



FOREVER HOME

Camano Animal Shelter Newsletter

Issue 3
Fall, 2010

Volume 4

CASA Mission Statement:

The mission of CASA is to find loving Forever Homes for all of our healthy adoptable animals. We strive to provide quality care and service to the animals and people of our community while encouraging and promoting responsible pet ownership.

Message from the Shelter Manager

As many know, CASA helps more than just the animals that come to our shelter. Each day we are met with new pet owners needing help. We work hard to not only care for the animals at the shelter, but we also work on keeping pets out of the shelter that really do not need to be there. Many people call the shelter with the thought of giving up a pet because of easily corrected behavior issues. Many times we are able to suggest minor changes that end up making a big impact and allow those owners to keep their pets.

With the poor economy, people also call when they have trouble providing food for their pets. We are fortunate, through generous public donation, to be able to give food to these people while they get back on their feet. We are currently expanding our outreach through the design of our new website which will be up and running soon. The new website will feature all of our available pets, services our shelter offers, ways you can help CASA, an event calendar, feral cat help links, virtual shelter tour, information on animal assistance offered by organizations, and more. We are excited knowing this wonderful new tool for the community will soon be available.

Tegan Locker
Shelter Manager



THREE LITTLE KITTENS

In May, three little kittens came to CASA. Although each kitten's story is unique, each one serves as a microcosm of life at CASA. Kitten season is always a busy time at CASA and this year was no exception. These kittens were brought to CASA in a small cardboard box along with eleven others. The 14 kittens, ranging in age from 1 1/2 weeks to 2 weeks were obviously from different litters. Volunteers were immediately called to come in and help the staff bottle feed all of the new arrivals during the work day until they could be evaluated and foster homes found for them.

Several days before, the staff had heard of a possible surrogate mother cat named Flower. She had tragically lost her own kittens days before and, most importantly, she was still producing milk. A quick phone call was made and one of the CASA staff members drove off to pick up Flower. As soon as she arrived at the shelter she was examined for basic health issues, flea treated, and FeLV tested. After her FeLV test proved negative the staff immediately started introducing her to the



Foster mom Flower and some of the foster kittens.

kittens. Only a small number of the orphaned kittens could be placed with her at one time to see if she would accept them. Fortunately, Flower responded well to each and every one of the kittens. She did not reject a single one. Flower could only properly feed and nourish 7 of them, so 7 of the smallest ones were selected and placed with her. Flower and those kittens went to a local foster home where she proceeded to care for and raise them. The remaining 7 kittens were divided among bottle feeding foster homes.

The three little kittens of our story, a male and female Seal Point Siamese mix and a female Domestic Short Hair Grey kitten were named Owen, Olivia and Olive and went to the
(Continued on Page 2, "Three Little Kittens")



Olivia

In This Issue:

- Shelter Manager Message 1
- Three Little Kittens 1
- Three Little Kittens, cont'd 2
- Did You Know? 2
- CASA Alumni 3
- Elvis' Story 4
- Tessa's Story 4
- Frequently Asked Questions About FeLV 5
- CASA Membership-What Does It Mean? 6
- 2010 CASA Auction 6
- CASA Wish List 7
- CASA Animals Currently In Need of Homes 8

CASA Web Site:

www.camanoanimalshelter.org

CASA E-Mail:

casa@camanoanimalshelter.org



(Continued from Page 1, "Three Little Kittens")

shelter manager Tegan's home. Fostering kittens this small requires bottle feeding them with kitten replacement milk every three to four hours all through the day and night. Each one of the three went to the foster home with fleas and the start of Upper Respiratory Infections (URI's). They also were developing intestinal problems. They were wormed earlier than usual and put on a regimen of antibiotics and yogurt to help with their health issues. They were given immune boosting supplements and extra feedings in an effort to get their weights up. All three seemed to be improving, even quiet little Owen.



Play time for Olive and Owen.

