

# Humane News

News for the friends and supporters of Seattle Humane

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## Mission

We proudly promote the human-animal bond by saving and serving pets in need, regardless of age, ability, circumstance or geography.

Seattle Humane  
(425) 641-0080  
13212 SE Eastgate Way  
Bellevue, WA 98005-4408  
[seattlehumane.org](http://seattlehumane.org)



*A volunteer vet and Seattle Humane veterinary staff member provide care to Turbo during a pop-up vaccination clinic at the shelter on Friday, Sept. 11.*

## Furry Patients Line Up for Pop-Up Vaccination Clinic

Community Outreach Program Helping Families Stay Together During Pandemic

Seattle Humane has been seeking out opportunities to enhance community outreach for a long time now, increasing access to resources that ensure pet owners are able to keep their families together despite financial hardships. The COVID-19 outbreak has challenged us to not only come to the aid of the community in innovative ways, but to expand our coverage to better assist the most vulnerable populations across the region.

Seattle Humane partnered with several regional animal shelters to begin offering a Mobile Pet Food Bank in April, providing free food and supplies to pet owners at pop-up events across King County. One Health Clinic joined in this effort this summer, adding veterinary care to the list of services provided during pop-up Mobile Pet Food Banks.

September 11, a somber day in our nation's collective memory, was even more pronounced this year, as the state was washed over by hazardous smoke from wildfires devastating communities throughout Washington. Seattle Humane had been ready to return to Auburn that day for another Mobile Pet Food Bank, joined again by the One Health Clinic, but it was agreed by all collaborators that the air quality was too poor to proceed as planned.

Since so many vets and licensed veterinary technicians had already volunteered to help that day, it was decided that One Health Clinic would host a vaccination clinic on the Seattle Humane campus instead.

One Health Clinic is a collaboration between the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Washington Center for One Health Research to create a health care model that addresses human and animal health and well-

***"Now, more than ever, all of us in this region, and especially the families being heavily impacted by the events of the last six months, need this extra support."***

**– Dr. Katie Kuehl**

being. One Health focuses on serving families with pets who are experiencing homelessness and are at risk of homelessness in King County and beyond.

The vaccination clinic was coordinated by Dr. Katie Kuehl, a veterinarian and clinical instructor of shelter medicine at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

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# Teaching (or Reminding) Our Dogs That It's Okay to Be Home Alone

**Dogs are spending a lot more quality time with their people these days. For many dogs, this will be okay.**

But some might get a bit too accustomed to it, and then have a hard time adjusting when life returns to normal. Seattle Humane Chief of Animal Behavior Emily Keegans says she's hearing concerns about dogs developing separation anxiety from adopters and pet owners in the community.

"A dog with true separation anxiety exhibits a very high level of anxiety (drooling, trembling, pacing, attempting to escape, not wanting treats or food and even injuring themselves) only when left alone, or when anticipating that they are about to be left alone," Keegans said. "It is unclear exactly what triggers separation anxiety, and there may be certain dogs who are predisposed to experiencing it. A major life change, or change in routine, may be a factor for these dogs."

So, what can you do when you're home all the time and suddenly the daily routine changes and you go back to work or school? Keegans offers up these exercises that you can do now that may help prevent your dog from developing separation anxiety.\*

- Leave your dog alone at least once a day, even if it's just for a short period of time (2-15 minutes). It should be enough to remind them that being left alone is still part of the normal routine. Do vary the length of time, staying away longer on some days.
- Find a chew treat (like a bully stick) or Kong stuffed with a delicious treat (smear a little peanut butter around the inside of the Kong, then add kibble mixed with canned food) that they ONLY get when left alone.

- Keep departures and arrivals really low-key. Ignore your dog for 5 minutes before you leave the house, and at least 5 minutes after you get home (or until they are calm).
- Work on teaching them that "departure cues" (the things you do as you prepare to leave the house) don't necessarily mean anything. For example, pick up your keys and put your coat on, or walk to the door and put your hand on the knob, and then don't leave.
- Work on getting them comfortable being crated. Make it a good thing by leaving the door open and putting toys/treats in it.\*\*
- Work on getting them comfortable with being confined in a separate room from you, or behind a baby gate. Start with short periods and build up to longer times alone, adding a Kong or a special treat. Keep the time periods short enough that the dog does not start to whine or bark, and gradually build up as the dog shows signs they are becoming comfortable.
- Ignore attention-seeking or anxious behavior, and reward calm behavior.
- Provide plenty of exercise, mental stimulation and appropriate chew toys.

Of course, weaning yourself off the joy of getting to be home with your pets all the time may be its own challenge! Rejoice in extra cuddle time and zero social distancing with them!

