

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.

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Meet the 'Ice Cream Kittens'

Four kittens, rescued from a barn in Spokane last year, now living a life of comfort, thanks to a Seattle Humane Animal Care team that refused to give up on them.

Born in a barn, then "scooped" to safety

Like most rescues, it started with a call for help.

Seattle Humane Animal Care Associate Calista Weber had received word of an elderly woman in the Spokane area with a barn full of kittens. The woman had spotted a coyote on the property and the shelter in her area couldn't come out to trap the kittens due to COVID-19. She was worried for their safety.

"We were originally told it could be up to 20 kittens, all about 8-10 weeks," said Shelter Care Manager Manders Vandel. "At that age, kittens are old enough to be weaned and eating on their own."

After driving across the state, they instead found 10 kittens – including a litter of four the woman didn't even know about. They were hidden behind some hay bales stacked against the wall.

Squeezing her body into the narrow gap, Weber managed to "scoop" them out one by one. All four

were just weeks old and had severe upper respiratory infections (URIs). Not knowing which feral cat on the property was the mother, the decision was made – the kittens were too sick and malnourished and had to get back to Seattle Humane for treatment.

After a brief stop-over in a grocery store parking lot to bottle-feed the four sickest some KMR formula mixed on the spot, all 10 rescued kittens were driven back to the Bellevue shelter where multiple teams were waiting for them.

"I was so blessed when they pulled through their sickly days and were able to grow and flourish. They turned into these chunky angels!"

– Liza Backer

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Meet the 'Ice Cream Kittens'

Continued from page 1

Before they'd even left Spokane, Interim Volunteer Supervisor Liza Backer knew she had to foster the four 'Ice Cream Kittens,' nicknamed so because of how they were scooped to safety.

While not a newbie to fostering, Backer had never taken on kittens this young. They had to stay warm and be bottle-fed every three to four hours. With the help of her partner and a friend (and many sleepless nights), the skinny kittens born in a barn – Neopolitan, Waffle Cone, Vanilla Bean and Cherry Garcia – grew healthier and fatter.

"I was so blessed when they pulled through their sickly days and were able to grow and flourish. They turned into these chunky angels!" says Backer.

Adopted together, brothers Vanilla Bean and Cherry Garcia (now named Isaac and Fig Newton) live in Seattle. Mom Jennifer calls them "the sweetest, most gentle kitties that I've ever known" and frequently posts about their adventures on Instagram @themewtons.

While the others were adopted quickly, Neopolitan stayed in foster with Backer for a few more weeks after a test for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) came back positive. Knowing the potential medical challenges he would face, mom Ashley still adopted Neopolitan.

Now named Blue, he frequently joins her on walks, sitting inside a special backpack made for carrying pets. He's also become best friends with the family dog Theo.

"Other than his diagnosis, he's perfectly healthy! Having him in our family has been a really positive thing for all of us, I think," says Ashley "It opened up a dialogue with my son where we discussed Blue's diagnosis ... and he really strongly believes that even if Blue is only with us for a small fraction of his life, we're with him his whole life no matter what, and we're going to make Blue's whole life as best as it can possibly be."



The aptly named 'Ice Cream Kittens' just days after their rescue from a barn.



Blue in his backpack



Join our
Furmily!

Save lives all year long!

Your monthly gifts will help give homeless and hungry pets food, expert medical care, safe shelter and the loving families they deserve.

Sign up to become a monthly supporter online at seattlehumane.org or by calling our Donor Services team at **(425) 373-5382**.

Making **Pets for Life** a Reality



Pets for Life Program Coordinator Chris Omland

Seattle Humane is working to grow a sustainable Pets for Life program based on the same model being used in more than 50 cities across the United States, building relationships with people and nonprofits to help fill service gaps and better address systemic inequities where they exist. Leading that charge is Pets for Life Program Coordinator Christian Omland, who joined Seattle Humane last summer.

Pets for Life at Seattle Humane supports pet owners by providing free spay and neuter procedures, wellness exams and pet supplies. The current service area is the 98108 ZIP code, which includes South Seattle, Tukwila and Burien. In just the first few months of the program, Seattle Humane engaged with 75 clients, with eight spay/neuter procedures performed and supplies and services provided to more than 40 pet families.

"We have started building relationships with folks in our program service area by sharing our information with local nonprofits, and by doing door-to-door community outreach," says Omland. "Starting the program during the pandemic has pushed us to be creative and look at new ways to conduct our outreach, such as socially distant supply drop-offs and communicating more over the phone than we typically would.

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Over time, we hope to build a sustainable program that continues to support people and their pets in underserved communities."

Omland attended Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a focus on Social Justice. She began volunteering at Puget Sound Goat Rescue when she moved to Washington in 2016, and received trainings through the Washington State Animal Response Team. She went on to become a veterinary assistant while volunteering at the Doney Coe Pet Clinic in Seattle.

