



Online News for all the Friends of Furry Friends

October 2020

Furry Friends

Helping homeless and abused cats



Hello Friends,

There was so much activity in September that we are happy to see October arrive. We completed our parking/sidewalk/landscape project which took four years to accomplish, we made it through our exciting Hairy Pawter auction, and Give More 24 has come and gone. Read more on each of these milestones below.



Buck



Aspen



Doodle



Nala

Adoptions

We have adopted out 34 cats from August 23 to September 26, 2020. Congratulations to 19: Abe, Adoozy, Annie, Aspen, Attaboy, Bella, Buck, Clint, Dinah, Doodle, Elaine, Etta, Freddy, Gatsby, Gentry, Georgia, Gideon, Hercules, Jinxy, Lewis, Mack, Malcome, Mannie, Max, Nala, Opal, Petey, Rosa, Rouge, Skittles, Starsky, Timber and Titus. Cats and kittens have been getting adopted as fast as they have cleared their medical procedures. Even some of our hard to adopt cats have been finding their forever homes. We are so excited by this. So far for the year we have adopted out 212 cats and kittens. I think the most we have ever adopted out for ONE YEAR is 200. We will go way beyond that for 2020.



Endora and her eight babies

Kittens, Kittens, Kittens

Boy have we been busy with babies. As soon as a litter is adopted there are more to take its place. We have been fluctuating between 50 to 70 kittens on our roster at any one time. As soon as they become available for adoption we put them on PetFinder (https://www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption/?shelter_id%5B0%5D=WA12&sort%5B0%5D=recently_added) and many are snapped up within hours or a day of posting them. Many of the kittens are pre-adopted before they even hit PetFinder. A person can fill out an adoption application on our website (<https://furryfriendswa.org/cat-adoptions/>) and put in a request for a certain type of kitten such as 'two female tabby cats;' then we can reserve those babies for that person. Our adoption fee for kittens is \$130 for one and 50% off the second one if adopted at the same time--a great bargain. Most of the other shelters charge more. We spend more on the spay/neuter and other medical costs than we ever get back in the adoption fee.

Diane Stevens was recently interviewed by the Columbian Newspaper about kittens. The story ran September 20. Here is the link: <https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/sep/20/clark-county-animal-groups-have-oodles-of-kittens/>



Auction Recap

Well throwing an online auction was quite the adventure. We wanted to thank everyone who donated items, time, talents and funds. We brought in approximately \$62,729 which is FANTASTIC! This amount includes sponsorships, last minute donations, and we deducted our expenses.

It was definitely a team effort. There are a few people that we would like to highlight for their efforts:

Chris Nash, auction lead

Lisa Baxter, procurement lead

Diane Stevens, publicity, promotions, graphics, advisor

Nancy Bott, item coordinator, courier, fulfillment

Jenny Grass, graphic design, item posts on Facebook

Karen Laksamana, graphic design

Thank you all for making our online auction a big success. We didn't know how we would do since we are in the middle of a pandemic and other hardships. We are quite pleased with how the auction performed. These are much needed funds for the kitties. We have about 100 cats and kittens on our roster right now and it is expensive taking care of their needs. Thank you all for participating.

We want to give a special thank you to **Glen Aronson of Iron Gate Storage**. He donated \$23,000 that is included in the total auction revenue. This amount has already gone to help pay for our newly completed Parking Lot/Sidewalk project. See more about Glen and the Parking Lot further down in this newsletter.

SCPS Spa Fundraiser Recap

Each year, Salmon Creek Plastic Surgery does what it can to support Furry Friends. Dr Virginia Huang held a spa fundraiser in conjunction with our auction for Furry Friends. Between the 20% proceeds that we received from the event and Dr Virginia's sponsorship, she gave us a check for \$10,000. We are so grateful for these funds. We certainly do need them. She also gave us two of her professional wildlife photos and two spa baskets (valued at \$1000 each) for auction items as well as two facials as bidding incentives.

PURE GRATITUDE

THANK YOU!