CASA Board Members

- President:**
Martha Huyler
- Vice-President:**
Tom Curtis
- Treasurer:**
Cathy Massimino
- Secretary:**
Mary Timmol
- Member at Large:**
Shari Estep

CASA Staff

- Manager:**
Tegan Locker
- Asst Manager:**
Cherie Lovell
- Staff Members:**
Aimee Brashear
Justine Doggett
Sheri Rhoads

Newsletter Staff

- Connie Parker
Martha Huyler

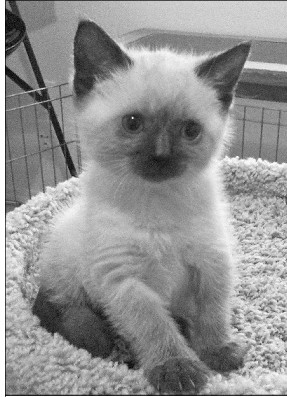
During one early morning feeding, the foster mom noticed that Olivia, who had always been the spunkiest of the 3, seemed a bit less energetic than normal and really didn't take to the bottle. After it became clear that Olivia needed to be seen by a veterinarian, she was rushed to the nearest vet clinic where the foster mom learned that Olivia had irreversible internal damage and there was nothing anyone could do to help her get better.

The foster mom made the difficult decision to end her pain and afterwards took her home where she was laid to rest in the backyard in a spot marked by a sleeping cat figurine. The hard reality of fostering is that even if you give all of yourself and do everything you can to raise healthy kittens, sometimes they have hidden ailments or just fail to thrive.

The remaining kittens, Owen and Olive, continued to improve and fatten up and were FeLV tested once they were old enough. When the test results came back the staff members were shocked; Owen was negative, but Olive was positive. These blood tests detect the virus that causes FeLV. Owen and Olive were separated because FeLV is most commonly contracted by saliva, e.g., eating and drinking from the same bowl or grooming each other. Owen was old enough to be neutered at that time and soon he was placed into a loving adoptive home.

Meanwhile Olive stayed behind in her foster home until enough time had passed so that she could be retested. As is sometimes the case, this time the test came back negative and Olive was cleared for adoption. She too has found her "Forever Home". She ended up going to the same home as Owen went to live. They were reunited.

Although difficult to relate, these stories illustrate the joys, heartbreak, satisfaction, hope, and dedication that come with kitten season at CASA. Each and every volunteer who takes on the difficult task of fostering kittens is greatly appreciated and needed badly to nurture these helpless infants to grow and eventually be adopted into their own "Forever Home".



Owen



Olive

Physical Address:
198 Can Ku Road
Camano Island, WA
98282

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1726
Stanwood, WA
98292

Phone:
360-387-1902

Hours:
Wed - Fri 11 - 3
Sat 11 - 4
Sun 11 - 3
Mon & Tues Closed

Did You Know?

So far in 2010 we have taken in 319 dogs and cats. Some of these are still at the shelter but the vast majority have already been adopted, sent to rescues or to NOAH (primarily un-weaned kittens to avoid overcrowding).

	Total	Stray/ Other*	Surrender	Impound	Found Home	Returned to Owner
Cats	202	152	50		165	3
Dogs	117	60	35	22	64	45
Total	319	212	85	22	229	48

Fortunately 45 dogs were returned to their owners. *We occasionally take dogs from other shelters if they have been already spayed/neutered and they have a better chance of being adopted from CASA. In addition to these animals, we are grateful that we have been able to help many more pets stay out of a shelter by providing food, basic advice, tips on curbing behavior and encouraging the use of available public resources.

Mark Your Calendar!

CASA AUCTION

“Finding Forever Homes”

Saturday, November 6th
5:30PM to 9:30PM

Camano Community & Senior Center

Santa Pictures

Saturday, November 13th
10AM - 4:30PM

Skagit Farmer’s Country Store

Lights of Love

November - December
Copy This - Mail That

Annual Meeting

Monday, December 6th
7PM - 8:30PM at the Camano Center

**THANK YOU
BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

- AWR Inc. / General Contractor
- Bee Bookkeeping and Income Tax Services
- Blackbird Cafe
- Camano Body Shop, Inc.
- Camano Island Pet Grooming Salon
- Camano Mold, Inc.
- Camano Storage
- Camano Veterinary Clinic
- Canine Cozy Care Resort, LLC
- Cat Nap Inn, LLC
- CCR Camano Resort
- Community Plumbing Services, Inc.
- Curves of Stanwood/Camano Island
- Do-It-Yourself Legal
- Dog Style Grooming
- Glass Tech Stanwood, Inc.
- Invisible Fence of the Northwest
- Krista’s Pet Spaw
- Mark’s Camano Pharmacy
- Paws ‘n’ Claws Pet Transport
- Pet Neuter and Vaccination Clinic
- Scandia Coffeehouse & Eatery
- Terry W. Greer, Inc. P.S.
- TimLabs
- Ultimate Arch Orthotics
- Windermere Real Estate

BUSINESSES—DONATION BOXES!

The local businesses who display our donation collection boxes are appreciated!

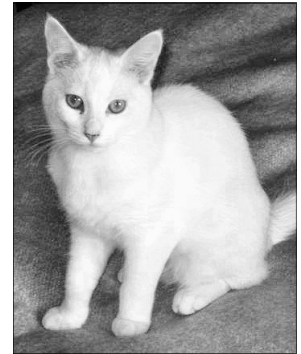
Featured location this period:

The Spare Room

CASA Alumni



Rama & Sune Pettersson adopted in April, 2010.



Clohe Boushey adopted in November, 2009.



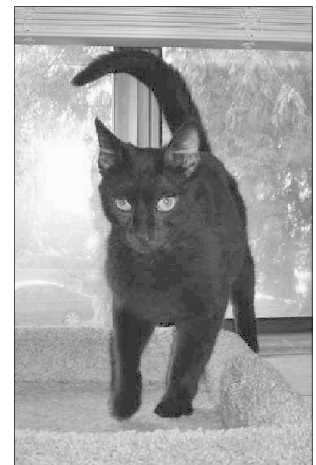
Ripples Haworth adopted in June, 2010.



Puggles Webster adopted in April, 2010.



Tiger Johnson adopted in August, 2010.



Greta Garbo Lusk adopted July, 2010.



Top Right is Tabitha Reyes (formerly Misty) adopted August, 2005 and Bottom Left is Lelu Reyes (formerly PomPom) adopted August, 2008.

HAPPY TAILS

Elvis' Story

Elvis was adopted at CASA two weeks after our Chesapeake Bay Retriever died in mid-June. We learned on the ride home that Elvis doesn't like car rides because they make him carsick! He has since proven that theory a couple of times and we're working on finding something he can take (Rescue Remedy, etc.) to let him ride in the car because he's already missed out on a family camping trip due to his carsickness.

We learned that housebroken must have been a relative term. He has a 60% housebroken success rate. Fortunately, all of our carpet had already been removed because of our cats' spraying issues and our Chessie's incontinence. So, we've been prepared. Our vet has recommended we take Elvis to training since it appears he's been trained minimally - not extensively. Our hope is that he'll become obedient enough to undergo the Reading with Rover training, a literacy program where children with reading difficulties read to dogs who "listen". Elvis has a soothing, yet energetic presence and is such a gorgeous boy. If we can train him to that level, I know he'd be a blessing to the children he'd meet.

Our four kids love Elvis but his chewing of their toys has upset them. Hopefully taking him through training will eliminate this problem.

Our vet was able to retrieve Elvis' old records from his previous vet and we were able to learn his precise birthdate which revealed he's only 2 1/2 years old not 3 1/2. Three homes in 2 1/2 years is a lot for a dog and we've excused a lot of his naughtiness chalking it up to his young age and the inconsistencies in his varied home environment. He has severe separation anxiety, no doubt from all of the switching families.

