



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

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

The Story of Farley

The call came in on Monday, August 16, 2010 from Will Beaver. He had heard about a Chow dog from someone who had seen the dog on Craig's List. He wanted to bring "Farley" home but needed to get him neutered and vaccinated first as he had two male dogs at home already. Time was of the essence because Farley's owners were going to euthanize this beautiful, healthy dog on Friday because they didn't want him anymore. They apparently had found a place that would kill him for free.

Save Our Strays jumped into action and called Beach Blvd. Pet Hospital who was able to schedule the surgery for the following Wednesday. The cost of the surgery was covered by a grant that SOS had received specifically for dogs.

Farley came through the surgery beautifully but was diagnosed with "Entropy", a condition that causes the inverted eyelids to grow over the eye. It was severe enough that he could barely see and would walk around bumping into things. It is also a very painful condition. Will and his wife Desiree felt his quality of life was being compromised significantly by the condition and searched for an affordable clinic to perform the eye surgery. One week later, Huntington Pet Vet gave Farley the gift of sight. SOS was again able to help with some of the cost.

Desiree Beaver, his new Mom, wrote the following about Farley prior to his surgery:

"If ever there was an example of happiness Farley is it. We rescued Farley whose future would ultimately have led to a life cut short. He was named by my husband after the comedian Chris Farley because of the way he plops himself down. In his two years Farley had never been let "inside" and had lived in a yard, no toys and very limited companionship. We were told by the owner that he likes to chew (almost as if that was the reason he couldn't be brought inside) and so we had a little bit of trepidation. Sanford our rescued terrier had in his early days taken a liking to chewing my shoes (never my husband's just mine) and so we duly put away any potential chew items other than toys. Farley has not once chewed or attempted to chew anything; he doesn't know what to do with toys and has shown no destructive tendencies, he has also not relieved himself indoors.

When we met him for the first time at his previous home, his joy at being petted and just given attention was heartbreaking. My husband began playing with him and running around the yard and he followed with leaps and bounds of joy. He covered me with doggy kisses and pawed me. He rolled over onto his back as if he knew that this was a chance for him. In his own way he was telling us to save him. How could we refuse? He couldn't look us in the eye as he had what we thought was a bad eye infection. Farley prior to four days ago had never seen a vet or received any shots. This little fella was filthy and smelled



Farley prior to eye surgery



Farley after his eye surgery

really bad. When we bathed him, the water was brown as years of neglect were washed from his little body. He had two fist sized dreadlocks behind his ears that had been shaved off. Over the course of 3 days my husband would groom him as years of undercoat were brushed out. He patiently accepted this daily ritual, no complaints. The smell we soon discovered was coming from his ears. We don't believe that anyone had ever attempted to clean them. What we took for

limited hearing was probably due to the caked body of dirt that eventually came out of his ears. They were both flushed at the vet and lo and behold, Farley responded to his name being called.

We were told that perhaps Farley had not been fed properly as he always ate his food in one sitting. Farley is definitely not at his full weight but is slowly getting accustomed to the fact that food will always be available if he's hungry. Our other two rescues had similar eating issues but soon learned that they would never go hungry, as will Farley.

He has been relying on his sense of smell, hearing and limited vision to get about. He cannot lift his head to look up at us as he has severe entropy in both his eyes. When he bumps into objects or stumbles into us it's because he has his eyes closed because they hurt so much. Entropy is when the eyelids are inverted it can be a genetic condition or caused by dirt. Judging by his ears it's probably safe to say that his needs weren't met. What amazes me is how easily he has adapted to his new home. He has two rescued brothers, another chow and terrier mutt, Boss and Sanford, who are teaching him how to play. He has nothing but love to give, he is a gentle, mellow soul who happily lets anybody pet him. We haven't heard him bark yet. He is learning to walk on a leash and is doing really well. Not surprisingly he wants to smell and take everything in having not seen anything beyond a small yard and we are happy to let him."

Farley is now, as Will, his new Dad says, "running and gunning with his two new brothers". Even though he has never played with other dogs before, he has adapted amazing well to his new environment. Wags and purrs to Will and Desiree for giving Farley the gift of life. He is one lucky dog.

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.

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

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

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How Much is That Doggie in the Window?

Cities Ban Pet Stores

Buying that adorable puppy or kitten at your local pet store may become a thing of the past, if more American cities join a small but growing movement to ban retail pet sales.

West Hollywood, CA., became the latest city to put a leash on pet sales in February, when its city council unanimously approved an ordinance prohibiting sales of dogs and cats in retail stores. Albuquerque, New Mexico and South Lake Tahoe, CA., have also banned pet sales. Other cities in Florida, New Mexico, Missouri and elsewhere are considering bans on the sale of dogs and cats.

Animal advocates say pet stores fuel the puppy mill industry, where dogs are bred and raised in cramped, unhealthy and inhumane conditions. They have similar concerns about “kitten factories”, which are a smaller but growing problem. Efforts to crack down on animals mills have been hindered by limited enforcement resources, so ban proponents are shifting their focus from the supply side to the demand. Far better, they say, to adopt from the local shelter.

