

UPCOMING
EVENTS

- **All You Can Eat
Pizza & Pawsta at
Casper's Pizza &
BBQ in Belfair,
Wednesday,
October 31st**
- **Santa Paws at
McLendon's in
Belfair, Saturday,
November 17th**
- **10th Annual Sails
'n Tails Auction
at Alderbrook,
Friday, March
22nd**

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Waggin' Tails

VOLUME II, ISSUE IV

OCTOBER 2018



From The Littered Desk Of The President

It is hard to believe that summer is gone and we are now in the midst of fall. Our summer was full of activities to raise funds for our organization plus our foster cat and kitten program and our TNR (trap, neuter, return) program was in full swing as you will hear more about in this newsletter.

As for as our summer here is what we were busy doing:

We participated in the Lakeland Village annual garage on August 4th to raise funds for our Spay and Neuter program.

Our third Muttley Brewfest was August 25th at Bent Bine Brewery. It was a fun event that included raffle items, Bent Bine donating \$1 from each pint of beer sold, and Wild and Woodsy

Catering providing a meal of Chicken Ceaser Wraps and the most amazing Clam Chowder. Proceeds from meals sold were also donated to the Humane Society.



We held a Murder Mystery Dinner September 28th at Little Creek Casino in Shelton. There were over 100 attendees with

several guests dressing in character for our 1930's Hollywood theme who dun it. Guests joined in as suspects with other guests playing detective to determine who was the murderer. It was a fun event!

The Humane Society of Mason County is fully run by volunteers so if you are interested in volunteering please stop by our office, give us a call, or email us to learn in what ways you could help.

Our office, located at 18400 East State Route 3 in Allyn, is open Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Our phone number is 360 -275-9310 and our email is info@humanesocietyofmasoncounty.com.

~ Tina Nutt, HSMC President

Shelter Build Update

Any further developments on our shelter property next to the North Mason High School football field has come to a halt.

It was learned that the preliminary plans for the Belfair Freight Corridor Project (Belfair Bypass Phase II), may run through our property! As if HSMC has not been through enough hoops with this gorgeous piece of property! The good news is that the North Mason School District has offered the electrical connection

to the transformer sitting on the corner of their property; all contingent upon the final plans for the bypass.

HSMC is on hold for any further developments until the final plans have been approved by Mason County and the State of Washington. This slight setback has not dampened our spirits though as HSMC is actively researching architects with shelter experience to begin the design phase of our building. These plans may be

used wherever we finally end up building our much needed animal shelter.

HSMC will continue to provide property updates through our newsletters as events are finalized.

~ Brenda Gardner, HSMC Board Member



Program Updates



Ingrid enjoying a cat nap while she waits for her forever home

It has been a busy past three months at HSMC with our Spay and Neuter, TNR and Foster programs.

Since July, our volunteers have helped to trap and spay/neuter 32 cats in our county, which is doing a lot to help control the unwanted pet population in Mason county.

We have also been busy helping to spay and neuter family pets for those without the income to do themselves. Our program has raised funds and supported the cost of 22 dogs

and cats to be spayed and neutered from July through September.

And lastly, we have had a lot of success with our Almost Home Foster Program for cats and kittens. Over the last three months, we have helped to find furever homes for 43 cats and kittens! If you are looking for a new fur baby, please check out our Facebook page for updates and also Pet-Finder.com We have a litter of kittens that will be seeking new homes in late December.

All will be spayed/neutered, given shots and de-wormed.

But all of these programs would not be possible if not for our volunteers and generous donations. If you would like to help us with any of these programs, please contact us or visit our website to learn more about becoming a volunteer.

~ Hazel Bellinger, HSMC Secretary & Feline Programs Director

Callie, A Kitten's Story

She was tired of being hungry, her eye really hurt, it was difficult to breathe and she had no energy to find a safe place to sleep. She had had enough. She wasn't going to take it anymore!

She marched up to the sliding glass door at the Lakewood PetSmart at 9 o'clock on Labor Day and just waited for someone to notice her. And they did! With a startled cry, the Manager opened the door and scooped her up, and suddenly a whole group of people were standing around oohing and ahing and trying to get a better look. "Is she blind in that eye or can the vet save it?" "Is she still breathing?" "Oh my, just look at that skinny little body". "Does she have fleas?" "Won't we make her sick if we try to feed her?"

Callie, as she was to be called, was rushed off to the Banfield Clinic inside the store. She was given fluids, a small amount of wet food, and some antibiotics for her upper respiratory infection. The shrunken eye was diagnosed as either possible conjunctivitis that had not been treated or a wound from an unknown animal that would probably cause her to lose the eye. She snuggled happily down on a warm bed and let everyone take turns petting her. In the meantime, the store manager called their adoption partners and asked if anyone was willing to take a badly malnourished, sick kitten. She came to stay in a foster home with the Humane Society of Mason County later that day.

She was medicated regularly for the first two weeks, but the eye was believed to be too far gone to save. But after visiting our vet this month to

see if the eye needs to be removed or if she will be able to keep it, our vet thankfully said Callie's eye has been saved! It was originally very nasty looking; now it's hardly noticeable. She has gained weight and is working on being unafraid. She is a beautiful long haired dilute Calico kitten, probably about 3 months old.

We've had a rash of upper respiratory infections and conjunctivitis in our foster homes since July, and our previously healthy foster fund has been depleted to pay for medications and vet visits. We need to obtain additional funds to continue to take care of her eye. If you would like to donate to our Foster Program and help kittens like Callie, we would appreciate any amount you can give.

~ Hazel Bellinger, HSMC Secretary & Feline Programs Director

"That's an hour I'll never get back."

Said No Volunteer Ever

Our Mama with her kittens ready for homes in December



Ask A Vet ~ Vaccination Titrers



Dr. Nancy Isbell of Belltowne Veterinary Clinic

Our pets are exposed daily to viruses and infections that can cause illness and death. These pathogens are not likely to ever be eradicated, so protection, using the immune system, is critical for our pet's well-being.

Protection attained from vaccines will vary with the age the vaccine is given, what type of vaccine it is and how it is made. After the initial series required to reach adequate blood levels, vaccines may last years or only 12-15 months.

Titrers are blood samples drawn from a vein that are submitted to an independent lab for analysis (usually Kansas State Diagnostic Lab). Titrers tell us where your

pet's immunity is to a specific pathogen at that moment in time. Studies have determined how much measurable antibodies are needed to consider your pet protected should he/she be exposed to that infection.

Titrers do NOT have an expiration date. We cannot know for sure how long the blood level will stay in the protective range. Kansas State Lab recommends repeating the titers yearly to be able to tell when the blood level begins to fall below protective and your pet needs a booster. Conversations with your veterinarian can be helpful to determine how often a titer test might be recommended for your pet.

Although there are Rabies vaccine titers, there is no legal basis for using a titer in place of a vaccine. The only legal proof of protection against rabies is a Doctor signed certificate with a serial number,

vaccination date and expiration date. There is evidence that a rabies may last years and in some scenarios, a rabies titer has been accepted by Public Health as adequate show of protection.

Adult booster vaccinations against core viruses, like distemper or parvo, may last 3-7 years. Studies show that 85% of adult pets are usually protected for 3 years.

Vaccines made against infections that not viral (like leptospirosis or Bordetella) are weak with a short duration of immunity. Titrers are not available and protection wears off in months. Guarantees of protection from vaccine companies will not be made after the vaccine protection period has lapsed.

Safety of substituting a titer for a vaccine should be made in conversation with your veterinarian based on risk, exposure levels, public health concerns and concurrent health issues.

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself"
Josh Billings

Fugs' Facts ~ I scream, you scream for ice cream?

You scream, we scream, but do dogs scream for ice cream? It's cute (and Instagrammable) to see a pair of puppy paws wrapped around a rainbow-sprinkled ice cream cone, but is ice cream safe for dogs?

Ice cream, of course, contains milk. And just like humans, some dogs (not all) are lactose-intolerant. If you feed milk to a lactose-intolerant dog, he may experience diarrhea, painful gas, or vomiting. Of course, ice cream is a treat, not a diet staple, so start by giving your dog no more than a spoonful, and

wait for a day to see if he has any negative response to the frozen dessert. As long as he does not, he should be able to enjoy a prudent amount as an occasional treat.

Milk isn't the only issue when it comes to feeding your pup ice cream. Sugar is another primary concern, especially as sugar is sometimes accompanied by xylitol, an artificial sweetener that can be lethal to dogs. Xylitol is a sugar substitute often found in chewing gum, mints, certain brands of peanut butter, toothpastes, and sugar-

free pudding, yogurt, and Jell-O; it can also turn up in ice cream, so be sure to read the ingredients list.

~ From *Whole Dog Journal*, *Whole Dog Daily Tip*, Email 8/11/2018.



5 Dangerous Halloween Candies



"As long as we work together — with both urgency and determination — there are no limits to what we can achieve."

Paul Allen

Halloween is associated with spooky haunted houses, costume parties and most of all, Halloween candy! Certain types of candy can be toxic and very dangerous to pets. Below are five dangerous Halloween candies for dogs and cats.

1. Candy Corn & Other High Sugar Candy

Candies that are made with pure sugar can cause severe gas and diarrhea. The sugar not only provides a great source of food for gut bacteria to indulge on, it can also pull water into the colon and cause a bad case of diarrhea.

2. Chocolate Covered Raisins

These tasty treats combine two potentially deadly ingredients in dogs and cats. Chocolate is toxic to pets and can cause severe vomiting, diarrhea and seizures. Raisins (and other grape products) can cause severe kidney failure. The two of these combined is

the ultimate toxic nightmare for pets. If your pet eats any chocolate covered raisins this Halloween, he needs to be taken to your veterinarian immediately for treatment.

3. Candy With Wrappers

When dogs get into the candy bowl, they don't usually bother to unwrap the treats first. Plastic and foil wrappers pose a health risk since they can cause an obstruction in the intestines and irritate the lining of the GI tract. Sometimes, pets can pass the wrappers without a problem, but it is best to keep all wrapped treats away from pets just in case.

4. Bite-size Hard Candy

Hard candy often has a delicious taste to dogs. These treats pose a major choking hazard for pets. Hard candy becomes slippery when mixed with saliva, and it can easily be inhaled into the trachea (wind pipe) which can cause choking. Be sure to keep these candies away from dogs and cats.

5. Sugar-Free Gum

This type of gum may contain Xylitol, a sugar-substitute. Xylitol is perfectly safe in people, but it can be deadly if ingested by a dog or cat. Xylitol causes a very severe drop in blood sugar that can happen within minutes after ingestion. Pets may become lethargic, unable to walk and start having seizures. If they survive the initial symptoms, they often will have severe liver damage and potentially fatal liver failure. This is the most dangerous type of Halloween candy for pets.

Keep your pet safe this Halloween by keeping all of your Halloween treats in a safe, secure place.

By Dr. Eva Evans, from <https://www.petsbest.com/blog/5-dangerous-halloween-candies/>

Coming Soon ~ Paw Perks

Juno can't wait for her paw perks!



Membership has its privileges, and soon that will be true of your Humane Society of Mason County membership!

We are working with our local business partners to bring some perks to our members through a new program, Paw Perks.

When showing your membership card at participating

businesses, you may receive discounts on food or merchandise.

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for updates on this great new program and when it is ready to be launched to our members (new and old).

Annual memberships to HSMC start at just \$20 and as a non-

profit organization, it may be tax deductible. All proceeds from our memberships help to support our many programs including our Foster program and Shelter build campaign.

And if you are a local business and would like to participate in this program for our members, please contact our office today.



Humane Society of Mason County

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

**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)

Mario ~ Everyone Loves Chocolate

The call came into the HSMC office at 10 in the morning,

“Will you take a 5 week old puppy we don’t want?”

“Of course not, we don’t have an animal shelter. Have you tried Adopt A Pet? Have you tried Kitsap Humane?”

“Adopt A Pet has a waiting list, and Kitsap Humane said we aren’t in Kitsap County. I can’t keep it, I thought it was so cute when I first saw it, but I have a two month old baby and my husband stepped in dog pee this morning and told me it had to be gone before he came home tonight.”

Deep breath. “I’ll call you right back”. I called Adopt A Pet (AAP) to see if they had room for a small puppy, sight unseen, sex unknown.

“Of course, but there’s a three week waiting list to get in”. (They are our only dog shelter in Mason County, all volun-

teer, and funded by charitable donations.)

“Promise me you’ll take him in three weeks and I will foster him until then.”

“Done.”

I called the woman back and made arrangements for her father to drop the puppy off at the HSMC office. MARIO arrived about an hour before quitting time, a small chocolate brown bundle of energy, with puppy breath and an affinity for hugs. Lucky me!

He is probably the smartest chocolate lab puppy in Washington, but he is afraid of sudden noises, such as a broom falling over on a hardwood floor, motorcycles out on the street and gunshots from the neighbors. Before he went to AAP, I also discovered he is afraid of giant commercial airliners when they go over his yard! Maybe he’ll never be a hunting dog. He loved the kittens at the foster home, loved to be held and had discovered his favorite thing was falling asleep in the rocking chair with “Granny”. He

played with the big dogs and walked on a leash at eight weeks.

Mario thoroughly captivated the volunteers at the Adopt A Pet office when he was dropped off. I didn’t think he would be there long due to his sweet nature, but was happy to know he would have his own room with his own bed and an outdoor area that he can enter and exit by himself.

And no surprise, after only a short time at AAP, Mario has found his new forever home!

Thank you AAP for partnering with HSMC to save this puppy’s life!

~ Hazel Bellinger, HSMC Secretary & Feline Programs Director

