



# FOREVER HOME

Volume 4

**Camano Animal Shelter Newsletter**

Issue 2  
Spring, 2010

### 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

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” This is one of my favorite quotes from Gandhi, right along with, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” When I first crossed paths with these words I decided to not only live by them but also to share how important these words really are. Each day, the shelter team at CASA tries to remember these words too. There is a lot that happens in shelters across America that the world never sees. We are truly blessed to be one of the small community shelters who have the ability to let cats roam freely in the shelter and give the gift of great play time for the dogs. We are also grateful CASA has the choice to use funds for emergencies and individual medical needs to save a pet’s life that other shelters may not, due to sheer volume.

CASA still has the same tasks as a big city shelter but on a smaller scale. There are rough days, great days, overwhelming moments, joyous moments, seconds of devastation, and seconds of gratitude. Hurdles feel like speed bumps, but they serve as learning tools where growth follows. Through that roller coaster of “shelter life” we press ahead with our goals and our mission knowing that the end result will be a success. Along the way we were a safe place for homeless pets that depended on our existence and our care.

Unable to speak, we look into each animal’s eyes and try and give them the care they are longing for but are unable to tell us they need. Anyone who has worked behind the scenes in an animal shelter knows the ups and downs, but like us they also know the happiness helping animals brings.

I would like to thank CASA’s staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters for their dedication to our cause and for also being a voice for the animals.

Tegan Locker  
Shelter Manager

### If Only They Could Talk

*“Shelter dogs aren’t broken. They’ve simply experienced more life than other dogs. If they were human, we would call them wise. They would be the ones with tales to tell and stories to write. The ones dealt a bad hand who responded with courage. Do not pity a shelter dog. Adopt one. And be proud to have their greatness by your side.”* From [www.Dogsrule.com](http://www.Dogsrule.com), Pedigree pet food website.

Every animal that comes to CASA has a story. We wanted to share these particularly touching ones with you. Imagine the stories these dogs would tell if they could talk.

#### Clifford, the Big Red Dog

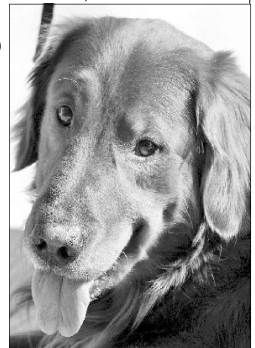
A local resident found a Golden Retriever mix running loose, kindly picked him up and took him to the shelter. When the shelter staff took the dog in, their first concern was that he was wearing a cage muzzle. This was not an average muzzle, but one that looked very old and had been almost completely wrapped with electrical tape, leaving only a small hole in the end of it to breathe through. Muzzles can be used for a number of reasons, but the main one is for bite safety. The staff removed the muzzle carefully from the dog not knowing what to expect after the contraption was off. They were surprised to find a dopey, loving dog whose first instinct was to lap up water until he had emptied a large water bowl completely dry! Poor Clifford, as the staff named him, was very underweight and dehydrated – most likely caused by being forced to wear that muzzle. It was taped up to the point that he was lucky to be able to breathe, let alone eat or drink. The muzzle must have been on him for some time. It had worn sores on his face and his teeth were prematurely rotten. Clifford turned out to be a very sweet, friendly dog. He was soon adopted by a family that recognized his true value. They love and appreciate Clifford and will ensure that he will never have to be trapped in a muzzle again.



Clifford, shortly after he arrived at CASA.



Here’s the muzzle he was forced to wear.



Here’s Clifford after several days. Doesn’t he look happier?

*(Continued on page 2 - If Only They Could Talk)*

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### CASA Web Site:

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

### CASA E-Mail:

[casa@camanoanimalshelter.org](mailto:casa@camanoanimalshelter.org)



KITTEN SEASON IS BACK!!!

*(Continued from page 1 - If Only They Could Talk)***Runaway Yorkies**

The shelter received a call telling us that there were several small dogs running free. Some CASA staff members decided to "take a look around" and after several frustrating days, by setting traps with food as bait, they were able to capture two Yorkshire Terriers. The first one caught was covered in tight, dirty, matted fur. He was named Sprocket by the CASA staff. He was unneutered, severely underweight and had decaying teeth. The second Yorkie, named Kobe by the staff, was in worse condition than the first one. His fur and body were in the same condition, but, in addition, he was covered with several ugly, open, infected wounds. He was rushed to the vet where the opinion was that he had most likely been



This is Kobe soon after being caught.

