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◀ Animal Care Associate Marina Cruz gives Katie, a cat with ringworm, a bath or “dip” in lime sulfur in Seattle Humane’s Isolation Ward (ISO). Cruz started volunteering in ISO, then decided she wanted to care for these pets full time. Four years and hundreds of animals later: “It can be stressful, but it’s SO rewarding.”

Saving Our Most Vulnerable Pets

For longtime foster parent Kelly Wittman, the ‘E’ kittens she took in last year – Ellen, Elias, Emelia, Esther and Ethell – seemed like your typical litter. The identical gray-and-white tabbies were a little thin, but still energetic and playful.

“They were super social kittens, one of the most affectionate groups we’ve ever had. Everything seemed normal, they just had trouble gaining weight. I was syringe feeding and monitoring as closely as I could,” says Wittman.

Unfortunately, tests later confirmed the kittens had panleukopenia, a highly contagious viral disease that can be deadly if not treated immediately.

“Puppies with parvo and kittens with panleuk are definitely some of the sickest pets we see at Seattle Humane.”

–Dr. Jessica Reed,
Chief of Veterinary Medicine

“The decision was made they should come back to the shelter. I was sad and worried but I knew they were in the best possible hands,” says Wittman.

For these tiniest and most vulnerable pets in our care, those expert hands can be found in Seattle Humane’s Isolation Ward (known as ISO), a series of rooms in the heart of the shelter dedicated to caring for pets with infectious diseases like parvovirus and panleukopenia.

“Puppies with parvo and kittens with panleuk are definitely some of the sickest pets we see at Seattle Humane,” says Chief of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Jessica Reed. **“Puppies and kittens are most susceptible to these viral diseases because they have underdeveloped immune systems due to their young age, and they’re not yet fully vaccinated.”**

These sickest pets often need intensive hospitalization for days to weeks to support them through their illness, including intravenous fluids, antibiotics, anti-nausea medications and nutritional support.

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Mobile Clinic Helps Pets and People

To support pet owners during National Pet Vaccination Month, Seattle Humane provided free vaccines, microchips, wellness care, pet food and supplies at a mobile Community Medicine clinic at Seattle's SeaMar Museum in March. Our skilled vet team and veterinary students were able to see and treat nearly 100 pets. Members of our Pet Resource Center also distributed food and supplies to more than 60 pets, as well as backpacks, toys and information on our many community programs aimed at keeping pets with their families. There is a growing need in our community for access to affordable/free veterinary services, and we look forward to holding more events like this throughout 2022.



Seattle Humane Licensed Veterinary Technician Mariel Small and Community Medicine Veterinarian Dr. Hadar Friedman tend to a dog at a mobile clinic in Seattle on Saturday, March 19.

Saving Our Most Vulnerable Pets

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Sadly, kittens and puppies in some other shelters are not so fortunate. The intense amount of treatment needed, coupled with fears it could spread and erupt into a full-blown outbreak, result in many of them being euthanized.

Staff and volunteers working in ISO are covered head to toe in protective gowns, gloves and masks that have to be removed and replaced after every animal they touch.

Strict PPE protocol is especially critical for animals with ringworm, a common skin fungus that can spread to people as well as other animals. While not life-threatening, ringworm can take months to clear and requires twice-weekly lime sulfur dips and oral medications. Shelters unable to take on this type of long-term care often elect to euthanize these infected pets as well.

It's the memory of the ISO Ward in Seattle Humane's old Bellevue shelter — a converted closet with just six cubbies — that drives Lifesaver Program Supervisor Sarah Davidson to help as many smaller shelters and rescues as she can.

"We get asked frequently during kitten season to take in panleuk and ringworm kittens because some shelters don't have a way to properly isolate them or have run out of ISO space, forcing them to euthanize. If we have capacity, we'll take them," says Davidson.

As for the 'E' kittens? After a week in ISO, all five returned to foster mom Wittman. Fully recovered and healthy, they found loving homes a few weeks later.

Go to page 3 to see two of the 'E' kittens and other pets we were able to save thanks to your support!



Thank you for making our 125th Anniversary Tuxes & Tails Gala a success!

The money raised will impact the lives of countless pets and support the work we do year-round in all our programs.

See you in 2023!

