

THE MEWS

Online News for all the
Friends of Furry Friends
April 2022

Furry
Friends



Helping homeless and abused cats

www.furryfriendswa.org

Dear Friends,

Let the festivities begin! Kitten season has officially started and we are busy fundraising to help pay for their care. We have just completed our 3rd online Spring auction and are busy planning for our Fall in-person South PAWcific auction in September. There will be a number of other events happening between now and then. See below for more details.



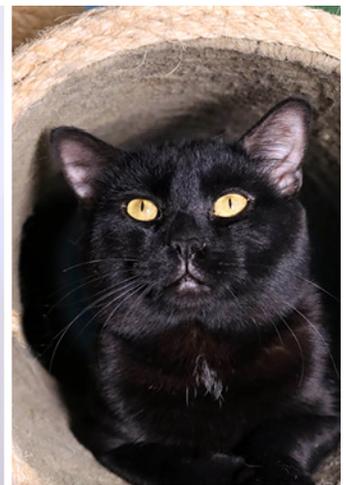
Rose



Jeff



Valentino



Poe

Adoptions

From February 18 to March 22 we have adopted out 28 cats and kittens. This brings our total for the year to 117 adoptions.



Thank you to everyone that participated in our online spring auction. We brought in \$19,410 from the event and private donations. There still may be some donations rolling in. This will be very helpful in taking care of the kittens. Kitten season is in full swing and we have many mom cats and their babies in our care right now. It costs Furry Friends \$300 to \$500 per kitten to take care for their care and medical issues. We do end up spending more on some kittens that have out of the ordinary medical situation. Every bit of funds we bring in goes to helping the kitties.



Shelbie



Amanda



Cathy



Angie

Shout outs from a couple Halfway House shift leads!

Brittni Chang volunteers every other Saturday evening and is amazing. Not only is she great with all the kitties, but she is always up for any changes at the Halfway House and is willing to fill in for anyone that is unavailable.

Freya Fisher Thursday am shift - never misses a shift. She likes doing the medical room and is great with all the kitties. She also volunteers at the Humane Society so clearly loves kitties. She moved here a year ago and started volunteering at FF right away.

Angie Wood: Angie has been on my Monday morning team for a couple years now. She's always on time, never misses a shift, does all the chores tasked of her and socializes with the kitties after she's done with the chores. She a valuable team member and I'm glad to have her on my shift! Thanks Angie!!

Shelbie Dunn is awesome on Saturday morning. She lives in Portland but always shows up (early!) even when she has other commitments that she has to rush to. She coaches a high school dance team and frequently has competitions right after our shift. She manages All Natural Pet Supply and regularly brings food and treat donations for the pet pantry. She really takes time to get to know all the cats and their needs.

I can't pick just one on my team (the entire team is great), but both **Amanda Close** and **Cathy McCanta** consistently show up every Wednesday morning (usually early) and quite often stay late to make sure all our tasks are complete and that the kitties are all fed, clean, and comfortable.

Amanda concentrates on the Med Room cats (which are frequently some of the messiest cats) and Cathy makes sure that all cats have exactly the right food they need to get and remain healthy. Both Amanda and Cathy interact with the cats in a very positive way to ensure each one feels special. Flexibility is their primary traits ... always happy to adapt to whatever needs to be done each week! Cathy is on two house shifts (Tues. and Wed AM) and is a socializer. She is dependable and a hard worker!



Our event season is in full swing. Save the date for these Furry Friends opportunities below.

April 30: Evergreen High School Bazaar (information booth). Jenn Hutchman has tables for this event for her business and will dedicate a spot for Furry Friends information. We are trying to have more visibility for Furry Friends in the community. Evergreen HS is located at 14300 Northeast 18th Street, Vancouver, WA 98684

May 21: Fred Meyer's event. Furry Friends will have an information table at the Fred Meyer located at 16600 SE McGillivray Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98683 9am-1pm on Saturday, May 21.



June 25-26: Recycled Arts Festival (RAF) is held at Esther Short Park, 301 West 8th Street in Vancouver, WA. We will have an information booth and sell Furry Friends merchandise. We have chosen not to bring the cats to the event since it is so stressful for them. We are looking for items to sell at our table. Some handmade items in the past have been pet beds, cat ear head bands, jewelry and more. Our booth will be open Saturday, June 25 from 9am-5pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm. If you have something to donate or wish to volunteer at the event, contact Jenn at information@furryfriendswa.org. This is a super fun event to attend. So many creative items made from recycled materials.



Late summer: Garage Sale. We are thinking of having another garage sale this summer. We don't have any details to share with you yet. But if you have any good quality items that you want to move along, please save them for us. Once we have a place to stash our treasures we will let you know.

