

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Santa Paws At McLendon's Hardware! Saturday, Nov. 18th in Belfair & Sunday, Nov. 19th in Port Orchard**
- **Save the date! 9th Annual Sails 'n Tails Auction, Saturday, May 12, 2018 at Alderbrook Resort & Spa**
- **Monthly Member Meetings: 1st Saturday of each month at QFC in Belfair**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Foster Cats 2
- Spay & Neuter 2
- Muttley Brewfest 2
- Thanks to you! 3
- TNR & Barn Cats 3
- Fugs' Facts 3
- Volunteers make a difference 4

Shelter Build Update

The Humane Society of Mason County is getting closer to our much needed shelter in Mason County, Almost Home!

Located in Belfair on E North Mason School Road, we are pleased to share that in May 2017, our Group B well was installed on our property by Nicholson Well & Drilling. As it is a county requirement to also have a water satellite management contract in place for public Group B wells, we have also hired NW Water Systems to monitor our water analysis when we are up and running as a full shelter in the future.

All that remains is the approval of the Mason County Health Department which (fingers crossed!) we expect any day.

Next up, septic system! And thanks to the generous donations received during our Sails 'n Tails Auction's Fund a Need in May, we raised enough funds to install



We hosted our Pet Fair in August on our property

our septic system. The septic design was completed in 2015 by Tom Weaver of Allied Design, and we are acquiring bids from contractors to install our septic

system. We are anxiously awaiting the estimates to come in from these Mason County approved contractors and expect to have these estimates by the end of November.

In addition to the septic install, we would also like to have the land cleared of all the stumps and weeds, the temporary power lines installed, and the back boundary lines found and properly identified. We have asked that all three pending contractors bid specifically on these tasks as well as we are moving forward to use our beautiful land for future HSMC events, including another Pet Fair in 2018.

Message from the President

It's been a busy summer and fall at HSMC!

After the successful 8th Annual Sails 'n Tails auction in May, we participated in many firsts this summer, including the Tahuya Days Parade in July, and events hosted by our community friends

at the HUB and Habitat in Belfair. We also helped keep highway 3 into Belfair clean with two Adopt -A-Highway cleanups this summer thanks to our wonderful volunteer litter crew.

HSMC was also invited to speak at community events, such as the

recent Mason County Animal Forum and Allyn Community Club meeting, to educate our county residents on the services and programs we offer.

Please enjoy this issue of Waggin' Tails, and we wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving!



Almost Home Foster Cats & Kittens



Tom, one of our foster kittens who found his fur-ever home

Earlier this year, HSMC began the Almost Home Foster Program for lost, abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens.

This program is run by one of our wonderful board members who volunteers her time (and her home!) to bring cats and kittens of all ages into her home for loving care until they are old enough, and in many cases, healthy enough to go to their forever home. All are also spayed/neutered and given their shots and deworming.

This program is supported by donations and veterinary care costs are covered through our emergency vet fund (also donation supported). And through the generosity and kindness of some local vets, we have been able to help any sick cats and kittens in need at a reduced cost.

Since the program's start, 23 cats and kittens have been adopted! And we have many more looking for their forever home, so please check out our

photo album on Facebook featuring all these adorable and adoptable felines.

Many of our cuddly kitties are also featured on Petfinder, and we have been fortunate to also partner with PetSmart in Lakewood. PetSmart has also kindly donated food to help us keep these feisty felines from going hungry, thank you PetSmart!

If you are ready to add a kitty to your home, please call our office for more information.

"No matter how much cats fight, there always seems to be plenty of kittens."

Abraham Lincoln

Spay & Neuter Program

Since July, the Humane Society of Mason County's Spay and Neuter program has helped to spay/neuter 65 pets in Mason County!

This program provides low, and, in some circumstances, no cost spay and neuter for the pets of Mason County residents who cannot afford this service on their own.

Our program is funded by

donations and fundraising events, such as the annual rummage sale held each August in LakeLand Village and our Fix A Friend at our annual Sails 'n Tails auction in May.

Many of the pets are taken to Northwest Spay & Neuter Center in Tacoma whose monthly van pickups in Port Orchard and Shelton and low cost services proves to be very

convenient.

We also partner with Kitsap Humane Society and Dr. Olsen of Shelton who both accept our vouchers and aid in the spay and neuter of our county's pets.

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.

Muttley Brewfest 2017



On Friday, October 13th, HSMC hosted our first Muttley Brewfest at Bent Bine Brewery in Belfair.

