



PET HARBOR RESCUE & REFERRAL, INC.

Summer 2008

Upcoming Events:

ADOPTION EVENTS:

Saturday, July 12
Saturday, August 23
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

S. Fredericksburg PetsMart
9751 Jefferson Davis Hwy
(Massaponax)

NATIONAL PETSMART ADOPTATHON:

Saturday, September 13
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
S. Fredericksburg PetsMart

Please check our
website for updates
www.petharbor.org
Or call 703-583-HSKY



This issue focuses on
volunteering Here
volunteer Wanda prepares
Panta Mime (available for
adoption) for a nail trim.



Volunteer Kristy grooms
Grant (adopted)

When we bring pets into our families, they travel with carry-on bags. Their luggage may include things we wish they had left behind. Don't give up! No problem is insurmountable. Just like you don't deep six your children when they do things you'd prefer they didn't, keep the faith in your furred family members! If there are behavioral issues you would like us to highlight in future newsletters, let us know! Last time we chose a common dog issue: separation anxiety. This newsletter features a common cat issue: litter box misses.

Litter Box Woes

Pristine creatures, kitties potty outside the box for a reason. To solve the puzzle, one must first discover the cause. That may mean investigating different theories. Thus, be forearmed with patience! So, Patient Detective, let's start sleuthing! Possible causes & solutions:

MEDICAL. A simple trip to the vet can determine if a health issue is causing kitty's misses. If arthritis is an issue, make sure kitty doesn't have to climb into the box.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISRUPTION. Kitties are territorial beings & often don't appreciate any change in their worlds. Your new significant other or bouncing bundle of joy could cause kitty stress. Moving the litter box by a noisy washer can cause kitty anxiety. Don't rehome kitty! Be conscious of your feline creatures of habit & allow them adjustment space & time. If possible, introduce changes gradually.

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO CATLINESS. If kitty thinks his/her bathroom is not clean enough, kitty simply won't use it. So, of course, the solution is to keep the box clean. Boxes that clean themselves automatically are available.

SUFFICIENT FACILITIES. Prissy kitties demand their own private boxes. Rules of thumb are to have as many boxes as you have kitties & a box on each floor to which kitty has access.

CHARMIN OR QUILTED NORTHERN. Some kitties like open, some like closed. Some like public, some private. Some like clay, some sand. Try moving the box to a more private area. Try different styles of boxes and varieties of litter to see what your kitty likes. Maybe Goldilocks thinks there is too much litter or not enough. Try different depths. Try putting a soft rug under the box. Strange as it may seem, try adding some potting soil & grass to the litter.

ODOR. If the odor causes kitty to return to the scene of the crime, after you thoroughly clean with a cleaner specifically for feline waste, make the crime scene his/her dining room or play area, dining room, or cover the area with a deterrent, such as aluminum foil.

CONFINEMENT. Next try isolating kitty & belongings (food, water, toys, bed, litter box) to a small room. Once kitty uses the box in that room, gradually introduce kitty back into the common areas.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT. If you catch kitty pottying outside the box, startle kitty with a loud noise, such as a can of pennies. Any noisy distraction will make kitty stop the behavior. This method only applies when kitty is caught with her pants down, so to speak. Then try confinement.

PROFESSIONAL HELP. If all else fails, visit your public library for a kitty behavior book or ask your vet for a referral to a kitty behavioral specialist. There are natural remedies & other medications available to help kitty (and you) through stressful periods if necessary as well. If you adopted kitty from Pet Harbor, call us & we'll put on detective hats & help solve your kitty's caper.



Kirby (available for adoption) & Ping



Freedom, Pet Harbor alumnus, enjoys his litter box!

Simpson*Simon*

Volunteer Monica helps Simon with his photo shoot.

Shea

Shea plays with a soft squeaky toy at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Featured Dog - Simpson

Divorce landed Simpson in a rural SW Virginia dog pound. He then came to Pet Harbor itchy & missing patches of hair. After several vet visits & attempted treatments, inexpensive thyroid medication was found to be the answer, which he likely won't need forever. Weighing in about 50 pounds, Simpson is a 4-year-old red & white male Siberian Husky with one blue eye & one brown eye. His birthday is approximately March 22, 2004. An easy dog who loves being brushed, he is housebroken & great with dogs & children but not kitties. Simpson is the happiest boy in the world. With a perpetual political smile, he enjoys babies & the elderly so much we think he should run for office. Simpson for President 2008. Sounds like a winner to us! A versatile dog, Simpson is happy running with dogs, playing with children, or being petted & loved by grown-ups. Simpson wants a home & a couch he can call his own. How about yours? He is named for Jeff L. Simpson, a victim of September 11, 2001.

