



# Humane News

News for the friends and supporters of the Idaho Humane Society

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## MISSION

The mission of the Idaho Humane Society is to advocate for the welfare and responsible care of animals, protect them from neglect and cruelty, and promote humane education, awareness and compassion.

## TOAST TO TAILS August 8th, 2019 6:00pm

The night will host a Culinary Catwalk featuring over 12 specialty food, beer, and wine vendors... live and silent auctions... and most of all, adorable dogs and cats!

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## KITTEN SEASON

Leading us through kitten season is our new Director of Shelter Medicine, Dr. Alix McGrath, D.V.M. She's a graduate of Cornell University and came to IHS after completing a yearlong internship in shelter medicine at the San Diego Humane Society. We held our first kitten bottle-baby orientation for volunteer caregivers in early April, and there wasn't a seat left in the Education Room with nearly 100 enthusiastic attendees! We're excited about the opportunity to educate families on how to feed adorable baby kittens, but only a handful sign up to take on the challenge after realizing the commitment it takes. It's not an easy task because newborn kittens are fragile, and at this delicate stage, they need to eat every two hours to four hours throughout the day and night. We certainly appreciate the efforts of these lifesaving volunteers!

Thankfully, we are also able to rely on our WISKR (Women's Inmate Social Kitten Retreat) program at the South Boise Women's Correctional Facility for extra help this time of year. They take in pregnant cats, as well as

bottle-babies and give them lifesaving care and support. Without their help, we wouldn't save as many lives as we do.

**Kitten season runs through late fall depending on the weather. Your support will give the tiniest kittens the chance to grow into happy, healthy cats!**

Many of our supporters ask how they can do more to help during this busy time at our shelter without committing to being a foster parent. Supporters can make a lifesaving difference by donating items from our Amazon Wish List (<http://bit.ly/IHSsupplies>). There supporters can discover various department's requested supplies (including much-needed kitten supplies) so that you can choose to support the department you'd most like to help.

# Saving Duke

**For animals like Duke, your support makes a lifesaving difference.** A Good Samaritan saw Duke running loose and thankfully brought him into our shelter in the nick of time; we're not sure how much longer he would have survived if he didn't receive immediate lifesaving care. Although he was shy, scared and shaking, Duke was willing to let our staff pet him. We wrapped him in blankets and gave him small amounts of soft food so that his body wouldn't be overwhelmed at once. He was in bad shape with just skin covering his protruding ribs. We don't know what he endured before he was rescued, but it was clear he had gone a long time without nourishment. Duke was a 6-year-old white German Shepherd mix and should have weighed around 75 pounds. Instead, he weighed just 30 pounds and had a long road ahead of him to recover and gain his health back.

Thanks to your support, we were able to care for Duke and place him with a foster family where he received daily love and nourishment. Eventually, he was ready to meet his forever family. He was a completely different dog than



the shadow of himself that had arrived just three and a half months earlier. It didn't take long for his new adoptive family to fall in love with him. Thanks to our supporters like you, we are able to make remarkable rescues and heartwarming transformations like Duke's.

## Meet Lady Monroe — Our Newest Staff Member!



**Just a few steps into our administrative hallway, you'll find our new greeter and chief shelter ambassador — she's quite the charmer and loves meeting new people.** Lady Monroe is our new feline staff member, and she originally came to us after she had been hit by a car. Animal Care and Control were called onto the scene, rescued her and brought her to our shelter for immediate care. Our Veterinary Medical Center discovered she'd broken her leg and performed surgery so it could heal properly. She then went into our foster care program to recover.

Six weeks later, Lady Monroe was taken to one of our pet store partners to be showcased for adoption. Then the devastating news came that someone accidentally shut a cage door on the same leg that had recently been broken! Lady Monroe was once again brought back to our shelter.

After undergoing another surgery to repair her leg, this time Lady Monroe recovered in our WISKR program (Women Inmate Social Kitty Retreat) where sick and injured cats and kittens get around-the-clock care by inmates. After recovery, she returned to our shelter, and because she was so exceptionally personable, staff began letting her lounge during the day in various offices. Lady Monroe didn't mind all the people and animals coming and going. Eventually, it was decided that Lady Monroe would be adopted as our official IHS shelter cat, a position that had been vacant for some time since the passing of our last feline mascot. She really enjoys meandering from office to office for her sunbaths and meeting new friends for pets and affection. If you're in our administrative offices, make sure you say hello!

# Honey Is Doing Great

**Honey came to us in September after she was dragged several hundred yards behind a vehicle.** Her owner allegedly committed this heinous act of torture as punishment because she had peed inside the house. He then abandoned her. Thankfully, she was rescued by the San Francisco area shelter, Contra Costa Animal Services, and they contacted us asking if we would provide medical care.