September 10: Peace and Justice Fair. This is held at Esther Short Park, 301 West 8th Street in Vancouver, WA. We will have an information booth and sell Furry Friends merchandise. We have chosen not to bring the cats to the event since it is so stressful for them. We are looking for items to sell at our table. Some handmade items in the past have been pet beds, cat ear head bands, jewelry and more. Our booth will be open Saturday, September 10 from 9am-4pm. If you have something to donate or wish to volunteer at the event, contact Jenn at information@furryfriendswa.org.



Save the Date for the Fall Auction

Furry Friends will host its 14th annual dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, **September 17** at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver. We will be sending out a Save the Date card in the mail this month. Tickets will be \$70 and go on sale at our website in June <https://furryfriendswa.org/calendar/southpawcific/>.

If you are interested in helping with items for the fall **South Pawcific Fall Auction** we especially ask for items such as trips, vacation places, experiences and expensive items. We can always use more items that would appeal to men such as hunting, fishing, BBQ, camping, sports memorabilia, smart TVs, car items and services, tools and electronics. We ask that donations be valued at \$40 or more, and we need to receive them by August 1, 2022. We are trying to focus on quality rather than quantity. We only have space for about 100 silent auction items so we want to earn as much as we can for each item. Things do not have to be cat themed; our guests have many interests in addition to cats.

Take a look at our auction wish list

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/GT5MXWN1EOUH?ref=wl_share

Procurement Questions: Lisa Baxter auction@furryfriendswa.org

Auction Questions: Chris Nash ffauction@icloud.com

Sponsorship Information: Diane Stevens news@furryfriendswa.org



Costume Contest: We will have a fabulous prize for the person that wins the costume contest at the South PAWcific Dinner & Auction. Though costumes are not required, they sure add to the fun for the evening. So be looking for your best hula skirt, muumuu, flowered Hawaiian shirt or other tropical themed costume.

The auction will be held on September 17, 2022 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the The Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Dr, Vancouver, WA 98662.



Halfway House Now an Official Animal Shelter

By Sandi Long, Volunteer Halfway House Lead

Furry Friends has completed the final phase of changing the Halfway House use from Residential to Commercial\Business, making it an official animal shelter. One of the reasons we purchased the

property is because it was already zoned Commercial. For it to meet City of Vancouver approved as a shelter, we needed to change the use of the structure itself from Residential to Commercial/Business.

Doing so required us to: install a sidewalk; add parking spaces and lighting; expand the driveway; add an ADA compliant pedestrian ramp; assure the protection of archaeological resources and tree conservation; control erosion during construction; add a stormwater system; provide an ADA compliant bathroom; and insulate designated exterior walls. The Fire Marshal required us to: post emergency signs; exchange hook latches on cage doors with magnets for easy exit; and equip exit door key-locks with fail-safe, immediate releasing (without delay) locks for exit/egress doors.

Fire Extinguishers

The Fire Marshal also required us to install 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguishers in the medical room and in the hallway by the small bathroom. The building is primarily made of concrete brick, there is no fireplace or stove, and no gas or propane hookups. The chance of a fire is slim, but please familiarizes yourself with how to use the extinguishers just in case of an emergency.



Emergency Signs

There are now emergency signs posted above the front and laundry/bathroom doors:



This posting is a Fire Department regulation and no action is required by volunteers.

Many thanks to the following individuals for making this change happen:

We are thrilled to have such a wonderful shelter that will serve kitties and the community for decades to come!

- Dedicated sponsor Glen Aronson, Iron Gate Storage, who donated tens of thousands of dollars over the years to help us purchase the Halfway House and to complete the project.
- Volunteer Sandi Long for helping to locate the property six years ago and for the many hours she spent overseeing the entire project. Sandi also donated the fire extinguishers and emergency signs.
- Volunteer handyman Jim Grafmyre for installing fire extinguishers and emergency signs; and exchanging latches for magnets on cage doors. Jim also built a new door for the water heater and insulated windows, among many other projects at the Halfway House.
- Architects Mark DiLoreto and Chris Baumann of Planning Solutions, Inc., for working on the project and for answering many of our questions without charge. They are truly wonderful architects and genuinely good people.
- Contractor Jonathan Christopher, Christopher's Custom Concrete, who did an amazing job and who was a dream to work with. Jonathan answered every call we made and responded to every text or email we sent him. He explained the construction process to us in layman terms and was flexible when we asked him to make minor changes.
- Civil Engineer Bob Carpenter, Carpenter Engineering, Inc., who created a multifaceted design that keeps storm water on our property instead of flooding into the street. His detailed plans were amazing and his knowledge of the City's permitting process was immensely helpful.

