



Whatcom Humane Society
CAREING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1902

SHELTER LOCATION

2172 Division Street
Bellingham, WA 98226
Phone: (360) 733-2080
Fax: (360) 733-4746

HOURS OF OPERATION!

Shelter Services

(licensing, lost & found, redemptions, etc.)

Wednesday – Saturday

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday – Monday

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Closed Tuesdays &

Major Holidays

Adoption Services /

Animal Adoption Viewing

Wednesday – Saturday

11:00 am – 5:30 pm

Sunday – Monday

12:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Closed Tuesdays &

Major Holidays

Animal Control Dispatch

Sunday – Tuesday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday – Saturday

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

*For after hours emergencies please call 9-1-1

Phone: (360) 733-2080

Fax: (360) 733-4746

Farm Facility

By appointment only

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Fall/Winter

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Late Spring/Summer

8:00 am – 7:00 pm

(360) 966-8845 – please

call, not open to the public

www.whatcomhumane.org

Whatcom Humane Society Statement of Principle

The Whatcom Humane Society believes that all animals, as sentient beings, have value beyond economic measurements and are entitled to legal, moral, and ethical consideration and protection.

Vision

Our community treats all animals with kindness, respect, and compassion.

Mission Statement

The Whatcom Humane Society:

- Advocates for animals;
- Educates the community to promote humane treatment and respect for animals,
- Provides for abandoned, injured, abused or neglected animals.

PawPrint

Whatcom Humane Society's
Quarterly Newsletter • Spring 2020

A Message From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you, your family and friends all doing well and staying healthy. It has been such a crazy time for everyone the past few months and even for an organization like WHS that is accustomed to dealing with the unexpected, it's been a time full of challenges, frustration, inspiration and growth.

As an essential service provider to the animals and people in Whatcom County, much of our day-to-day work during the COVID-19 pandemic has continued uninterrupted. Spring typically brings with it the arrival of kittens to our domestic animal shelter, orphaned and injured baby wildlife to our wildlife rehabilitation center, an increase in calls to our animal control department and lots of maintenance and upkeep projects at our farm facility. Like clockwork, these things all started to occur and our staff reported to work as scheduled and tirelessly went about their duties to provide for animals in need. But as we learned new information and facts about COVID-19 and stay-home/stay-safe orders were enacted, it became clear to our leadership team that we would have to continue our efforts to fulfill our mission while limiting public access to our shelters for days, weeks and months – all while missing one crucial component of our WHS family – our volunteers. We made the difficult, but responsible decision to ask the volunteers at all three of our facilities to stay home and remain at home until it was safe for them to come back to our shelters. The first few days without any volunteers in our buildings was surreal. I get emotional thinking about it. There was an uneasy quiet that settled over the staff and our facilities. The animals continued to arrive and our staff performed heroically, working long shifts and hours to care for them. Shelter-wide, employees took on additional tasks and duties normally reserved for volunteers – dog walking, cat tlc, countless loads of laundry, grooming, feeding, dishes, landscaping, maintenance projects, etc. – all while practicing proper social distancing and cleaning and disinfecting the buildings multiple times daily. I've often said that our staff are the heart of the shelter and our volunteers are the soul. I really felt that these past couple of months. The hallways of our Division Street shelter, normally filled with enthusiastic dog walkers, cat and small animal volunteers, vet clinic volunteers and those helping with special projects, were empty. Donning a facemask and checking in at our wildlife rehabilitation center and not seeing a smiling volunteer happily preparing a bowl of stinky food for one of the wild animals receiving care, made the facility seem incredibly disheartening. And walking into our barn on a sunny afternoon and looking at an unused volunteer sign-in sheet was depressing. On the rare occasion a volunteer would stop by one of our shelters to drop donations off or pick up supplies for a foster animal, staff greeted them like movie stars.

Like businesses everywhere, the past couple of months have been weird and unsettling and we have had to quickly adapt to figure out how to move forward and operate during ever-



Laura Clark, Executive Director

Letter Continued on p. 5

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Wildlife Rehabilitation Services

Alysha Evans, *Manager, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, LVT*
Makenna Johansen, *Lead Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator*
Sinead Andersen
Caroline Sullivan
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Claudia Alvarez
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Humane Education

Kelsey Forbes

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Carly Todhunter, *Manager*

Veterinary Services

Karen Rounds, *DVM*
Sarah Hansen, *Vet Assistant*



WHS News



TRAVELS WITH RITA: CROSSING AMERICA DURING A PANDEMIC

Written by Kris Bush, WHS Companion Animal Care Manager



New WHS Companion Animal Care Manager with his dog Rita

Have you ever gone on a road trip in a car packed to the ceiling with all your worldly possessions, accompanied by a senior cat and a pit bull? Did that trip last 3 ½ days? Was it also during a national pandemic? If you have, then we must be part of a very small club.

When I accepted the position of Companion Animal Care Manager at WHS, COVID-19 was a concern, but the situation had yet to develop into the open-ended quarantine that has become the new normal. Between my visit to Washington in February and my expected departure date from my home in Franklin, Tennessee in late March, the country descended into a state of panic. Businesses closed, people began isolating themselves, toilet paper became THE must have luxury item of the season. As it got closer to the week I was supposed to leave, things became increasingly uncertain. Shelter in place orders were being issued all over the country, and I began to worry interstate travel might be shut down at any time. I started hearing whispers about the National Guard being called in to enforce quarantines and curfews. As improbable as martial law seemed, the post-coronavirus world was full of the unprecedented and the unexpected.

If the country shut down and sectioned off, would moving even be possible? Would I be stuck in Tennessee? Would I need to make alternative living arrangements as the lease on my apartment ran out? Should I move my timeline up, hit the road, and risk getting stuck in Kansas, South Dakota, or Idaho?

Since there was no way to know what was coming next, I decided to take a risk, move up my timeline, and head out early. I packed my car, said goodbye to my family and friends, got the animals settled, and headed for Bellingham. It was a surreal time to be travelling cross country. On the one hand it was business as usual – there was still traffic on the interstate, there were no signs of the army mobilizing, no one was closing off state borders or ordering me to turn around. On the other hand it was clear things were far from normal – rest stops were closed, hotels were empty, people were visibly scared and uncertain. I tried to maintain a sense of stoic calm. After all, there wasn't anything for me to do besides keep driving. The rest was wholly out of my control. So I made the most of it. I made a detour through the Badlands of South Dakota. I drove alongside the Bighorn Mountains and the Tetons. I went through National Forests and snowy mountain passes. With my trusty companions, Annie the 18 year old cat and Rita the pittie, I explored an America in crisis. But the mountains and the forests and the plains gave no indication that the country was struggling. Cruising along with my crew, it would have been impossible to guess that anything out of the ordinary was going on. Aside from the occasional fellow driver decked out in a facemask and gloves that is.

On the last day of my trip I finally crossed the border into Washington. My relief was palpable. At the very least I wouldn't be stuck in limbo in a strange state with no place to go. If the country needed to seal off every state border now, it was ok with me. Now I just had to find where I was supposed to be living. Late that night I drove up Toad Mountain on the outskirts of Bellingham and pulled into the driveway of my new home. Despite the darkness, the towering trees obscuring the houses, and my exhaustion, I had finally made it!

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Join us in celebrating wildlife and help support the Whatcom Humane Society wildlife rehabilitation center.

The WHS Go Wild Photo Contest is an online photo contest to recognize and appreciate photos of wildlife in the wild, where they belong! Starting May 1, 2020, we invite you to enter your favorite wildlife photos to our contest. It's easy to participate! Submit your favorite photo, and then get your family and friends to vote for your picture. Voting begins immediately!