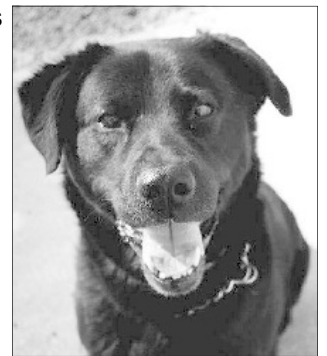
attacked by a raccoon. A shelter staff member took him home to watch over him and keep the wounds clean. She finished shaving him down and took care of him until he recovered. Why did it take so long to capture these dogs? Unfortunately dogs owned by unscrupulous breeders are often scared to death of people. It is likely that is where these little dogs came from. Not used to being treated kindly by people they fear anybody getting too close to them. Both of these dogs received all of the medical treatment they needed and soon were adopted by patient, loving people who were willing to take the time to nurture them and give them their Forever Homes.



Kobe being trimmed - he needed it badly.

**Mack's Run for Freedom**

The day Animal Control brought in a big, black dog that looked like a Labrador mixed with a little Rottweiler or something similar, the animal control officer (ACO) led the dog with one hand and carried a dirty 12' combination of chain and metal cable in the other. The chain was old and worn, appearing to have been outside in all kinds of weather for many years. When the dog was found, that chain was bolted to his collar. He must have been tied up in a backyard with that old cable and chain for a long period of time. One day he got his chance to escape, and Mack, as he was named at CASA, ran free dragging that chain still attached to his collar into a section of woods on the island and became tangled up around a tree. He ended up with the chain wound so tightly around that tree that there was no chance for him ever getting himself free. When Animal Control was contacted, the caller stated that the dog had been barking for days. There was no doubt he would have died if someone had not eventually reported the annoying barking dog. The shelter staff came to love Mack very quickly. He was a super dog who loved everyone at the shelter including all the other dogs. Someone came to CASA looking for a dog and immediately fell in love with Mack and decided to adopt him. So Mack now has his Forever Home and he'll never have to run away again!



Here's Mack! He's a big, friendly dog.

These are just three stories about dogs that were found and brought to the animal shelter under difficult circumstances. Not all of the shelter's dogs are brought in by responsible owners who have to give them up for valid reasons. The important thing is that these dogs reached the shelter in time to be treated for any problems they had. They ended up being adopted by kind, loving families and will now have happy stories to tell.

**Did You Know?**

**CASA information is only a click away.** So far this year, 152 animals have been brought to the shelter, 80 cats and 72 dogs. Log onto the CASA website at [www.camanoanimalshelter.org](http://www.camanoanimalshelter.org) and click on "**Click HERE to see CASA's adoptable DOGS!**" or "**CASA's adoptable CATS!**" and see the PetFinder Listings. To view frequent updates about the animals and shelter happenings go to "**Click HERE to visit CASA on Facebook!**" You don't have to belong to Facebook to see all this great information.

**Kitten season has started** and CASA is in continued need of foster parents for unweaned kittens or weaned kitten litters too young to live at the shelter. Our kittens need people who are able to (or want to learn to) bottle feed, nurture, and wean motherless kittens until they are old enough to live at the shelter. If you would like to open your home and heart to these kittens, please visit our shelter in person.

**CASA****Board Members:****President:**

Martha Huyler

**Vice-President:**

Tom Curtis

**Treasurer:**

Cathy Massimino

**Secretary:**

Mary Timmol

**Members at Large:**

Shari Estep

**Staff:**

Tegan Locker, Manager

Cherie Lovell,

Asst. Manager

Courtney McTee

Wendy Powers

Sheri Rhoads

**NewsletterTeam:**

Connie Parker, Editor

Martha Huyler

Cherie Lovell,

Photographer

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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 &amp; Tues Closed

**Mark Your Calendar  
UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**CASA Car Wash**  
Saturday, June 12th

**Twin City Idlers**  
Sunday, June 27th

**Art by the Bay**  
Saturday & Sunday  
July 10th - 11th

**Car Collector's Show**  
Saturday, August 14th

**4th Annual CASA Dog Wash**  
Saturday, August 21th

**CASA Finding Forever Homes Auction**  
Saturday, November 6th

**THANK YOU  
BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

**AWR Inc. / General Contractor**

**Camano Body Shop, Inc.**

**Camano Mold, Inc.**

**Camano Veterinary Clinic**

**Canine Cozy Care Resort**

**Cat Nap Inn**

**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**

**Krista's Pet Spaw, Dog Groomer**

**Mark's Camano Pharmacy**

**Paws 'n' Claws Pet Transport**

**Pet Neuter & Vaccination Clinic**

**Scandia Coffeehouse & Eatery**

**Terry W. Greer, Inc. P.S.**

**Thomas & Associates Insurance Broker,  
Inc.**

**Windermere Real Estate**

**BUSINESSES—DONATION BOXES!**

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

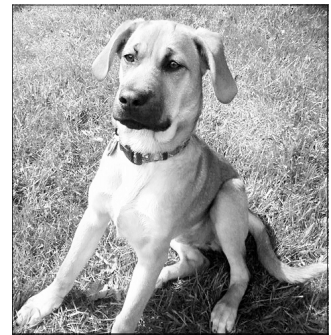
**Featured location this period:**

**Stanwood True Value**

**CASA ALUMNI**



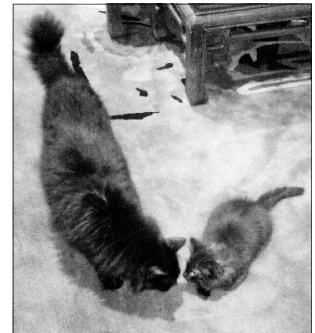
Anabell Runyon, adopted August, 2009.



Buddy Allen, formerly named Deboe at  
CASA. Adopted April, 2010. Training to  
be a service dog.



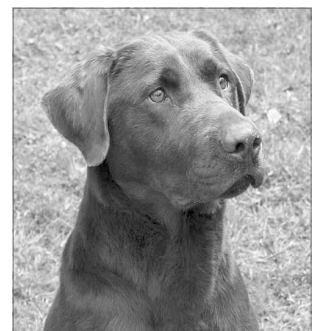
Tetra McCann, adopted October, 2009.  
Tetra was the featured animal in our  
Summer, 2009 newsletter issue.



Marshall and Sparkles Michael were  
adopted February, 2010.



Zelda (formerly Fiddlefeet) adopted January,  
2009 and Minky (formerly Sidekick) adopted  
June, 2008; now part of the Phillips family.



Ranger Griffith,  
adopted April, 2010.

Visit [www.camanoanimalshelter.org](http://www.camanoanimalshelter.org) or [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) to view  
and read about all of our adoptable animals.

Have you adopted from CASA? Send us a photo and we'll include it in  
our next newsletter! Mail photo to CASA or send via email to  
[CASA@camanoanimalshelter.org](mailto:CASA@camanoanimalshelter.org). Please include the full name of your  
pet and the month/year adopted.

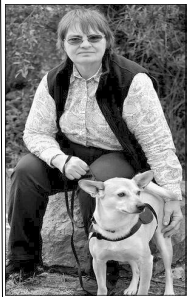
## Happy Tails

### Reba: The Cat Who Went to NOAH

Reba, a black cat that arrived at the shelter as a stray, stayed at CASA for six months before she went to NOAH.

Here is a note the staff at CASA received from one of NOAH's cat caretakers:

*"I wanted to share with you the wonderful success story for Reba, your favorite kitty! I spoke with her adopter today and she is doing famously! She gets along really well with her 2 rat terriers, even sleeps with one of them. They just adore her, the lady said she has had cats for 38 years and she is the easiest and best cat ever. She said she still loves her blanket and thanks to you for sending it along with her. I thought you would love this great story! Too often we don't get to hear the happy endings, so I wanted to be sure to share with you!"*



### Romeo Becomes A Service Dog

Romeo, a mixed-breed dog adopted from CASA when he was a puppy has been recognized as a certified service dog by the Service Dogs of America. Phyllis Kidwell, a long time volunteer and former CASA staff member, adopted Romeo. She thought he might work as a companion for her elderly father. Although Romeo is smaller than some people might imagine a service dog to be, he has done very well. It took more than a year of intensive training but he is now an official service dog. His duties involve assisting Phyllis' father with his physical disabilities as well as just being there as a good friend. As a service dog, Romeo is entitled by law to accompany and assist his human companion in business places where dogs are usually prohibited.



### Lennox, Pit Bull Mix, Finds Home

Lennox, a lab/pit bull mix, was scheduled for BSL euthanasia (Breed Specific Legislation) at another shelter and was transferred to CASA because the staff at the other animal facility knew that he was a wonderful dog.

Lennox's new owner wrote to CASA to let them know how Lennox was doing. Here is his story:

*"Thought I would check in and let you know that Lennox has settled in very well with his new sister Rachel and the rest of our family. He's been to our vet and they LOVED him!!! We've taken him to places where there are a lot of people and dogs on leashes and he's very well mannered and behaved. He gets funny stares from some people because of the pit bull portion of his looks, but anyone who ventures over to meet him falls in love immediately. Our 20 year old son takes him everywhere in the car and Lennox enjoys that. Both Lennox and Rachel have been for baths at the groomers and have a little fear when the reverse vacuum/blower goes on.*

*Generally they stand there patiently and then prance around afterwards.*

*Our son took Lennox to a lake this weekend and used the ever present tennis ball to introduce him to the water. He was a bit tentative at first but within a few minutes he was out swimming very nicely to retrieve the thrown tennis ball. I can see this is an activity we will be doing a lot of.*

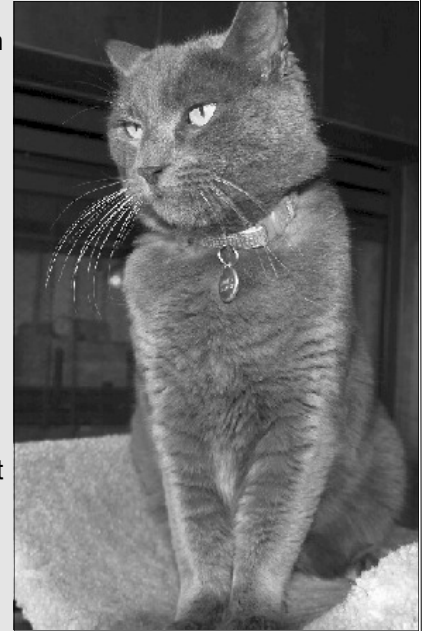
*Hope all is well there - God bless you all for what you do on behalf of the dogs and cats in your care."*

## Happy Tails

### Smokey's Spectacular Adventure

When cats come to CASA they are scanned for a microchip just as the dogs that come in are. But we don't hold our breath with the cats because very few of them are ever found to have been microchipped. Recently CASA had an older grey male cat come in and other than a few old war wounds on his ears he looked to be in pretty good shape. He was a friendly cat who obviously had lived in a home at one time. We named him Rambo – and he was one of the rare ones who had a microchip.

Each microchip carries a unique number that corresponds to registered owner information of the dog or cat that has the chip under its skin. One of our CASA staff members, Cherie, called the company that manufactured the chip and also managed its history. She obtained the name of the cat's owner and telephoned her. According to the owner, the cat whose name was Smokey, had been missing for 2 1/2 years and the family had lost hope of ever seeing it again. They had been visiting their home on Camano Island when he disappeared and they were heartbroken when he couldn't be found. Once she realized that Smokey miraculously was alive and well, waiting for her at the CASA shelter she was overjoyed. She drove up to CASA the next day to retrieve him. As Smokey was being prepared for the trip home, his owner talked with CASA staff members about her decision to have Smokey microchipped. She remembered thinking at the time that it was a bit costly but she made the commitment to go ahead and have it done anyway. Now amazed and thankful that she had done so, she drove happily away with Smokey, heading for the home he would never have seen again without having that little chip embedded in his shoulder.



Hopefully, as new owners begin to realize the real value of having their pet microchipped, either dog or cat, they will spend a little extra money and by doing so, gain a great amount of peace of mind. If their pet is lost or misplaced, there is a good chance of it being reunited with its owners if it can be identified by its microchip.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Microchipping of Animals

**Q:** What is a microchip?

**A:** A microchip is a small, electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder that is about the same size as a grain of rice. The microchip itself does not have a battery—it is activated by a scanner that is passed over the area, and the radiowaves put out by the scanner activate the chip. The chip transmits the identification number to the scanner, which displays the number on the screen.

**Q:** How is a microchip implanted into an animal? Is it painful? Does it require surgery or anesthesia?

**A:** It is injected under the skin using a hypodermic needle. It is no more painful than a typical injection, although the needle is slightly larger than those used for injection. No surgery or anesthesia is required—a microchip can be implanted during a routine veterinary office visit. If your pet is already under anesthesia for a procedure, such as neutering or spaying, the microchip can often be implanted while they're still under anesthesia.

**Q:** What kind of information is contained in the microchip? Is there a tracking device in it? Will it store my pet's medical information?

**A:** The microchips presently used in pets only contain identification numbers. No, the microchip cannot track your animal if it gets lost. Although the present technology microchip itself does not contain your pet's medical information, some microchip registration databases will allow you to store that information in the database for quick reference.

*Source: American Veterinary Medical Association, <http://www.avma.org>*

### Community Supports CASA

We are grateful for the individual donors, companies and businesses both near and far that contribute throughout the year. This year we have been overwhelmed by the local community groups who have offered to help CASA.

### Elger Bay Elementary – Items for CASA

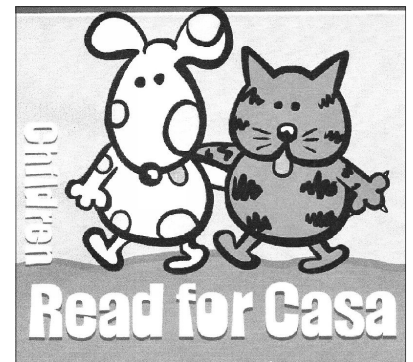
Mrs. Ludden’s first-grade class at Elger Bay Elementary, with help from Samantha Bingham, a Stanwood High School senior, came up with the goal of collecting 100 items to donate to Camano Animal Shelter Association (CASA) by February 19th, the hundredth day of school. The class ended up with a grand total of 128 items to donate. To thank the class, several CASA staff members visited with one of the shelter dogs, Loretta. We are still not sure who had more fun that day; the kids, adults, CASA staff, or Loretta.



### Camano Island Library Summer Reading Program

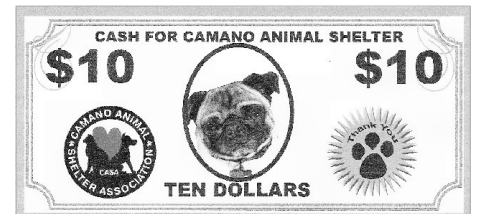
This summer, the Camano Island Library and CASA are teaming up to get children to read and to have the community support CASA. When children reach their reading goal, community members donate money to CASA.

The summer reading program begins in June with a visit to the elementary schools by a library representative and a CASA staff member. The children are urged to set a reading goal. At the end of the summer, when the children have reached their reading goal, all money collected will be donated to CASA. So stop by CASA or the library and donate or pledge your support. It’s a great way to support literacy and the homeless pets of Camano Island.



### IGA Sponsors Cash for CASA

In the near future, when customers are at the check-out counter at the Camano Plaza’s grocery store, IGA, they will be able to make a donation to CASA when paying their bill. The customer can choose to donate \$1, \$5, or \$10. The money will be added to the receipt and clearly labeled as a CASA donation. At the end of each month, IGA will send a check to CASA for the money collected.



### Local Musicians Create “Forever Home” Music CD

Musicians in the Stanwood-Camano Island area are featured in the “Forever Home” benefit CD. Some of the artists include: One Ton of Ducks, Hurricane Ridge, Albritton McClain, South End String Band, Norm Peterson, Alex Cook and Gerry Andal & the Roughriders. Also included is a selection by Laurie Z., an internationally-known Camano Island pianist who died from cancer.

Gerry Andal’s Restaurant in Stanwood will be hosting a party on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM to celebrate the release of the CASA “Forever Home” CD. The event is open to the public and all ages are welcome.



**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.

**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.

**Estate Planning** – Remember CASA in your will or estate.

**Many Thanks to:**

- **Westside Pizza for their fundraiser**
- **IGA Camano Plaza for the Pet Food Drive**
- **Lowes - generous discount on washer and dryer**
- **Marysville E & E Lumber for donating the new paint for the lobby**
- **And to all the individuals who contributed to these initiatives**

**CASA Wish List**

**General Supplies**

- Liquid bleach
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Hand held heavy-duty spray bottles (for cleaning)
- New or Used Shed (anywhere between 5’x5’ and 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
- Canned cat and dog food
- Dry Kirkland Dog/Cat food

**Pet Supplies**

- Medium size dog Kurunda beds  
See [www.kuranda.com](http://www.kuranda.com)
- Clay cat litter or stove pellets
- New colorful dog collars (large and medium)

**Office Supplies**

- Bright color copy paper ( 8 ½” x 11”)
- Postage stamps

***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.***

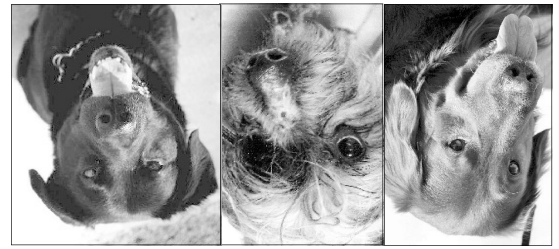
I am interested in becoming a volunteer.     I would like to become a 2010 Member of CASA.

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.

# See Our Stories !



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

**Newsletter of CASA**  
**PO Box 1726**  
**Stanwood, WA 98292**



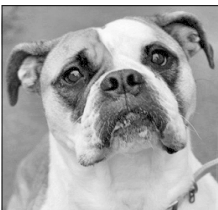
## CASA ANIMALS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF *FOREVER HOMES*



**RIPPLES** is a beautiful, big gray tabby cat who has spent about a year at CASA so far. He is a very strong willed male cat who likes to be in charge of his environment and everybody in it. Although he appears as Mr. Tuffguy, he loves to care for kittens and is the perfect babysitter for large groups of kittens. Please give him a chance. You won't be sorry you did.



**BLUE** was brought into CASA by her family along with another dog they needed to give up due to the current economy. She is a very sweet lab/shepherd mix who has not been given as much attention as she deserves lately. Blue is the kind of dog who will blossom with kind attention. She will give far more back than she will receive and deserves a loving home that will roll out the red carpet for her.



**BRIE** is an Olde English Bulldogge mix. Her name describes her personality. She is tough on the outside and soft on the inside. She needs a home where she will be the only pet with a securely fenced backyard. She is the type of dog who needs a strong owner who understands what kind of a dog she is. She is a very special type of dog and needs very special attention. There should not be any children in her household and no cats either. The manager of CASA happens to be an expert on this type of dog and can give you excellent advice on her adoption.



**TELLY** - A stray cat brought into CASA by people who found him, Telly is a warm, friendly cat who loves to spend time with people. He is now waiting for somebody to take him home and give him the kind of family he wishes for every day.



**ATHENA** - Brought to the shelter by her owners along with her 6 kittens, Athena was a young mother who needed some time to get used to her new environment and to people in general. After spending time at a foster home to rear her kittens, Athena now has calmed down and is a little sweetheart who loves people and really just wants a home and human family of her own.



**RASCAL** just came to CASA recently. He lost a loved companion and became quite sad about that. His owner can't spend enough time with him and wants Rascal to go to a good family who will give him appropriate care. He is young and lovable. He is crazy about people and loves to be around other animals also. He loves cats and kittens also. He is shy around strangers, needs a calm home where he will receive training and attention that will bring him along to being the best dog you could wish for.



**RUBY** is a German shorthaired pointer with some pit bull terrier thrown in too. She started out in CASA as a puppy and was adopted by a family who ended up bringing her back after some time due to personal problems unrelated to Ruby. She was then adopted by a nice lady who fell in love with her. Unfortunately after a few years, this person has to move and can't take Ruby along. So she is faced again with coming back to CASA for awhile. She is not happy about this. If you are looking for a smart dog you can be proud of, Ruby is the one for you. She is well-trained, and knows lots of tricks. She loves to go swimming and plays fetch. She loves to play. If you have other dogs they must come in to meet her.