

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Muttley Brewfest 2: Friday, Feb. 9th from 4-8pm at Bent Bine Brew Co.**
- **Save the date! 9th Annual Sails 'n Tails Auction, Saturday, May 12, 2018 at Alderbrook Resort & Spa**

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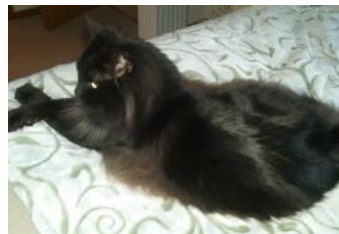
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From The 'Littered' Desk of The President

It's a new year and a new energy has emerged. New people have joined our board of directors and a new staff person is settling in at the office. There is progress on the property and plans underway to complete the utilities this year. The land will be cleared and graded making it possible to hold a larger and better pet fair this summer. New fundraising is being planned with more community connectivity. And that's just for starters.

As you have read, we are going all out with the spay and neuter program and the foster cat program. We were fortunate to receive a local community grant for \$2,500. Now we can put our plans for TNR, trap neuter and

return, into full swing. Every feral cat we "fix" prevents hundreds of homeless cats in the future.



Sammie likes to lend a helping paw with HSMC business

One concern that weighs heavily on all our hearts is the elimination of the only animal control officer in Mason County. "Due

to budget restraints" was the official reason cited for the elimination. What happens now when anyone needs help with an abuse situation, an injury on the road, a noise complaint, or an aggressive animal? Well, we are told to call 911. Seems a shame that it's necessary to tie up an emergency number, but that is the case.

The time is upon each of us now to take responsibility for our own animals and to help our neighbors whenever possible. Working together we can make Mason County a wonderful place to live and raise a family, for both our two legged and our four legged children.

~Lynn Soderlund, HSMC President

Save The Date, Sails 'n Tails 2018!

It's almost time for our 9th annual Sails 'n Tails auction at the beautiful Alderbrook Resort & Spa on the Hood Canal. Be sure to join us Saturday, May 12th for this annual FUNdraiser.

Last year was our best auction yet, and we want to make 2018's even better! All the proceeds from our auction go towards our

Almost Home Shelter building campaign. Our spay and neuter program, Fix A Friend, has a special site at the auction for people interested in donating to this valuable program.

In order for this auction to be a success, we rely on the generosity of our volunteers, supporters and area businesses to provide

great items for our live and silent auctions, and to help us with smooth sailing the night of the event. If you would like to contribute your time, energy and/or items for auction, please contact our office at:
info@humaneocietyofmasoncounty.com
or 360-275-9310.



Five Stars For Our Foster Program



Renfield being watched by his new sister

Little Starbucks (now known as Renfield) and his siblings came to the HSMC Foster Program in really bad shape. All were infested with fleas, but Starbucks was in the worst shape of all—the water from his first bath ran red with blood from his numerous flea bites, he was missing patches of hair and was extremely malnourished.

Our foster program coordinator did not think he would survive, but little Starbucks defied the odds after receiving much needed medical care and

lots of TLC!

A wonderful family saw Starbucks on PetFinder and reached out to HSMC to learn more about him. They had already rescued one kitty, and were ready to welcome another into their home.

It was love at first sight and his new family shared the following post on our Facebook page, giving our program a 5 star review! “We adopted “Starbucks” through this humane society on Saturday, and we couldn't be more in love!

We first saw him on Petfinder, and after some easy communication, we were able to meet him, and bring him home. Even though he had a rough start he's an amazing little kitten who fits right into our little family. His "big sister" our other kitty Raven, absolutely loves him. We spoke to, and picked him up, through Hazel, who was kind, compassionate, and obviously cares so much about these little critters. I'm so impressed with this facility, thank you for everything that you do!”

“Cats are connoisseurs of comfort”
~ James Herriot

Spay & Neuter and Foster Programs

2017 was a busy year for our spay and neuter program with our paying for 163 spays and neuters for a total cost of \$9,298! This is an average of \$59 per pet, and lower than our normal average as this year most were cats.

We still have many female cats, mostly strays, in our county that are having unwanted litters. Our program is supported by donations only,

and thankfully we had enough to cover the surgeries already done in 2017. But we are in desperate need for more funds for this program. We have approximately 40 spay and neuter vouchers outstanding, with more requests coming in every day.

With your support, we can keep this valuable and much needed program going! Tax deductible donations may be

made online or help us ‘Fix A Friend’ at our upcoming auction in May.

2017 was also a busy year for our foster program. This year we adopted 41 cats and kittens to their new forever homes. But we continue to receive more cats and kittens every day. If you would like to add a new furry friend to your family, give us a call, or check out our kitties on Petfinder.