GIVEMORE24!

There's nothing like back-to-back fundraisers. Give More 24 landed only 4 days after our big online auction. But despite that proximity, this fundraiser brought in \$11,495. Thank you to Sandi Long for coordinating the event and Diane Stevens, Rosella Randall and Aron Depart for promotions. And thank you to Julie Baldino of Front Door Real Estate for putting up \$1000 in matching funds and to Mila Boyd of Uptown Law for contributing \$500 in matching funds. These funds will go to our ever-growing medical expenses. 2020 will see a lot more cats and kittens coming through Furry Friends than any of our previous years, while spay and neuter operations continue to increase in costs. We spend a lot more on our cats and kittens than what we make with the adoption fees.



The Parking Lot Project is Done!

We're so happy to have our new parking lot, sidewalk and landscaping project completed. Asphalt is laid, parking spots striped, parking lot lights installed, signs up, and landscaping planted. Everything looks great. More importantly, volunteers and visitors have a clean, safe place to park. No more parking in the mud!

Background

The parking lot was required by the City of Vancouver so that our Halfway House would be a permitted shelter. The end cost was at least three times what we anticipated four years ago when the project began. Much of that additional cost was due to the eight feet of impermeable clay lying beneath the planned parking lot. Because of the clay, much digging had to be done, huge pipes were run from the front of the property to the back, a swale had to be built to hold the storm water, and a leach field had to be added for drainage.

Despite everything, we are excited to have a Halfway House that is a warm, inviting place for the cats we rescue and for the adopters who provide them with loving, forever homes.



Jonathan Christopher, Sandi Long, Glen Aronson

Thank You!

Many thanks to the following for their help:

- Dedicated sponsor Glen Aronson, Iron Gate Storage, who donated tens of thousands of dollars over the years to purchase the Halfway House and to complete the project. Without his construction expertise and his connections with local tradespeople, this project never could have been completed.
- 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.
- Architect Chris Baumann, Planning Solutions, Inc., who helped with the above-ground design and who answered many of our questions without charging us. He is truly a wonderful architect and a genuinely good person.
- 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.
- Tran's Landscaping, which did a great job and completed the project at half the cost other landscapers were quoting.

- Volunteer Marion Edwards who donated the three beautiful evergreen Hinoki Cypress trees in the driveway turnaround.
- Volunteer Sandi Long for helping to find the Halfway House and for overseeing the improvements. By the way, she still has *some* hair left!

We are pleased to have such a wonderful Halfway House for the kitties for decades to come.



Volunteer Spotlight on Jaimie Garver

We would like to thank Tina Starks for writing the volunteer interviews for us.

Have you met Jaimie Garver? If not, chances are you will if you drop by the Halfway House even occasionally. This powerhouse, despite having only been a volunteer for less than two years, has taken on the demanding position of Furry Friends president. What's more, she's not just president, but is currently lead of park events, the grant team, the fundraising team, medical team, and Halfway House coordinator. That's a mouthful to say and even more to do. So, how did she get to dedicating so many hours a week to Furry Friends?

READ MORE HERE <https://furryfriendswa.org/spotlight-on-jaimie-garver/>



We have quite a few stories in the media recently

9/30/2020 The Reflector- Ran a general story about all of our adoptions.

http://www.thereflector.com/companion_pets/article_cab6f28c-01c5-11eb-a0e9-876b1a721c13.html

9/20/2020 The Columbian – Interviewed us for a story on kittens <https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/sep/20/clark-county-animal-groups-have-oodles-of-kittens/>

9/14/2020 Clark County Today ran a story on our auction https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/local_news/furry-friends-holding-12th-annual-auction-this-week/?fbclid=IwAR3TPjia1pJOZx4yftfWd_DguzZHR5uDm_huNvFIGU_xyR9ijLuhcBtFde0

9/12/2020 The Columbian ran our auction information <https://events.columbian.com/event/furry-friends-hairy-pawter-auction-online-sept-12-19/2020-09-12/>

