



# HAF

## HAF 2015

### Board of Directors

**President: Pat Boone**

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**Secretary: Pat Moss**

**Secretary: Christine Griffard**

**Treasurer: Janet Higley**

**Sherry Bess**

**Kevyn Jalone**

**Denison Kitchel**

**Sue Landreth**

**Robyn Smith**

**Amy Ware**

## President's Message

I am pleased to announce the opening of the HAF Store, located at 3581-A Main Street, next to Homer Hounds. The new hours are Tuesday-Friday 11-6, Saturday 11-4.

This is a new and exciting venture for HAF! In addition to a retail store offering dog/cat food, treats, leashes, collars and toys, we envision a place for meetings, classes, book reviews and so much more. Our popular spay/neuter coupons are available at the store, also information about Homer Dog Trainers current and future classes.

In the future we hope to have a bulletin board featuring adoptable animals at the animal shelter. The possibilities are endless and we hope you as members of HAF will take advantage of all we have to offer. Without the support of our members, HAF programs would not be possible.

Please join us on May 30th, Saturday for a special membership open house. There will be door prizes, gift bags, 10% discount on merchandize (excluding pet food), snacks, drinks and fun. Help celebrate the opening of the HAF Store.

Pat Boone

HAF President



**New Members**

Patrick Prouty

Robert O'Hara Jr \*

Collins Excavation & Services Inc \*

Mary Frances Tracy \*

Linda Gunn

\*Four Paws

**Four Paws**

Kate Gill

Christine Griffard

Dixie Hart

Hal Smith/SusanMcLane

William & Ginny Post

Pat Boone

Martha Briscoe

Richard Leirer

Trina & George Smallwood III

Jack Sibson, Jr

Mary Griswold

Cristine Beaudoin

Michael Sampson

Pat Moss

**In Memoriam**

Booker

Terra

Rider

Magic

Meet **Cathy Harder**, HAF Store manager.

After many years of visiting Alaska on vacation, Cathy and her husband moved here from Michigan in December driving the Highway (a true Alaskan adventure). An animal lover and recently retired from banking, Cathy was looking for a new challenge. The new HAF Store will do well under Cathy's management. Stop by the store and say HI.

FYI: Cathy and her husband immediately adopted a dog from the Homer Animal Shelter.

Volunteers needed to help at the HAF Store. Please email [HAFstore@gmail.com](mailto:HAFstore@gmail.com) if you can volunteer. What a great way to connect with other pet owners in Homer.'



### Spay/Neuter Report 2015

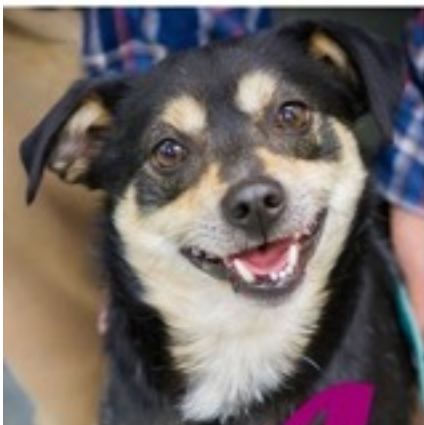
From January 1st thru March 31st HAF has sponsored 83 Spay/Neuters at a total cost of \$9,709.63, this includes the February cat clinic (Thank you Homer Veterinary Clinic). This prevented about 565 pets being born and having no "home" and that's just in our area!

Our next S/N Cat Clinic is May 6th be sure to call the Homer Vet Clinic to make an appointment (they fill up fast) 235-8960

A big THANK YOU to our members, all those that donate and the Homer Veterinary Clinic it does take "A Village" to get things done.  
Don't forget to stop by the new HAF Store!

Robyn Smith,  
HAF, S/N Board Chair

Animals That Have Been Recently Adopted



*Adopted!*

## Past Events

We hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trivia Night at the Elks Lodge in February. Challenging questions, great food, fabulous giveaways and lots of fun! This year's events raised over \$1,400 for The Shelter Fund.

HAF participated in the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair in April raising awareness about bite prevention and safety around dogs. A great new display with games and prizes made learning fun!



The Safe Kids Fair was on April 25<sup>th</sup> and once again Homer Animal Friends/Homer Dog Trainers had a booth. This year we focused on: dog body language/stress signs; how to greet a dog; and how to “Be a Tree”.

For our presentation we placed pictures of dogs showing various types of emotion on a sandwich board. For the smaller kids the photos were easier: a dog showing its teeth, a dog with its ears pinned back while looking uncomfortable, and two happy puppy photos. We then asked the kids to throw a ball through a hole next to the happy, mad, or scared dog. I was impressed by the number of very young kids that got them all correct. For the older kids and parents we had pictures of a very happy looking Pit Bull, an unhappy dog who was nose to nose with a small child, a puppy with a toy showing a half-moon of the white of its eye, and a dog that is looking at something very intensely with his tail raised while standing very stiffly. We asked which photo showed an accident waiting to happen (which could have been any of the photos except for the happy Pit Bull). Some people chose the Pit as the “accident waiting to happen,” just because of the breed’s reputation. The best choice was the very unhappy dog that was nose to nose with the child (children are often bitten by the family dog while being supervised by the parents because the adults don’t know how to read dog body language). The half-moon eyed puppy with the toy could be guarding and may bite. The intense dog might be so aroused that if a child ran up they could get hurt because the dog doesn’t see them and is startled and/or its arousal could be redirected to the child.

## The Safe Kids Fair continued

We continue to teach “Be a Tree,” which we have been teaching to Kindergarteners at Paul Banks Elementary for a few years now. This program teaches kids how to communicate with dogs using canine body language. “Being a Tree” tells the dog that the child does not want to interact. To “Be a Tree” we instruct the kids to plant your roots (feet), wrap your limbs around yourself (clasp your hands in front of yourself), look down at your roots, then sing a song or count in your head (helps to relax). The Tree posture tells the dog that the child isn’t interested in him/her, which will decrease interest and it will buy time until an adult can intervene.

During our time at the Fair we saw several kids that went through our program this year. When I asked if they knew how to “Be a Tree,” several kindergartners didn’t hesitate to demonstrate the tree pose. We also had many older kids who remembered what they learned about communicating with dogs while in kindergarten.

The teachers at Paul Banks tell us that our visits are a high point for the Kindergarteners. After students learn about taking care of dogs, how to “Be a Tree,” and the appropriate way to meet a dog at their school, they take a field trip to the Homer Dog Trainers building and watch dogs do tricks, obedience, K9 Nose Work, and agility. This year we had 70 Kindergarteners visit our training center. They were the biggest group ever – so many that we had to have two sessions just to fit them all in the building! We were thrilled to host them and believe that a good time was had by all.

Casey Moss

Homer Animal Friends/Homer Vet Clinic sponsored a 'Microchip Clinic' on April 22nd. Twenty two pets were 'chipped' on that day and the cost to the owners was \$20. Thank you Homer Vet Clinic for co-sponsoring this event.

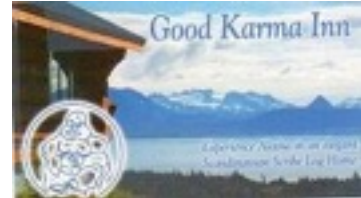


## Upcoming Events

Look for HAF in such summer events as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade!



# Business Members



Alaska Golden Doodles

Maritime Helicopters Inc.



Salty Girls LLC



"Find a Friend for Life"

Homer Animal Friends  
PO Box 2300  
Homer, AK 99603

Return Receipt Requested



[we are on the web!](#)

Email us at

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