



HOMER ANIMAL FRIENDS

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Message From The President

HAF Board of Directors

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Greetings!

Since our last newsletter, Homer Animal Friends has had some choices, challenges and changes to make.

Choices, obviously, 2020 brought everything to a screeching halt for everyone – except the exploding pet population. Dogs and cats didn't get the memo and our spay and neuter coupon usage declined while our spay and neuter clinics became non-existent. Vets were swamped with all the new processes foisted on them and it seemed unreasonable to expect them to block out whole days for our clinics. Then of course, they had their own issues on top of everything COVID related.

Fortunately, we now have two veterinarian clinics and a mobile vet who have all partnered with HAF to provide clinics and accept our coupons. We've been keeping them busy this year! It took some time to get our processes going with new vets, but we've held clinics in January, March, August and have one planned for December.

Challenges, in 2022, January through December, we held no clinics and we were still able to help get 354 dogs and cats spayed or neutered at the cost of \$65,834.22 (these numbers include shelter animals). January through September, 2023, all coupons and 3 clinics combined so far, we helped spay or neuter 257 dogs and cats and the cost for HAF was \$74,947.92 (again, shelter animals are included). Yes, those numbers are correct. Fewer animals, a lot more money. It's 9.5% of the total paid since the start of our program approximately 38 years ago!

Changes – as a result of the rising costs of everything, our money – like yours – doesn't go as far as it used to. We really appreciate all the support that you have provided and hope it continues. But those memberships and donations just aren't meeting the rising costs of the spays and neuters that seem to be never ending. So far, we are keeping our membership prices the same but we've unfortunately had to raise the cost for the Spay/Neuter clinics to \$60 for cats, \$100 for dogs, it's still a great price considering what the vets are charging. We've even gone back to the vets to see if they can shave a little bit off their prices to help out the program. Lastly, we're researching grants. Want to meet some non-grant writers who are behind the curve? Join our group or give me a call!

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President's Message Continued

Social media is another challenge for us. Choices - how many of us get the newspaper anymore? Then on the flip side, how many of us know how to use Instagram, Twitter – oops, X? I searched and there are over 20 platforms, many of which I've never heard of! How many of us get frustrated at the amount of junk we get on the limited platforms that we know how to use – and then miss the important stuff? You know, like a HAF event! It's challenging to get our message out to those who want to get it. We don't have all the answers yet, but we're trying so please be patient as we experiment with potential changes.

As a board, we're working hard to accomplish our mission and not drown in the minutia of everyday choices and challenges. We have a wonderful bunch of caring and knowledgeable folks affiliated with Homer Animal Friends and I'm grateful everyday for every one of them.

Debbie Dauphinais

President

Homer Animal Friends



HAF Events

Poop Fairy Clean up

Dog Jog

August Yappy Hour



2023 Store Report

This year marks our eight-year store anniversary! We are thankful for all our loyal customers and members who frequent our store. We've gotten to know your pets over the years, and we look forward to seeing you! We want to thank you for supporting us so we can continue to support you and the pets in your lives.

You can count on the Homer Animal Friends Store for quality pet supplies and is a place where people can come for assistance with Spay/Neuter, learn about our mission, or find out about our next event. Don't forget to like our Facebook page to stay updated. As a reminder, our members receive 10% off at our store on all products, except food. Ask our store Manager, Cathy, for more information about starting or renewing your membership!



You may have noticed a few new items around our store. If you haven't browsed our freezer yet, you need to check it out next time you're in. After gathering your feedback and doing research on several brands, we've started carrying Instinct and Tucker's brand frozen dog and cat food. We have two types, patties, and kibble, which need to be kept frozen until mealtime. Raw pet food is easy to digest and helps support healthy skin and coat, energy levels, and weight management. This fall, we featured Instinct Raw dog food during our weekly Yappy Hour at

Grace Ridge Brewing. This event was held every Sunday in August and was a time you could take your dog to the brewery, enjoy a beverage, and get to know other local pet owners. Each week, we provided a treat bar so your dog could try the varieties of treats and food we carry at our store. Raw food was a hit with the dog and pet owners who attended! As you can see, our friend, Daisy, couldn't stop sniffing the table!



2023 was a big year for community involvement at the HAF store. We continued to donate dog and cat food to the Homer Food Pantry each week. We are proud to be able to support pets and pet owners in this way. It is truly our goal to make sure every pet in Homer has the nourishment they need. In addition to donating food, we also hosted a pet food drive during the month of November. Stella and Chewy and Redbarn, which are brands of food we carry, donated over 400 pounds of pet food! Overall, we donated nearly 1000 pounds of pet food with your help, which we think is pretty special because we're making an impact.

