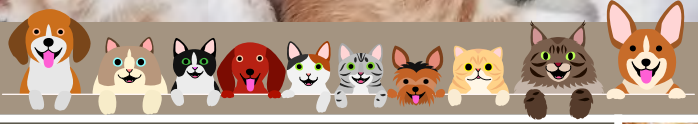


November 2018 >>>

- Neglected pets find loving homes
- Placing senior pets with families
- Pets deal with medical issues
- Pets with weight problems
- We have a new van!



# wags&purrs

The innocence of kittens >>>

## Kitten mothers, both human & feline, are amazing

*What could possibly be cuter than a kitten? Soft, cuddly, playful, tiny, fearless, curious, athletic, sly, cautious...*

Most of our kittens arrive without their mothers. But this little family arrived with mom, a beautiful orange tabby. She even adopted and raised a younger orphan.

Abandoned newborn kittens require around-the-clock feeding. Our human 'kitty mommas' are truly a "special breed of cat" and we so appreciate them!



## Bellingham rescue fights through painful condition to find loving home

### At only three years of age, Skylar was battling glaucoma

*Canine glaucoma is an unusually high fluid pressure inside the eye. Left untreated, this disease eventually affects the optic nerve and retinal cells resulting in permanent vision damage and even blindness. It is an extremely painful condition but the patient has no way of directly communicating that to a human. Abnormal behavior is usually the first clue, including rubbing or scratching at the eye, the lack of appetite or pressing the head against an object.*

Skylar came to us from the Whatcom Humane Society shelter in Bellingham at three years of age.

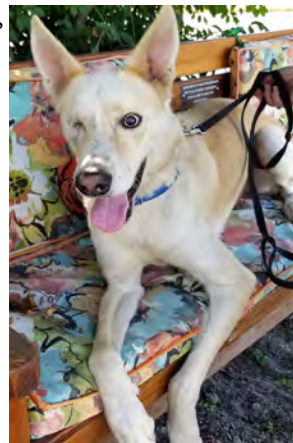
Diagnosed with glaucoma, he had an eye removed just before we took him in. Not long after his eye surgery his remaining eye lost most of its vision, possibly due to glaucoma as well.

Skylar had some shadow vision but his eyesight left him so suddenly that he was very apprehensive around other dogs.

As a Greyhound/Husky mix, he had probably been an extremely visual dog. We started working with him around other dogs.

Five months later, he had become comfortable with thoughtful introductions to groups of dogs and was ready for adoption.

Skylar's new owner adores her new family member, and Skylar especially loves car rides and all the smells that come with going on a drive.



**Kitten fosters save the day for Squirt >>>**

## *Day-old kitten faces double challenge on the medical front*

*Not every problem can be fixed. When it comes to medical issues, once you've put in your best effort and a problem continues to exist, then you learn to live your best life despite the issue.*

The kitten came to us as a day-old baby, having been found by a family who noticed his mother carrying the little guy across a field during an early November storm. Despite looking around, they could only find the one kitten.

Shortly after his and his mother's arrival at a foster's home, it was noted that he, now named Squirt, had a hernia on his abdomen. During the

course of his medical assessment, it was discovered that the hernia was quite large and extended up through the diaphragm. He also appeared to have a chronic blood condition.

Rather than euthanize this social and happy little guy, we were able, through donations, to complete the required surgery. We found him a sanctuary home where medically challenged pets can live out their lives in comfort and

security with a foster knowledgeable about their issues.

Squirt will probably have a significantly shorter lifespan than the average cat due to his blood condition, but no one has told him that.

Squirt is nearing his second birthday, thanks to our generous financial contributors, and continues to enjoy each and every day that he is here—an attitude all of us should have.



**Beautiful BeBe >>>**

## *Very small Maltese uses gentle nature to find new home*

*The Maltese descends from dogs originating in the central Mediterranean area. The breed name and origins are generally understood to derive from the Mediterranean island nation of Malta.*

How about this precious little miss! Owned by a senior lady who felt she could no longer care for her properly, BeBe came to us at 3.5 lbs. She was recently adopted at a healthier 4.8 lbs.

BeBe is living the good life with a dotting person of her own and several doggy siblings to share adventures with. Her specialty is an amazing "happy dance" when she simply can't contain her excitement when she thinks something fun is about to happen!

Sweet BeBe doesn't have a mean bone in her body. She just wants to be with her human 24/7.



## *From feral to pet*

Volunteers from our TAR (Trap/Alter/Release) program trap feral cats to spay/neuter, vaccinate for rabies, and ear-tip and return them to where they were captured or to another monitored location like a barn. Feral cats live a hard life but are not safely adopted as pets, and returning feral cats to a colony does help control the colony growth.

Most rescued kittens and some young adults can be tamed and adopted as domestic cats to live the lives they were meant for as family pets!





