



# Humane News

News for the friends and supporters of Idaho Humane Society

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## MISSION

The mission of 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.

## WE NEED FOSTER PARENTS:

Our foster parent program is made up of community volunteers who take animals into their homes, give them care and help them find their forever homes.

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## Idaho Humane Society Opens New Facility

It's finally here! Our brand-new Veterinary Medical Center and Adoption Center opened in late 2019 off Overland, on S. Bird Street. This \$15-million facility, completely funded by donors, doubles the size of the Dorman Street shelter and our capacity to help animals in need. In addition to the advanced Veterinary Medical Center and Adoption Center, the new site hosts a Humane Education classroom and multiple outdoor play yards.

The new dog dorms were designed to provide a more pleasant stay for our dogs, with more natural light and a state-of-the-art HVAC system. The cat colony rooms host "cattios" where felines can wander outside to soak in fresh air and perhaps even a catnap with natural light. The 42,000 square-foot facility utilizes advanced technology to reduce noise, smells, and ultimately the stress on the animals.

We're especially excited about our new location; the Overland Street corridor is a heavily visited area. "It's critical that we are closer to the community we serve so we can easily connect

with our clients, adopters, and supporters, especially those with transportation concerns who need access to our services," relayed Dr. Jeff Rosenthal, CEO.

There is still more work to be done at the new shelter. We've completed Phase I at the S. Bird Street shelter, but we are still raising money for this project in hopes of launching Phase II of the capital campaign project. This new project will encompass building a Humane Education and Training Center where we will share the shelter's mission and programs, as well as teach younger generations about humane care for pets and safety around animals.

While we are still maintaining the Dorman Street facility for Animal Control services for strays, redemptions, and animal surrenders, ultimately, we would like our services to be housed at the S. Bird Street site.

We would like to once again thank the Treasure Valley community for continuing to support our mission and funding this project — thank you everyone for helping us realize our dreams of saving the lives of many more animals.

# Shelter Dog Provides Lifesaving Blood to Elderly Dog in Need

**Ginger was an 11-year-old Retriever mix and wasn't feeling like herself.** Her belly was swollen and she began to lose a lot of blood. Worried about her health, her owners couldn't afford traditional veterinary care, so they came to Idaho Humane Society (IHS). Upon examining her, our doctors knew there was a good chance she had pyometra, a deadly infection of the uterus that is often seen in older, unspayed females. Ginger needed surgery fast; she had lost a lot of blood and needed a hero.

Goliath was a young, healthy Labrador/Pitbull mix waiting to find his forever home — he also was a positive match for Ginger's blood type. We don't typically provide blood transfusions at our shelter, but we knew that we needed to act quickly to save Ginger's life.

We sedated sweet Goliath and he donated blood under the careful eyes of our veterinary staff. He woke up and quickly returned to his happy self, but we kept him off the adoption floor for 24 hours to allow some quiet recovery. This small gift that Goliath provided saved Ginger's life, he became her hero. The next day, we placed him back on the adoption floor, Goliath found his own hero — he was adopted into his forever family!



Ginger had a successful surgery in our Veterinary Medical Center. Dr. Strobe and Dr. Anderson took Ginger into surgery as soon as the transfusion was complete. Ginger received Goliath's lifesaving blood and the doctors worked together to remove her infected uterus to get her on track once again to live her best life.

Thanks to donors like you, we were able to set up Ginger's family with an affordable payment plan. Both dogs found heroes during their stay at IHS.

## Supporting Wildlife with Expired Food from Our Pet Food Pantry Program

Did you know that when you support our Pet Food Pantry, you also help support wild animals? That's right! When we receive expired pet food, broken bags, or bags with even just a wee bit of food left in it, we can pass that pet food onto our friends at Animals In Distress Association (AIDA).

They use this expired food to feed elk, deer, and other wild animals like this

masked crew who benefitted recently from the leftover pet food! These adorable raccoons were abandoned and needed help to become strong enough to release to the wild. Thanks to the volunteers at AIDA, they were given terrific care and have now made their way back to the wilderness where they can thrive and live on their own.

Our Pet Food Pantry is also responsible



for Pet Food Meals on Wheels deliveries. We are in need of small bags of cat food for our seniors, so that it is easier for them to lift and care for their felines. Thank you all who support this amazing program.

**If you'd like to learn more about our Pet Food Pantry and Pet Food Meals on Wheels program, please visit: <http://bit.ly/IHS-PFP>**



WSU students performing a routine canine spay.

## Changing the Face of Veterinary Education in Idaho

Thanks to our donors, we've expanded our partnership with Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Since Idaho does not have a veterinary school, the state teams up with Washington State University (WSU) to allow a select number of Idaho residents to receive in-state tuition to complete their veterinary education. For many years, Idaho Humane Society (IHS) has provided on-site teaching of senior veterinary students in surgery and shelter medicine at the Dorman shelter where we can host students year-round. Faculty educate students who work on-site and gain hands-on veterinary experience by providing around-the-clock care for IHS shelter animals.

**“A major strength of IHS is the volume of cases available; it offered an experience that would be difficult to get anywhere else,” relayed a WSU student in a recent survey.**

This experience prepares students for success as veterinarians while providing critical care to shelter animals in need of medical attention. It offers students an extraordinary educational opportunity in community-based, wellness-centered, primary care facilities during their final year in school. The experience better prepares veterinarian students to enter the workforce after graduation.

IHS and the animals in its care benefit from the services provided by the program, as well as student training fees to help maintain our organization. The partnership provides students with a life-changing opportunity to serve the public and support our shelter's mission, creating a stronger community safety net for pets in need.

IHS hosts four WSU Veterinary Medicine students at a time for a two-week period. Each year, up to 200 WSU students receive real-life veterinary education and training on-site at our shelter.



# Myth Busters



## Debunking Four Myths That Are Preventing Our Cats From Living Their Best Lives

Dr. Alix McGrath  
Director of Shelter Medicine

### “Cats basically take care of themselves.”

On paper, it can seem like cats are pretty self-sufficient. A cat can find its litter box and use it reliably at as young as 5-6 weeks of age; no arduous housetraining like puppies, or thrice daily walks around the block. However, I’d argue that a conscientious cat owner spends nearly as much time on pet care as your average dog owner. Maintaining a clean litter box requires daily maintenance, and failure to keep up with this can result in health and behavioral issues. House-soiling is one of the top three reasons cats are surrendered to shelters. While this issue is often multifactorial, litter box husbandry is one of the most important factors in sustaining a healthy relationship with your cat.

### “Cats can’t learn tricks.”

The *trick* to training your cat involves learning what motivates him or her. Using high-value treats, like freeze-dried fish, can capture your

cat’s attention and help you mold desired behaviors. Another key is keeping the training sessions short and digestible. Keep sessions to a maximum of 5-10 minutes and use positive reinforcement to reward good behavior. The most useful training exercises can be teaching cats to tolerate their carrier, nail trimmers, and handling techniques, such as dental exams. Let your cat help YOU keep them healthy!

### “Cats have nine lives and always land on their feet.”

Most of us take these age-old sayings with a grain of salt. However, their existence highlights a common misunderstanding about cat health and welfare. Perhaps these sayings came about because cats never *seemed* to show pain or discomfort. While cats can be fearsome predators in their own right, they are prey animals to higher order carnivores. It is part of their DNA to hide any sign of weakness that might make them a target. As cat caretakers, we have a **vital responsibility** to seek

out regular veterinary care for our cats. All too often veterinarians hear clients say that they couldn’t even tell that their cat was ill or injured until it was too late. Cats, just like dogs, need yearly veterinary exams to make sure they are healthy.

### “Cats prefer to graze.”

Many cat owners think it is appropriate to leave out a bowl of dry food for their cat to “graze” on all day long. Not only is this unnecessary, it can actually lead to a shorter lifespan for your cat. Feline obesity is an epidemic. Recent studies show that about 20% of all household cats are obese, while 40% are classified as overweight. Obesity predisposes your cat to cancer, arthritis, and diabetes, among other things. In the wild, cats eat relatively infrequently. Think of that lion in the Serengeti taking down a wildebeest once a week. While your feline friend might not find herself on the next National Geographic special, consider feeding two small meals per day as a healthier way to satisfy your cat’s appetite.

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## THE IMPACT FOSTER PARENTS MADE LAST YEAR



453

Dogs



1,323

Cats



1,876

Total Animals



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

