

C.H.S. CHATTER

December 2008



**Columbia Humane
Society**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2008 winds to a close I reflect on how hard CHS staff, volunteers and board members have worked to help homeless animals in Columbia County. This year has brought economic hardship to our community as well as our country and we've had to face significant challenges and sacrifices in order to keep the shelter's doors open; we keep our fingers crossed every day that there will be enough money to keep us going.

Our goals for 2009 are simple: Improve our existing shelter, develop programs that will have a direct impact on our community and, of course, continue to help homeless animals find their "forever homes." As of this printing our shelter has been able to give a second chance to over 400 cats and dogs this year.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Columbia Humane Society; without your generosity we could not continue. We are asking people to dig deep during these hard times and help out in any way they can.

As we look to 2009, our greatest wish is that society will appreciate pets for the wonderful gifts that they are. We accept that people are not disposable, and neither are our pets.

THANK YOU AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Bo Henderson, Outgoing Board Chairperson



FUNDRAISERS/UPCOMING EVENTS

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HOLIDAY GIVING TREES

Please visit our local giving trees and get us a Christmas present! We have trees at **All About Pets** in Scappoose and **Red Apple, Houlton Bakery, and Starbucks** in St. Helens. There is a nice one in the shelter lobby, also, which we share with Columbia County Animal Control. We really appreciate the help and it would be a fun family project for you.

RAFFLE

At St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union on St. Helens Street you will see two fleece blankets that are being raffled off on December 20th. One has a dog theme and one a cat theme and they are machine washable and dryable. They will be raffled off separately. The tickets are 50 cents or 3/\$1 and are available at the teller's windows. Please show your support by buying a ticket or two and maybe you will be one of the lucky winners!

HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-THON

On December 18, 19, and 20 we will be having an adopt-a-thon. Adoption fees for all four-legged shelter residents will be slashed by 50%. On Saturday, December 20 there will be an open house from 12-4. We will serve refreshments and give tours of the shelter so you can see all of our residents and maybe even take one home with you!

LETTERS TO SANTA PAWS



Dear Santa Paws ~ I'm Sheba. I've been a very good dog this year. Some may think I'm naughty for not "playing well with others"; it's just that I am protective and feel safer without other animals in my life. I have been waiting a very long time for a home with my new parents. Can you make my wish come true?

Dear Santa Paws ~ I'm Emily. I've been a good girl all year; okay, maybe not ALL year. You see, sometimes I'm "testy" because I'm depressed at being homeless for so long. Being shy has kept me at the shelter for quite some time. The Christmas gift I'd love most would be a home to call my very own, a family to love me, and a window where I can daydream. By the way....If you could please find me a home with no other cats that would be just purrrfect!



Dear Santa Paws ~ I'm River. I've been a good boy this year. It has been a sad year because somehow I got lost and couldn't find my way back home; I've been living with the Columbia Humane Society in hopes of finding a new one. I believe I've been good enough to make your "Nice" list so would you please help to find me a Christmas home with parents that have lots of time to love and play with me?

Dear Santa Paws ~ My name is Spooky. I'm shy and nervous around new people but once I get to know someone I'm a really sweet boy. I've spent most of my two years living in a cage at the shelter. Perhaps you and the elves could find me my own little place to call home...? Since I am easily "spooked" and like to be the center of attention I would appreciate a calm, quiet home with no other pets or small children.



Dear Santa Paws ~ CHS is in urgent need of foster homes, especially for kittens, puppies, and older animals that are pregnant or sick. The time frame varies from a day or two up to a month or so, depending on the animal's needs. **Can you find some good foster families for us?**

THANK YOU!!



DOG WASHING SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE EVERY THURSDAY

Columbia Humane Society is helping clean up the town four paws at a time! To raise funds for the shelter we have been hosting weekly dog washes in the shelter's bathing area. It has been such a hit that we are now asking people to call ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

For a minimum donation of \$5 per short-haired dog and \$10 per long-haired dog your best friend can get in on the fun. Nail trimming is available for an additional \$3. We schedule appointments for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Thursday. If the interest continues we plan to add another wash day to our current weekly schedule.