\*These exercises are NOT for dogs that are exhibiting signs of stress when left alone. In this case, we recommend you seek the help of a professional behavior consultant or behaviorist.

\*\*Crate training is generally not recommended for dogs with separation anxiety.

## Furry Patients Line Up for Pop-Up Vaccine Clinic

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based at Seattle Humane, where vet students have come to train and receive real-world experience for nearly a decade.

"Even prior to the impacts of COVID-19, families in our community were struggling to access care for their service animals and animal family members," Kuehl said. "When families are experiencing so many challenges with housing, employment, education and food insecurity, the last thing we want them to also be worrying about is having to give up a member of their family or watch them suffer because they are unable to access veterinary care."

Despite short notice and hazardous air quality, the One Health Clinic's first vaccination clinic at Seattle Humane saw a healthy number of furry patients come through. Pet owners checked their pets in at the MaxMobile outside the vet services entrance and were then asked to remain in their vehicles. It was important to ensure people avoided being outside any longer than necessary.

"The research shows us that animals can bring their families mental and physical health benefits," Kuehl said. "Now, more than ever, all of us in this region, and especially the families being heavily impacted by the events of the last six months, need this extra support."



## Volunteers Organize Donation Drive for Wildfire Victims

Seattle Humane staff and volunteers came together for a volunteer-led supply drive to support the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society on Saturday, Sept. 12. Thousands of pounds of food and supplies for pets and livestock were collected to help animals in the Wenatchee and Omak area displaced by wildfires.



# Got Mice? Seattle Humane's Mouser Program Can Help!



***Bravo the cat, watching over his Fall City kingdom.***

As pioneering cats, they had fitting names — Bravo and Braveheart — the first two feral cats adopted out by Seattle Humane's Working Cat Program (now known as the Mouser Program) in 2016. The 6-month-old brother and sister were tuxedos and tough. Unsuitable for an indoor-only life, they were adopted by Laura Thorpe for a simple purpose — rodent control.

Sadly, Braveheart was lost the first year, likely to a predator. As for Bravo? Four years later, Thorpe says he's still going strong and has free run of her Fall City property.

***"There is no question, these cats have a skill set that is of particular use to many people. Much like sailors who feel their home is on the sea, these cats need freedom and a setup away from human interaction."***

**– Melody Stone, Adoption Program Manager**

"Between our yard and our neighbors, he patrols over three acres, making him a very happy cat. He loves to hunt. Since bringing him home, our rodent problem is completely gone!"

It's just one of the many success stories Adoption Program Manager Melody Stone has seen since introducing the program at Seattle Humane.

"There is no question, these cats have a skill set that is of particular use to many people. Much like sailors who feel their home is on the sea, these cats need freedom and a setup away from human interaction," Stone said.

The required setup, whether it's at a barn, winery, warehouse or private home, must be a solid structure that provides warmth and shelter from the elements, food and fresh water daily and a soft place to sleep that's safe from predators.



Karen Weber knew she needed barn cats when she moved to her Woodinville farm. The barn was filled with old hay she describes as "one big mouse hotel." Sam the Yam, adopted in 2019 along with another working cat, quickly disposed of the unwelcome rodent "guests."

"Sam the Yam is a dream! He manages the barn by keeping the mice down and stays at the barn and seems very content with his life. He has gotten used to my presence and although still shy, he does not run away as much as he used to and likes to sun himself on the stairs," Weber said.

Mousers are adopted out in pairs or trios for companionship. Because it's never certain the cats will stick around the property, there's no adoption fee. Being so wary of people, Stone says it's critical to move them through the shelter system and out into the working world as fast as possible.

"There are people who hold fast that a feral cat is shy and simply needs more human interaction, but we stand firmly that mouser placement is the best direction and option for these cats," Stone said. "Our trusted teams of behavior experts can identify differences between a truly feral cat versus an undersocialized, shy or frightened cat and classify them correctly. This program is simple in that we have the opportunity to save the lives of feral cats through release or relocation. Give them the right space and they'll live their best lives ever."

**Thorpe says Bravo is proof of that.**

"You are giving a home and a chance to cats who would otherwise have none. There's no bigger payoff than that. I would do this again in a heartbeat," Stone added.



***Sam the Yam, relaxing outside his favorite hang-out, the barn.***

# Animal Welfare Rockstar Mariel Small

## Beloved LVT's Passion for Animals Has Huge Impact

On any given day, Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) Mariel Small likely has a cat (or several) staying in her bathroom or spare bedroom. Some are feral strays she's trapped herself that will now get spayed and neutered. Some may be sick and need extra medical care. In most cases, it's a cat she's fostering that's frightened, undersocialized and "untouchable."

