

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sails 'n Tails  
Auction at  
Alderbrook  
Golf & Yacht  
Club, Saturday,  
April 18, 2020**

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## From The Littered Desk of the President

Our mission statement is:

*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 cat population. Additionally, the organization is working to provide an animal shelter for unwanted companion animals.*

In 2019 we kept busy standing behind our mission statement. Our Spay and Neuter program provided financial assistance to almost 100 people in our community in getting their dog or cat fixed. Our trap-neuter-return (TNR) program assisted in getting over 80 cats and kittens spayed or neutered in an effort to keep feral cat populations in Mason County under control. We also assisted people in our community by providing food to help feed feral cats colonies.

Our foster cat and kitten program saw over 100 cats get adopted. We can't thank our Foster Cat program coordinator Hazel and our foster families enough as they volunteered their time and took these cats into their homes to provide a safe and

healthy environment for raising them until they were ready to go to their forever homes.

We rely on business sponsors, private donations, and several



**Milo helps our busy President when it's laundry time**

events throughout the year to get the much-needed funds to support our programs. I would like to acknowledge the following businesses who either sponsored events and/or held fundraising events in 2019:

- Local Wrench
- Edward Jones, Shawna Stice
- Windermere Realty
- Belltowne Vet Center
- Bent Bine Brewery
- Tempting Eats & Treats

- Casey's Bar & Grill
- Casper's Pizza
- Haigh Veterinary Hospital
- Gilmore Auto
- RNJ Smoked Meats

I just want to say thank you to all of you who supported us in 2019 by attending our fundraising events and/or provided monetary donations. We couldn't continue to provide these programs without you, our supporters.

We look forward to another great year, including the launch of our new and improved website coming soon!

### Thank you Lynn

In October, Lynn Soderlund resigned from her position as a Board of Director. The Board of the Humane Society of Mason County would like to acknowledge and thank Lynn who for 10+ years had volunteered and served on the Board of Directors.

~ Tina Nutt  
HSMC President

## Almost Home, Shelter Build Update

HSMC is making progress on our 5 acre parcel in North Mason but not without some SURPRISES!!

DR Land Surveyors finished marking all of our boundaries on our parcel and our next step was to gather estimates for excavation to remove tree

stumps, scotch broom and other brush. But that is when we learned before any clearing can be done we may need an engineer to provide a storm water and erosion plan. This has temporarily held us up in awarding an excavation contract.

We are determined to get this parcel ready for events, but have learned that it takes a little patience and diligence. We will continue to provide updates on our website and Facebook pages, stay tuned!

~ Brenda Gardner  
HSMC Board Member



# Save The Date! Sails 'n Tails 2020



One of the yummy desserts featured at the 2019 auction

Save The Date Cards will be in the mail January to announce to all of our supporters that we have changed our venue from the Alderbrook Resort & Spa to the Alderbrook Golf & Yacht Club up the hill at 300 E. Country Club Dr. East in Union.

HSMC loved sponsoring Sails 'n Tails at the Alderbrook Resort as they treated us royally, but the event became too expensive for us as an animal

fundraiser event.

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday April 18th, 2020** at the beautiful Alderbrook Golf & Yacht Club in Union.

Several communications will be forthcoming in the new year about our auction, its venue, live auction items, and fun times to support our shelter and mission programs.

You don't want to miss this

always fun event as we will be sure to have more amazing items for auction, like once in a lifetime trips and unique and wonderful must have items.

Our auction benefits our Shelter Build Campaign. If you would like to volunteer, sponsor or donate items for our auction, please contact me today at 360-275-3419.

~ Brenda Gardner  
HSMC Board Member

# Microchips ~ Reunions Made Easier

*"It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up."*

Vince Lombardi

Microchipping your pet is a safe and effective way to be reunited with your lost fur baby should they become lost.

If your animals are not microchipped and you want your animals back if they become lost or injured on the highways, please do so.

In addition, if your animals are

microchipped and you have changed residence and/or phone numbers, please update your profile with your particular microchip company.

HSMC recently had a situation that delayed a dog's return to her current owner primarily due to the fact that she was not the recorded owner in the

microchip system.

Microchips are available from area veterinary clinics. Call one today to schedule an appointment and help your pet find his or her way home quicker.

~ Brenda Gardner  
HSMC Board Member

# Santa Paws Came To McLendon's

Santa Paws with one of his furry friends



HSMC held it's annual photos with Santa Paws in November 2019. We went digital again, allowing pet owners to take their pictures with them to create their own holiday memories in cards, ornaments and so much more.

Santa posed for over 60 photos, and our event raised \$1,222.18 for our TNR program.

A big THANKS to our friends at Scott McLendon's Hardware in Belfair for providing us with a great photo spot again. And many thanks to our volunteers and all the people that came

with their furry and non-furry friends to create lasting holiday memories with Santa Paws. And last but not least, we wish to thank Santa Paws himself, Jeff Berger (yes, kids, his name isn't Kris Kringle!). Jeff has been a long time volunteer, friend and supporter of HSMC.

Ho Ho Ho!

# Best Friends ~How To Run An Animal Shelter



## Board Member Rhonda's Certificate from Best Friends

Best Friends started in the 1980's, their mission began by a group of people who banded together to rescue animals from shelters that were about to be killed. Their mission grew and eventually expanded to the current sanctuary that now provides homes to over 1,600 animals and owns nearly 3,700 acres. Over 30,000 people visit each year and thousands volunteer. Their success has been very inspirational to those of us dedicated to animal rescue, shelter and rehoming. The Humane Society of Mason County partner's with Best Friends in an effort to continue their mission in our community. Their current goal is to end the killing of homeless animals in America's shelters by 2025.

In October, two of the board members, Lynda Haskell and myself, attended The Best Friends workshop. We spent a full week, from 8a-5p daily, either working in the classroom, listening to lectures and guest speakers, or visiting their

facilities and working with the animals. The sanctuary provides a home for dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, pigs, goats, birds, and an assortment of other animals.

Because my focus was primarily with cats, I learned how they process, evaluate and foster their cats. I also learned how they care for their neonatal kittens and a little about the Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program. Lynda spent time working with the dogs and visiting their horse facilities.

They had several cats that suffered from spinal injuries, Feline Leukemia, and FIV. All these cats required special care, handling, and medications. Best Friends allows these cats to be adopted, but due to their special needs, most will live out their lives being cared for by the many volunteers they have coming in each day.

They stressed the importance in getting the kittens and cats processed, examined, spayed and neutered and into foster homes, adopted or returned (in the case of the TNR) as soon as possible to reduce unneeded stress and possible exposure to other risks or possible disease.

We also learned about various structures and shelter materials, this too was very important to me, as I want

to reduce any possible construction errors when we begin our building process. I came back with a lot of information that I hope will be useful when we begin building.

They expressed the importance of working with and developing a good volunteer base. Upon my return, this was discussed with the board. Board member Chris Garder has stepped forward to work with developing our volunteers and their specific functions.

I found it amazing that the majority of their supplies are donated, this is a large organization, so to get your food, medical and cleaning supplies donated was incredible to see. I hope this is something, that as a community, we too can work towards.

Many of us on the board spend countless hours visiting shelters, taking on-line courses, working to find additional volunteers, writing grants, working with community leaders, developing our land, trapping and fostering cats and some of us hold down jobs. We are all volunteers and are passionate about working towards building a shelter in our community while still trying to provide continual support to our spay and neuter and TNR programs, to name a few. It takes all of us working together to make this happen. We want to thank our community and hope we can continue to work together to make our dream come true. Thank you.

~ Rhonda Robe, HSMC Board Member

*"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being."*

**Abraham Lincoln**

## Spay/Neuter & TNR Updates

2019 was another busy year of spay and neuters and TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) for the Humane Society of Mason County.

Thanks to donations that help fund our spay and neuter program, we helped cover costs for low income residents and their 96 pets. The

funds spent on this program was \$8,603.

Our TNR volunteer was also very busy last year. She helped to trap 83 feral cats for spay/neuter, helping to prevent hundreds of unwanted kittens.



**Jason Bourne was one of our foster kitties seeking his furever home**



# Dog Day At The Lake



Walkers with their dogs getting ready

We can all use a little more exercise, right? Well that exercise becomes very special when you enjoy it with family, neighbors and our favorite furry friends. The 1st Annual Dog Day at the Lake on September 21st was a super success! All ages joined together for 2 mile walk around Anderson Lake at LakeLand Village in Allyn. The event netted \$2,000 for our shelter fund, getting us a little closer to building our dream facility!

