



HAF

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 1-Winter 2013

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From the President

Why I became a member of HAF

I have had pets of one kind or another all my life, as a kid life was difficult to say the least, and what got me through it all were my animals. You see the one thing they give that you can't get anywhere else it total acceptance, they don't care if I'm in shape or not, tall or short, young or old. To them I'm just me and they accept that totally. They have enriched my life always & I remember all those that have moved on and all the little & large ways they made a difference in my life. Because of them all, I joined HAF with the hope of making a difference to all that I may never even meet.

Robyn Smith
HAF, President

Spay and Neuter Report

Being the first of our Quarterly Newsletters I thought I'd cover the statistics from the beginning of HAF through November 2012. From 1988 through December 2011 HAF has spayed and neutered 6538 animals with a total cost to HAF of \$243,960. In 1988 the numbers were 34 animals at a cost of \$1,210. So far this year, through November, HAF has spayed and neutered 385 animals at a cost of \$24,107.

We have come a long way but we couldn't have done it without the generous contributions from the members of HAF and people of Homer. Thank you one and all!!!!

Past Events

Health Fair 2012



Holiday Bazaar 2012



Nutcracker 2012



Buster Program

2013 Upcoming Events

January 8th is the General Membership Meeting at the Library.

February 26th there will be a Cat Clinic at the Homer Veterinary Clinic. Cat Owners will pay \$20 for a Spay or Neuter and HAF picks up the rest. Owners must call for appointment.

March 12th is the General Membership Meeting at the Library.

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 for us than snail mail.

Memorials and Honors

Donations received as memorials and honors from July 2012 through December 2012

In Memory of:

Margaret Lockwood in memory of Sophie, Minnie and Riley

Joyce Robinette in memory of her cat Tangerine

Beverly Ryan in memory of Barney Ryan and Penny the Beagle

Lynn Kee in memory of Brosia the best dog in the world

Lynn Kee in memory of Amber's cat George the best traveler

Betty Jo Goddard in memory of Peggy

Mary Lynn Harper in memory of Pepsi

In Honor Of:

Kim Koppen/Tony Arsenault in honor of Chief, Foxy, Kiska and Kenai

Bill and Glenda Rosenbalmin honor of Ivy

Lynn Kee in honor of Maurice for sharing his house with Itty Bitty Kitty

Caroline Venuti in honor of Tashay, Mon-Ami and Macey

Mary Lynn Harper in honor of Emmy

New Members

Jolee Ellis
Sharon & Cory Stewart,
Mary Huff
Mary Ann Griffith
Denison Kitcher

Homer Dog Trainers

What is Agility

What is agility? Agility is the most fun you can share with your dog! As recreation, agility is like a visit to a doggy amusement park, providing an outlet for excess energy and a fun way to spend some free time with your dog. In competition, agility is a dog sport in which dogs traverse a maze of obstacles and compete for speed and accuracy. Racing against the clock, dogs jump through tires, zip through tunnels, scale a 6 foot tall A-frame, navigate a narrow dog walk, negotiate a see-saw and soar over a variety of challenging hurdles.

Any dog can do agility. People are attracted to agility for a variety of reasons: it's fun, it instills confidence in your dog, it creates a positive working relationship between you and your dog, it's a great outlet for energetic dogs to blow off some steam and it gives bored dogs a job to do.

In the last 9 years, about 60 people have come through our agility classes, which represents thousands of class time hours. People who start agility with their dogs tend to continue with agility – often for a large percentage of their dog's lives. Many of our HDT students and their dogs have gone on to earn AKC and NADAC agility titles.

At Homer Dog Trainers, we offer several different agility classes:

- 1) Puppy agility is a low impact introduction to the agility obstacles for puppies up to 6 months old. They get to explore the different equipment in a fun, positive environment with no pressure to perform as required in competition.
- 2) Beginning agility is for dogs 1 year and older. Dogs will learn how to negotiate all obstacles safely and according to the rules used in competition.
- 3) Advanced agility is for teams that have completed beginning agility and are considering or actively competing. .

All agility classes are taught using positive, reward based methods. During the summer months, classes are held outdoors. Puppy and Advanced agility classes are ongoing, new Beginner classes will start in January, 2013. If you think you want to give this fun sport a try, contact Tracie at 399-0630 or email me at torefellows@gmail.com.

Shelter Report

Buster Program

Something new was recently started at the Homer Animal Shelter.....the 'Buster Program'.

Buster was a dog nobody wanted because he was out of control. He was excitable, pushy, mouthy but he was also smart. He just could not calm down enough for someone to see the dog he could be.

After meeting Buster, we knew we could help other dogs like Buster if volunteers would help socialize and work on basic skills like sit, down and recall. This new program consists of 1) a kennel card placed on the dogs kennel listing strengths and weaknesses, 2) monthly volunteer training, and 3) discount for dog training classes, HDT Family Dog Class.

If you would like to volunteer to help socialize and train dogs in the shelter, please contact the shelter director for the next available training class.

The Story of Strider

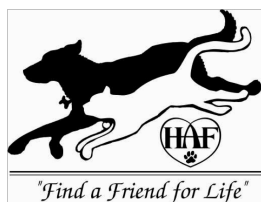
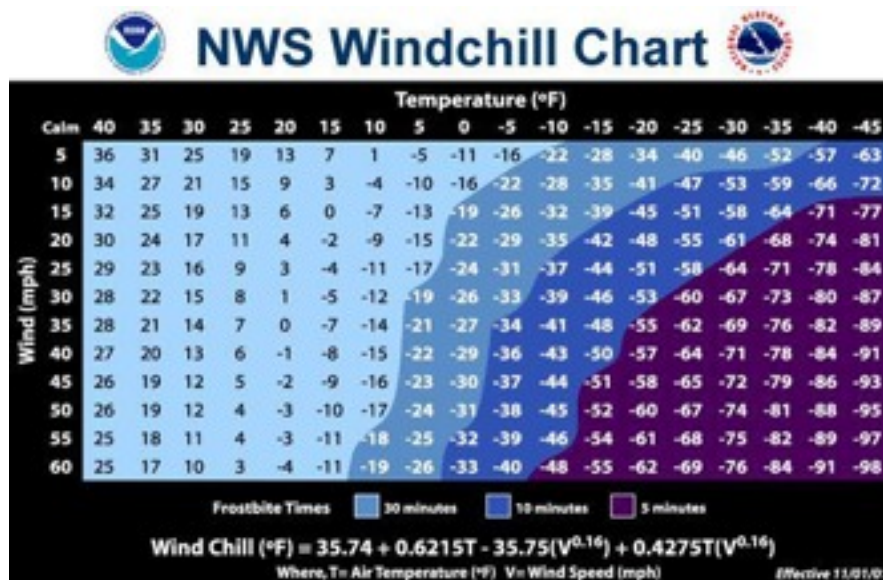


Strider is one lucky cat. First of all this middle-aged tabby finds a home; shelter from the cold...

Or so he thought. Turns out our boy had found his way through an old heater vent into a foreclosed and abandoned house. Snowfall blocks the vent and he can't get back out. Now here's the picture for you: It's cold - single digits - there is no heat, no food, no running water in this house. It is **cold!** Our boy paces and waits for someone to come feed him, to love him and take him home. He waits, and waits. Days pass and, worst of all, long brutally cold nights. Until one day a neighbor taking his afternoon walk notices, 'Hey there's a cat in that house... Err but nobody lives in that house?!' Long story short, an all out team effort ensues between the Homer Animal Shelter (Brian on hands and knees tossing little bits of wet food through a hole- 'hold on little buddy, we'll get you out of there!'), Homer P.D. and a kindly local locksmith. Thin as a rail but, again, very, very lucky, 'Strider' was reborn at the Homer Animal Shelter. And yes, he eats whatever he wants, whenever he wants, and is the picture of health. A warm bed and three squares! Love, attention and lots and lots of new friends- a success! Moral to this story? If you see an animal you think might be in need, it probably is. Go ahead, do the right thing: **Do something about it!**

Winter Alert

Reminder it's been cold so far this winter with temps in the single digits. Please bundle your pets when you take them out and also cars feel like refrigerators so don't keep them in the car for long.



Homer Animal Friends
PO Box 2300
Homer, AK 99603

Return Receipt Requested

We are on the web!

www.homeranimals.com

Email us at

homeranimals@gmail.com

Don't forget to "Like US" on

