



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #33

Summer 2009

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

Protecting Your Animals on

Celebrating July 4th is Fun for People, but Not for Your Pets

Save Our Strays recommends:

- Keep your pet in a safe; quiet place...their hearing is much more sensitive than ours. For pets who become nervous or upset, consult a veterinarian about tranquilizers. The vet will prescribe according to weight, age and condition of the pet. It is important to consult a veterinarian because tranquilizers can overdose or become toxic when combined with other medications, flea collars or sprays.
- ID Tags and current license tags with home phone number and an alternate phone number (including area codes) are important at all times, but especially during the 4th of July holidays. Consider a microchip. If you are a resident of Huntington Beach, Save Our Strays low-cost program offers them for only \$5. It cannot fall off and most shelters and animal control officers have scanners. More pets are lost at this time of the year than any other. They are often hit by cars, never make it back home or are destroyed at shelters because their owners don't show up in time or at the right shelter to claim them.



Letter From A Friend

Dear Save Our Strays,

Thank you and all involved for helping with the spay cost for our new rescue puppy, Dakota. It really did help. We have 3 pound puppies now and each is a valued member of the family.

Thanks again,
The Wegman Family

If you have lost or found a pet:

- Put up signs, pass out flyers and place ads. All found ads are free and some lost ads are too. Place ads in the OC Register, LA Times, Pennysaver and any other community papers.
- Go to shelters, EVERY DAY, if possible.
- Have pictures and description details available.

Don't Give Up!

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.

Jul 18 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am
Del Mar Mobile Estates Clubhouse
19251 Brookhurst Street
(between Garfield and Yorktown)

Sep 12 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Sep 19 Pancake Breakfast in the Park
8:00am - 12:00pm
Lake Park

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!

Sponsor

Hank, Anna & Taylor Beach
Susan L. Bell
Susan Berger
Barbara Beck
Harrison Bolton
Gerald & Patricia Chapman
Cathy Cook
Julie Dohrman
Lynne, Ehrlich & Thomas Fafard
Susan Hattanooga & Rachelle Osborn
Paul & Beth Janich
Deborah Janus
Robert & Dava Kurhajian
Connie Mandic
Margaret & John Mazotta
Lorrie Raia
Linda & Joe Revere
Diane Ryder
Michael & Michel Stec
Dean & Sherrill Stewart
Amanda Waugh

Silver Sponsor

Donald & Ellen Goodwin

Platinum Corporate Sponsor

Boeing Corporation
Wright Ford Young & Co.

Diamond Sponsor

Franciska Ritchey

Patron

A. Ray Calloway
Clifford & Jo Davis Cornhall
Danni & Jim Engle
Connie English
Loretta Fleming
Lori & Scott Gordon
Judith Henzie & Jennifer Drescher
Girl Scout Troop #1599
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
PO Box 4083
Huntington Beach, CA 92605
SaveOurStraysHB@aol.com
www.SaveOurStraysHB.org
(714) 442-1446

Karen Chepeka, Editor
Ann Kennedy, Layout

For article suggestions email
SaveOurStraysHB@aol.com

SOSHB Board of Directors

Karen Chepeka, President
Hank Beach, Treasurer
Anna Monaco, Director

©2009 Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach

Does Your Cat Scratch the Furniture?

By Molly Hogan (reprinted from *The Pet Gazette*)

Scratching is a perfectly natural and necessary behavior that helps cats remove the outer layer of their claws. Also, by leaving claw marks and the scent of their paws behind, they are marking territory and claiming the surface as their own.

Sometimes people resort to declawing their cat as a quick fix solution to the scratching problem. This is a painful procedure that removes the cat's toes as well as his claws, causing permanent damage to his feet. Declawed cats can also develop other behavioral problems-like biting and avoiding the litter box.

Fortunately, positive reinforcement training is a humane alternative that can also be fun for you and your cat. With training and the addition of a proper scratching post, this can be an easy problem to solve. Our goal is to redirect this natural behavior and teach kitty to claim the appropriate surface.