“People have to wake up to the fact that most dogs coming from pet stores are coming from puppy mills,” said Mary Jo Dazey, a stay-at-home mom from St. Louis, MO., who has been working to shut down puppy mills in her state for several years.

There are no official statistics on how many pet store dogs come from puppy mills. Between 2 million and 4 million dogs are born in U.S. puppy mills each year, according to the Humane Society of the United States, and many of those dogs do end up in pet stores-in addition to being sold over the internet, through newspaper classifieds and in other venues.

“Every time we do a pet store investigation (after a complaint), we find that puppy mills are the suppliers,” said Stephanie Shain, senior director of the Humane Society of the United States’ puppy mills campaign.

Shain said she believes that if animal lovers became better educated, they wouldn’t want to buy from pet stores that may be supplied by puppy mills.

Public sentiment does, in fact, seem to be veering away from pet store animals. A recent poll by the Associated Press-Petside.com found that more than half of those surveys planned to get their next cat or dog from a shelter, seven times the number who said they would buy from a pet store. And four in 10 said they thought store pets could have hidden physical or psychological problems due to overbreeding or other issues.

Of course, in cities with bans in place, even if you want to buy from a pet store, they can’t. The West Hollywood pet sale ban got a lot of attention, but it was more symbolic than

anything else since no pet stores there were actually selling animals when it went into effect. South Lake Tahoe’s ban passed in 2009, but doesn’t take effect until 2011. To see what really happens when a city bans pet sales, you have to go to Albuquerque. The Southwestern city banned sales of “companion animals”, including cats and dogs, in 2006, and has seen a marked, positive effect, said Peggy Weigle, executive director of Animal Humane New Mexico.



“By stopping these pet shops,” Weigle said, “what you’re really doing is reducing the demand for puppy-mill puppies”.

At the same time, Weigle said, her private animal shelter has stepped in to fill the place of pet stores for people who want pets but don’t necessarily want to brave the city or county shelter. In February, Animal Humane New Mexico opened a boutique-style adoption center with just a few hand-picked animals, mostly puppies, many of them pure-bred dogs that were abandoned or rescued by the shelter-so that people could “shop” for shelter dogs in a pleasant, retail-like environment.

Her goal was to adopt out 45 animals in the first month; instead, they placed 118 animals in new homes. Adoptions have been so plentiful, Weigle said, that her organization is preparing to open a second adoption boutique. Weigle said she recently had a young purebred Yorkshire Terrier available for adoption for just \$135, the standard adoption fee.

“Many people will say, “Oh, I just can’t go to the shelter, it’s just too sad,” Weigle said. “But if you make a guilt-free shopping experience available, and they don’t have to be confronted with 100 homeless pets staring them in the face, the shopping experience is very parallel to a pet store. If you give the public a choice to shop in that kind of environment, they will!”

In Huntington Beach, there are several options available. Most of the Petco and PetSmart stores have animal rescue groups who have adoptions every weekend. There are also dog breed rescue organizations, many of which operate out of Huntington Beach.

Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach ALWAYS advocates adopting from a shelter or breed rescue. There are over 5 million animals killed in shelters each year, many of which are highly adoptable and purebred dogs.

Given the inconvenient location of the Orange County Animal Care Center in the city of Orange, it has been suggested that this shelter open small, more localized shelters which would certainly improve adoptions. You can all do your part by considering adopting your next pet from a shelter or rescue group.

New Spay/Neuter License Plate Available



Finally, the new CA spay/neuter car license plate is available for pre-order. The artwork on the license plate was created by actor Pierce Brosnan. It is a painting of the dog and cat that he and his wife adopted. It is really cute.

Funds raised by the sale of the plates will be distributed to cities and counties in CA to support free and low-cost spay/neuter services.

The license plates are available on a pre-order basis right now and cost only \$50 for a sequentially numbered plate. Once 7500 plates are pre-ordered, they will go into production. When you place the order, you select which DMV office you would like to pick them up.

For more information or to place your order, you can go to www.caspayplate.com.

This is a great way to show your support for spaying/neutering which we all know is the #1 way to control pet overpopulation.

The Pet Foster Parent Poem

Here I sat, alone and afraid,
You got a call and came right to my aid.
You bundled me up with blankets and love.
And, when I needed it most, you gave me a hug.
I learned that the world was not all that scary and cold.
That sometimes there is someone to have and to hold.
You taught me what love is, you helped me to mend.
You loved me and healed me and became my first friend.
And just when I thought you'd done all you do,
There came along not one new lesson, but two.
First you said, "Sweetheart, you're ready to go.
I've done all I can, and you've learned all I know."
Then you bundled me up with a blanket and kiss.
Along came a new family, they even have kids!
They took me to their home, forever to stay.

At first I thought you sent me away.
Then that second lesson became perfectly clear.
No matter how far, you will always be near.
And so, Foster Mom (Dad), you know I've moved on.
I have a new home, with toys and a lawn.
But I'll never forget what I learned that first day.
You never really give your fosters away.
You gave me these thoughts to remember you by.
We may never meet again, and now I know why.
You'll remember I lived with you for a time.
I may not be yours, but you'll always be mine.

- Author Unknown



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