Message From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I recently attended a meeting at a large, well known, well funded animal shelter located in a metropolitan area of our State. I’m always interested to see how other facilities operate, how their employees interact with the animal population, how their kennels are set up, what volunteer opportunities they offer and what programs they provide to the animals and people in their community. Guests attending this gathering included a group of dedicated animal welfare professionals from shelters around the State and beyond. I was excited to share ideas with these great folks and see how our organization matched up.

As I sat and shared stories and ideas with this wonderful group of people, I quickly realized that the Whatcom Humane Society is not “normal” when it comes to the majority of animal shelters and animal welfare organizations. Most shelters fall into two categories; private animal shelter/rescue group – or – private animal shelter/rescue group with contracts to provide limited animal control services. Some organizations are limited admission facilities (aka “no kill”) - taking in only those animals they feel they can care for and then adopt, but turning other animals away. Some are open-admission facilities - taking in all domestic animals. A few shelters in the region have housing available for horses and barnyard animals and a few others offer wildlife rehabilitation services.

But as I looked around the room and listened to stories from other shelter directors, managers, veterinarians and advocates, my heart swelled with pride. Our “little shelter that could” does it all – and I mean all! We are an open-admission shelter, turning no animal away regardless of the animals breed, age, health, physical or medical condition. Our Division Street facility has cared for thousands of homeless, unwanted and abused dogs, cats, bunnies, rodents, birds, reptiles, fish (yes fish!) and pretty much anything else you can think of this year. We provide 24/7 animal control & rescue services for the majority of Whatcom County. We operate a 10 acre farm facility that provides a safe haven for abused and neglected horses and other farm animals and livestock in need. Our wildlife rehabilitation center has received and provided services to over 1,400 injured and orphaned native wild animals this year – already surpassing the total number of animals the center received in all of 2015.

Simply put – the Whatcom Humane Society is kind of awesome! There is no other animal shelter or animal welfare organization in Washington State or the surrounding Pacific Northwest region that offers the complete services that we do.

As we celebrate our 115th anniversary this fall, I think of the incredible impact we have made in our community and for the animals that depend on us. The Whatcom Humane Society receives no funding from national animal welfare groups. We rely on our community to help us help the animals who need us most. We couldn’t do it without the support of our hard working staff, dedicated volunteers and the generous adopters, donors, businesses, rescue groups, law enforcement partners and other friends. Working together, we have created a unique and special community that we all call home. I’m so proud of the Whatcom Humane Society and the work we accomplish on a daily basis. I’m incredibly thankful for the support and confidence the community has in our abilities and look forward to continuing to work together to provide the best care and services possible for the animals in our community – big and small – domestic and wild. On behalf of everyone at the Whatcom Humane Society, I would like to extend my wishes for a wonderful fall and a very happy, humane holiday season. Thank you!

For The Animals,

Laura Clark, Executive Director
## Board of Directors

Janet Hofmann, President  
Jennifer Sonker, Vice President  
Pam Went, Secretary  
Mary Meeks  
Scott Rice  
Victoria Savage  
Neal Swanson  
Jane Talbot  
Kevin Williamson  
Deb Wright

## Staff

**Executive Director**  
Laura Clark

**Administration**  
Courtney Adams  
Chris Sessler

**Animal Care**  
Amy Campbell, Manager  
Raena Anderson  
Kyle Berger  
Cholena Brown  
Tina Deming  
Allison Hoffman  
Alicia Longton, Foster Care Coordinator  
Caitlyn Orr  
Marisa VanderPol

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Services**  
Alysha Elsby, Manager, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, LVT  
Abbey Corbin  
MacKenzie Lacey  
Tessa Musolino

**Animal Control & Rescue/Field Services**  
Paul Evans, Manager  
Rebecca Crowley, Lead Officer  
Michael Anderson, Dispatcher  
Carrie Anderson  
Marcus Goodrich  
Londynn Jensen  
Kate Miller  
David Storm

**Finance/Accounting**  
Dana Berger

**Special Events**  
Dana Browne, Manager

**Humane Education**  
Zakia Kaminski

**Volunteer & Outreach Services**  
Carly Brewer, Manager

**Customer Service**  
Danielle Yencopal-Smith, Supervisor  
Peter Anderson  
James Tweedale

**Veterinary Services**  
Karen Rounds, DVM  
Amy Armstrong, Vet Tech

## Wish List

Donations for any of our facilities can be dropped off at the WHS shelter facility Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday – Monday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Zakia Kaminski at (360)733-2080, ext #3116 or email outreach@whatcomhumane.org. Check out our amazon.com wish list! Visit amazon.com, “gifts & wish lists” (and register on Amazon Smile – a % of your purchase will be donated to WHSI) then type in Whatcom Humane.
Dear WHS,

I’m writing this letter to commend your terrific staff at WHS animal control and the wildlife center. In May, we found a doe in our backyard, tangled in heavy wire. It encircled her near the flank, embedded in the flesh and her rear leg was caught in the wire up near her body so she couldn’t get her leg down or walk. We have watched this doe since she was a fawn and love her. It seemed she couldn’t survive as she was. We called WHS animal control.

It was after 5pm on a Friday night and we thought nobody would answer. But someone did. The animal control dispatcher said he would send help. We thought it would take too long for them to get there, and that the doe would wander away or severely hurt herself as she tried to walk, crashing into trees. But an animal control truck came to our house in no time. WHS animal control officer Marcus Goodrich assessed the situation; we were so grateful he’d gotten there so quickly. He waited with us until the WHS wildlife rehabilitation center arrived. Then the group went right to work.

First Marcus went on the other side of the doe so he could see where a tranquilizer dart might go if the dart missed – and to confirm it was safe to try and take a shot. Then Alysha Elsby the wildlife center manager (and licensed wildlife rehabilitator) aimed the dart gun and shot and the doe was hit. Amazing to us, the doe ran off – we didn’t think she could walk much less run. Now the staff had to find her and they all fanned out and searched for where she went down. Eventually they found her under our neighbor’s juniper tree on the ground. Alysha came and talked to us and explained everything that would happen and what they would do next.

Marcus and another wildlife center staffer walked up to the doe on each side, with a sheet. The doe struggled to get up; they covered her quickly and held her down. The wildlife center staff came up to the doe and we heard a loud pop – as they cut the wire off of her leg. Then the staff stood by and kept a close watch.

Alysha showed us the heavy-gage wire they had cut off and said the ends had been embedded into the skin and the doe was infected, septic. They gave the doe an injectable anti-biotic that would last two weeks and some pain medication. Alysha said the doe was sick and usually the wildlife center would transport her back to the center for additional treatment – but we told her that we had seen the doe with two new fawns recently. Alysha said they wanted to give the fawns a chance and if we agreed, they would leave the doe in our yard. Of course we agreed. Marcus picked the doe up and carried her so gently, leaving her under a tree in our backyard. He told us that if she didn’t live through the night to call and ask for him and he’d come back for her in the morning. We were so grateful for the care and kindness he showed – that all the staff showed to us and the deer.

We didn’t have much hope that she would make it through the night. For a long time she didn’t move at all. We could hear her making the noise she makes when calling her fawns, over and over again. Then her cried faded away. We thought she had died.

The next morning Marcus returned to our house to see if we needed his help. We were glad to be able to tell him the doe had been gone in the morning. What a compassionate thing for him to do though – to come out again and see if he could help! That’s an amazing level of caring that is rare in people today.

The doe was actually still in our yard. She was hiding under some bushes. We saw her come out and try to graze over the next couple of days. You could see how painful walking was for her. Her body was hunched over and she walked one small step at a time, but she was walking and eating.

Some time on that Sunday, she left the area and crept back into the woods. An hour later we saw her fawns in the backyard mewing and mewing for their mother. What would happen to them? It didn’t seem possible they could survive so long without nursing or they could pick up the infection and die. We had a tiny bit of hope. But it seemed like a long shot that all three could survive.

We looked for them in the yard of the next days, but didn’t see the doe or her fawns again. Then, two weeks to the day we had seem them last, there they all were – the doe and both fawns had all survived! And both fawns looked fine, completely healthy. It was miraculous. We have seen them many times since, all looking happy and healthy. I’m including a picture of the doe and her fawns we recently took.

I can’t thank Marcus, Alysha and all your staff enough for their kindness, compassion and caring. They saved the lives of those three deer for sure. In our eyes they are true heroes.

Sincerely,

Pam & Tony, Bellingham
Hello Everyone,
First, we love the Whatcom Humane Society. The facility is great and the staff is friendly yet professional. We visited in May and met several of your guests. Secondly, thanks for allowing Dennis (formerly Puma) to adopt us (our third cat from WHS). I have to say that he is the most beautiful, sweetest, smartest cat we have ever had. He travels with us on our boat and is a hit with everyone he meets. Left is a picture of Dennis. We love him. Thanks so much.

Vicky & Tally, Bellingham

Dear WHS,
Back in March I adopted 2 shy brothers named Cheetos and Fritos. I wanted to share how much of a joy they are. They are still very shy but they absolutely love to snuggle on their terms (which is usually at 4 am!). They are so funny and really have been thriving! They enjoy watching the world outside and hunting my paper recycling. Thank you all for all your hard work and love that you all provide to each and every animal that comes through your doors. I know that all our furry friends appreciate it.

Jacki M, Bellingham

Hi WHS,
As I walked into the Humane Society last August for my weekly volunteer gig, I congratulated myself on finally not wanting to take home every dog I walked or spent time with. Tough was my middle name. That was until I caught a glimpse of a tawny-red pup. My armor crumbled. Benny — looking rough and tumble, wiry hair rising in all directions — lay placidly on his bed. When I entered, his tail wagged vigorously. When I bent down, his tongue gave me a feathery kiss on the cheek. I could barely wait until our walk was finished so I could fill out an adoption application and put a hold on him. The next day, when my husband met him, Benny bounded out and greeted him! It was settled.

Benny loved his forever home immediately. He raced around the house then outside to inspect his forested yard. Since then, my little sixteen pounder has played with my son’s Anatolian and German shepherds and numerous other dogs of all sizes at Bloedel Donovan. He delights every human he meets. He even talks in varied growl, cry and howl tones to us. Benny also came with a bonus: he already knew fetch, wait and sit. However the dachshund and terrier in him means an unrestrained prey drive, so he’ll have to learn heel — all in good time. Barring that, he’s a super addition to our pack. Thank you so much!

Linda H, Bellingham
When I signed up to be a volunteer at the Whatcom Humane Society wildlife rehabilitation center this season, I knew it would be a challenging commitment. Although I’d already been involved with WHS for over 5 years as a donor and board member, this would be a completely new experience. A few years ago, I had considered volunteering as a dog walker but ultimately decided against it. I was afraid that I would become emotionally attached to the pups that were up for adoption and it would be hard for me to leave them at the end of the day. Instead, this was a chance for me to help animals in more of a hospital type of setting. I knew that in order to properly rehabilitate these wild animals, staff and volunteers were asked to limit their contact with them in order to help prevent the animal from getting used to being around humans (known as “imprinting”). This factor both alleviated my emotional fears, and helped convince me that this was a great opportunity to work with a number of animals that the average person never even has a chance to see up close.

Rehabilitating wild animals can be a tremendously rewarding experience. However, it’s definitely not a job for someone who’s afraid to get their hands (or their clothes, hair, face, fingernails, ears, and shoes) dirty on a regular basis. As a volunteer, I often spend my time on the less glamorous tasks such as washing dishes, doing laundry, and cleaning dirty cages. These duties are still very important though, and when I am there to do them it allows staff and interns to spend their time caring for the injured animals instead. Volunteers are also asked to feed and weigh the less critical patients at the center, which is often a lot harder than it sounds. These animals usually have only minor injuries, or are close to being fully recovered and released. Many of them are both very active, and instinctively not fond of humans. I inevitably learned what the term “self-release” meant the day I was attempting to weigh a bunny in one of the outside enclosures. As I was picking her up, she unexpectedly kicked me, jumped to the ground, and hopped off under a fence...all in the blink of an eye. I’ve also been given the rare opportunity to work with some baby animals. I’ve weighed baby possums, given formula to orphaned baby squirrels, and hand-fed worms to tiny baby birds that had hatched only a few days before.

I soon realized I had been naïve to think I would not become emotionally involved in the care of these wild animals. I knew this was the case the day that I found myself on the verge of tears after discovering a crow that had passed away overnight in one of the enclosures. He was your average crow, not unlike the ones who squawk outside my bedroom window in the morning; except that he had been missing most of his feathers because someone thought removing them would make him easier to keep as their pet. The vast majority of patients I worked with were there as a result of human activity in some way, shape, or form. When one of them doesn’t make it, you can’t help but feel as though us humans have failed them once again. It helps to remind myself that without a place like the wildlife rehabilitation center, and people like me who volunteer their time, these injured animals would never even be given a chance at recovery.