# Chico overcomes neglect and fear to find peace and love

*This story is a testament to the power of love. Domestic dogs are genetically designed to live beside humans. Left to their own devices when lost, abandoned or born feral, they usually succumb to disease, injury and starvation within a relatively short period of time. They simply don't have the skills necessary to live as a wild animal. Bringing them back from a feral lifestyle requires love, patience, determination and skill.*



Chico is a little Chihuahua that came to us at the request of our local shelter. He wasn't doing well there. Seemingly almost feral, he hid most of the time and cowered when approached. It seemed as though he had never known a kind touch.

He spent two years in a foster home and made a good bit of progress. We then transitioned him to a second foster to see if he could adapt. He regressed a little but eventually built his

trust and confidence levels back up again. But change and meeting new people were still hard for him.

One day we received an application from a man in Bellingham who had seen Chico online and was interested in him. He came to meet the little dog with his female Pitbull and partner.

Chico had always been much more hesitant with men in general, and we wondered if this really was a good placement for him. The meeting was predictable—Chico wouldn't go near anyone. But even so, after thinking about it, this family called back and said they'd like to adopt him.

In their home, Chico blossomed into a real dog who walks on a leash, goes on doggy adventures to new locations, allows his picture to be taken (a real trick previously) and snuggles with his people!

This didn't happen overnight. It took a lot of patience, compassion and persistence. We are so impressed with Chico and very appreciative of his new family! Getting a second chance at a good life is wonderful.



**Dinky** was found as a stray and looked like a possible French Bulldog mix. We estimated his age at 1½ years (looking at a dog's teeth is one of the best ways to estimate age).

This dog was a real hoot to care for according to his foster person. "Very social, comical and charismatic, as well as incredibly handsome—he'd make a wonderful addition to any household." This deserving dog now has a guy to call his very own!



**Grizzly** is as nice as he is good looking.

As is often the case, his owner could no longer keep him. So we found him a new home on Orcas Island with a family to love. And just look at the beautiful view this dog has to look out upon every day.

It is due to your financial support that this dog has found his personal Shangri La! You should be very proud... We're certain Grizzly is very thankful.

## Beautification project >>>

### Nicole finds unique way to volunteer

A wonderful lady named Nicole adopted a special needs dog from us several years ago and then started volunteering by coming up from Seattle several weekends a month to manicure our yard and help with maintenance projects at the SPOT house. This is just one garden she planted; by the end of the season the flowers were absolutely beautiful. Then, on top of all that, she was kind enough to adopt a puppy from us to add to her family.







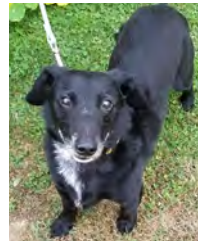
*Check out our new van!*



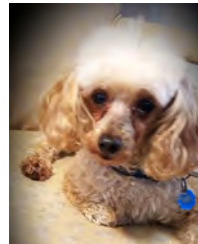
## Two oldies but goodies...

*Two senior dogs, both 12 years old, came to us within two weeks of each other. Both were surrendered reluctantly by owners whose lives and living situations were changing dramatically and out of their control.*

Junior's owner's family home was sold when his father died and he could only take one dog with him when he was forced to relocate. He chose to take the 14-year-old dog, hoping it would be easier to rehome the more youthful dog. The good news is that Junior was recently adopted by a north county artist!



Cody's story is similar; his owners were forced to sell their home due to medical needs that impacted their finances. A new, affordable residence did not allow dogs. At 12 years of age, Cody's owner was worried he wouldn't be adopted from a shelter. Cody's about to get a dental cleaning and then will be looking for his new person while flashing a sparkling smile!



We are so fortunate to be the recipient of a generous memorial from Pat Odlin to purchase this beautiful and very much needed van!

The Simple Car Company in Oak Harbor purchased the 2017 van at auction and allowed us to buy it from them at cost. This savings allowed us to budget for the decals (a dog on one side, a cat on the other) that advertise our services.

We are so thankful to Pat Odlin and the Simple Car Company for supporting our mission.

A special thank you to Kelley Imaging Systems for your printing support of this newsletter!



## 25 lbs. later...

Princess came to us at a very unhealthy 80+ lbs., dipping into diabetes. A lovely senior Irish Setter, her new person has thankfully brought her back to the peak of health.

"Princess (13.5 years young at 57 lbs.) on her terrace enjoying the view of Tacoma's Commencement Bay. She's very happy and doing well! We just love her!"



## Long road to recovery & adoption

This sweet 14-week-old pup was hit by a car on a rural highway. Some well-meaning folks found and tried to care for him.

They didn't realize the severity of his injuries: his leg, hip joint and several vertebrae were either cracked or broken.

They kept him several weeks and his injured bones began to knit together without being properly set. Eventually the pup made his way to a vet and then us.

The hope now is that with pain control and anti-inflammatory medications, along with physical



therapy, we can use his puppy resilience and growth to heal his leg enough for him to use it. If that doesn't work, we're looking at surgery.

There is no quick fix. It's going to be a long haul for the puppy named Follow, but one way or another we'll get him there. We save pets, one at a time, no matter how long it takes.