As the Pets for Life Program Coordinator, Omland is laser-focused on her passion for supporting people with accessible veterinary care and other pet services.

"Seattle Humane is a leader in animal welfare when it comes to supporting the human-animal bond," says Omland. "I was drawn to Seattle Humane's commitment to supporting our local community by providing a wide variety of community outreach programs. I saw a team of passionate, driven folks working for this common goal, and I wanted to be part of that team!"

From Hawaii, with Love

Paws Across the Pacific Adoption Updates



The largest Wings of Rescue flight in history arrived at Boeing Field last October carrying more than 600 pets from the Hawaiian Islands. Seattle Humane and a dozen other Northwest shelters and rescues participated in Paws Across the Pacific. Here's how some of these Flyin' Hawaiian pets are living today!

Chai:

"Chai is doing wonderfully in adjusting to her new home, and she loves all the attention she gets from myself and my housemates! She loves exploring our neighborhood and then curling up on the couch with us for cuddles. I'm so happy to have been able to adopt Chai. She has brought so much enjoyment into my life!"

– Eric Z.



Freddy (now Bibi):

"Now that I am permanently working from home, I have lots of time to give to a pet, and was delighted to have been matched with Bibi through the Wings of Rescue flight. Bibi has already made friends with lots of other dogs in the building. He does really well socializing with all the dogs at the dog park and is especially fond of playing with puppies. Bibi also loves people. Adopting Bibi was the best thing, ever. I love him very much already! Thank you Seattle Humane!"

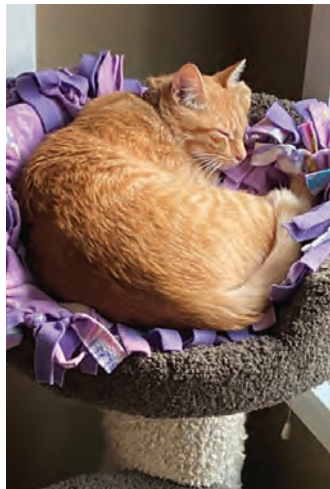
– Chris Z.



Moma (now Keona):

"Moma is doing great. She's had no problem adjusting to her new home. She's got lots of new toys and enjoys sleeping with us at night. She's probably one of the friendliest cats we've had. She's very affectionate and is even good with the young grandkids. She's a 5-star kitty. We've changed her name to Keona, which is Hawaiian for God's precious gift."

– Al L.



Calvin (now Leo):

"He loves sprinting up and down our long hallway, exploring all the new smells, playing and being held. We love him so much already!"

– Bryn S.



Nyx:

"She's AMAZING, I'm utterly besotted, and she's settled in quite nicely. Thank you so much to everyone who helped bring this magical creature into my life!"

– Colin L.



To give a gift to help pets in need or to learn how you can

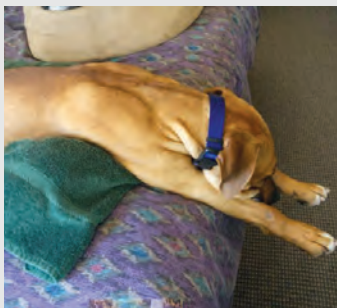
Pandemic Pets

Curbside Adoptions Carry on Our Mission Through COVID-19

Scrappy (now Max):

"We are thoroughly smitten with Max. He is sweet, always wants to be around the family and a great trail running buddy. He has hilarious sleeping positions ... I think he's part seal."

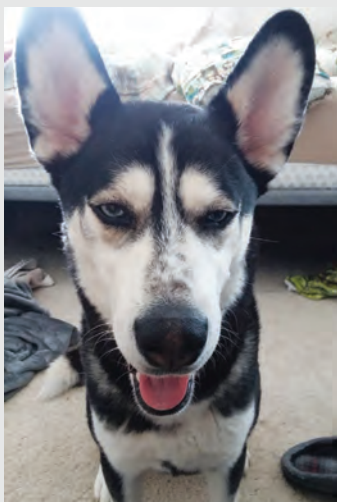
– Leslie W.



The Rock (now Rainier):

"Rainier is doing very well. He adjusted to the house very quickly. He seems very relaxed and curious. He's one of the calmest Huskies I've ever met."

– Reynaldo T.



Zorro (now Jack):

"Our daughter is a senior in high school and he is providing so much joy during a year that is full of so much disappointment. Our older cat, Gandalf (also adopted from you almost four years ago) is slowly getting used to the idea of having a kitten around and we think they will be great friends. Thank you for trusting us with Jack. We love him to pieces!"

– Annette R.