Santa Paws 2017

Our Santa Paws 2017 most ‘liked’ photo winner



We had a lot of fun at Santa Paws in November with many families joining us at our two day event at McLendon’s Hardware in Belfair and Port Orchard.

We also had a ‘likes’ contest on our Face-

book page, with our most liked Santa Paws photo winning a gift card that they can use at Amazon or Amazon Smile (and benefit HSMC while they're online shopping!).

We saw a variety of dogs, cats and even one bearded dragon! Check out the photos on our Facebook page.

And a big THANKS to our friends and sponsors that make this annual event a success including: McLendon’s Hardware, A Shot of Personality, the one and only Santa Paws, our volunteers, and the many people that came out to support our event!

Muttley Brewfest 2 ~ Fur-ever Love Event!



We had so much fun at our first Muttley Brewfest in October, that we're ready to do it again!

Join us Friday, February 9th at Bent Bine Brew Co. in Belfair from 4pm to 8pm for Muttley Brewfest 2, The Fur-ever Love Event!

We will have delicious BBQ pulled pork sliders from Casper's Pizza & BBQ for only \$10. Plus raffles for great prizes.

All proceeds from the meal and raffle sales will go to HSMC's shelter build campaign. And \$1 from each pint sold between 4-8pm will also go to HSMC!

Bring your friends, family, kids and friendly leashed pets to enjoy this fun event. Also be sure to enjoy a pint of Bent Bine's 'Paws Off My Amber Ale'!

We raised over \$1,500 at our first Muttley Brewfest, and hope to raise as much or more again!

For more information, call or email our office, or check out our events on Facebook and our website. Meal tickets may be purchased in advance at Bent Bine, the HSMC office or online at BrownPaperTickets.com

"Some people wanted champagne and caviar when they should have had beer and hot dogs"

~ Dwight D.

Eisenhower

Give Local South Puget Sound

HSMC participated in its first Give Local South Puget Sound campaign through the Community Foundation from November 21st to December 13th. This crowdfunding program helped to highlight non-profit organizations in Mason, Lewis and Thurston Counties.

Our goal was to raise \$7,000 to help fund our much needed TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program for

Mason County.

We fell short of our goal, but through the help and generosity of supporters, we raised over \$3,400!

The funds raised will be used to help purchase humane traps, and cover transport and medical costs as many of the cats and kittens trapped are sick and/or injured. In 2017, this program helped to trap and return 25 cats.

If a cat trapped is unwanted at its original site, HSMC can put them on our Barn Cat waiting list.



Fugs' Facts

To sing, or not to sing? Did you know that 51% of dog owners sing to their furry friend? A survey of 1,500 pet parents by Rover¹, showed that the majority of people like to serenade their canines, and many will even make up their own songs (my mom falls into that category, and it's at those times that I like to request to go outside...!).

The survey also found that 56% of dog owners have celebrated their dog's birthday (and you guessed it, I celebrate my birthday every November).

The Rover survey² also found that 94% of pet parents consider their dog family, over 25% have brought their pet on a date, and 54% would consider ending a relationship if



they thought their dog didn't like their partner. So you better hope he or she is a dog person before that first date! ❤️

¹ Survey featured in the November 2017 Southwest Airlines Magazine

² From Rover.com, *The Truth About Dog People: New Survey and Infographic Tell All*





*“ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen”
~ John Steinbeck*

Bumper Crop, a short story

Late afternoon. The sun light comes in at a slant casting longish shadows across the freshly mown lawn. A distant bark, it must be Otis, the Redbone Coonhound; I'd know that howl anywhere. Not that I would know what breed he is. But he is red and he does howl. Mike, his owner, says he's a Redbone, so it must be true.

Mike and Sam are great friends. They hang over the fence and talk like a couple of cackling hens, so I try to do little eavesdropping. That's how I know Sam is on a cruise to Hong Kong, of all places! I also saw Sam get in a car with a strange man and he hasn't come back. So he must be on a cruise. It's time for me to seize the moment.

My first hurdle is to get over the fence, thankfully I've never used tobacco so that's relatively easy. I'm sure the fence is meant to keep deer out of the vegetable garden, but I've yet to see a deer anywhere nearby. Fences are pointless anyway, in my opinion.

Oh my, would you look at that crop! There's everything you can imagine here. Not just carrots; we're talking red cabbages, onions, kale, broccoli, kohlrabi, sweet peas, brussel sprouts, red tomatoes, green peppers and last but not least turnips, my favorite.

What a pity that I'm a bachelor, unlike my brothers who all have wives and a slew of kids. With all this produce it would be fun to share the wealth. Oh well, that's life. Now the question, how to get it all home. Poor planning on my part, now I'll have to run back and forth carrying this load. Still it's so worth the bother, I'll have food for ages.

This should be the last trip; it's almost too dark to see where I'm going, even though I have excellent eyesight. I'm starting to run down now, think I should call it a night. What's that I hear? Someone is calling me, oh no, they're looking for me. Better get home.

