

Seattle Humane

Spring 2017



Kittens growing big in a volunteer foster home.

In this issue:

New program updates, pet tips, and adoption stories.



Seattle Humane

Saving Lives, Completing Families

Letter from CEO David Loewe

Dear Animal People,

Spring is a time of transformation, with new growth sprouting up all over. Seattle Humane is no exception!

Our new animal shelter, adoption center and teaching hospital is framed in now, and crews are installing fixtures and equipment. In July, we'll be moving the animals into the three-story, state-of-the-art facility, beginning a new era of saving more than 10,000 animal lives every year.

As you know, we're known for pushing the boundaries and making innovations to save even more lives, and we're proud to announce two new life-saving programs for cats in our region. First, we're making kitties with feline leukemia available for adoption, and second, we've begun placing "working cats" in barns, wineries and other locations. This program saves so-called feral cats earmarked for euthanasia at other shelters because of their inability to be placed into homes. Look for the story about this life-saving development in this edition of the magazine.

Speaking of spring, tickets to Tuxes & Tails go on sale March 1! This year's annual fundraising gala – our largest of the year – will be May 13 at the Meydenbauer Center in downtown Bellevue, a new location for us. You can find tickets to this fantastic event at tuxesandtails.org.

Elsewhere in the magazine you'll learn about cats and the joys of catnip, get a "behind the scenes" look at the Seattle Humane staff and volunteers as they care for the animals, and you'll meet kids and teens committed to fundraising for the animals in our care.

We can't thank animal people like you enough for your support as donors, volunteers and adopters. You are truly making a life-saving difference for the animals in our region and beyond.

Cheers,



David Loewe
Chief Executive Officer



Cover: Kittens growing big in a volunteer foster home. These cuties were adopted to loving families.

13212 SE Eastgate Way
Bellevue, WA 98005
seattlehumane.org

Seattle Humane is an independent, donor-funded nonprofit animal welfare organization saving abandoned, stray and surrendered pets in our community.

Editorial: marketing@seattlehumane.org

PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Main Line 425.641.0080 | Humane Education 425.373.5385 |
| Adoptions 425.649.7563 | Marketing 425.274.1513 |
| Admissions 425.649.7561 | MaxMobile Requests 425.649.7554 |
| Vet Services 425.649.7560 | Pet Food Bank 425.649.7566 |
| Volunteers 425.649.7557 | Pet Project 425.649.7566 |
| Fund Development 425.649.7552 | Pet Guardian 425-649-7551 |

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Save The Date!

Tuxes & Tails

May 13, 2017
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue

New Shelter - Adoptions is Open!

TBA July 2017
Seattle Humane, Bellevue

For adoption promotions and events benefiting Seattle Humane, visit seattlehumane.org.



We're working to find homes for working cats

The working cat program is an effort to reduce euthanasia of feral cats in our local transfer partner shelters. All working cat candidates are deemed feral, unable to be returned to their colony, and considered unadoptable at their host shelter or rescue. These cats are wary of people but make great working pets for barns, wineries, shops, or even private homes for pest control.

Cats are adopted in pairs for companionship. Each cat is given a medical exam, microchip, vaccinations, and is spayed or neutered prior to adoption.



Interested in adopting a working cat? We require a solid structure that provides warmth, light, food, and a soft place to sleep that's safe from predators. Please complete a pre-adoption questionnaire and advising with shelter staff. You'll be contacted when we have cats who meet your needs.



Capellini, our featured Tuxes & Tails mascot.

Tuxes & Tails – Tickets on sale now!

Don't miss the most anticipated event of the year, Tuxes & Tails! Seattle Humane's annual fundraising gala is May 13 at a new location, the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. Join us for this one-of-a-kind event that boasts hundreds of exclusive live and silent auction items, a four-course dinner with wine, and a unique runway show starring animal-loving celebs and adoptable pets.

General gala tickets start at \$250, or you can opt for the 'Tinis & Tails ticket at \$125 and includes the cocktail reception, silent auction, and pre-dinner festivities like the kitten cuddle booth and hidden wine pull. Ticket prices increase April 1. All proceeds benefit the pets at Seattle Humane.

New this year! Meet Seahawk Michael Bennett at Tuxes & Tails.

