



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

# Stray News

Issue #57

Spring 2017

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

## Miracle in Huntington Beach for Brooklyn

As most of you are aware, Save Our Strays receives many emails requesting assistance with re-homing pets, finding homes for stray pets but also assistance with finding lost pets.

In late March, we received such a request from one of our members. The story began with an adoption of a sweet, beautiful kitty named Brooklyn. A family from Huntington Beach had driven all the way down to South Orange County to adopt her. The family was very excited to have the new addition to their household.

On the way home from the adoption, with Brooklyn in her carrier, a terrible car accident occurred just a short distance from home. The car overturned on the freeway, family members had to be taken to the hospital, and poor Brooklyn escaped from her carrier and was last seen running down the off ramp near the Bella Terra mall in Huntington Beach.

One of our members heard about Brooklyn's story and since it had happened in Huntington Beach, asked if we could send an email blast out to our members in case anyone might see her.

A couple who read the email blast (husband and wife who are devoted cat lovers but wish to remain anonymous) read about Brooklyn and were so moved by her story that they knew they had to help. They made up their own "missing cat" flyer with a reward noted and drove to the accident site. They searched for almost 4 hours to no avail, put up 65 flyers all over the area and talked with several residents and some of the business owners nearby. They went back the next day and searched some more and put up more flyers. The following day, a resident called them to say she had spotted the cat and they went back again to search but again came up empty handed.

A few days later at 10:00pm, a security guard for a business complex in the area spotted the cat and called them. They grabbed their humane trap, bait food and rushed over to the area. By the time they got there, Brooklyn was gone but the security guard showed them a video he had taken on his phone and it confirmed that the cat was indeed Brooklyn. They set-up their trap where she had been last seen and they walked the area for over 2½ hours searching in vain. Tired, they came back to where they had set the trap and settled into the car nearby to watch the trap from afar (stakeout time). Within minutes, a different security guard came running over to the car, screaming at the top of his lungs that he had seen the cat. They followed him to where she was. After a lot of coaxing and baby talk with tuna in hand, the wife got close enough to nab her.



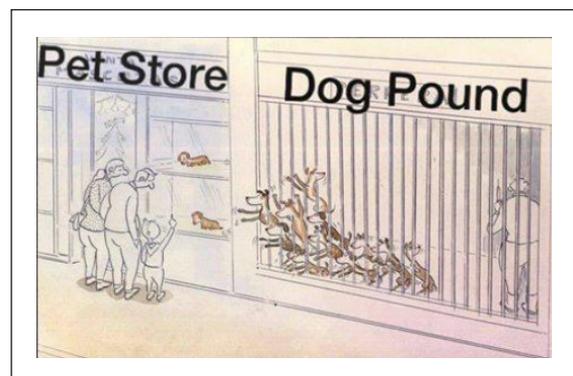
After she scruffed Brooklyn and held her close, as soon as Brooklyn saw the husband approaching with the carrier, the fight was on. That little 6 pound kitty was determined not to get into another carrier. She was obviously terrified, had been lost for 8 days and now probably thought she was being attacked. They did finally manage to get her into the carrier and drove her to the adopter's home at 2:00am, checked her for injuries and set her up in a room with food and a litter box.

The next morning they went back to the adopter's home because Brooklyn was refusing to eat. They brought over a variety of wet food flavors and the husband hand fed her food until she started to eat on her own (he has been called the Cat Whisperer).

The following day, the couple met with the security guards to present them with their reward money and some homemade cookies. They feel it was the security guards who were the hero's but without this couple being so tenacious about finding Brooklyn, this story would not have had the happy ending that it did.

We are all moved at some point by stories we have heard, but how many of us actually translate that into action? This couple went above and beyond for a sweet kitty they had never met but felt compelled to help. I think we can all learn lessons from their actions and hopefully if a situation arises where we are moved in a similar way, that we also rise to the occasion.

Wag and purrs to all who assisted with this rescue and contributed to saving the life of Brooklyn.



