



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

# Stray News

Issue #56

Fall 2016

*SOSHB is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of lost and stray pets of Huntington Beach.*

## Happy PAW-LIDAYS 🐾

As 2016 comes to a close, it is a good time to reflect on our accomplishments and what is important in our lives.

We treasure our pets because in many ways, they remind us of what we wish to be. They are loyal without demanding the same, and they find joy in the simplest, smallest things. They have no need for excess and go to sleep unworried about the future. Their unique brand of love is the literal definition of unconditional. That wet nose in the morning or the soft purr before bed are just a couple of the priceless gifts our animal friends give to us throughout the year.

Because of caring people like you, over 300 animals in our community have received needed medical care, been placed in loving homes or prevented from having unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. We assisted in a horrific hoarding situation in Huntington Beach and rescued several deserving kitties, provided them with much needed veterinary care and all were placed with loving families.

That is something to be proud of.

Sometimes it seems that our work will never be done but we continue our efforts to ensure that our furry friends are treated with care and compassion. There are still so many animals who need assistance and are waiting for their chance to be loved and give love.

None of our accomplishments could have happened without your generous support!

Thank you for giving to our cause and supporting what we do!!



*from the  
Save Our Strays  
family to yours!!!*

## Update – Rescued Kitties

In our last newsletter, we told you about a rescue operation that Save Our Strays had become involved with in which we rescued several kitties from a hoarding situation in Huntington Beach.

These situations don't always have a happy ending but I am sooooo happy to share with you that in this particular case, there is great news to report!

Molly, the sweet kitty who had been living in a backyard cage for over three years, found her forever, loving home with Norma McGeoch, her husband and a new four-legged brother named Moses, a West Highland/ Maltese mix. When we rescued Mollie, she had some very serious health issues and spent many months at the vet office recovering. Norma heard of Mollie through one of our Save Our Strays members and visited her several times at the hospital. Mollie's compelling story and her sweet nature won over Norma's heart. She is now the ruler of the household and bosses her brother around.

Gordo, who also lived in a backyard cage for over a year, has adapted very nicely to his new role as the ambassador kitty at Huntington Beach Pet Hospital. As you can see from his photo, he is now a happy and healthy kitty.



*Gordo*

Anakin and Binx, the two brothers who had been locked in a shed, found their forever home with the Collins family. Ellen Collins is a client of Huntington Beach Pet Hospital and saw their flyer in the office. After hearing of their story, she and her husband, as well as their other furry kids, could not help but welcome "the boys" into their home. As youngsters do, they have made their new home a playground of unbelievable delights, knocking things over and sleeping in the plant pots.

Save Our Strays would like to send huge wags and purrs to Huntington Beach Pet Hospital for not only taking care of the veterinary needs of these sweet babies but also assisting with finding them their forever homes. This story would not have had such a happy ending without them.

We would also like to send a huge thank you to the volunteers who assisted with this rescue and worked so diligently to make sure these darlings went to the best possible homes.

It really does take a village!

# Keeping Your Membership Current

When we mail you your newsletter, we have a date just below your name. If your date is highlighted, it means it's time to renew your S.O.S. membership. Your membership fees helps to cover printing and mailing costs of the newsletter and misc. other fliers throughout the year.

**Stray News – Publishing Info**

*Stray News* is published quarterly as a newsletter for members of SOSHB. You may reach *Stray News* at:

**Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach**  
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 Huntington Beach, CA 92605  
 SaveOurStraysHB@aol.com  
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## SOSHB Membership Information

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$15**

Includes a year's subscription to *Stray News* and discounts at SOSHB events throughout the year.

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$25**

Includes a year's subscription to *Stray News* and discounts for the whole family at SOSHB events throughout the year.

**PATRON \$50**

Patrons receive all the benefits of a Family Membership and are listed in *Stray News* and on the SOSHB website.

*Save Our Strays offers numerous membership levels. To join or renew, please use the form below. Your membership expiration date appears on the address label of the SOSHB newsletter.*

**SPONSOR**

Sponsors receive all the benefits of a Family Membership and are listed in *Stray News* and on the SOSHB website. Five levels of sponsorship exist:

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## SOSHB Membership/Order Form

*Use this form to pay SOS dues and/or to order shirts & frames.*

**Membership:**

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Patron \$50
- Sponsor \$100
- Silver Sponsor \$250
- Gold Sponsor \$500
- Platinum Sponsor \$1000

**T-Shirts:**  \$10 member  \$15 non-member

Select T-shirt color:  White  Grey

# of shirts requested in each size: \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

**NEW T-Shirts:**  \$15 member  \$20 non-member

Select T-shirt color:  Purple  Navy  Turquoise

# of shirts requested in each size: \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

**Crewneck Sweatshirts:**  \$20 member  \$25 non-member

Select color:  White  Grey

# of shirts requested in each size: \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

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Select color:  White  Grey

# of shirts requested in each size: \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Add \$5 per shirt for shipping/handling, or call 714-442-1446 for pick-up.)

