



Volunteers provide special care to each shelter kitty

By Shannon R. Basner

Becoming a volunteer at the Alaska Humane Society has been a remarkable and enriching experience. What I have truly enjoyed observing is that the volunteers are truly valued for each of their unique skills and the sense of camaraderie is positive. This type of setting is invaluable to the well being of the cats housed in the facility.

I had several goals when I became a volunteer with AHS. I wanted to implement enrichment activities, behavior support, TLC and build trust with each cat in the facility, including learning each of their names. I also wanted to help other volunteers implement these strategies, particularly with the shy and unsocialized cats. I also enjoy capturing beautiful photos of the cats, to further promote their adoptions through our non-profit Alaska's KAAATs.

I never would have imagined the positive impact of volunteering at AHS would have on the lives of so many purrecious cats. I specialize in working with the very shy and unsocialized cats, as they are the ones that tug at my heartstrings the most. They are the ones so often overlooked because they require lots of time, patience and understanding to help them feel comfortable with people. Providing each one of these cats with the opportunity to build trust with humans and a strong sense of self-confidence is a truly beautiful experience.

There are not enough words to express how it feels to earn the trust of a very scared, fearful and/or unsocialized cat. For example, when Petey comes prancing down the ramp to seek out love from visitors, my heart is overwhelmed with so much joy for him. And when Opel crawls into laps, Bisque plays with toys, Lailani takes treats so gently, Georgio wants cuddles, and Sheila stands and watches instead of running away, it is so evident that each and every one is making significant progress.



Petey now seeks out affection from visitors



From left to right: volunteer Caitlin with Petey, Sheila now hangs out instead of running, Opel with volunteer Andy (Photos courtesy of Paw-prints, Howls and Purrs!)

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Last year, we found forever homes for over 100 kitties! There are several cats available for adoption and looking for their purrfect home right now. Call us at 344-8808 or visit the shelter at 1200 E. 76th Ave. (Unit 1224).



Pat– Sweet Pat is seeking out a single pet home! Please help this darling girl connect with the purrfect family!



Stormy M. – This gentle, loving boy just wants an understanding home to love him purrever!



Tigger – This 13 year-old sweetie likes attention, pets on her terms and right person to make her more comfortable. She would do best without other cats, but she is ok with dogs.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Our most sincere thank you to all the volunteers who donate their time to care for our shelter cats, raise much-needed funds and publicize our work. Your time, energy and love make our shelter a safe, comfortable and happy place for the cats.

Thank you to Brenda, Jean, Linda, Anita, Patrick, Julie, Freedom, Brenda, Kaitlin, Catlin, Rob, Judy, LaChrisha, Donna, Amanda, Dena, Shannon, Yas, Logan, Andy, Kristi, Silvua, Jessica, Kanna, Kiyoko, Annica, Kat, Chris, Sophia, Heidi, Brandon, Donna, Tina, Pat, Leslie, Ann, Erica, Hannah, Floyd, Laurie, Fil, Tim, Alben, Melissa, Anne, Ginger, Arleen and Alyssa.

We need help! If you are interested in volunteering, call Tina at 310-5514 for more information.

Have treasures you don't need?

Hang on to your unneeded treasures and really good stuff to donate to the next garage sale, which is likely to be in the spring. (Check the website or humane society staff for the final date.)

Thank you to those who donated to our garage sales last summer. Because of your generosity and the hard work of volunteers, we raised several thousand dollars to benefit our shelter cats.

Call the 344-8808 in early 2019 for details about the next garage sale.

Support shelter cats while holiday shopping on Amazon.com!

AmazonSmile, which is operated by Amazon, provides the same shopping experience as on Amazon.com, but with a charitable benefit. When you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to a charity of your choosing.

1. Visit smile.amazon.com and login with your Amazon account information (or sign up if you're a first time user).
2. Select Alaska Humane Society as the charity your purchases benefit.
3. Shop as you normally would!
4. Don't forget to bookmark the link to Amazon Smile so that you can support the shelter every time you shop.

UPDATES FROM FOREVER HOMES



Alvin adopted me 9 years ago. He's still as feisty as the day I brought him home from the shelter. - JS



Our family was blessed with Mamma Mia and baby Sophie 4 months ago. Just wanted to share how beautiful (and grown!) our newest fur babies have become. - TMF



To make a pledge to the Alaska Humane Society Adopt-A-Cat Shelter, go to <http://pfd.alaska.gov>.

We are listed as "Adopt A Cat." Thank you!

Sanctuary Cat Program for owners in crisis

Sometimes life takes an unexpected turn and otherwise good pet owners can't properly care for their feline family members due to a temporary circumstance. In order to minimize the number of abandoned animals and keep cats with their families, the Alaska Humane Society allows an owner to temporarily place their cat for care at the shelter and still maintain ownership.

Most owners who place their cats in the program are in crisis, which often means they have very limited financial resources. As such, there is no charge to place cats in the program; it is funded entirely by donations to the shelter. Owners place their cats temporarily for various reasons, including cancer treatment, an incapacitating illness or homelessness. Our hope is to find good "forever home" for every cat, so cats left at the shelter for more than four months without any contact from their owner are placed up for adoption.

If you are not able to care for your cat but would still like to maintain ownership, please contact our main office at 907-344-8808 to discuss your circumstances.

THANK YOU DONORS!

Alaska Humane Society would like to sincerely thank our donors. Your generosity helps us provide quality care and a second chance for hundreds of homeless, unwanted and infirm cats every year. To donate:

- Go to www.adopt-a-cat.org and follow the link to donate via PayPal;
- Send a check, payable to Alaska Humane Society, to P.O. Box 240587, Anchorage, AK 99524;
- Stop by our shelter office at 1200 E. 76th Ave., Unit 1224.

All donations are tax deductible.

Federal ID # 92-0072189

Other ways to give

Besides financial contributions, we need and welcome other items to help us care for the shelter kitties. These items include:

- medium-sized medical gloves (sold at Costco)
- hand sanitizer
- cat litter (prefer Special Kitty, sold at Wal-Mart)
- bleach
- Simple Green
- Case of Friskies canned food
- paper towels
- banana boat style paper plates (1lb size, at Costco)
- liquid laundry detergent (unscented) with spigot
- cat food (lams, orange bags)
- trash bags (heavy duty 13 gal)
- towels and blankets
- cat grooming tools (brushes, combs and nail clippers)
- dryer sheets
- sponges and scrub brushes
- gift cards to hardware stores or pet supply stores
- a commercial grade washing machine and dryer



Alaska Humane Society, Inc.



P.O. Box 240587

Anchorage, AK 99524

About the Alaska Humane Society

Founded in 1979, the Alaska Humane Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that operates a no-kill shelter and sanctuary for orphan cats. We accept cats on the basis of need, not adoptability.

The shelter houses 100 - 150 cats, most of which are available for adoption, in a large, open floor-plan that allows them to enjoy a quality of life outside of a cage. All cats in the shelter are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, screened for health issues and tested for feline leukemia, and micro-chipped.

Our all-volunteer staff care for the cats and provide maintenance to the shelter facility. Funding for the AHS is mostly comprised of donations from local donors, with adoption fees accounting for the rest. We are not affiliated with any national organizations. www.adopt-a-cat.org



**The Adopt-A-Cat Shelter is located at 1200 E. 76th Ave., Unit 1224.
Call 344-8808 for directions.**

Hours of Operation
Monday – Friday: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.