“Peter! Peter, where are you?” Carol was calling repeatedly.

“There he is!” said her brother Bryan. “I'll get him!”

“We've got to secure that hutch better, that's the third time this month he's gotten out.” Carol replied.

~ By Lynn Soderlund, HSMC President

Ask a Vet ~ The facts about winter flea, tick & parasite medicine



Q: Should dogs and cats be on flea, tick and parasite medication year round, or okay to stop in winter?

A: In our area of Washington State, it is not uncommon to see ticks as early as February and into November. It is usually safe to stop for those few months in winter. Ticks (even the pin head-sized version) in the Puget Sound area can carry Ehrlichia and Anaplasmosis, and these are blood infections that can make dogs quite ill.

Dr. Nancy Isbell of Belltowne Veterinary Clinic

Fleas can also be a problem into November. Those who have stopped flea control early (September / October) may find the occasional flea carried into the house becomes a significant allergy issue as the house is sealed for the winter. Remember, it takes 3 months of intensive flea control on all pets and the house to clear these infestations, so year round flea control may become necessary.

The CDC and the Companion Animal Parasite Council, an independent group, do recommend year round parasite control for public health reasons. Pets infected with round worms can pass up to 200,000 eggs a day! Since those

eggs can survive for months in the environment, its obvious control is important.

Know that puppies are very likely to shed round worms even if their initial stool sample does not reveal any (due to life stages cycling internally in the dog). That's why we recommend several stool samples be evaluated during puppy hood, and repeated de-worming between 2 and 16 weeks of age. Adults tend to have fewer worms than puppies due to their immune system, but they too can carry and shed eggs without having the diarrhea a puppy might. Your grandchildren are at risk when exposed to pets or the yard. Older relatives or people with a suppressed immune system must also be protected from these potentially zoonotic infections.

“Thoughts, like fleas, jump from man to man, but they don’t bite everybody”

~ Stanislaw Lec

Bridging The Gaps

What can a Mason County resident do if they find a young puppy running loose and in danger? One person we encountered did all the right things, she caught the dog, checked the neighbors for missing pets, put up flyers with a photo attached. She even tried to house the pup for a week. But, what if a week goes by; this person has family with special needs including her own dog who is becoming less than friendly to the unwelcome guest?

If they live close to the Allyn office of the Humane Society of Mason County, the resident may come there for help. One of our volunteers was faced with a dilemma when this woman entered our office carrying a very

young, very vocal pup. Whatever resources we have, however limited, must fill the need presented by a homeless animal. Almost daily, we receive phone calls about lost and found pets. We rely on the kindness of strangers who find animals to have it in their heart to help, giving the time and resources that they can. Our volunteers take on a big responsibility when taking in strays. Often there are medical and/or behavioral issues that must be addressed to adequately foster a stray, even for a short time.

There are many bridges to be crossed in finding help for a homeless animal in our community. A homeless animal needs more than food and shelter. They need security, safety and a patient, guiding hand. Presently, if we have emergency funds, if we have a safe foster home, if we have

funds for local vets to provide some needed medications, and a network of volunteers, we may be able to bridge some of the gaps. Additionally, there must be room at our sister-shelter Adopt a Pet to create the support structure needed.

~ Sally Cull, HSMC Board Member



Some of our homeless pets, 'Brewzer' and 'Raggs'





Humane Society of Mason County

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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)

Edie's Story

Edie was believed to be about 7 years old when her family moved away and left her sitting on their driveway.

During her time on her own, Edie sustained a terrible laceration on her tongue, splitting her tongue in half, and leaving her unable to groom herself or eat.

When one of our volunteers retrieved Edie from a neighbor who had tried to care for her, Edie was filthy, hungry and in pain.

Edie was taken to a vet who guessed that this sweet girl was closer to 10 years old. In addition to her tongue laceration that needed treatment, Edie was found to also need a complete dental due to her neglected teeth, and had other health concerns, including thyroid problems.

Edie was an extremely loving girl and

was beginning to recover from her wounds with a kind foster mom who hoped to nurse her back to good health and find her a forever, loving home.

Unfortunately, Edie's health issues went untreated for too long, and the laceration to her tongue didn't help. After a few weeks in our foster



Edie

mom's care, she stopped eating and passed away on New Year's Day.

We don't know why Edie's family left her behind. Perhaps it was her age, or health conditions that caused her family to not take her with them? But what we do know is that if we had a shelter in Mason County, cats like Edie could be taken to a safe place to find a new home, instead of being abandoned and left to fend for themselves, often resulting in unnecessary and early deaths.

Please help us in making the Almost Home Shelter in Belfair a reality so we can make a difference in the lives of all the Edie's out there. Become a member and volunteer with us today.