

THE MEWS

Online News for all the Friends
of Furry Friends
April 2023



Helping homeless and abused cats
www.furryfriendswa.org

Dear Friends,

Another April, another kitten season, and we are fostering 50 kittens now, with more coming all the time. We are still looking for some fosters, so check out the post further down in this newsletter. We have also been rescuing more cats and kittens from hoarding situations. We have just brought in 39 from a cat hoard of 100.



Cheddar



Wally



Squirrel



Kay

Adoptions

We have adopted out a record number of cats and kittens for 2023. From January 1 to March 17, we adopted 141 cats and kittens--incredible for only a couple of months. Not that many years ago, we adopted out about 141 cats for an entire year.



A couple days remain for the Furry Friends **SPRING "We can move Meow-tains"** ONLINE Auction, **March 30 to April 2**; three full days of online fun. Please visit the auction site and find a great item to bid on <https://auctria.events/furryfriendsspringauction>

The purpose of the spring auction is to bring attention to Kitten Season. Springtime is when love is in the air, and we start to see "kitten season" kick into full swing. We anticipate performing over 400 spay/neuters this year to help control the cat population in our community. The funds from this online auction will go toward the more than \$50,000 cost of spay/neuter services Furry Friends projects and will help to cover extraordinary medical expenses for cats that need that extra TLC to get them into a loving home.

Thank you for all your help supporting the kitties. Every little bit is important. We spend about \$350,000 a year to take care of the kitties and we need to constantly fundraise to pay for their needs.



It has been a long road of growth for Furry Friends and with that growth our needs have expanded! We have decided to increase Tanika Campbell 's hours and give her the title of General Manager/Adoptions Coordinator. She will now be in charge of all communications regarding adoptions, approving applications, scheduling meet & greets, facilitating adoptions, scheduling transport for all

appointments, keeping electronic records up to date, and a multitude of other duties. Congratulations Tanika! Tanika will start this new role April 3, 2023



Volunteer Spotlight: Aly Benson

Although she's been a Furry Friends volunteer for less than a year, Aly Benson is already involved in working at the Halfway House, fostering kitties and adopting.

At the house, Aly is part of the "awesome Monday morning crew." "I really enjoy getting to know these ladies and hanging out with them each week," she said.

Her responsibilities include taking care of the living room and washing dishes. She spends about two hours each week at the house. But that's not all. At home, she now has four hard-to-place foster kitties; has adopted a cat from the Humane Society, and she received a Persian for Christmas.

"My biggest joy has been loving my foster kittens," she said. She also enjoys reading about cat adoptions on Facebook.

READ MORE HERE

<https://furryfriendswa.org/volunteer-spotlight-aly-benson/>



To all of our Volunteers - THANK YOU!

The week of April 16-22 is Volunteer Appreciation Week!

That week is a very special time designated to thank volunteers. There are not enough words to describe how amazed and grateful we are for the dedication, compassion and generosity of the over 150 individuals who have given of themselves to Furry Friends.

Furry Friends would not be possible without the donation of funds, talent and time from you, who have seen the plight of the cats and kittens in our care. You, our dedicated and compassionate volunteers, have decided to not only "talk the talk" but "walk the walk" and give of yourselves in a most precious way, your time.

We would not exist without your support. Without your help, we would not have been able to save the over 4,400 cats and kittens we have taken in since 1999. Without you, none of the work we do would be possible!

Whether you have given 20 hours for the year or 2,000 hours, it is all appreciated. Each person gives what they can manage for their lives. And the kitties are not the only ones to benefit from the time given; the kindness that the volunteers show to one another and those interested in our kitties has been so heartwarming. We truly have a loving, compassionate, caring group of volunteers. We will never be able to fully express our gratitude to you, but please know from the bottom of our hearts how much we appreciate and respect each and every one of you.



