Deimos is adorable, kind, loving,

intelligent and comes when he is called and has been delightful. I found out he is 4 years old, one year younger than my other two cats. My male cat has no problem with him, but my female is still "working" on her relationship with him but we make progress every day. Long story short, he was not truly feral but lost his way like so many cats on their own. I feel blessed to have made a forever home to this loving kitty and encourage people to open their hearts and their homes to these babies that need loving forever homes! He weighed 11 lbs when we got him, and now he is a solid 14 lbs of pure love!!!

Colleen Masbruch
Bent Bine Brew Co.

"You can't buy love, but you can rescue it."

~Anonymous

Fugs' Facts: Save With Free Prescription Apps

We've all seen the tv ad where people are having to make the tough decision of whether or not they can afford their prescriptions, and either a helpful pharmacist or Charlie Sheen comes out and suggests discount prescription apps like GoodRx or SingleCare. As our pets age, I'm sure many are like me where the number of prescriptions for our beloved pets increase and start to add up. But did you know you can use these free discount

apps for your pets' medication too? Recently one of my older siblings had to be put on Ursodiol for elevating liver enzymes. This is not a typical dog medication and not available from our vet's pharmacy. The cost... a whopping \$440 for a 2 month supply! But thankfully the tech told us about GoodRx and found the prescription at QFC for less than \$35, that is quite a difference and savings! So next time you have to make that tough decision,

download the free GoodRx, SingleCare or other discount prescription app and see what your savings can be!



ADOPT
IF YOU CAN'T ADOPT
FOSTER
IF YOU CAN'T FOSTER
SPONSOR
IF YOU CAN'T SPONSOR
VOLUNTEER
IF YOU CAN'T VOLUNTEER
DONATE
IF YOU CAN'T DONATE
EDUCATE
@REGISTEREDPETS.COM

“Second hand animals make first class pets”
~ Anonymous

If Your Pet Could Talk

Have you ever taken in a stray and wondered what that animal may have experienced in its past? Some of the present situations being dealt with by the Humane Society of Mason County could shed light on the history shared by many strays. “Our organization is young and growing, but we are trying to keep up with our current community programs too”, says one board member of HSMC. “This year has brought about many challenges for fund raising.” “The year 2020 has also been unique in that we have begun spending large amounts of our savings on that much needed animal shelter that has been our goal for years.” HSMC broke ground last year, cleared the property and installed fencing on the property which is located near the North Mason High School. The cost of building the actual shelter will be hundreds of thousands more.

They are committed to helping the community in various ways with their long running successful programs such as spay/neuter. They are also finding other programs need to continue and are becoming more urgent. For example, their TNR (trap-neuter-return) program has gone through some recent changes, but has gained momentum with the addition of new volunteers and extra help. Calls into the office prove there is consistent need for control of increasing cat populations. “We find ourselves dealing with people living beside animal colonies rife with uncontrolled breeding, causing poor health for both animal and human alike.”

Your beloved pet could have been exposed to a number of these situations and possibly survived because human intervention was not too late. Sadly, all too often communities are left to fend for themselves when no formal contracts with

law enforcement or animal control appear to be the normal.

We can have hope for these people and the animals they care for in the future. Just being aware of the need is one, but also by taking action; joining your local animal shelter as a supporter with your time and/or money.

The Humane Society of Mason County is in transition, “We want to help our community” says one member, but it is easy to get overwhelmed between building this shelter and keeping up with community programs. “We can always use more help and support.”

To learn more go to <https://hsmcwa.org>.

Sally Cull
HSMC Board member

Strut Your Mutt & Muttley Brewfest

As a Best Friends Network Partner, HSMC had the opportunity to participate in their Strut Your Mutt fundraiser and Celebration Day on October 24th. Normally Strut Your Mutt would be an in person pet walk, but due to COVID-19, the walk and fundraising was done virtually with a virtual Celebration Day held around the

country for those nonprofits who participated. We were very fortunate that our friends and supporters at Bent Bine Brew in Belfair hosted our Celebration Day, allowing for a safe and socially distanced event for virtual walkers and their dogs.

In addition to our virtual Strut Your Mutt team lead by our Team Captain and Board Treasurer Lynda Haskell, we were also able to raise funds at Bent Bine through raffle prizes

and \$1 donation from pint sales.

We had a goal of raising \$5,000 for our spay and neuter fund and exceeded our goal thanks to the many generous donors to our team and Celebration Day event!

We hope that 2021 will allow for an in person Strut Your Mutt and more Muttley Brewfest events. Follow us on Facebook or stop by our website's event page for updates.

Team Captain Lynda with her BFF Dewey





Humane Society of Mason County

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Website: www.hsmcwa.org

Keep up to date with HSMC:

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

**Providing a second chance for our
animal companions**

Our mission statement:

The Humane Society of Mason County is a non-profit organization providing assistance and care to displaced or abused animals including control of pet and feral population. Additionally, the organization is working to provide an animal shelter for unwanted companion animals.

We are an all-volunteer organization, so get involved today! Volunteer or become a supporter.

You can support us year round by shopping at AmazonSmile (www.smile.Amazon.com), Fred Meyer (www.fredmeyer.com) or take a ResQWalk with us (bestfriends.org/resqwalk)

Volunteer Spotlight ~ Katherine Johnson

Katherine joined our organization in early 2020 and immediately went to work. She hit the ground running with taking on the responsibility of our trap-neuter-return (TNR) program. Katherine has plenty of experience with TNR, and she managed the efforts of getting 115 feral cats spayed or neutered in 2020. In one feral cat colony there were 72 cats that she coordinated the trapping, neutering, and returning of them. Due to the size of this colony this took several volunteers and several organizations to complete this task. Now these cats will no longer continue to reproduce and will live the rest of their lives in a much healthier environment.

Katherine has been volunteering for various animal organizations since 2007 and has a lot of knowledge and experience that has proven to be extremely valuable.



Katherine watches as trapped cats are released

(photo from Shelton-Mason County Journal, by Gordon Weeks)

In December Katherine became our newest member of our Board of Directors. She is extremely passionate about the animals and she is working hard to assist us in our efforts of constructing our own shelter. Katherine's motto – "Until they all have homes".

Tina Nutt
HSMC President