



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #24

Spring 2007

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

Boeing Corporation Employees – *Thinking of the Animals*

For the second year in a row, Anna Monaco, of the Boeing Corporation, nominated Save Our Strays to receive a grant. The Boeing grant program is 100% funded by employee donations. The program is for local, non-profit organizations but the organization must be nominated by an employee. At the November 11 volunteer meeting, Anna presented a check for \$2000 to Save Our Strays, which was gladly accepted by president, Karen Chepeka. The funds will be used towards spay and neuter as well as other animal medical costs.



Anna Monaco and Karen Chepeka

Letter From A Friend

January 8, 2007

Dear Save Our Strays,
Thank you for the call I received on January 6 from your organization representative giving me tips and encouragement on finding my lost cat. She is home with me now after 13 worrisome days. I appreciate the kindness you've shown and the important work that you do. Thank you and God bless each one of you.

Sincerely,
Mary Ray & Kacie

P.S. She'll be microchipped and wear an ID collar from now on, MR

Lost "Pin" at Pancake Breakfast

At our last pancake breakfast on September 16, 2006, longtime member and friend of Save Our Strays, Fran Ritchey, lost a lapel pin that was very dear to her. It is a pewter pin with a photo of a Basset hound in a Santa hat. What makes this pin so precious to Fran is that her Basset hound passed away last year. If anyone might know the whereabouts of this pin, please contact Fran at 714-960-4897.

Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar! Events are held in Huntington Beach unless otherwise noted. For more information about events, call SOSHB at 714-442-1446.

Mar 17 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am
Del Mar Mobile Estates Clubhouse
19251 Brookhurst Street
(between Garfield and Yorktown)

May 12 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

July 14 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Sept 8 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Sept 15 Pancake Breakfast in the Park

Nov 17 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Dec Pet Photos with Santa Claws

For more information or volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.SaveOurStraysHB.org or call 714-442-1446.

THANKS to our Sponsors & Patrons!

Platinum Sponsor

Michael & Josie Wittenberg

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Gil & Louann Coerper
Michel & Michael Stec
Elizabeth Propp

Sponsor

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Ann Minnie
Peggy O'Neal
Mary Ray
Chris & Roger Richardson
Mary & Michael Robinson
Ed & Diane Stelling
Laura Willis

SOSHB Membership Information

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.

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.

SPONSOR

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

Sponsor	\$100	Gold Sponsor	\$500
Silver Sponsor	\$250	Platinum Sponsor	\$1000

SOSHB Membership/Order Form

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

Membership: Sponsor \$100
 Individual \$15 Silver Sponsor \$250
 Family \$25 Gold Sponsor \$500
 Patron \$50 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

Crewneck Sweatshirts: \$20 member \$25 non-member
 # of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL
 Available in several shades of pure white.

Hooded Sweatshirt: \$25 member \$30 non-member
 # of shirts requested in each size: ___L ___XL ___XXL
 Available in Westie White, Bichon White or Samoyed White.

License Plate Frames: 1 for \$5 2 for \$8
 SOSHB will not mail frames. Call 714-442-1446 to arrange pick-up.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email (optional): _____

Phone (optional): _____

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

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

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SOSHB Board of Directors

Karen Chepeka, President
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Paws and Claws in Huntington Beach



Santa Claws made a special visit to Huntington Beach on December 9 to help SOSHB raise funds by having his photo taken with over 50 family pets. Cottage by the Sea (formerly known as Wiskers) was the perfect venue for this event. SOSHB would like to personally thank Mike Wold for opening his store to us. We raised over \$1500 for our cause.

The day was a great success due to the great work of our volunteers. David Berardi once again posed as a great Santa Claws and his son Anthony was tremendous as Santa's helper. Many thanks to our pet photographer Heidi Schoenemann-obviously, the day could not have happened without you. Rounding out the event team were John and Charlotte Jordan, Patti Johnson and her grandson Alex, Kathleen Jeffries, Linda and Randy Crossley, Renae Branch, Elizabeth Propp and Karen Chepeka.



