

# Four Paws



Newsletter of Auburn Valley Humane Society

Spring 2022



I hope this newsletter finds you, your family, and your furry friends happy, healthy, and safe. Looking back at the past two years of the pandemic, we have all become a little more resilient and pivoted our lifestyles to what has become the new normal. With the impact on public health, the tragic loss of some of our closest friends, employment, food, and housing insecurity, there are no words to describe the heavy

toll these past two years have taken. Our hearts and continued support go out to all our two and four-legged friends affected during these tumultuous times.

While these times have been some of the most challenging of any I can remember in my 60 years, it has also been a time of growth and change for Auburn Valley Humane Society. Because of the limitations the pandemic has created for our organization, intake mitigation and providing more social services to the public have prevailed. Pivoting our efforts to low-cost spay and neuter services and public assistance programs has become a natural path. The merger of Auburn Valley Humane Society and Northwest Spay & Neuter Center a year ago has proven to be a huge success. Providing over 13,800 surgeries in 2021, Northwest Spay & Neuter Center is the largest spay and neuter clinic in Washington State. Over the past year, we have worked diligently to expand our programs, strengthen our partnerships, and do our best to provide the most outstanding possible care for those who need it in our region.

The one thing that hasn't changed over the past year is the support from our community. We need your support more now

than ever and sincerely appreciate your continued assistance to provide the best possible care to the pets and their owners in our community. Auburn Valley Humane Society launched a low-cost wellness clinic at Northwest Spay & Neuter Center for income-qualified residents and their pets this past February. We initially wondered if there would be a need for these services. After a month of seeing 32 appointments a day, four days a week (booked out three weeks in advance), that question has been answered. Our next project will expand on this success to assist even more pets in need.

Today, I ask you to think of the lives of animals and their owners that Auburn Valley Humane Society and Northwest Spay & Neuter Center cares for daily. Without your support, achieving our mission would not be possible. Every day Auburn Valley Humane Society and Northwest Spay & Neuter Center strive to be models of excellence in the advancement of animal welfare. Our goal is to enrich the lives of companion animals and the people through animal sheltering, programs, and community engagement.

As we Spring into 2022, and our lives continue to adjust to the new normal, our dedication and concern for the advocacy of our pawsome friends have not changed. In my last few letters to you, I hoped there would be light at the end of the tunnel for everyone sooner than later. Now, as the pandemic is loosening its hold on how we live in our world, that light is becoming stronger, and as we get closer, we continue to persevere now more than ever before.

Please, do your best to stay safe, healthy, and happy. Together, we will make it through. **THANK YOU** for your continued support and being such a vital part of helping us change lives...four paws at a time!

**Phil Morgan**  
President/CEO



Three buttons hold the cat jaws!

## Meet Jaws!

A stray cat was rescued by a good samaritan and brought to the AVHS animal shelter.

The cat displayed facial and jaw trauma. Our awesome vet staff gave the cat fluids and medications to stabilize it. Performing an x-ray showed a fractured jaw in two places. The staff researched and discussed the case with a dental specialist from Norway! The AVHS staff veterinarian performed

an external stabilization procedure called the "button technique." The buttons are placed at three points on the face and secured with strong suture. This keeps the upper and lower jaw still and immobile (much like a cast on a broken limb). A small gap was left between the upper and lower jaw so that the cat could still eat by licking up soft food. A special feeding tube was inserted in case the cat decided not to eat on its own.

The buttons stayed in place for six weeks. The cat was able to eat by himself while in a foster home. The cat was seen weekly by the vet to ensure the proper healing. By performing another x-ray, the fractures had healed and the buttons were able to be removed. He had a final check-up and he looked like a normal cat. He was adopted in mid-November. We

are lucky that Jaws arrived at Auburn Valley Humane Society. He was able to get the care that he so desperately needed, but there are so many others like him. This extraordinary care was made possible by donors like you. Your support is critical to helping animals like Jaws take the steps to a second chance.

AVHS offers programs and resources to support animals and people in our community, including low-cost preventative care, spay and neuter surgeries, and training your pet. If you need resources, check out our website.

We need your help to continue providing this extraordinary care. AVHS sees animals daily that are beyond the scope of imagination. Many animals come to us with injuries, illness, or just old. Desperate for someone to love them. But none of our lifesaving work would be possible without our donors. We are reliant on the generosity of our community to continue this vital work. Your gift today will go towards helping save more lives. Please consider donating to strengthen our community and support animals in need.

Donate to AVHS and give them a second chance! Make your gift today so that animals will have a tomorrow!





## Four Paws

Published by  
Auburn Valley Humane Society

### AVHS Board

**Rick Oliveira, CPA**  
*Board Chairperson*  
**Alexis Singletary, JD**  
*Vice-Chairperson*  
**Bob Briggs**  
*Secretary*  
**Chris Kim**  
*Treasurer*

### Directors:

**Don Edwards, DVM**  
*Past President*  
**Miles Haney**  
**Khristina Swanson**  
**Maryellen Ellcock**

### AVHS Staff

**Phil Morgan**  
*President/CEO*  
**Emily D. Purvis, DVM, MBA**  
*Director of Veterinary Services*  
**Sharon LaVigne**  
*Director of Philanthropy*  
**Jennifer Haskins**  
*Shelter Director of Public Services*  
**Chloe Hansford**  
*Clinic Director of Public Services*  
**Tori Heath**  
*Director of Special Programs*  
**Candi Kesler**  
*Director of Retail Services*  
*Thrift Store Manager*

### Hours of Operation:

#### Animal Shelter

11 am to 6 pm - 7 days a week

4910 A St SE, Auburn WA 98092  
253-249-7849 option 1

#### Thrift Store

Monday-Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday 11 am - 5 pm

1123 E Main St SE  
Auburn WA 98002  
253-249-7849 option 6

### NW Spay & Neuter Center

Monday- Friday 10 am - 4 pm

6401 Pacific Ave  
Tacoma WA 98408  
253-627-7729

[www.auburnvalleyhs.org](http://www.auburnvalleyhs.org)  
AVHS Federal Tax ID # 45-0638467



Our annual **Whiskers & Paws Gala** will be held on **Saturday, May 21st** at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. Register now for tickets & tables. We will have social distancing with only 8 at a table. Register at <https://e.givesmart.com/s/Rnq4uoUe1d7e/k59/>

The **Online Auction and Week of Giving starts May 13-21!** That's right - eight full days for you to support the homeless animals in our community and make sure you get the highest bid for your dream getaway, artwork, or fun items for your furry friend!

Will **YOU** help us reach our goal of raising \$100,000, to support our sheltering of the homeless animals, to continue our humane education and human pet services programs, and to sustain our spay and neuter surgeries and wellness services at AVHS NW Spay and Neuter Center?

AVHS and NW Spay & Neuter Center have merged and are combining their efforts to host an in-person event with an Online Auction and Week of Giving. Register and join us as a bidder to watch the videos featuring the accomplishments of both organizations. Attend the live event and raise the paddle to help us with our fund-a-need to save more lives.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Ziva & Bailey, Green River Veterinary Hospital, Pebbles, Singletary Law Office, Columbia Bank, Mud Bay, Span Alaska Transportation, CBak Designs, Doug Klein State Farm, Praece Consulting, and Comcast.



## April is Pet License Amnesty Month!



### Late fees are waived in April only!

require a pet license. Licensing your pet provides yet another layer of protection in the event that your pet goes missing. Each pet is given a 5 digit tag number that is unique and associated to them only. Purchasing a pet license will not only quickly reunite a pet with its owner, but funds received from licensing directly benefit the lost and homeless animals in the City's care and continue the Auburn Valley Humane Society's mission of enriching the lives of companion animals through animal sheltering, programs, and community engagement. Failure to obtain a pet license in the City of Auburn results in a civil infraction with a monetary fine of \$50. Pet licensing locations:

- Online at [www.auburnvalleyhs.org/petlicensing](http://www.auburnvalleyhs.org/petlicensing)
- All local Auburn veterinary clinics and hospitals
- Tiki Tails, PetPros, Reber Ranch and NW Spay & Neuter Center
- By mail at Pet Licensing, 4910 A St SE, Auburn 98092

### AVHS Thrift Store & More Treasures Galore!

every day of the week at  
1123 E. Main St. Auburn



Find your Treasures!  
Every day there are new items at the store. Donations of household goods are being accepted by appointment only.  
100% of our proceeds benefit the animals at the AVHS Shelter.

**Thrift Store & More**  
Sunday 11 am - 5 pm  
Monday-Saturday 10 am - 6 pm  
1123 E. Main Street, Auburn  
253-249-7849 opt 6



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube





# Wellness Clinic Opens

In February, we opened our non-profit wellness clinic to ensure all pet owners have access to low-cost preventative care like affordable spay & neuter, vaccinations, and parasite prevention. Our clinic is staffed by licensed veterinarians and registered veterinary support staff with services offered to households qualified by income. We are not a full-service veterinary clinic and do not treat sick or injured pets. We will be operating the clinic 4 days a week serving 100 families.

NW Spay & Neuter provides affordable spay/neuter services for cats and dogs in an effort to prevent overpopulation and maintain healthy pets. We are providing services 5 days a week serving over 325 animals.

Go online to make an e-appointment for a cat or dog spay or neuter or for a wellness appointment.

Vaccinations and other services are offered at the time of surgery, including microchipping, flea treatment, toenail trim, and many other services.

Over 13,000 cats and dogs are altered each year for the income qualified and the partner shelters and rescues.

[nwspayneuter.org](http://nwspayneuter.org)

Mon-Fri 10 am - 4 pm

6401 Pacific Ave  
Tacoma WA 98408

## CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

### AVHS OPENS TO NEW VOLUNTEERS

- Fill out an online application at [www.auburnvalleyhs.org](http://www.auburnvalleyhs.org)
- A **New Volunteer Orientation Session** will be online as of April 1, 2022.
- All new, prospective volunteers must complete the orientation and accompanying quiz.
- Schedule an appointment with the AVHS Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@auburnvalleyhs.org](mailto:volunteers@auburnvalleyhs.org) to discuss volunteers opportunities.
- Some volunteer positions require additional training classes.
- You will be added to the volunteer roster.
- Kitten season is starting, so we want to encourage new fosters to complete an application online.

Watch our website and social media sites for updates.

## SUPPORT OUR 2022 Events

### Pet Photo Calendar Contest



The 10th AVHS Pet Photo Calendar Contest starts with a kickoff on May 1st. You can still reserve a calendar date with your pet's photo. Entering a great photo of your dog, cat, or your favorite pet ends on September 30th. Voting continues through October 11th.

More entries and reserved calendar dates means more lives saved and gives the homeless and lost animals who come to us scared, frightened, and confused, a second chance.

Help us change lives...  
four paws at a time!

**Barking Lot Sale - June 3 & 4**

**Barkfest - August 21**

**Photos with Santa Paws -  
December 3-4, 10 - 11**

### DONATIONS

At this time, AVHS is accepting donations of supplies at the shelter. We can still use gift cards to Amazon, grocery stores, Costco, Walmart, Lowe's and Home Depot. We encourage you to go to our website and click on the Amazon Wish List or Chewy.com. Your generous donations are 100% tax-deductible.

### AVHS Volunteer

#### Opportunities include:

- Dog Walkers
- Cat Care Cleaners
- Project Paws Enrichment
- Animal Care Technician Asst.
- Laundry/Hospitality
- Pet Pantry Assistant
- Dog/Cat Foster Volunteer
- Maintenance Assistant
- Pet Transport Volunteer
- Adoption Event/Outreach Volunteer
- Special Projects and many more positions!



In 2021, AVHS reunited 56.5% of lost dogs and 7.4% of lost cats with their pet owners. Special thanks to our social media friends that help us reunite lost pets with their owners.

# Happy Tails to Share...

Auburn Valley Humane Society strives to find a loving family for every animal in our care. AVHS adopted over 10,600 animals in the past 8 years and has a live release rate of 98%. We love it when our new adopters share heartwarming stories about adopted animals in their new homes. We love to share these success stories with you, so join us on Facebook to enjoy these Happy Tails and feel free to share with your friends, too!

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/AuburnValleyHS>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AVHSthriftstoreandmore>

Instagram: [auburnvalleyhs](https://www.instagram.com/auburnvalleyhs)

Twitter: [@auburnhumane](https://twitter.com/auburnhumane)



## Bullet

Bullet came to the AVHS Animal Shelter via an owner surrender consult. His family wanted the best care for this 12-year-old large mixed breed dog for which they were moving. Our awesome vet staff treated Bullet's skin condition, groomed him, and assessed his overall health for adoption. Bullet went to a foster home to avoid the stress of being in the shelter. He was adopted by a senior gentleman who had previously owned standard poodles. Bullet's new

owner was very excited to fix up the poor groom/clip job. It is the extraordinary care that Bullet received by AVHS staff that led to his adoption. Happiness on both senior faces!  
Adopted 3.2.2022.



## Toko (was Russell)

Toko is very responsive to his new name and has settled into his new home beautifully. He gets plenty of space to get the zoomies and plenty of window ledges to perch on! He is very curious and adventurous. Toko loves cuddling. He is the sweetest boy and is comfy and loving his new home. He is the best baby boy ever and I'm so happy with how the team made the adoption quick seamless and everyone was so friendly. Thank you for bringing this little boy into my life and I love him so much and know he will live a very happy life with me.  
Adopted 2.4.2022.



## Milo (was Santiago)

Milo is absolutely the BEST dog!! We are so in love with him! He is totally house trained. He plays fetch, loves his doggie bed (although he prefers the couch next to us) and loves to lie in the sun. He loves everyone he meets and is very dog friendly. While at the shelter, his leg was amputated. He loves going for walks to Lincoln Park and

politely greeting everyone. We lost our dog, Abbey, very recently and he's helped me so much with the void that she left. I cannot tell you how happy I am that he's here with us. Thank you so much for the wonderful care he received from shelter vet. She was wonderful. Your shelter made it very easy for us. The work you do is priceless and everyone was so kind and welcoming. I will be forever grateful to you for this precious gift.  
Adopted 2.4.2022.

## Help Support the Animals at Auburn Valley Humane Society

Consider **giving monthly** to AVHS to provide the animals with food, shelter, warm beds, compassionate veterinary care, training, enrichment, playtime, and love. Best of all, by spreading your gifts throughout the year, giving becomes convenient, affordable, and an efficient way to make a real difference in the lives of the animals in our care! Every animal can have a bright and loving future. Your **monthly donation** helps us to continue our life-saving work.

No matter how small or large, your gift makes a big difference to ensure that every animal gets a second chance. You help provide the dogs and cats with food, shelter, medical, and dental care until we find them a furever home. To continue our quality of care, we rely on generous financial support from our community to provide animal and human services programs. All gifts are tax-deductible.

As you work with your financial planner, tax consultant, or lawyer, please consider including Auburn Valley Humane Society in your **will, trust, or estate plan**. Our **Faithful Friends Legacy Club** honors those who make special arrangements to ensure animals will benefit from our care. This program allows you to ensure that your love and support for animals continues beyond your lifetime. You can make a simple bequest, establish a trust, designate AVHS as a beneficiary of your IRA or your insurance plan, or donate stocks. Contact AVHS about our **Pets Without Me** program and for further details on planned giving.

Please help us by using your **Rewards Card when shopping at Fred Meyer**. Link AVHS to your Rewards Card - Check to be sure you are linked to **KF808**. Kroger (Fred Meyer) provides AVHS with a quarterly donation check based on your purchases.

Love to shop online at **Amazon??** You can use your same account by shopping at **Smile.amazon.com**. Log in and select Auburn Valley Humane Society as your charity. A portion of your purchase will be donated to AVHS.

## Give today!

A donation, big or small, makes a difference in allowing AVHS to continue its lifesaving efforts. On behalf of the AVHS Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the animals in our care, we would like to thank you for supporting your local humane society.



KF808