Jenn Hutchman and Diane Stevens were interviewed by Jennifer Coyne of KXRW radio in March. You can listen to the podcast at [_____](#)



How Does Furry Friends Take Care of Cats

We are always asked how we manage take care of so many cats?! The simple answer is we have a great staff and many volunteers who all work hard to ensure the cats are happy and healthy. Here is a short breakdown for you ❤️

Furry Friends has two sets of volunteer cleaning crews that each come in for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening to clean, feed, medicate, and socialize with the cats. Each team has five or six people who have set days and times. Some have been on the same shift for years. This schedule sets a routine and brings familiar faces to the kitties. Approximately 80 volunteers come in each week for these shifts! Isn't that incredible?

About 30 socializers come in mid day and evening to spend time with the kitties. Socializing can be sitting with them, petting, brushing, playing with toys, etc.. Some of our socializers come every day to visit 💕

A medical team comes in multiple times a week to assess the health and wellbeing of all the kitties. They also do all routine medicals on kittens and intakes almost every sat. This team consists of our Executive Director, our president, our Vice President, our house managers, and a volunteer vet assistant.

These are just some of the teams we have to give the best quality care to our Furry friends!



Jenn Hutchman was interviewed by the Columbian. This was a subscriber only article, so here it is in its entirety. Photo by Amanda Cowan/The Columbian

Working in Clark County: Jenn Hutchman, Furry Friends

By [Hope Martinez](#), Columbian news assistant

Published: March 18, 2023

Avid readers of the In Your Neighborhood section of the Sunday paper, the name Furry Friends is likely to ring a bell.

Furry Friends is a nonprofit no-kill cat rescue and adoption organization based in Vancouver. Serving the greater Vancouver-Portland metro area, Furry Friends seeks to provide local cats in need with

proper medical and emotional care while waiting for a forever home, rescuing abused, abandoned, or otherwise unhoused or unadopted cats with a safe place to stay while searching for their perfect human companion.

While primarily a volunteer-run organization, one stand-out kitty hero is Jenn Hutchman, executive director of Furry Friends and the shelter's first full time employee.

As executive director, Hutchman works closely with nearly every aspect of shelter business, from overseeing volunteers and staff, working in community response and facilitating adoptions to more hands-on aspects like working directly with the cats themselves. She fosters many of Furry Friend's feline visitors in her own home to help increase their social skills and adoptability.

"It's an incredible feeling to see timid and shy cats blossom into their true personalities after receiving proper medical care and a little extra love and attention," Hutchman said. "Helping match up them with their perfect adopters afterward is truly the icing on the cake."

Hutchman has had a long history of loving and caring for cats in need prior to her work with Furry Friends. She spent years independently fostering and rehoming young kittens, which inspired her to begin volunteering in 2019.

While she started out simply aiding in adoptions, Hutchman's previous foster experience quickly led her to become the shelter's primary kitten foster parent, hand-rearing and bottle feeding newborn kittens.

"Looking after teeny-tiny kittens naturally became one of my absolute favorite aspects of the job from the jump," Hutchman said. "Now, after having cared for over 300 bottle kittens, I still never get tired of watching them grow. It really is a miraculous experience!"

Even with all the work she was already doing, Hutchman knew that there was more she could give to these cats in need. In 2020, she trained under a veterinarian to receive her vet assisting certificate, which allowed her to get more involved in the shelter's medical program. She volunteers at local spay and neuter clinics on the weekends.

Since no cat rescue is complete without the help of a loving family to give Hutchman's furry friends a new forever home, Hutchman encourages cat lovers to reach out to schedule a visit, whether they're looking to adopt a new kitty family member or looking for support for the beloved pets they already have.

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/mar/18/working-in-clark-county-jenn-hutchman-furry-friends/>



"GO ORANGE FOR ANIMALS" IN APRIL

By Nomi Berger for Furry Friends

Statistics show that in America, an animal is abused every 10 seconds.

And so, April has been designated "Prevention of Cruelty to Animals" Month. A month during which everyone is urged to "Go Orange for Animals" to increase public awareness about these unconscionable, and usually unreported, incidents.

How YOU can help:

RAISE FUNDS

Using your personal Facebook account, create a fundraising page for a specific rescue group or shelter to celebrate an important occasion (birthday, graduation, anniversary, pet's birthday, etc.) then share it with family and friends. Or instead of gifts, ask them to make a donation in your name to the rescue or shelter of your choice.

ORANGE, ORANGE EVERYWHERE

Show your support by wearing something orange all month. For young and old. Female and male. For her: barrettes and bows, scarves and shoelaces, brooches and bracelets, tank tops and teddies, necklaces and nail polish. For him: ties, tie tacks and tee shirts, bow ties and baseball caps, socks, suspenders and sneakers, pocket scarves and pins on lapels. Or go BIG! Tie a broad orange ribbon around a tree in your yard for everyone to see – and hopefully imitate.

READ MORE HERE

<http://blogs.columbian.com/cat-tales/2017/04/02/go-orange-for-animals-in-april/>



Furry 
Friends

*Helping homeless
and abused cats*

It's Kitten Season

Save a Life & Foster!



Kitten Season has arrived. If you would like to help the little fur babies, we would like to talk to you. All supplies and training are supplied for you. But it does take a fair amount of work on your part. Check out the requirements on our website or contact us with your questions.

For 2022 we adopted out a record number of cats and kittens. We are on schedule for doing even more adoptions for 2023.

Ready to foster?

Check out the requirements on our website furryfriendswa.org/fostering/

Questions??

Contact us at

(360) 993-1097 or

information@furryfriendswa.org.

Become a Foster for Furry Friends

Love cats and kittens but not ready for your own? Maybe your lifestyle doesn't allow time for you to adopt. Fostering may be a great alternative! Fostering is a fine way to help our cats and kittens on your own time, in the comfort of your own home for a few weeks or months.

You can help make a life-saving difference by becoming a volunteer foster parent today. Furry Friends will provide food, litter, cat supplies and all medical care. Fosters are required to bring their foster cat to all medical appointments. Please visit our fostering page to fill out an application or to see a document about what is expected. <https://furryfriendswa.org/fostering/> or reach out to us at (360) 993-1097 or information@furryfriendswa.org.



Uno and Heather make a purrfect match

A Happy Ending for Little Uno

Uno came to Furry Friends with a very obvious eye infection or other eye trauma after he was caught on someone's property. Another cat rescue could not take on his medical care, so he was referred to Furry Friends and we quickly stepped up and took him in. The same day he was brought to us, East Padden Animal Hospital could see him and amazingly enough they could do his surgery that evening. Thank you to our friends at EPAH! While we are not sure what caused the trauma it was deemed a ruptured globe (eyeball) and had to come out to prevent further infection.

Uno had a successful surgery and recovery with no complications! Right away he had a line of adopters stretching out the door. After undergoing our adoption process, the perfect adopter was chosen for him! He is now in his new home happy and healed. Thank you to everyone who donated to his fundraiser, we raised almost enough to cover his entire bill. Thank you, East Padden Animal Hospital for getting him in for same day surgery and thank you to our foster parents for raising this cutie. It was a whirlwind for this little guy and Furry Friends but he sure left a big impression on many!



Easter's in sight and spring has sprung

Don't let the Easter Bunny forget about your fluffy feline when he comes a hopping down the bunny trail. Remember the kitties with a basket filled with goodies they will like.

For the container, use a plastic basket or bucket, a decorative box or container made with untreated wood. Some of the purchased Easter baskets may be treated with toxic chemicals or paint. Handling the basket may be okay, but if your pet likes to chew on these tempting baskets, he/she may end up with an upset stomach.

Fill the bottom of the container with crumpled tissue paper. My cats love to play with tissue paper, so they will consider this one of their gifts. Don't use the colorful plastic grass that lines most Easter baskets. Cats love to play and eat this long stringy material and it can cause your cat serious problems. The material is not toxic but it does get tangled up in the stomach and bowels, which can result in internal damage that requires immediate surgery.

Add edible kitty treats to your basket. For fun you can package the treats or catnip in plastic Easter Eggs. Your cats will know the eggs hold something good and will bat them around until, at last, success! Throw in a few toys and you have a surprise that your pampered puma is sure to love.

READ MORE HERE

<https://furryfriendswa.org/easters-in-sight-and-spring-has-sprung/>



Act on Adopt a Shelter Pet Day April 30

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is April 30, and we at Furry Friends ask that you consider saving a life by adopting a pet – purr-eferably one (or two) of the fabulous felines that **we** shelter.

With that in mind, we remind you of the life-affirming roles kittens and cats play in our lives, and of our responsibility to pay it forward by saving the lives of those less fortunate. Millions of healthy, adoptable kittens and cats across North America are euthanized annually because there aren't enough homes for them. It's vital to remember that every animal adopted opens a space for another animal in need. And so, by choosing adoption as the **ONLY** option, you're helping decrease the number of kittens and cats left homeless each year.

Being a small, hands-on rescue allows us to know each of our furry friends – their personalities, what they like to eat and how they like to play. This vital information enables us to match the right animal with the right adopter, and ensure, to the best of our ability, that they all live happily and lovingly fur-ever.

READ MORE HERE

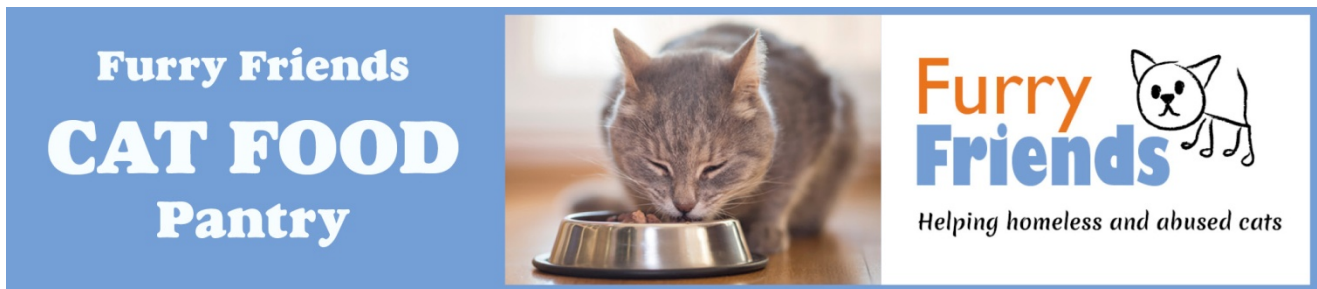
<https://furryfriendswa.org/act-on-adopt-a-shelter-pet-day/>



New T-Shirt Design

Jenny Grass has just designed a new T-Shirt for Furry Friends. When you go to the website you can choose what color and style of shirt you would like. Actually, you can have our design printed on many items, such as tank tops, long sleeve shirts, kid shirts, wall art, phone cases, mugs and more. A portion of your purchase goes to helping Furry Friends take care of abused, abandoned or otherwise homeless cats. Show your support and save the kitties.

Visit <https://www.teepublic.com/user/furryfriends>



Although our pet pantry is small and growing, we have helped over 125 cats this month with dry food, litter, wet food, and other essentials! This program is not a monthly food bank but is here for temporary help when needed. The pantry is entirely run on donations of products and no money is spent to fund this program currently. If you have extra supplies you would like to donate or need temporary assistance please reach out to information@furryfriendswa.org! We also would love to help out any feral colonies that need some additional food support!

****All food has been donated to us and we cannot guarantee specific brands. Hurry while supplies last****

Furry Friends Washington Pet Pantry <https://www.facebook.com/FurryFriendsWashingtonPetPantry/>



Save the Date for the “HISS” Auction September 16, 2023



This in person auction
will be held at
**The Heathman Lodge,
7801 NE Greenwood Drive,
Vancouver, WA. 98662.**

Questions? (360) 993-1097
auction@furryfriendswa.org

Presented By:
Premiere Sponsors
Dr Virginia Huang and Iron Gate Storage
Platinum Sponsor: Crystal Investment Property
Gold Sponsors: Front Door Realty and
Feline Behavior Solutions
Silver Sponsors: Bee Sam Beauty and
Jason Smith, CPA

Furry Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, no-kill,
volunteer run, cat adoption organization that helps
homeless, relinquished and abused cats.
Visit www.furryfriendswa.org
information@furryfriendswa.org

**Furry
Friends** 
Helping homeless and abused cats

Save the date for the Furry Friends ‘HISS’ in person auction on September 16, 2023. We are looking for donations of items. Contact auction@furryfriendswa.org if you have questions or an item to donate.

Upcoming Events

Save the date for the following events. We will share more information as the dates get closer.

Furry Friends will have info tables and merchandise at these events. If you have any handmade items that we can sell at these event, please contact us at information@furryfriendswa.org

EHS Spring bazaar	April 29	Evergreen High School
Heritage bazaar	April 29	Heritage High School
GiveMore24	May 2	Virtual event
Spring Festival	May 6	Ridgefield
Spay it forward	May 26-28	Facebook event
Big Paddle	June 3	Ridgefield
Recycled Arts Fair in June has been canceled		
Juneteenth	June 19	Esther Short Park
Dt Market/Street Fair	July 1	Ridgefield
City Days	Aug. 5	Ridgefield
Multi Cultural Fest	Sept. 2	Ridgefield
Peace & Justice	Sept. 9	Esther Short Park
HISS Fall Auction	Sept. 16	Heathman Lodge
FM for your pets		Fred Meyer Battle Ground
Birdfest	Oct. 7	Ridgefield

Are you signed up to receive our newsletter?

Sign up to receive email updates on news, upcoming events, and more!

Send an email to news@furryfriendswa.org to be added to the list!



- **Amazon Wish List** https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/WE783999BG1W?ref=wl_share
- **Spring Auction Amazon Wish List**
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/Q4W7V1CACJ3K?ref=wl_share
- **Fall Auction Amazon Wish List**
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/DI6I4R46KQ49?ref=wl_share
- **Donations** <https://furryfriendswa.org/donate/> or [Paypal.me/furryfriendswa](https://paypal.me/furryfriendswa)
- **Adopt A Pet** <https://www.adoptapet.com/shelter71378-pets.html>

- **Cat Tale Stories Blog** <https://blogs.columbian.com/cat-tales/category/cat-tales/>
- **FF Adoptable Cats Facebook Page** https://www.facebook.com/groups/590223832702067/?ref=share_group_link
- **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. (360) 571-0082
 - Contact information@furryfriendswa.org to arrange another location for drop off

 Furry Friends Helping homeless and abused cats			
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></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>	 <p>IRON GATE STORAGE</p>	
Platinum Sponsors		Gold Sponsors	
 <p>CRYSTAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY</p> <p>Joe & Michelle Kennedy 600 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665 info@crystalip.com 503-530-1316 https://crystalip.com/</p>		 <p>Feline Behavior Solutions</p> <p>"Keeping Cats in Homes and Out of Shelters" Dr. Marci Koski 503-927-1107 marci@felinebehaviorsolutions.com www.FelineBehaviorSolutions.com</p>	
Gold Sponsors		Silver Sponsors	
 <p>FRONT DOOR Realty</p> <p>501 E McLoughlin Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663 (360) 450-4486 Info@FrontDoorNW.com www.frontdoornw.com</p>		 <p>Bee Sam Beauty</p> <p>Bee Sam Beauty Salon 2014 St Johns Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661 (503) 488-0095 beesambeauty.com beesambeauty@gmail.com</p>	
 <p>Julie Baldino</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>Visit our website to find out more about sponsorships www.furryfriendswa.org/sponsors/</p>			

Furry Friends depends 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.

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:

Jenn Hutchman, Executive Director, Community Outreach, Adoption/intake Coordinator, Med team/scheduler

Jazmynn Hoffman, House Manager, Volunteer Support/intake team

Tanika Campbell, General Manager/Adoptions Coordinator

Chris Nash, Auction Lead

Gail Bauhs, Cat Socializer Lead

Kelli Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator



FurryFriendsWa.org