



# Waggin' Tails

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## President's Message

**D**espite the challenges of 2021 I am very happy to say that HSMC was able to give back to our community in more ways than we ever have before.

With our new transport van our wonderful volunteers have been busy transporting pets and feral cats to and from spay and neuter appointments.

We began holding low cost microchip clinics in various locations throughout Mason County. For just \$20 a pet owner was able to get their dog or cat microchipped at the clinic. Having your pet microchipped ups the chances by 50% of them being returned to their owner in the event the pet becomes lost.

Our foster program has been very successful thanks to the loving and caring volunteers that take these pets into their homes to raise, socialize, and care for them until they are old enough to be adopted. Another component of our foster program that has been extremely beneficial is that we have partnered with the Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW) located in Belfair. With our partnership HSMC provides food, litter, and medical care for cats who are then paired with trained cat handlers within

the facility. This is definitely a win/win partnership for HSMC and the women of Mission Creek.

Our goal to begin a MASH (Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital) Clinic will soon become a reality and will be coming to a location near you within Mason County. At the end of 2021 we asked for your help as we need about \$20,000 in equipment and supplies to get the MASH Clinic started. Thanks to several donors we raised the \$20,000 we needed. In particular, we want to thank Fat Cat Fish (<https://fatcatfish.com>), a small, family-owned pet food company located in Bellingham, Washington, for donating \$10,000! We are so excited that we will be able to provide low cost spay

and neuter and other services to pet owners in Mason County.

Last but certainly not least I want to thank our amazing volunteers. Without them we would not be able to provide the services and programs to our community and would not be making the great progress towards our shelter building project. First a big shout out to our Board of Directors, Scott Gordon (Vice President), Lynda Haskell, (Treasurer), Katherine Johnson (Secretary), Sally Cull (Office Manager), and Cathy Kravitz who donate a lot of their time running our organization. I also want to recognize some of our most active volunteers: Mary Z, Marcia, Mary P, and Kathy who are our office volunteers; Sam S. who helps with event planning and social media; Sam F. who is a great foster mom and volunteers at many of our events; Linda F. who is our adoption coordinator; Susan and Tim who drives our transport van, and Tina W. who helps with the Microchip Clinics. 



Ellie is loving her new cat tree.

If you are interested in volunteering please visit our website at [www.hsmcwa.org](http://www.hsmcwa.org) and complete a volunteer application.

### Inside this Issue

- SCRUBBING BELLIES
- PROGRAM UPDATES
- SHELTER UPDATE

### Upcoming Events

**Sails 'n Tails Dinner Auction 2022**  
Saturday, May 14, 2022

**Putting Fore Pets Charity Golf Tournament!**  
Saturday, August 13, 2022

# Scrubbing Bellies by Sally Cull, Office Coordinator



It has been decades since I learned and practiced the skills of a veterinary technician. I learned those skills at a two year college in Blackwood New Jersey in 1976. After graduation I stepped right into a job with people I knew and trusted at a brand new state of the art veterinary hospital. My own vet and his head technician had advised me how to pursue my quest for that career in late 1973. As I studied at school I also had some hands on experience volunteering at their practice. Also, my vet and several others were working on a project that would allow them to expand their services in central New Jersey. The project was a large Central Hospital where the partners in this

venture could do their surgeries and even bring in specialists and train interns 24/7. Those veterinary partners wanted an environment that would benefit many. In those early days something like an EKG sent by telephone to a large hospital in New York City was not just cutting-edge technology, it went a long way to help

diagnose and treat heart patients and help them live longer and healthier lives. As the Central Hospital grew and thrived so did I. I worked there for over a decade (mostly in the clinical laboratory).

As I saw **then** the excitement of being part of a veterinary team, so I see **now** a similar opportunity as a volunteer with the Humane Society of Mason County. We volunteers hope to see in this coming year another chance to be part of a very important community service. I am talking about the Humane Society of Mason County's new venture to have a MASH unit available in our community. This MASH (Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital) program

will offer spay and neuter services at low cost (as HSMC already provides) while **expanding the area into which these services can reach** and thus providing the service to even more animals. Mason County has had a need for pet population control for a long time. Our organization has seen all too often the result of unwanted pets. A fund drive for this program is currently underway as is the organization of logistics for such an endeavor. Won't you please take a moment to check over our information about this program and see if you can help? I know we volunteers are looking forward to bringing this idea to fruition. **If you would like to help us in any of our programs please fill out the volunteer application form on our website [www.hsmcwa.org](http://www.hsmcwa.org).**

I am not sure what my role will be in this new team as I have aged considerably since my graduation from college, but no matter what the role I will be happy to take part. I was thinking about dusting off some of my old skills and offering to prepare sedated patients for their surgical procedures. It is what I fondly refer to as "scrubbing bellies". 

## Volunteer Spotlight

Linda F. reached out to HSMC to fulfill a need as an adoption coordinator. Linda lives over 30 minutes south of Mason County but volunteers everyday answering adoption applications, performing over the phone interviews, and answering an endless flow of emails. Linda has been a wonderful addition to HSMC's adoption program working closely with foster homes and adopters to make sure all adoptions are successful and everyone is set up for success!



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Public Relations and Marketing

Social media, website updates, flyers, outreach, press releases, helping HSMC grow more recognition in the community.

### Auction Dinner

Help planning event, procuring donations, day of event, set up, organizing.

### MASH Clinic

Looking for volunteers to help with checking clients in, surgery prep, recovery, cleaning kennels and equipment, and setup and takedown.

### TNR

Volunteers to help trap outdoor cats, transport to and from surgery, and provide pre and post op recovery.

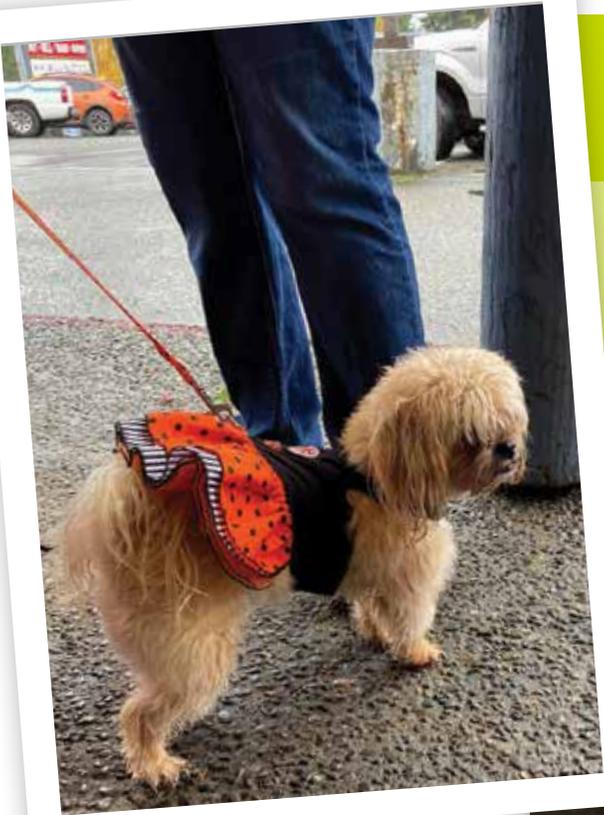
### Office

Answering phone and emails helping educate the public about HSMC programs, where and how to receive assistance, and general questions.



The Humane Society of Mason County is proud to partner with Best Friends Network and the fundraising event Strut Your Mutt.

This online event in 2021 was a virtual pet walk and celebration day at Casey's Bar & Grill with a raffle and Halloween pet costume contest. A Microchip Clinic was also included with a set up for owners to bring their pets and promote our Lost & Found program. Those funds went to help support our Foster Cat Program and partnership with the Mission Creek Correction's Center for Women in Belfair. Without this partnership we would not have been able to adopt over 115 cats to loving forever homes. This foster program is a win-win for all involved and we are proud of the people who dedicate and support Mission Creek and their volunteers to make this a successful lifesaving mission.



We raised over \$3,065 and every dollar went to supply food, litter and veterinary care. That money, and future funds, will save lives of these wonderful furry friends and help find them forever homes.



**THANK YOU!**

We also want to thank Casey's Bar & Grill for participating with great food and beverages in this opportunity to Let The Dogs Out while boosting our mission to Save the Cats. Sincerely, Lynda Haskell

## Spay and Neuter Program Update

Humane Society of Mason County volunteers have done amazing work in 2021. Scheduling, transporting and offering financial assistance for spay and neuter for over 400 pets. We were grateful for each cat we were able to reach out to and assist, that is why we are making big changes for 2022! MASH clinics, Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospitals, used all over the world to bring services right where they are needed most. Starting in February 2022, these clinics will be offered weekly throughout the county. Clinics will be two days long, offering spay and neuter surgeries, vaccines, microchips, and wellness exams for both dogs and cats. Scheduling appointments will be easily done online on our website.

## Trap Neuter Return Program

Humane Society of Mason County MASH clinic's, will offer free spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines and medical treatments to community cats.

Additional fundraising, community support, and dedicated volunteers is how we are able to make this program possible. Caretakers of outdoor cats can go [hsmcwa.org](http://hsmcwa.org) and fill out a community cat colony questionnaire. One of our experienced volunteers will call them and schedule a site check and organize trapping.



