



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #37

Summer 2010

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. 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.



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!

First Annual Yoga Fundraiser a Success

On March 20th, Save Our Strays had its first yoga fundraiser, hosted by Cloud Nine Yoga Co-op and led by SOS volunteer Linda Crossley.

The class was a "soft and gentle" class as many of the attendees were first time yoga students. The poses were focused on stretching, breathing and relaxing, something that all of us need in our busy lives. Research has shown that both owning a pet and yoga have many of the same health benefits. And, it is not a coincidence that many yoga poses are named after animals, such as cat, dog, horse and fish.

If you have never attended a yoga class, you might be surprised to know how quickly you feel the results. Many of the attendees expressed a much more relaxed feeling and improved mood at the end of the class.

Overall, a great time was had by all. All funds raised at the event were donated to Save Our Strays to support our low-cost spay/neuter program. A very special thank you to Cloud Nine Yoga for the use of the facilities and Linda for donating her time for the event.



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.

THANKS to our Sponsors & Patrons!

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Platinum Sponsor

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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:

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

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The Story of Sophie

The plea came in via email from a long time member of Save Our Strays. She and her husband had been looking at a home in Huntington Beach that was for sale. She was horrified by the pack-rat conditions at the home but her primary concern was for the two kitties who had been abandoned in the home.

The elderly kitty parents had passed away within a few months of each other. The house had been up for sale for several months. The cats were living in and out of the home and were being fed by the real estate agent who was handling the sale.

Save Our Strays jumped into action and President, Karen Chepeka, went to the home to check out the circumstances. The conditions at the home were so appalling, it was clear the cats could not stay there.

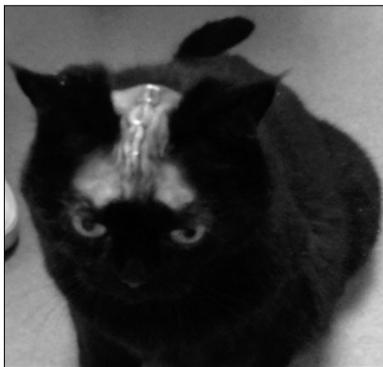
The cats (Buddy and Sophie) were taken to Beach Blvd. Pet Hospital to be checked out by the vets and while a search was on for a foster home. The vets estimated that Buddy and Sophie were approximately 8-10 years old but were in good health. As luck would have it, a great foster home was found for them and they were taken there to wait for a permanent, loving home. Unfortunately, a week after the kitties were placed in foster care, the foster Mom unexpectedly had to have triple bypass heart surgery and was unable to care for them.

Buddy and Sophie were taken back to the vet hospital for boarding while a new foster home was located. It took a week but a foster home was located and the kitties were once again moved to a new home.

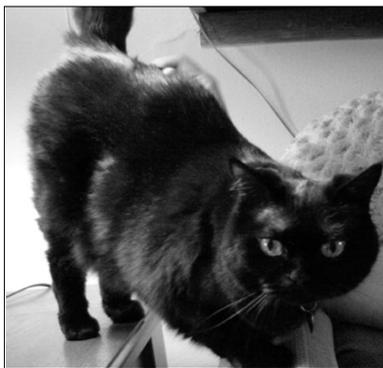
The search began for a permanent home for them. There were several inquiries from prospective adopters but due to their age and the fact that they had to be adopted together, an appropriate home was difficult to find. As sometime happens with foster care, the new foster Mom became attached to them and decided to adopt them.

This story would have ended there with a happy ending except that last February, Sophie began to display some odd behavior. She began hiding from her Mom, didn't like to be touched and overall became unsociable. She was taken to the vet for a full blood workup and body x-rays. Nothing showed up but some slight arthritis in her back. She was given some medication for the arthritis.

About a week later, she began to stumble around and fall over when trying to walk. A trip back to the vet and the diagnosis of some kind of neurological issue was given. Fortunately, neurologist, Dr. Stephen Hanson of the



Sophie 24 hours after surgery



Sophie 1 month after surgery

Veterinary Neurology Center had a cancellation that day and was able to see her. After putting her through some physical tests, it was determined that there was a possibility of a fungal infection but if that tested negative, it was likely a brain tumor.

The tests for infection did indeed come back negative and an MRI of her brain was scheduled a couple of days later. The MRI came back that there was a walnut-sized tumor toward the back of her brain. While this was terrible news, the good news was that it was operable and the neurologist felt that he could give her several more years of a quality life. He estimated she had probably had to tumor for over a year; it was slow growing, so she had it well before she was rescued by SOS.

Sophie's condition had deteriorated to the point that she was in so much pain that she could hardly move, so surgery could not be postponed. It was scheduled for a couple of days after the MRI. As you can imagine, the cost of the surgery was expensive, almost \$5000 and the foster Mom had already spent over \$2000 in treatment and diagnosis.

An urgent plea was sent out via email to the Save Our Strays member base asking for help with donations to help offset some of the cost of the surgery. Sophie's life depended on this surgery and it could not be put off. Our members rallied around the cause and almost a \$1000 was raised.

On February 11, Sophie had her brain surgery. It was a huge surgery, about two hours, but she came through it like a trooper. The tumor was able to be removed in one piece, which was very good news in terms of possible reoccurrence. Twenty four hours after surgery, she was up walking around and eating just like it was a normal day for her. She never complained about the staples in her head or the unattractive bald spots all over her body where she had to be shaved for various tubes to be placed.

As of the writing of this article, Sophie has not had any seizures, which is common with this type of surgery. She is now a happy, healthy kitty. It is interesting to note that her personality has changed since the surgery. She would never play with toys or want to be cuddled prior to her surgery but she has become a love bug. She now loves to play and chase her brothers and sisters around.

Wags and purrs go out to all of you who sent donations for her surgery. Without such generosity, Sophie would not be alive today. The animal community is a tight-knit group and is always amazingly responsive to an animal in need. Thank you for all you do for our animal friends.

Stamps to the Rescue

The United States Postal Service, along with Ellen DeGeneres and Halo:Purely for Pets teamed up to give shelter pets around the country a first-class meal.

On April 30, the USPS began offering a new ten stamp collection featuring shelter pets, five cats and five dogs who were all homeless at one time. The purpose of the stamps is to raise awareness of the need to adopt shelter pets. All the animals featured on the stamps but one had been adopted at the time they were photographed.

During the launch of the stamps, Halo will be donating a million meals to animal shelters around the country.

Along with the stamps, there is Animal Rescue Stamp merchandise available at The Postal Store (www.USPS.com).

You can make a difference by adopting a pet, volunteering with an animal organization or just getting the word out about buying these stamps. The stamps were used in the mailing of this newsletter.

What a great example of government and the private corporate sector uniting for the benefit of the animals!



Letter From A Friend

Dear Save Our Strays,

I just want to thank Anna and your organization for helping with the cost for spaying Coco and Bella.

*Sincerely,
Renee De Peso*

Save Our Strays



P.O. Box 4083
Huntington Beach, CA
92605-4083

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED