



PawPrint



The Whatcom Humane Society's Newsletter

Spring 2017



Laura Clark
Executive Director

Message From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year, at a monthly meeting of our board of directors, the question was posed to each member to name three things about the Whatcom Humane Society that they were most proud of or that motivated them to continue to serve on the WHS board and fulfill our mission. A spirited discussion followed, with members touting the merits of our humane education programs, our interactive adoption process, our dedicated staff and volunteers, our wildlife center and farm facility, our state-of-the-art domestic animal shelter, the fact we provide and subsidize 24/7 animal control services and our efforts and work on legislative issues that benefit animals on a local and State level. Without exception, every member of the group stated that they were most proud of the fact that our organization has always been, and will always remain, an open-admission shelter, accepting all animals in need.

As I drove home from the meeting that night, I reflected on the discussion and took inventory of the many things about the Whatcom Humane Society that I am most proud of and why I continue to serve in my role as director of what I think is the best little shelter in the world. It's difficult for me to pick one "favorite" WHS program over another. Over the past several years and since moving into our Division Street shelter, the Whatcom Humane Society has really become a very unique animal welfare organization – so unique in fact, that there really is no other humane society, animal welfare group, animal control agency or rescue group in the entire State that does what we do. Really! Over 5,200 domestic, wild and farm animals came through our doors last year. Our animal control department responded to over 4,000 calls in 2016, and their efforts to investigate and hold those responsible for cruelty to animals has become the gold standard for other agencies to follow. Our veterinary clinic is on the front lines of fighting pet overpopulation, spaying and neutering domestic animals before they leave the shelter and providing low cost and free surgeries to community animals in need. On any given weeknight or weekend you will find our multi-purpose room full of community members attending our free outreach and education programs that offer workshops on topics ranging from cat and dog behavior, wildlife issues, pet loss support and even seminars on chicken and goat care.

There are times I walk through the hallways of our domestic animal shelter or visit our wildlife center or farm facility and all I can do is smile. The daily "insanity" of shelter work can be stressful, emotional and never-ending. But it's those days when chaos is all around, and yet there is a peacefulness to be found in our kennels – dogs snacking on a Kong toys stuffed with peanut butter, cats sleeping in the window of the cat colony room, baby squirrels almost ready for release back into the wild, a horse grazing in the pasture at our farm – these scenes take place everyday, and it's those animals and the tireless efforts our staff and volunteers make to provide for them, the very reason that I am proud and honored to work at the Whatcom Humane Society. As for my "favorite" program or service . . . Well, let's just say I LOVE them all!

With Sincere Appreciation,

Laura Clark
Executive Director



Whatcom Humane Society 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

WHATCOM HUMANE SOCIETY
CARING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1902

WHS Wish List

Board of Directors

Janet Hofmann, President
Jennifer Sonker, Vice President
Pam Went, Secretary
Ali Alsos
Mary Meeks
Scott Rice
Victoria Savage
Jane Talbot
Kevin Williamson

Staff

Executive Director
Laura Clark

Administration
Courtney Adams
Chris Sessler

Animal Care
Amy Campbell, Manager
Sarah Hansen, Lead
Raena Anderson
Kyle Berger
Cholena Brown
Tina Deming
Allison Hofmann
Alicia Langdon, Foster Care Coordinator
Caitlyn Orr
Marisa VanderPol

Wildlife Rehabilitation Services
Alysha Elsby, Manager, Licensed Wildlife
Rehabilitator, LVT
Abbey Corbin
MacKenzie Lacey
Tess 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

Shelter Location

2172 Division Street
Bellingham, WA 98226

HOURS OF OPERATION!
Open: Wednesday - Saturday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday - Monday
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed 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
farm@whatcomhumane.org



WHS DOMESTIC ANIMAL SHELTER

- ▶ Postage stamps (first class & postcard)
- ▶ Copy paper (white, color & cardstock)
- ▶ Gift Cards from petStop, Fred Meyer, Hardware Sales, Whatcom Farmer's Co-op 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
- ▶ Eggs
- ▶ Ensure - Vanilla flavor
- ▶ Blood worms (cube style)
- ▶ Baby Food of all kinds
- ▶ Large live mealworms

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 WHS!) then type in Whatcom Humane.**



Critter Camp Dates Announced



Do you know a kid between the ages of 8 – 10 years of age that loves animals? Would they be interested in learning more about domestic animals and native wildlife in an engaging and interactive setting? Then join us for Critter Camp 2017! This week long day camp offers the unique opportunity for kids to interact with and learn about a wide variety of animals from guinea pigs to horses and everything in between! They will meet the WHS Staff as well as animal experts in the community to learn more about responsible pet ownership, animal behavior, veterinary care, pet first aid, and much more! Critter Camp will also include activities and crafts that relate to the animals we meet.

SPACE IS LIMITED SO DON'T DELAY – RESERVE YOUR FAVORITE KIDS SPOT TODAY.

For more information please contact Zakia at (360) 733-2080, ext # 3116 or email: outreach@whatcomhumane.org.



CRITTER CAMP 2017 DATES

Session 1: July 10th-14th

Session 2: July 24th-28th

Session 3: August 7th-11th

**Critter Camp runs each day
from 9AM - 3PM**

Cost: \$190 (Includes Camp T-Shirt and Daily Vegetarian Lunch and Snacks)



Dog Parks? Why Not?

Written by: Kerry Mitchell, *Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed, CPDT-KA*

In a perfect world, dog parks would be the most wonderful places in the world to pass the time—well-socialized dogs cavorting with each other, the rough and tumble and chase of all different breeds and sizes, peaceful pauses peppering play. No one would fight over toys, no one would feel overwhelmed or get overstimulated, and guardians would be alert to their dogs at every moment, astutely watching and understanding the fluid body language of their own animal, ready to stop conflicts before they even got started.

However, the reality is much different. Dog parks are typically places where guardians bring their dogs to exercise and play, but they are often not well supervised. The dogs are free to romp and play on their own with little regard for their safety, while guardians chat and socialize with each other, or engage with their smartphones.

“Yes,” you may say, “so what?” The problem is that dogs, like people, have different needs, different play styles, different degrees of socialization, and different levels of tolerance. And they need to be socialized with other dogs (and children of all ages, men, women, goats, cats, horses, etc.) before the age of sixteen weeks to be entirely comfortable with whomever it is they are interacting. If a dog feels threatened, he needs to make a split-second decision to either run away or aggress. The decision-making process is complicated and depends on multiple factors—the current situation, the dog’s

“ **DOGS WHO ARE NOT SOCIALIZED WITH OTHER DOGS AS PUPPIES ARE OFTEN FEARFUL AROUND OTHERS OF THEIR SPECIES AND WILL DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO PROTECT THEMSELVES IF THEY FEEL THREATENED.**”

experience in similar circumstances, what challenges the dog has encountered in the past twenty-four hours, and his history of socialization, to name a few.

Dogs who are not socialized with other dogs as puppies are often fearful around others of their species and will do whatever they can to protect themselves if they feel threatened. They also have teeth—lots of them. In addition, they did not learn how to inhibit their bite as puppies, they can cause a severe amount of damage in seconds. Dog fights often erupt in a blink of an eye, and unless we understand canine body language, we will miss the warning signs. Dogs are not the only ones who can be badly injured in dog fights—humans can also sustain significant injuries from redirected bites—sometimes by their own dog—when attempting to break up the fight. Dogs who start fights are not bad dogs—they are just dogs who are unfairly put in situations they can’t handle.

You have two things to think about when you consider visiting a dog park: 1.) “How well do I know my own dog?” 2.) “How well do I know the other dogs and their people in the park?”

The answer to the second question is usually, if not always: “Not very well.” Even if you go to the park with a group of friends, you can never predict who will show up. An under-socialized dog with a distracted, unconcerned owner is a recipe for trouble.

Only you can answer the first question, but here are some things to think about:

If your dog is “OK most of the time,” he does not belong at the dog park. Why? Because you already know there are situations that make him feel overwhelmed and insecure, forcing him to protect himself. Don’t place him back into those situations where he could injure or be injured by another dog. Also, in that environment, he is most likely too stressed to enjoy himself, so why even consider it?

If you take your dog to the dog park because you’ve been told he “needs more socialization,” the dog park is a bad place to do it. At some point, often sooner rather than later, he will encounter a situation that frightens him, and he will be forced to act. If he gets into a tussle, one bad experience could be enough to cause ongoing dog-directed aggression. Once aggression has worked for him, he’s more likely to depend on it in future encounters.

If you have just adopted your dog and want to take him to the dog park for fun, don’t do it. First of all, you have no idea how your dog will respond in that environment. And even if your new dog has reasonable socialization skills, he’ll be stressed from the recent changes in his life and will be more likely to be defensive. And again, dogs at the dog park are often poorly supervised, and may or may not have good socialization skills. Even if your dog joins in play initially, he could feel threatened or get overstimulated as play escalates, and a fight could be triggered when he panics.

If your dog guards his toys, he should definitely not go to the dog park. He may steal toys and aggress at anyone who tries to reclaim them—humans included. And if you take toys with you for him to play with, he will most likely challenge any dog trying to play with him.

Do not even consider taking your small dog to dog parks unless there is a small dog enclosure. The prey drive of larger dogs can turn your dog into a very vulnerable target.

Muzzles have no place in a dog park. Muzzles will make your dog feel even more vulnerable, and if/when a dog aggresses at him due to his defensive body language, he will have no way to defend himself.

Leashing your dog at a dog park will prevent him from running away from situations he’s uncomfortable with and will inhibit his ability to express himself, making him more vulnerable and fearful. Also, off-leash dogs will recognize his vulnerability and may take advantage of him, exacerbating the situation even more.

If you know you have a well-socialized dog, I would still think long and hard about the wisdom of going to a dog park for the reasons I have discussed above: you don’t



know the other dogs who frequent the park or their people.

If you still think that dog parks are an option for you, here are some safety tips to consider:

Check the park carefully before you unload your dog from the car. Avoid groups of rough-playing dogs, dogs who look stiff or uncomfortable, and dogs whose owners are uninvolved. You want to see dogs who have loose, bouncy, easy body movement, dogs who play in a give and take fashion, and dogs who often pause in their play. The owners should be present, but relaxed. Avoid dogs whose owners hover and say things like “Be nice Fido.”

Look for dogs that have a play style similar to your dog’s.

Be sure your dog has a very strong recall and will come back to you reliably, even in play.

Be sure you understand canine body language. Dogs have a language that is fluid, complicated and ongoing. By learning to read dogs at the park and understanding what they are saying, you can often intervene by calling your dog back to you if play starts to escalate.

Consider other options for dog play that are safer: get together with friends and their dogs, dogs you know have been well socialized as puppies or who have a history of positive, safe interactions with other dogs. Scuffles may still erupt, but if everyone is paying attention and has a good recall on their dog, and if the dogs are well socialized, the chance of injury is extremely low. Well-socialized dogs with good bite inhibition will be careful not to injure each other, even in excited play.

Green Acres Is The Place to Be, Farm Living Is The Life For Me

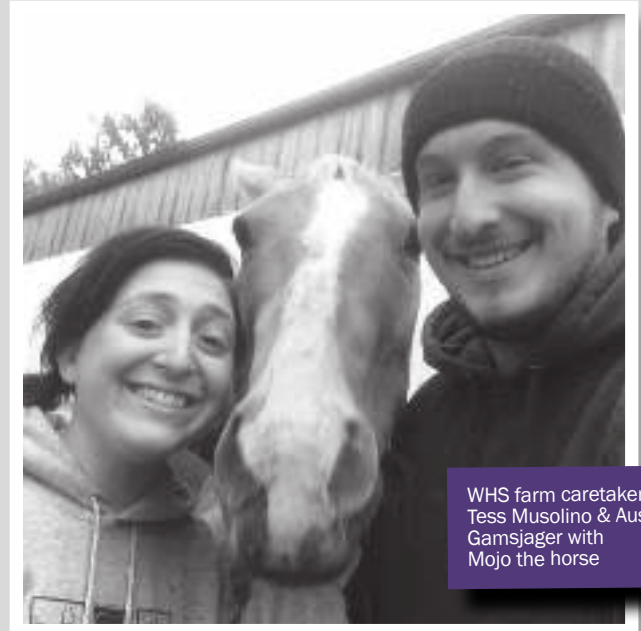
A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE WHS FARM CARETAKERS

Written by: Tess Musolino, WHS Farm Caretaker

When my boyfriend Austin and I arrived at the WHS farm facility in Everson last April, I was so consumed with excitement over finally getting out of the car after our seemingly interminable drive from New York that I didn't even stop to think about what I should expect. We stepped out of the car, and both received huge welcoming hugs from WHS director Laura Clark, immediately followed up with the loaded question of: "How much experience do you have with colic?" It turns out, one of the horses at the facility had become sick the night before, and an equine veterinarian had arrived earlier in the morning to diagnose and treat the horse for colic. Now that we've been here for just about a year, it turns out that the first encounter was a perfect predictor of daily life here; you never know exactly what a day at the WHS farm facility will hold!

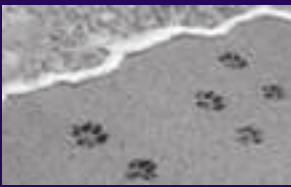
The reality of living and working at the WHS farm facility is that you learn quickly never to get too attached to making plans. Somehow, that seems to be a karmic magnet for a phone call from a WHS animal control officer along the lines of "we're on our way to catch a pair of stray llamas. Hopefully, we'll be there soon". While we try to organize to the best of our abilities, there is no such thing as a schedule when it comes to animal emergencies. We receive our farm residents from a number of different sources. Some are seizures due to cruelty or neglect, some are surrendered by their owners when they are unable or unwilling to care for them anymore, and we definitely get the occasional sneaky escape artist pig or goat that ends up brought to the farm as a stray until his/her owner can be located. This means we attempt to be prepared for any eventuality; keeping a stock of different feeds, supplements, and medical supplies, leaving an unoccupied stall or two set up for surprise arrivals, having the vet's number on speed dial, and ALWAYS having more hay on hand than you think you'll need. In the relatively short time that we've been here, I have seen the barn go from housing one or two horses to complete overflow in as little as twenty-four hours. So preparation is key.

Aside from the insight that sometimes the only thing you can do is to expect the unexpected, the second major realization I've had in the past year is that each and every animal's needs are



WHS farm caretakers
Tess Musolino & Austin
Gamsjäger with
Mojo the horse

entirely different. They arrive in as many different physical and emotional states as you can imagine; from well-fed and well-loved to nearly skeletal or completely resistant to human contact. These are the ones that truly break your heart, and make you wonder if there are no limits to how low human beings can stoop. It can take an extraordinary amount of time and patience to make the smallest modicum of progress with some of these guys. Whether it is creating special diets and watching them start to ever-so-slowly gain weight, or working for weeks to prove to them that you can be trusted to put on their halter or just walk up to them in the field. The absolutely amazing thing is, we have discovered that sometimes even the most damaged or difficult animals can find their perfect home. There is no greater feeling in the world than getting an update from an adopter to let us know how that scared, skinny horse has blossomed into a loved member of the family. Seeing the transformation that an animal can make with a lot of work and a whole lot of help from all of our amazing volunteers makes every crazy phone call or sleepless night walking a colicky horse 100% worth it. Besides, where else in the world am I going to get to tell anyone that Austin and I spent an afternoon assisting a large animal veterinarian with the examination and neuter procedure of an 800 lb opinionated and junk food loving pig named Dirk!



Monthly Pet Loss Support Group Offered

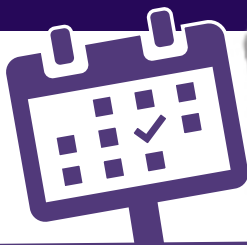
Whatcom Humane Society's monthly Pet Loss Support Group offers support and resources to help with the loss of a pet. The Pet Loss Support Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the multi-purpose room at the Whatcom Humane Society.

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



Save the Date

SUNSET CRUISE

Monday, June 19th, 6 pm

Bellingham Cruise Terminal

Join us for a 2 hour cruise on Bellingham Bay

PUTTS FORE PETS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, August 10th ~ Noon

Bellingham Golf & Country Club

Tournament includes: carts, prizes, dinner and good times

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER RUN/WALK & FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 20th ~ 10am

Lake Padden Park, Bellingham

Fun/Walk & Festival for dogs and the people who love them

MASQUERADE GALA & AUCTION

Saturday, October 21st ~ 5pm

Settlemyer Hall, Bellingham Technical College

Fabulous silent, live and dessert auction

For more information, visit www.whatcomhumane.org. For event sponsorship opportunities, email: events@whatcomhumane.org.

SHOP AT FRED MEYER & RAISE MONEY FOR WHS!

Where Shopping & Giving Unite

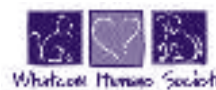
Support your favorite nonprofit just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card. Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million each year – up to \$625,000 each quarter – to the local schools, community organizations or nonprofits of your choice. All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and use it when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



WHS Program Spotlight

PET FOOD BANK

One of the many programs that the Whatcom Humane Society offers is our Pet Food Bank, which provides pet food to pets of low-income folks in need. Our hard working customer service staff members (pictured l-r) James, Danielle, and Peter are mainly responsible for administering this program and offering assistance to those visiting our Division Street shelter.

Recently, a woman came into the shelter needing pet food assistance. Before leaving the shelter, she handed staff the following note:

Dear Whatcom Humane,

I just wanted to try and express my gratitude for your kindness and generosity for giving my animals the food I cannot seem to provide as of late. At one time, it was I helping others with animals; then it seemed occasionally I ended up without the funds for my own. Even on SSDI, I managed to get by with occasional help. Lately, since my partner died and everything I own seems to have gone at once - from my roof to my car - it is as if I can't provide every month or so. It has been a never ending cycle of loss and struggle and scramble. If it were not for my animals, I would not have had the energy and determination to keep fighting. I'm saying all this not for pity, but so you would really understand the depths of my gratitude for allowing me to know my pets won't be suffering because of my own failures and struggles. I wouldn't come here if not for desperate times. Here it is the 3rd of the month, and I have \$23.00 to last for an entire month after emergency



care repairs and a plumbing issue. I'm tired, frustrated and discouraged. But thanks to you all, I am not full of despair and shame. Thank you for the pet food and for treating me like a human being - with courtesy and warmth."

This note deeply touched our entire staff and reinforced our understanding of the intense bond and love between people and their animals. We are so proud to offer our pet food bank program and help those two and four legged members of our community who are in need of a little help, kindness, and compassion during these uncertain times.

Our pet food bank program relies entirely on donations from the public. To support the program, please consider donating canned or dry dog or cat food (any brand), cat and dog treats, cat litter and other pet food (rabbit, small animal) to our Division Street facility. Donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

**"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!**



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