

# WHATCOM HUMANE SOCIETY PAW PRINT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2024

KINDNESS ♥ COMPASSION ♥ RESPECT



## The Summertime Forecast at WHS

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Here we are, halfway through the year already. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful start to summer in our little corner of the world. It's been a wild year so far, and as many of you know, late spring/early summer is the busiest time for our shelters. This year is not an



exception, and as this newsletter goes to print, we are knee-deep in "kitten season" at our Division Street Shelter and "baby season" at our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. As chaotic as things are, I must say that I feel very positive about this year so far and for what the future holds.

As uncertainty and divisiveness are found pretty much everywhere in our lives these days, it seems to be becoming increasingly difficult to engage in respectful communication with those around us. How lucky we are, then, that it's animals that bring so many of us together. A few weeks ago at our annual Gala fundraiser, I stood on stage and looked out at our 275 guests: The room was filled with a mix of people, including longtime supporters, first-time attendees, sponsors, members of the law enforcement community, veterinary clinics, and more—such a diverse group of amazing people that had come together on a Saturday night to celebrate their mutual love of animals big and small and support the mission of the Whatcom Humane Society. I can't think of another setting where this diverse of a group could come together to eat, drink, laugh, cry, laugh some more, and enjoy each other's company.

*/ Continued on pg. 2*



Whatcom Humane Society  
CARING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1902

## THE SCOOP:

**A Safe Space for Everyone:  
Working Cats Program**

PAGE 03

**Meet the 2024 Wildlife  
Rehab Center Interns!**

PAGE 04

**Upcoming Events  
& Thrift Shop Sales**

PAGE 05

**Finding & Working  
with a Dog Trainer**

PAGE 06

**New Regulations at  
the Canada-US Border**

PAGE 08



**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE**

WHS believes that all animals, as sentient beings, have value beyond economic measurements and are entitled to legal, moral, and ethical consideration and protection.

**OUR MISSION**

WHS advocates for animals; educates the community to promote humane treatment and respect for animals; and provides for abandoned, injured, abused, or neglected animals.

**OUR VISION**

A community in which all animals are treated with kindness, respect, and compassion.

**SHELTER LOCATION**

2172 Division Street  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
Phone: 360-733-2080  
Fax: 360-733-4746

**SHELTER SERVICES**

360-733-2080 ext. 0  
Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00-6:00  
Adoption Counsels Stop at 5:00  
Closed Mondays & Major Holidays

**ANIMAL CONTROL DISPATCH**

360-733-2080 ext. 3017  
Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00-6:00  
Monday: Please Call 911  
for Emergency Dispatch

**FARM FACILITY**

By Appointment Only

**WILDLIFE REHAB CENTER**

Seven Days a Week, 9:00-5:00  
Phone: 360-966-8845  
*Not Open to the Public;  
Please Call for Assistance.*

**WHS THRIFT SHOP**

1534B Birchwood Ave  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Phone: 360-543-6792

Shopping: Wed.-Sat., 10:00-5:00  
and Sun., 11:00-3:00

Donation Drop-off: Wed.-Sat.,  
10:00-4:00 and Sun., 11:00-2:30

**Message from the ED, continued from pg. 1** | There are about a million things that make animals so special, and the scenario just shared is one of them. Animals make life better. It does not matter what side of the political fence you sit on; if you live in a luxury house or in a studio apartment; if you are a Baby Boomer, Millennial, Gen X, Y or Z; if you drive a giant 4WD truck or ride a bike—watching people get to know each other by sharing their common love, respect, and compassion for animals and animal welfare issues is a truly amazing thing to see. Gathering with members of our community at these events fills me with inspiration and resolve to continue to do all I can to help domestic, farm, and wild animals in our community.

As we turn the corner to the second half of the year, our staff and volunteer teams will continue to work tirelessly to provide care, comfort, and services to animals in need. We will also continue to face tremendous challenges as our limited resources can only be stretched so far at our domestic animal shelter, our wildlife rehabilitation center, and our farm facility. The animals will continue to arrive, and as the only truly open-admission shelter in the region, we will be there to do what we can. Thankfully, our community supporters—people and businesses, service groups, animal rescue partners, and more—will also continue to do all they can to help us remain ready to respond. Because we all know that amazing feeling: The feeling when a dog who has sat in the kennels for months is finally adopted to the perfect home; the feeling when a cat who arrived at the shelter shutdown and afraid starts to snuggle and purr; the feeling when you see the horses on our farm peacefully grazing in the pasture; the feeling when you witness an owl rehabilitated by our wildlife team released to fly back into the wild. It's the BEST feeling in the world. And that is why I feel so positive moving into the busy summer months—because I know that thanks to people like you, the animals can count on our community to do all they can for them, and that is also a pretty amazing feeling.