# 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.

## 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  
*Beverly Wallace*, Spay/Neuter Program Director

© 2017 Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach

## THANKS to our Sponsors & Patrons!

### Diamond Sponsor

Franciska Ritchey

### Platinum Corporate Sponsor

Boeing Employees Community Fund  
 Disney Worldwide Services

### Platinum Sponsor

Barbara Beck  
 Michael & Josie Wittenberg

### Sponsor

Anna, Hank & Taylor Beach  
 Susan Bell  
 Cathleen Carlson  
 Lynne Ehrlich & Thomas Fafard  
 Kathleen & Walter Fernandez  
 Rhonda Halverson  
 Nancy Harman  
 Susan Hattabaugh & Janet Szewczyk  
 Michael Hicks C.P.A.  
 June Hood  
 Deborah Janus  
 Janet Lewis  
 Connie Mandic  
 Margaret Mazotta  
 Lorrie Raia  
 Linda Revere  
 Deby Rogers  
 Annette South

### Corporate Sponsor

Smith Public Affairs

### Silver Sponsor

Clinton & Susan Berger  
 Gerald & Patricia Chapman  
 Lorraine Healing  
 Anne & Arthur Luczynski  
 Michel & Michael Stec  
 Sherril & Dean Stewart

### Gold Corporate Sponsor

Petco Foundation

### Gold Sponsor

Donald & Ellen Goodwin

### Patron

Ray Calloway  
 Suzanne Christy-Goldberg  
 James Hurst  
 Rod & Phyllis Kunishige  
 Bobbie & Bernard La Grua  
 Audun & Evelyn Oynebraaten  
 Albert & Colleene Preciado  
 Mary Ransbury  
 Annette South  
 Kimberly Taylor  
 Janet & Ronald Von Freyman  
 Barbara Williams

## SOSHB Membership Information

### 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.

*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.*

### SPONSOR

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

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>Gold Sponsor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Silver Sponsor</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>Platinum Sponsor</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>Diamond Sponsor</b>	<b>\$5000</b>		

## 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

**NEW T-Shirts:**  \$15 member  \$20 non-member

Select T-shirt color:  Purple  Navy  Turquoise

# of shirts requested in each size: \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

**Crewneck Sweatshirts:**  \$20 member  \$25 non-member

Select color:  White  Grey

# of shirts requested in each size: \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

**Hooded Sweatshirt:**  \$25 member  \$30 non-member

Select color:  White  Grey

# of shirts requested in each size: \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Add \$7 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**

# 7 Spring Cleaning Tips for Your Pet's Health

Spring is here! Before you start the fun task of spring cleaning your home, you should first think about how your spring cleaning could affect your pet. Here are 7 simple spring cleaning tips for your pet's health:



## Household Cleaning Products

Most people automatically associate spring cleaning with the use of household cleaning products. But before you take out that shining floor cleaner, be sure to read the label carefully as you do not want to hurt your pet. Almost all commercially sold cleaning products contain chemicals that are harmful to pets. Even if you use such a cleaning product, think about this: You wash your floor with a chemically-laced cleaning product while your dog is outside or in another room, thinking that the chemicals won't hurt your pet once the floor is dry. But what happens when your dog or cat comes back into the room? Each time they place their tongue on the floor (perhaps to lick up dropped food), they ingest a tiny portion of the chemical. Each time they lick their paws, they are ingesting some of that chemical cleaner as well. Any type of chemical should be kept out of the reach of your pets. Consider using a water/apple-cider vinegar mix to clean floors and other areas.

## Paints

Some homeowners like to put a fresh coat of paint on their house as part of their spring cleaning efforts. If you are one of them, be sure to keep paint away from your dog or cat. Sadly, solvents, paint thinners and other mineral spirits can cause severe irritation or chemical burns if swallowed. This is true even if your pets fur or paws come in contact with these types of paint products.

## Pesticides and Fertilizers

Spring cleaning can also pertain to your garden and you might spray pesticides or herbicides onto your outside flowers and shrubs to prevent them from being chewed up by annoying little insects. However, before you do, you should check first to see if the pesticide is pet-friendly. Most of them aren't and are quite lethal to pets. Even if yours is not lethal, it could still cause long-term health problems for your dog or cat. Recent studies show that the use of most types of pesticides and herbicides is related to increased rates of specific forms of cancer in dogs. Just like pesticides, lawn fertilizer can also be toxic to pets. Always follow the manufacturer instructions after you have added it to your lawn before allowing your pets outside. If your dog or cat is exposed to any pesticide or fertilizer, you should immediately wash them with soap and water and call veterinarian or poison control center. Remember to store pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers in a safe place that is far out of the reach of your pets.

