

Four Paws



Newsletter of the Auburn Valley Humane Society

SPRING 2015

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Our Mission

The Auburn Valley Humane Society is dedicated to providing shelter, quality care and love for all the lost, mistreated and abandoned animals in Auburn. AVHS utilizes all available resources to ensure each animal is placed into a loving and forever home and promotes responsible pet ownership through education and outreach.



PICKLE'S life began with AVHS as a transfer from a high kill rescue shelter. A one year old Chihuahua mix, he was adopted 6 days later to a loving home. He loves his new sweaters and bed.

Four Paws
 Published by the
 Auburn Valley Humane Society

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Julie Domstad, *Asst. Thrift Store Mgr*
Susan Bedwell, *Customer Service Rep*
Samantha Sheperd, *Customer Service Rep*

Shelter

4910 A St SE, Auburn, WA 98092
 253-249-7849 FAX: 253-929-8612
www.AuburnValleyHS.org
 AVHS Federal Tax ID # 45-0638467

Current Hours of Operation:

Sunday	12 pm - 4 pm
Monday	10 am - 6 pm
Tuesday	10 am - 6 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 6 pm
Thursday	10 am - 6 pm
Friday	10 am - 6 pm
Saturday	12 pm - 6 pm



Executive Director's Desk: by Phil Morgan



**Auburn Valley Humane Society
 Looking forward to our future...**

...there are few humans who have treated me as well as my dog...

Spring is upon us once again in the Pacific Northwest. For most of us this means rain, flowers blooming and the anticipation of summer coming. While it means those things for us at the Auburn Valley Humane Society, it also means countless boxes of unwanted kittens left at our door and every kennel in the shelter filled with a homeless, lost or abandoned animal. This is why it is very important for pet owners to do two simple things: spay or neuter your pet and identify your pet with an Auburn City Pet License or a microchip. Our SPOT (Stop Pet Overpopulation

Today) program offers low cost spay/neuter services to the low income residents of King & Pierce Counties. Pet licensing in the City is also very easy to accomplish. Most of the local veterinarians, City Hall and AVHS offer licensing services. All licensing revenues collected come directly back to our humane society which allows us to provide quality care to the animals which pass through our doors. You can also get your pet microchipped when you stop by your local veterinarian for their annual check-up and vaccinations. Licensing and micro chipping are the best ticket home should they get lost. If you have done these things for your pets, I applaud you! Spread the word to family, friends and neighbors about how important this is. It is an

investment that will pay huge dividends. I hope to see you all over the next year at our events, at the thrift store and at the shelter. Thank you for caring and helping us help those who cannot care for themselves. Stop by the shelter and come and find your next best friend. It is a decision I feel you won't regret!

Phil Morgan
 Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff and all the furry four footed friends in our care, we would like to thank you for supporting our mission and your Humane Society!



AVHS Pet Pantry

Due to the success of the AVHS Thrift Store & More, we were able to launch three new programs this past January.

The first was to take over the Senior Pet Food Bank from the City. The AVHS Pet Pantry is up and running! A smooth transition occurred from the Auburn Senior Center to AVHS. AVHS is distributing pet food at the AVHS Thrift Store. AVHS teamed up with the Seattle Humane Society, whose volunteers bag and deliver pet food donations to us in Auburn each month. Dog and cat food is distributed to eligible low-income senior citizens.

The second is to create Humane Education programs for the local community.

The third is to launch our Domestic Violence Haven for Pets which will allow us to partner with local women's shelters to house pets of DV families while they get the help they need. The pets will be cared for at the shelter until the family attains permanent housing and is able to reclaim their pet.

Thrift Store Open House
 3rd Tuesday each month
 6-9 pm at the Thrift Store
 1123 E Main Street, Auburn

Join us for **50% off** sales on donated non-vendor items. Vendor specials too. Find your new treasures!
April 21 May 19

Join us at the Barking Lot Sale
1123 E. Main Street
Fri.-Sun. June 5-7
9am - 5pm
 Come see the adoptable dogs and cats!
 Lots of pet toys, leashes, food, snacks and of course the treasures in the AVHS Thrift Store!