We hope you have a great holiday season with your pets and hope to see you soon!

Cathy

Homer Animal
Friends Store
Manager

Homer Animal Friends Store

Location
601 E Pioneer Ave
Suite 109

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

Phone
907-235-SPAY(7729)

Spay and Neuter Program

Homer Animal Friends would like to thank the veterinarians who partnered with us, to provide more affordable spays and neuters for dogs and cats in our service area. Homer Veterinarian Clinic has been with us since we started in the mid-1980's, while Kachemak Bay Animal Hospital and Emprise Veterinary Services both started working with us almost from the time that they opened their doors here within the past few years. Small discounts that they provide can make a big difference in the cost to HAF, even if the total billed has grown into a monstrous amount, particularly this year.

I don't know if this is true for others, but I got involved in Homer Animal Friends because of this program. In 2010, my husband and I got a puppy! Such a cute little guy and he went through a couple of the training classes with Homer Dog Trainers. They were great and we learned a lot, our dog did too. We paid a nominal amount for each class and I somehow felt that we were even... although the ladies that offer the classes have always been willing to offer advice or insight into whatever my issue is at the time.

But, where I really got hooked in to Homer Animal Friends, was when we had our dog neutered. We paid a small price, whatever it was back in 2010, even though we could have afforded to pay for it ourselves. I justified it in my mind to have someone else pay the lion's share with our "situation". We'd recently moved to Homer, we bought a house, I was retired... no we weren't in desperate need, we were fine and I could have afforded to pay for his neutering on our own, but a coupon was available. I guess I felt guilty for having someone else pay. I joined HAF and paid my membership, even when we weren't living in the area for a couple of years. I donated when I could or when I found the Unparty Invitation which had gotten buried in a pile of mail, attended some of the events, and started shopping at the HAF Store. Well, now the rest is history, I'm on the board... for a several years now, and have helped in the store when they need me.

I'm not sure when I'll ever feel caught up for that one neuter job in 2010, or if I'm now paying it forward. Either way, it's a great feeling to participate and support this program. Regardless of how much or how little each of us can give back to Homer Animal Friends towards this program can mean how long we can continue to offer the discounts on clinics and coupons in the future.

Debbie Dauphinais

Spay & Neuter Chairperson



HAF 4th of July Float—Making Waves in Pet Overpopulation

Shelter News

Warm winter greetings from the Homer Animal Shelter!

November was National Adopt a Shelter Pet Month and here at the shelter we were hopping with 12 adoptions and five rescue transfers. We adopted out two long-stay cats and a long-stay dog in that mix.



As 2023 winds down, we're proud to share that since January, we have adopted out more than 80 animals big and small, furry, feathered and scaly. We have returned nearly 80 dogs and cats back to their owners, and have responded to a whopping 250 animal control calls. And that's just through the end of November! Since January, we have had to euthanize six animals, and while we never take that decision lightly, we do have to help animals cross over the Rainbow Bridge occasionally as a last act of kindness. Our save rate remains high at just over 96 percent.



We continue to work closely with the City of Homer staff, city council, and the Homer Police Department to keep our residents and pets safe.

This summer, we, along with councilmember Rachel Lord and City Clerk Melissa Jacobson revised and updated Title 20 in the City Code. Together with the guidance of the city's attorney and police chief, we removed animal ordinances that were outdated and ineffective, and added some updated language and rules. Shelter staff and HAF board members also hosted national representatives and veterinarians from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) who were in Alaska visiting municipal shelters. Our community shelter received rave reviews for our up-to-date policies and procedures, cleanliness, outreach programs and our overall day-to-day functions.

Our foster program is going strong, and we have returned – post-covid – to continuing our education through various trainings and sharing current best-practices at various community events.

HAF is as involved as ever helping with spay and neuter costs and clinics. The Homer Animal Shelter is proud of this and the many other nonprofit relationships including several animal-rescue organizations on the Kenai Peninsula and beyond.

We love our community support and without it, we wouldn't be half as successful as we are.

So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you! Here's to saving even more animals in the coming years! We, the current contractor with the City of Homer, have signed on to help Homer's homeless and wayward pets for another 5-7 years!



With love in my heart and cat hair on my clothes,



Jillian Rogers

Director

Homer Animal Shelter

Alaska Mindful Paws

Puppy Thoughts

From Homer Dog Trainers

In our Puppy Kindergarten classes, we see lots of puppies and their people. Sometimes, we wish we had been able to offer information to the humans involved before they got a puppy because we can see how difficult the road is going to be. There are any number of reasons why these “mismatches” happen. We thought we would share some things to think about, if you’re thinking about getting a puppy.

Past Dogs: Many times, people go back to a breed they have always had; however, they are not in the same place they were when they had those past dogs. They may be older now and they always had high energy busy breeds. They may have a family with small children now when they have always had herding breeds. They may have less time to attend to a dog in general because of where they are in their lives.

It's important to think about what your life looks like now and what it will be like with a new puppy. Puppies are hard, they take work and time and energy. If the breed of dog you have always had has needs that you can't meet, or could be more than you can handle, given everything else in your life it might be a good idea to think about a different breed.

Family Dynamics: What's your family look like now? What will it look like with a puppy? Does everyone in the family want a dog? Are you all on the same page about what you are looking for in a dog? Do you have time for a puppy? Can you afford a dog?

These are important questions to ask when you are thinking about getting a puppy because it will affect everyone's quality of life. If your family is busy and people are overwhelmed by the status quo, adding a puppy is going to make it 100x more complicated. Many people with small children want a puppy for their kids, but kids and puppies are complicated. Puppies think small children are littermates and toys, and all they have are teeth and paws to use while playing; this can often end in injuries to the child. Puppies don't understand that teeth should-n't be used when playing. Elderly people in the house can also suffer from sharp puppy teeth and claws, because the elderly tend to have thin skin. Rambunctious puppies (and they all are) can trip and/or knock people over, also causing injuries.

If your puppy is going to be home alone for long periods of time while you are at work, they will have a hard time learning

important things, such as housetraining and appropriate interactions with people. Physiologically young puppies can only hold their bladders and bowels for a few hours. If they are home alone for 8 hours they will have to eliminate at some point. If they learn that they can just eliminate whenever the need arises they will be harder to housetrain because they have no rules or expectations. Puppies may also be over excited when people come home because they haven't had the social interactions that they needed during the day. Their people usually aren't pleased with crazy, excited puppies. It's unfair to leave a puppy alone for long periods of time – puppies need time to learn about our expectations, and they can't do it if we're not there to teach them.

AKC says the average yearly cost of owning a dog is over \$2000. Veterinary care can be expensive if your dog is seriously injured, or ill. Grooming can cost \$75 to \$200 for each grooming (and many breeds should be groomed multiple times a year).



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Puppy Thoughts Continued

Breed Characteristics: Every breed has a purpose. It's important to know what a breed was made to do, so you have an idea of what you might be getting in a puppy. This holds true for mixed breeds as well. You can look at all the different breeds in a mix and know that some or all of those breed characteristics are going to come out. For example: Herding and hunting dogs are meant to go for miles and their energy level is going to be high. They will need lots of exercise and stimulation to help them burn off some of this energy. Without it, they may damage property or injure their people because their needs aren't being met.

Finding a Puppy: When you have finally figured out what kind of puppy you are looking for, you want to make sure you have information about the puppy. This holds true, whether you are going to a shelter or to a breeder. With shelter pups it could be a little more difficult if they were surrendered with little information about them, but any information you can get about them should help you determine what you might be getting when adopting that pup. If you go to a breeder, make sure the breeder has done their due diligence for that particular breed. You should be able to get background information on the parents and their health. If in the area ask to meet them so that you can see what they are like, genetics can play a large role in what a puppy will be like. Information is key to finding a puppy that is right for you.

If one puppy is hard, getting siblings, or two puppies at the same time, is ten times more difficult. They become dependent on each other, and you will have a harder time training them. If you think you would like two dogs, wait until the first puppy is older before getting another.



Old Dog vs Puppy Expectations: One of the things we like to tell puppy parents is to remember that they have a baby. Puppies don't know what is expected of them – at this point, you have to teach them! We hear the phrase “well my old dog...”, the problem is... that was your old dog; they knew all the rules, and they mellowed with age. A puppy is a blank slate, you have to teach them those same rules. Your old dog didn't know anything to begin with either, but we more often remember what they were like when they were 8 years old, rather than what it was like to bring them home as an 8-week-old puppy. Every dog is different, even if they are the same breed, even if they are littermates. You don't expect human siblings to be clones of each other so why would you expect that of puppies? Work with and train the puppy you have, not the puppy you think you should have.

The instructors of Homer Dog Trainers have lots of information and knowledge about dogs of all types and ages. If you have any questions about general dog information or classes please feel free to email us anytime at homerdogtrainers@gmail.com.

Casey and Pat Moss

Homer Dog Trainers Instructors

HAF Rovers

One of the easiest ways to donate to Homer Animal Friends is to keep an eye out around town for our donation jars, or Rovers, as we call them. These donations are used towards funding our local spay and neuter programs. One of our Board Members collects these donations monthly to start helping pets and pet owners immediately. Through October 2023, we've received \$1,839 in donations this way! Whether it's loose change or more if you can, every penny makes a difference, and we appreciate it.

Thank you to these local businesses who partner with us to give you an easy way to donate.

Rovers can be found at several locations in Homer.



Ulmers



Save U More

**Coal Point
Gear Shed
Animal Shelter
Bear Creek Winery
Wagon Wheel
Captain's Coffee**



HAF Store



Nomar

If you are a local business owner and are interested in sponsoring a Rover at your business, please email us at homeranimals@gmail.com.

Thank you for your donations in 2023!

Membership and Donations

2023 New Members

Kristin Roberts	Dakota Truitt	Jill Burnham	William Fisher
Karen Kelley	Melissa Carlin	Chelsea Marsh	Grace Kann
Leslie Mastic	Jakob Richter	Doug Loshbaugh	Lawrence Radcliffe
Christian Graupe	Theresa Ross	Sheryl Baechler	Judith Kramer
Amy Stonorov	Sarah Bolton	Christy Caryl	Christine Brubaker
Ginger Moore	Penny Cramer	Jessica Gallagher	Carolyn Norton
Kelli Peirce	Megan Reeves	Evelyn Seguela	Lyndsey Fears
Evalinda DeVita	Janet Fisk	RJ Langman	Erin Murphy
Gary Brandenburg	Wendy Ann Jones	Rachel Doan	Karen Hovermale
Kristina Schlotman	Anna Buenting	Tania Spurkland	Marilyn Sigman
Tanner Heil	Connie Knufsen	Laurel Baird	Heather Van Ostrand
April Martin	Sam Schloesser	Stephanie Johnson	Satchel Pondolfino
Robert King	Erin Stevens	Benita Raymond	Harley Wells
Ken Pritikin	Georganna Baker	Ariana Davis	Barbara Harris
Lesa Klancher	Karina Marette	Julie Matsuoka	Xochitl Harbison
Lorraine Haas	Jill Herbert	Nolan Bunting	Rachel Prouse
Vanessa Fuson	Linda Jabas	Ian Hewins	Kelly Kinder
Galen Lyon	Ivy McClure	Lisa Reinhart	Rachael Woolard
Brianna Wise	Haley Chappell	Sharon Strutz-Norton	Leanne Stern
Mary French	Kate Finn	Kim Duggar	Faye Comingore
Megan Connelly	Jamie Alpe	Loretta Bly	Julianne Turner
	Dawn Brooks	Brook Connolly	
Clover & Michael Hilty	Marlene & Mike Fizette	Katie Dimond & Nick Capuzzi	
Thomas & Michelle Love	Emma & Jeff Mayfield	Kevin & Lauren Corcoran	
Julia & Karl Stoltzfus	Rob & Michelle Klemke	Larry & Carol Ford	
Michael & Christina De La Torre		Sharon Brooks & Rob Lund	

We currently have 251 active members,
97 of them are new members for 2023!

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Membership and Donations Continued

Three Paw Members

Jill & Phil Rogul

Guy & June Morgan

Tracie Whitaker

Andy Rose

Diana Carbonnell

Irene Meyer

Jane Handy & Ole Anderson

The Todd Family

Bonnie Betley

Brenda Hays

Mike & Mary Huff

Cathy & Mike McCarthy

Jeff & Susan Welsh-Smith

Theresa Ross

Dan and Cindy Weatherly

Cameale Johnson

Kathy Dube

Cris Beaudoin

Shellie & Bill Warsfold

Four Paw Members

Danielle Wythe

Melissa Elerick

Richard Leirer

Sandy Cronland & Billy Day

Gifts To Special Loved Ones

In Memory of

Ane Mane

Barbara E. Walker

Ken Rowell

Itty Bitty Kitty

Mitsy

Angel

Bandit

In Honor of

Baker

Maxie, Kujo, Osa

Schoeni

Tigger

Thank you all for your support!

Pick.
Click.
Give.

Business Members



Homer Real Estate

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



HOMER
VETERINARY
CLINIC, P.C.