



# HAF

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 4-Fall 2013

## HAF Officers

**President: Robyn Smith**

**VP: Eileen Faulkner**

**Treasurer: Janet Higley**

**Secretary: Lynn Kee**

### Board Of Directors

**Valda Ziemelis**

**Dick Leirer**

**Pat Moss**

**Pat Boone**

**Sherry Bess**

## From the President

October 13th through the 19th is National Veterinary Technician week.

I want to thank our technicians here in Homer, they are awesome! I really love my vet but when my kitties need things like blood drawn (meaning needles) the techs are the BOMB! Also with things like giving my pets fluids (my husband calls it water boarding, but he hates needles & needs a sense of humor).

Our techs often see the same patients throughout their entire lives and develop close, caring relationships with the animals and their owners. The care and education technicians provide makes an immense difference in an animal's quality of life & their human companions too!

So thank you,  
Sue  
Jennifer  
Sarah  
Danielle  
Veronica  
Gina  
And all those that came before!

Robyn Smith

## Spay and Neuter Report

So far through September of this year a total of 355 animals have been spayed or neutered at a total cost to HAF of \$29,026.

## Past Events

### Strut Your Mutt-6/29



Dave with Maggie Alston who obtained \$50 in pledges



July 4, 2013 Parade - Theme Honor the Past ... Imagine the Future  
HAF won the Best in Show Animal category



July 20<sup>th</sup> HCOA Street Fair





August 17, 2013 Blessing of the Animals at the Homer United Methodist Church.

Reverend Talbott blesses Mayberry, one of Sherry's Dogs

### 2013 Upcoming Events

Oct. 29th is National Cat Day

November is Senior Pet Month, be looking for HAF's "Golden Paws" program!

November 2nd, "Rotary Health Fair" at the Homer High School-7:30am to 1:00pm

November 3-9th is "National Animal Shelter" Appreciation week

November 24th Holiday Bazaar at the Faith Lutheran Church

December (TBA) "Santa Pictures" where (TBA)

December ? HAF's "Unparty"

December 6th & 7th "Nutcracker Faire" at the Homer High School

Other events will be announced as dates are set. Watch for your email. If you have not provided HAF your email address, please do so now. Its far cheaper and faster for us than snail mail.

### Memorials and Honors

#### In Memory of:

Pushinka – beloved companion dog of Jim & Denise Hansen

Mister – beloved companion pet of Dixie Hart

Bella – beloved companion pet of Mary Ellen & John Ulrich

Trixie & Missy – beloved companion pets of Kimberly Hemphill

Kusko – beloved companion dog of Carol Kerkvliet

Maggie May – beloved companion pet of Connie Cavasos

Scooby – beloved companion pet of James Rounds

Chief, Foxy, Kiska & Kenai - beloved companion pets of Kim Koppen/Tony Arsenault

Spitter, Oprah, Perl & Buddy Bear – beloved companion pets of Mary Huff

Floy – beloved companion dog of Amanda Davidhizar

Duckey – beloved companion dog of Cyasta & Theresa Turner

Mocha – beloved companion chocolate lab of Bill & Kimberly Junior

Barney Ryan – loving son and Penny Dog – beloved companion pet of Beverly Ryan

## Memorials and Honors

### (continued)

#### Honorariums

All the wonderful animals and their companions in Homer by Dr Dots Sherwood

Alenna by Bonnie & Natalie Betley

Peggy Pittman, one of HAF's three original founders

## New Members

### **Four Paws Members**

Peg Price & Kathy Franz

Connie Cavasos

Eileen Faulkner

Bonnie & Natalie Betley

Denise & Jim Hansen

Russ & Linda Grainger

Mary Huff

Nancy York

### **New Members**

Amy Ware

Dixie Hart

Luana Stovel

Scott Ulmer

Matt Schneyer

### **Business Members**

Homer Veterinary Clinic-Dots Sherwood

Alaska Goldendoodles-Elizabeth Downing

Maritime Helicopters, Inc.-Don and Mary Ann Fell

Falcon Charters - Kim Koppen and Tony Arsenault

Pioneer Car Rental-John and Sandra Thompson

## Homer Dog Trainers

Thank goodness for volunteers! Dog events like shows and trials couldn't happen without them.

I am currently training dogs in nose work and agility. Nose work is a relatively new sport – about three years old - but it is sweeping the nation. On Sept. 13, 14 and 15,

I had the opportunity to volunteer my services at a trial held in Ninilchik. I didn't have a dog entered so I got to be a "key" volunteer for three days. Volunteering educated me about this new sport.

Dog sports are usually overseen by people imported from the Lower 48, but the events could not exist without a giant corps of local volunteers. During this trial, the National Association of Canine Scent Work sent two people from CA and WA to set up and oversee the trial. Prior to their arrival in Alaska, several local volunteers spent months and months wading through the NACSW red tape and requirements to run this sanctioned trial that would draw competitors from all around the State. It was a huge commitment of time, energy and patience. At the actual trial, each day used about 20 - 30 volunteers.

In a Nose Work trial, dogs are required to find particular odors hidden in the environment. Hides are made by placing a cotton swab containing the odor of sweet birch, anise or clove (depending on the level of training) in a tiny, unobtrusive container which is hidden in the search area. There are 4 different searches in a trial and the dog/handler team is given between 2 and 3 minutes to find the source/odor in each area. 1) Container search, odor is hidden in one of 35 - 40 identical closed boxes(NW1), or old suitcases, purses, shoes, boxes, backpacks and gym bags(NWII). 2) Vehicle Search: the hide is placed on one of three parked vehicles. 3) Indoor Search: The hide is placed one or two rooms full of all sorts of stuff. 4) Exterior Search: Odor is placed in a roped off section of the great outdoors. Each of these searches required 4 - 5 volunteers and a NW judge.

Over the course of the trial I was never bored. Each day I had two or three different job descriptions, including Judge's Steward, competitors' escort, videographer, score room help, and all around go-fer. I learned much about the sport, and I continue to be impressed. I was in and among people who live, learn and talk dog. It confirmed my opinion that people who participate in activities like nose work and agility are the nicest, most supportive people around.

It also confirmed that volunteerism is energizing, important and critical to the success of nonprofit organizations and that volunteering is healthy for individuals.

Pat Moss

## Shelter Report

**Shelter Stats at a Glance**---Between January and Sept. 2013 we had 263 animals come into the Shelter. 219 of those were adopted out or returned to owner and 59 were euthanized.



Homer Animal Friends  
PO Box 2300  
Homer, AK 99603

Return Receipt Requested

We are on the web!

[www.homeranimals.com](http://www.homeranimals.com)

Email us at

[homeranimals@gmail.com](mailto:homeranimals@gmail.com)

Don't forget to "Like us" on