We discovered Honey had lacerations and abrasions across her body, but thankfully no broken bones. She had endured pain and agony, and we were thankful that we could provide her with a new beginning in Idaho. We also decided she would be a perfect candidate for our correctional facility-based behavior program where she could receive basic training and some focused care and attention while healing.

While she appeared timid and somewhat distant upon arrival at our shelter, after a short while at the



penitentiary, she started to come out of her shell. This transformation was thanks to the efforts of our team of inmate trainers that lavished attention upon her. A playful and happy personality, only temporarily suppressed by the trauma of abuse and abandonment, returned along with an endearing propensity for engaging in exuberant “zoomies” when she was excited. She started to initiate play with the other dogs in the program and interact with people without fear.

Honey was adopted by a family with a young son. Recently they gave us an update, “Honey is doing great, and we love having her! Jayden and she are best friends now and chase each other around the house. We cuddle with her on the couch, and she is just the sweetest girl . . . we are so blessed!”

Because of your support, Honey and other abused animals like her are living a happier, healthier and safer life. Thank you for giving this deserving girl a home with love.

## A Call For Fostering

**It’s not very often we get foster parents who will take animals recovering from orthopedic surgery,** and even fewer who won’t hesitate to say yes to fostering a 170-pound Mastiff who just received not one, but two advanced knee surgeries! Julia has been one of our go-to foster parents for over 11 years. The first question she gets from everyone is: how do you let them go?

Julia says she looks at fostering as a way to help each animal find a loving new family. “I get to help each one along, and if I kept them at home, we’d have hundreds by now!”

Orthopedic cases typically have a longer recovery time than other foster candidates, and she says it’s easy to develop a relationship with them. “When we first got Tiny, she couldn’t stand up for more than a minute without having to lie down. Now she can stand up and play, go to the park, and meet new people. After you watch a dog go through what she’s been through,



it’s tough on the dogs, and it’s a long time, but the reward is seeing them feel better and living a pain-free life with strong legs again,” Julia said.

Julia occasionally gets to see dogs that she had fostered in the past. Last spring, Lila, also had a double-knee surgery at the Idaho Humane Society Veterinary Medical Center. Her new family met up with Julia and Tiny to play at a nearby park. Julia relayed, “She’s doing fantastic. You’d never know she had that kind of surgery done.”

We couldn’t do the work we do without fantastic foster parents like Julia Luchte. Not all foster parents do the same kind of work; some help with socialization, others may nurture a pregnant animal until her babies are born and old enough to adopt out, and others may help for a short time for post medical care and more. If you’d like to discover more about being a foster parent, please visit: <http://bit.ly/IHSFoster>.

# A Decade of Service: Thank you, Melanie



Our Volunteer Director, Melanie Larson, has been an invaluable resource at our shelter and will have worked with us for 16 years! Melanie has held several roles at our shelter, starting when she began volunteering in 2002.

We will be losing a much-beloved employee to a well-deserved retirement in just a few short months. Our Volunteer Director, Melanie Larson, has been an invaluable resource at our shelter and will have worked with us for 16 years! Over the years, Melanie has held several roles at our shelter, starting when she began volunteering in 2002. The following year she was hired on as a finance assistant, then moved onto various finance and supervisory roles at our Veterinary Medical Center, and then finally she settled into a perfect fit as Volunteer Director for the last 11 years.

The list of employees that pre-date Melanie is shrinking, and over her years with the organization, there have been many changes. Melanie recently reminisced about how no one uses a typewriter at the shelter anymore and how we've grown from 60 employees to 115. Melanie herself was an important catalyst for positive change, transforming the volunteer program to address many previously unmet needs to assist our staff and provide extra care for shelter animals. Equally transformative was the enthusiasm she brought to her role as the chief cheerleader for this diverse group of hardworking, self-sacrificing contributors of time and labor. The hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of cost savings provided by volunteer labor over Melanie's tenure equates to many thousands of pets' lives saved and tremendous improvements in the welfare of our sheltered pets.

Melanie is excited to seeing us through one last change before her badge is hung up for the last time: the transition to our new building. She is looking forward to welcoming in her team of amazing volunteers to this much-improved facility. We couldn't have done everything we've accomplished without Melanie's inspired and tireless leadership as a Volunteer Director — thank you, Melanie!

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## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK



**\$10**

Helps shelter over 15 homeless animals for a week



**\$20**

Assist spay and neuter of over 10 cats for a week.



**\$30**

Provides food to 500 animals for a week.



To learn more about how you can help homeless animals in the Boise, ID, please visit [www.idahohumanesociety.org/donate](http://www.idahohumanesociety.org/donate)

