



PawPrint



The Whatcom Humane Society's Newsletter

Spring 2015



Laura Clark
Executive Director

Message From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Springtime! The arrival of longer days, warmer weather and . . . lots and lots of animals in need. Because our winter was, well non-existent (apologies to our friends on the east coast!) our staff has been preparing for the worst – the early onset of “baby season.” Typically, we start seeing pregnant mama cats and litters of kittens (with and without a mom) in late Spring/early Summer. However, this year we never really stopped receiving kittens. We continue to see a steady stream of cats and kittens arrive at our shelter in need of care, comfort and the chance for a permanent, responsible and loving home.

Our wildlife rehabilitation center has also been affected by the unusually warm seasons. Orphaned and injured baby squirrels have already started arriving at the center – months ahead of a typical year. By the time you are reading this newsletter, the center will be inundated with baby birds, most of whom require syringe feeding and cleaning every two hours, round the clock for several weeks in order to survive. In addition to baby birds and squirrels, orphaned and injured opossums, raccoons, fawns, skunks, rabbits and many more native wild animals will call our tiny center home while they recover from injuries and are rehabilitated with the goal of being released back into the wild.

It's not just the cute, furry and feathered baby animals that need our help this time of the year. Our animal population as a whole increases with warm weather and adult animals, big and small, arrive at our shelters needing assistance. As an open-admission facility, no animal in need is turned away. That means our staff and volunteers must be prepared on any given day to receive and care for whatever animals may arrive – whether that means the arrival of a litter of kittens or puppies, an injured animal, stray livestock (always an adventure!), an animal who has been the victim of abuse or neglect or animals received from hoarding type situations. Our unofficial motto: “we'll figure it out.”

The reason the Whatcom Humane Society has been able to provide life-saving care for animals in our community for over 113 years is because of the generous support from our community. Whenever I visit shelter facilities outside of our area I always return to WHS feeling so lucky. Lucky to have a highly trained and dedicated group of staff currently working at our facilities - lucky to have such an amazing and truly giving group of volunteers supporting all of our programs and services (couldn't do it without them!) – and SO lucky to have the financial support of people, businesses, community groups and others who support our mission and the animals in our care.

This year has already proven to be challenging. Our expenses continue to rise, as we improve and expand our services to domestic and native wild animals in need. Ongoing support is vital in order to allow us to continue our efforts on behalf of the animals that need us most.

Your confidence in our work means so much to all of us.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope to see you at an upcoming fundraiser this spring or summer, or at our beautiful shelter facility.

For The Animals,

Laura Clark, Executive Director

WHATCOM HUMANE SOCIETY
CARING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1902



Whatcom Humane Society
CARING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1902

Statement of Principle

The Whatcom Humane Society believes that all animals, as sentient beings, have value beyond economic measurements and are entitled to legal, moral, and ethical consideration and protection.

Vision:

Our community treats all animals with kindness, respect, and compassion.

Mission Statement:

The Whatcom Humane Society:

- Advocates for animals;
- Educates the community to promote humane treatment and respect for animals;
- Provides for abandoned, injured, abused or neglected animals.

Programs & Services

- Adoptions & Animal Care
- Lost & Found
- 24-Hour Animal Control & Rescue
- Investigations of Cruelty & Neglect
- Licensing
- Community Outreach & Special Events
- Humane Education
- Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program (SNAP)
- Pet Food Bank
- Veterinary Services
- Volunteer Services
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Services

WHS Wish List

Board of Directors

Janet Hofmann, *President*
Jennifer Sonker, *Vice President*
Pam Went, *Secretary*
Drew Wilkens, *Treasurer*
Ria Bordian
Victoria Savage
Neal Swanson
Kevin Williamson
Deb Wright

Staff

Executive Director
Laura Clark

Administration
Kate Meuth Alldredge
LeAnna DeRoss

Animal Care
Amy Campbell, *Manager*
Sarah Hansen, *Lead*
Raena Anderson
Kyle Berger
Nadia Clayton
Tina Deming
Alicia Langdon, *Foster Care Coordinator*
Leigha Maland
Marisa VanderPol
Adriana Willmersdorf

Wildlife Rehabilitation Services
Alysha Eisby, *Manager, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator*
Meighan Hawks
Sarah Trudeau

**Animal Control & Rescue/
Field Services**
Paul Evans, *Manager*
Rebecca Crowley, *Lead Officer*
Michael Anderson, *Dispatch*
Carrie Anderson
Vicky Gibbons
Marcus Goodrich
Meganne Shannon-Johnson
David Storm

Finance/Accounting
Dana Berger

Special Events
Dana Browne, *Manager*

Volunteer & Outreach Services
Carly Brewer, *Manager*

Humane Education
Cari Sachkowsky

Customer Service
Danielle Yencopal-Smith, *Supervisor*
Peter Anderson
Zakia Kaminski

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

Location

2172 Division Street
Bellingham, WA 98226

HOURS OF OPERATION
Wednesday - Saturday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday - Monday
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed to the Public Tuesday and
Major Holidays

Phone: (360) 733-2080
Fax: (360) 733-4746

www.whatcomhumane.org

**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION
SERVICES CENTER**

(360) 966-8845
* Facility is not open to the public

FARM FACILITY

By appointment only



WHS DOMESTIC ANIMAL SHELTER

- ▶ Postage stamps - (first class and post card)
- ▶ Copy paper (white, color & cardstock)
- ▶ Gift Cards from petStop, Fred Meyer, Hardware Sales, Whatcom Farmer's Coop, Office Depot, Michaels, PetCo, PetSmart & Costco
- ▶ New batteries
- ▶ New pens and highlighters
- ▶ Blankets and towels (no electric blankets)
- ▶ Dog collars
- ▶ Dog Walk Harnesses – Easy Walk, front clip especially needed
- ▶ New dog and cat toys
- ▶ Creamy peanut butter
- ▶ Paper towels
- ▶ Leashes
- ▶ Small animal treats and toys
- ▶ Bags and cans of dog and cat food (can be open or unopened, just not expired)
- ▶ Tennis balls
- ▶ KONG Toys (L & XL) for shelter dogs
- ▶ Catnip



FARM FACILITY

- ▶ Gift Cards for Hardware Sales/Lowe's/Home Depot, Whatcom Farmers Co-op
- ▶ Rubber stall mats
- ▶ Vet wrap
- ▶ New halters and lead ropes
- ▶ New horse treats and toys
- ▶ Fly spray
- ▶ De-wormer
- ▶ Quality new or used tractor
- ▶ Bags of animal bedding
- ▶ Horse Treats



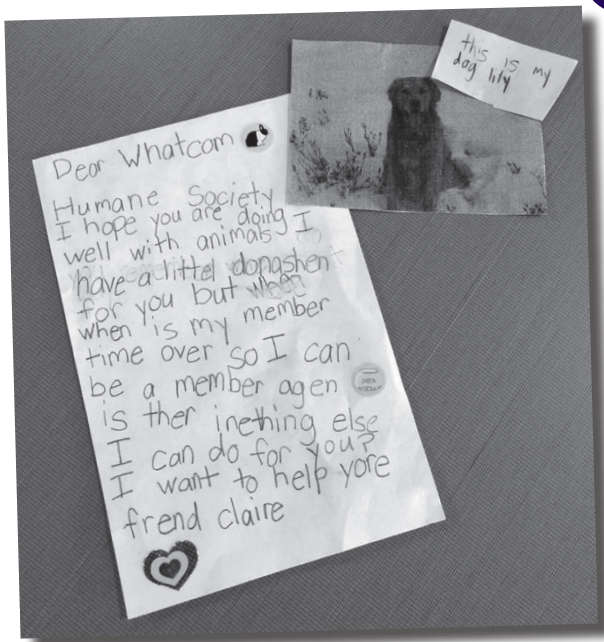
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER

- ▶ Gift Cards for Costco, Fred Meyer, PetCo, PetSmart, Whatcom Farmers Co-op, Hardware Sales and Chris's Squirrels & More (www.squirrelsandmore.com)
- ▶ Environmentally friendly hand, dish, and laundry soap
- ▶ Bleach
- ▶ Paper Towels
- ▶ Toilet Paper
- ▶ Hand Sanitizer Gel
- ▶ Latex Gloves
- ▶ Welding Gloves
- ▶ Fishing Nets with Poles
- ▶ Play-Pens
- ▶ Old sheets/pillow cases/fleece blankets
- ▶ Non-automatic turn-off heating pads
- ▶ Cotton Balls
- ▶ Straw Bales
- ▶ Pet Carriers (all sizes)
- ▶ Tarps
- ▶ Medium to large plastic storage bins (clear) with lids
- ▶ Feather dusters
- ▶ Frozen meats (chicken, liver, heart, venison)
- ▶ Frozen fish (small and large sizes)
- ▶ Frozen berries
- ▶ Soy-free cat and dog food (Costco Brand is good)
- ▶ High quality wet canned cat food
- ▶ Cracked corn
- ▶ Bird seed
- ▶ Various nuts (for squirrels)
- ▶ Rodents blocks

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

For more information, please Contact Cari Sachkowsky 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 WHS!) then type in Whatcom Humane.**

WHS Mailbag



Letter & membership donation received from 7 year old WHS supporter Claire - for information on becoming a WHS member, visit www.whatcomhumane.org.



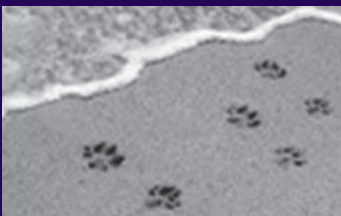
Dear Whatcom Humane Society,

I just wanted to update everyone there on Zero now known as Sam who I adopted last Sunday. He's doing great and has settled in very quickly. He's found every couch and dog bed and likes all of them. He and his new sister dog both follow me everywhere. And as they all said, he is a talker, even in his sleep. Very cute. Your shelter is amazing and so is the staff. Very caring and friendly. Here is a picture of Sam and his sister, Mindy, enjoying a warm fireplace on a cold morning. I am so glad I got to bring this old gentleman home and let him live his whatever-remaining-years in comfort. Please tell your staff thank you and what a pleasure it was to work with them and pass this picture onto them.

Regards,

Nancy Webb, Marysville, WA

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

A Day In The Life Of . . .

The WHS Animal Control & Rescue Dispatch Office

Written by: Michael Anderson, WHS animal control dispatcher



WHS animal control dispatcher
Michael Anderson with his office
assistant Cheza

My day starts with the crunch of gravel beneath my car's tires as I pull into the shelter's employee/extended parking area. I'm usually the first one to the Whatcom Humane Society (WHS) animal control office, so I start by getting everything ready for the day: turn on the lights; boot up the dispatch office computer; check the dispatch inbox, voicemail inbox, and email inbox; and ready the phone/radio logs for the day. Next it's off to do battle with the finicky punch clock; for those who don't know, WHS employees now punch in by scanning their fingerprints into a nifty little box hanging on the wall outside of the employee break room. The idea is very, very cool, but I'm afraid that the technology isn't always cooperative, and sometimes I have to jab my finger at the box repeatedly as it yells warnings that my print was not accepted. On a positive note, it is rather hilarious to watch others have the same problem with the little box, and to hear the sounds of epic struggles in the hallway from inside the dispatch office. Once clocked in, it is time to swaddle myself in several layers of clothing, and sometimes a blanket, so that I can work comfortably in the office, which is kept at freezer-like temperatures for the Animal Control Officers (ACOs). (Not that the officers would spoil like perishable foods, but their uniforms and heavy, protective body armor/ vests keep them very warm throughout the day, often uncomfortably so.)

Clocked in and at the dispatch desk, it's time to get to work. There is no standard day that I can use as a benchmark for others to experience my day vicariously. In general, I can say that summers are busier than winters, but day to day trends are still fairly unpredictable. Some days start with the frenzied furor of a pay-per-view call center taking last minute orders for a championship UFC match; on other days, I may be sitting quietly at the desk for nearly half an hour before receiving my first call. If the day is one of those latter days, I busy myself responding to emails, writing up cases from the night(s) before, and processing dog licenses; if it's a busy day, I won't even consider adding extra tasks for myself to complete, since juggling calls, radio transmissions, emailed complaints, and case write-ups will consume the rest of the day anyway.

