



HOMER ANIMAL FRIENDS

Winter 2019 Newsletter

Message From The President

HAF Board of Directors

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Homer Animal Friends has had a productive and rewarding year! We thank you for supporting us and the animals of Homer. 2019 has been an exciting year for growth, both for our store and our involvement in the Homer community.

Spay and Neuter continues to be one of the most impactful ways we make a difference. There's definitely a need in Homer and with your help, we're able to assist local pets and pet owners through our programs. Through November 2019, we've given \$40,040.54 in funding towards spay and neuter. In total, we've helped 382 animals, all of which are local! Our Spay and Neuter programs are available through our store, making them accessible to local pet owners as well as the surrounding communities. We also continue to support Alaska Mindful Paws by paying for half of the total cost of Spay and Neuter of all the animals adopted.

In June, we had the exciting opportunity to move our store into a new location in the Kachemak Center on Heath Street. We love being in the middle of town and close to Homer Dog Trainers!

Through the transition to our larger location, we've been able to expand our inventory to incorporate new quality food brands and other products we feel will serve you well in training, playing, and taking care of your pets. Our store gives us a presence right in the center of town so we can better help pets and human companions alike! If you haven't yet, stop by to see us! With the holidays right around the corner, we have just what you need to fill your pets stocking with joy in the form of treats and toys this season.



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President's Message Cont.

Community involvement and education has always been a big part of what we do. In February, we kicked off the year by taking part in the Winter Carnival Parade. It was fun to participate in our small town spirit! We continued our involvement throughout the year by participating in the Safe and Healthy Kid's Fair to educate our smallest pet owners about how to safely handle their pets, and the Rotary Health Fair to spread awareness about how pets enrich our lives. Once in the spring and fall, we hosted Poop Fairy events and picked up several five-gallon buckets of dog poop! Waste clean up continues to be a challenge and we feel it's best to do what we can to set a positive example. It really hits home that we all need to do our part when taking our animals on adventures.

Most recently, we held our second annual Pet Wellness Workshop, which focused on the overall good health of our pets. Dr. Janelle Spurkland, our board Secretary, discussed healthy weight, common causes of vet visits, and basic first aid with our guests. We had over 25 people attend this year! We grow a little each year we have this event. If there are topics you'd like to see us present, please let us know! We're always looking for feedback from our members.

As we approach the holiday season and reflect on our year, we're thankful we've been able to make a difference in Homer. We're lucky to be a part of such a loving and thoughtful community. This would not be a proper reflection without giving a special thanks to our board members, employees, and volunteers as well as all the local businesses who supported us this year. We've been able to fully embody our mission in 2019 thanks to you. We look forward to what the future holds as we continue to grow and find new ways to help animals in Homer. Thank you for your continued support!

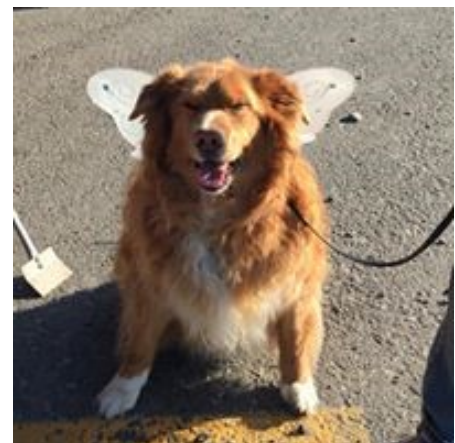
Ashley Vecellio

President

Homer Animal Friends



Our Vice President, Robin and her husband, on our Winter Carnival Parade float!



Copper helping us with Poop Fairy Patrol!

Store Update



Location

601 E Pioneer Ave
Suite 109

Hours

Mon-Fri 11 am - 6 pm
Sat 11 am - 5 pm

Phone

235-SPAY(7729)

Thank you for your support this year! Our store has grown so much over the last six months and we're grateful for the support our customers have shown us! Our store move came with some big changes. We upgraded our dog wash area to include a brand new adjustable tub! We also expanded our inventory to include several new food brands for both dogs and cats. For dogs, we started carrying Victor Premium Kibble and most of the Stella and Chewy line. They offer mixers and stew to keep meal time interesting! We have samples of the various brands we carry. Stop by to try one!