"Mariel is a dynamo with our toughest and sickest shelter guests," said Seattle Humane Chief of Shelter Medicine Dr. Jessica Reed. "She instinctively adjusts to every animal and situation."

Staff members have another name for these challenging animals. "The vets all joke about any busted-up cat on campus being a 'Mariel' cat because so many of the ones I brought in had memorable issues," Small said.

Small's dedication to helping vulnerable animals started at a young age, when she dreamed of becoming a veterinarian. As an adult, she decided going to school to become an LVT made more sense. She enrolled in the technical program at PIMA in Renton with the express hope of getting a job in shelter medicine. The chance finally came in 2010, when she was granted an internship at Seattle Humane, and later a full-time position.

"It was definitely my dream job at the time! So much has changed here over the years," she said, "but I'm grateful to have been able to call Seattle Humane the home base of my career."

It's a career that extends far beyond the shelter, to the animal welfare community at large. When she's not working at Seattle Humane, she spends many of her days off working with other animal welfare organizations in the region like Feral Cat Spay/



*Helping animals around the world, Mariel Small found this pile of puppies in the Philippines.*

Neuter Project or Pasado's Safe Haven, helping to spay and neuter thousands of cats, including some exotic ones, like a cougar and a Coatimundi, an African Sand Cat.

Small doesn't limit her work to the United States either. She's worked with nonprofits running spay and neuter clinics on trips to Ecuador and Jamaica. Even on vacation, Small can't turn away from an animal in trouble.

"Last April, I traveled to the Philippines and kept seeing two tiny calico kittens crying outside a sludge puddle in some broken concrete a block down from my hotel," Small recalled. "I could only manage to ignore them for about a day before I snuck them into my room, reached out to all my welfare contacts and ultimately found a lady outside of Manila who was willing to adopt them. It took an hour-long cab ride to reach her and deliver them to safety. A friend I was traveling with thought I was nuts."

When not assisting with spay and neuters, Small readily takes on the most critically ill animals at Seattle Humane — oftentimes neonate kittens less than a month old.

"In years past, lack of emergency overnight care would sometimes determine the outcome for these patients, so I started taking them home to give them a shot," Small said.



*The two kittens Mariel rescued in Manila.*

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# “One of the best things that has ever happened to us!”

## A Military Veteran Finds Magic With a Dog Named Mary Jade



*Mary Jade, enjoying some playtime in her family's backyard.*

“Who rescued whom” is an old cliché, but it certainly never gets tired. Every adoption story is unique and wonderful, and the Seattle Humane team loves staying in touch with these fantastic pets as they make themselves at home with their new families.

Mary Jade was transferred to Seattle Humane just before we closed the campus to on-site visits in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This gentle 3-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier mix went into a foster home for the next two months and, shortly after Seattle Humane launched curbside adoptions, returned to meet her new family in early May.

***“In a time of chaos, she is our calming element. She is the best girl ever.”***

Her mom had been ready to find a new dog for a while, but her partner had no experience with owning a dog, and he was not receptive to the idea at first. That all changed when this young military veteran had his leg amputated last October and was suddenly spending a lot of time at home and feeling down. His spirits were lifted when friends brought their own dogs over for a visit, and suddenly the man who didn't want a dog was online watching dog videos and studying up on how to care for one.

### **They waited a long time for Mary Jade.**

“We counted down the days, barely able to sleep, waiting for her,” Mary Jade's mom says. “We purchased everything we might need for her. My partner even made her a homemade bed.”

**Mary Jade was nervous when her new family arrived, and her dad's prosthetic leg frightened her at first. Now, Mary Jade knows that the click of the leg being attached means it's time to play!**

“She sleeps with us because we have a lot of anxiety, and she really calms us and she seems to take his mind off of the pain,” Mary Jade's mom says. “She loves bedtime, but her favorite time is in the morning. She wakes us up with her bone in her mouth, tail wagging and lots of kisses. We get up and go out to the backyard for coffee and potty and play time.”

Mary Jade now knows many tricks. She is great on road trips and during walks. She loves spending time in the yard, where she can often be found burying a chew toy or watching the local bunnies. And her family is happy to spoil her with treats and belly rubs.

“Mary Jade is still, and will always be, one of the best things that has ever happened to us,” her mom says. “In a time of chaos, she is our calming element. She is the best girl ever.”