CATEGORIES:

- Pacific Northwest Native Wildlife (Washington, Oregon, British Columbia)
- Native Wildlife Found Outside of the Pacific Northwest

Winners in each category will be based on the number of online votes they receive between May 1st – June 30th, 2020.

A 3rd "judges" choice category will be available – with members of the WHS wildlife rehabilitation center voting.

1st place winner in each category receives:

- Winning photo featured in the 2021 WHS Happy Tails Calendar
- Winning photo will be framed and displayed in the WHS wildlife rehabilitation center and on WHS social media sites
- \$50 Visa gift card
- Winning photographer receives a WHS wildlife rehabilitation center tee shirt and hat.

2nd Place winner in each category receives:

- Winning photo will be framed and displayed in the WHS wildlife rehabilitation center and on WHS social media sites.
- \$25 Visa gift card
- Winning photographer receives a WHS wildlife rehabilitation center tee shirt and hat.

TO REGISTER: go to www.gogophotocontest.com/whatcomhumanesociety

RULES: \$10 entry fee per photo submission. You may enter as many photos as you wish.

Only photographs of wildlife in the wild will be considered. No photos of wildlife in a zoo setting, captive/caged wildlife, or wildlife presented in an inhumane or undignified manner will be accepted.

Submissions should be well-focused, sharp images that are high resolution (300 dpi and above, 3300 pixels by 2550 pixels – or 8.5 X 11). Photos not meeting these criteria may be rejected or you may be asked to resubmit.

No blurry images will be accepted. Color and Black & White Photos will be accepted. NO professional photographers please.

VOTING: The voting period will begin on May 1, 2020 and end June 30, 2020. Voting is open to everyone and there is no limit on the number of votes you can purchase/submit. Votes are \$1 each. Final votes will be tallied the first week of July and winners announced shortly after.

Be sure to share the link to your photo(s) to friends and family asking them to vote and explain that the more votes received the more money raised to help wildlife in need. You will receive a direct link to your entry in your entry email. The direct link to the contest site is: <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/whatcomhumanesociety>. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the daily operations at the Whatcom Humane Society wildlife rehabilitation center, which cares for thousands of injured and orphaned wildlife each year.



WHS WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER PROVIDES LIFE-SAVING CARE AND A SECOND CHANCE TO JUVENILE BEAR



Juvenile female bear

In April, Washington State Fish & Wildlife officers found an orphaned juvenile American Black Bear in the forest near the north fork of the Nooksack River. Typically bear cubs will remain with their mothers until the following summer after their birth year, so it was determined that this juvenile was orphaned. For safety reasons, State Fish & Wildlife officers are the first responders for large carnivores. They responded, humanely trapped the orphaned bear and determined the best course of action was to transport the animal to the WHS wildlife rehabilitation center for life-saving treatment and care. On arrival, the bear's condition and prognosis for survival was extremely poor. She suffered from nasal discharge, diarrhea, mange, lethargy, dehydration, emaciation, ataxia and was extremely weak. She was administered stabilization medications and placed in a secure area at the WHS wildlife center for observation. A few days later, Dr. David Rabkin from Maplewood Animal Hospital (the WHS wildlife rehabilitation center permitted veterinarian), assisted by WHS wildlife center manager Alysha Evans and WHS wildlife center lead rehabilitator Makenna Johanson (both licensed wildlife rehabilitators through the State of Washington) sedated the approximately 15

month old bear and gave her a comprehensive examination. Her condition had improved, but she was still emaciated, anemic and missing one claw. The good news, she had already gained weight and Dr. Rabkin and wildlife center staff were able to administer additional medication and treatments to her. In addition, blood tests were taken to study levels of red and white blood cells, her overall cell hydration and all of her organs to ensure that they were functioning normally. Her prognosis had improved as had her chances for survival.

She was then moved to a secure, locked, (multiple locks actually!) guillotine and double doored outdoor enclosure that had been filled floor to ceiling with tree branches, limbs and other native foliage that would help decrease her stress and encourage normal behavior. She is fed a specialized diet including a variety of greens (Black bears are mainly herbivorous during the spring), blossoms, buds from trees/plants/bushes, fruit, proteins such as fish, eggs, mice and rice cereal. Staff calculate and adjust her daily food intake based on her weight, age, condition and treatment plan. Her food is placed all over her enclosure so that she must search for it.



Staff member in ghillie suit

The WHS wildlife rehabilitation center is one of only a few centers in Washington State that is licensed, permitted and qualified to care for bears found in these types of situations. State Fish & Wildlife issued our center a special permit to care for these beautiful animals and conducted an examination of the indoor and outdoor facility prior to admitting the bear to our center for care. Licensed wildlife rehabilitators must carry a special permit (as Alysha Evans does) to care for large carnivores and to obtain these permits, staff must have a minimum of 500 hours working in a facility licensed to care for similar animals and pass an exam. In addition, strict written protocols for care and safety are in place and carefully followed.

In order to care for this bear, licensed wildlife center staff wear a ghillie suit scented with bear urine (yes, really!) when going anywhere near the bear's enclosure to provide food and water. Unless the bear is sedated for a veterinary exam, staff will not come in



WHS wildlife rehab center manager Alysha Evans, LVT and Dr. David Rabkin, DVM examining bear



WHS News



Dr. David Rabkin, DVM carries a very sedated bear for an examination

direct contact with the bear, both for safety reasons and to make sure the bear does not associate humans with food. WHS staff go to great lengths to make sure all the animals at our wildlife rehabilitation center (but especially this bear) never learn to associate humans with food, as it can have deadly consequences for the animals. Habituation is the number one threat to bears in our region as they often make use of easy food sources such as unsecured garbage cans, outdoor pet food and bird feeders.

She continues to improve, her anemia has resolved, she is parasite free and is gaining weight rapidly. She is acting like a normal bear, retreating from noises and "huffing", which is exactly what staff wants to see and hear from her. If she continues to gain weight and her respiratory and mange issues can be resolved (prospects look good!) she is scheduled to be released back into the wild where she belongs by mid May. State Fish & Wildlife officers will determine her release site, but typically this occurs deep in the forest far away from roads, homes and humans.

For additional information about how you can support the WHS wildlife rehabilitation center, including how to contribute to the new building fund to help us build a new state of the art wildlife rehabilitation center this year, please visit www.whatcomhumane.org.

Travels with Rita, continued from p. 2

Settling into my new place took no time at all. WHS staff and volunteers had graciously provided me with furniture, a bed, and a fridge and cabinets full of food. The kindness and generosity I've experienced since my first day here has been nothing short of incredible. Southern hospitality be damned, someone should be singing the praises of the PNW! I, for one, will be happy to start. Since before my arrival I have felt welcomed and accepted. Actually starting work at the shelter only cemented that impression. Despite the deep weirdness of this time and the atypical situation at WHS, I was incredibly appreciative of everyone's thoughtfulness, patience, and guidance. It was easy to immediately feel comfortable in my new role. I'm excited to experience my first day being open to the public, but in the meantime we've been working hard on deep cleaning, enrichment, continued education, and daily playgroups. It's a strange time to start a new job in a new state - to start a new life. But even though I can't yet go for a hike in the shadow of Mt. Baker or catch a movie at the Pickford or settle in with coffee and a book at The Black Drop, I still feel like I have, at long last, found home.

Message from Executive Director, continued from p. 1

changing times and with limited resources. Thankfully, we did apply and receive a PPP loan (kudos to our bank Heritage Bank for helping guide us through the process) which has provided us with some financial stability in the next few months. We have slowly and safely started to welcome back a few volunteers at a time to our shelters to provide invaluable assistance to our staff and care for animals, big and small. On a limited basis, we are facilitating animal adoptions and working to place animals into permanent, responsible and loving homes. We are committed to moving forward this spring to begin construction on our badly needed new wildlife rehabilitation center. The "new normal" is anything but normal. However, there is one thing that has remained constant and unwavering during these unprecedented days. Our unwavering commitment to caring for domestic, wild and farm animals in need. I don't know what the future will bring. But I do know that the Whatcom Humane Society will do what we have always done, since our founding in 1902 – we will continue to do all we can to provide for our community's most vulnerable animals. We are all in this together and on behalf of everyone at the Whatcom Humane Society I sincerely thank you for your support and wish you and yours all the best this spring and summer.

With Gratitude and Respect,

Laura Clark, executive director



Whatcom Humane Society
CARING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1902



WHS News



VOLUNTEER FOSTER CARE ROCK STARS

Living up to their reputation of being the most fantastic volunteers in the world . . . Whatcom Humane Society volunteers opened their hearts and homes and fostered over 70 animals, big and small, during the Stay Home-Stay Healthy order that was put in place this past spring due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic. Here are just a few of these humane heroes and some of the lucky shelter animals who benefited from their kindness and compassion.





WHS Wish List



Domestic Animal Shelter

- Postage stamps (first class & postcard)
- Copy paper (white, color & cardstock)
- Gift Cards from petStop, Fred Meyer, Hardware Sales, Whatcom Farmer's Co-op, Office Depot, Michaels, Petco, PetSmart & Costco
- New batteries
- New pens and highlighters
- Blankets and towels (no electric blankets)
- Dog Walk Harnesses – Easy Walk & Wonder Walk, front clip especially needed
- Dog collars
- New dog and cat toys
- Creamy peanut butter
- Paper towels
- Leashes
- Small animal treats and toys
- Bags and cans of dog and cat food (can be open or unopened, just not expired)
- Tennis balls
- KONG Toys (L & XL) for shelter dogs
- Catnip



Farm Facility

- Gift Cards for Hardware Sales/Lowe's/ Home Depot, Whatcom Farmers Co-op
- Rubber stall mats
- Vet wrap
- New halters and lead ropes
- New horse treats and toys
- Fly spray
- De-wormer
- Stall Mats
- Bags of animal bedding
- Horse Treats



Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

- Gift Cards for Costco, Fred Meyer, Pet-Co, PetSmart, Whatcom Farmers Co-op, Hardware Sales and Chris's Squirrels & More (www.squirrelsandmore.com)
- Environmentally friendly hand, dish, and laundry soap
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Hand Sanitizer Gel
- Latex Gloves
- Welding Gloves
- Fishing Nets with Poles
- Play-Pens
- Old sheets/pillow cases/fleece blankets
- Non-automatic turn-off heating pads
- Cotton Balls
- Straw Bales
- Pet Carriers (all sizes)
- Tarps
- Medium to large plastic storage bins (clear) with lids
- Feather dusters
- Frozen meats (chicken, liver, heart, venison)
- Frozen fish (small and large sizes)
- Frozen berries
- Soy-free cat and dog food (Costco Brand is good)
- High quality wet canned cat food
- Cracked corn
- Bird seed
- Various nuts (for squirrels)
- Rodents blocks
- Eggs
- Ensure – Vanilla flavor
- Blood worms (cube style)
- Baby Food of all kinds
- Large live mealworms



WHS MONTHLY PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP



Our monthly pet loss support group is suspended through August due to public health concerns associated with COVID-19. However, we understand how incredibly difficult losing a pet can be and how that is made even more challenging by social distancing. If you have been struggling with the loss of a pet, are anticipating the death of a beloved companion animal or dealing with the difficult decision of euthanasia, we are still here for you.