Credits: Front cover and other photos throughout newsletter
 Alisha and Holland McGraw, SomeLikelitShotPhotography.com



Follow us on Facebook & YouTube

What's Up Doc?

Foster Care, Why You Think You Can't, But You Really Can! by Dr. Emily D. Purvis,

Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family; you can feel good knowing you have helped save an animal's life AND you've created space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals. Foster care requires patience and a compassionate nature. Some experience with animal behavior is also good too. We love adopters, but realize while adoption saves a life, fostering can save countless.

There's many reasons why people can't foster, but here are some reasons to consider shifting from an "I can't" to a "can do" attitude.



Worried About Getting Attached?

YES, you might!?! We would be worried if you didn't! It can be difficult to bring your foster back to the shelter, but just knowing that you're helping to save a life should ease any short-term pain. When you take in a foster pet, it gives us room to help other pets and lets us learn more about a pet's personality. More information about the pet makes them easier to adopt into a permanent loving home that's a good fit from the start. Yes, some pets are harder to bring back than others, but be strong! You can do it! (And yes, we have a name for foster parents that adopt their charge – foster failures... In this instance, it's ok to fail once in a while. We will still love you!)

Don't Have the Space?

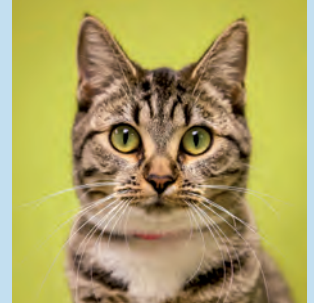
All it takes is a small spare bedroom or office, a bathroom, or even a corner where you can set up an exercise pen. While we do need foster cats to stay separate from your own cats, it doesn't take much space to do that. Remember, whatever space you have at home is probably more than the kitty has here at the shelter now! Safer & quieter too!

Worried About Expense?

This one is easy! You can get all your food and litter from AVHS if you like, and AVHS provides all medical expenses associated with foster pets! Or, if you buy your own food & litter supplies for fosters, save the receipts so you can take a tax deduction!

Think Your Own Pets Won't Adapt?

For cats, if you have a separate room, this shouldn't be much of a problem. Yes, your cat(s) will know there is another cat or kittens in the house, and they may be a little upset about it at first. But chances are they'll get over it pretty quickly, especially if you make sure you wash your hands after visiting with the foster cat and keep the cats from seeing each other if possible. Tell your cats they need put their big kitty pants on and help do their part too!



Think Your Own Pet Could Get Sick?

If you follow basic health protocols, such as washing your hands between handling pets and wearing an over-shirt when handling the foster pet, you shouldn't have any problems. Foster cats should be kept in a separate room, and bedding/clothing should be washed with bleach after use. We are also happy to provide you with a bottle of kennel disinfectant for cleaning if you like!

Why Does a Pet Need Foster?

Nursing moms with litters and orphaned kittens and puppies are the most common reason for foster. We keep a very clean shelter, but it's loud, stressful and young immune systems are susceptible to disease. That's why it's best to find quiet, caring foster homes (like yours) that can nurture and socialize young pets so they grow into healthy, happy, adoptable furballs.

AVHS foster parents made the difference in over 200 pet lives last year and we anticipate a growing need this year. If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a foster pet, please inquire for more information to info@auburnvalleyhs.org or call (253) 249-7849.



The B-team were a cute bunch of kittens that were fostered in a condo by a loving foster. They played and learned how to socialize with other animals. Each had their own personality and were adopted quickly after they were altered at the shelter. Each kitten receives a microchip. Brandi, Bacardi, Bellini, Bombay, Brooklyn, Bailey and Bourbon were adopted as stars. The cat foster parent was provided with beds, bowls, food and litter pellets during their stay with the foster.

LOOKING FOR LUV

Happiness found in a new home...



Ozzie (Einstein) scared when he came in (top left), Einstein happy at home (bottom left), and Einstein riding happily in his car (right)

Ozzie, a 8 year old Australian Shepherd mix, came to AVHS as a stray in January of 2015. When no one stepped up to re-claim him, this sweet dog was recommended for adoption. Through social media and networking, AVHS was able to find a wonderful home for him.

“We adopted Ozzie last Tuesday and he immediately settled into his new role as a cherished family member. We already had a cockatoo named Ozzie so the dog has been renamed Einstein. He is getting along well with his new canine sisters, the cats, and even the chickens outside...what a dream boy! We love him already and are thankful to AVHS for caring for him during the transition to family dog and Old Dog Haven for bringing him to our attention in Bellingham.”

Your help makes the difference for the hundreds of homeless and abandoned animals. Your continued support helps us save even more lives.

Furr Report

Understanding Cat Scratching

Cats like to scratch. They scratch when they play, stretch, mark territory and remove worn outer claws. It's a natural tendency for them but it can lead to lots of damaged furniture, drapes and carpets!

- Fill your home with lots of appropriate, cat friendly surfaces such as scratching post.
- Try a variety of scratching posts with different surfaces such as sisal, cardboard, carpet, etc.
- Also try a scratching post in different positions.
- Each cat will have its own preference on how and what it scratches.
- Once you have figured

out their preference, provide multiple posts in various locations. Make sure the posts are sturdy and will not fall.

- Discourage inappropriate scratching by removing or covering other desirable objects.
- Place scratching posts next to these objects, as “legal” alternatives.
- Clip your cat's nails regularly.
- You can also consider putting plastic caps on your cat's claws so that it'll do no damage if it scratches. Caps are temporary, lasting 4-6 weeks.
- Try not to throw away a favorite scratching post when it becomes

unsightly. A shredded and torn post will appeal to your cat because they can really get their claws into them and they look and smell familiar.

Don't hesitate to consult the experts!

Needs forever home!

Roxanne, a 12 year old cat, came to AVHS in October 2014. She is a very sweet and friendly cat that is looking for a quiet, warm and loving place to live out the rest of her life. Even for her age, she still has enough spunk to play with balls

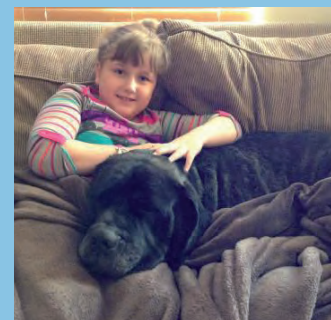
and chase furry mice. Roxanne does have some mild chronic liver disease, but don't let that stand between you and happiness with Roxanne.

Consider adopting Roxanne!

LOVE

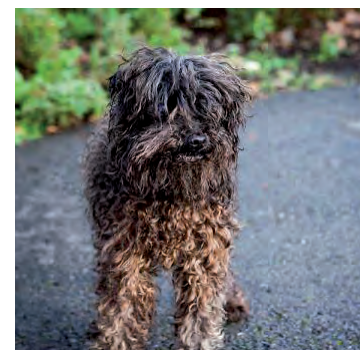
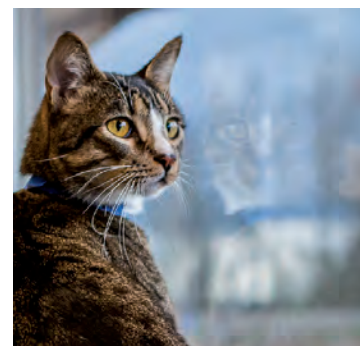
Max, a 146 pound six year Mastiff, was surrendered since his owners couldn't care for him. Max had always been an outdoor dog but now he's enjoying the good life with his new family:

“Max is doing great and he has really settled in well. He is great in the car and on walks. He's well house trained and very obedient. He follows us around the house and loves attention and being with the family. There have been no problems with our other dog, Pepper and our two cats. We really had a great experience adopting Max from Auburn Valley Humane Society. Everyone was really friendly, the facilities were great and the process was seamless. Keep doing what you're doing. Nice work!”



SUPPORT 2015 Events

Day	Event	Purpose
MAY 16 2015	PETPALOOZA	Join us at the City of Auburn's Petpalooza event at Game Farm Park from 10 am to 5 pm. Our AVHS booth will feature prize drawing baskets, toys, sportswear and fun contests.
JUNE-OCT 2015	PET PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST	Get ready to submit your favorite pet photo starting June 1 st . Photo must be in by September 30 th . Encourage your friends and family to vote for your pet. \$1 per vote. Fourteen monthly winners will be chosen from the photographs which receive the most votes. The pet with highest votes will be featured on the front cover photo. Calendars will be on sale by November 15 th .
JUN 27 2015	TOUR DE PAWS	The Tour De Paws event includes 4 bicycle rides, 15, 30, 65 and 100 mile distances along Green Valley Road, Black Diamond, Ravensdale Enumclaw Plateau and back to Auburn for lunch. The event will take place on Saturday, June 27 from 8 am to 4 pm.
OCT 10 2015	BARKTOBERFEST/ ROVER ROMP	Community fundraising event featuring dog demonstrations, rescue organizations, adoptable pets, kids zone, specialty vendors and a 3K/5K walk/run Rover Romp from 10 am - 2 pm, Roegner Park.
DEC 12-13 2015	PHOTOS WITH SANTA PAWS	On Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13 from 9 am - 2 pm, bring your pets to AVHS to have their holiday picture taken with Santa Paws. A 4"x 6" print in a holiday card is \$10. By purchasing the digital version option you receive a print and a digital version of the photo for \$15.
MARCH 2016	WINNER'S CIRCLE GALA	The Auburn Valley Humane Society's Winner's Circle Gala will take place on a Saturday in March at Emerald Downs from 5:30-9:30 pm. It will include a silent and live auction, wine bottle ring toss, raffle and other fun games. Tickets will be available in January, 2016 at the shelter or online at www.AuburnValleyHS.org .



VOLUNTEER LEND A PAW



For the last two years, over 1,300 AVHS volunteers provided over 48,000 hours of service at the AVHS shelter and thrift store. Come join the volunteers and help us continue to change lives... four paws at a time!



Lost and Found Pets in Washington volunteers organized a food drive for AVHS

**JOIN THE TEAM!
VOLUNTEER**

Volunteers Needed:

Dog Walkers & Kennel Assistants
Cat Care Cleaners
Adoption Events & Outreach Volunteers
Front Desk Greeters & Office Assistants
Pet Pantry Food Bank
Laundry/Hospitality
Foster Cat & Dog Volunteers
and many more positions!

VOLUNTEER PROCESS

- Complete a volunteer application.
- Attend a volunteer orientation to learn about the organization and also learn about the various opportunities available to volunteers.
- Interview with the Director of Volunteers and schedule your training and volunteer experience.
- Take the appropriate training classes or hands-on training.
- Start volunteering! You can enter hours online when volunteering using AVHS Volgistics Information Center portal.

Without volunteers, we would not be able to provide the quality care for the abandoned and lost animals in our community.



Rick with his dog Samson

Message from the Board President

Auburn Valley Humane Society continues to grow. This winter we have seen our executive director, staff and volunteers working hard to expand our services for the community and the animals in the shelter. Due to the support and generous donations of the community at the AVHS Thrift Store and More we have produced a viable revenue stream to continue the high standard of veterinary care for the animals as well as expand into the humane education of our children and families. I would encourage you to visit the store on East Main and M Street. You can pick up some good bargains and make donations of good clean, usable items. Of course all proceeds go to benefit animal operations, adoptions and programs at the shelter.

The annual Winner's Circle Gala continues to grow and was a huge success this year. Fun and raising dollars for the much needed transport van and accepting matching dollars of the Subaru check will ensure the purchase of the vehicle needed to transport rescue animals, transport animals for medical treatment and to outreach and adoption events.

Be sure to check out our newest event: The Tour de Paws in late June. A family event; a challenge preparation for the STP; and just an easy bicycle route for the day, will bring many bicycle enthusiasts to Auburn.

It is the top priority of our board of directors to make sure all fund raising event proceeds directly benefit animal care, adoptions, medical care of pets, community outreach and the education of pet owners.

Also remember to license your pet. All license proceeds go to the shelter and the license serves as identification and will help us get your pet home if he or she ever does become lost.

As always I want to thank our staff, volunteers and board members for the hard work and dedication they give to the organization. Finally, I want to thank all of our loyal donors for the generous contributions you make to help the lost and forgotten animals of Auburn. We cannot do what we do without all of you!!

Rick Oliveira
President
AVHS Board of Directors



Biscuit is a favorite that entered the contest

Enter the AVHS Pet Photo Contest

The 2016 AVHS Calendar Contest features the top 14 ranked pet photos voted on by viewers. Each of the winners will be featured on a monthly page with the winner receiving a spot on the front cover. The fourteen month calendar supports shelter programs, so enter your favorite photo starting June 1st.

- Enter your photo by going to www.AuburnValleyHS.org.
- Spread the word and have your friends and family vote for your photo.
- Help us raise funds to help the lost, abandoned and homeless animals in our community.

LOYAL PAWS PROGRAM



Auburn Valley Humane Society's supporters purchase a \$35 Loyal Paw Card

- Card entitles the patron to money saving discounts
- Discounts at Loyal Paw participating businesses for one year
- Discounts at participating veterinary clinics, grooming stores, obedience schools, pet specialty stores, boarding kennels, photographers, fence contractors and many more businesses

**BUY ONLINE OR
AT THE AVHS
SHELTER**

**Register
Now!**



Tour de Paws



Saturday, June 27
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Game Farm Park
3030 R St SE, Auburn

- **Full van support & pitstops**
- **Gift bag for first 100 registered bikers**
- **Lunch at Game Farm Park after the ride**
- **Register at www.active.com**

Help raise funds for our homeless, lost and abandoned animals

253-249-7849

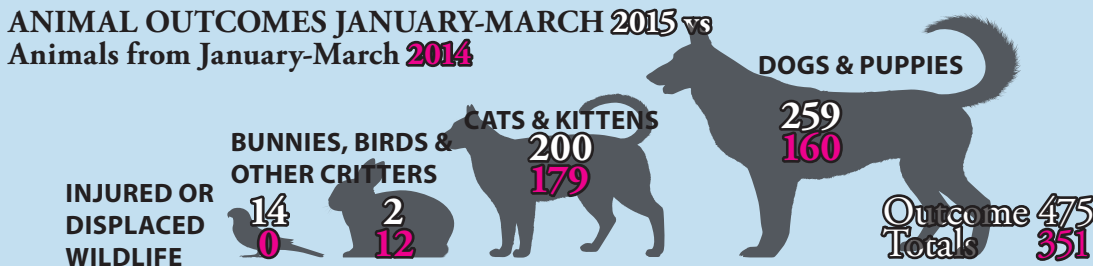
www.AuburnValleyHS.org



Operating Statistics



Bruiser came to AVHS as a transfer from a shelter in California. He was adopted to a new loving forever home. He loves going to the dog park and watching the ducks on his daily walks. The new family feel they are so lucky to have found him.



*The remaining animals are in foster care or at the shelter.

The Auburn Valley Humane Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization who partners with the City of Auburn for the housing of the lost and stray animals within the city limits of Auburn. The AVHS shelter opened on January 1, 2013. AVHS serves King and Pierce County for pet adoptions and owners looking to re-home their beloved pets.

No adoptable animals have been euthanized in the first two years of operation!

Thank you for helping us save lives. . . four paws at a time!

Thanks for the support

Winner's Circle Gala: A night to remember!

Games, the Blitz Dog photo booth, a silent and live auction all added to the fun and excitement of the event. Thank you to all who attended, donated, volunteered, or contributed in another way. We raised over \$71,900 with \$30,000 for our Fund-A-Need for a transport van for the animals at AVHS. Mike Scarff Subaru of Auburn's Share the Love event matched the \$15K towards the purchase of the van. We are ecstatic about being able to have our own vehicle to transport animals.



The transport van



Dressed for an evening of fun

Alisha and Holland McGraw of Some Like it Shot Photography, Old Dog Haven and Mike Scarff Subaru of Auburn were honored with the Wet Nose Award for their contributions to Auburn Valley Humane Society and the animals that we serve.

AVHS is now, and always will be, committed to providing a safe haven for homeless and abandoned animals until they can be placed into permanent, loving homes. Thank you for supporting the Auburn Valley Humane Society and the work that we do.



Wet Nose Award winner



Silent Auction

I saved a Human today!



By Signe Lukasiak and Mrs. Pickles

I wanted to let you know that Mrs. Pickles is fabulous. My father (94) lost his cat and we weren't sure how things would go with a new cat... he loved his old cat so much! Well, Mrs. Pickles has just moved in and taken over the house. You were right.... she loves to be brushed! Whenever people come to visit (we have 3 caregivers and lots of family members coming and going) she loves us all. When you walk in and sit down... she jumps into laps. Everyone loves her.

My dad has a bird feeder right outside the window and she sits on the back of the couch and scares birds all day.

We were concerned because she paid more attention to us than dad, but lately, when we arrive in the morning... we have found her on the bed with dad... right where his old cat slept.

Thank you for helping us pick out the exact right cat for our situation.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WAYS TO HELP



Use the QR code or visit our website for different options to donate to AVHS.

Consider making a donation to the Auburn Valley Humane Society. Your support is the cornerstone of the dream we share to protect animals in our community. Your ongoing generosity will help ensure the future well-being of countless animals at your animal shelter. The Auburn Valley Humane Society will be able to fulfill our mission of sheltering, rescuing and adopting animals, educating people of all ages to the needs of companion animals with those in our community who need their comfort. We will also be able to fund spay/neuter programs for animals at the shelter, ensure efficient shelter operations, and continue in our goal of creating a more compassionate world. All donations made to AVHS are tax deductible.

Donate Goods

AVHS relies on donations from the public and we are always in need of supplies. We need:

- canned pate cat food
- dry kitten food
- paper towels
- copier paper

We also love gift cards to Costco, Lowe's, Walmart, Home Depot, and Office Depot or requests from our Amazon.com wish list. All in-kind donations are 100% tax-deductible.



Sponge was adopted recently and barks: please help us today by giving!

The furry critters express their thanks for mailing your donation envelope to us today!

Feel Good

You can be confident that AVHS will steward your donation thoughtfully and wisely. Please know how much your gift means to our Board of Directors, staff and dedicated volunteers, and the abandoned and homeless animals we care for. Your support helps us to save over 1,500 animals every year. Feel good knowing you are helping to save lives this season and all year long!



Lucky was adopted recently.

Please help us with medical needs!

Medical Needs

From time to time, AVHS has an animal that requires significant medical needs that require an out-of-the ordinary surgery or procedure and long-term care and/or recovery. In that situation, we want to count on your support to help us to save that animal. Feel good knowing you are helping to change lives . . . four paws at a time all year long!

Paws for a Cause

Special thanks to the hundreds of community supporters who gave \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 to the **Paws for a Cause** campaign (from November through February). The campaign raised over \$4,300 to help the abandoned animals in our community. Ten businesses were involved in the program in 2014. If you would like more

information, contact us at 253-249-7849.

The furry critters thank you from the bottom of their furry paws! The animals which come through our doors are depending on your goodwill. Giving in itself is an act of unconditional love. Giving to animal welfare is one of the purest acts of charity, as you provide for the most vulnerable members of our community. Please join us today?



Give today!

See more at the "support us" tab at our website,



www.auburnvalleyhs.org or click on QR code for details.