



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #43

Winter 2012

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

Where Your Money Goes

While it is the primary goal of Save Our Strays to establish a pro-humane animal shelter or adoption center in the community of Huntington Beach, we do offer other programs to help our furry friends and their pet parents.

We believe that spaying/neutering is the number one method of preventing unwanted litters of puppies, kittens and rabbits. This greatly reduces the number of animals entering the shelter systems and ultimately being killed.

Save Our Strays has offered a low-cost spay/neuter program to the community since 2002. Since that time, we have spayed/neutered almost 2000 animals. In 2011 alone, we spent \$5947.00 on this program which was funded by your donations as well as grants.

We also offer veterinary financial assistance to those pet parents whose pet needs medical attention but cannot afford it. This could be in the form of surgery, dental or a variety of other needs. We spent \$3961.00 in 2011 to assist with these types of procedures.

Lynn Cluff was the recipient of such assistance. Her 11 year old Aussie, Dusty, had a growth on his back leg that needed to be removed. Lynn was on a fixed income and could not afford the approximate \$600 for the procedure. She contacted Save Our Strays to see if we could help and we were able contribute a portion of the cost. Through networking with other organizations, Lynn was able raise almost the full amount of the surgery. Dusty had the growth removed in March 2012 and I am happy to report that he is doing just great.

Our work continues as a result of your generosity, as we strive to improve the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves-our wonderful animal companions.

Ralphs Grocery “Rewards”, a Great Success

Ralphs Grocery and Save Our Strays have teamed up to raise funds for our cause. The program has been a great success, raising \$271.39 in 2011.

All of you who are currently active in the program will remain so until August 31 of each year. Starting September 1, participants will be required to register for the new term at www.Ralphs.com. If you haven't re-registered your card since August 2011, please do so right away as your donations have not been received by Save Our Strays.

Please don't miss out on this easy fundraising program. All you have to do is shop as you normally would at Ralphs and use your Rewards card with each purchase. A portion of all sales will be donated to Save Our Strays. What could be easier?? To register online, just follow these easy steps:

- Go to www.Ralphs.com
- Click “Services”, then click on “School Programs”
- Click on “Community Contributions”, then “Learn More”
- Click on “Participant”, then “Enroll”
- Be sure to have your Ralphs Reward card available and then register your card with Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach by following the online directions.



If you do not have a Ralphs Reward card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Ralphs store.

If you do not have online access, you can sign-up by calling 1-800-443-4438.

Wags and Purrs to Ralphs for creating such a great community program!

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gone But Not Forgotten

A donation was made to Save Our Strays by Don and Ellen Goodwin in loving memory of “Roamer”, a mixed breed Labrador. Roamer was a desert stray in Borrego Springs and roamed all over the valley. He decided to adopt them in 1999. He became the love of their lives.

He traveled with them wherever they went including out to sea on their boat. The vet said he thought Roamer was born about 1995. He left this world on August 31, 2011, so he had a long life. He is now back in Borrego on their property. They miss him very much and he will always remain in their hearts. Rest in peace, Roamer.

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 help to cover printing and mailing costs of the newsletter and misc. other fliers throughout the year.

THANKS to our Sponsors & Patrons!

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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.

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

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Living with “Urban” Coyotes

Recently, many residents in Huntington Beach have expressed concern about coyote sightings and the consequences of predator animals within the urban environment. Several residents have lost their pets to these skilled hunters because many are unaware of recent coyote activity near their home.

Coyotes are found throughout Orange County. Contrary to popular belief, these animals do not require open space or “wild areas” to survive. In fact, most coyotes within the urban setting are the offspring of generations of coyotes who survived and flourished in the urban areas.

In California, coyotes breed mainly during January, February, and March. The gestation period is about 60-63 days. The young are born between March and May, with litter sizes averaging 5-6 pups. Coyotes produce one litter per year. During the time of year when adult coyotes are caring for their young (May through September), they can be very aggressive when their young are threatened. Domestic dogs are especially vulnerable to an attack during this time. If a den site has been identified in an urban setting, caution should be taken, and dogs should be kept out of this area. Coyote dens are found in steep banks, rock crevices, and underbrush. Coyotes are most active at night and during the early morning and late evening hours. However, young coyotes tend to be more active during daylight hours than adults.

Though these animals are far from domesticated, they are very comfortable living in close proximity to human beings. They have little fear of man and are frequently seen trotting along within a few feet of joggers and walkers. While not normally a danger to human beings, coyotes will display defensive behaviors if threatened or cornered. Therefore, it is important to leave a comfortable distance between you and a coyote.

