



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #32

Spring 2009

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

Spay/Neuter/Microchip Program Update

As most of you know, Save Our Strays sponsors a low-cost spay/neuter/microchip program for residents of Huntington Beach. We have been able to offer this service in previous years because of a grant from the City of Huntington Beach. Since May 2003, when the program began, it has grown each year. Program to date, through 2008, we have spayed and neutered 609 dogs and cats and microchipped 741 pets. Of those, approximately 40% of these residents were Medicare or MediCal recipients. Last year, 2008, was our busiest year with 251 spays/neuters and 165 microchips. As the program grows, so does the cost to support the program. The annual cost in 2008 alone was almost \$32,000. One hundred percent of all the funds for the program go toward veterinarian costs. In order to continue this program, we need your donations. Current funding will carry us until April 1, 2009.

Last year the City of Huntington Beach provided a grant of \$17,500.00 which helped us offset a large portion of the program cost.

The Boeing Corporation generously provided grant funding of \$2000 through their employee donation program. This was made possible by the recommendation of Anna Monaco, a Save Our Strays board member and Boeing employee.

The firm of Wright Ford Young & Co., an accounting firm in Irvine, donated \$2000 towards this very worthwhile program. Their employees selected Save Our Strays to be one of their 2008 recipients.

The Cesar and Ilusion Millan Foundation (the dog whisperer) funded \$1500.00 in the form of a grant. Their support of dogs and dog programs is legendary.



The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation granted \$1000 for the first quarter of 2009 for this program. The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation is committed to making life more bearable for children, families and pets, in need of a helping paw. With the sale of each full-sized Bearemy's Kennels Pals® friend-a collection of Build-A-Bear Workshop® plush dogs-one dollar is donated to domestic pet programs including animal shelters, stray pet rescue and rehabilitation organizations, and pet education programs around the country. These funds are available to qualified non-profit organizations in the United States and Canada through a quarterly grant process. Visit www.buildabear.com for more information.



Save Our Strays would also like to send out wags and purrs to all our generous donors, but especially Fran Ritchey who donated \$5000 and Susan Berger who donated \$2500 to fund this program.

Letter From A Friend

Letter from a Friend

I wanted to say a very heartfelt thank you to all of you at Save Our Strays. I took Chico in on Thursday and he was "clipped & chipped". He is recovering well and I thank you for not only paying most of the bill, but for referring us to Beach & Garfield animal facility. They were wonderful with everything! Chico is a very happy dog and I don't know how to thank you.

Janene Trautman & Chico

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

May 16 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Jul 18 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Sep 12 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Nov 14 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

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

Keeping Your Membership Current

When we mail you your newsletter, we have a date just above 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.

THANKS to our Sponsors & Patrons!

Diamond Sponsor

Franciska Ritchey

Platinum Corporate Sponsor

Boeing Corporation
Wright Ford Young & Co.

Platinum Sponsor

Susan Berger

Sponsor

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Kathleen & Ron Jurgensen
Liberty Tax Service
Yvonne Meza
Anne Navarro
Judy Philpot
Joe Shaw
Miyako Tanaka

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
Diamond Sponsor	\$5000		

SOSHB Membership/Order Form

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

Membership:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor \$500 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 - 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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Karen Chepeka, President
Hank Beach, Treasurer
Anna Monaco, Director

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Peaches and Keane

By Alison Stanley

One of the best feelings that I know comes when I receive news about one of the dogs or cats for whom I have found an adoptive home. Dictionary and thesaurus aside, I cannot find words to describe that feeling. At the risk of sounding self-aggrandizing, these are dogs and cats who might otherwise have perished in shelters or on the streets, especially the 12 Pit Bull puppies who were born at local shelters and were scheduled to be euthanized, along with their mothers.