This unique add-on experience includes a photo, a personalized autographed football, and access to a private lounge for two with open bar between 4:30-6:30 p.m. Limited availability. Tickets are \$500 and this cost is in addition to the purchase of 'Tinis & Tails, general event, Top Dog, or Circle of Gold tables and tickets.

Visit tuxesandtails.org to learn more, purchase your tickets, or become a sponsor. **Questions?** Email events@seattlehumane.org or call (425) 373-5388.

If you won't talk to your cat about catnip, who will?

Here are four things every cat lover should know about this mysterious plant that preoccupies our furry friends!

1. Catnip is an actual plant.

A member of the mint family, catnip grows throughout the United States. The plant features small, lavender flowers and jagged, heart-shaped leaves that smell faintly of mint.

2. It's easy to grow.

Cat lovers who possess a green thumb can grow catnip from seed. This herbaceous flowering plant will return each year with proper – and pesticide free – care.

3. Your cat may have any or all of the following catnip effects:

Meow and roll in the catnip, rub their cheeks against the spot where catnip has been sprinkled, roll on their back or gaze up at the ceiling, run around the room like a kitten playing with a friend, or settle into a dreamy pose.

4. Most cats love it. But some don't.

Catnip leaves and flowers can trigger chemicals in a cat's brain that lead to bouts of energy or laid-back laziness. In some cats it can trigger paranoia or hallucinogenic effects. If your cat seems fearful, do not continue to give it to them.

Kittens are only responsive to cat-nip after six months, once their brain has fully developed.

You also can refresh old toys by placing them in a sealed jar along with a sachet of catnip. The scent of the catnip will interest your cat again. It's a great way to jump-start a chubby cat's exercise regimen.



Animal Advocates

Budding Philanthropists Raise Thousands for Animals

Children of all ages are among the hundreds of fundraisers helping to make the future bright for animal welfare in our region. Whether it's a bake sale, lemonade stand, or donations in lieu of birthday gifts, animal-loving kiddos are finding creative ways to give to animals in need at Seattle Humane.

The Eastside Crusaders cheer team chose Seattle Humane as their charity for a home football game using 'touchdown' cans. After each touchdown, cheerleaders took to the stands with these cans to collect donations. The cheer team donated several bags of dog and cat food for the shelter's community outreach programs, and raised \$266.64 to care for orphaned pets.



Cheer team donates food and funds to shelter.

Muriel Drewes-Moore and Gwen Marbet held their first bake sale to benefit Seattle Humane the summer before they entered the fourth grade. They've held four annual bake sales since and have raised a total of \$1,600 for the animals. Last summer's bake sale brought in \$582 alone!

"I'm dedicated to this cause because Seattle Humane is a no-kill shelter," Muriel says. "People here actually care for and about these animals when others don't." Gwen seconds that sentiment. "It [the bake sale] helps animals and helps Seattle Humane keep them until they can be adopted," she says. "Everyone at Seattle Humane is so friendly and seems happy to be there."

"People here actually care for and about these animals when others don't."

-Muriel

These youth fundraisers are inspiring other young people to get involved, and we're finding more and more families choosing to support shelter pets together. Their empathy and call-to-action are not only noteworthy but contagious!



Muriel and Gwen held first bake sale at age 9.

How can kids and teens help? Visit seattlehumane.org/how-to-help for fundraising ideas, crafts, and shelter programs designed to get kids involved.

Behind-the-Scenes at Seattle Humane

Editor's note: Our dedicated staff and volunteers can't wait until summer, when they move our pets into the new shelter and teaching hospital. Until then, they continue to provide extraordinary care to the animals, despite our aging and sorely inadequate old building. Here's a sneak peek at the work inside the old shelter in the final months before its demolition. Check out our Facebook page for more stories and pictures in this series.

Dog Care

It's 6 a.m. in December and temperatures are down to 22 °F. Inside the Kennel Hub you'll find the dog care team huddled by a small heater, preparing to care for the nearly 80 dogs in the shelter. Dog Care Supervisor Kacie Malone gets up from her desk and walks to the center. "It's harder during winter," Kacie says, "the dogs have heated floors but our kennel techs bear the brunt of it. Most of us wear three gloves with pocket warmers to fight the cold." Despite the frost and early hours, every face has an eager smile, ready to serve the pets in our care.