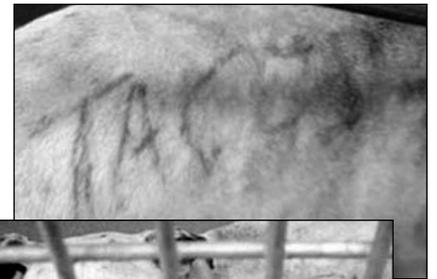
A Call To Help

Save Our Strays receives many calls and emails requesting help for needy animals. Unfortunately, we are not able to help them all, but here is a one story that did have a happy ending thanks to the generosity of friends and members of SOS.

Save Our Strays received an email from member Alison Stanley regarding a sweet Pit Bull who had been picked up by Los Angeles Animal Control. Even the hardest heart would have melted had it come into contact with this little girl. No wonder, as some sick individual(s) had slashed graffiti on the dog, writing "tacos" and other indiscernible things on her small body. There was also evidence that they had put out cigarettes on her. Despite these horrific acts against her, she was a sweet, but confused baby. She became known as "Graffiti Pit". No one really knows what else she endured before she was picked up and taken to the shelter.

A friend of Alison's, Florence, rescued her from the shelter where she most certainly would have been killed. But, she did not have the funds to provide the needed medical care for this girl. A call for help went out to the SOS email base. The response was overwhelming. Many of you donated funds to offset the medical costs and Save Our Strays donated \$50 toward her care, which was made possible from a grant.

"Bella", as she is now known, is thriving and is up for adoption. What a difference between her before and after photos. **Thank you to all of you who answered this call for help.**



Bella "Before"



Bella "Today"

Teach Your Children Well

By Gayle Forman (HSUS)

A purring cat in your lap, a tail-wagging welcome home, a rabbit snuggle-most of us understand the joys of having a pet. But what most people may not realize is how animals can transform children's lives.

Research suggests that children who are raised with animals have stronger immune systems, are better socialized and more empathetic, and may even have higher IQs than their peers without pets. "Animals stimulate compassion and good behavior. They teach children to nurture," says Alan Beck, ScD., director of the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine. "They are also great stress relievers, which helps the human immune system," Beck says. "And when young children are exposed to animals, their bodies learn to fend off the animals' allergens, which boost their immune systems as well."

Moreover, pets have a unique ability to rouse children from the couch or computer, stimulating them physically and mentally. And play is not just for kids. Pets can help create a common interest that unites generations, from grandparents to wide-eyed preschoolers. Even adolescents can't resist the beloved family dog.

But while pets can be loving, bonding, and a whole lot of fun, they are NOT magicians. You can't go to a shelter, pick out a puppy or dog, drop the animal into the living room, and wait for the miracles to begin. Pets engender responsibility and nurturing, but ONLY if someone teaches children how to care for their new friends. "Your kids and your pets depend on you," says Stephanie

Shain, director of companion animal outreach for the HSUS. "The adults in the house are the only ones who can make sure that everyone is getting what they need."

This begins with understanding that neither animals nor children are babysitters. "Parents often say, We're getting the dog so Billy can learn responsibility", Shain relates. But such expectations are unrealistic for your child and unfair to your pet. "Parents need to show children how to be responsible for an animal and help them understand that their pet needs daily attention." Give kids a way to participate, such as measuring out Sparky's food. But let them see you doing the daily grunt work: cleaning the litter box, changing the hamster's water, going out for that 7 a.m. walk. "You teach by doing", add Shain.

You also teach by supervising. Pets should NEVER be left alone with young children-no matter how gentle the animal may be. Even the sweetest dog could knock over a small child with a wagging tail. Parents also need to intervene when a pet has had too much "loving" from a child, allowing the animal to go off to his or her private spot.

This is especially important because kids need to learn to recognize an animal's leave-me-alone cues. Beck points out that by absorbing these non-verbal cues, children learn subtle lessons that make them more socially adept. "Being social animals ourselves, we look to animals for support", he says. "A well-cared-for pet can be a child's greatest friend and confidant."



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED