



Fall News



Fall Issue - November 2017



Fostering

Beyond the Call of Duty

It wasn't long before Kim became suspicious over scabby bumps appearing on the head of her foster dog, Piper. A trip to Homeward Pet's Dunmire Veterinary Clinic, confirmed what Kim had thought to be true. Piper had "Dermatophytosis," the fungal infection most commonly known as ringworm.

Ringworm is very contagious and in the animal-sheltering world, is a double-edged sword. No shelter ever wants to quarantine a four-legged friend, but no shelter wants an outbreak of a contagious infection either. That's why fosters like Kim are our heroes. Piper's diagnosis meant she would be placed in Homeward Pet's isolation room, or she could remain in Kim's care. Kim had yet to foster a dog with ringworm, but she was up for the task. She would help Piper heal however long it would take.

Fostering an animal with ringworm was initially challenging. But, after the first few weeks Kim says "things just became routine." Kim kept Piper in a playpen—isolated from her two cats— gave her medicated baths every week and washed everything Piper came in contact with several times a week. Kim will be the first to tell you it was a lot of work, but completely worth it. After two months of treatment and care, Piper,

whom Kim describes as "the best little dog I've ever met," was ringworm free and has since found a loving family. Thanks to Kim, Piper had months of play, training and socialization to help her start life out on the right "paw!"

Fostering is one of the best ways to give back to a rescue and support the animals in the process. For Homeward Pet, it is essential to the success of our Adoption Program. Fostering expands our network of animal care takers and increases the number of cats and dogs we are able to accept into the shelter. Studies have shown foster care reduces stress in pets and can even improve medical issues often aggravated in a shelter environment.

Kim has fostered 35 four-legged friends now and says "it's addicting." Her favorite part is falling in love over and over again and knowing every time she fosters, she is helping an animal find a home.

Dogs and cats like Piper are given second chances because of wonderful supporters like you. From volunteering to donating or liking us on social media, there are countless ways you can make a difference in the life of a homeless animal today.

Visit homewardpet.org to learn more.

Be There For Them Every Day of the Year!

*Thank you to our Guardian
Angel Kennel Sponsors!*

Anonymous (2)

Brian Harden & Teresia Olson

Caliber Home Loans

Doggy Haven Resort

Faraz and Joju Saleemi

Jackie & Rem Husted

Kelly Lynne Maier

Kimberly & Patrick Washburn

Klay Jones

Koda's Arc

Linda & Lester Tucker

Neil & Shannon Stamp

rag + hound

Richard Bryant

The Donahue Family

Waggy Maggie Shine



Thank You & Hello

thank you

Thanks to your generous support, 2017 is already turning out to be another successful year for Homeward Pet and the animals in our care.

1,231 cats and dogs have been united with families so far and we're well on our way to another record-breaking adoption year. Now more than ever, we are focusing on providing every animal in need with the highest level of treatment and care.

Whoopi's Fund for Special Needs Animals is allowing us to diagnose and treat more animals with extensive medical challenges than ever before. Our behavior teams are continuing to provide a foundation for successful adoptions. Our Food Bank is reaching more than 1,100 at risk pets and their families each week, and the low cost spay and neuter program has eliminated the risk of unplanned litters for more than 130 beloved pets this year.

All of these achievements are possible because of animal-lovers like you. On behalf of the staff, volunteers and animals at Homeward Pet, I offer a heartfelt thanks for your continued support as we work to bring an end to pet homelessness. Together, we can continue to create promising futures for nearly 2,000 cats and dogs each year.

Best regards,

Gary Rubin
Executive Director

Homeward Pet Adoption Center
Matches Made. Lives Saved.

Phone: 425-488-4444

Website: homewardpet.org

Address: 13132 NE 177th Place,
Woodinville, WA 98072

follow us on





Clear the Shelters!

On Saturday, August 19th, Homeward Pet joined 900 shelters across the country for the 3rd annual Clear the Shelters adoption drive. The event, sponsored locally by KING 5 and Rover.com, was focused on encouraging people to consider adopting their next pet, with many of the participating shelters reducing adoption fees for the day. Thanks to our generous supporters at this year's Fur Ball Auction, we were able to offer fee-waived adoptions, sponsored through our Pay It Forward program.

It was a busy, exciting and tremendously successful day for our cats and dogs. Nearly 100 families visited and toured our shelter, with 30 available animals finding homes. In all, 79,664 pets were adopted nationally during the 2017 Clear the Shelters adoption drive.

And while the numbers are impressive, finding a good fit for each homeless cat or dog brought us the most joy. Like Neeka, a 2-year old, 73 lb. Shepherd mix adopted by the Lantz Family:

"Neeka has been with us for three weeks now, and we can't imagine life without her! After just two days of acclimating with our other dog Finley, they are inseparable! I've never seen Finley so happy. She is an absolute sweet heart and can't get enough hugs and kisses from her human brother and sister. We feel so blessed to have her here, and for her to fit into our home with such ease. She is such a happy sweet girl! Thank you for your time and hard work to ensure these special animals get into forever homes." The Lantz Family

Holiday Giving Tree

Homeward Pet's Holiday Giving Tree donation drive is fast approaching. Host a Holiday Giving Tree at your business, holiday party, or collect donations from friends and family to help provide food and supplies for the homeless cats and dogs who come through our doors. It's a simple, thoughtful way to help care for the animals of Homeward Pet this holiday season. Learn more today at homewardpet.org



Helping With “Hart”

A parent’s teaching moment becomes a lifelong passion

When Ann Hart walked through the doors of Homeward Pet nearly ten years ago, her intention was to teach her daughter a valuable lesson about the importance of giving back to the community. That first trip to the shelter ignited a decade long passion for the homeless animals of Homeward Pet.

Growing up in the company of her family’s Dachshunds, Ann quickly learned the significant role animals play in the lives of their human companions. As Ann grew older, her dedication to protecting that sacred bond grew stronger, but rescuing and rehabilitating adoptable pets wasn’t always at the forefront of Ann’s work.

“There was a time when I had Bull Terriers from a breeder,” Ann shared. “But animals I have adopted from the shelter like Baxter, who I’ve had for sixteen years now, they never forget that day.” Today, Ann dedicates her time to advocating for animals and the environment. She is deeply involved with rescues and works to help organizations like Homeward Pet overcome challenges like limited resources and funding. This in part, encouraged Ann to create the Ann M. Hart Foundation which focuses on making a larger impact in the community.

The Ann M. Hart Foundation most recently funded the expansion of Homeward Pet’s Low-Cost Public Spay & Neuter Program to include \$5 spay and neuter surgeries for cats of low-income families. When we asked Ann why spaying and neutering pets was important to her, she responded with one of Benjamin Franklin’s infamous quotes...

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Ann knows that shelters are overflowing and the more we can do to prevent unplanned litters, the better chance we have at stopping pet overpopulation in its tracks. Low-cost services are one of the best solutions to this problem.

According to the United States Humane Society, 6-8 million pets enter the shelter system in the U.S. each year and only a fraction of them find homes.



If more animals are spayed and neutered, pet homelessness and euthanasia rates will diminish over time.

Homeward Pet’s Low-Cost Public Spay & Neuter Program is dedicated to serving pets and their families in our community. We are a source of support for seniors living on fixed-income, young families whose resources are stretched and individuals living with disabilities who may depend on government programs to supplement their earnings. When Homeward Pet provides essential programs to our neighbors, we create a safer and healthier community for all pets.

Homeward Pet has spayed and neutered 135 community cats and dogs so far this year, and set an ambitious goal of performing 600 cat alterations over the next three years, all thanks to our grant from the Ann M. Hart Foundation. We are thrilled to continue Ann’s mission in serving fragile populations, and we are excited to see how the program will continue to grow.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking advantage of Homeward Pet’s Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Program, then please visit homewardpet.org.

You can be the voice for change. We encourage you to educate friends, family and others in the community about the importance of spaying and neutering pets. Thank you to Ann, the Ann M. Hart Foundation and to all of our supporters like you, who are changing lives every day.



Small But **Mighty**

When Lexi was just a week old, her mother was hit by a car on a remote road that ran past her home.

Unable to care for the orphaned kittens, Lexi's owner surrendered her and her two brothers to a local rescue. The kittens eventually made their way to Homeward Pet where they were placed in foster care and continued to grow big and strong. Little Lexi was the most outgoing of them all. She was peppy and playful, always wrestling with her brothers or batting around toy mice.

When Lexi was seven-weeks-old though, she was struggling to keep up with the rough and tumble lifestyle. Despite her fierce personality, she was showing signs of pain and distress. Lexi developed a limp and as she grew, her right hind leg appeared twisted and swollen. Homeward Pet's veterinarian suspected her ankle was dislocated, and that she'd been born with this condition.

Thanks to dedicated donors like you, we had the resources and funding to immediately schedule x-rays and a consultation with an orthopedic surgeon—who confirmed our diagnosis. Lexi was suffering from an abnormality that caused her ankle and shin to be malformed—one that most likely developed in utero. Amputation was the best solution to guarantee Lexi a pain-free life. Lexi underwent surgery and two days after the operation, she was back to her spirited and spry self. Not long after that, Lexi stole the heart of our very own volunteer, Jamie, and she quickly became part of a family.

Here is Jamie's most recent Lexi update, now named Hopper!

"We adopted Hopper aka Lexi two months ago and she has become a wonderful, wild and sweet member of our cat family. Already having a cat that has had leg surgeries, I immediately fell in love with Hopper when I saw her recovering.

She was so sweet and silly I couldn't resist her. I went home that day and couldn't stop talking about her with my family. Already having three happy cats in our house we knew it might not be a good idea to bring in another.

The following week I was surprised to see her again and I knew I had to have her. We brought her home and it has been the best experience. Hopper has been such a wonderful addition to our family. Thank you, Ashley and Homeward Pet."

Jamie, Homeward Pet Volunteer





Hot Water *in the House!*

At this year's Fur Ball Auction & Dinner, donors helped us raise essential funds to purchase and install a new 100-gallon water heater. We had long outgrown our 40-gallon tank and we are so thankful we can keep up with the crucial care and attention our animals require.

The new water heater is providing hot water for more than 200 dentals this year. It is allowing us to give the animals warm, medicated baths each week and complete over 200 loads of laundry every month. We are also able to sanitize essential shelter supplies every day like dishes, toys and bedding.