Bent Bine kindly donated \$1 for every pint sold, along with some great beer swag for raffle items; and our

friends at Casper's Pizza & BBQ in Belfair provided a delicious ribs and wings dinner for the event.

Maddy's Old Town Flowers also donated a raffle item and we had a 50/50 prize as well.

The event was a great success and fun for all who attended.

90 meals were sold and 150 pints enjoyed. The event also raised over \$1,500 for HSMC's Shelter Build Fund.

Thank you to all who attended, donated and made it a great evening!

Stay tuned for more Muttley Brewfests in 2018!

Thanks to you!



A big THANK YOU to the generous donations by our friends who are helping us get closer to our shelter, and supporting our spay/neuter, foster and TNR programs. We started off the spring season

with our most successful Sails 'n Tails yet in May, raising over \$50,000!

We also received generous donations at the many events HSMC attended this summer including Tahuya Days, our Pet Fair, the Up-cycled Block Party at Habitat, Ice Cream Social at the HUB and OysterFest.

In September, HSMC was presented with a donation from our friends at the N. Mason Rotary Club for \$2,200 from their Taste of Hood Canal proceeds. And recently,

HSMC received donations from our friends at N. Mason Eagles FOE 4226 for \$500, and Victor Improvement Club for \$200.

We would also like to thank our many local businesses that kindly house our donation jars including Belltowne Vet, Bent Bine Brewery, Casper's Pizza & BBQ, the Clipper, Copy That, Habitat Belfair, Hair Shapers, HD's, Local Wrench, McLendon's, Mitchell Lumber, Pet Town, Redneck Feed, Root Cellar, TLC, Valley Feed, & West Bay Auto. Thank you all!!

“Scratch a dog and you’ll find a permanent job.”

Franklin P.

Jones

TNR & Barn Cat Program

Did you know HSMC has a TNR Program? Trap-neuter-return (TNR) is a program through which free-roaming cats (not belonging to a known family) are humanely trapped, sterilized and medically treated to avoid unwanted litters. They are then returned to the outdoor locations where they were found. If those locations are deemed unsafe or otherwise inap-

propriate, feral cats can also be relocated to farmyard homes, also known as a Barn Cat Program.

HSMC's TNR Program has been responsible for the successful trap and return of 24 cats and kittens since October 2016. We work in partnership with Northwest Spay & Neuter Center in Tacoma to sterilize and treat, if needed.

We have a limited number of traps available to loan if you or someone you know has a feral cat in need of trapping. You can tell if your local feral has already been sterilized if their ear is clipped.

Contact our office Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm if you need assistance to trap a feral cat or would like a Barn Cat to care for and help keep the mice away!

Fugs' Facts

Did you know cats can get pregnant as young as four months old?! A cat's pregnancy lasts about 63-65 days, meaning a cat can have kittens as young as six months old, when she's still a kitten herself!

Female cats can then keep going into heat every two to three weeks from the spring through early fall, so they are more often ready to

reproduce than not! That's why it's so important to get your cat spayed before she has a chance to go in heat.

Talk to HSMC or your local vet for more advice on spaying and neutering your pets to prevent unwanted pregnancies.





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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)

‘Wags’ to Riches ~ Our volunteers make a difference

The HSMC office volunteers receive many calls each day about lost and found pets. Reuniting families with their lost fur babies is one of the many rewarding things they do for our community.

Recently, our Tuesday office volunteer received a call from a local vet after a couple dropped off what appeared to be a well cared for dog that they found on a busy road. The clinic had no place to house the poor pooch and asked HSMC for help.

As we do not have a shelter (yet!), one of our volunteers offered to take the gentle boy home and retrieved him from the clinic.

After getting him comfortable at her home, the volunteer took pictures and posted him on Facebook hoping the post sharing that Facebook pro-

vides could help spread the word and find this dog’s missing family.

It didn’t take long for social media to work its magic, and our volunteer was contacted by a woman later that evening ecstatic that she had found her pooch!

Arrangements were made to unite



Our lost boy hoping his mom finds him soon

this boy who turned out to be 14 years old, blind and deaf. And he had been a part of their family since he was a puppy.

A series of bad luck events had caused the dog to wander away from the usual security of his own backyard, and as mom was searching for her boy, the kind couple spotted him on a busy and dangerous road and took him to safety.

Without the care and compassion of the local clinic, our volunteers and good Samaritans who spotted the dog, this story may have had a bad ending, but thankfully this ‘wags’ to riches story ended happy for everyone! It is also a good reminder to us all to always keep identification on our pets, and if not already, have your pet microchipped.