Sick and Infectious Pets Saved with TLC

Oriel (now Johnny) Treated for ringworm



"Little Johnny has truly made himself part of the family. His current interests include power-snuggling, wrestling with our little dog, Pepper, and eating. All three of our other animals have accepted him, and how can they not? He's the most lovable cat in the world. Thanks for helping him through his long bout with ringworm and other stuff, so that we could have such a wonderful, healthy little guy." – **Ericka K.**

Brownie (now Toto) Treated for ringworm



"Our kitten prince is SO full of energy and growing fast! He was very restless when he was quarantined for ringworm, so he was pumped to run the rest of the house and meet his new big sister. They can't leave each other alone and love causing trouble together all day long. Toto brings us joy every day. Thank you so much for helping us complete our little family!" – **Emma C.**

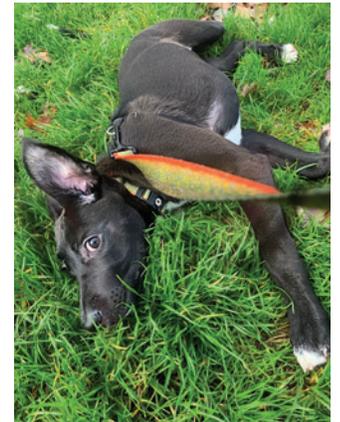
Penny (now Pumpkin) Treated for parvovirus

"She is so affectionate, caring, feisty, and stubborn, and I love her so much. Thank you for all the work you do. We went to a pumpkin patch, and I thought you might want to see the cutest picture. She's my perfect pumpkin." – **Andie N.**



Flamingo (now Cleo) Treated for parvovirus

"Cleo is doing awesome! She has a lot of fun with us and has so much energy! She loves going to the farmers market, on walks, or to the park. She loves meeting new dog friends and people at the park. She always gets compliments on her huge ears when we are out and about. She was very excited when it snowed and loved to try and catch it in her mouth. For a dog from Texas, she really thought she belonged in the snow!" – **Caroline B.**



Elenia and Ellen (now Lucy and Gracie) Treated for panleukopenia



"You'd never know they were ever sick... or maybe that's why they love people so much. They almost demand to be up under your chin and as close to us as possible. I've had more than one Zoom call crashed by them jumping onto my chest and nestling into my hair. They bring such joy to our house and make even hard days happy. We are so grateful to have adopted them!" – **Kari H.**

Alexios (now Boots) Treated for panleukopenia



"We never imagined that this little guy would bring so much joy to our family. We are very happy to have found Boots. He is very playful and smart – he has already learned to high-five and sit. He loves blankets and cuddling. His newest thing is watching Garfield movies, LOL. We're very happy." – **Martha M.**

All of these pets have happy lives with loving families, thanks to the support of friends like you. Help us save even more pets and visit SeattleHumane.org.

A Critical Lifeline for Local Families

Growing up on a farm in Iowa, Anne Fontaine loved and cared for all kinds of animals, including sheep, cows, chickens, pigs, dogs and cats. It's this deep commitment to helping animals and the people who love them that led Anne and husband Jack to start Seattle Humane's Pet Owner Assistance Fund in 2020.

Since its launch at the height of the pandemic, the Pet Owner Assistance Fund has become a critical lifeline in the community. Through this fund, Seattle Humane has provided financial assistance to families struggling to pay for a pet's lifesaving surgery

or treatment for an unexpected wound. But this special fund goes even further – beyond a pet's medical care – to help families with other urgent needs like dog training, temporary boarding or pet supplies.

Keeping pets with their people is an integral part of Seattle Humane's strategic vision and our shared belief with the Fontaines that experiencing the love of a pet should be a right and not a privilege. These are just a few of the grateful families helped by the Pet Owner Assistance Fund. With your support, we can help many more in the coming years.



Piggy

"Piggy, my cat, is almost 12. She is such a gentle soul. I've had her since she was 10 weeks old. **The Pet Owner Assistance Fund truly was a miracle.** My family had been homeless for the entire month of December after fleeing a domestic violence situation. We just got into our own apartment in January. A vet bill would've been impossible to manage and catastrophic to our efforts to get back on our feet. The fund helped us with vaccinations for Piggy, so we were able to bring her to our new apartment with us. I can't thank you guys enough."



Sonic

"I woke up one morning to my 12-year-old Pomeranian, Sonic, throwing up nonstop. I am on Social Security and spent almost everything I had to take him to the veterinarian to have him checked and tests ran. I found out that he has liver disease. My veterinarian wanted to make sure there was no tumor and said we needed to get an ultrasound. We barely had any money left to cover the cost of it. I reached out to Seattle Humane and they promptly paid the clinic and we were able to get Sonic in right away. Thankfully, there was no tumor. **If ever you are in need of help, Seattle Humane is there for you.** They know our pets are more than just pets. They are family!"

Floki

"Our dog Floki was incredibly ill when we brought him to the clinic. With your help, they were able to keep him overnight and administer medication and IV treatment. We were able to take him home the next day and keep him on meds for another week until he slowly recovered.



Though his recovery seemed swift, the truth is that we wouldn't have been able to treat Floki without your help. Like many, COVID-19 changed our family finances, making us unable to budget treatment and left to make some heartbreaking decisions. **The grant you gifted us was enough to allow for Floki's first treatment and get him back on his feet again.** Our family is incredibly grateful that your gift gave Floki the chance he needed to recover. Without it, the outcome would have been very different."