## Flowers

If you have a green thumb, you are probably already planning out your flower bed garden. Keep in mind that there are over 700 different varieties of plants and flowers that are poisonous to dogs and cats. Before you start planting those seedlings, check to see if they are toxic to pets. For example, lilies, tulips, daffodils and morning glory's are lethal to pets.

## Fleas

One of the most annoying creatures of springtime is fleas. These tiny bugs grow very quickly and multiply as soon as they have latched onto

your pet. Spring is the best time to start preventative measures to avoid your pet becoming infested and keep your home free of fleas. Beware of using commercial flea products as they contain chemicals that may result in liver damage or other long-term health issues for your pets. They can even cause death of your pet. Instead, use an all natural alternative such as Flea Guard (available at [www.TheHolisticHorse.com](http://www.TheHolisticHorse.com)) that acts as an insect repellent to control fleas on your pets. It can be used as a preventative measure as well as a treatment should your dog or cat already have fleas.

## Pet Allergies

Springtime can cause an onset of allergies for yourself, your dog and/or your cat. Make sure any allergy medications you are taking for yourself is kept stored out of your pets reach. Ironic as it is, almost every type of allergy that you suffer from, your pet may also suffer from. A few examples would be allergic reactions to chemicals, contact dermatitis, insect bites or food allergies. If you suspect your pet has developed an allergy, you can treat it by giving them Canine or Feline Nettle-Eyebright (available at [www.PetWellbeing.com](http://www.PetWellbeing.com)), an all natural supplement that helps alleviate allergies by maintaining natural balance within your pet as well as stimulating their immune systems.

## Beware the Mold

If your ideas of spring cleaning means that you are finally going to clean behind your fridge or stove, it is best to remember that the toxins that are thrown into the air by removing mold from these places can pose a threat to your pets. Some mold produces mycotoxins, which cause gastrointestinal, cardiac and neurological side effects in pets. If you do find mold anywhere in your house, it is best to contact the appropriate specialist to find out how to safely clean and remove any mold hazards.

## Letter From A Friend

Hi Karen,

I just dropped Maia off for her procedure (spay). I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I fostered Maia at only 4 weeks old and loved her so much I had to keep her. It's been a rough year financially, so your program is a Godsend. Thank you for making this available to those in need.

Melissa



# Second Chances

It is the sad truth that older pets in shelters are often overlooked by adopters who are usually looking for a young puppy, kitten or bunny. According to data from Petfinder.com, an online searchable database of animals who need homes, senior cats and dogs typically spend four times as long in shelters as younger animals (if they make it out at all). Of shelters surveyed, 28% said seniors are the hardest animals to adopt out.



Taking in a senior pet can be a daunting prospect for people who envision a long, rich life with their animal companion - emphasis on the "long". But time and time again, statistics show that people who adopted older animals feel a special satisfaction knowing they gave a second chance to animals who may otherwise have spent their last days behind shelter walls. One of the biggest rewards of adopting older pets is how grateful they are that they seem to know they are getting a second chance. It's just something you see in their eyes.

Pros of adopting older pets:

- \* Most are already house-trained
- \* They're great companions
- \* They have laid-back, gentle spirits
- \* They usually don't need as much exercise as younger animals
- \* You'll get good vibes from helping an animal in need

Concerns about health issues or not getting enough time with an older pet steer many adopters toward the younger animals. But puppies and kittens come with their own challenges. Their exuberant nature often require adopters to attend to every door, table lamp and roll of toilet paper in the house.

Many people fear the vet bills they assume will come with older pet but young animals are not without their expenses. It's important to keep things in perspective. Yes, you want the pet to have a high quality of life but many folks who adopt older animals want to focus on keeping the animal comfortable in his golden years.

So when the time comes when you are considering adding another furry friend to your family, please consider giving a loving home to a senior pet. You will indeed be saving a life and you will have the immense love of a grateful, loyal companion.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED