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Columbia Humane Society

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Following an FIP outbreak in 2006 C.H.S. was left with a large number of cats and kittens who were healthy but had been exposed to the corona virus and were thus deemed not appropriate to be housed in the shelter's cattery. Unwilling to have them euthanized, C.H.S. publicized the plight of these cats. Several were adopted by caring people from Portland and surrounding areas. Ten were taken by a couple with a small shelter in Washington. A prominent rescue group took 6 cats.

As we addressed this issue, a wonderful Portland woman named Patricia offered to help by building a new facility to house these cats. With the assistance of several contractors a Tuff Shed was insulated and outfitted with windows, cupboards, heating, and air

conditioning. Large cages were installed so the cats would have adequate room. After months of research, planning, and hard work, Patricia's Place opened in October 2007 with the ability to house up to 16 cats. Because of the serious concern generated by the corona virus, Patricia sought advice from local and Portland area veterinarians and arranged medical evaluations and care for the remaining cats. She was determined that these cats would receive the same quality of veterinary care as her own cats. To date blood work has been obtained and has been normal, vaccinations are current, and vet visits are made as needed.

Currently there are six residents and all are healthy, active, and doing well in their

bright new home. (See page 3 to learn more about each cat.) Patricia and her colleagues visit frequently so that each afternoon these cats are let out to play freely and CHS staff



PATRICIA'S PLACE

keeps everything bright and clean. Together we are working to ensure their health and happiness until they find forever homes.

Our hope is that after these cats are placed in good homes Patricia's Place can become a home for mother cats and kittens. The large cages and open space are ideal for this.

UPCOMING EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS

Please consider joining us for our upcoming fundraisers. You will have fun and you will be helping C.H.S. in its mission to improve the quality of life for companion animals and their people.

Bow-Wow Hour (formerly known as Yappy Hour): An opportunity for you and your dog(s) to mingle with other people and their dogs. Treats and water will be provided for dogs and owners can enjoy

their own food and beverage treats. Events will occur twice monthly through September:

Fridays at the Warren Country Inn: 5 PM - 8 PM August 8 and September 5.

Saturdays at the Varsity Restaurant in Scappoose: 5 PM - 8 PM July 26, August 23, and September 20.

Third annual **Dinner and Silent Auction** 5 p.m.-9 p.m. November 8 at the St. Helens Moose Lodge.

Barn Sale at Floeter's Attic on Highway 30 in Scappoose. On the following dates through the end of the year some estate items will be sold to benefit C.H.S.:

- August 9
- September 13
- October 4
- November 7 & 8
- December 6



SOME WONDERFUL SUCCESS STORIES

Here are some heartwarming tales from C.H.S. animals that have found good homes.

I am Pumpkin and I used to be afraid to come out of my cage in Patricia's Place. One day I was taken to Mt. Scott Veterinary Clinic so I could be socialized in order to make me more adoptable. I was scared at first but pretty soon I got to know the other cats and workers and was very comfortable. One happy day a client of the clinic met me and decided to adopt me! I am doing really well in my new forever home.



ning after I was neutered my eyes were so irritated that I rubbed ulcers on them. I was in bad shape so Patricia took me to Dove Lewis at midnight and they stabilized me. From there I went to Laurelwood Animal Hospital for intensive treatment of my eyes until they were completely healed. When I met one of the vet techs there it was love at first sight. She adopted me and changed my name to Hasani. I



love my new home where I get to run, pounce, and play with our roommate's puppy. I wake my new owner every day by

jumping on her head.



to C.H.S. very pregnant and was fostered until I had my nine babies. My foster mom kept us until the puppies were six weeks old then we all went to the shelter. The puppies were all adopted as soon as they were old enough. I had to wait a few months before my new owners found me and changed my name to Heidi. I'm now a very happy member of the family.

While I was at Patricia's Place my name was Whitey. The eve-

I was called Shelley when I came

ASK A VET

Q: WHEN IS GROOMING EXCESSIVE?

A: If you observe your pet frequently licking, scratching, biting, or pulling out tufts of hair, this may be a sign of an allergic reaction to fleas, environmental pollens, and/or certain foods. Excessive grooming may be accompanied by bald spots and weight loss due to the additional energy expended. According to

Amy Randall, diplomate in veterinary dermatology, allergies are not uncommon and can cause considerable discomfort for your pet. These are treatable conditions so you are encouraged to work with your veterinarian to learn about the nature of your pet's allergy and to develop the appropriate treatment.

I am a young calico who was abandoned when my owner moved out. Through the efforts of C.H.S. and the new tenant, I was taken to Laurelwood Animal Hospital where I was found to be in good health. I was vaccinated and spayed. Within 10 days a clinic client noticed me and took me home. I am so glad that I now have a stable, forever home of my own.



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WHEN
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THE
OTHER
WAY!



IF YOU FIND A STRAY CAT...

When you see a stray don't look the other way! There are things you can do. There may be a wait for placement in a shelter so in the meantime you can foster the cat or arrange for your vet to board it. If possible, have the cat examined to ensure that it is healthy and adoptable.

Please keep this list and consult it for organizations that can direct you to resources and help you problem solve your situation.

House of Dreams – 503-262-0763

Multnomah County Animal Control – 503-988-7387

Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon – 503-797-2606

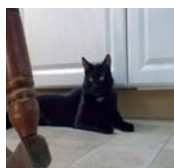
Cat Adoption Team – 503-925-8903

Animal Aid – 503-292-6628

MEET THE RESIDENTS OF PATRICIA'S PLACE

There are 6 cats currently residing in Patricia's Place. All are current on vaccinations, have been spayed or neutered, and have been examined by a vet. Some have had full blood work done indicating a healthy status.

MIDNIGHT: I am a 1-year-old, short-haired, black male with yellow-green eyes and a spot of white on my chest. I am very affectionate and full of energy. I am friendly with other cats and children and probably okay with dogs but don't know for sure since I have not met any.



Midnight

BLACKIE: I am Midnight's brother and I like chasing him around! We jump and tumble and play and we would love to be adopted together, if possible. I get along well with other cats. I have long hair with a brownish tint to my "mane" and unique orange eyes. I am sweet natured and very curious.



Blackie

BLACK BOY: I am the third brother so I am a year old, also. I have yellow-green eyes and long hair with a brownish "mane". I am gentle and very affectionate but a bit shy at first. I would love to sit on your lap so you can pet me. I was fostered with Grey Girl and we would like to stay together. We get along with other cats with only a little hissing.



Black Boy

GREY GIRL: I am a sweet, beautiful, 1-year-old, female dilute calico with green eyes and luxurious long hair. I am gentle, curious, and a bit shy, though I do warm up to people and other cats pretty easily.



Grey Girl

My favorite activity is looking out the window and watching the birds.

SPOOKY: I am a handsome, 2-year-old, black male with long hair and green eyes. I used to be afraid to leave my cage but now I hop out and play with everyone! I

am sensitive and a little timid at first (hence my name) but I warm up when I get to know you. I love nudging your face and flopping on my side so you can pet me.



Spooky

SCRUFFY: I am the senior citizen in the group, probably 10-12 years old. Despite years of neglect before I came to Patricia's Place I am in good general health. My blood work is normal but over the years I lost most of my teeth so I need to eat soft food. I have lots of spunk and spirit and love to curl up in my cozy bed or a special hideaway. I am a short-haired, brown tiger tabby with yellow eyes. I would prefer to be the only cat in the house but am fine with people. I have even been known to sit on a lap for a while.



Scruffy



DON'T SHOP, ADOPT

FELINE CORONA VIRUS UPDATE

A majority of cats living in shelters or multiple-cat households (more than 10) will have been exposed to the corona virus at some time during their lives. The corona virus is typically spread by infected feces, which means that the litter box is the usual place where it may be contracted. The virus enters the cat's body via the nose and mouth. The majority of cats that are exposed to the corona virus will spontaneously clear the virus or never develop any symptoms of disease. However, in a small

minority of cats (estimated at less than 3%) the virus may mutate and cause feline infectious peritonitis (FIP). FIP is a debilitating and fatal disease. Cats with a compromised immune system are most at risk of developing FIP. This is why kittens and older cats are considered at greatest risk.

Rhonda Weiss of the Cat Adoption Team in Sherwood, Oregon explains

to new adoptive owners that there is a 1-2% chance of any kitten adopted from their cattery developing FIP due to the likelihood of prior exposure to the corona virus. She encourages owners to be alert to symptoms such as GI distress, lethargy, and any signs of infection. Of course, such symptoms may be caused by other conditions as well, so owners are encouraged to consult their veterinarian.

(Continued on page 4)

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Helping friends find each other since 1985.

NEW SHELTER HOURS

Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday 12 noon-6 p.m.

Sunday and Monday Closed

ABOUT US

The Columbia Humane Society is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for companion animals. We do this mainly through education and the operation of a non-profit, no-kill shelter in St. Helens where we house dogs and cats (and the occasional guinea pig) awaiting adoption. They are socialized while with us and their health is monitored. Baseline immunizations are given and spay/neuter surgery costs are included in the adoption fee.

Since we receive no government support we are funded solely by shelter income, fundraising efforts, private foundation grants, and donations from concerned and generous people like you. We serve all of Columbia County as well as other areas of Oregon and SW Washington as we are able.

(Continued from page 3)

According to veterinarian Marla McGeorge, as cited in Deborah Wood's November 20, 2007 column in the Oregonian, it may be that cats exposed to the corona virus who never develop symptoms may, in fact, be more resilient than others. This may be a sign of a healthy, robust immune system which will continue through the cat's life. These cats are no more likely to develop FIP than any other cat.

The corona virus is universal. According to Dr. Robert Franklin, diplomate in veterinary internal medicine, if all of the cats in a shelter environment were tested for the corona virus titer (one indicator of exposure to the virus) a majority of cats would show some elevation. He cautions, "A titer level alone is not a valid or reliable indicator of infection." He encourages owners to look for obvious symptoms and request a complete blood panel for a more thorough assessment.

In summary, there is no need to panic if your cat has been exposed to the corona virus and no need to be afraid to adopt one that has been exposed; in most cases this is safe. Work with your veterinarian if you have concerns and consider the available options for a more thorough assessment. If you are informed and responsible you have no more to fear than with any other condition your cat might develop in its lifetime. You and your feline can rest easy at night!

WISH LIST

Bleach*	Copy paper*	Stamps*
Disinfectant wipes	Scrub pads	Disposable gloves
Febreze	Scrub brushes	Dish soap
Hand sanitizer	Q-tips	Spray disinfectant
Liquid hand soap	Large stainless steel trash can	
Laundry detergent*	Medium & large trash bags	
Disposable gowns and shoe covers		

*Urgent ongoing need

HOW YOU CAN HELP

C.H.S. is always looking for volunteers. You can walk dogs, play with cats and kittens, help with cleaning, assist with office tasks, or help with fundraising. We are in urgent need of more foster homes for cats and kittens. There are so many things you can do that will be rewarding for you and such a help to us!

If you are able to help please call the office at 503-397-4353 and tell the staff what you would like to do.

