



# CHS CHATTER

Helping Friends Find Each Other Since 1985



DECEMBER 2009

[www.ColumbiaHumane.org](http://www.ColumbiaHumane.org)

## Welcome New Staff!

Lorraine Callard  
*Director*

Dawn Mabie and  
Dave Nolan  
*Catteries Workers*



## CHS Board Members

Skip Cook  
*President*

Meredith Moore  
*Vice President*

Gloria Ernst  
*Treasurer*

Stefanie Gunderson  
*Secretary*

Sally Ann Marson  
Anne Herrick  
Lewis Fowler

Michelle Fudge-Snow  
Randy Perrin  
John Thibeau



Shelter Hours  
**Tuesday – Saturday**  
**11:00am – 5:00pm**

Phone  
**(503) 397-4353**

Fax  
**(503) 397-0355**

Email  
**chs\_director@  
opusnet.com**

Mail  
**CHS - Director**  
**2084 Oregon Street**  
**St. Helens, OR 97051**

## Dear CHS members, supporters and animal advocates:

2009 has been a challenging year for the Columbia Humane Society. As with most families and small businesses, CHS has also been struggling to meet its commitments in the face of world economic uncertainty. Despite these challenges, we have been able to find homes for over 300 furry friends this year and we still have 20-40 arriving each month. Please take advantage of our annual "Home for the Holidays" special pricing if your hearts and homes have room for just one more.

We would like to thank all those who generously donated their time and/or money to support CHS' efforts this year. We could not and cannot serve the needs of our community without this support. We have increased the number of event opportunities this year (2-4 per month) to raise public awareness, with much success. We are continuing to make improvements at the shelter in order to better serve the community and our furry dependents. Unfortunately, we expect that 2010 will be an even more challenging year. We will continue to count on the generosity of the community and, along with a dedicated staff and Board, we will successfully meet these challenges.

**Have a Merry Christmas** and **Wonderful New Year!**

*Sincerely,*

Skip Cook and CHS Board of Directors

### Create Win, Win, Win, Win for the New Year!

It's like hitting a homerun with bases loaded!

**One** - Choose a retailer in Columbia County and purchase a \$25 gift certificate.

**Two** - Take the gift certificate to CHS and receive a tax donation receipt in exchange.

**Three** - Gift certificates are used as prizes for fundraising activities to benefit CHS.

**Four** - People, like you, win prizes at our fundraising events, throughout the year.

Local retailers **win**, you **win**, the animals at CHS **win**, and people attending events **win**.

Four runs batted in – and our four-legged friends cross home base!!

### AN EASY WAY TO GIVE TO CHS

*Do you plan to make a donation to CHS and then forget to write the check? There is a simple solution to this; become a monthly sponsor by signing up for an authorized automatic transfer. The form is available on our website and at the shelter. Just fill it out with your banking information and turn it in to the St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union. Every month the amount you specify will be transferred from your account to CHS, helping us to run the shelter and care for the animals.*

## Successful Fall Events

**Bow-Wow Hour** at Dockside Restaurant in St. Helens, where dogs and owners enjoyed a nice evening and spaghetti dinners made just for dogs. The three day **CHS Garage Sale** in Scappoose, had donated items that were sold as new treasures.

**Bingo** at the Columbia City Community Hall, where local folks enjoyed the game and fresh baked cookies.

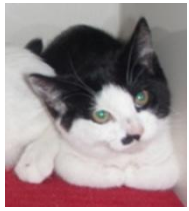
**Dogtoberfest** was a fun afternoon at the shelter with activities for dogs and costume contests with the cutest contestants. Even the shelter dogs got in on the fun thanks to the local Girl Scouts.

**Black Cat Bowl** was a nice afternoon at Oregon Trail Bowling Lanes in St. Helens, with prizes for high and low scores. **Spaghetti Feed** brought in a good crowd to the St. Helens Moose Lodge for a nice meal. **Rabies Clinic** provided low-cost vaccines for cats and dogs with the help of Dr. Gold from Midway Veterinary Hospital.

All together these events raised more than **\$4,500** for CHS. Special thanks to the fundraising committee for all their hard work! Please check out our website to view more photos from these events.



## Christmas Wishes from Our Cats and Dogs



**Dear Santa Paws** I'm Emily and I have been a very good girl this year. I'm shy but very sweet. It's been a sad year also. I'm currently healthy but have been exposed to Corona virus and therefore need a home without other cat or cats with the same virus, and indoors only. All I want for Christmas is my forever home and "my people to love" since I have lots of love to give. *Can you make my wish come true?*

**Dear Santa Paws** My name is Nala. I'm very nice and loving to people and have been waiting for a long time for "my forever family". But sometimes I am naughty, due to my lack of socialization, I can be reactive with other dogs. *All I want for Christmas is a forever home and to prove how loyal I can be to my new family.*



**Dear Santa Paws** I'm Reeses and I have been a very good girl this year. You can ask the shelter staff and visitors if you don't believe me. The gift I would like most this year is my forever home. I've been living with CHS in hopes of finding a new family since early this year, so *I'm ready to go home, to stay.*



**Dear Santa Paws** My name is Paisley. I am a very nice girl, I walk well on a lead and I love to play ball. I even bring it back. Sometimes, I get over excited which people think is naughty but my foster mom is helping with my training. You can put some toys and treats under the tree but, what *I really wish for is my own forever home.*

### Special Thank You to Volunteers!

We cannot name each of you, but there are dozens of people who dedicate many hours of their time to CHS. **You know who you are...and you are marvelous!** The shelter could not provide the extra special care for the animals without wonderful people like you. Thank you to those dedicated to caring for and loving the cats. Thank you to those that take the dogs on a walk and give them individual attention. Thank you to those who clean cat rooms and give Saturday dog baths (at CHS and AAP). Thank you to those that help with fundraising; planning events, hanging flyers, selling t-shirts, etc. Thank you to those that work with community promotions of CHS and its animals. Together you all make the Columbia Humane Society a better place for the cats and dogs until they find a forever home.



### Campaign to Help the Homeless Pets

Columbia Humane Society has joined the **2009 Iams Home 4 the Holidays** campaign to find homes for the homeless dogs and cats living in our shelter. This is the 6th year CHS has participated. Our goal is to find loving homes for all the cats and dogs in our care. Iams' goal is to adopt 1.5 million pets within these few months.

Give a shelter animal the **purrfect gift** of a new forever home. At CHS, we have many cats and kittens to choose from for cat people. There are cuddly, friendly and fun-loving dogs to pick from, ready to become a beloved member of a new family. Come by the shelter or visit our website to see who you can open your heart and home to.

### CHS ANGELS ♥ OUR FOSTER HOME CARE GIVERS

The Foster Care Program gives animals individualized care and socialization to ensure that they will be easy to place in new homes and will be adopted by families that can best meet their needs. It allows us to care appropriately for animals needing intensive care or special, no-stress conditions. The shelter provides all necessary supplies for fostering, including blankets, food, cat litter, bottles, and formula, and necessary medications. The CHS foster home provides love, attention and care.

To all foster home care givers, we appreciate your willingness to open your heart and home to homeless animals. Your dedication allows our organization to rescue animals that we would otherwise have to turn away due to lack of space in our existing foster homes or shelter. If you're interested in being a **CHS Foster Angel** please contact the shelter.



## Keep Your Pets Safe During the Holidays!

- **KEEP** tinsel and ornaments on higher branches. Ingesting tinsel and ornament pieces can block the intestines, and possibly cut or injure paws, mouth or other body parts.
- **SECURE** your tree with wire to the wall, so it won't fall over if your cat climbs on it. Pine needles, when ingested, can puncture holes in a pet's intestine. Clean up fallen needles regularly.
- **DON'T** let pets drink the tree water. Some may contain fertilizers and stagnant water harbors bacteria. Aspirin in water would put your cat's life at risk. Check artificial snow and water preservatives and buy only non-toxic.
- **PUT** lights on branches high enough not to be reached by your pet. Keep any extra lengths of wire taped to the inside wall or outside of your house. Lights are a burning hazard and if chewed on animals could get shocked.
- **PLACE** burning candles on high shelves or mantels, out of your pet's way. There is no telling where a wagging tail may end up. Fireplaces should use screens to avoid accidental burns.
- Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettia plants are **poisonous** to dogs and cats. Keep them in an area your pet cannot reach.
- Holiday guests and activities can be **very stressful** and even frightening to pets. It can also trigger illness and intestinal upset. Make sure pets have a safe place to go to in your house.
- Make sure they are wearing **current I.D.** in case they escape as guests come and go.
- Alcohol and pets **DON'T** mix. Put unattended alcoholic drinks where pets can't reach them. If ingested, animals could become very sick, weak and go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.
- **DON'T** give your pets holiday leftovers, and keep them out of the garbage. Poultry bones can splinter and cause blockages. Greasy, spicy and fatty foods can cause stomach upset. Spoiled or moldy foods could cause food poisoning, tremors, or seizures.



We wish all creatures great and small a safe new year!

### December Community Events

#### Santa Claus is Coming to Burgerville!

Tuesday, December 15 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Burgerville in St. Helens will make a **10% donation** to CHS for all purchases during that time period. Take a break from home to enjoy a great meal out, and help us care for the shelter cats and dogs!



Look for **CHS Christmas Giving Trees** to see what gifts are on our wish list. By giving these special items, you can help make next year a good one for all CHS animals! The trees are located at **All About Pets, Burgerville, St. Helens IGA, Starbucks, and CHS Shelter.**

Meet Seattle author **Alexandra Day and her dog Carl** on Saturday, December 19 at 1pm at **St. Helens Book Shop**, 2149 Columbia Blvd. See her beautifully illustrated children's books about life with a dog. A unique gift for kids of all ages.

### CATS WITH THE FLU - WHO KNEW?

Did you know that your cat could get the flu? Recently it was reported on the news that a cat had died of H1N1 flu. This sad outcome is not the usual one, as most cats seem to be able to survive with supportive care. According to the CDC website, it is known that ferrets and cats are susceptible to the H1N1 virus and it appears to be transmitted to them by nearby humans ill with the virus.

When you are ill with the flu, use the same precautions to protect your cat as you do to protect other people. Cover your coughs and sneezes and wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. The CDC recommends minimizing contact with your pets until your fever has been gone for 24 hours.

If someone in the house has the flu and your cat exhibits respiratory symptoms such as sneezing and coughing along with inactivity and/or weight loss, please consult your veterinarian.

### Special thank you to the following individuals and businesses for donating their time and services to help CHS raise funds to continue improving our care of the shelter cats and dogs!

All about Pets ♥ Burgerville ♥ Burley's Ranch Dog Training & Boarding ♥ Columbia City Community Hall  
Columbia Self Storage ♥ David Flori & Crew ♥ Dockside Restaurant ♥ Georgie Holsheimer  
Houlton Bakery ♥ Just Dogs Day Care & Training - Clare Conner and Adrienne Hardin  
Marg's Critters Care ♥ Midway Veterinary Hospital - Dr. Gold and Dr. Fowler ♥ Oregon Trail Lanes  
Pacific Northwest Federal Credit Union ♥ Patricia Clark ♥ Pumpkin Patch on Sauvie Island  
RS Media Signs - Rob Smith ♥ Snoopy's Doggie Day Care ♥ St. Helens IGA  
St. Helens Chronicle ♥ Tastefully Simple ♥ Wauna Federal Credit Union

**Please support the businesses that give to the Columbia Humane Society!**



**Columbia Humane Society**  
2084 Oregon Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051

NONPROFIT ORG.  
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ST. HELENS, OR

## Help **CHS** save **GREEN**, both Paper and Money!

Please email us your name, contact information, and member status, so we can email you our next newsletter in living color.

### Become a CHS **MEMBER!**

\$25 Individual *(all ages)*  
\$35 Family *(must live in same home)*  
\$10 Senior *(must be 55 or older)*  
\$100 Business *(recognition in newsletter)*  
Membership includes CHS newsletter, event updates, members-only specials and more!

### Become a CHS **VOLUNTEER!**

Shelter volunteers help provide food, water, brushing, love, and special attention to our cats and dogs. Volunteers also help with fund raising and public awareness events. Giving time is as important as giving dollars!

### Become a CHS **DONOR!**

Special thanks to those individuals and businesses that reached out and gave their money or services to CHS this year! We could not find forever homes for our animals without your continued love and support!

Yes, I want to help the Columbia Humane Society as a **Member • Volunteer • Donor** *(please circle at least one)*

Name(s):

Membership/Donation Amount Included: \$

Address:

City, State and Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

**Please email CHS** the above information or mail this completed form to the CHS address on the top of this page.