We are thrilled to have such a wonderful shelter that will serve kitties and the community for decades to come!

Feral Cat	Stray Cat
Silent except when mating and may hiss	Meows
Only seen at dawn and dusk to hunt	Seen at all times of the day and night
Will eat food only after humans have retreated from the feeding area	Will eat near humans
Can never be touched	May be touched or held at times or may rub against legs
If cornered, will hiss, spit or fight	If cornered, will try to hide
May look clean and healthy because they have adapted to living outside	May look dirty and unkempt because they do not live their entire life outside
May have an ear tip if they have already been through the TNR process	They may or may not be fixed
No collar or microchip	Might have a collar

Strays & Feral cats are not one in the same.

Many people believe that any outside cat they come across is considered a feral cat. This is far from the truth. You may hear the term “community cat” this term is used to define any cat who is unowned and lives outdoors. All community cats are not feral as stray cats also fall under this definition. Stray cats are socialized, accustomed to and enjoys the companionship to people or can be socialized then adopted into homes, whereas feral cats are not socialized and usually would do best continuing to live outdoors and/or in a feral cat colony. Stray cats are cats who have gotten lost, been dumped, owners moved and left the cat behind, and many other reasons who with slow introductions would do fine living in a home. Of course, there are always exceptions to the rule but if your feral acclimated to indoor living then most likely it was a stray. Most feral cats will never become a lap cat or enjoy living indoors. Feral cats are usually born outside and have had little to no human interaction. Feral cats can have kittens who can be socialized at an early age and adopted into homes. Generally, a kitten under 12 weeks can be socialized and are not considered feral even if they have not had any or minimal human contact. The longer a kitten goes without socialization the more feral the kitten becomes.

Here are 5 ways you can help feral and stray cats:

1. Spay & neuter your own pets
2. Provide supportive care for a feral cat colony – including healthcare
3. Donate to local rescues or TNR programs
4. Volunteer with a rescue
5. If you see an injured cat outdoors get it help

This info was compiled by Furry Friends volunteer Jenn Hutchman



Furry Friends now has a QR Code that you can scan with your phone and it will take you automatically to our donation page on our website. You will be seeing this on some of our publications.

What is a QR Code?

Well, the QR – which stands for “quick response” – code is basically a barcode on steroids. While the barcode holds information horizontally, the QR code does so both horizontally and vertically.

How do I get a QR code on my phone?

Navigate to “Settings” and select “Screen search”. Enable the topmost toggle (“Asks Google to show you info related to what’s on your home screen when you hold the Home button or search by voice”). Hold down the Home button from your Android smartphone to start “Now on Tap” so that you can scan QR with your camera.

How do I scan QR codes?



Open the camera or the QR reader application on your Smartphone. Point your camera at the QR code to scan the QR code. A notification will pop-up on screen. Click on the notification to open the Furry Friends website link.



We have had several stories run in our local media.

3-21-22 The Reflector Spring auction article https://www.thereflector.com/stories/furry-friends-to-launch-online-spring-auction,286483?fbclid=IwAR0fKcFwe50FmRgrp_FG0524P8AWnzUwZjK_dKAmY0vC5xKIYKg6A-KO37o

3-9-22 Clark County Today spring auction article
<https://www.32auctions.com/organizations/63636/auctions/118609>

3-1-22 The Messenger ran two articles. One on the spring auction and the other was their featured article about adoptions during the pandemic by Jenn Hutchman. There are no links to these articles

3-1-22 The Columbian Newspaper ran an article today about Furry Friends upcoming online auction March 25-27. <https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/feb/28/furry-friends-fundraiser-benefits-spay-neuter-of-cats/>

Pet Abandonment



By Jenn Hutchman

I have a few words to say about pet abandonment. Cat rescue is not all about cute kittens and cuddly cats. It is sick cats, abandoned cats, one year olds on their fourth litter of kittens, cats with diseases, and unfortunately dead kittens/cats.

Just today we have received calls on a cat set to be euthanized due to inappropriate urination with no other health issues (we have him now, his name is Murphy), a cat set to be euthanized because he is fiv+ and one year old otherwise healthy (we have him now, his name is Raggedy Andy) and now two cats that their owners moved and just locked them in a room with no food and water where they were found days later in very bad condition (we are working on getting them).

Yesterday we got a call about 2 young boys being thrown outside to survive on their own because "they are too old now" they are 7 months old (we have them now, their names are Lewis and Clark) and they are the sweetest boys! You can tell they were taken care of up until this point so why just throw them outside to fend for themselves?

READ MORE HERE

<https://furryfriendswa.org/pet-abandonment/>



Thank you to Chuck Sites

Chuck is a professional artist that has been a Furry Friends supporter for many years. He donated a small print of his cat on a checkered floor to the Furry Friends Halfway House. He will have a larger hand signed giclee in our fall auction.

Ongoing Resources

- **Adopt A Pet** <https://www.adoptapet.com/shelter71378-pets.html>
- **Volunteer Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/534750527361316/>
This is a different page than our public Facebook page.
- **Foster Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/668989080549946/>
- **Public Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/furryfriendswa> We post daily news to this page.
- **HH Shift leader Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/458843792698182/>
- **FF YouTube Channel** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChfBIX6IOMIEseSxK9f27dw/videos>
- **FF T-Shirts & Merchandise** <https://www.teepublic.com/user/furryfriends>
- **FF Twitter account** <https://twitter.com/furryfriendswa>
- **FF Instagram account** <https://www.instagram.com/furryfriendswa/>
- **FF TikTok account** <https://www.tiktok.com/@furryfriendswa>

- **Fundraising Ideas** <https://bit.ly/FFFundraisingSurvey> submit idea you may have.
- **Drop off location for items:**
 - **Woodin' You Pampered Paws**, 13305 NE Hwy 99 #102, Vancouver, WA 98686, is a fabulous pet care store located in Salmon Creek. The store is open Monday-Friday from 9am-7pm and Saturday from 9am-6pm. They will accept things for us during the pandemic. (360) 571-0082

Furry Friends Premiere Sponsors		
	<p>Dr Virginia Huang Has been a proud mentor and supporter to Furry Friends for over 14 years.</p> <p>Thanks</p> 	 <p>IRON GATE STORAGE</p> <p>Glen Aronson Has been a proud mentor and supporter to Furry Friends for over 12 years.</p> <p>Iron Gate Storage has nine locations to serve you in the greater Vancouver and Portland areas.</p> <p>www.irongatestorage.com</p>
Gold Sponsors		
 <p>FRONT DOOR Realty</p> <p>Julie Baldino</p> <p>501 E McLoughlin Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663 (360) 450-4486 Info@FrontDoorNW.com www.frontdoornw.com</p>	 <p>Feline Behavior Solutions "Keeping Cats in Homes and Out of Shelters" Dr. Marci Koski 503-927-1107 marci@felinebehaviorsolutions.com www.FelineBehaviorSolutions.com</p>	 <p>CRYSTAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY</p> <p>Joe & Michelle Kennedy</p> <p>600 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665 info@crystalip.com 503-530-1316 https://crystalip.com/</p>
Silver Sponsors		
 <p>Bee Sam Beauty Salon 2014 St Johns Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661 (503) 488-0095 beesambeauty.com https://beesambeauty.com/</p>	 <p>Jason P. Smith CPA, PS Accounting</p> <p>Jason P. Smith, CPA, PS 10000 NE 7th Avenue Suite 400 Vancouver, WA 98685 360-567-1041 jason@mycpajason.com</p>	<p>Thank You</p> <p>TO OUR SPONSORS</p> <hr/> <p>Furry Friends </p> <p>Visit our website to find out more about sponsorships www.furryfriendswa.org/sponsors/</p>

Furry Friends is dependent upon the kindness of our friends and sponsors to keep us going. Thank you all for supporting the kitties.

Having trouble receiving the newsletter?

If you have trouble receiving the newsletter in your inbox, enter news@furryfriendswa.org into your contact list and that should solve the problem. This newsletter is compiled by Diane Stevens.

The Executive Committee: This board is the governing body responsible for the operation of Furry Friends. Members are all volunteers and meet once a month. Feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have questions, comments or suggestions.

- Jaimie Garver**, President, Operations, Financials
- Brandi Towner**, Vice President & Adoption/intake team
- Linda Rader**, Adoption/Foster Coordinator
- Cynthia Johnson**, Treasurer,
- Diane Stevens**, Public Relations and Marketing, social media, newsletters, photography, creative director
- Marci Koski**, Feline behaviorist
- Danielle Chancey**, Secretary, Fundraising and Events

Other Leadership:

Sandi Long, Grants, property management
Jazmynn Hoffman, House Manager, Volunteer Coordinator & Adoption/intake team
Jenn Hutchman, Community Outreach, Adoption/intake Coordinator, Med team/scheduler
Chris Nash, Auction Lead
HH Shift Lead Managers
Sylvester '**Sal**' Alcaraz, and **Kuipo** Alcaraz,