



Paws for Thought

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER of the TEHACHAPI HUMANE SOCIETY

SUMMER 2019 Final edition

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

After more than 15 years we have closed our office. It was a sad time but we are actually doing almost as much as we were when we had the office and saving rent and insurance which gives us more money to use for our spay/neuter programs. Dr. Billingsly's monthly shot clinic will still be at the same time and date but will be held at her facility in Sand Canyon. Some of the other rescues have picked up a few of our programs, you will find a listing of local rescues later in this newsletter, but we are basically doing nearly what we did before. Lost and Found, still occupies quite a bit of my time. Some successful examples follow.

Now that it's the warming I have had numerous found dogs that have spent time at my house until they could be reunited with their owners. Un-neutered male dogs are very busy this time of year because its breeding season and they get out to look for girlfriends. If you know of someone who has an un-neutered or unspayed dog or cat please let them know they can call THS and we will help them with vouchers to get their pet fixed.

Its also very important to have a collar and ID tag on dogs. My son picked up two pups running back and forth on Woodford Blvd. causing a traffic hazard. If the owners had put collars and ID's on them he would have called them and taken the pups home. Instead he brought them to me to hold. I put out the word to friends in the area where they were found. After several hours of the owners looking for them they stopped at my friends who told them where their dogs were and they came to pick them up.

The next dog that was found had a collar and tags when he went missing. When a lady found him on her porch there were none. She called our lost/found line. She could not hold him so I told her I would hold him but asked her to take him to the Pet lodge to have him microchip scanned before they brought him over. He did have a chip registered to an Idaho humane Society. After a day or so, luckily relatives in Idaho got in touch with the nephew here in Tehachapi. He contacted me and came and got his dog who had belonged to his grandpa in Idaho that had passed away. So I gave him the chip info and he was going to have the chip transferred to his name. It's important to always contact the chip company when you move or change phone numbers so that if a pet is missing the chip can do its job. If a person doesn't know the chip info just take the pet to the vet. They will scan it, give you the number and phone number, then call them and they will send an update form.

My last story is about a 3 1/2 month neutered microchipped Border Collie puppy. His family was moving from Vacaville to somewhere in Arizona. The husband and kids pulled off the highway at Keene because the truck was overheating. They all were outside with the dogs, then when they loaded up and left they thought the pup was under the seat where he always rode. At Sand Canyon they realized he was not with them. They went back to Keene but could not find him. So they went on to Arizona. The wife in Vacaville called our lost/found line the next morning. I gave her all the ways to post on facebook. I called Tehachapi vet and had them fill out a lost card saying he had a chip registered to the owners but to call me if found and I would pick him up and hold him. A little while later the vet called and said someone had brought him in but the chip was not registered. I called the wife and let her know he was found but there was no chip info. I told her she needed to call whoever chipped him

and find out how to get it registered to them. A day or so later the husband came back from Arizona and picked him up. When you or someone you know gets a pet chipped make sure to have the chip scanned to make sure it has the correct info.

All of this I just wrote happened in less than 2 weeks!

My friend Lynda was at the dump the Saturday of Easter weekend. She was throwing out trash and the bulldozer was getting ready to push up the trash pile. Something told her to look in a box with no lid on the pile. Inside were 2 kittens 6-7 weeks old huddled in the box. A male Russian blue tux and a female orange tabby tux. She brought them to me since she did not know what to do with them. My son washed them and when they were wet I saw a couple of bald spots. We took them to the vet and as I suspected they have a bit of ringworm. Due to my health issues I can't do ringworm kittens anymore. I posted them on the local email "Next door neighbor" and ended up hearing from my longtime next door neighbor Lisa. Her friend Jen was willing to foster and medicate both. She is going to adopt the gray and Lisa's son Wyatt is going to adopt the orange when she is clear. I had a lot of people on Next door respond to me - so once again Tehachapi folks show that even though Tehachapi has some jerks - the dumpers, we have many more kind, compassionate people.