But, all of that is behind Elvis now and he has a forever home filled with batty animal lovers! We're just at the beginning of our lives with Elvis and we know in 4 or 5 years all of these training issues will be a funny anecdote of how he was when he was young!



Here is Elvis driving home from CASA with his new family. His new mom says this picture is great for conveying what Elvis' new life is like.

Tessa's Story

Tessa, a thirteen year old cat, came to the shelter in March. After living with her owner for seven years, Tessa found herself in a new home with another cat. Tessa was not happy about the situation. Since only one cat could stay, Tessa was the one who was brought to the shelter. She was overwhelmed by the number of cats at the shelter and hid in her cage, meowing constantly. She ventured out of her cage occasionally, but always went back. She became very upset if anyone took away a bed or blanket or any of her comfort things that made the cage her own.



This is Spryte, Tessa's new, little roommate. Tessa is much bigger than Spryte but they seem to get along together.

Slowly Tessa began to come out of her cage, look out the window and then return to her cage. Finally someone else adopted her, but Tessa's constant meowing meant that she was returned to the shelter within a few days. When she came back, she resumed hiding and meowing. At this time, one of the shelter volunteers who had recently lost her cat to illness realized that Tessa really needed a Forever Home.

Tessa loves her new home. She likes to be petted, has adjusted to Spryte, a 6.5 pound Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with whom she shares her home, and, yes, she still meows a lot, but not constantly. Isn't it wonderful that there are people who are willing to adopt older cats? They realize that older cats are not perfect, but just like people, need to be loved.



Here is Tessa relaxing on her new, comfortable bed in the window. She looks contented and happy.

Frequently Asked Questions About Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

What Is the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)?

First discovered in the 1960s, feline leukemia virus is a transmittable RNA retrovirus that can severely inhibit a cat's immune system. It is one of the most commonly diagnosed causes of disease and death in domestic cats. Because the virus doesn't always manifest symptoms right away, any new cat entering a household—and any sick cat—should be tested for FeLV.

How Do Cats Get FeLV?

The FeLV virus is shed in many bodily fluids, including saliva, nasal secretions, urine, feces and blood. FeLV is most commonly transmitted through direct contact, mutual grooming and through sharing litter boxes, food and water bowls. It can also be passed in utero or through mother's milk. Outdoor cats who get into fights with other cats can transmit the disease through bites and scratches. It should be noted that healthy cats over three months of age and vaccinated for FeLV are highly unlikely to contract the virus from another cat.

How Is FeLV Diagnosed?

There are several types of tests available to diagnose FeLV. Most veterinarians and shelter professionals use the ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test, which detects antigen to the FeLV virus in the bloodstream.

What Happens to Cats Who Are Infected With FeLV?

FeLV weakens an animal's immune system and predisposes cats to a variety of infections and diseases, including anemia, kidney disease and lymphosarcoma, a highly malignant and fatal cancer of the lymph system.

Which Cats Are Prone to FeLV?

Young kittens and cats less than one year of age are most susceptible to the virus. Cats who live with an infected cat, cats who are allowed outdoors where they may be bitten by an infected cat, and kittens who are born to a mother who is FeLV positive are most at risk for infection.

Can Other Pets Catch FeLV?

Yes, FeLV is contagious to other cats, but not to humans or other species. Other cats in the house can acquire the virus from an infected cat. Though the virus doesn't live long outside of the body, and is easily inactivated with common disinfectants, it can be passed through shared food and water as well as common litter boxes.

How Can FeLV Be Prevented?

There is a vaccine available for cats who are at risk of contracting FeLV. Like all vaccines, there are risks involved in vaccination, and the vaccine is not a 100-percent guarantee against infection. Your veterinarian can best evaluate whether this vaccine is right for your cat. As with any infectious disease, the best prevention is eliminating sources of exposure. Routine FeLV testing and keeping your cat indoors and away from cats whose FeLV status is not known remain the best way to prevent your cat from becoming infected.

Source: www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care

More questions about FeLV or other health issues?

Here are some websites that will provide additional information:

www.petfinder.org

www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/felv.html

www.peteducation.com

www.cfa.org/articles/health/FeLV.html

Visit our updated CASA website -

It's coming soon

www.camanoanimalshelter.org



CASA Membership – What does it mean?

An organization is nothing without members and we invite you to become a CASA member. Members receive the CASA newsletter and periodic email updates. Members may run for the Board of Directors and are allowed to vote at the Annual Meeting (December 6th). CASA offers three types of annual membership: single (\$15), family (\$25) and business (\$100). Single and family memberships are based on the calendar year and should be renewed each year. Signing up for membership from October, 2010 on provides a 2011 membership.

Prior to 1998, NOAH was located where CASA currently exists. In 1998 when NOAH moved off Camano Island to become an adoption center, the island was left without a shelter to house dogs that were impounded by the county. Thanks to forward-looking individuals, the Camano Animal Shelter Association, CASA, was formed and obtained 501(c)(3) certification as a non-profit charitable organization.

Each year the organization, led by a Board of Directors contracts with the county to provide this service, i.e., sheltering impounded dogs until they are reclaimed or until their five day waiting period is reached. Island County provides the building, electricity and water as well as a monetary stipend (determined annually depending on the county budget). The additional services CASA provides include: keeping impounded dogs after their required period and accepting stray and surrendered cats and dogs.

Financially, CASA relies on memberships, donations and fundraising to meet expenses. But just as important, by becoming a member, you are saying you believe in the role of CASA on Camano Island and want to support the organization. Please consider becoming a 2011 CASA member. The membership form is included in the back of this newsletter and is also available on-line at our website.

Join Us at the 5th Annual “Finding Forever Homes” Auction

*Support CASA and have a wonderful evening at this year’s “Finding Forever Homes” Auction to be held at the Camano Senior Center **Saturday, November 6th at 5:30 PM.***

Bid on hundreds of items and enjoy gourmet appetizers, dessert and coffee.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door.

To receive an invitation or learn more about the event,

email casa@camanoanimalshelter.org

Attn: Auction or call 360-631-5258.

Tickets are also available at the shelter.



There are many ways you can give to CASA and the animals:

Become a Business Member – Business memberships are \$100.00. Your company name will be listed in our newsletter, on our website, and at the shelter.

Become a Newsletter Sponsor – Newsletter sponsors, for \$50.00 are listed on the back of the newsletter. This contribution will help defray the cost of producing the newsletter.

Matching Gifts – Check with your employer to see if they will match your contribution to CASA.

Children’s Birthday Party – Having a birthday party? Consider asking the guests to bring an animal toy and monetary gift for CASA.

Memorial/Honorary Gift - Give a donation in memory of or in honor of an individual and we will mail an acknowledgement to the individual or family.

Pet Memorial – If your pet has passed away, remember him/her by giving a donation in memory. Your pet’s name will be included in our next newsletter. Consider adopting from CASA, but if you are not ready, consider a monetary donation quarterly representing the money you would have gladly spent on your pet.

CASA does not sell or otherwise disclose donor information outside of the organization. This policy has no exceptions. We do not sell or exchange your information with any other organization - public, private, or non-profit.

Visit www.camanoanimalshelter.org or www.petfinder.com to view and read about all of our adoptable animals.

CASA Wish List

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Liquid Bleach
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Liquid Dish Soap (*no antibacterial*)
- New/Used Shed (*appx size: 5'x5' - 12'x12'*)

PET FOOD

- KMR - Kitten Milk Replacement
- Baby Food - small jars of pureed meats
- Royal Canin "Babycat" & kitten dry food
- Canned Kitten Food
- Dry Kirkland Dog/Cat Food (*Costco*)

PET SUPPLIES

- Cat/Dog Kurunda beds
(use www.kurunda.com/donate and get 30% off)
- Non-clumping cat litter or pellets
- Small Cardboard Cat Scratchers [website](#)

OFFICE SUPPLIES

- Bright colored copy paper (*8 1/2" x 11"*)

ADOPTION & TRAINING TOOLS

- Flip Video UltraHD [website](#)
- Flat panel TV / DVD Combo (*for training*)

If there are any questions about the items listed above, please ask at the Shelter. Also, see the Wish List on display in the Shelter lobby for new items not known at newsletter publication time.



**YES ...I WANT TO HELP THE ANIMALS AT CAMANO ANIMAL SHELTER
Enclosed is my TAX DEDUCTIBLE gift:**

Name: _____ \$15 Single Membership

Address: _____ \$25 Family Membership

City/State/Zip: _____ \$100 Business Membership

Telephone: _____ \$ _____ Donation

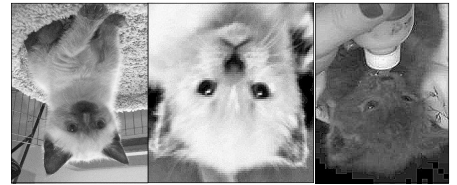
Email: _____

If this donation is a gift or in honor or memory of someone special, please include a note and we will mail an acknowledgement to the individual or family. I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

My employer will match my gift. Enclosed is my completed matching gift form.

Camano Animal Shelter Association
198 Can Ku Road Camano Island, WA 98282 360-387-1902
www.camanoanimalshelter.org
CASA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit shelter for animals

See Our Story !

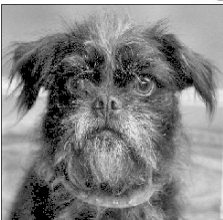


PERMIT # 285
STANWOOD, WA
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
PRESORTED STANDARD

Stanwood, WA 98292
PO Box 1726
Newsletter of CASA



CASA ANIMALS
CURRENTLY IN NEED OF
FOREVER HOMES



Gizzie: A small female Brussels Griffon/Affenpinscher mix. Very cute, mostly black with a shaggy coat and a curled tail. Very friendly and lots of fun! Come over to meet her - you'll be glad you did.



Margo: This is Margo. She's a 4 year old tiny Pit Bull girl who was once used for puppy making. She's timid and a bit scared from her sadly unknown past. She was found on the beach by a kind man who thought she was pregnant. She wasn't, but had been nursing a litter of puppies very recently. At CASA she will be spayed and brought along to getting used to being around kind people. She gets along with other dogs and most cats. But to start out we think she should go to a home without cats or children. Come see Margo - you will be impressed. She is really sweet.



Lady: A 5 month old purebred Chocolate Labrador puppy. Her family had to give her up because of a move they made to a home with no outside area for Lady. She needs daily exercise as well as training. But everything her new family gives to her will come back to them at least double - probably lots more. She is a loving, sweet girl just waiting to meet you.



Tom: This is Tom, an all white British Shorthair/domestic short hair senior cat who lived for many years with his special friend who recently became quite ill and Tom had to be given up to CASA. He is not used to being around other cats - he was the king of his castle. So as time goes by he is becoming more isolated and reclusive watching all the cute little kittens getting adopted and leaving. Please come see Tom and give him a chance. You won't be sorry and you will make him very happy.



LUNA: This little black cat came to CASA along with all of her babies!. She was in foster care till the babies were ready to be adopted. She was then spayed and came to CASA in hopes of finding a new home just for herself. Luna had quite a few black babies and if you come visit CASA you will notice lots of black cats in need of homes right now. Some are hers and others are just a coincidence. Luna is a sweet, affectionate 4 year old who would make a great companion - Come see her!

Freckles: One of the kittens needing a home. He's a boy!



Chi Chi: A cute little white chihuahua with some light spotting on her body and black ears. She is all Chihuahua! Come see her at the shelter. She would love to have a nice family and home where she could make herself comfortable sitting on somebody's lap making herself totally loved and irreplaceable.