Please contact outreach@whatcomhumane.org or call (360) 733-2080, ext # 3116. WHS will put you in touch with one of our amazing volunteer pet loss support/ grief facilitators. These kind and compassionate folks understand what you are going through and would be happy to listen without judgment and offer valuable resources as you continue your journey through grief.

For additional pet loss resources, visit www.whatcomhumane.org/resources/#pet-loss.

Donations for any of our facilities can be dropped off at the WHS shelter facility Wednesday-Saturday, 10am - 6pm, Sunday - Monday, 11am - 5pm.

For more information, please contact Kelsey Forbes at (360) 733-2080, ext # 3116 or email outreach@whatcomhumane.org. **Check out our amazon.com wish list! Visit amazon.com, "gifts & wish lists"** (and register on Amazon Smile - a % of your purchase will be donated to WHS!) **then type in Whatcom Humane.**

SUMMER EVENT UPDATE

Following recommendations from the Whatcom County Health Department to cancel all group summer events throughout Whatcom County, and based on the City of Bellingham's decision to cancel City of Bellingham sponsored and funded events this summer, the Whatcom Humane Society has cancelled the following WHS sponsored events and workshops through August 31, 2020:

- **Sunset Cruise Around Bellingham Bay** (June)
- **Critter Camp** (July/August) – visit www.whatcomhumane.org for information about our Critter Camp At-Home Kits for kids available this summer.
- **Putts Fore Pets Golf Tournament** (July) – hoping to reschedule for September!
- **Dog Days of Summer Festival** (August) – visit www.whatcomhumane.org for information and details on our upcoming VIRTUAL Dog Days of Summer Walk & Festival
- **Monthly Pet Loss Support Group Meetings** (May/June/July/August)
- **New Volunteer Orientation Meetings** (May/June/July/August)

For more information, contact: events@whatcomhumane.org

Thank you for your understanding during these challenging times.

Ways to stay connected with WHS!



"Friend" us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Become a "fan" of the WHS Facebook & Twitter pages and receive updates on what is going on at our shelters and the latest up-to-date information on animal related issues in our community.

Want to receive the latest WHS news via email? Sign up & join our email newsletter list. Email your address to: admin@whatcomhumane.org. In the "message" line type "join email news list." Thanks!

INTRODUCING SHREDDER - WHATCOM COUNTY'S FIRST AND ONLY REGISTERED THERAPY CAT



This past Spring Pet Partners Animal Therapy Program welcomed its first registered therapy cat to the Whatcom County Pet Partner Program – Shredder Claffey. Shredder was adopted from the Whatcom Humane Society in 2011 by Dan & Roz Claffey, who had originally visited the shelter looking to adopt a kitten. But upon meeting Shredder, and learning his

name came from the shredded documents he left hanging on the outside of his shelter kennel, they knew he was the cat for them. With his larger than life personality, but laid back catitude, Shredder has been a regular visitor at WHS Critter Camp for the past few years. Dan and Shredder were required to pass a series of skill and aptitude tests administered by Pet Partners. Not only did Shredder ace his tests, he fell into the special rating of "complex" meaning he and Dan are qualified for any and all types of venues in which therapy animal teams are allowed to enter. Two Paws Up! Since they are not currently able to provide therapy to schools, hospitals and other venues during these challenging times, Dan and Shredder stay busy by taking daily leashed walks around the Claffey's Sudden Valley neighborhood. Dan reports that most residents know Shredder by name, but have no idea what Dan's name is! Thus the life of living with a celebrity!

Congratulations Shredder. We look forward to seeing you out and about helping our community soon. In the meantime, a catnap is well deserved!



Introducing the WHS

Virtual Baby Shower!

In 2019 our domestic shelter received over 700 kittens & puppies under 1 & 1/2 years old. During the same time our wildlife center received over 1,000 injured or orphaned young animals.



Interested in supporting us during the busiest time of the year? Visit our website at whatcomhumane.org to donate or contribute to our Amazon Wishlist!



Save a life this spring!