So THS is still very busy even without the office!!

This will be our last official newsletter, another way to save money for the animals, but I will regularly send out a President's letter explaining how things are going. You have seen a few of the many ways we continue to help the animals. We appreciate your continued support that enables us to continue our important programs.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Kate

FIX YOUR PET PROGRAM (FYP)

The Fix Your Pet Program (FYP) was started in February of 2015 and ended March 1st of this year because of lack of participation and funding to sustain it through coming years. FYP was set up primarily for very low income individuals in the Tehachapi area, to receive local vet services to spay and neuter their pets. Through this program we were able to spay/neuter 222 canines and 313 felines over the past 4 years. Clients were asked to pay a low co-payment of \$20 for canines and \$10 for felines, which included pain meds, rabies shots, DHLPP for canines and FVCRP for felines. Pets were kept overnight and picked up the following morning by their owners. Proof of income and address were the only requirement for this service and for assignment of a clinic. Clinics were held twice a month by our local vets, Dr Beverly Billingsley and Tehachapi Vet Hospital.

Our vets provided a discounted rate to us for these services and assigned a full day each month just for our clients. We can not possibly begin to thank Dr. Billingsley and staff and Tehachapi Vet and staff enough for their willingness to join us in this endeavor and for their fine professional services. Thank you so very much.

Our Spay/Neuter voucher programs for companion pets and feral cats are still available. These two programs have been in place for over 25 years for Tehachapi and East Kern and have made a significant impact to the overpopulation of pets.

FERAL CAT PROGRAM

It is hard to believe that I have been doing this for over fourteen years.

At first, I thought I was volunteering to check a phone line and take notes, well not exactly. A couple of months later I found myself fostering kittens and being in charge of the Feral cat spay and neuter program. I had no idea what TNR (trap/neuter/return) was and I had never seen a feral cat live trap before. The lady who started the program moved away and, lucky me, I inherited it. THS pioneered the TNR program in Eastern Kern. When I started in 2005 there was a list of over 20 people dealing with more than 20 cats each and an average of 6 calls daily asking for help. We had a few very old traps; along the way we secured a grant to purchase new ones. As time progressed we also secured cat food that was distributed among the care givers. Three years later I heard about Fixnation, a place in Burbank that spayed and neutered feral cats free of charge. So, for the next 2 years with the help of several volunteer drivers and their vehicles we took 835 cats there. We used all kinds of transportation, including a horse trailer.

Then my back pain was getting worse and Fixnation started to give me hassles so I decided to end our endeavor. In the following years we lost our sources for cat food, I went through two back surgeries and a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis and my trapping days are over. However, the requests for vouchers has not stopped. We made a dent in the population, but the need is still there, however not as prevalent as before. As of April 30th, we have already fixed 79 cats, 41 males and 38 females.

I have been feeding two colonies with food provided by THS. The first one is located at a trailer park on W J Street. We started 10 years ago with 60 cats, about 15 are still there. Recently I started having troubles with a new tenant who decided that the cats needed to go, since I am feeding them on city land he cannot make me stop. So, three weeks ago he broke my feeding station and put it in the trash, when that did not stop me, twice he threw the food all over the place, the last drop was when he threw the dishes and food in trash again. I made a complaint with the police and he left things alone. So, my husband and I spent Easter Sunday building a new feeding station.

The other colony is located at the maintenance yard of the West Park. The Parks and Rec called asking for help and my neighbor Christine trapped them. Then I and several volunteers drove them to the vet. A total of 25 cats were fixed. We received a nice award for it.

I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped me through all these years. I could not have done it without them. You are the best.

Neide Franzen

SHOT CLINIC

It has been my honor to work with Dr. Billingsley and staff the second Saturday of the month Shot Clinic for many years. Initially clinics were held in a parking lot at a Feed Store, our parking lot, no matter what the weather and then in our Golden Hills office. We have had great volunteers, Francine, Ricky, and so many more, I cannot recall all the names. Thank you all for the help provided by guiding pets and clients through the maze of getting their vaccinations. You are truly appreciated. Dr. Billingsley still provides the same service at her office the second Saturday of the month.