Madras and Argyle, part of a litter found in a feral cat colony at a Renton construction site:

"The last three months have been filled with so much joy with the addition of the kittens. We have renamed them Pimento and Shawarma, and they have brought happiness to every member of our household. We are actually wondering if Shawarma might have some Maine Coon DNA, because he is already 30" long with a huge fluffy tail, purrs so loudly you can hear it from other rooms and has an appetite that rivals mine. Pimento is my little snuggle bug and is fascinated by our shower, and she meows loudly throughout the house when she doesn't know where I am."

– Denise C.



Niffler:

"Our boy is very popular in the neighborhood (the bunnies think otherwise) and gets a lot of attention and compliments from folks around here. We include him in everything we do and it has been a lot of fun. He is an adorable soul and we are lucky to have him in our lives!"

– Amar D.



Ezra (now Albi):

"We are so in love with him. He is very social and wants to always be around us. The adoption was such a great experience. We got all our questions answered and the staff was very responsive. This is the third kitty I have adopted from Seattle Humane."

– Christina H.



Pet Resource Center Sees Surge in Need

Seattle Humane's Pet Resource Center has been challenged over the past 11 months to keep pace with the growing need for support as COVID-19 created financial hardships for many families around the region.

"Seattle Humane has not stopped providing pet food for low-income pet owners since COVID-19 began in our city," says Intake Director Jessica Charlton. "We have distributed tens of thousands of pounds of food through our Pet Food Bank." Before COVID, upwards of 40 dedicated volunteers would pack and deliver the food. When COVID prevented them from coming on campus, Seattle Humane relied on staff from other departments to fulfill the requests for help.

Seattle Humane has seen pet food assistance requests double since the pandemic started, adding nearly a dozen new partnerships to the 40 community partners in our network pre-COVID.

Seattle Humane's Pet Owner Assistance Fund, established by generous supporters who believe animal companionship should be accessible to everyone regardless of circumstance, replaces and enhances the intake diversion fund debuted in 2019. The Pet Resource Center is able to use this fund to help families struggling with high or unexpected costs challenging their ability to keep their pets healthy and safe at home.

In just its first six months, the Pet Owner Assistance Fund provided over \$38,000 in support for more than 100 families,

with much of that funding covering emergency veterinary bills. With less restrictions on how these funds are used, Seattle Humane has also helped with short-term hotel stays, dog training, pet supplies and other items that have helped keep families together.

Seattle Humane also spent months quietly providing temporary foster care for people who didn't want to surrender their pets, but needed help while they got back on their feet, before officially launching the SPOT program late last year. SPOT stands for Supporting Pet Owners in Transition.

"Seattle Humane's Pet Resource Center (PRC) has always received calls for help from pet owners in need of temporary foster care due to hospitalization, losing a home or being out of work," says Charlton. "Staff would cobble together what options we could to try to find a temporary place, and sometimes that meant fostering the pet themselves. PRC staff knew that these calls would increase with the risk of evictions looming, and our area being hit with high levels of unemployment."

The SPOT program allows pet owners to focus on taking care of themselves, knowing their pets are in good hands in the meantime. Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent should fill out a volunteer interest form which can be found on our website seattlehumane.org.



Seattle Humane Vet Focusing on Community Medicine

Dr. Hadar Friedman, Seattle Humane's Community Medicine Veterinarian, and her dog Waffles enjoying a hike and the view from Mount Si near North Bend.

Meet Dr. Hadar Friedman, Seattle Humane's Community Medicine Veterinarian. The Community Medicine program is in the process of becoming more fully developed. Serving low-income pet owners and people experiencing homelessness with keeping their pets healthy at home is at the program's core. Friedman has been spearheading this work since joining Seattle Humane in October.

When did you know you wanted to work with animals?

I guess I always knew since I was a little kid. I was always trying to play with all the animals I would meet and was quick to volunteer at my elementary school's pet corner, as well as at my local shelter when I was a bit older. The idea solidified when I was in the middle of my undergraduate degree. I worked in a few labs with mice, rats and octopuses and, at some point, I decided I was more interested in the medicine surrounding keeping them healthy and happy.

What was it like growing up in Israel?

It was great! It is a very beautiful and interesting country with a gorgeous coastline and very warm people from many backgrounds. I recommend visiting, after COVID-19, of course.

What attracted you to working at Seattle Humane?

After working in general practice for a couple years, I started to really miss helping low-income people. While I knew I was helping people and their

beloved pets as a general practitioner vet, I struggled constantly with trying to help owners achieve an affordable plan for treating their pets. I tried to find an organization in Seattle I could volunteer with that was similar to what I did in Wisconsin, but most places I found already were working with other clinics and not individual veterinarians. Then I came across this job opening, which seemed perfect! Helping support the human-animal bond by providing access to veterinary care and keeping pets with their humans despite difficult financial and living situations seems like such a noble goal to work toward, and I want that goal to be part of my daily work. I have always heard about how this is an amazing shelter, and the rumors all seem pretty accurate so far!