Small pets can easily become coyote prey. Cats and small dogs should not be allowed outside alone, even in a fenced yard. It’s highly recommended that small pets always be accompanied by their owner. Though coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise, they can be observed at all hours of the day and will not pass up the opportunity for an easy

meal. A dog or cat left in a backyard can be snatched in a matter of moments. It is not unusual for a coyote to “stalk” a residence for several days observing the routine of their prey before attacking.



Many steps can be taken to protect you and your property from nuisance animals like coyotes and other wildlife. Listed below are some of the steps you can take to minimize encounters and potential conflicts between coyotes and other wildlife including bobcats, raccoons, skunks and mountain lions. Remember, no matter where you reside in Orange County you may encounter some of these animals.

- Fence off animal enclosures (fully enclose if possible).
- Keep cats and small dogs indoors or in the close presence of an adult.
- Keep your dog close to you on walks, use a short (6 ft.) leash not a retractable leash
- Carry a large stick when walking your small animals during the early morning hours and at dusk
- Keep yards free from potential shelter such as overgrown shrubs, brush and weeds.
- Eliminate food and water sources, such as fallen fruit, standing water
- Feed pet indoors - do not leave pet food outside
- DO NOT feed Coyotes or any wildlife

If you do encounter an aggressive coyote, it is likely you have probably gotten too close to its prey or its family. Increase the “comfort zone” between you and the coyote. If you feel threatened throw a rock or stick at the coyote. A coyote behaves in a similar way as domestic dogs that are defending their territory and family. Even a fully fenced yard will not keep out a hungry, athletic coyote. These animals are extremely agile and can easily scale any residential fence. All children should be taught from a very early age to avoid strange animals, whether domestic or non-domestic. When older children are walking through trails or parks, they should be instructed on coyote safety.

HELP! I’m Allergic to My Pet!

Being a pet owner is never easy especially when a pet owner is allergic to his or her companion animal.

Living comfortably with a companion animal despite being allergic to him requires a good understanding of the allergic condition and an adherence to a few rules.

If you or a family member’s allergies are simply miserable, but not life-threatening, take these steps to reduce the symptoms:

- Create an “allergy free” zone in the home-preferably the bedroom-and strictly prohibit the pet’s access to it. Use a

high-efficiency HEPA air cleaner (available at almost any home and garden store or discount department store) in the bedroom.

- Use HEPA air cleaners throughout the rest of the home, and avoid dust-and-dander-catching furnishings such as cloth curtains and blinds and carpeted floors. Clean frequently and thoroughly to remove dust and dander, washing articles such as couch covers and pillows, curtains, and pet beds. Use a “microfilter” bag in the vacuum cleaner to effectively catch all the allergens.

(continues on next page)

Letter from a Friend

(continued from page 3)

Dear Save Our Strays,

You are a lifesaver!! God bless you and all your efforts. I will call the vet tomorrow to schedule the appointment (for a neuter). You have no idea how much you are helping not only me but me being able to keep my handsome little boy kitty. I will forward a pic when I can. He is so sweet no one would ever know he was ever a feral. He is getting to that age where he does weird cat stuff. He is still small because his growth was stunted due to malnourishment. He is growing fast now.

Again, I so appreciate your hard work and such kind-hearted efforts. God Bless...

Sincerely,
Jeanne and kitty "Bobby"

- Bathing your pet on a weekly basis can reduce the level of allergens on fur by as much as 84%.
- Don't be quick to blame the family pet for allergies. Ask your allergist to specifically test for allergies to pet dander, rather than making an assumption. And understand that allergies are cumulative. Many allergy sufferers are sensitive to more than one allergen. So if you're allergic to dust, insecticides, pollen, cigarette smoke, and cat dander, you'll need to reduce the overall allergen level in your environment by concentrating on all of the causes, not just the pet allergy.
- Immunotherapy (allergy shots) can improve symptoms but cannot eliminate them entirely.

It is important to find an allergist who understands your commitment to living with your pet. A combination of approaches-medical control of symptoms, good housecleaning methods, and immunotherapy-is most likely to succeed in allowing an allergic person to live with pets.

Of course, if you do not currently have a pet and are considering one, and know you are pet-allergic, be sure to consider carefully whether you can live with the allergy before you bring a new pet home. Too many allergic owners obtain pets without thinking through the difficulties of living with them. And too often, they end up relinquishing pets, a decision that is difficult for the owner and can be life-threatening for the pet.



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