



FOREVER HOME

Camano Animal Shelter Newsletter

Issue 1
Winter, 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.



Shelter Manager's Report

This Fall was quite busy for CASA and with the burst of sunshine lately we can't ignore that spring is just around the corner. That is not only when bulbs sprout but also when the busy kitten season begins everywhere. The shelter is working tirelessly to prepare for the new little needy arrivals. We know that the initial planting of seeds work is hard, but the payoff happens when things start blooming. We have our sights on some new items to make daily tasks easier and also on a new all-time high with pet adoptions! New faces are popping up in the shelter; we are very excited to have them. In addition to fabulous new volunteers we also are bringing some new staff members on to our team. Be sure to read about them on the Shelter Blog and stop in and introduce yourself!

Shelter life has its joys but also has challenges. In November our cats had a bout of Upper Respiratory Infection (URI). URI is a very common ailment for animal shelters. Although URI's are impossible to completely evade in shelter settings, we do our best to avoid outbreaks and treat them when they do occur. Thanks to the hard work of the shelter staff and the understanding public, this episode was contained well and stayed manageable. The cats all recovered quickly and most were adopted in time to join families for the holidays.

Adoptions have been fantastic and we have had the pleasure of sending many CASA pets to wonderful *Forever Homes*. Not only does making sure pets find homes in a timely manner reduce the stress they may have while living in a shelter, but it also helps free up space for more pets who need our help. Often we are sad to see them go, but the true joy is them finding real homes of their own. Keep in mind that you don't even have to visit the shelter to help the pets of CASA. You can help by simply telling people to "stop at CASA first," when looking for a pet. For those of you who do not have the pleasure of sharing your home with a once homeless pet, I can tell you from personal experience that no pet will love you like one who truly needed your love.

Tegan Locker, Shelter Manager

Wilford's Story

It was a hot July afternoon when the County animal control officers showed up at the shelter asking for help to bring in a new impound dog. It took 5 people: 3 staff members and both animal control officers, to get the dog into the shelter. They carried him on a blanket and put him into the largest kennel available. Usually abused dogs are underfed and malnourished, not the opposite. This dog was so obese that he could not walk. The staff named this new dog Wilford.

The next day when the staff arrived for work they went straight to Wilford's kennel to check on him. There he lay wagging his tail and smiling (yes, dogs do smile). He appeared to just be happy not being stuck outside in the exhausting heat with all of his extra weight. The staff had to sling a towel under his belly and lift his back end up to support him while they helped him walk outside to relieve himself. Wilford would run out of breath after only a few short steps.

Staff was concerned that due to Wilford's obesity he might have underlying health issues, but blood tests they administered came back normal. The staff carried him back out to one of their cars and took him to the vet for an exam. When Wilford was examined he weighed 142 pounds! He was supposed to weigh around 60 to 65 pounds. The vet found arthritis in

(continued on Page 2 - Wilford's Story)



This is a picture of Wilford shortly after he arrived at the shelter. He was so heavy that staff members had to help him get up and walk outside to take care of business.

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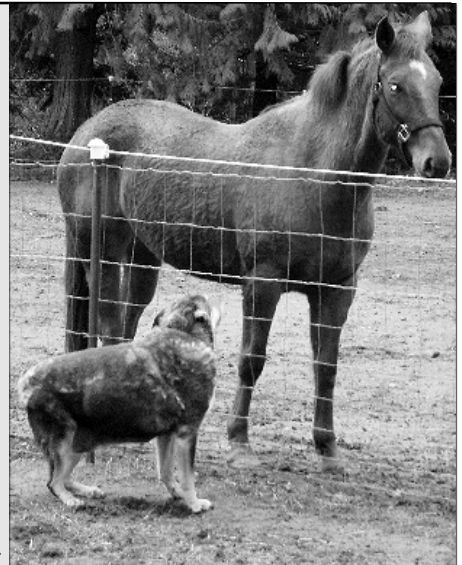
(continued from Page 1- Wilford's Story)

Wilford's back legs and hips so he was started on anti-inflammatory tablets. He was also immediately started on a diet of frozen green beans, low fat cottage cheese and vitamin supplements. Surprisingly, he loved it! Thanks to the generous support from our wonderful community members, the shelter received donations of green beans and cottage cheese for Wilford to eat along with monetary donations on his behalf. Wilford seemed to improve a tiny bit each day.