Your pet will receive tender loving care while in our capable and caring hands. We have a variety of shampoos to offer for pampering your dog. Instead of breaking your back, or your bank, call to schedule a time for your dog's bath.

Thank you! Your donations help keep the shelter doors open to provide a roof over the heads of many homeless animals until they find forever homes.

Call 503-397-4353 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday –Saturday to make an appointment.

HOLIDAY SAFETY FOR YOUR PETS

Please review the following tips to keep your pets safe during the holiday season:

- For pet care information visit www.paw-rescue.org
- Reduce stress by keeping feeding and exercise on a regular schedule
- Holiday guests can be very stressful to pets; make sure they have a safe, quiet place to retreat
 - It is natural for a dog lover to want to bring a pet to a family gathering but it is not always a good idea; be realistic about how others might view your family member
 - New Year's Eve is a fun celebration for humans but can be hazardous for pets. Noisemakers may frighten your pet and cause him to bolt out an open door or window
 - Have up-to-date ID on your pets so in case they escape during the holiday comings and goings they can be reunited with you quickly
 - Many holiday plants can be dangerous for pets. Among the plants to keep out of reach are holly, mistletoe, poinsettias, and lilies
 - Snow globes often contain antifreeze, which is deadly to pets; keep them out of pet's reach
 - Avoid toxic decorations. Bubbling lights contain liquid which can be inhaled or ingested, snow flock can cause reactions when inhaled, and styrofoam poses a choking hazard
 - If you suspect your pet has eaten something toxic call your vet and/or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control 24-hour emergency hotline at 888-4ANIHELP (888-426-4435)
 - Pine needles can puncture a pet's intestines when ingested; keep pet areas free of them
 - Tinsel can tempt animals and if eaten can block the intestine; hang it high or skip it altogether
 - Water in the tree stand can be dangerous; it may contain fertilizers or harbor bacteria
 - Human holiday foods, including turkey and ham, are too rich for pets and overfeeding them can cause serious health problems for them
 - Bones are dangerous for pets, especially poultry bones which splinter easily and can cause choking and/or damage to the GI tract
 - Anchor the Christmas tree to the ceiling to keep it from falling on your pet
 - The cords and plugs of holiday lights and decorations can look like chew toys; tape them down or cover them to avoid shocks and burns and unplug them when you leave the house
 - Breakable ornaments can injure paws and if swallowed they can do damage to the mouth and GI tract
 - Keep candles on high shelves and use a screen in front of the fireplace. Never leave candles unattended
 - Put away toys after children open their gifts. Small plastic pieces and rubber balls are common causes of choking and intestinal blockage in dogs. Ingested plastic or cloth toys must often be removed surgically

IF YOU FIND A STRAY CAT . . .

When you see a stray, don't look the other way! There are things you can do. There may be a wait for placement in a shelter, so in the meantime you can foster the cat or arrange for your vet to board it. If possible, have the cat examined to ensure that it is healthy and adoptable.

Please keep this list and consult it for organizations that can direct you to resources and help you problem solve your situation.

Oregon Humane Society: 503.285.7722

House of Dreams: 503.262.0763

Multnomah County

Animal Control: 503.988.7387

Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon:
503.797.2606

Cat Adoption Team: 503.925.8903

Animal Aid: 503.292.6628

Wish List

Bleach**

Laundry detergent**

Disinfectant wipes

Febreze

Hand sanitizer

Liquid hand soap

Dish soap

Disposable gloves, gowns, shoe covers

Copy paper**

Stamps**

Scrub pads

Scrub brushes

Q-Tips

Disinfectant spray

Large trash bags

Cotton balls

Small blankets

Medium & large trash bags

**Urgent, ongoing need!!

COLUMBIA HUMANE SOCIETY

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ST. HELENS OR 97051

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YES, I WANT TO HELP AS A MEMBER – DONOR – VOLUNTEER

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\$10.00 Senior
\$25.00 Individual
\$35.00 Family
\$100.00 Business
Donation: _____

I would like to volunteer; please contact me by: Phone _____ E-Mail _____



Please send completed form to:
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Our hours are:
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Phone: (503) 397-4353
E-Mail: chs_director@opusnet.com

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter on-line? Yes _____ No _____
E-Mail Address _____