Caring for them wasn't easy. There were veterinary and other costs that didn't begin to be covered by the adoption fee that good people willingly paid. They peed and pooped all over my house; they destroyed furniture and windowsills; they got sick and shook and refused to eat. All the while they were pure joy like no other. When it was time to look for homes, photos and descriptions were posted on websites. Questions arrived from those familiar with pet adoptions and the uninitiated alike: Do they have papers?

What breed was their father? Are they purebred? Are they housebroken? How do they get along with cats and children? The requirements and process were the same for all interested parties: complete an adoption application and return it via US mail. The interpretation of requiring a hard copy of the adoption application as either a hassle or no deterrent whatsoever served as an indicator of the level of motivation. As many of us know, we do not "own" our pets; they own us! The responsibilities of actually caring for a pet for the life of that pet pale in comparison to putting a stamp on an envelope and taking it to a mailbox.

Then came the personal introductions, observations of interactions, and inspections of potential new homes and yards. Once all hurdles had been vaulted and I was certain that premium pet food would be provided, the contract was signed. No one balked and all adopters acknowledged that a relationship with me for the life of the pet came along with the adoption package. When each pet left my care I felt completely confident that he or she was going to the best possible home where plentiful love, unconditional kindness, and responsible care would never be at issue. When news, photos, and stories arrive with progress reports and invitations

to visit, there are no words to describe the feeling. I recently read an article describing both sides of the debate about more permissive adoption practices in order to increase the numbers of pets leaving shelters vs. restrictive/ selective adoption practices like those described above. Is sending pets to homes of uncertain quality really a better fate than euthanasia at a shelter? That is a very difficult question. I know that I have chosen to "rescue" as many pets as I can.

For me that necessitates ensuring that they have a better life than the one they would have at a shelter or on the streets and ensuring that they never have to experience the horrors that they experienced at a shelter, on the streets, or in a cruel or neglectful home. For me it's about making their lives better – without compromise.

Alison Stanley, Ph.D. is a psychologist practicing in the public sector. She has been involved in various aspects of animal rights and animal welfare for the past 15 years. She is co-director of California Lobby for Animal Welfare, an organization that has been responsible for the adoption of anti-circus ordinances in five cities in California. She shares her home with many rescued dogs and cats.

Peaches is a sweet Pit Bull who came from a home in Bakersfield where she wasn't wanted or cared for. Her owners repeatedly took her out to the street in the hope that she would run away. She now lives with a wonderful man who adopted Keane, one of the Pit Bull puppies who was born at the Downey shelter and scheduled for euthanasia.



Don't Forget to Use GoodSearch.com

Just go to the website, www.GoodSearch.com, under the charitable organization, type Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach, click the button to "verify". Then just use the search engine like you normally would to search the internet for information.



Paws and Claws in Huntington Beach

Santa Claws made a special visit to Huntington Beach on December 6 to help SOSHB raise funds by having his photo taken with over 40 family pets. Pet Supply in Huntington Beach was the perfect venue for this event. SOSHB would like to personally thank store manager Carla Gruskowski for opening her store to us and ordering pizza for all the hungry volunteers.

To add to all this excitement, we also had a delicious bake sale. Cookies, cakes and brownies were available for purchase as well as some yummy dog treats made especially for the doggies by Susan Hattabaugh. Wags and purrs to all those who baked and donated goodies. We raised over \$1300 which went directly to cover costs for our low-cost spay/neuter/microchip program.

The day was a great success due to the great work of our volunteers. Warren Dubrow posed as a great Santa Claws and Madison Correia and Chloe Davis were tremendous as Santa's helpers. Many thanks to our pet photographer Courtney Sabbagh-obviously, the day could not have happened without you. Rounding out the event team were Anna, Hank and Taylor Beach, Elizabeth Takeuchi, Randy and Linda Crossley, Lesli Correia, Loretta Fleming, Patti Johnson and her grandson Alex Jackson, Beverly Wallace and Karen Chepeka.



An adorable cat



Lorrie Raia and Sandy



Callie Mazotta



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