We were joined by Groovy Grooming, who provided our pets a nail clipping in exchange for a small donation to the Humane Society. Also on site

was Smidget Rescue who brought many adorable dogs who wanted a new home and promised to provide love and companionship to whomever adopted them. Many of us snacked before and after the walk on the yummy food available by Tempting Eats and Treats. Lastly, after the walk, we were able to relax and enjoy a beverage at the Lakeside Bistro and Lounge at LakeLand Village.

It took many volunteers, who we treasure and are so grateful for their help. The Kitsap Girl Scouts were an added bonus! They arrived early and marked the trails with positive and

encouraging directions and even walked some of the adorable adoptable pooches.

Lastly we could not pull it all together without our wonderful sponsors who continue to provide such great community support:

Windermere Peninsula Properties, Local Wrench, Edward Jones, Belltowne Veterinary, Bent Bine Brew Co., Gilmore's Automotive, R.N.J. Smoked Meats and Haigh Veterinary.

We met new people, had a great time and are already talking about this years' walk. We can't wait to see you there!

~ Chris Garder

HSMC Board Member

*"I'm really good at making sensible choices and saving money. Just kidding, I have dogs."*

*Anonymous*

'Take me out to the ball game'



# Foster, Food & Vet Programs

Our amazing Foster Care Coordinator had another busy year fostering and adopting out 102 cats and kittens.

In addition to doing many meet and greets at our office in Allyn, she also takes the adoptable fur babies to PetSmart in Lakewood where

they showcase these cuties and assist with adoptions.

One stat she doesn't share is her mileage and time driving her fosters to PetSmart and also NW Spay & Neuter in Tacoma, but we're sure it's high! Thank you Hazel for your care and time finding furever homes!

HSMC also provides pet food to Mason County residents. In 2019 we provided 1,070 lbs of food to feral cat feeders, and 999.5 lbs of food as community assistance for those needing help to keep their fur friends fed. In addition, we also helped 13 pet owners via our emergency vet fund.

# Fugs' Facts: Baseball Is For The Dogs

So what could be more fun than an afternoon or evening of baseball and ballpark hotdogs? Baseball, ballpark hotdogs and your dog! Like many MLB teams, the Seattle Mariners host a few "Bark at the Park" events at T-Mobile Park, and they are hosting five more again in 2020.

Dogs get their own seat, a

special entrance and plenty of water and pee stations throughout the park to leave important p-mail messages. And after the game, we get awarded with a special treat, including an opportunity to walk the bases with our humans (talk about a great walk in the park!)

This year's Bark at the Parks

will take place on March 31st, April 30th, July 5th (only weekend and afternoon game), August 25th and September 15th. Nothing makes the 7th inning stretch more fun than doing it with your best (furry) friend, woof!

For more information, visit the Seattle Mariners website at [www.mlb.com/mariners](http://www.mlb.com/mariners)



## Humane Society of Mason County

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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 supporter today. Annual support starts at just \$20 and now includes Paw Perks, free 'perks' from participating vendors.**

**You can support us year round by shopping at AmazonSmile ([www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)), Fred Meyer ([www.fredmeyer.com](http://www.fredmeyer.com)) or taking your Walk For A Dog ([www.wooftrax.com](http://www.wooftrax.com))**

## Volunteer Spotlight ~ Sam Steck

In this edition of Waggin' Tails we would like to feature Sam Steck as our volunteer spotlight.

Sam is one of our most active volunteers and joined HSMC in 2010. She manages our social media, Facebook and Twitter, and also helps manage our website. She put together this awesome newsletter that you are reading, and helps with organizing our fund raising events. If you have attended any of our events you were probably greeted by her when you got there. She always has a smile on her face and is very personable. She will usually be the one encouraging you to purchase raffle tickets for baskets or the 50/50 raffle at our annual auction.

Another board member shared that Sam and her husband were essential volunteers on our cleanup crew during the time HSMC maintained a two mile section of State Route 3. They have also volunteered their truck to transport heavy and bulky donations for our foster program and fencing to be donated to a pet owner in need.

Sam is a wonderful, hard working person and we are very fortunate to have her as part of our organization.

Thank you Sam for all you do!

~ Tina Nutt  
HSMC President



**When not volunteering or working her day job, Sam enjoys time with her 4 rescue dogs, the newest Winston pictured here. And if there's anytime left over, she dedicates it to her husband :)**