You may have noticed that we've started monthly promotions to spotlight different areas of our store. December is "Cat Lover's Month". Stop by to browse our Cat Corner! We have toys, treats, beds, cat towers, and window seats your cat will love! We sell a variety of dry and wet cat food so you'll be able to find a brand that works for your needs. Most recently, we started carrying Best Feline Friend canned food, a brand known for their high standards of production, and is high in protein, but low in fat to help your cat maintain their best weight.

We are having several sales throughout the holiday season! We look forward to seeing you while you shop for your four-legged family members. We have treats and a variety of toys to help you find the perfect gift for your best companion.

Thank you for continuing to support our store as we grow to meet the needs of our community. The Homer Animal Friends store helps support our mission of helping pet owners take great care of their pets. Stop by soon to check out our new space!

Pat Boone

HAF Store Committee

Homer Dog Trainers

15 years ago Homer Dog Trainers opened our doors to provide dog training classes for our community. We opened because people who loved working with dogs or who needed help with their dogs had no local options. We are forever thankful that HAF made us part of their educational mission. Their support carried us through some rough patches. We are excited that we are now able to give back to and help fund the HAF shelter and spay/neuter programs.

Since autumn of 2004, 662 puppies attended Puppy Kindergarten. Many of those puppies went on to take part in our other classes. 766 dogs have gone through our Basic Manners (gentle obedience) course. Our other courses are composed of new and continuing dogs. 233 new dogs enrolled in Agility, with many of them continuing to take classes for years. In 2013 HDT started offering Nose Work classes. Since that time 388 dogs have come through, with many of those dogs also staying on for years. Currently, close to 20 dogs and their people are competing in scent work trials around the State.

In 15 years we've helped over 2000 dogs, representing well over 12,000 hours of class time - a conservative number, considering it doesn't count class prep or the fact that many of the classes are an hour and a half long. That's a pretty big number, especially considering that all of our instructors are volunteers! Instructors don't just give their time - in order to stay current with training, they spend their own dollars to purchase books, videos, on-line courses, and/or to travel to seminars in and out of state. This is all born out of a deep love for dogs and a passion to share what we've learned in order to enhance the dog/human relationship.

HDT's philosophy is clear – it's all about the dogs. We believe in, use, and teach positive, science-based methods. Our goal is to make it easier for dogs to live with people and for people to live with dogs. Working with and training dogs should be fun – for dog and guardian, alike. Any day you get to work with your dog is a very good day, indeed.

If you are interested in taking a class, you can write to homerdogtrainers@gmail.com or call the following instructors:

Puppy Kindergarten – Sue Post 235-4190 or Casey Moss 299-3048

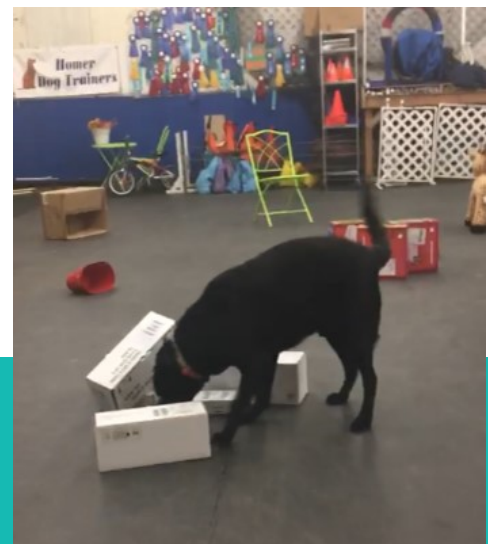
Basic Manners – Pat Moss 235-8053

Agility – Tracie Whitaker 399-0630

Nose Work – Pat Boone 299-2925

Pat Moss

HDT Instructor



Shelter News

2019 has been an amazing year thus far for Alaska Mindful Paws, and the Homer Animal Shelter. As of October 31, we have adopted out 141 cats and dogs, taken in 152 stray animals, and returned 113 animals to their owners. It's been a busy summer and fall, and as we continue to grow and evolve, we remain ever grateful to the community for its support, and to organizations like Homer Animal Friends, which help support our mission by contributing funds to get our shelter animals spayed and neutered.

In the spring, Alaska Mindful Paws founder and director Amy Ware relinquished her post to move back to Oregon and pursue other animal-welfare interests. Jillian Rogers has taken over as the shelter's director, and along with assistant manager Rebecca Barteo, and animal advocate Adriana Ferello, we will continue to provide shelter, care and advocacy to homeless animals in our community.

Our group of dedicated volunteers are always greatly appreciated, and we have been hosting more and more groups from the community including school groups, girl scouts, and a lovely bunch from the Homer Senior Center. Our foster program is flourishing, but we can always use more homes to temporarily house sick, shy, or young, cats and dogs. Please call the shelter if you're interested in becoming a foster family.

Also new this year, we started working the Spring Creek Dog Program in Seward. Spring Creek is maximum security prison with trained handlers providing a service to the community by socializing and training shelter dogs so they can find forever homes. We have sent three of our more challenging dogs to Spring Creek so far, and they have been trained and adopted out!

As always, we encourage community to consider adopting when contemplating a few furry, four-legged family member. Together we can end petlessness! Thank you for your continued support, and here's to even more happy, healthy pets in 2020!

Jillian Rogers

Alaska Mindful Paws

Hilda is a one year old female available for adoption!



Healthy Weight in Pets

We all think chubby pets are cute. There's more to love! He's big boned! He's extra fluffy. Did you know that all that extra fluff and love is actually harming your pet? An extra 10lb on a 50lb lab is the same as a 150lb person weighing an extra 30lb! Studies have shown that obese pets live on average two years less than pets kept at a healthy or lean weight.

Like in humans, extra weight on our pets can lead to increased incidence of arthritis, increased risk for diabetes, and other health problems. Too much body fat can lead to body-wide inflammation creating an increased risk of infection and illness.

Keeping pets at a healthy weight can be difficult. We use treats for training, we share our meals with our pets, and we show them love with food. Fortunately, our pets love activity and exercise as much as they love food!

There are several ways to help increase our pet's activities. Cats can be taught to fetch! They love to chase laser lights and play with toys! Dogs love going on walks. Studies have shown that walking dogs increase activity level and physical fitness for people. By walking your dog 20 minutes a day, you can help improve his health and fitness. Daily walks will also help solidify and deepen your bond with your pet.

Many of us show our pets how much we love them through treats. We feed them when we get home. We feed them when teaching them tricks. We feed them for pottyng outside, you get the idea. All these treats and extra calories can add up throughout the day. Take care to pay attention to how many calories your pets are getting with treats. You do not have to stop feeding treats to your pets - try smaller portions, healthy snacks such as carrots or peas, or cut back on the amount of food he gets at mealtime. Mealtime can be another source of too many calories. Often, we feed based on the recommendations on the back of a feed bag. Those recommendations are made for a young, healthy, very active pet. The majority of house pets can actually eat less than the recommended amount. It is more effective to gauge the amount of food based on his body condition score.

It can be hard to determine if our own pet is overweight. You should be able to feel your dog's ribs without having to dig through an inch of chub. If you have to press hard to feel his ribs, your dog is probably a little chubby. Cats tend to gain intraabdominal fat, which can be harder to feel. If your cat is starting to develop the little pooch at the back of his belly, he's getting a little chubby!

We all love our pets. We all love to feed our pets. Let's try to keep our pets healthier longer by keeping them lean!

Dr. Janelle Spurkland

Secretary

Ways to Donate

There are many ways you can easily support our organization and help make an impact on the lives of local animals! We sincerely appreciate all the donations we receive because we couldn't do all we do to promote animal welfare and support spay and neuter without the support of people like you.

Did you know that you can donate to Homer Animal Friends while you are doing every day errands around town? We have donation boxes set up in 15 businesses in Homer. All of the money donated is picked up monthly by our Rover Committee. Every single cent is used to spay and neuter the pets being adopted from our animal shelter. The very generous businesses around town that have a Rover donation box are:

Bear Creek Winery
Captain's Coffee
Coal Point Trading Co
Duncan House
Fritz Creek Store
Gear Shed
Homer Animal Friends Store
Homer Animal Shelter
Homer Vet Clinic
Lisa Ann's Grooming
Lucky Paws Grooming
Nomar
Save-U-More
Ulmer's
Wagon Wheel

Robin Waldvogel

Vice President



For more ways to donate, sign up for Amazon Smile and **Pick, Click, Give.**

Thank you for your support!



Become a Member of HAF!

Becoming a Homer Animal Friends Member helps support our mission of promoting animal welfare through spay/neuter programs, community education, and animal shelter support. If you're interested in becoming a member, please stop by our store or email us at homeranimals@gmail.com.

