

Cuddle Chronicle

Fall 2021



LETTER FROM NANETTE

10 years. One decade. That's how long Homeward Pet Adoption Center has been located at 13132 NE 177th Place in Woodinville. Prior to that we were just up the road at Clearwater Spas. Woodinville has been our home since we started in 1990. We love being a part of the Woodinville community and look forward to many more years with our volunteers walking the dogs along the streets and sidewalks of this beautiful city.



For the last 18 plus months we have all had to adapt to the daily changes that Covid has brought to our lives. We wear masks. Continue to social distance. And we have limited the number of staff and volunteers in our building. During Covid we have enhanced our programs by expanding our foster program, moving to adoptions by appointment, added the Home-to-Home program and expanded our pet retention resources. We have adapted and will continue to do so to meet the needs of our community and the animals.

Through it all, and thanks to your dedication to the animals, our mission remains: To transform the lives of cats and dogs through compassionate medical care, positive behavior training and successful adoption while building a more humane community

Thank you for making these past months and years possible.

You are Homeward Pet
Best,

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

Executive Director
Homeward Pet Adoption Center

ASHLEY VENTURA – VOLUNTEER AND ANIMAL ADVOCATE

Ashley Ventura is a dog walker, dog room feeder/cleaner, foster parent, a member of the Homeward Pet Dog Behavior Team. She and her husband Tom have been volunteers at Homeward Pet for three years.



Ashley is no stranger to the importance of volunteering in the world of non-profit and animal welfare. In addition to

the time she gifts to Homeward Pet, and the foster work she does with Imagine Peace for Pups Rescue, Ashley is the VP on the Board of Directors for Rooster Haus Rescue, an organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and giving permanent sanctuary to neglected and abused farmed animals.

Tell us a little about your family, Ashley.

I share my home with my husband Tom (who is also a Homeward Pet volunteer!), our three dogs Spot, Gracie, and Buddy, and a very grumpy fat-tailed gecko named Euler [pronounced, 'Oiler'].

We adopted Spot from Homeward Pet almost three years ago. Gracie joined our family a few months later. She started as a longer-term foster but eventually we couldn't imagine her living anywhere else. Buddy is our most recent addition. He also came to us as a foster in June 2021 but, after a very short time, it became obvious that our

family wouldn't be complete without him, and he was officially adopted in August.

Tell us about volunteering with Homeward Pet?

I've always been a dog person and had thought about volunteering over the years, but I had the naïve impression that being around shelter dogs would be too heartbreaking. In 2018, I unexpectedly and suddenly lost all three of my dogs to various illnesses, and my house became unbearably quiet and empty. I had a friend who had talked about volunteering with the dogs at Homeward Pet, so I signed up as a dog care volunteer.

I started as a dog feeder/cleaner. It doesn't sound glamorous but being a feeder/cleaner meant that I got to interact with all the dogs in the shelter on any given shift and ensure that their basic needs were met. After a few months, I trained as a dog walker, and continued to perform both roles a few times a week. I joined the Dog Behavior Team (DBT) a year later to work with the dogs who need a little extra attention to ensure that they have successful adoptions.

I also continue to foster! I love that over the past year our foster program has expanded, so that most animals awaiting adoption are able to spend in-

between time in a home environment where there's less stress than a shelter. Fostering is a way that my own three can volunteer as well – as foster siblings!

What would you say to someone who was thinking about volunteering at Homeward Pet?

Set aside any preconceived notions you might have and give it a try! There's a great support system of mentors for



new volunteers and everyone is so welcoming and helpful. And if hands-on animal care isn't for you, there are so many other ways you can help: reception, facilities, making phone calls, writing thank you letters, helping prep for events, picking up donations for the pet food bank... there's a volunteer opportunity for everyone.

To read more of Ashley's interview, see the blog post on [HomewardPet.org](https://www.homewardpet.org).



YOU are Homeward Pet

We want to take a moment to honor YOU. You are the volunteers, donors, adopters and supporters who make up the heart of Homeward Pet and without our heart, we are nothing:

- 🐾 You are the friendly voice that answers the phones, greets our guests, and places thank you and follow up calls. YOU are Homeward Pet.
- 🐾 You are one of the caring souls that come in to feed, walk, cuddle, medicate, train and love on the cats and dogs that spend a brief time with us. YOU are Homeward Pet.
- 🐾 You have volunteered your free time to come clean and sort and organize and build. YOU are Homeward Pet.
- 🐾 You are one of the thousands of families who have come to adopt one of our homeless dogs and cats into your home and life. YOU are Homeward Pet.
- 🐾 You have dug down deep to donate what we need, both monetarily and in goods and services. YOU are Homeward Pet.
- 🐾 You are one of the organizations and businesses that sponsor and participate in our fundraisers and activities. YOU are Homeward Pet.

You have touched the lives of the humans and animals that spend time with Homeward, you have become an extension of all we do. Celebrate yourself – because we do!

Share your stories and photos on social media with the hashtag **#IamHomewardPet**



UPCOMING EVENTS

October

Subaru Loves Pets (All Month)

10/10 Walk and Wag

November

11/5-7 Paw Prints Art Auction

11/8 – 12/20 Virtual Sip & Shop

11/26 – 12/26 Holiday Pet Photo Contest

11/30 Giving Tuesday



benefiting the animals of Homeward Pet

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

2021 YEAR TO DATE

Shelter Adoptions	761
Home to Home adoptions	183
Behavior Program graduates	160+
Shelter Spay/Neuters	474
Public Spay/Neuters	273
Microchips	118
Intake Exams	804
Volunteer hours	722,674
Facebook Followers	18,127
Instagram Followers	5,256



HAPPY TAIL – PEPPER

by Jim Keller

Transformation. It's the key concept in our mission statement - "Homeward Pet transforms the lives of homeless dogs and cats..." - and with your support, it's a word we're able to put into practice every day.

Pepper was seized by Animal Control after reports of "acting aggressively". At the local municipal shelter, he remained fearful, anxious and extremely uncomfortable. He was nervous around new people. He crouched down, tail tucked between his legs. Or rushed the gate of his kennel to bark at people he didn't know.

He was a bit of a wreck health-wise. Chronic skin infections had left him with hair loss all over his body and lesions on his face and shoulder. He was suffering from allergies that had gone untreated and left his skin leathery and inflamed. He had a major ear infection and needed surgery to repair eyelids that turned in and irritated his eyes.



Pepper was brought to Homeward Pet for two reasons: First, so that we could continue his medical transformation. With twice-a-week medicated baths, a special diet, ear cleaning, meds and lots of follow-up from our veterinarians, Pepper started looking and feeling like a whole new dog.



Second, our Behavior Program was well-suited to work with Pepper's anxiety in unfamiliar situations, slowly introduce him to new people and give him consistent, positive training. With staff and Behavior Team volunteers working with him daily, Pepper became less reactive.

More trusting. And became the happy, goofy (and still very energetic!) dog that we'd only caught glimpses of at first.

Pepper was with us for two months of medical and behavioral care, and everything changed for him during his stay. When Pepper was adopted, he underwent the biggest transformation of all, from homeless to cherished family member:

"We love Pepper so much! He fits right into our family and always makes us smile! He's been loving going on walks every morning around the lake and sniffing out our whole backyard, watching the bunnies and deer. He also loves snuggling up on the bed and taking naps with me. He truly is such a sweet little guy." -Stephanie

Will you help us make the difference for dogs and cats, like Pepper, who need that little extra bit of ongoing attention?

You can make your one time or monthly recurring gift online at www.homewardpet.org and click Donate Now; or send us your gift by mail using the enclosed response card and envelope.

It is only through the generosity of donors like you that Homeward Pet can fulfill our mission to transform the lives of pets in need.

Questions about making your gift? Contact Annual Giving Manager, Alora by email at alora@homewardpet.org or by phone at (425) 488-4444 x4013.