# Happy Tails:

## Uplifting Adoption Stories Made Possible by YOU

### Bonded cats Cosmo and Sebastian:

"They are very loving with each other and with us. Their favorite game is chasing the feather bird, which we fly around for them. They also like sitting on the windowsill to safely observe the outdoor birds. We are lucky to have them. Thanks for all you do at Seattle Humane."

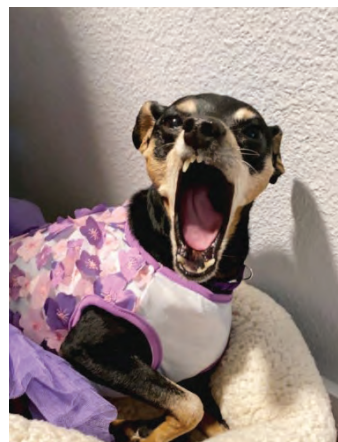
— Leslie N.



### Olive:

"She is happy to wear clothes so I got her a cute dress . . . The first picture makes me laugh because she was yawning, but she looks so ferocious. She does not like the rain, so I got her a raincoat. She DOES like to hike and is actually a pretty good/energetic hiker, we have tried up to as much as eight miles."

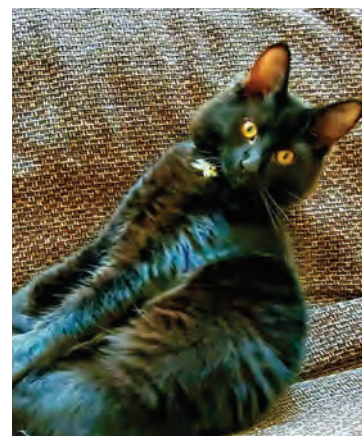
— Jessica G.



### Peter Rabbit (now Fizzigig):

"While he isn't a lap cat by the typical definition, he really enjoys just occupying the same space as people, whether it's laying by my feet as I'm working or following me to the shower to play lifeguard every night. I've seen a lot more of his personality come out, and he's honestly the biggest ham that just wins over anyone who comes through my door (or at the vet for that matter). Thank you guys for all you do and for helping me make him a part of our little family during a time of absolute craziness in the world."

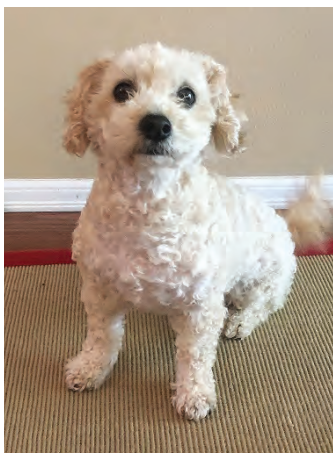
— Shelby M.



### Dottie, rescued during the Nisqually floods:

"She LOVES chasing balls around the house. She loves her Gumby baby. She loves treats and dances on her hind legs or jumps super high on all fours sometimes for them. She LOVES to sleep. She is a total bed hog. She loves to cuddle and get affection. She is the sweetest dog. I really hit the jackpot with Dottie. Proud to be a foster fail."

— Michelle R.



### Patch and Moolissa (now Chip and Luna):

(two of the five kittens found as newborns in a bag off I-90)

"They are still super cuddly and we love their personalities. They have (thankfully) become best friends with our German shepherd, Tank. We got him in mid-December and have loved seeing them build a great bond!"

— Justin and Taylor



### Ramone:

"Ramone is doing lovely! He loves to zoom around the house, perch on his pumice stones or snooze in his tent, eat treats and play with my resident chinchilla. He's so funny, he'll literally run around in circles until he exhausts himself! He is so sweet and gentle. I'm so thankful he joined my little family."

— Meredith L.



To give a gift to help a homeless pet or to learn how you can



## Pringle (now Beau):

"Turns out this pup loves camping! He has been such a joy in my life. We are still working on training, but he has just completely evolved. He is such a good boy, so incredibly smart and just brightens every single day for me. We went camping at Stampede Pass where Beau got to enjoy being off leash in the woods! Beau seems like he is very happy, healthy and just continues to grow closer to me every day. We have created a very wonderful bond."

– Erica O.



## Boba and Snap (now Momma and Cali):

"They are so sweet and perfect additions to our family! They ended up bonding well with our two other piggies — it took about a week. The baby we call Cali because of her calico color. She has become very comfortable and no longer is shy or hides besides her momma. She's a huge begger for veggies whenever the fridge opens! Boba we now call Momma. She's a sweetheart and she loves to snuggle us. Her first birthday is coming up and we're going to put together a small veggie/ fruit 'cake.' Thank you so much for allowing our family to adopt them."

– Felicia B.



Boba and Snap are pictured on the far left and far right.