I hope to see many of you this summer at our Division Street shelter, at one of our upcoming events, or just out-and-about enjoying the season. Thank you for helping make our community a better place for people and animals.

With Sincere Gratitude and Appreciation,  
Laura Clark, Executive Director

**YOU AUTO DONATE!**

Donate your old car, truck, boat, RV, or trailer to benefit the animals at Whatcom Humane Society! All donated vehicles must have a clean title, be running, and be able to be driven. Your donation is tax deductible and will help support all of our daily operations, including three animal care facilities!

For more information, please contact us at 360-733-2080 ext. 3014 or email [development@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:development@whatcomhumane.org)





# Create a Legacy of Compassion

Plan for the people, pets & causes you care about with WHS & FreeWill: [freewill.com/whatcomhumane](http://freewill.com/whatcomhumane)

Questions? Email us at [development@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:development@whatcomhumane.org)

**Did you know?**  
August is make-a-will month, the purrfect time to plan for the future & protect what matters to you most.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Janet Hofmann, *President*
- Kim Rice, *Vice President*
- Victoria Savage, *Treasurer/Secretary*
- Michael Berres, Dan Claffey
- Deborah Dial-Monroe, Scott Rice
- Jane Talbot, Kevin Williamson
- Stephen Zylstra

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Clark

## ADMINISTRATION

Andrea Merrill  
Julia Pollock

## ANIMAL CARE & SHELTER SERVICES

- Mark Henry, *Shelter Services Supervisor*
- Amy Wilkinson, *Behavior Specialist and Animal Care Supervisor*
- Gabby Whitehall, *Animal Care Supervisor*
- Hayley Vanderveen, *Animal Care Supervisor*
- Leila Parnell, *Animal Care Supervisor*
- Sawyer Lanto, *Foster Care Coordinator*
- Zoe Bartsch, Emma Bocook
- Kate Hawley, Ben Hayes
- Allison Lukas, Shannon Lux
- Becca Martin, Victoria Meadowlark
- Haylie Northouse, Chandler Privitt
- Gwendolyn Stone, Shyanne Thomas

## WILDLIFE REHAB SERVICES

- Alysha Evans, *Manager, Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitator, L.V.T.*
- Rachel Costello, *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Ashley Austin, Hanna Cillo
- Renata Luders, Annie Mueller
- Anna Schwabe

## ANIMAL CONTROL & RESCUE/FIELD SERVICES

- Paul Evans, *Manager*
- Kyle Berger, *Supervisor*
- Kate Chandler, *Dispatch*
- Carrie Anderson, Kelsey Fast
- Nate Flowers, Shelby Myhre

## FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

Dana Berger

## FUNDRAISING/DEVELOPMENT

Paige España, *Manager*

## HUMANE EDUCATION

Alaina Rhodes

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Auna Carter, *Manager*

## VETERINARY SERVICES

- Karen Rounds, *DVM*
- Sarah Hansen, *Vet Assistant*

## THRIFT SHOP

- Dana Browne, *Manager*
- Jo Williams, Letizia Bryan

# Whatcom Humane Society's Working Cats Program



The Whatcom Humane Society's Working Cats Program places healthy semi-feral, feral, and non-socialized adult cats with adopters looking for cats not suited for indoor-only living environments.

### Benefits

- Provides natural pest population control
- Ideal for barns, stables, warehouses, ranches, wineries, churches, etc.
- Provides previously homeless animals with a safe place to live and helps reduce the number of cats euthanized in shelters

### Requirements

- Completed and approved WHS adoption application
- Cats must be adopted in pairs if there are no resident working cats on the property
- Adopters must provide food, water, and shelter year-round as well as any necessary veterinary care
- Adopters will need to allow 2-4 weeks for cats to acclimate to their new space



Contact:  
Working Cat Coordinator  
[workingcats@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:workingcats@whatcomhumane.org)  
(360) 733-2080 ext. 0  
For an adoption application visit  
[www.whatcomhumane.org](http://www.whatcomhumane.org)

### What we provide

Working cats adopted from WHS will receive:

- Spay/Neuter Surgery
- Ear tip
- Microchip
- Initial FVRCP Vaccination
- 1-year Rabies Vaccination
- Flea Treatment (30 day)
- Dewormer
- FIV/FelV Testing

WHS will provide adopters with instructions on how to transition working cats into their new environment.

### Adoption Fees

- \$25 - Single Cat
- \$40 - Pair
- Interested in adopting 3 or more working cats? Great!
- \$20 Per Cat





# Meet the Summer '24 Wildlife Rehab Center Interns

Each spring and summer, the WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center welcomes interns from around the country. These interns spent 12 weeks learning all aspects of wildlife rehabilitation. *Their assistance is invaluable.* Read below to meet a few of the wonderful and talented interns calling the wildlife center home this summer. For more information about the WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, including internship opportunities, please visit [whatcomhumane.org/wildlife](http://whatcomhumane.org/wildlife).



Mora

Hi everyone, my name is Mora! I grew up in Redmond, Washington and moved to Bellingham five years ago to study at Fairhaven College through Western Washington University. I am so thankful I grew up in the Salish Seas Region. I have learned about the natural world from the peaks of mountains to the bottom of the sea floor. I started interning at the Wildlife Rehab Center as a way to give back to the community and environment I love. In addition, I recently remembered that as a child it was a goal of mine to work with animals when I was older, and being here is awakening that part of myself. My favorite part of the internship is how unpredictable each day is. Every day, I walk in ready to expect the unexpected. As I continue through the summer, I am looking forward to the new skills I will learn.

Hi, I'm Julianna/Jules! Home is Detroit, Michigan, but I'm currently a rising junior in the Honors Program at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where I'm studying neuroscience and music on the pre-vet track. I started working with animals through showing rabbits and horses in 4H, and that quickly expanded to showing all large animals in ARBA and MIHA. Later, I volunteered at various local humane societies for domestics and the Toledo Zoo in their herpetology, aquarium, and visitor education departments. I've dreamed since I was little of becoming a zoo vet, but I could also see myself going back to my roots with large animals. My absolute favorite thing about working with animals is getting to see their unique personalities and little quirks. In my free time, you'll find me at the gym, reading, hiking and stepping in every mud puddle I find, or, when I'm at school, hanging out in a practice room with my cello.



Jules



Kim

Hello! I'm Kim, and I'm from Blue Ridge, Georgia. I am interested in working with animals, and I saw this internship as an opportunity to learn about animals I have never encountered or worked with before. At the moment, I really love taking care of the baby mammals, but the best part of it all is going on release trips and seeing animals back where they belong in the wild. I am really looking forward to seeing the seal pups when they arrive later in the summer. I look forward to learning about new animals and getting to know everyone as well!

Hi! My name is Autumn. I am from Ashland, Virginia, and I'm currently a rising junior at Bridgewater College. I am a member of the field hockey team and am a biology major. A little fun fact about me is that I love birds! I have never traveled west and thought this was the perfect opportunity to do so. I started my internship in May and have loved every minute of it! My favorite part so far has been assisting with exams and working with our otter pups. I am looking forward to learning how to work with marine mammals later in the summer. Once graduated, I would like to either attend graduate school for my doctorate or pursue my Veterinary Technician license. I would like to conduct research at some point in my career, specifically with raptors. I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity that the Whatcom Humane Society has provided my fellow interns and me!



Autumn



# Upcoming WHS Events

Mark your calendars for a some doggone awesome annual fundraisers and community events coming up this summer and beyond! Visit our website and social media pages for more info.

**DOG DAYS OF SUMMER FESTIVAL**  
 Sunday, August 25  
 WHS Division Street Shelter Field  
 11:00-3:00  
**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!**

**SIPS & SUDS: BEER, WINE & CIDER SOCIAL**  
 Friday, September 27  
 Fisherman's Pavilion  
 6:30-8:30

For information about WHS sponsorship opportunities, please contact Development Manager Paige España at 360-733-2080 ext. 3014 or [development@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:development@whatcomhumane.org).

**DONATE ♥ TODAY TO SUPPORT**

Whatcom Humane Society  
CARING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1902

**SIZZLING SUMMER SALES @ THE WHS THRIFT STORE!**

**THURSDAYS:**  
 50% off all clothing, including hats, shoes, and scarves.

**FRIDAYS:**  
 50% off DVDs, CDs, games and puzzles.

**SATURDAYS:**  
 50% off kitchen & linens.

**SUNDAYS:**  
 10% off for all seniors.

**SHOPPING HOURS:**  
 Wed-Sat, 10-5  
 and Sun 11-3

**DONATION DROP-OFF:**  
 Wed-Sat: 10-4  
 and Sun 11-2:30

1534 Birchwood Ave.  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 360-543-6792  
[whatcomhumane.org](http://whatcomhumane.org)



# Spotting the Cues: Finding & Working with a Dog Trainer

SIX ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING FOR A TEACHER FOR YOU & YOUR PUP

WRITTEN BY LAUREL SAVILLE, CPDT, AAB-UW / LAURELSAVILLE.COM



When you thought about having a dog, you likely pictured a calm, well-mannered companion who never jumped on guests, begged at the table, got into the garbage, counter-surfed, barked at strangers, chewed your shoes, or chased the cat. You probably also imagined a best buddy who always came when called, strode calmly at your side on neighborhood walks, snuggled on the sofa with you for movie nights, and had a repertoire of tricks to impress your friends.

Then you got a real life dog. And things probably turned out a little differently. You tried to train Baker to keep his paws on the floor, to come when called—but it seems like he only pays attention to your cues sometimes and never when it's really important to you. So, you talked to a neighbor, got a book, scrolled through some YouTube videos and ended up confused by all the conflicting advice. You decide it's time for professional help. And again, you are faced with a minefield of competing and confusing ideas, approaches, gear, and lingo. You're not at fault for feeling this way: The dog training industry is a bit of a mess these days.

What the typical dog guardian does not know is that dog training is a completely unregulated industry. Anyone can pop up a website, print out some business cards, post a few flyers, and call themselves a dog trainer—even if they have zero education, experience, or credentials in the field. Unfortunately, plenty of people are doing just this, claiming to be a dog trainer and charging full market rates in spite of having no education, experience, or credentials in learning theory, behavior science, reinforcement mechanics, animal psychology, or how to educate humans about their dogs.

Fortunately, Whatcom County is also home to plenty of trainers who have invested substantial time, energy, and money into acquiring and maintaining professional standards of education, credentials, and operations. Take a look at the accompany list on page 7 for several ways to ensure you find these qualified and competent teachers.

All of this may sound like an awful lot of work just to teach your dog to come when called and stop jumping on guests. For many people, a simple group class or good guide book may give you all the guidance you need. But if you want to go beyond the basics, if your dog has existing or developing behavior problems, and if you want to deepen your understanding and enrich your relationship with your dog, a professional dog trainer can be an invaluable investment. They'll help you become your dog's best friend and best guardian so you can have the best life possible, together.

# SPOTTING THE CUES: FINDING & WORKING WITH A DOG TRAINER

CONTINUED FROM PG. 6



## 1 LOOK FOR PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Accredited dog trainers will publicize their accomplishments. Look for letters after their name. CPDT stands for Certified Professional Dog Trainer through the Association of Professional Dog Trainers. It requires hundreds of hours of experience, ongoing professional education, and a recommendation from an accredited dog professional. KPA stands for Karen Pryor Academy, the most rigorous and respected dog training academy in the world. There are others, but these are two of the most rigorous and respected certifications. Feel free to ask a prospective trainer about these and other credentials. If they have them—and truly earned them—they'll be happy to tell you all about it.

## 2 UNDERSTAND THEIR TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

Reward-based, positive reinforcement training is the answer you are looking for. This approach is the only scientifically tested, psychologically sound, professionally approved system used by true animal care professionals, whether they're working with exotics in zoos, marine mammals in a research facility, or with you and your fluffy puppy. Positive reinforcement training is fun, effective, safe, and builds a powerful bond of communication and respect between you and your dog. Think about your own learning experiences. Which ones were the best and most memorable? I bet they were with teachers who encouraged and applauded your efforts to learn, grow, and overcome obstacles. Training approaches that rely on punishment—such as prong collars, e-collars, leash jerks, etc.—can create compliance and submission, but through fear, not choice. These methods have been shown to increase stress and shut down all kinds of behaviors. At best, this means your dog may be “obedient,” but will also be less likely to try new things, have less personality, and may be less interested in engaging with you at all; at worst, your dog may become fearful and aggressive.

## 3 FIND SOMEONE WHO IS A GOOD HUMAN TRAINER

Many people become dog trainers because they're really good at, you know, training dogs. But most dog trainers have to spend their days teaching humans how to train their dogs, which is a very different discipline. Teaching a dog to do something in response to a verbal, physical, or environmental cue is pretty straightforward. Humans on the other hand...Our big brains and abundant emotions along with typically big feelings about our dogs can make us difficult students. The best dog trainers are those who understand both canines and primates.

## 4 CONSIDER WHETHER YOU NEED A “BEHAVIORIST” INSTEAD OF A TRAINER

“Dog training” as a discipline is primarily focused on teaching a dog to follow cues. To do what they are told. It's a one-way form of communication. And that's okay. To keep our dogs safe in a world we have designed and built to accommodate humans, following cues is essential for a dog's safety. However, many dogs have developed habits or behaviors that their humans want to stop or change, such as being reactive on the lead, aggressive towards humans or other animals, or afraid of being left alone. In these situations, it's much more helpful to work with someone who has education, training, and experience in animal behavior and modification. A dog behavior consultant will certainly use dog training techniques as part of their overall plan but will primarily focus on addressing why the dog is behaving the way they are. For example, a dog trainer might show you how to distract your reactive dog by having them focus on you instead of the other dog. A behaviorist will focus more on how to help your dog overcome the fear or frustration that is causing the behavior. Behaviorists or behavior-focused dog trainers should have additional professional education and/or credentials and often focus their practice on specific clusters of behavioral issues, like separation anxiety or aggression.

## 5 ASK AROUND

Anyone can put up a website larded with positive comments. If you ask for references, you'll only get good ones. So, ask neighbors and friends, your veterinarian, dog walker, etc., about which trainers they like and why, but also which ones they don't like and why. You can join dog-centric social media groups and check out the list of approved trainers on the WHS website. Keep in mind that the most popular trainer in town may not be the best for you. Approach finding a trainer as you would any other consultant. You want someone who is professionally qualified, but also temperamentally sympatico.

## 6 TAKE NOTES

Think about your goals. What do you want your dog to know how to do? What are the “problem behaviors” you want to address? If you're trying to fix a mystery behavior, gather as much information as you can to share with your behavior consultant. Include things like medical conditions along with recent lifestyle changes or contextual patterns, such as time of day, location, and other things happening simultaneously in the environment.



## New Regulations for Travelers with Dogs Crossing the Canada-United States Border

THE NEW REQUIREMENTS WILL TAKE EFFECT ON AUGUST 1




Beginning August 1, there will be new requirements for dogs entering the United States from Canada (and other countries). The full information has not been released yet, but we want to alert dog owners who regularly cross the border with their dogs that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is making these changes to reduce the risk of reintroducing canine rabies to the United States. We recommend speaking with your veterinarian and reviewing information posted on the CDC website for updates: <https://cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs.html>

**STAY CONNECTED WITH WHS**


Learn more about us:  
[whatcomhumane.org](http://whatcomhumane.org)

Get the latest updates:  




  
[@whatcomhumanesociety](https://www.instagram.com/whatcomhumanesociety)

Sign up for WHS e-news:  
Visit our website or email [administration@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:administration@whatcomhumane.org)

Lend us a hand:  
 Leave a pawitive review on Google, Facebook & Yelp

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok and receive updates on our animal care centers, thrift shop, upcoming events, and more, as well as the latest info on animal-related topics in our community.

Please also consider leaving us a positive review on Google, Facebook, and Yelp to share all the awesome things that WHS does for animals and people!

Want to receive the latest WHS news via email? **Sign up to join our e-newsletter list!** Send a message to [administration@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:administration@whatcomhumane.org).

 **Pet Loss Support** 

Provided by the Whatcom Humane Society

Our monthly, in-person support group provides a safe place for connecting grieving pet owners with experienced facilitators and other resources. Whether you are currently suffering loss or are anticipating loss, we encourage you to join us. Volunteer counselors offer support and resources to help those who have been touched by:

- The loss of a pet
- Anticipating the death of a pet
- Dealing with the difficult decision of euthanasia
- Having suffered from a lost or stolen pet
- Wondering when/if they are ready for another pet

For more information, please email us at [outreach@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:outreach@whatcomhumane.org) or call us at 360-733-2080 ext. 3116



For a complete list of resources, please visit [www.whatcomhumane.org/resources](http://www.whatcomhumane.org/resources)

**First Wednesday of every month  
6:00PM - Sessions typically last one hour.  
FREE to attend.  
Registration is not required.**

**Whatcom Humane Society  
Multipurpose Room  
2172 Division St. Bellingham, WA 98226**