



wags & purrs

PO Box 211 • 830 S Spruce St

Burlington, WA 98233

Phone: 360.336.5388

Website: www.savingpetsonatime.org

Email: spot@savingpetsonatime.org

501(c)(3)—EIN #91-2008766

WINTER 2020

Dear Friends of Saving Pets One at a Time

We would like to take this opportunity during the holiday season to thank you for your kind support and give you a glimpse of what your donations have helped us accomplish this past year. The year 2020 has impacted all of us in unforeseen and not always understandable ways. Adapting to changing circumstances can be challenging and applies to our pets as well. The needs of people have priority, but the impact of this pandemic on our pets is directly related to the concerns of their human families.



Oona & Ace are waiting for their new family to arrive. They now rule-the-roost in a happy home. Their mother, Miss Minnie, has her own story on the other side.



Freya came to us due to severe neglect. Her rags-to-riches story is on the back.

It is not unusual for a family that has lost their primary source of income to be forced to make hard decisions. When it is a struggle to house and feed a family, a pet can become an unrealistic commitment. S.P.O.T. has been able to provide some support for pet owners by broadening our Community Assistance for urgent and emergent veterinary care funded with dedicated private donations and a grant from Skagit Community Foundation. This program (Sadie Fund) helps people keep their pets as well as attend to their health issues.

The most intense experience of the year has been our kitten season. What a challenge for our cat team coordinator and fosters! Much of the spring, summer and fall is spent rescuing kittens from urban and rural feral cat colonies early enough in life to socialize them so that they can be adopted into homes as pets. However, feline colonies are not healthy environments for kittens at any time. Many of these babies come to us with health conditions that require immediate attention. This year the conditions we are accustomed to seeing and treating in kittens were far more serious and persistent as symptoms continued to worsen rather than respond to normal care.

S.P.O.T. has been fortunate to have some wonderful veterinary partners willing to help guide us in providing supportive care, treatment and early intervention for the common diseases that occur in cat colonies. Environment, poor nutrition, and even seasonal weather can increase the likelihood of exposure and thus the negative effect on a colony's kitten population from year to year; and this year has been a difficult one for kittens in this area. Having the funds to afford veterinary care for sick and injured animals is crucial to avoiding euthanasia and eventually rehoming them.



Rocky was adopted in 2020 and was a test subject for our new 'healthy' adoption process.

Our fosters have been courageous, fearless advocates and caregivers for these tiny creatures. Many kittens only returned to health due to a foster's committed care, and we lost more than usual despite their compassion and care. Rescuing pets may seem warm and fuzzy, but the reality is that it is often heartbreaking work. We completely understand that not everyone is suited to the realities of rescue work; but, for those who come through a season such as this one and are still willing to continue fostering, we are truly thankful!

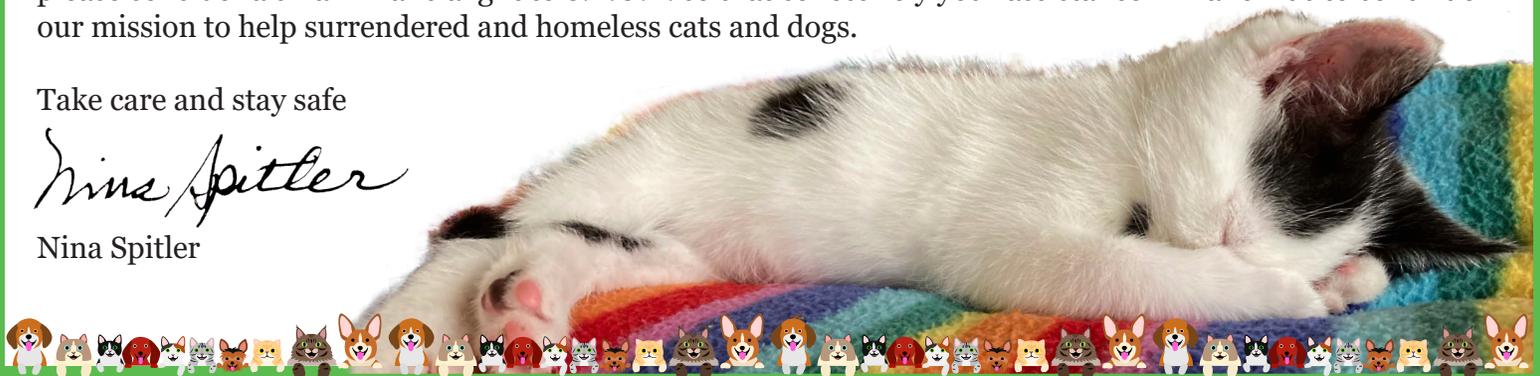
Our continuing gratitude goes to those who support us with financial and tangible donations as well. You are how we can afford to provide and care for the dogs and cats that we love! Fundraising this year has been extremely limited. Our Yard Sale, which has become a critical annual fundraising event, was canceled out of a concern for public health.