## Copper Penny (now Mabel Moo):

"We are smitten. She has become the third child and sibling my children were longing for. Here is a photo where my kids pretended to be mom and dad and Mabel was the baby. She is the most patient kitten and is so gentle with my son, who at times can be a little bit '4' with her. Mabel sleeps with my daughter every night and tucks all of us to sleep each evening. Thank you for all the work you do, and particularly to the Walker family who fostered this sweet baby."

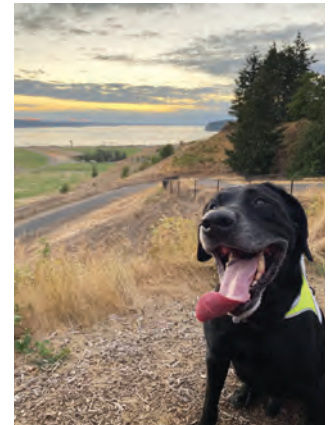
– Shannon P.



## Toby:

"Toby is having the time of his life! He goes on two walks a day and loves going everywhere with me. Toby and I are always exploring new areas to walk and play fetch. When we get back from our walks, you can find him catching a snooze on the couch. He is the perfect match for me and every day is an adventure!"

– Jessica H.



## Marco (now Steve):

"He is a completely different dog since we adopted him. He loves the beach, he is still a bit hesitant when meeting new people, but warms up pretty quick. He and our other dog are inseparable. He still has separation anxiety, but he is fine and we have found ways to ease that. I cannot thank you guys enough for bringing us together."

– Drew Q.



# Volunteer's Loving Dedication to Special Fosters

## Sally Stroud Provides Treatment and TLC to Cats With Ringworm



Sally holding Jake, a Maine Coon, one of her seven cats.

Ringworm. Volunteer Sally Stroud readily admits the word sounds unappealing. It's confusing too, because it's not a worm but a fungus. What IS certain is that helping cats with this condition has become a labor of love for her.

"I do the ringworms because they are the least likely to be fostered and they need fostering so badly," said Stroud.

Stroud, who's been volunteering with Seattle Humane since 2012, has had cats all her life and thought volunteering would be a great way to help them. She started as a cat socializer in the old building and has been fostering for the last four years, specializing in cats with ringworm.

A cat named Razmataz was one of her first. Stroud took the 4-month-old kitten home, and when she opened the carrier in the spare bedroom he just sat there, as he didn't know what to do in such a large space. Raz had been in isolation most of his life and never had the opportunity to run, jump or chase toys.

Stroud says he was ecstatic when he realized he could play and have fun. That was when Stroud knew — she had to help these cats.

"It just really stuck in my mind about how undersocialized they can be when they are really young and because they've been in isolation so long."

Because it's so contagious, isolating ringworm cats is a must. Stroud says she uses two spare bedrooms and even a bathroom if she has three "batches" of fosters. Seattle Humane also provides her with PPE and all the necessary supplies for treatment, including the lime sulfur antifungal "dips" that must be administered regularly.

Overall, Stroud says people considering fostering ringworm cases should just relax. It's not a big deal.

"People may think the cat is sick, which it isn't. They can take weeks to be treated and the dipping is a bit of a hassle, but not as much as caring for orphan bottle babies!" said Stroud.

"Sally has been such an asset to the Seattle Humane Foster Program," said Catie Waits, Interim Foster Supervisor. "She's saved so many lives by bringing the ringworm cats out of the shelter and into her home for their weeks of treatment. She's created an efficient process at home so she's able to keep up with their treatments as needed. She is such a loving, selfless person, and we are so grateful for her dedication."

Sally has seven cats of her own and says that is her absolute limit. They include Moose and Sugar (brother and sister, age 17) Charlie and Zoe (brother and sister, age 13) Doug and Percy (brothers, age 1.5) and Jake, her 11-year-old Maine Coon.

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## Animal Welfare Rockstar Mariel Small

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She's particularly proud of her ability to get an IV in even the tiniest of kittens, including one that weighed just 8 ounces. The kitten survived, and now has a home to call their own.

Small's compassion for animals is well known in the community. Veterinary colleagues across Puget Sound know to contact her if they hear of a pet needing an emergency surgery their owner can't afford.

"She's extremely dedicated to helping people and their pets get the care and services they need. I generally receive two to three requests from Mariel a week asking if we can help with cases who don't have any other options," said Dr. Reed.

Small feels "super grateful" that Seattle Humane has both the resources available and is willing to step up for these animals in need.

"In almost every case, the animal would not have survived without Seattle Humane's assistance. It has been a kind of safety net throughout my career that's allowed me to find so many animals the help they need," added Small.