Kacie begins her routine and pulls out a long list. She disappears and returns with a bucket of individual medication bottles. She pulls out a tray and lines it with paper, writing each dog's name and their medication. Then Kacie grabs a can of wet food. "There's a trick to making sure the pills go down," she says with a grin. She then lovingly rolls each pill into a ball of tasty wet food.

Walking through the kennels, the dogs on medication await their own special delivery. You can tell each dog knows Kacie – they are at ease and relaxed. "This is the easy part," says Kacie, "You should meet David. He's been here for 30 years and is always smiling."

"The dogs have heated floors...most of us wear three gloves with pocket warmers to fight the cold."

-Kacie Ash-Malone

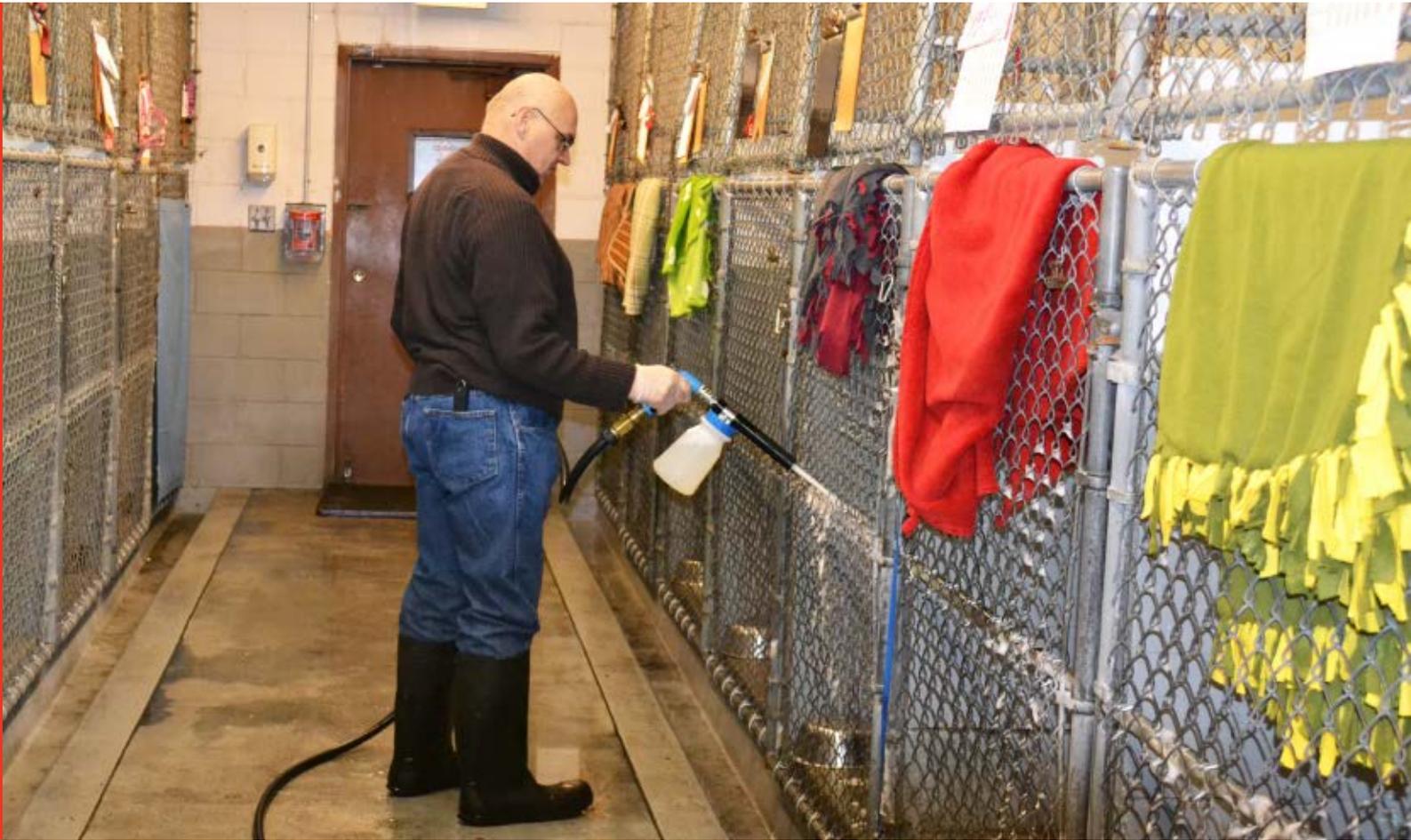


Kacie making her daily rounds in the dog adoption dorms

David is displaying his ready smile and his hands are indeed layered in three gloves with pocket warmers. He diligently cleans each kennel, talking to the dogs as he moves. There's no avoiding the bitter cold in his job. But David – and all of the kennel staff and volunteers – exudes nothing but warmth. Each of them cares deeply for the animals and the mission to save lives and complete families.