Without question, the most rewarding part of spending time with the patients at the wildlife rehabilitation center is when one of them makes a full recovery, and I’m able to see him/her released back into the wild. In the past 2 years, I’ve been fortunate enough to witness a gull released over the waters Bellingham Bay; 2 Barred Owls, 6 Cottontails, and 5 Gray Squirrels released at the WHS Farm Property; and 2 mother opossums returned back to the woods of Whatcom County, both with their babies still clinging to their backs. These experiences are not only gratifying as a volunteer, but also motivating as a WHS board member. The wildlife rehabilitation center is an extremely important facility for the animals in our county, and it takes a lot of work to raise the money needed to keep it operating. I look forward to sharing my experiences at the wildlife center with others in the community to help raise awareness and educate people as to the importance of the work being done there. Without it, people in Whatcom County would have nowhere to turn when they found injured wildlife and would probably be more likely to take the animal home to care for it themselves. The wildlife rehabilitation center not only provides the care and treatment necessary to give that injured animal a realistic chance at recovery, it also gives animal lovers like me a chance to avoid finding themselves in that difficult, and often heartbreaking, situation.
WEATHER BLOWS ANNUAL DOG DAYS OF SUMMER FESTIVAL AWAY

It’s an annual WHS event that we look forward to all summer long. Our Dog Days of Summer Run/Walk & Festival at Lake Padden Park. Our staff and volunteers had prepared and planned for months for the festival to be our biggest and best to date, with a record number of vendors and so many fun activities for people and their dogs to enjoy.

But Mother Nature had other plans this year and surprised everyone with gusting and sustained winds that began in the early morning hours and lasted through the late afternoon. Walkers and runners who participated in the early am festivities reported large falling tree branches on the trails around the lake and several vendor tents and merchandise were damaged or destroyed as wind gusts blew them to the ground and across the softball fields. We watched in horror as there were several close calls with humans and dogs almost being hit by flying debris. After much discussion with our staff, volunteers, event sponsors, vendors and parks department personnel, we made the difficult decision to cancel the Dog Days of Summer Festival.

While we were all devastated to have to cancel the festival, the decision was made to ensure the safety of everyone, both two and four-legged, at the park that day. In addition to the event being a fabulous and fun community party for dogs and their people, it is one of our largest annual summer fundraisers, with proceeds from the run/walk & festival benefiting the animals at our domestic shelter, farm facility and wildlife rehabilitation center.

We are already planning for next summers Dog Days of Summer event ~ and promise, weather permitting, it will be our biggest, best, most doggone fun event yet. Thanks to the wonderful event sponsors and vendors who braved the weather to come out this year.

---

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER SPONSORS

Top Dog Sponsor ~ Dewey Griffin Subaru
Best In Show Sponsor ~ Yorky’s Market, City of Bellingham, Bellingham Parks & Rec, KAFE 104.1 Radio, Nosework Magic
Best In Group Sponsor ~ petStop (Sehome Village), Mud Bay Pet Supply, Bark & Son’s Gourmet Doggie Bakery, All Services Property Maintenance
Honorable Mention Sponsor ~ Larson Gross, WECU, Life Cycle Pet Cremation, Chuckanut Valley Veterinary Clinic, Maplewood Animal Hospital ~ YELP ~ GMB Entertainment

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER VENDORS

All Services Property Maintenance
Bark & Son’s Gourmet Doggie Bakery
B.A.R.K. Fly Ball
Bellingham Pet Supply
Callen’s Essentials
Cat Nap Inn
Chuckanut TTouch
Chuckanut Valley Vet Clinic
City Bones Barkery
City of Bellingham
Dewey Griffin Subaru
Doo Bandits
DoTerra Oils
Evangers Dog & Cat Food
Greyhound Pets, Inc
Hyline Hotel
Heartfelt Pet ~ Joanna Schmidt
KLN Family Brands | Tuffy’s Pet Foods
Life Cycle Cremation
Lotus Natural Pet Foods
Massage for Dogs & Cats
Mud Bay Pet Supply
Must Love Boxers Rescue
Nose Work Magic
Nutrisource Pet Foods
Old Dog Haven
One Dog At a Time
Paws Forever Pet Photography
Pet Partners
Pets & Paws Cremation
Plush Pooch
PupCakes, LLC
Rescued Hearts NW
Rover Stay Over
Sergey Foundation

Shake & Shine
Spoiled Critter Services
Tails-A-Wagging / Friends For Life
TaylOriginal Designs
The Collar Company
The NOAH Center
The Puget Hound
The Puppy Rescue Mission
Thinking Dog W/Laura Berger
Two Terriers
Village Green Pet Supply
WERUVA
WeSnip
Whatcom Pet Care Network

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER VEGETARIAN FOOD VENDORS

Street Dogz
Cicchitti’s Pizza
Pioneer Popcorn
Queen Bee Espresso
The Artic Fox Ice Cream Sandwiches
Monthly Pet Loss Support Group Offered

Whatcom Humane Society’s monthly Pet Loss Support Group offers support and resources to help with the loss of a pet. The Pet Loss Support Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the multi-purpose room at the Whatcom Humane Society.

