

Cuddle Chronicle



Fall 2022

LETTER FROM NANETTE

A recent webinar facilitator asked a small group of non-profit leaders and board members what the purpose of their organization is. We all could recite our mission statements, with a few sharing vision statements as well. As much she applauded us for our inspiring words, she kept asking "Why?"

Me: Homeward Pet Adoption Center transforms the lives of cats and dogs in need through... while building a more humane community.

Facilitator: Why?

Me: Homeless dogs and cats need more care in order to be adopted.

Facilitator: Why?

Me: Dogs & cats are often mistreated or don't receive required care while they are owned or homeless.

Why?

People don't understand our human responsibility to dogs and cats.

Why?

We have a responsibility to care for the animals we, as humans, have domesticated and made dependent upon us.

Why?

Because a humane society treats all creatures humanely.

She finally stopped asking me why.

Her goal was to help us see that as focused as we are on our mission, we are a part of something bigger. Our mission and our organization may be a very small in comparison to the issues faced by our society, but our impact, your impact, is felt when we do what we do every day, every week, every year.

I would be curious to know, as a supporter of Homeward Pet, what is your "why"?

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanette McGinn".

Executive Director
Homeward Pet Adoption Center



#IAMHOMEPET

Cody Touchette

If you have bought a home in the Bothell/Woodinville area in the past few years, you might have worked with Cody Touchette and the Caliber Home Loan's Team.

During the day, Cody works to help families and individuals find their forever homes, but in his spare time, he works to help the homeless cats and dogs at Homeward Pet Adoption Center (HPAC) find their forever homes.

Cody and Mac originally adopted Baxter, a young mixed breed pup, from Homeward Pet in 2008. After adopting, Cody got more involved with Homeward Pet. He learned about the Homeward Pet Whoopi's Fund for Animals with Special Needs, that provides medically fragile animals with the medical care they need when they come to HPAC. He found out more about the Public Spay & Neuter Clinic that supports pets owned by lower income members of our community. He was struck by the Food Bank program that extends our reach to needy families as far out as Eastern Washington.

The program that stuck out the most to him was the Homeward Pet Behavior Program. This Program screens cats and dogs with behavioral challenges to assess their fears, anxiety and stress and how those affect the behaviors that often land them in a shelter in the first place. Our Behavior Team creates individualized behavior plans to lower each animals' stressors, mitigate challenging behaviors and ultimately, create opportunities for adoption. This is a testament to the lifesaving work at Homeward Pet because many times, these animals have been overlooked in other shelters.

Cody felt a special passion for this program and decided to get more involved. He joined the Board of Directors in 2017 and quickly became a strong and vocal advocate for Homeward Pet. Initially, he just shared the mission, and then he amplified his voice financially by sponsoring events and a variety of programs at the shelter.



Every time he signs a check, he knows, "For every one time I give, I get 3-4 times back. Not in money, but in reward and feeling. The gratitude is huge and it feels good and that feeling is unmatched in my normal everyday life."

Cody has now supported HPAC for over 10 years. We are grateful for the many incredible individuals who have seen our evolution through the years and stayed steadfast in their commitment to supporting Homeward Pet Adoption Center.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

2022 YEAR TO DATE

Shelter Adoptions	667
Dogs	171
Cats	496
Home to Home Adoptions	202
Shelter Intakes	781
Dogs	186
Cats	595
Volunteer Hours	46,669.53
Number of Volunteers	707



SUSTAINABILITY

To the animals at Homeward Pet, sustaining gifts from our Paw Pack members, Kennel Guardians, and annual sponsors, means that the dogs and cats will be helped no matter what their needs might be. It means that they will be fed, have a warm bed, toys to play with, people to love them, trainers and medical staff to care for their physical and emotional needs, and a team of individuals advocating for their next home.

Sustaining gifts allow us to provide elevated care every day without having to worry about whether we have the resources to make it happen. Because of you, we do. Sustainability means that we are the grateful recipients of a continued stream of your generosity.

Knowing that your sustaining gifts support our cats and dogs, means that we can make decisions to help new animals looking for our assistance without worrying that it will affect the quality of care that we are providing animals already under our roof.

As we continue to grow, and more animals need our help, we want to THANK YOU for your constant stream of generosity, kindness and sustaining support. New beginnings are being made possible now, next month, and next year, because of you!

If you would like to know more about how you can have a daily impact on the animals of Homeward, contact Alora Knapp, Annual Giving Manager, alora@homewardpet.org.



HAPPY TAILS

Eddie (formerly Lemon) has settled in nicely and has been bringing much joy to our household. Our one-year-old Monty (found as a stray kitten in a parking lot) has been teaching Eddie how to be a cat and there has been much cuteness with them playing and snuggling. Our fourteen-year-old Rocky (also adopted from Homeward Pet) has decided Eddie isn't so bad and is hanging out with everyone.



Thank you so much for all you did to rescue Eddie, we are so happy to have him as part of our family. And thank you for all the work you do, we have a lot of affection for your organization.

~ Kerri and Kevin"

BOONE – A TALE OF COMMITMENT

Boone arrived at Homeward Pet in May of this year, terrified and shaking. **At 9 months old, he was already so very scared of the world.** Our Behavior Manager knew we needed to come up with a clear plan for his care and confidence building.

Homeward Pet uses Fear Free practices for all of the animals under our roof. The strange sights, smells, and sounds combined with the presence of unfamiliar people and animals can cause uneasiness. Fear Free entails making decisions to prevent and alleviate fear, anxiety, and stress in pets during every interaction.

Fear Free thinking makes us look at things like the aromas of the cleaners we use, the sounds that the animal is exposed to, the speed of movement of the people sharing their space, the types of holds and touch, and the things we expect from the animal. **When the animal feels in some level of control of their environment, they can make decisions that are not based out of fear, stress or anxiety.**

Boone was set up in an isolated room, with soothing music, a calming collar and very defined interactions. He has had limited trusted volunteers who let him set the pace. **Our Behavior Team monitors his progress daily and makes tweaks to his care plan as necessary.** He has slowly emerged from his shell to reveal a loving, playful, cuddly companion underneath.

Despite what might seem an ability and ample space to provide such a custom plan for just one dog, our shelter is busting at the seams. **To relieve stress and anxiety for the animals, we've used rooms and spaces that have never been used for animal care in the past.** Our dream is to buy land in the Woodinville area and build a brand-new shelter and community space within the next 8 years. But the animals in our care also need us to be there for them now.

We have identified that the next step for us is a full Dog Room Remodel to better allow for Fear Free living spaces for the dogs during their stay with us; then we will be expanding the Clinic and reimagining the Cat Room and our Administrative Areas. This is an expensive undertaking, but one that will better support our work in all areas of the shelter, now and into the future.

We have started talks with architects and are excited about construction starting this Fall. We are grateful to the many partners that have stepped in so far to help make this vision a reality.

If you are interested in supporting the Homeward Pet Reimagined Project, you can **donate today at homewardpet.org/dog-room-remodel/.** We can't wait to share the changes with you!

*... and Boone? He has captured the heart of one of the staff members who worked so hard with him and, in early September, **moved into a foster home with a confident canine sister who he just adores.** We are rooting for him to form a connection with the feline sibling in the family so that the next step can be adoption.*