To encourage Wilford to get up and move around, the staff would dance around his kennel and sing funny songs. He seemed to enjoy their funny antics and would bark and howl at them as he got up, joined in, and headed outside with them. As time went on, Wilford stayed in the exercise yard for longer periods of time. He would lie down in the shade and enjoy the fresh air and change of scene. After a few months, with the help of the staff, he happily climbed into a car to go for a ride to the vet office. The vet was pleasantly surprised to see how great he looked. He was weighed and had lost 34 pounds! He went from 142 to 108 pounds!

With each day Wilford began to get better and better, more active and mobile. One of the staff members was even able to get him to jog through the yard after her. At this time, Wilford moved into a foster home with one of the shelter staff members. Wilford uses the doggy door to go outside and walks down deck stairs to reach the backyard. His foster mom became so attached to Wilford that she decided to adopt him. She takes him to a friend's house on visits where there are horses, cows and goats. Once out of the truck, Wilford jogs over to greet his farm animal pals and tries to herd them. It is quite a sight! He remains on a modified diet in order to continue to lose more weight until he reaches his goal weight of 65 pounds. He now weighs 98 pounds. Wilford has found his Forever Home with just the right person! He is a very happy dog nowadays.

(Thanks to Allison Zinnato, former CASA staff member, for her contribution to Wilford's Story.)



Wilford is visiting horses on farm of foster's friend.

Did You Know?

In 2009 434 cats and dogs arrived at CASA. We are proud that so many of these animals were either returned to their owners or found other loving homes.

Cat Stats: The vast majority of cats and kittens were brought in as strays (or born at the shelter). Of all of the cats, 88% have already found homes while others are waiting to be adopted (either at the shelter or at foster homes).

Dog Stats: Dogs brought to the shelter by the Animal Control Officers are called "impounds". Percentage-wise, more dogs were surrendered by their owners than cats. (30% of the dogs versus 20% of the cats). Fortunately 54% of the dogs were returned to their owners and 42% found other homes.

There is NO TIME LIMIT for an animal at CASA. In fact, some of our animals have been at the shelter since July 2009. Kittens often have a high mortality rate and sometimes die in foster care or have to be put to sleep if they are very sick and suffering. Dogs are only put to sleep if they are terminally ill or too aggressive to be adopted. CASA averaged 49 animals a day either at the shelter or in foster care. As of the end of December, there were 16 animals waiting adoption. Keeping animals at a shelter often increases their stress, but at CASA the cats roam free and dogs are allowed to play outside with "yard buddies" and then rotated into the main office for socialization. Thanks to the loving care of staff and volunteers, these long-term residents remain happy and enthusiastic while waiting for their new Forever Homes.

	Stray	Surrender	Impound	Adopted / Transferred	Returned to Owner	Total
Cats	208	52	0	229	3	260
Dogs	53	53	68	73	94	174
Total	261	105	68	302	97	434

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mother's Day Art Studio Tour

CASA's Bake Sale

Saturday, May 8th

4th Annual CASA Dog Wash

Saturday, August, 2010

**THANK YOU
BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

AWR, Inc.

Camano Body Shop, Inc.

Camano Island Cellars

Camano Mold Inc.

Camano Veterinary Clinic

Cloud's Canine

Curves of Stanwood/Camano Island

Do-It-Yourself Legal

Dog Style Grooming

Glass Tech Stanwood, Inc.

HR-at-Work.com

Invisible Fence of the Northwest

Mark's Camano Pharmacy

Moonlight Pet and Livestock Care

Scandia Coffeehouse & Eatery

Thomas & Associates

Insurance Broker, Inc.

Windermere Real Estate

**THANK YOU
MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES!**

These companies have generously matched the contributions made to **CASA** by their employees.

- Chevron
- Microsoft
- Pfizer
- Real Networks Foundation
- Regence Employee Giving
- Washington Mutual
- Washington Post

Employee Giving Companies

- Allstate Giving Campaign
- Boeing Employees Community Fund
- Macy's West GIFT
- McKinstry Co. Charitable Foundation

BUSINESSES—DONATION BOXES!

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

Featured location this period:

Plaza Texaco

Camano Animal Shelter ALUMNI



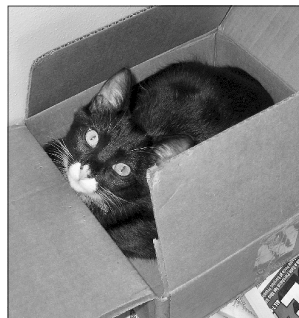
Bella Anderson (formerly Annie)
October, 2009



Frosty F. Meyer-Gollob
January, 2010



Violet Porter
November, 2008



Spencer Wilson
August, 2009



Velma Hill
December, 2009



Petey Manning - November, 2009



Boci Hill - December, 2009

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

Have you adopted from CASA? Send us an email message and include a photo of your pet with it and we'll include it in our next newsletter! Send to CASA's email address at CASA@camanoanimalshelter.org. Please be sure to include the full name of your pet and the month/year adopted.

HOW TO HELP CASA

VOLUNTEER WITH THE ANIMALS



Dog Walkers: Dog walking provides important mental stimulation for our dogs and great exercise for volunteers. If you have an hour or two each week to share, come join us!

Dog Socializers: Spend quality time with adoptable dogs who may be finding shelter life stressful. Dog socializers will spend time just sitting with a dog, encouraging him/her to be calm in the presence of people.

Morning Cleaner: Assist the shelter staff with the morning cleaning of the cat room, main office and laundry area. This position involves sweeping, mopping, doing dishes and laundry. Extra time allows for petting, brushing and playing.

Cat Socializer: Time spent with people enhances a cat's life and adoptability. Spend time with the cats and talk to potential adopters about the special characteristics of the cats.

Foster Care: All kittens and cats that need special attention and care are placed in foster homes. Foster homes provide a quiet place to rest and learn more about home living. Foster homes are also needed for small dogs. Training materials, veterinary care and food are provided. We are in dire need of foster homes. To learn more about these opportunities, stop by the shelter and talk to the Shelter staff.



HELP WITH FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Individuals wishing to help CASA by raising funds and spreading community awareness are invited to attend the Friends of CASA meeting. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Camano Center (blue building next to the shelter).

Events that were sponsored by this group in 2009 included: a bake sale, rummage sale, dog wash, auction, pictures with Santa and Lights of Love tree. CASA was also represented at the Twin City Idlers, Art by the Bay and the Car Collector's show.

By participating in the Friends of CASA you can help assure that CASA obtains the much-needed funding to keep the shelter open. County funds have been reduced by 10 percent and so fundraising is more important than ever. Come join with other animal lovers to support CASA.



CONTRIBUTE

Become a Member

Show your support for CASA by becoming a member. Annual memberships are \$15 for single and \$25 for family. Membership entitles you to votes at the annual meeting.

Become a Business Member

Business memberships are \$100.00. Your company name will be listed in our newsletter, on our website, at the shelter and voting privilege at the annual meeting.

Give through your job

Check to see if your company provides an employee giving opportunity or if your employer will match part of your contribution to CASA. CASA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Happy Tails

Toby, Our Thanksgiving Blessing

Thanksgiving has been a bittersweet holiday for a few years. We lost Bo, our old lab mix, the day before Thanksgiving three years ago. This year we spent Thanksgiving on Camano Island with family and friends. On our way that day we passed the CASA shelter. I told my husband John that the CASA sign said they had a coonhound needing a home. We had no intention of adopting a dog but we stopped anyway. Since losing Bo, we already had been given one very excitable Border Collie named Daizy. Having one dog already made us think more seriously about the “what ifs” that we would have to face if we adopted another dog. Did we have enough time? Did we have the energy? We returned the next day and spoke to a CASA staff member and visited a few dogs. One was too frightened, one too strong, and one too wound up. We were just about to leave when my husband spotted one more dog. “What about him? He’s older, calmer, and handsome”. We played and snuggled with him and when he put his paws on us we melted. We were goners! It was Toby, then known as “Kansas”. I knew right away he would be ours forever. But we decided to think it over and eventually we left. I did not get much sleep that night. We knew Toby had been there for a long time and just could not figure out why. He was so great! We spoke about adopting an 8



Here is my husband John hanging out with Toby in our barn.

year old dog. We couldn’t come up with a single reason not to adopt him. After all, my husband was older, greyer, and calmer too – they were just alike. It was a good fit. We knew we would not have him for those extra 8 years but that was OK. We felt we were a great match for him. Maybe he would calm down our Border Collie, Daizy. We returned the next day with Daizy to see if she and Toby would fit. What a fit it was - for all four of us! He came home with us that day. He came into CASA a stray, so they named him Kansas but we decided to call him Toby.

Toby has been a wonderful treasure for our family. He and Daizy share almost everything. Toby now has a small ranch to romp around and play. He helps feed the horses and snuggles down into a deep sleep each night in my husband’s arms! We have only had him a few months but it feels like he has been here forever. We know Toby is older but you’d never know it – he’s faster than Daizy!

How do you explain to anyone that “There is no love like dog love?” I believe that our old dog Bo sent us to CASA on Thanksgiving and had a plan for Toby to be with us forever. I could not imagine a day without this amazing family: my wonderful husband, his best dog friend Toby Ray and Miss Daizy Mae.

Temera Halley



If you look closely you can see Toby sleeping under a blanket and using John’s arm for a pillow. He does this every night.

Bentley’s Happy Tail

Bentley, a four-year old, large black cat came to CASA in February, 2009 as a surrendered cat. His owner was moving to an apartment where animals were not allowed. He was a very big cat weighing 23 lbs when he came to CASA. Within a few days, it seemed like Bentley took over and became the official office cat. He spent his days lying on the office desk in the middle of all the action watching all of the goings on and keeping an eye on the front door. He warmly greeted people and allowed them to pet him for long periods of time. He also took on the role of nanny watching over all the new kittens as they arrived at CASA, affectionately washing their faces. Everyone thought that such a loving, friendly cat would be adopted quickly, but as time passed, Bentley remained at the shelter.

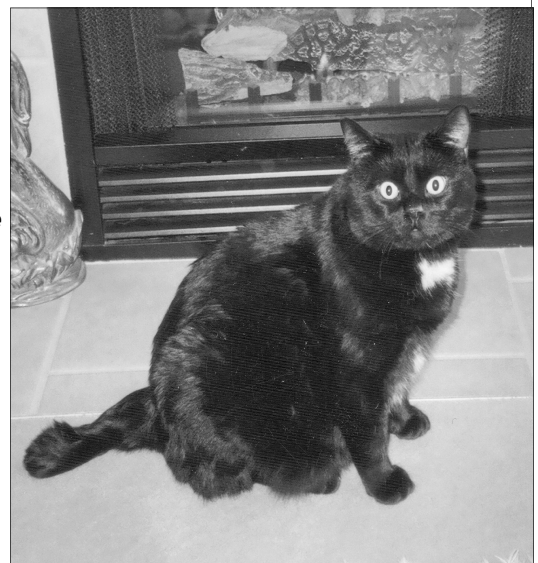
In October, 2009 things changed forever for Bentley. Dale Johnson, a resident at Merrill Gardens a Stanwood, Washington retirement community, adopted Bentley.

Here’s the story of Bentley and his Forever Home as told by Dale:

“I’ve had dogs all of my life, but at this time in my life, I wanted a cat as a companion. I asked my son to go to a shelter and find me a mature cat. When he found Bentley, he knew that he was the right cat for me. Bentley keeps me company and is a real pal. He’s a real character and fun to have as a pet. He does what he wants to do, plays with his toys, loves feathers and sleeps with me.”

“I have an apartment with a balcony and Bentley loves to go out there and sit in the sun. I’m sure he’ll really enjoy it in the spring. When I go out into the hall in the morning to get my paper, he goes with me and after making his rounds, comes right back into the apartment. Bentley has made a lot of friends here. He was a bit heavy when he arrived but is slowly losing weight. He’s a true friend.”

Dale Johnson



KATIE's STORY

Katie was featured as one of the "CASA Animals currently in need of Forever Homes" in the Summer, 2009 CASA Newsletter.

THIS IS KATIE!

Tiny, older female shih tzu found hobbling down the middle of a road and brought to CASA by a caring person. Obviously long time neglected in very bad condition - hair long & matted, nails so long some pierced her feet. Most likely discarded by a callous backyard breeder. (Yes, they exist even on Camano Island.) She has obviously produced lots of puppies—not spayed. CASA staff cleaned her up, gave her needed medical treatment, love and caring. Named her Katie—she now needs a loving home with people who will give her the care she deserves and never had. Through it all she has responded warmly to all who have shown her care, love & affection. Please help Katie with a donation or a new home.



Hello!

Awhile back, I received a letter from the shelter asking for an update on Katie, a Shih Tzu my fiancé and I adopted on September 27, 2009.

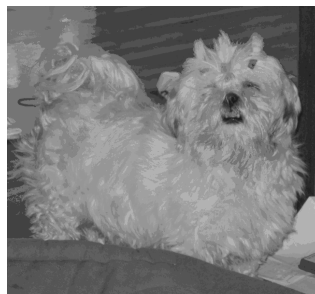
When Katie came home with us she needed more medical attention than originally anticipated (eye drops were anticipated). Soon after adoption she had nine teeth removed! Boy, she was not thrilled with that! Every day we gave her ear antibiotic ointment, oral antibiotics, painkillers, eye drops, and synthetic tear ointment. It made for a long morning routine...

Since then, Katie is down to just her eye drops and synthetic tears. We also found her allergic to odd things and she has been put on a special diet. She's not disappointed with that though, as it eliminates grains from her diet...which she wasn't too happy about eating in the first place!

Katie is now at a healthy weight (if not a little more) and happy. She spends part of her day in a kennel and the rest of the day with me. She loves walks and road-trips. Katie sleeps in our bed and sneaks up above my head to sleep on my pillow. There's nothing like waking up to a dog above you.

I wanted to say thank you to the shelter staff for being so attentive and sweet. I know that those that work at the shelter, obviously, have a soft-spot for animals and taking care of them. In Katie's case, she needed extra-special love and affection when she arrived. She has been a wonderful addition to our family and I couldn't imagine our home without her.

Again, thank you. I can't say how much of a joy Katie has been and what a wonderful addition to the family she is. Of course, this couldn't have happened without the caring staff at the animal shelter. Thank you, Kelsey Scharff



Fun Cat Facts

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cats respond most readily to names that end in an "ee" sound. 2. Cats spend nearly 30% of their lives grooming themselves. 3. Cats sleep ~13 to 16 hours a day. 4. A cat can jump five times as high as its tail. 5. Cats purr when content, but also will purr when stressed, fearful, or in pain to comfort themselves. Mother cats will often purr when in labor or when nursing their kittens. 6. Cats are carnivores and need meat in their diet. They also need taurine; without it, cats will go blind. 7. Calicos and tortoiseshell cats are always female. 8. 70% of orange tabby cats are male. 9. Cats have AB blood groups, just like people. 10. Catnip is a mild nerve stimulant. Its odor, not its taste, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> produces a feline "high". A cat must possess a specific gene to be affected by catnip and 20% of cats do not have this gene. 11. Cats have ~100 different vocalizations compared with a dog's ten vocalizations. 12. Cats can only sweat from their paw pads. 13. To drink, a cat laps liquid from the underside of its tongue, rather than the top. 14. Cats have an organ called the vomeronasal organ, also known as the Jacobson's Organ. This organ seems to play a large part in a cat's sense of smell. It is located inside the mouth, just behind the front teeth, and is connected to the nasal cavity. When a cat brings air into the Jacobson's Organ he may look like he is smiling or grimacing. 15. A cat's sense of smell is 14 times stronger than a human's. |
|--|---|

2010 Island County Dog Licenses

All dogs living on Camano Island are required to have a 2010 Island County License. The new 2010 tags are now available at the shelter during regular hours. Please stop in to say "Hello" and purchase your new tags. Licenses may also be purchased at the Camano Island Annex on NE Camano Drive.



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.

In memory of Wendy Windsor-Wosnig - Dedicated CASA volunteer and supporter.



CASA Wish List

General Supplies

- Liquid Bleach
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Costco's Black solid metal 5 tier shelving unit (garage type)
- New or Used Shed (anywhere between 5'x5' & 10'x10' is fine)

Pet Food

- KMR - Kitten Milk Replacement
- Baby Food - Small jars of pureed meats
- Royal Canin babycat and kitten dry food
- Canned kitten food
- Dry Kirkland Dog/Cat Food

Pet Supplies

- Medium size dog Kurunda beds (www.kurunda.com)
- Non-clumping cat litter or stove pellets
- Small Cardboard Cat Scratchers (www.stretchandscratch.com)

Office Supplies

- Copy paper (8 1/2" x 11")

Adoption & Training Tools

- Flip Video UltraHD (<http://store.theflip.com/products/UltraHD.aspx>)
- Flat panel TV with built in DVD player (for training)

If there are any questions about the items listed above please ask at the Shelter. Also, see the Wish List in the Shelter lobby for weekly needs.

YES ...I WANT TO HELP THE ANIMALS AT CAMANO ANIMAL SHELTER

Enclosed is my TAX DEDUCTIBLE gift of:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Name (Please print)

Street

City State Zip

Phone Email address

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. I would like to become a 2010 Member of CASA.

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

Thank you for your support!

CASA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.
Please make check payable to CASA.



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Newsletter of CASA



**CASA ANIMALS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF
FOREVER HOMES**



Here is Loretta Lynn, a young, female American Staffordshire/Pit Bull Terrier mix. Loretta came to CASA as a stray. She is a friendly and energetic girl who loves people and playing with them. You can see a picture of Loretta and one of her dog walkers on page 4 of this newsletter. She knows how to sit and stay but needs more training. She enjoys learning and working with people and pleasing them. All she needs now is a family of her own to love and be happy with for the rest of her life. Please come in and say Hello to Loretta!

Here is Nana, a young Newfoundland mix who is happy and friendly. She was brought in to CASA as a stray and nobody claimed her. She likes to bark at new people but is really very sweet and friendly. She loves to play ball and spend time with people. - loves to follow you around. Nana is scheduled for a haircut and a full bath this week, so when you come in to visit her you'll see a sweeter, cleaner dog than this picture displays.



Hi! This is Tucker, a large 8-month old Dutch Shepherd/Labrador Retriever puppy. He is a very fun loving guy who is always smiling and always moving! He was given up by his family because they had small children and Tucker was too energetic for them. All he needs is some training and some love and he will be the best dog in the world for you. Please come and meet Tucker - you won't regret it!



Here is Lyric! This 6-year old came into the shelter as a stray along with her brother Jams. Her long hair was so matted when she arrived that it had to be clipped. Now when it grows out, it will be lovely. Come see this sweetie! She's worth it.



Hi, I am Rudy. I decided to take a truck ride with a man who worked on the new Camano bridge. I didn't tell him I was there until we got to the work site. A very nice lady that worked with him brought me to the shelter. I'm a very sweet boy and I love to be petted so come on in and see me!

And this is Jams - Lyrics' brother. All he wants is a nice quiet place to call his own.