Even when that means hand-washing and hand-drying hundreds of food and water bowls a day, because there isn't enough power to run a dishwasher. Or folding 60 loads of towels, wash cloths, blankets and bedding to keep our pets warm, clean and cozy.

Cleaning, feeding, observing, documenting – it's all essential to animal care. Despite the cold, the heat, or how dirty the job can be, only one thing matters – the dogs' well-being. Because of animal people like you, Seattle Humane's new shelter promises to not only benefit the animals, but it will also serve our staff and volunteers, providing the function to help even more pets in need.



David starts his day by cleaning our dog kennels inside and out.



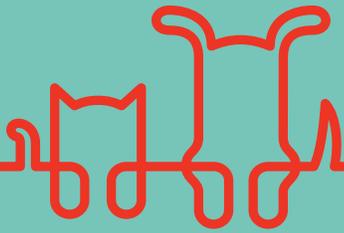
A volunteer and staff member sorting and folding laundry.



Staff and volunteers wash and sanitize each dish by hand.



Medication is put into canned food "meatballs" for our canine guests.



Letters

To Seattle Humane,

This is to let you see how well Neko (Aloha) is doing. Yes, we changed her name and she likes it a lot! The pictures that I have are of Neko with her playmate Yoki. They are just a week apart in age and get along really well. Thanks again!

Sheila



Hello Seattle Humane!

I want to give you an update on Batman, the cat I adopted in May 2015. He goes by Rocky now. He was in the shy kitty room and I thought that was strange because he was so friendly! Rocky still spends a lot of time hiding in the den downstairs, but if the house is quiet, he comes to find me for some love. He's the loudest "purr-er" I've ever heard! Even if he's hiding under the couch, you can hear him loud and clear. Rocky loves his buddy Scooter and they both chase each other all day long up and down the stairs. He loves to sit in the stairwell and sing where his voice echoes.

We love Rocky. Thank you for everything you do for these animals!

Amy

from Adopters



Hello everyone!

Fuzzy is a Rock Star! We kept her name because she is so fuzzy and smart. She would have wondered why we didn't know her true name! Fuzzy is a great dog and we are thrilled to have her. She starts obedience training next month. Housebreaking has been a breeze. My sister says that if she didn't have so many dogs she would be begging me to give her Fuzzy. FAT CHANCE! That worked when she wanted my purse, but not my dog.

Thanks to everyone that helped us get Fuzzy.

Sharon

Dear Seattle Humane,

We adopted Charlotte (previously Rhonda) as a puppy last year from SH. We could not have imagined a more perfect pup. She's spunky, yet gentle. Her favorite past times are cuddling with her cat brothers and chasing her dog sister. Thank you for bringing this Georgia Peach up to Washington and into our lives.

Kristi



Happy Tails

Lilly Learns to Play

Lilly, a 1-year-old kitty, was surrendered to Seattle Humane when her owners were concerned about her behavior. Lilly used her claws to communicate, and her family found it challenging to pet or hold her.

As shelter staff got to know Lilly, we learned she displayed inappropriate play behaviors often misunderstood as aggression. When pet parents use their hands to play with kittens, they unconsciously teach that human hands are for play. Ouch! Signs of overstimulation in young kittens are often missed, which leads to frustrated felines.

We gave Lilly her own cat condo at the shelter to dedicate time and attention to positively redirect her play behaviors. Having her own space also reduced Lilly's anxiety and allowed us to spend more time working with her.

Soon a cat-savvy family discovered Lilly and fell in love with her curiosity. Lilly now enjoys her new home where she's slowly introduced to new foods and toys. Her dedicated adopters have spent time teaching play manners, and recently updated us to say Lilly especially loves to play with Q-tips!