9/7/2020 Van. Family Magazine – Ran our auction article <https://vancouverfamilymagazine.com/event/hairy-pawter-furry-friends-12th-annual-auction-fundraiser-online-event/>

MAKE A MEMORIAL DONATION



Memorial Donations

Furry Friends receives a number of memorial donations in honor of cats and pets that have crossed over the rainbow bridge. We have also received donations in honor of human loved ones that have passed. We are honored that our kitties can be the recipients of these gifts of love. If you would like to donate, you can do it securely on our website at <https://furryfriendswa.org/donate/>. Or a check can be sent to our mailing address at 6715 Ne 63rd St., Suite 450, Vancouver, WA 98661.

The September memorial and in honor of donations:

The Goodriches in memory of Henry

Holly Hood in memory of Schnapps

Konnie O'Hearn in memory of Milo

Mary Head in honor of her dad Cliff Gallanger

Chris Nash in honor of Kookie Freeman; Bitty, Dory, Marley (all failed foster kitties); Tucker and Lucy!

Debbie Sayward in honor of Aurora

Judith M. in honor of Dena Hugh

Julie Fisher in honor of Romeo

Kelley Ragsdale in honor of Nikkin

Furry Friends Website

Formation Design which is co-owned by one of our volunteers, Karen Laksamana, has hosted our website at no cost since its inception. We are grateful to all the work that she has put into this service. They also host our email addresses which they will continue to do.

We have had to move our website to a new host for various reasons. We would like to thank our webmaster Christina Roberts for taking on this huge task. Christina has been a volunteer with Furry Friends for many years and has been the person behind the scenes taking care of web issues.



Gooshop

If you shop online you may want to consider signing up with Goodshop.com.

The first step is to register at [Goodshop.com](https://www.goodshop.com) and choose Furry Friends WA Organization. When you shop a percentage of your purchase will go to Furry Friends. You can choose your favorite online stores that you like to shop from and Goodshop.com will send you some coupons to make your shopping experience even more enjoyable. You save money and Furry Friends earns money all at the same time.

Ongoing Resources

- FF T-Shirts & Merchandise <https://www.teepublic.com/user/furryfriends>
- Email: information@furryfriendswa.org
- Message Phone: [360-993-1097](tel:360-993-1097)
- Website: furryfriendswa.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/furryfriendswa We post daily news to this site
- Twitter: twitter.com/furryfriendswa
- Instagram: instagram.com/furryfriendswa/
- Mailing Address: 6715 NE 63rd St, Suite 450, Vancouver, WA 98661
- (*Our shelter address is not published;; it is open by appointment only*)
- Drop-off location for items:
 - Woodin' You Pampered Paws, 13305 NE Hwy 99 #102, Vancouver, WA 98686, a fabulous pet care store located in Salmon Creek. The store is open Monday thru Friday from 9am-7pm and Saturday from 9am-6pm.
 - When purchasing something online for the cats and kittens, you can always have it shipped direct to our mailing address: 6715 NE 63rd Street, Suite 450, Vancouver, WA 98661.

Premiere Sponsors



Dr Virginia Huang
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Visit our website to find out more about sponsorships www.furryfriendswa.org/sponsors/

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?

Are you having trouble receiving the monthly newsletter in your inbox? Enter news@furryfriendswa.org into your contact list and that should solve that 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 at information@furryfriendswa.org or leave a message at (360) 993-1097.

Jaimie Garver, President, Operations, Community Events, Grants, Financials

Linda Rader, Vice President and Adoption/Foster Coordinator

Diane Stevens, Public Relations and Marketing, auction, social media, newsletters, photography, creative director

Marci Koski, Feline behaviorist

Margie McGhee, Secretary and Treasurer

Dena Hugh, Foster assistant

Julie Goldbeck, Halfway House Committee Lead person

Other Leadership:

Sandi Long, Property management

Malinda Goldbeck, Volunteer Coordinator

Marion Edwards, Adoption events, lead socializer

Chris Nash, Auction Lead