## Foster Program Update

A wonderful foster partnership was created in 2021 with Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW) in Belfair. Cats and kittens live alongside their handlers receiving love and attention around the clock. This wonderful partnership has opened up our foster program to housing twice the amount of cats and kittens. Our dog foster program still has lots of room to grow as we work towards offering emergency foster homes for Mason County stray dogs. If you can open your home to foster a dog please email [foster@hsmcwa.org](mailto:foster@hsmcwa.org). All pets in our foster program are available for adoption after they are spayed or neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and receive a health exam by our veterinarian.

**To learn more about available pets for adoption through HSMC check out our website and fill out an application today!**

## Rescue Story

A local elderly Shelton woman was experiencing difficulties with her health and was forced to move out of her home. She had 12 indoor only very shy adult cats. HSMC stepped in and collected all of them hiding inside her home. During their initial veterinary exam, it was discovered they had all been suffering for quite some time from a very severe flea infestation, causing wounds over their entire bodies and anemia. All were medically treated, including a dental procedure on a cat named Bonnie where 14 of her teeth had to be removed. HSMC immediately placed them in our foster program at MCCCW. There the cats received daily socialization and professional bathing from a local mobile groomer. Cats were placed up for adoption and all found loving homes in pairs.

# Putting Fore Pets Golf Tournament

We held our first **Putting Fore Pets** charity golf tournament on August 13, 2021 at Lakeland Village Golf Course in Allyn. Thanks to our sponsors, golfers, hole sponsors, donors and volunteers we raised \$6,700!

Golfers participated in a 4-person scramble. Cash prizes were awarded to the winners. We also had a putting and chipping contest. Did we mention the chipping contest had to do with chipping into a litter box? There were some pretty fierce competitions!



**Winning Team**

There were plenty of raffle items along with a 50/50 raffle where the winner took home \$130.

### Thank you to our event sponsors:

Local Wrench  
The Shopper  
The Shelton-Mason County Journal

### We also wish to thank our hole sponsors:

Hood Canal Communications  
Kris Rose LMT  
Gordon Development  
Will Street  
Jenny Paulson  
Thurston Wolfe Winery  
Carleen Coker  
Arnold's Home Furnishings  
Allan & Cathy Kravitz  
Windermere Peninsula Properties- Allyn & Belfair  
Al & Jan McKiernan (Maui)



**Putting Contest**



**Pre-Tournament**



**50-50 Raffle Winner**



## Mark your calendars!

**Saturday, August 13, 2022**  
for our next **Putting Fore Pets** charity golf tournament.

## Sails 'n Tails Dinner Auction 2022

For 2020 and 2021 our fundraising events were few and far between due to COVID. We are crossing our fingers in hopes that this will change in 2022. Fundraisers and donations provide 90% of the funds needed to support our programs plus keeps us moving forward with our shelter building project, the other 10% comes from microchip clinics and adoptions fees. It has been two years since we have held our annual Sails 'n Tails dinner auction which is our biggest fundraiser event of the year. We are currently planning our Sails 'n Tails Dinner Auction for this year. The auction will be held on Saturday, May 14th at the Alderbrook Golf and Yacht Club restaurant in Union. We are seeking donated items and sponsors for our auction so if you are interested in donating or being a sponsor contact our office at 360-275-9310 or email us at [auction@hsmcwa.org](mailto:auction@hsmcwa.org).

**We are really looking forward to seeing everyone once again at our auction!**



The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound is a facilitator for charitable giving in Thurston, Mason and Lewis counties. For 30+ years, they have helped make local giving more effective across the South Puget Sound. HSMC participated in their 2021 Give Local campaign in November and received \$1,210 in donations from community members plus the foundation provided bonus funds of \$234 for a total contribution to our organization in the amount of \$1,444. We also applied for and received a \$2,900 grant from the Community Foundation. HSMC is so grateful to be chosen as one of 80 local nonprofits who received a total of 341,515 in Community Grants.

**To learn more about the Community Foundation visit their website:**

**[www.thecommunityfoundation.com](http://www.thecommunityfoundation.com)**

# HSMC Update!

by Scott Gordon



**W**e have been making some more progress on building a shelter on the HSMC property behind North Mason High School. Mason County PUD #3 and the North Mason School District have agreed to our plan to extend power to the back of the property to the building site. This will be done using power poles that can later be used for over-head lighting of the driveway and parking areas. This should be accomplished

as soon as we get some trees removed and the PUD can install the power lines.

We contracted with Shelter Planners of America (SPOA) and have some preliminary drawings of an actual building and site plan. This was very exciting for us to finally see a conceptual building plan. This will most likely be done in phases with office space, meeting room, storage, etc. in phase one. Phase two and

maybe phase 3 will be shelter space for cats and dogs, outside dog runs, veterinary service and grooming areas. Plans are still being reviewed to see what makes sense first and what can be done with funds we think we can bring in for the project. We look forward to more progress in 2022 and if you want to donate to the shelter building campaign please do so as every little bit helps. [WV](#)

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