Levels of Membership:

One Paw- \$35/25 (senior)

Two Paws- \$75

Three Paws- \$100 (Recognition in Newsletter)

Four Paws- \$150 (Business Name/Logo on Website/Newsletter)

Yearly membership benefits include a 10% discount at Homer Animal Friends Store in the Kachemak Center (excluding food) and a 10% discount on two Homer Dog Trainers classes – Puppy K or Basic Obedience.

Debbie Dauphinas

Board Member

Homer Animal Friends Calendar of Events

January: National Train Your Dog Month, Homer Dog Trainers Education in the schools, Homer Project Homeless Connect

February: National Pet Dental Month, Spay/Neuter Month, Winter Carnival Parade

March: National Puppy Day (23rd), Pet Poison Awareness, Bow Wow Film Festival

April: National Pet ID week, Chip Clinic, Poop Fairies, Safe Kids Fair

May: National Animal Disaster Preparedness, Membership Month, Store Anniversary

June: Adopt a Shelter Cat Month, Annual Dog Jog

July: 4th of July Parade

August: Spoil Your Dog/Cat Month, Sunday Yappy Hour/ Grace Ridge Brewing

September: Responsible Pet Ownership Month, Memorial Garden, Poop Fairies, Chip Clinic

October: Pet Wellness Month/Wellness Talk

November: Senior Pet Month, Golden Paws, Rotary Health Fair

December: Cat Lovers Month, Un-party Invitation Christmas Party

*** Watch for our Dog & Cat Spay/Neuter Clinics**

Membership and Donations

New Members

Melissa & Dave Cloud
Courtney Dodge
Sean & Gerri Martin
Molly Stonorov
Catrin Lovett
Julie McCarron
Michelle Borland
Elvy Martinez
Sonja Martin Young
Molly Monro
Paula Kulhanek
Rosie Robinso

Morgan Kelly
Judy Dean
Paul Story
Hilary Cabana
Laurie Gentle
Sara Woltjen
Donna Beran
Shelby Lubich
Mindy Hunter
Stephanie Zuniga & Family
Will Schlein
Chris Graupe

Robin McAllister
Sally Coleman
Laura Peck
Talena Kinder
Hannah Kelly & Kenyon Stier
Joan Smiley
Elizabeth Backus
Diane McBride
Denise Jantz
Debra Schmidt

Three Paw Members

Sean & Gerri Martin – North Country Charters
Ak Powersports / All Seasons Honda
Michael Hawfield & Beth Graber
Jack Sibson Jr
Judy Fandrei
Peter Fineo
Russ & Linda Grainger
Andrew & Jessica Reed
Pat Moss
Cameale Johnson
Theresa Ross
Diana Carbonell
Tracie Whitaker
Janet Higley

Donations In Memory Of

Harlow Lockwood
Ebby
Blueberry, Allie & Zoey
Remy
Cisco & Tilly
Lynn Monroe
“Cocoa” Hill
Lady
Sugar
Shira
Mitsy Hays
Loki & Angus
Murdock

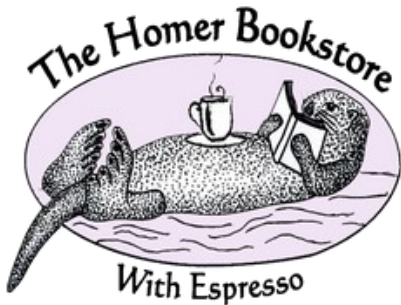
Donations In Honor Of

Rebecca Lynn Monroe
Riley Robie
Poopsie
Bella & Summer



Business Members

Capt. Mike's Charters



Seaman's Ecotour Adventures

Touch, See, and Experience the Real Kachemak Bay

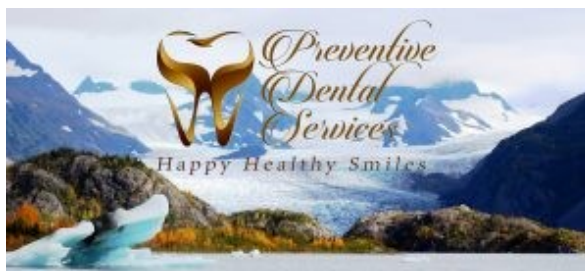
Grace Ridge Brewing



Maritime Helicopters



Red Bird Kitchen



VBS Heating Products LLC

Our programs and projects continue to expand because of our generous members like these businesses.

Business memberships are available for a donation of \$150 and are recognized with their name/logo in our newsletter and on our website.

For more information,
email:

homeranimals@gmail.com