Betty Penley

VOUCHER PROGRAM

Our voucher program issues vouchers to help pet owners with the cost of spaying and neutering their dogs and cats. The cost of the program for the first third of 2019 was \$1500 for 36 animals.

16 cats: 6 male and 10 female

20 dogs: 11 male and 9 female

Our voucher numbers have been lower since we instituted the Fix Your Pet Program. Since that program is finished we expect the voucher numbers will increase significantly.

TEHACHAPI AREA HUMANE/ANIMAL SERVICES & RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

Tehachapi Humane Society tehachapihumanesociety.com

661-823-0699 1121 W. Valley Blvd., Suite I-179, Tehachapi, CA 93561

S.T.O.P. Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets stoprescue.org

661-823-4100 785 Tucker Road, Suite G, Box 460, Tehachapi, CA 93561

Have a Heart Humane Society haveahearthumanesociety.org

661-822-5683 Rescued Treasures Resale, 1121 W. Valley Blvd., Tehachapi, CA

Marley's Mutts Dog Rescue marleymutts.org

661-556-7178 1121 W. Valley Blvd., Suite I, Box 140, Tehachapi, CA 93561

Kern County Animal Services kerncountyanimalservices.org

661-868-7100 395 Fruitvale Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308

Kern County Animal Services / Mojave

661-824-1030 923 Poole St., Mojave, CA 93501

Kern County Animal Services / Lake Isabella

760-378-1131 14891 Highway 178, Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Dobie SOS (Doberman Pinscher Rescue) dobiesos.net

661-886-1721 P.O. Box 2195, Tehachapi, CA 93581

APET Rescue PetFinder.com/pet-search?shelter_id=CA913

661-258-9525 Facility located on Edwards Air Force Base but they serve most of Kern County and L.A. County communities.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Since we no longer have an office, we can't offer assistance with pet food and hope one of the other rescues will be able to handle that. We do offer limited financial assistance for injured animals in low income families.

Recently a lady called us for help for her Chihuahua mixed pup who had fallen off the bed and injured it's back leg. It was explained to her that THS would pay the first \$140 and she would be responsible for anything over that. She said she had no money to put towards her pet's bill. I told her that if it was going to be over \$140 she could relinquish the pup to THS This is what she did. We paid for the pup's x-rays and 1st shot. He stayed at Tehachapi vet for observation and a 2nd x-ray opinion from an orthopedic vet. Happily after about a week it was determined that his growth plate was not broken and it was just a soft tissue bruise. I contacted the local STOP rescue and they took him in and adopted him to a great home.

SKIPPY AND HIS BOY

My son was strolling through the Tehachapi Farmer's Market in 2009 thinking about getting a friend for his small dog. Back in those days THS had a booth and usually brought a few adoptable animals.

He saw Skippy, who had just had a front leg amputated, and felt sorry for him. But did he really need a 3 legged dog? And money was scarce. Up walked the owner of Jakes Restaurant who I guess could sense an animal lover, as well as a dog in need, and offered to pay his adoption fee for my son. Skippy was somewhat of a trial but when a baby was brought into the home in 2015 we were all a little nervous.

He growled once and was told in no uncertain terms that that kind of behavior wasn't allowed. He has become that boy's best friend.

An adopted animal is so rewarding. Even though THS has not been doing foster animals for some time, other rescues have entered the arena and many "unwanted" animals are finding good homes. It has been my pleasure to work with Tehachapi Humane, first as an early president and now finishing as the newsletter editor. Many thanks to all and especially to Mike McCallion for his years of volunteer publishing of "Paws For Thought." THS will continue to do good work in the community while cutting back on unnecessary expenses.

Gail Gunnels