Mail this form with your money order or check (payable to SOSHB) to:

**Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach**  
 P.O. Box 4083  
 Huntington Beach, CA 92605-4083

# 5 Reasons Not to Give a Pet as a Christmas Gift

There is nothing cuter than the image of a fluffy little puppy or kitten under the Christmas tree, big red bow tied around its neck, surrounded by brightly wrapped packages, waiting for children to pad downstairs and cry out in delight. Oooh! Aaaaah! A puppy! A kitten!



Christmas is **not** the time to introduce a new pet to the family, especially if it's a surprise gift. Unlike the ugly sweater Aunt Edith sent or the shoe polisher that Grandpa Jones thought your spouse would love, a puppy or kitten isn't a product that can be returned if it doesn't fit. The same goes for hamsters, gerbils, lizards and fish.

## Here are 5 reasons 'Tis NOT the Season to Bring Home a New Pet:

- **Reason #1: The holidays are crazy enough**, so now isn't the best time for a puppy to make a transition to his new home. You're off schedule, there are lots of people in and out, and things can be overwhelming and confusing for a little puppy. Extra shopping, cooking and cleaning chores are usually involved. With all that going on, a new four-legged member of the family does not deserve to be introduced to a brand new, slightly scary environment in the midst of chaos. A new pet requires a great deal of time and attention from his new family. It's in everyone's best interest to wait for a less busy, exciting time of the year to bring home a new pet.
- **Reason #2: A puppy is cute but it's still a live animal with live animal needs.** Puppies and even some adult dogs need to be house trained and need to learn to go outside to do their business, which means trips outside- even through the night. The short days and cold, wet weather around the holidays and into the new year are far from ideal for this chore. Why not wait for the warmer days of spring if you're planning to add a pet to the family?
- **Reason #3: Pets should not be surprises.** Surprising a loved one with a puppy or kitten on Christmas morning is a romantic but usually misguided idea. Just because you like a puppy doesn't mean he'll like you or the person you are buying for. Adding a new pet to your household needs to be a family decision. You need to find a pet that matches your family dynamics- for example, if the person likes to spend quiet time indoors reading, a Border Collie is not the best choice. And, just because you once had a chocolate Lab doesn't mean every chocolate Lab is

going to like you or act like your last chocolate Lab. Dogs have personalities, just like people.

- **Reason #4: A pet for a child should not be viewed as a new toy.** A living creature shouldn't be considered the same kind of "wow" Christmas gift as, say, a new bike or the latest Xbox console. Caring for a dog or cat is a big responsibility and far different from getting a new toy that is taken out, played with, and put away again. It's important to impress upon a child the difference between her belongings and her pet, from the very first minute a new dog or cat enters her life. Even if your youngster is pleading for a pet and you think she is old enough to take on the responsibility, the "pet project" should be kept separate from the holidays.
- **Reason #5: Pet stores, backyard breeders, puppy mills.** In the weeks leading up to Christmas, certain disreputable individuals and businesses are bursting at the seams with all the latest popular puppy models. Most of these babies are shipped from puppy mills. Some are healthy, most are not. All are bred and born in inhumane and often filthy conditions. Every time a dog is purchased from an irresponsible breeder or mill operator, it is incentive for those businesses to stay up and running. So while you may give a puppy mill baby a good home for Christmas, her mother remains back at the mill, having litter after litter until she's too sick or old to reproduce- at which point she is disposed of. Since some shelters and rescue organizations shut down adoptions this time of year to prevent problems associated with giving pets as Christmas gifts, there is a greater tendency by people who would ordinarily adopt a pet to go to the pet store or a backyard breeder. PLEASE DON'T BE ONE OF THEM. Wait until the holidays are over and visit your local shelter or rescue organization.

## A Better Gift

Give a gift certificate! It can be something you make up yourself, offering to take your loved one to the shelter or rescue organization and let them pick out the pet they want and you will pay the adoption fee. You can even add in lunch or a trip to the pet supply store to stock up on litter or dog toys or whatever else they might need. It's a great way to spend time with someone you love and help them meet the new furry friend they were meant to have! And even better, if the person decides not to get a pet, you haven't spent money or put a live animal into a situation where it needs to be re-homed.



## Boeing Corporation Employees - Giving Back

Boeing employees are once again giving back to their community. Anna Monaco, Save Our Strays board member and Boeing employee, nominated Save Our Strays to receive a grant from the Boeing Employees Community Fund. This fund is 100% funded by employee donations. The program is for



local, non-profit organizations but the organization must be nominated by an employee. In September, Anna presented SOS President, Karen Chepeka, with a check for \$1,000.00 which we gladly accepted on behalf of the animals. The funds will be used for our low-cost spay/neuter program as well as other animal veterinary costs. Wags and Purrs to the generous employees at Boeing!

## Shop with a Smile

Start with a Smile at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) this Holiday Season!

Support us and find all your holiday essentials, including gifts, decorations and more.

#StartWithaSmile at [smile.amazon.com/ch/33-0911076](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/33-0911076) and Amazon donates to Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach

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