Featured Cat - Simon

Simon, a 4-year-old white male kitty with buff tabby markings, is looking for a home & family he can call his own. Though he has been known to be playful, Simon's claim to fame is being a snuggler. Cuddles & nuzzles comprise his job description. Sentenced to a kill shelter for the crime of running at large, Simon was bailed out by Pet Harbor. His birthday is approximately March 15, 2004. He is looking for a forever home & will adapt to whatever your home provides, children, cats, dogs, adults, as long as he gets adequate snuggle time. After all, kitty hugs are good for what ails you. Not an independent kitty, Simon sez he needs love! His favorite things are toys he can bat & the bathroom sink. Do you have room in your heart for a cuddle cat? He is named for Simon Weiser, a victim of September 11, 2001.

Happy Tails!

Charged with the crime of running at large, Shea landed in a rural Virginia county shelter. When she came to Pet Harbor, she wasn't fond of other dogs but adored humans. After her spay, she started to enjoy playing with pups. Shea was adopted 7 months ago & has an awesome home. She even goes to doggy day camp now & has boyfriends there, even a little dog who follows Shea. Shea lives in Maryland with her mom & dad & spends weekends in the country in Virginia, where she will live when her parents retire. A spoiled baby, Shea's got more toys than the law should allow & an even greater amount of love. Her parents are not new to the Siberian world & it shows. They are just like the rest of us - full of humor, patience, love, & mischief-enjoying personalities. For every volunteer appreciation dinner, Pet Harbor invites a dog adopted the prior year to show the volunteers how their volunteering efforts are a success. Shea was the honoree for the recent dinner. It was great to see the puppy who left us has turned into a beautiful lady. Shea has such fantastic parents & is a true rags to riches success story. Our wish is for every homeless pet to find the kind of home Shea has.

Adopters - Make sure you keep your contact information current with us & let us know how the dog or cat you adopted is doing!

Pet Harbor Board of Directors:
Sonja Barbagallo
Michelle Johnson (Treasurer)
Debbie Simmons (Vice President)
Brandi Singleton (Secretary)
Sarah Veach, Chair (President)



To contact us:

~ Visit our Web site at
www.petharbor.org

~ Call us at (703) 583-HSKY

~ Write us at
P.O. Box 73
Bowling Green, VA 22427



Volunteers Jennifer B & Brittany M walk Simpson & Arena, both available for adoption.

To volunteer, visit, write, call, or fill out the volunteer paperwork at www.petharbor.org.

Pet Harbor Rescue and Referral, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our mission is to save lives of and educate people about Siberian Huskies and cats.

All Aboard!

by Debbie Simmons, Pet Harbor Volunteer Coordinator

Come one! Come all! So much to look forward to when volunteering & so many opportunities! The satisfaction of being successful in our mission to save the lives of Siberian Huskies & cats in danger & find them homes is incentive enough, but there's also the fun! We have a great time when we get together. Always lots of laughter, in addition to spending time with warm, fuzzy, happy fur babies. Most needed: making phone calls, cleaning litter boxes, walking dogs, transporting pets, brushing, bathing, home visits for potential adopters, daily animal care, evaluating Siberian Huskies in shelters, addressing newsletters, computer research. We also give educational presentations & use emergency foster homes. My favorite event is Santa Photos, hosted by PETsMART. In December, we will need elves, Santas, & photographers. There are many behind-the-scenes opportunities as well. Follow-up on Pet Harbor alumni is a major task, & volunteers contact adopters to remind them an update is due. Sometimes adopters move. Volunteers try to locate them to remind them to keep in touch. To process applications, we call references, vets, & landlords. We need volunteers for those tasks. Fundraising is a big need, too. No matter how much time you have or where your expertise lies, we



At the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Volunteer Coordinator Debbie checks out her gifts with volunteers Mark & Jeremy

have a place for you. I don't remember exactly when or how I became Volunteer Coordinator, but I am reminded constantly of why I am happy I did. Serving as Volunteer Coordinator gives me the opportunity to work with all the wonderful people who volunteer for Pet Harbor. Those of you who volunteer already know how much fun we have, how much the pets appreciate us, & how much work needs to be done. If you are thinking about volunteering, come aboard! I promise you will be glad you did! Write me at grayguppy@petharbor.org, call us at (703) 583-HSKY, or fill out the volunteer application. I'm so excited I'm baking a cake already!

Help the homeless pets – give money, time, food!

Why I Volunteer

by Amy Pergosky, Pet Harbor's 2007 Adult Volunteer of the Year

So many reasons.....not sure I can fit them all in this space! I volunteer for Pet Harbor because I want to help make a difference in the lives of animals who find themselves without a home, a family, or a purpose in life. Most times the animal did nothing wrong but people think the easiest & only solution is to put their animal in a pound or shelter. Having been blessed with the most wonderful fur children, all adopted from rescues & shelters, I know the importance of giving a second chance. Pet Harbor animals are so appreciative of the time & attention volunteers lavish on them. It's heart-warming to see a dog, once timid with an 'I've given up & will never love again' look in his eyes, bounce into a playful, silly, happy-go-lucky dog. I have done the gamut of volunteering: home visits, evaluations, transports, event assistance, phone calls, cleaning, walking, petting, feeding, etc. This year I dipped my toes in the kitty pool (ha!) & was very fortunate to have Otto come into my life & home. Dumped by his owners into a high-kill shelter at the age of 8, Pet Harbor rescued him, & I have been his foster mom for almost 4 months now. What was once a sad, sick, thin little boy is now my 12+ pound purring, kneading, playful lap cat! It's a privilege to work for these beautiful animals in their time of need & help them get into loving, permanent homes! Oh...and I love Pet Harbor because we really screen the applicants well so our animals get THE best possible homes! There is plenty to do, & I'm sure Pet Harbor can find a place for you to help, too!



Volunteer Amy with foster kitty Otto talks to visitors at an adoption event

See our updated Web pages. Check out the Rainbow Bridge & Success pages. If you want us to post your pets, let us know.



Pet Harbor volunteers enjoy cake at events & annual volunteer appreciation dinners, such as the one above.

Life & Times



2007 Youth Volunteer of the Year, Alycia Stinson

Everybody involved with Pet Harbor is a volunteer. And Pet Harbor volunteers are the greatest in the world. They are rewarded with kisses from the huskies and purrs from the kitties. Of course, we don't stop there. We send them a birthday card every year. We feed them cake at every turn. And we have an annual volunteer appreciation dinner. During the dinner, we give certificates, eat, have presentations, & have a grand get-together. We hold the dinners in the current year for the prior year's volunteering. The 2007 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held in June of 2008. Alycia and Amy P were honored as the Youth & Adult Volunteers of the Year, respectively. Scott Simmons was posthumously named an honorary board member. In addition to others who do home visits & transports, those who are currently active on the volunteer rolls are:

Amanda, Amy P, Amy W, Annie, Ashley, Bob, Brandi, Brian, Briana, Brittany D, Brittany M, Bruce, Carl, Connie, Cory, Crystal P, Crystal S, Darrius, Debbie, Jan, Jason, Jeff, Jennifer B, Jennifer P, Jeremy, Jo, Joellen, Kim, Kristy, Laurie, Lehnanne, Lisa, Mandy, Mary, Matt, Michael, Michelle, Monica, Patricia, Paula, Paulette, Sarah R, Sarah V, Shanté, Simin, Sonja, Steven, Suzanne, Tam, Tammie, Terra, Tommy, Tomoko, and Wanda. Pet Harbor would like to express our deep gratitude to all of them for past & future volunteering with a special thank you to Anthony. So, as you can see, we appreciate & welcome our volunteers. Come join us! There is plenty to do. From phone calls to cleaning litter boxes to taking pictures to researching to transport to talking to potential adopters, there is a place for everyone. Call or write us or visit us on the Web to get started. Requirements: minimum age 14 and must love cake and dogs or cats.

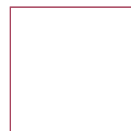


2007 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. L-R Volunteers Sonja, Steven, Natasha, Briana, & Alison with alumna Shea.

Call us or "Click to Help the Animals" at www.petharbor.org. Several free & painless ways to help are listed or donate food!

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PO Box 73
Bowling Green, VA 22427



Return Service Requested