



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #54

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

The Story of Bo

It started with a phone call to Save Our Strays from Kathleen Duran, the office manager at Beach Blvd Pet Hospital in Huntington Beach. This veterinary hospital is a Save Our Strays partner in providing spay/neuter and medical services.

Imagine you have been living your life in a loving home and then one day you have been abandoned. That is exactly what happened to Bo, a 14 year old pit bull mix. Bo's owner had dropped him off for boarding and never came back for him. He stayed at the hospital for 3 months while the staff attempted to reach his owner and when that failed, tried to find him a new, loving home. The staff became very attached to Bo but living a life in a kennel is no life for a healthy, happy boy like Bo.

After the call to Save Our Strays, the media machine went into action. Email blasts went out with Bo's story and photos of his sweet face. It was a very compelling story and many inquiries came in about Bo but no adoption requests.

His story attracted the attention of Maripat Davis, a volunteer with "All for Love Animal Rescue". She had a contact with a dog rescue in Portland, Oregon called "Family Dogs New Life". After many emails and phone calls to ensure that everything about Bo's past and his needs were communicated and that this rescue would be right for him, Maripat arranged for "Rescue Express Transport" to drive him to Oregon. "Rescue Express



Transport" is a free service for rescue groups in California, Oregon, Washington and Western Canada. They offer twice a month transports which allow rescue groups in high kill shelter areas to have the option to transport animals pulled from these high kill shelters to go to other rescue groups where there is a shortage of adoptable animals.

One of the vet techs at the hospital, Brittany, drove Bo down to Temecula to meet his driver and start his journey north. "Rescue Express" got Bo safely to Oregon to meet Becky Robbins with the rescue organization. He was placed in a foster home with a family and kids to love on him. Bo was finally able to relax outside and be part of a home again.

As of the writing of this article, Bo is still in a foster home but he is doing "awesome". The foster family adores him, so they were a little slow to post his availability. He has been available for adoption for about 2 weeks and there have been some interested adopters.

This story has a happy ending but it could not have happened without the networking of several animal organizations and the caring staff at the animal hospital. We all receive many, many emails and calls about needy animals looking for homes and sometimes it can be overwhelming. This situation demonstrates that the process does work.

Wags and purrs to all those who were involved in Bo's story.

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:

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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.

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Holistic vs. Traditional Medicine

by Karen Chepeka

Kidney disease is one of the most common diseases in older cats. The treatment most recommended by western medicine is a low protein or Science Diet's K/D diet and subcutaneous fluids (sub-Q).

In June of 2015, my 17 year old kitty Buddy was diagnosed with stage 3 kidney disease. At the time, I put him on a low protein diet and administered sub-Q fluids on a daily basis. By October, he was in stage 4 renal failure and had lost significant weight.

I began the search for alternative treatments and came across an article written by a veterinarian, Dr. Lena McCullough. Contrary to traditional western medicine, she recommended a high protein diet. In addition to the high protein diet, she also recommended an herb called Slippery Elm. Slippery Elm is a bark known for preventing or improving damage to a cat's kidneys. Slippery Elm bark is harvested from the stringy, inner bark of the American elm tree. The herb has been used for centuries as a medicinal agent for both humans and animals. Its greatest effects are on the mucous membranes of the digestive tract and linings of the organs.

Ailments ranging from mouth sores to stomatitis, throat pain, coughing, upset stomach, vomiting, esophagitis, ulcers, and urinary tract problems respond well to treatment with Slippery Elm. Because it is considered a food, it is usually well tolerated and has few side effects in humans or in cats.

When consumed, Slippery Elm coats the lining of the digestive tract with a soothing layer of mucilage, a slippery substance that protects against inflammation. Mucilage is highly effective in preventing bodily acids from burning and irritating delicate tissues.

To complement the high protein diet and Slippery Elm, Dr. McCullough also recommended acupuncture.

In October, I started Buddy on the high protein diet, the Slippery Elm and acupuncture. Within a month, Buddy had gained over a pound and his coat was soft and shiny. He plays like a much younger kitty and has a phenomenal appetite. I expect that he has some good, quality time ahead of him.

I can only attribute his improvement to the diet, the Slippery Elm and the acupuncture.

When you receive a devastating diagnosis for your pet, there may be alternative options that your vet may not be aware of or not educated about. It pays to do the research and educate yourself about the available options. Had I not done this, I don't know if Buddy would be with me today.

Holistic medicine has become mainstream and more acceptable. A complement of western medicine and holistic treatments may provide the quality of life for your pet that enables them to spend many more years with you.

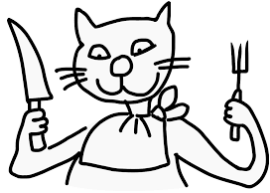
PET ALLERGIES

For people who suffer from allergies, determining the cause of the allergy, whether it be pollen, mold or pet dander, is the first step in living a happier, healthier life. Discovering that you or a family member is allergic to your beloved pet, however, is something that can be quite devastating. Sneezing, wheezing, congestion and irritated or watery eyes are all common symptoms of pet allergies. The allergy may be because of pet dander, or it may be because of the animals' saliva or urine and excrement. Animal hair is rarely the cause of allergies, which means that the myth of short-haired animals being a better choice for those with allergies is just that – a myth.

Having allergies doesn't mean you have to give up your pet right away, however. There are a number of solutions that can be attempted first. Take stock of your living situation. Rather than giving the animal free run of the house, restrict them to only certain rooms or increase the amount of time they spend

outside. Make sure that the litter box is out of the way. Make the bedroom of the affected person completely off limits to the dog or cat. Run HEPA air filters and clean your home, especially carpets, often. Have the person with allergies avoid as much contact with the animal as possible, assuming there are other family members who can still love on and play with the animal. Give the animal frequent baths to remove dander, dust, pollen, dirt and spores, which are likely the cause of the allergy.

In the most severe cases where the animals cannot be removed from the house, or contact with animals is necessary, allergy shots can be an option. If you have allergies and desire to have a pet anyway, the best bet is to look for one with no fur, dander, or excrement that could cause allergies. A small tank of fish might not be warm and cuddly, but it is likely the best option for someone whose allergies prevent them from being able to enjoy their time with other types of pets.



Catnip Cookies

1-1/2 cups of flour	2 tsp catnip
1/8 cup grated Parmesan cheese	1 egg
1/4 cup powdered milk	1/2 cup of milk
2 Tbsp softened butter	1 Tbsp honey

Mix dry ingredients. Stir in wet ingredients to make a dough. If too sticky, add a bit more flour. Roll out the dough and cut into bite size pieces.

Bake on a cookie sheet at 350°F for 20 minutes until golden brown. Cool and break apart. Store in an airtight container.

Makes 50 pieces at 25 calories each

Letter From A Friend

Hi Karen,

I just wanted to thank you and Save Our Strays with the help to get Rex checked out. The specialist wanted to do more testing but I think we are just going to leave it alone for now. It (the toe) doesn't seem to be bothering him as much since he has been on the steroids they gave me. But I just wanted to say Thank You.

Scott Turner

Save Our Strays



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