You worked in community medicine while at veterinary school, right?

Yes! Through the University of Wisconsin, I volunteered with Pets for Life in Milwaukee. I also helped out in the WisCares clinic. This was a student-run clinic at University of Wisconsin that offered low cost/free veterinary services to people with low-incomes and those dealing with homelessness. The goal was to help provide these people with vet services, as well as provide them with access to social services, human health and mental health services and support. I was happy that through my school, I was able to help those people take care of their beloved pets, so that they, in turn, could help themselves.

What do you see Seattle Humane's Community Medicine program looking like in the future?

Currently, we have been seeing increasing numbers of community owned pets for wellness exams, vaccines and some acute illness. In addition, with the help of the amazing team here, we have been able to help with a few emergencies requiring surgery! Going forward, I see this program serving low-income pet owners on a regular basis with preventative and wellness care and some emergencies and surgeries whenever possible a few days during the week. I also hope to be able to establish a few monthly or bi-monthly clinics out in the community, where people can get their pets vaccinated and treated for some simple problems.

What kind of pets do you have?

I have one sassy, yet sweet, Israeli dog named Waffles (Bafla in Hebrew) and two cute and floppy cats named Puddle and River (yes, they are littermates).

What do you like doing when you're not helping people and their pets?

I enjoy cooking, climbing and hiking in the mountains with my amazing dog Waffles.

Something to Bark About!

Seattle Humane has been awarded \$50,000 for the Community Veterinary Medicine program from PetSmart Charities' Access to Vet Care grant! This grant will span over 18 months starting in January 2021 and fund staffing, supplies, and marketing resources to increase the number of pets we can serve. It will also help us increase accessibility through multi-lingual print and digital resources!

Checking in on Three Humane Teen Club Alums

Aliyah Greenbaum: Vet School in Scotland

We featured Aliyah Greenbaum in our Winter 2019 newsletter when she was working on her undergraduate degree at WSU. A former member of Humane Teen Club, she spent years volunteering and working in nearly every department at Seattle Humane. Today she's fulfilling her dream of becoming a veterinarian and attending school in Scotland.



Aliyah Greenbaum, outside the University of Glasgow

"I have been in school since September and it is fantastic! The teaching staff and my fellow students are so nice and friendly. Everyone has done an amazing job from the beginning making us feel included and part of the University of Glasgow family, even though a majority of our classes are online," says Greenbaum.

Safety for its students and staff during COVID-19 is the university's number one priority, according to Greenbaum, so most in-person classes have been reduced to the necessary hands-on practicals.

"So far I have had practicals on injections, blood draws, suturing, blood smears, equine handling, cattle handling, sheep handling and canine handling. I had never really handled cattle or sheep before coming here, so that was a really exciting thing for me," says Greenbaum. "I also practice my suture technique and instrument handling every night before I go to bed, which I think it is a fun way to decompress after a full day of lectures."

Greenbaum will be helping with lambing season at a farm in England during spring break. She's hoping to come back to Seattle Humane over the summer for more cat and dog handling experience.

"Overall, everyone's been welcoming, friendly and clearly very eager to help us along this journey! I cannot wait to see what next semester and the next four years after that bring!"

Ava Finn and Novia Liu: Fighting for a Humane Pet Sales Bill

We first told you about Novia Liu and Ava Finn in our Summer 2019 newsletter. The young women first met in the Humane Teen Club (HTC) and worked together as interns in the Adoption department. They joined forces to launch a petition targeting puppy and kitten mills as part of their HTC final project in 2018. It demanded local pet stores only sell dogs, cats and rabbits that come from an animal shelter or rescue group. Thousands signed the online petition.

Now seniors in high school getting ready for college, the two have moved their fight to Olympia where they're working for passage of the Humane Pet Sales Bill.

"The goal is to close the loophole that enables out-of-state puppy and kitten mill operators to continue selling to Washington consumers. It does this by banning the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores, while still allowing them to partner with animal shelters and rescues to display adoptable pets," says Finn.

Animals bred for profit at these out-of-state mills often live in squalid conditions with little to no interaction with humans. In addition to being emotionally and physically scarred, many develop health issues that can turn into a major expense.

They are now focused on getting the word out on the bill, which will be up for passage once again this legislative session. Turns out Zoom meetings work perfectly for that.

"If there's a silver lining to our present situation, it's that we've been able to speak virtually to groups located everywhere from here on the Eastside to Vancouver, Washington!" says Liu. "Though these times are unprecedented, our commitment to the well-being of animals is as strong as ever."



Novia Liu (left) and Ava Finn (right) in pre-COVID days when they volunteered in Adoptions at Seattle Humane.