You need only 4 things to begin training: a scratching post, some treats, a clicker and ...a cat!

There are a variety of scratching posts that can be purchased at a pet supply or online. I recommend acquiring one with a scratching surface that doesn't resemble the carpeting on your floor or the upholstery on your couch. This will help eliminate any confusion for kitty. I like the pressed cardboard variety with catnip included. The catnip can be sprinkled on the surface, filtering down between the cardboard pieces. The added catnip bonus will help attract the cat to the surface. However, every cat is an individual so you may have to try a few different varieties to see what works best for your cat.

First- place the new scratching post near the area the cat has been scratching. Kitty will probably investigate the new

post on his own. Click when he approaches and toss a treat near the scratching post. Reinforce him with your voice and offer a quick pet. You can also rub cat's paws on the post leaving his scent and encouraging him to use it in the future. If he doesn't approach it on his own you can help him along by simply picking him up, putting him down by the post and handing him a treat.

Do this a few times (I recommend short 5-minute sessions) and then go back to your day, but use your peripheral vision to monitor your cat's activities. Keep your clicker and treats handy so you can easily reinforce him if he approaches the post or uses it.

When he heads for the furniture instead, stomp your foot, say "No" and put a treat on the scratching post, encouraging him over to it. Or say "No", pick him up and place him on the post, then praise, pet, click and feed.

Perhaps you already have a scratching post-or several- and your cat still chooses to scratch elsewhere. You may want to remove the old scratching posts and offer a different variety, adding one or more additional surfaces, along with applying these reconditioning techniques.

Be consistent. Even though you can't be watching your cat, be sure to reinforce him appropriately every time you can see him scratching. Over time you will see this behavior begin to change in your favor.

Molly Hogan is the owner of Cat Business, which offers in-home cat training and behavior consulting services for felines and their humans and founder of The Nature of Wildworks wildlife education center. For more information, please visit www.catbusiness1.com or call 310-455-0550.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Save Our Strays would like to honor the memory of some true animal lovers who recently passed away.

Harry Bolton was a long time supporter of SOS and quietly supported us over the years. His love of animals was demonstrated after his passing by his family and friends who made donations to SOS in his memory, in lieu of flowers. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, his sons Denis and Stephen, his daughter-in-law Julie, new baby grandson Harrison and his kitty, Susie.

Maria Strada recently passed after a long battle with cancer. She and her husband John are some of the original members



of Save Our Strays. They were both animal advocates and encouraged the neighbors in their mobile home park to spay/neuter and microchip their pets. John has been our webmaster for many years, volunteering his time to work on our website. Maria is survived by John and their golden retriever, Nena.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and pets of these very special people. The animal community has lost some truly good friends.

The Easter Bunny Comes to Town

On April 11, Save Our Strays hosted an Easter themed bake sale at two locations, the Pet Supply store in Fountain Valley and in Huntington Beach. This was the first time we had an event in two locations at the same time and it was a huge success.

Wags and purrs to all the volunteers who attended the events and to all who baked those delicious goodies: Barbara Beck, Donna Reed, Anna, Hank and Taylor Beach, Joanne Rasmussen, Stacy Thompson, Randy and Linda Crossley, Beverly Wallace, Danni Engle and her Mom, Susan Hattabaugh (who made those fabulous all-natural dog cookies), Judy Philpot, Elizabeth Tanaka and Karen Chepeka.

A special thank you to the management at Pet Supply, Carla and Gary, for allowing us to host the event at their stores. A big Thumper thank you Joe, one of the employees at Pet Supply, who was a real trooper and did a magnificent job as the Easter Bunny.

We raised over \$500 which will be used to support our low-cost spay/neuter/microchip program and special veterinary medical assistance. We hope to have the program up and running again within the next few months.



Karen Chepeka, Stacy Thompson, Bunny, Beverly Wallace, Linda and Randy Crossley



Easter Bunny with friend



Easter Bunny with friends



Boy w/cupcake



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED