

Four Paws



Newsletter of the Auburn Valley Humane Society

FALL 2013

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Our Mission

The Auburn Valley Humane Society is dedicated to providing shelter, quality care and love for all the lost, mistreated and abandoned animals in Auburn. AVHS utilizes all available resources to ensure each animal is placed into a loving and forever home and promotes responsible pet ownership through education and outreach.



MAX, A SHELTYE, CAME TO AVHS
looking for a forever home. Now Max
lives with a Canadian dog trainer
who places dogs in the
movies and TV shows.



Four Paws
Published by the
Auburn Valley Humane Society

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Shelter

4910 A St SE, Auburn, WA 98092

253-249-7849 FAX: 253-929-8612

www.AuburnValleyHS.org

AVHS Federal Tax ID # 45-0638467

Hours:

Sunday	12-4 pm
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10 am-4 pm
Wednesday	12-6 pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	10 am-4 pm
Saturday	12-6 pm



Executive Director's Desk: by Phil Morgan

Auburn Valley Humane Society

First a dream, Then a Vision, Now a reality...

It hard to believe almost a year has passed since the Auburn Valley Humane Society Shelter has swung its doors open for the homeless and abandoned animals in our community. There are days I look back in awe and consider the thousands of hours and hundreds of volunteers it took to make that day a reality. I also realize what a monumental feat that day represents in our organization's short history.

Our supporters had a dream to improve the quality of care for the companion animals in our community. The founders, many who were the initial supporters with that dream, had the vision, fortitude and stamina to see this organization become a reality.

I must admit, the infancy of our organization in the months following the opening of the shelter were at times a bit trying. Many of the hurdles we had anticipated had turned into mountains.

One true test of a quality organization is how adversity is perceived and managed. I am proud to say that Auburn Valley Humane Society has faced those adversities with grace and great accomplishment and has set a new standard for quality animal care in our community.

We could not have done it alone. Having the patronage and endorsement of the City of Auburn, the community's unwavering trust, and most importantly the embracing support shown by the dedicated volunteers who showed up every day, despite weather and other obstacles, to assist us in our growth period, we not only

persevered, we succeeded.

Over the past year, we have established a legacy and have proven to be a vital and important part of our community. While we should all take a moment and savor these accomplishments, the journey is far from over. We must also look to the future and continue to grow Auburn Valley Humane Society into the great community resource it has the potential to be.

I truly look forward to working with all of you to make this new dream a reality.

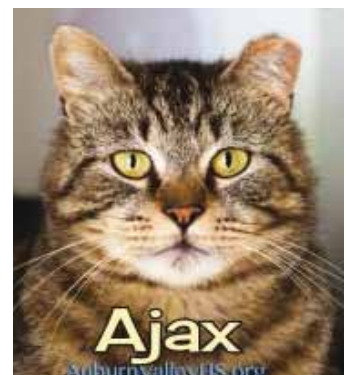


Phil Morgan, Arko, and VRFA staff conducted a towel drive

Front cover photo credits:
Alisha and Holland McGraw
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In memory of Angel Dane and Richard Husky, a memorial rock and tree were placed near the shelter.



Ajax was given a second chance. He came to the shelter, tested positive for FIV(feline immunodeficiency virus) and was adopted to a wonderful catless family willing to provide him a forever indoor home.



Follow us on Facebook & YouTube

What's Up Doc?

5 THINGS TO KEEP YOUR PET HEALTHY

by Dr. Emily D. Purvis

1 Keep your pet a healthy weight. Did you know that pets with a lean body mass live nearly 2 years longer? It's true! Keep your pet healthy by feeding the appropriate amount of a quality food and getting regular exercise.

2 Have your veterinarian examine your pet at least once a year. Many problems can be detected early with a physical exam... Is your pet overweight? Have dental disease? Maybe a heart murmur or some pesky parasites? Since pets can't talk, it's important to maintain a regular relationship with your veterinarian. Work together to detect and treat problems early, before it's too late.

3 Vaccinate your pet. There are diseases that can be deadly but are preventable by vaccination. Parvo, panleukopenia, rabies, distemper, leukemia. Have your

veterinarian evaluate risk and suggest the vaccines that are appropriate for your pet.

4 Keep your pet free of parasites. Did you know that a female flea can lay over 2,000 eggs? If she gathered up 9 other flea friends, that's 20,000 new baby fleas in the blink of an eye! Ewe! No more snuggling on the couch! It's all about flea prevention because by the time you notice a few fleas, it's already a BIG problem. Make it a monthly habit to apply flea prevention to your pets.

5 Spay/Neuter and Microchip your pet. Spayed and neutered pets live longer, they have less unwanted behaviors like urine marking, yowling, heat cycles and aggression... A Microchip is a permanent form of identification your pet can never lose. It's not GPS, but if your pet becomes lost, an electronic reader will provide your contact information for safe return home. If your pet is already microchipped, make sure your contact information is up to date.



DIG THIS

What To Do With A Stray Animal?

So you were driving along in Auburn and noticed a loose dog or cat running on the side of the road. Being the Good Samaritan you are, you now have this strange furry friend in the backseat of your car. It's the Pacific Northwest, so he's probably wet, maybe a little stinky, scared and YOU have to get to work... What now?

1. If the pet is injured, call 911 immediately for animal control. They can direct you to an animal control officer or where to go for medical care, based on the circumstances.
2. Check the animal for identification. If he's wearing a tag, sometimes the worried owner is just a phone call away.
3. If he's not wearing a tag, maybe there's a microchip. Auburn Valley Humane Society, veterinary offices and Animal Control all have microchip scanners that could yield owner contact information.
4. What if there's no chip, No ID, No license and YOU are now LATE for work? Animal Control can be reached at (253) 288-2121. If it's after hours, you will need to call 911 or wait until the following business day.
5. Auburn Valley Humane Society can be reached at (253) 249-7849. If it's during business hours, we can guide you through the next steps. It's always best to call first so we can concisely facilitate safe return of your stray furry friend.

So now, you're on your way to work after turning over care to AVHS, and you can't stop thinking about that poor little pet. What if nobody claims him? What will happen to him? You really have

fallen in love... Call AVHS and we can add your name as an 'adoption hold'. This will insure that if your stray furry friend is unclaimed and approved for adoptions, you'll be the first person we call.

In some instances, you may find a stray pet and decide NOT to surrender it to AVHS for care while trying to reunite it with its owner. Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Always check for identification, a license and have it scanned for a microchip right away. The pet may have lost his collar and a microchip might be the only form of permanent identification.
2. Make sure to list the furry friend on Petrunaways.com. This is a FREE resource to help reunite lost pets with their owners. AVHS refers all lost and found calls to this site and cross-references with what we have in the shelter. There are no logins and no fees.



3. Check out Craigslist.org for your area. Many people that have lost or found pets will post them on Craigslist. Include a picture, if possible.
4. Check local surrounding businesses, neighborhoods and veterinary offices for Missing Pet Flyers.

Hazel came in as a stray and left as a star.

LOOKING FOR LUV

Happiness found in a new home....



Veteran adopts Ricky with the help from the Auburn VFW



Ed, a Navy veteran, had lost his small dog of 17 years because of old age. The Auburn VFW Post 1741 helped him to find and fund another dog, Ricky, a 1-year old Chihuahua from AVHS. Ed and his buddy, Ricky are new best friends.

Annie - a shelter dog from another facility is featured in the AVHS Pet Photo Calendar Contest. Over 56 animals were entered into the contest and raised over \$13,000. Calendars will be on sale at the AVHS Shelter and other locations for \$15 in addition to AVHS website online sales. Get yours early so you don't miss out on the great photos.

Your help made the difference for the hundreds of homeless and abandoned animals. Your continued support will help us save even more lives.

Furr Report

Kittens may be the sweetest but older cats are great



Kittens are very sweet but we want to not forget that there are many great reasons to adopt a senior cat. Kittens may be cute and rambunctious, but as the saying goes, you can actually teach an old cat new tricks. Senior cats have the attention span

and impulse control that actually makes them easier to train than their youthful counterparts. Older cats have less energy and are more placid than kittens and are content to spend much of their time watching the world go by. As they slow down, their play becomes less energetic and less alarmingly acrobatic.

Cats are better companions in their later years. They enjoy attention and companionship, but will not pester you continually for games. Most owners find caring for such cats a very rewarding experience and in turn, an older cat will enjoy the love and security that a caring cat owner can provide.

Senior cats are often content to just relax in your company, unlike younger cats, who may get into mischief because they're bored. Speaking of relaxing, they make wonderful napping buddies. In reality, older cats are some of the hardest to find homes for — so when you adopt a senior cat, you're truly saving a life.

Cats can live long and fulfilling lives - often into their late teens or early twenties - so you'll have plenty of time to spend with your new companion.

Many people may be under the impression that older cats are at the shelter because they have behavior issues but often this is not the case. Some senior cats come to our shelter because

the living situation of their owners has changed. Some are wonderful cats who are strays that simply lost their way and deserve a second chance to be loved.

**REMEMBER
ADOPT AN
OLDER CAT!**



SUPPORT 2013 & 2014 Events

Day	Event	Purpose
NOV - DEC 17	PAWS FOR A CAUSE	Make a donation at various community stores to help fund the food, medical and other needs of the homeless animals at the shelter.
DEC 7	OPEN HOUSE/ HOLIDAY PET FOOD DRIVE	Join us for an open house and holiday pet food drive. Bring Friskies Canned Cat Food, Purina Dry Kitten Chow, and dog bones. Hourly drawings, free pet toys, reduced cat adoption fees and more from 12 - 6 p.m.!
DEC 8	CANINE ADOPTION EVENT	A dog event sponsored by Pawsitive Alliance to promote <i>A Canine Christmas Extravaganza Adoption Event</i> in Fife from 12 -3 pm at the Paws-Abilities Total Dog Center. AVHS dogs will be participating.
DEC 28	SHARE THE LOVE ADOPTION EVENT	Come visit the year-end sale of Subarus and adopt a pet. Freebies, entertainment, prizes! Don't miss the event at Mike Scarff's Subaru, 3025 Auburn Way North, from 10 am - 2 pm.
FEB 11	BEST IN SHOW	Watch the Westminster Dog Show along with other dog lovers. Dinner, prize raffles, silent auction and other fun activities from 5 - 8 pm.
APRIL	FUR BALL	A formal event including dinner, dancing and an auction.
MAY 17	PETPALOOZA	Join us at the City of Auburn's Petapalooza event at Game Farm Park from 10 am to 5 pm. Our AVHS booth will feature prize drawing baskets, toys, sportswear and fun contests.
JUNE-OCT	PET PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST	Pet owners submit their pet photo and encourage their friends and family to vote for their pet. Fifteen monthly winners will be chosen from the photographs which receive the most votes. The highest vote winner will be the front cover photo.
AUG	HOGS FOR DOGS	Charity motorcycle ride and poker run.
OCT 11	BARKTOBERFEST/ ROVER ROMP	Community event featuring dog demonstrations, rescue organizations, adoptable pets, kids zone, specialty vendors and a Rover Romp 3K/5K walk/run from 10 am - 2 pm.



VOLUNTEER LEND A PAW



In the first 10 months of the year, over 677 AVHS volunteers provided 18,990 hours of service. Come join the volunteers and help us continue to save lives four paws at a time!



Target volunteers came for the afternoon to walk dogs and clean the shelter.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
DEDICATION!**

Maddie did her share of raising funds for the shelter! Instead of receiving birthday gifts, she asked for donations for the furry critters.



Message from the Board President

Our first year of operations is now nearly complete. As I look back on the humble and tenuous beginnings of Auburn Valley Humane Society I can only marvel at the results of all the efforts of the community of Auburn and their vision for a first class companion animal shelter and adoption center. We have come a long way from that first meeting 3½ years ago when Councilman John Partridge came to the local veterinarians and presented his idea and dream of Auburn having its own shelter program. It had become clear that the City of Auburn could not afford the shelter program as it was being structured at time, so an alternative had to be found.

All of the veterinarians in Auburn and some very concerned citizens came together to answer the need and established Auburn Valley Humane Society to fulfill the dream of our own local shelter with personalized service. The entire community and city government rallied in support. The City of

Auburn had the building and supported the vision of a home town shelter when the City Council voted unanimously to approve contracting the sheltering services of Auburn Valley Humane Society. The

City Council endorsed the idea of supporting the shelter contract with 100% of the proceeds of pet license sales. All pet owners in Auburn could take great solace to know that when they purchased their annual pet license all the money would go to the shelter for the care of the lost, homeless and abused animals of our community.

I would like to personally thank all of our charter members who donated the money to purchase the equipment necessary to start a first class facility. They did this at a time when we were just an idea and had no physical presence. Their trust and faith in us and our vision, when we could only offer them a promise and a handshake, was truly amazing, generous and humbling.

I cannot say enough how overwhelming the community support has been. What a great city we live in. Thank you to all who have helped us make this dream become a reality.

Any program is only as good as the people who run it and again we have been truly blessed with a very dedicated talented and hard working staff. They have put in countless hours of hard work to make sure our shelter provides the very best in service to the pets and pet owners of Auburn.

We now have our own full time veterinarian who was able to get our surgery suite equipped and functional in the first 7 months of operations. As a result we are able to do all of the spays and neuters for shelter animals at the shelter as well as provide state of the art veterinary medical treatment to the animals in our care. This was years ahead of schedule.

And our volunteers, ten of thousands of man hours generously donated by our community volunteers. There is not any way we could even begin to run the shelter without them. They are indispensable. Thank you seems so little and

doesn't begin to express my gratitude to these selfless, tireless and hardworking individuals.

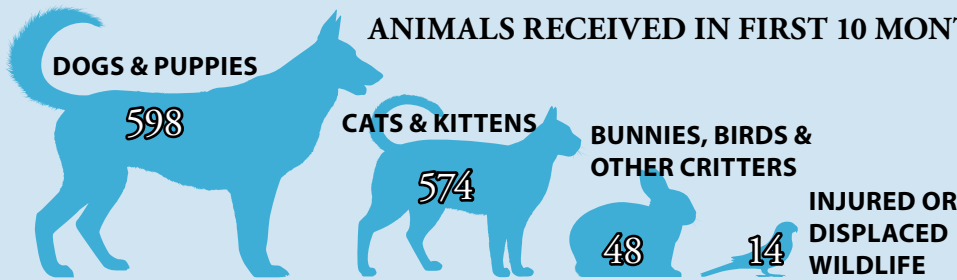
I could go on forever trying to express my overwhelming amazement and gratitude for what has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time thanks to the staff, volunteers, generous donations from the community, a visionary city government and the board of directors of Auburn Valley Humane Society. This shelter would not be what it is today without all of your tireless and dedicated work. I hope you will continue to support our ongoing programs and efforts to maintain and expand the first class shelter you all have helped to build. I know I can count on you. Thank you, Thank you all. You should be very proud of what you have accomplished and I know thanks to you, with your continued support, even greater things are yet to come.

**Donald Edwards, DVM
President
AVHS Board of Directors**



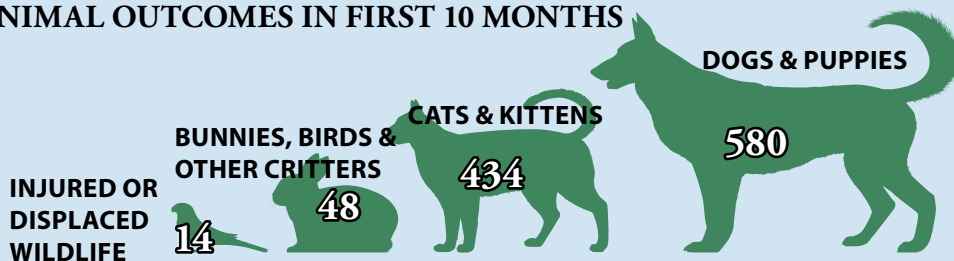
Operating Statistics

ANIMALS RECEIVED IN FIRST 10 MONTHS



Buddy came as a stray to the shelter and unclaimed by his owner. He was a sweet dog and was adopted in 6 days to a loving new home.

ANIMAL OUTCOMES IN FIRST 10 MONTHS



*The remaining animals are in foster care or at the shelter.

The Auburn Valley Humane Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization who partners with the City of Auburn for the housing of the lost and stray animals within the city limits of Auburn. The AVHS shelter opened on January 1, 2013. AVHS serves King and Pierce County for pet adoptions and owners looking to re-home their beloved pets.

No adoptable animals have been euthanized in the first ten months of operation!

Thank you for helping us save lives. . . four paws at a time!

Thanks for the support

2013 BARKTOBERFEST RAISES FUNDS AND AWARENESS

Gold Paw Sponsor

Virginia Edwards

Silver Paw Sponsor

Auburn Veterinary Hospital
Green River Veterinary Hospital

Bronze Paw Sponsors

Reber Ranch
Valley Professional
Firefighters Local #1352
Spectrum Sign Company

Copper Paw Sponsors

Coastal Farm & Ranch, Forest Hill Veterinary Hospital, Tractor Supply Co., The Petango Store.com, Auburn Valley Animal Clinic, Pet Connection Magazine, Merial, Frontline Plus, Kiwanis Club of Auburn, MWI Veterinary Supply, Paws-abilities Total Dog Center, and CrossFit Gym.



Rover Romp 5K walkers

Barktoberfest and the Rover Romp 5K is one of AVHS's annual fundraising event for the homeless and abandoned animals in our community. Highlights included the Auburn K-9 Unit, F. I.D.O. Drill Team, pet costume and pet look-alike contests, rescue organizations, kids zone, specialty vendors, adoptable pets and a Rover Romp 5K walk/run! Over 40 vendors came together to help make the event a success.



Dressed for the contest!!

Miss Auburn 2013, Victoria Knight and Miss Auburn's Outstanding Teen, Amanda Enz were in attendance as judges. The Auburn Riverside Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Careers with Children students volunteered in the Kid Zone with face painting and crafts.

This year, our efforts raised in excess of \$22,500. A total of 82 people registered for the Rover Romp and six of those brought in \$300 or more. Our top fundraiser brought in \$875! Best of all, we were able to adopt two dogs to loving families and raise funds for our homeless pets in Auburn.

I saved a Human today!



Connie Dove and Minnie

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

My kennel door opened and I walked to the meet and greet room. She raised me to her lap and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against her chest to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Her smile was so bright.

I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to do everything I could to see the radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came today. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one. I rescued a human today.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WAYS TO HELP

Consider making a donation to the Auburn Valley Humane Society. Your support is the cornerstone of the dream we share to protect animals in our community. Your ongoing generosity will help ensure the future wellbeing of countless animals at your animal shelter. The Auburn Valley Humane Society will be able to fulfill our mission of sheltering, rescuing and adopting animals, educating people of all ages to the needs of companion animals with those in our community who need their comfort. We will also be able to fund spay/neuter programs for animals at the shelter, insure efficient shelter operations, and continue in our goal of creating a more compassionate world.

Do Good

When planning your year-end giving, please consider a tax deductible gift to Auburn Valley Humane Society. Looking to make your gift go further? Find out if your employer will match your gift to save pets' lives.

Donate Goods

AVHS relies on donations from the public and we are always in need of supplies. We need:

- canned cat food
- dry kitten food
- non-clumping clay cat litter
- paper towels
- bleach
- copier paper

We also love gift cards to Costco, Lowe's, Walmart, Home Depot, and Office Depot Max or requests from our Amazon.com wish list. All in-kind donations are 100% tax-deductible.



For their 5th birthday, twins Kylie and Alexis asked for donations to go to the "animals without families." They donated \$200 plus dog items to the shelter.

Feel Good

You can be confident that AVHS will steward your donation thoughtfully and wisely. Please know how much your gift means to our Board of Directors, staff and dedicated volunteers, and the abandoned and homeless pets we care for. Your support helps us to save over 1,500 pets every year. Feel good knowing you are helping to save lives this holiday season, and all year long!

Sponsor a Kennel

A personalized plaque will display your generosity and sponsorship for twelve months on a specific kennel at the shelter signifying that the homeless animals will be getting the best care during their stay.



Hammie - Tri-pod Kitty...Adopted!



Hammie has so much love to give, and is a true survivor in all ways.

Hammie is one very special cat. He came to the shelter with a front leg that was severely injured. His affectionate and sweet nature showed through and he would greet you with gentle licks and purrs.

His leg could not be saved and surgery was done to remove it. His trials did not stop there. He became very ill with a virus, and we weren't sure he would make it. With antibiotics and TLC, he pulled out of it.

He gets around quite well. Now, he can easily jump onto furniture and does not seem to notice anything is amiss. He was adopted to a wonderful loving home along with a kitten, Sassy.