Tiger Finds his Stripes

Tiger came to Seattle Humane from Everett. Under our care, Tiger received his full vaccinations and flea/parasite protection. Being a handsome 5-year-old Heeler mix, Tiger stole everyone's hearts. While he was waiting for his ideal home, he was indiscriminate with his love and gentle nature.

After a short 11 day wait, Tiger met his future family. Together, they've gone on to have many adventures. In his family's words, "Tiger is everything that we could've ever hoped for!" Surrounded by a loving and warm family, Tiger has become a social dog who is kind to animals, people, and kids alike. Tiger's days are now spent loving his humans, going on adventures, and taking long luxurious naps.

Happy Tails

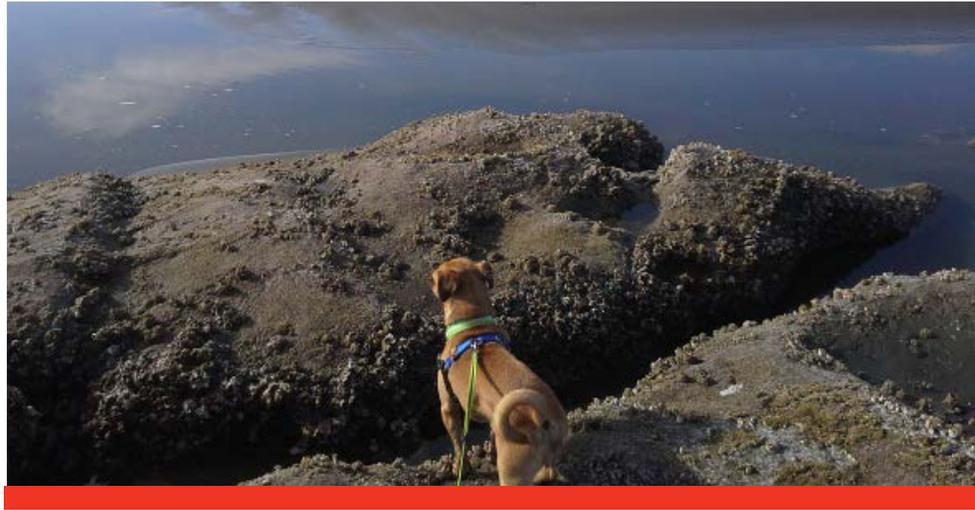
Kady: Grounded, but on Top of the World

Kady (formerly Coco) called Seattle Humane home after she was transferred from Los Angeles. She came to us with a bad cold, and received much needed medical care from our dedicated veterinary team. The first 10 days of Kady's stay involved lots of rest and love. But Kady's luck turned quick! One day after her recovery, Kady was welcomed into her mom's heart and home.

Today, Kady has an active life with her mom, who says the time with her pup is "the best part of the day!"

When Kady isn't hiking and cuddling, she visits her great-grandmother. Together with her family, this lucky pup enjoys long hikes and walks with her family and is well-loved.

Kady's story goes to show that with the help of a generous animal-loving community, our shelter is able to provide the extra care and time needed to help make pets adoptable.



More to Love

Casey, an affectionate 4-year-old brown and white tabby cat, was transferred to Seattle Humane from another shelter through our Life-Saver Rescue Program. Casey arrived as a three-legged cat, likely due to a congenital defect. Because Casey would often try to use her phantom limb, she moved awkwardly and sometimes fell. She would need a prudent adopter who could keep her safe and comfortable.

Disabled animals are more difficult to adopt and tend to stay in shelters longer. But our dedicated adoption team advocated for Casey every step of the way. Casey was at Seattle Humane only a few days when her future mom, Sarah, came for a visit. Sarah was initially hesitant to adopt Casey but our adoption team recognized them to be a purrfect match. After providing Sarah with an informative advising, and plenty of reassurance, Sarah made her decision to bring Casey home.

Sarah describes her loveable kitty as a "major sweetheart." Casey now spends her days snuggling up, playing with her feather wand, and watching birds and trees through her window. Thanks to the generous donors who make our work possible, we're able to transfer in pets like Casey from local and out-of-state shelters, and then give them the second chance they need to find a loving family.





**Seattle
Humane**

Saving Lives, Completing Families

The Humane Society for Seattle/King County
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Seattle Humane's

TUXES & TAILS

New location!
Meydenbauer Center
in Bellevue

May 13, 2017

Tickets on sale now
seattlehumane.org/tuxes