Calls that are received at the dispatch desk range from the mundane—barking dogs and reports of stray/feral cats—to the quirky—I once got a call from a Bellingham Police Officer who pulled a woman over for a routine traffic violation and found a wombat sitting merrily in a laundry basket on the passenger seat—to the horrifying—like a recent case I'm sure everyone in Bellingham will not soon forget, when a man shot his neighbor's Corgi in her backyard because

he blamed the dog for nuisance barking. With limited staffing resources, I have to keep a running mental map of where ACOs are currently located, who has which cases, and who can respond in the shortest time possible; the radio log, which I update every time that an ACO arrives at or leaves from a location, is a very helpful tool for this task. I will gather as much information as I can from a Reporting Party (RP) in as little time as I can manage, dispatch an ACO as needed, and then I will use notes from the call to create a case in our database/records system, PetPoint, for the ACO to complete upon her or his return to the office. (If you ever call animal control dispatch and you hear a cacophony of clicks on my end, just remember that I am furiously typing notes about our conversation to go into the daily phone log, and, if necessary, into a case memo.)

Truly, there is nothing prohibitively complex about the process from call (or email) to dispatching to writing up a case. The trick lies in dispatching ACOs as efficiently as possible. Remember, WHS serves almost all of Whatcom County for animal control issues. Our jurisdiction stretches from Point Roberts to Sedro Woolley, from Lummi Island to the Mount Baker Wilderness, and almost everything in between. We have to cover all of that land, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, with a current total of seven ACO'S, and no more than between two – five ACO'S on-duty on any given day. This means that complaints about barking dogs and requests for retrieval of deceased animals go straight to the bottom of my priorities list; injured/trapped animals, reports of [unconfined] vicious animals, animals at large on busy roadways, welfare check requests and cruelty complaints hover at the top of the list of priorities.

In order to help cut down on unnecessary travel time for ACOs, one of my responsibilities is to educate callers about the county and municipal codes that govern the policies and response of WHS's animal control & rescue department. These moments are usually the least enjoyable parts of my day, because no one likes to be told that his or her specific concern is one that cannot realistically be addressed. For instance, during the winter, when the temperature outside is in the low 50s, we will still receive calls from well-meaning members of the public who are concerned about a dog being locked in a vehicle at the mall. Keeping a dog in a vehicle, even with all of the windows rolled up, is not illegal in and of itself; the act only becomes an act of cruelty if the temperature inside the vehicle threatens the life of the animal inside. During the summer, this is certainly a valid concern; however, most days during a Whatcom County winter do not get anywhere near warm enough to be life threatening or even very uncomfortable for an animal inside a vehicle. (This most recent winter was an exception to that rule.) It is my job, then, to explain all of that, and to work with the caller to try deciding if the situation really does require the precious time it would take for an animal control officer to drive out and check on the animal.

I write directly to you now, dear reader: please continue to contact WHS animal control & rescue with your concerns, but if it turns out that we check on the animal and we do not have the power to change the animal's conditions, please do not grow angry with WHS; instead, channel that energy into contacting your elected representatives to convince them that our animal welfare laws must be strengthened.

Worse yet are requests for welfare checks on animals, when I know—based on what the RPs describe to me—that our agency will not have any real legal power to improve the lives of the animals in question. This is particularly frustrating for farm animals like dairy cows, and for dogs tethered outside at all hours of the day and night, regardless of the weather. Animal welfare laws in the United States are some of the weakest laws on our books, lagging far behind other industrialized nations commonly compared to the U.S., and the laws in Whatcom County are no exception. When it comes to farmed animals, all manner of horrific, cruel practices are perfectly legal, so long as those practices are “industry standards;” in other words, if most farms do it, the act or behavior is automatically legal. For domestic pets, our County has few laws that prevent owners from keeping the animals outside all the time, so long as we cannot prove that the animal has experienced undue suffering from the behavior. Since we cannot ask the animals if they are suffering, these situations usually come down to who can be most persuasive in court, if the case even gets that

far; most cases don't go all the way to court, because as long as an owner can show that the animal is in good health, and it has access to water and shelter while outside, we have very little evidence to prove that the animal has suffered. I write directly to you now, dear reader: please continue to contact WHS animal control & rescue with your concerns, but if it turns out that we check on the animal and we do not have the power to change the animal's conditions, please do not grow angry with WHS; instead, channel that energy into contacting your elected representatives to convince them that our animal welfare laws must be strengthened.

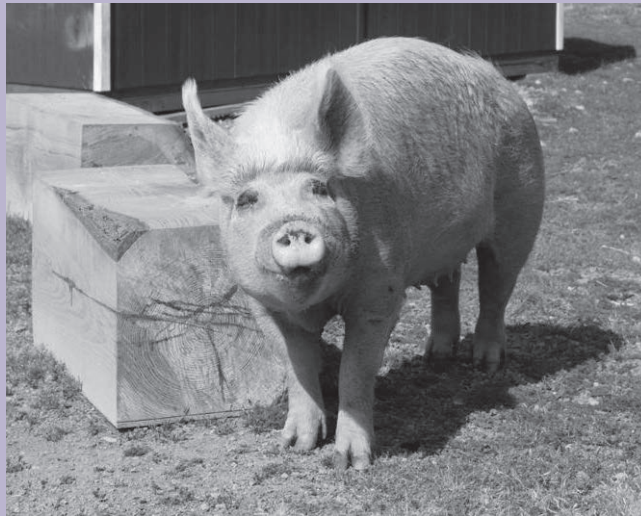
A Day In The Life Of ... (continued...)

Of course, there many instances when the WHS animal control & rescue department effectively resolves issues in the County, and some instances when I can help members of the public directly from dispatch. Whether that means matching a license tag on a stray dog to a registered owner in PetPoint, or coordinating rescue efforts for a trapped or injured animal, those calls and emails are the main reason I wanted to work at the Whatcom Humane Society in the first place. I love animals, and their human counterparts, and I have been doing what I can to help improve the welfare of animals locally and nationwide since my wife, Raena, and I decided to adopt a vegan lifestyle more than four years ago. Despite the frequent frustrations and stressful conversations, working at the Whatcom Humane Society affords me many opportunities to help animals and people in our community; that's the very reason that I talked Raena (current WHS animal care technician) into getting a job at WHS, and shortly after we recruited my brother, Peter (current WHS customer service representative), to work here as well. At the end of the day, whether it was maddeningly busy, dreadfully slow, filled with angry callers, or dominated by a high-profile case, I am incredibly grateful to be a part of the amazing, compassionate team of people working at the Whatcom Humane Society.

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The Whatcom Humane Society animal control & rescue department can be contacted at: (360)733-2080, ext # 3017 or via email: animalcontrol@whatcomhumane.org

Rest in Peace ~ LISA THE PIG



It is with great sadness that we share this news from our friends at Sanctuary One in Oregon regarding the passing of former WHS alumni Lisa the Pig.

Rest in Peace, Lisa

In early March, Sanctuary One lost a very dear friend. Lisa, our pig who charmed thousands of visitors big and small, passed away on Sunday. Lisa joined us in 2010. She had been rescued from a farmer who was raising her for slaughter. Strong and intelligent—like all pigs—she'd learned to escape her confines, and the farmer punished her by hitting her with a board. When authorities were alerted to the abuse, Lisa was rescued, moved to Whatcom Humane Society in Washington state, and finally to Sanctuary One, where she would live out her years.

"Lisa was our very first pig at Sanctuary One," said Sansa Collins, Animal Care Manager. "She was the face of the Sanctuary and will be missed by all who met her. We will always remember her romps in the pond and love of belly rubs." Lisa learned to trust humans again, and was one of Sanctuary One's designated "Ambassador Animals". She is survived by her pig companions Lulu and Jigsaw, and all of the other creatures at Sanctuary One.

Our deepest and most sincere condolences go out to the staff and volunteers at Sanctuary One, who loved Lisa so much. Lisa was featured in the Clay For Earth documentary, *Pigmalion*, which told her story and that of WHS's efforts to rescue her and find her a permanent home.

Thank you to Sanctuary One for giving Lisa the opportunity to live a wonderful life - and for recently taking in two more WHS residents, Rachel Lynn the horse and Cartman the pig (transferred to this great facility last March). For information about Sanctuary One, visit www.sanctuaryone.org.

Help the Animals Today... and in the Future...

by Considering a Planned Gift to the Whatcom Humane Society

Since 1902, the Whatcom Humane Society has been caring for animals in our community. As an open-admission shelter, we turn no animal away, regardless of the animals breed, age, temperament, physical or medical condition. Over 5,000 domestic and native wild animals come through our doors annually.

One of the most powerful ways WHS supporters can make an impact in the longtime care and protection of animals in our community is to support our mission beyond your lifetime. Planned gifts make that possible. By including WHS as a beneficiary of your will, trust, life insurance or retirement plan, you provide a lasting gift to our organization. In some cases, planned gift options may provide you with tax benefits, increase your current income, or provide additional retirement income, while reducing income tax and estate taxes.

It is important to discuss your planned giving gift options with your financial planner or legal counsel, as WHS cannot provide financial or legal advice.

Some planned giving options that can provide WHS with financial support include:

WILLS

Wills are the most common planned gift that WHS receives. Whether you have accumulated substantial assets or have a small estate, a will prevents legal complications and delays. It directs your personal representative to deal with your estate as you wish – including giving to WHS in the following ways:

- A particular amount of money or an asset (example: stock, a coin collection, a house, car or boat)
- All or a portion of the remainder of your estate after expenses and gifts to your loved ones have been distributed
- An interest in real estate or a trust designated initially for the lifetime benefit of a loved one
- A contingent gift that takes effect only under certain circumstances (example: “If my spouse/partner does not survive me...”)

Usually, you can easily add a bequest to WHS to your existing will simply by consulting your attorney about an amendment known as a “codicil.”

When you include WHS in your will, please use the following designation: Whatcom Humane Society, 2172 Division Street, Bellingham, WA 98226. WHS is a tax exempt charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Our Federal Tax Identification number is 91-0677564

STOCK DONATIONS

When stock and certain other assets like real estate have been owned for more than a year and then donated to WHS, you receive a tax deduction for its full value AND you completely avoid any tax on the capital gain. Check with your financial planner or attorney to discuss options.

LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

By naming WHS the owner of an existing life insurance policy, you could receive a tax deduction. If premiums are still owed once the policy is contributed, you can obtain additional tax deductions by continuing to pay the premiums. Even if you want to retain ownership of a policy, you can still name WHS as a recipient of some or all of the policy's proceeds upon your death.

RETIREMENT FUNDS

You may choose to name WHS as a primary or contingent beneficiary of your IRA, 403(b) or 401(k). Some generous people find that they have accumulated funds beyond their needs for the comfortable support of themselves and loved ones, a surplus which is subject to significant estate taxes. Creating a charitable beneficiary can minimize this tax burden. Consult with your plan administrator for information on how to name WHS as a benefactor.

For more information on providing WHS with a planned gift, please contact Laura Clark at (360)733-2080 ext #3026 or email director@whatcomhumane.org

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and save the date for these upcoming annual fun, festive and fabulous WHS fundraisers:

Sunset Cruise aboard the Victoria Star

June 22nd
Bellingham Bay

Putt Fore Pets Golf Tournament

August 20th
Bellingham Golf & Country Club

Dog Days of Summer Run/Walk & Festival

August 23rd
Lake Padden Park

For more information on upcoming WHS special events, including event sponsorship information visit www.whatcomhumane.org or contact WHS special events manager Dana Browne at: events@whatcomhumane.org.



You Auto Donate

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

SHOP AT FRED MEYER & RAISE MONEY FOR WHS!

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!

“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!