If you have escaped much of the financial stress so many of our neighbors are currently facing, would you please consider a small financial gift to S.P.O.T. so that collectively your assistance will allow us to continue our mission to help surrendered and homeless cats and dogs.

Take care and stay safe

Nina Spittler

Nina Spittler





Adopting During a Pandemic

Rocky was one of our little guys who came in just as news was breaking about the pandemic last winter. He was also one of the first dogs we were able to adopt out given the social restrictions of 2020. The adoption applicants wanted him to meet their resident dog to be sure the 'boys' would be okay together. Thankfully, we have a fenced yard and covered patio in our Burlington location for this kind of meeting. With a little ingenuity and the use of cell phones, we have found a way to stage adoptions with minimal interaction between people. Rocky went home with a new K-9 pal and a family to love him.

Rags-to-Riches

Freya is a six-year-old shepherd mix that came to us from Animal Control. She was taken from an owner due to neglect and was extremely underweight and almost hairless when she came in. Once the desperately needed vet care for allergies, skin infections and hypothyroid was started and she was being cared for in a dedicated foster's home, Freya began to recover. It took several months to get her healthy along with patient handling to regain her trust in people. Freya's doggy-desire to love and be loved was strong enough to overcome her past. She is now living the 'high-life' in a wonderful new home!



'Graceful' Grace

Pretty **Grace** is a nine-year-old English Pointer whose family was breaking up. The situation was stressful and causing Grace distress. Her owner made the hard decision to surrender her to S.P.O.T. We expected Grace to relax in a week or so, but her anxiety seemed to dissipate almost immediately. Senior dogs are often more settled and mannerly, but Grace is exceptionally nice. We knew she was a sensitive girl who needed a very special home and fortunately, we found her one.

Sweet as Candy

This little pill looks like sugar would not melt in her mouth, but she is an adorable, quite opinionated, character. **Candy** came in with some skin issues and infections that needed antibiotic treatment before she could be spayed so she had plenty of time to let her foster family know who she thought was in charge of things! Her new family is familiar with this bossy mini-breed and loves her just as she is.



The Lion (Lilly) and the Mouse (Lulu)

Some dogs just never leave a foster home!

Lilly is a ferocious guard dog disguised as a sweet little poodle. She bobs and weaves and strikes with the grace of a prize fighter if any strangers come into her yard. Lilly tried the 'adoption thing' but was returned twice for her unappreciative biting of her new owner. She is comfortable in her foster home and prefers to stay.

Lulu came from a shelter where she "just wasn't showing well." After three years, she is still extremely timid and prefers to be left to herself. Since she requires medications and occasional vet visits, we decided to maintain her as a Sanctuary pet in the foster home where she has adapted.



3 Kitten Purritos

At only 3 days old, Bruiser (the blue purrito now named Oona) wasn't doing much besides eating and sleeping. Kittens born in feral colonies come to us with scuffed-up noses, goopy eyes, raspy lungs and loaded with fleas. But their will to survive is strong.

Addressing their multitude of health problems and protecting them from future disease can get quite expensive but is an important part of preparing them for adoption!

Miss Minnie was rescued from the Birch Bay area. She had been abandoned by her former owner and left to have her kittens wherever she could. Happily, her five kittens were born healthy in a safe foster home. Miss Minnie has turned out to be an excellent mother. Now that her kittens are off to new homes, she and her son, Romeo, are living together in a fur-ever home of their own.