There is no charge for this group, no reservations are needed and you are free to attend as often as necessary throughout your grief process.

The Pet Loss Support Group provides a safe, supportive place where pet owners can share stories about their pet and work through their grief with others who have suffered a similar loss.

Volunteers provide supportive help for those who have been touched by the loss of a pet, are anticipating the death of a pet, are dealing with the difficult decision of euthanasia, have suffered from a lost or stolen pet or are wondering when/if it is time to add another pet to the family.

For more information, please contact: outreach@whatcomhumane.org

Where Shopping & Giving Unite

Support your favorite nonprofit just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card. Fred Meyer is donating $2.5 million each year – up to $625,000 each quarter – to the local schools, community organizations or nonprofits of your choice. All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and use it when you shop at Fred Meyer.

Your Fred Meyer Rewards Card can help earn money for the Whatcom Humane Society...it’s easy!

- Go to www.fredmeyer.com
- Click on the red REWARDS tab at top.
- On the drop down menu click on Community Rewards.
- Link your Rewards Card now.
- Sign in, using your personal Rewards Card information.
- Find Whatcom Humane Society, #82474
- Don’t forget to click SAVE!

You’re done!
Thank you for your support!

WHS Swag for Sale

Looking for a great gift for a family member, friend or co-worker? Stop by our Division Street shelter and pick up a WHS tee shirt, cap or our 2017 Happy Tails Calendar. Tee shirts & caps are $20.00 each, Happy Tails Calendar (wall and planner styles available) are $5.00 ~ with proceeds benefiting the animals in our care.

“FRIEND” US ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER! BECOME A “FAN” OF THE WHS FACEBOOK & TWITTER PAGE AND RECEIVE UPDATES ON WHAT IS GOING ON AT OUR SHELTERS AND THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON ANIMAL RELATED ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE LATEST WHS NEWS VIA EMAIL? SIGN UP & JOIN OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER LIST. EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: ADMIN@WHATCOMHUMANE.ORG. IN THE “MESSAGE” LINE, TYPE “JOIN EMAIL NEWS LIST.” THANKS!

SHOP AT FRED MEYER & RAISE MONEY FOR WHS!
The Whatcom Humane Society, along with Whatcom County Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Eric Richey were the recipients of an award this past summer. Pasado’s Safe Haven, a non-profit organization and nationally recognized leader in animal welfare, presented WHS with their 2016 Bucky Award. The Bucky Award recognizes agencies and people for their dedication, devotion and effectiveness in the field of animal cruelty investigation and prosecution.

The award was presented to the WHS Animal Control Department, Prosecutor Richey and to members of the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office for our collective and collaborative efforts and work on a recent case of 1st degree animal cruelty. Both WHS and Prosecutor Richey received $2,500.00 in award funds to be used for ongoing training for the departments. Prosecutor Richey generously donated his $2,500.00 to WHS – cool!

The Whatcom Humane Society is deeply honored to accept this award and humbled by the recognition. We are extremely proud of our efforts to care for homeless, unwanted and abused animals in our community and our tireless commitment to protect and advocate on their behalf.

We wish to thank Pasado’s Safe Haven for honoring us with such a special award. We are grateful that we live and work in a community where local law enforcement and prosecutors are equally committed to fighting the fight against animal cruelty and neglect.

SANTA PAWS IS COMING TO TOWN

Bring your companion animal by for a photo with Santa Paws
December 3rd & December 4th
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mud Bay Pet Supply Store - Bellingham

Visit our website, www.whatcomhumane.org for more details on Santa Paws photos as well as our other community outreach and education programs being offered this fall and winter.

You “auto” donate your old car, truck, boat, boathouse, RV or trailer for the animals at the Whatcom Humane Society. All donated vehicles must be in good running condition - no “junkers” please! Your donation is tax deductible and will help support the programs and services that WHS provides all year long. For more information please contact Laura Clark at (360) 733 - 2080, ext. #3026 or email director@whatcomhumane.org