



# Humane News

News for the friends and supporters of Idaho Humane Society

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## MISSION

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

## SEE SPOT WALK!

Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Join us for Idaho's LARGEST outdoor dog festival at Julia Davis Park.

Please visit [SeeSpotWalk.org](http://SeeSpotWalk.org) for more details!

Idaho Humane Society  
1300 S Bird Street  
Boise, ID 83709  
(208) 342-3508  
[idahohumanesociety.org](http://idahohumanesociety.org)



# Emily Elizabeth's

## BIG SURPRISE

Emily Elizabeth was hit by a car and ended up in a county shelter. She was transferred to Idaho Humane Society (IHS) where Dr. Jeff Rosenthal performed surgery to repair her broken leg at our hospital. While recovering in foster care, her foster mom noticed she was gaining weight. Emily Elizabeth had a big surprise for us; she was pregnant!

Fostering Emily through her recovery in addition to raising ten rambunctious puppies

was more than the foster volunteer had bargained for. But, like all of our rock star foster parents, she rose to the occasion welcoming a litter of fluffy, darling pups into the world and to a much busier household than anticipated!

We're pleased to announce that Emily Elizabeth fully recovered. She and all her puppies have now been adopted and are living in amazing forever homes thanks to our foster caregiver and your generous support.

# Meet Smithers



After Smithers' owners turned him over to our shelter, he became depressed and then became sick. The stress of losing his home probably contributed to developing an upper respiratory infection and becoming anorexic. While his infection cleared up in a few weeks, his appetite did not. Cats can develop a perplexing and potentially life-threatening condition after

developing a condition that causes them to lose their appetite. They recover from the original problem, but the loss of appetite persists, and the sight or smell of food actually upsets them. To save Smithers, our Shelter Medical Center resorted to a surgically placed gastric feeding tube. A foster volunteer was trained to care for him in her home.

We're happy to report that after more than three months of tube feeding, he finally got his appetite back and recovered fully!

Smithers is back to his normal and hungry self. He's happy, healthy and has regained the weight he lost during his ordeal. To save a life in a case like this, we rely on the dedication and persistence of foster volunteers and staff that will never give up on a pet as long as hope remains. **Of course, we cannot do this work without your continued support!**

## Providing Critical Veterinary Care Through COVID-19

In mid-March, IHS had to determine how to continue to provide lifesaving veterinary care to pets owned by low-income families, but also protect our veterinary staff from the dangers of the coronavirus. Knowing that we are the only affordable provider of urgently needed veterinary care for many low-income pet owners means that a closure of our Veterinary Medical Center was unthinkable.

We found a way to continue our veterinary services by setting up procedures that kept both our staff and clients safe.

Clients arrive and call our front desk staff to inform them of their medical needs. Our vet techs wear personal protective equipment and meet the clients in the parking lot to retrieve the pet and bring it to an examination room. Communicating by phone with the pet owner during examinations, a veterinarian provides all necessary care. Our staff and the pets all miss having the clients physically present in our new facility, but everyone is grateful that we continue to provide exceptional care for our hospital patrons and their pets.

## HOW TO HELP

Donations are critical to maintaining our programs, but there are many ways you can help homeless animals at IHS. One of our most popular programs is our aluminum can donation project. Last year, we raised over \$11,000 through this entirely volunteer-run program. It's easy to assist; simply drop your aluminum cans inside the collection bins located in front of either of our shelters and at any Treasure Valley Zamzows.

Everyday household items can also be dropped off for use by our animals. Some of our most needed items are food, towels, blankets and canvas bags; unfortunately, we cannot accept sheets. We can even use opened bags of unexpired pet food or food in containers as long as it is labeled with the type of food it contains. To learn more about other supplies needed at our shelter, please visit: <https://idahohumanesociety.org/donate/needed-items/>



employees left cat food out, hoping to coax the kittens to safety without success.

Our Humane Officers were able to see two kittens stuck inside the machine, obstructed by multiple engine components and hoses. They were able to successfully maneuver around the obstacles to remove two small kittens. More meows were heard, leading to further searching. The officers were racing the clock to find the kittens before the construction crew resumed work. Another kitten was found trapped inside the excavator's tracks. Yet, more meows were still emanating from the machinery! More bolts and compartments were removed until a final dehydrated and fragile kitten was rescued. These kittens were less than two weeks old and needed immediate medical care to survive.

Orphaned or abandoned baby kittens require round-the-clock care in their first weeks of life – including bottle feeding every couple of hours. Luckily, we had a friendly nursing mother cat who we thought these kittens might be accepted by in our foster care program. Success! Our nursing mom, Snow, willingly adopted her new litter of orphans, and we were thrilled when the kittens eagerly nursed. Her nurturing efforts made her the real hero of this story by providing life-saving care in these critical early weeks. Another happy ending!

Our amazing Humane Officers and the many Good Samaritans in our community work together to save lives every day! We recently received a call that a litter of kittens was stuck inside a large excavator at the site of a hotel renovation project. Hotel

## What It Means to Be a Shelter Vet at IHS Now By Dr. McGrath

Animal sheltering has advanced at a blindingly fast pace. IHS has not been immune to this rate of change and has continued to be a statewide leader — making Idaho a more humane state for pets in so many ways. I think it's helpful to keep supporters up to date on what we are doing for animals in our care. While so many of our programs have expanded and improved, I'll focus on what has changed in our community-conscious approach to shelter medicine.

### Expanding Shelter Surgery

Spay/neuter surgery is still a critical part of our shelter medical functions — we perform 15-20 of these each day, seven days per week. The generous support we receive from our community has also allowed us to expand on these, as well as the amount of specialty surgical cases we can take on. Many orthopedic and congenital ailments result in euthanasia for under-resourced shelters. At IHS, we are able to take on local and transfer cases like these to give pets a new lease on life.

Increased support allows us to rehabilitate and adopt out more adoptable senior pets. This means our team performs hundreds of dentals each quarter to remove teeth suffering from periodontal disease — the most common ailment of aging pets.

### Improving Daily Life and Outcomes for IHS Shelter Pets

Caring for sick shelter animals is a task that used to take up a lot of time and energy for our veterinary team. With the expansion of our community cat program, and the opening of our new Adoption Center, our length of stay for each shelter pet is shorter, resulting in less shelter crowding. Less crowding = less infectious disease. We are now more available to help surrounding communities treat diseases like canine parvovirus.

This year, we dispelled fear and followed published research by being the first shelter in the Treasure Valley to adopt out FIV+ cats. Despite outdated opinions about this disease, most FIV+ cats live long and enriched lives, making them great adoption candidates for the right homes.

### Increased Support for Other IHS Programs

Shelter veterinarians are more available to foster parents for appointments and consultations, strengthening that valuable relationship.

### Focus on Education

Education has always been a pillar of our IHS core values, exemplified by our veterinary student rotation. Through our partnership with Washington State University Veterinary School, we were able to hire a full-time veterinarian to oversee the program, giving students unprecedented one-on-one attention and added value to the rotation who provide care to our shelter animals.

Our shelter medical team has also had the opportunity to serve the community in many new ways, such as workshops and webinars developed to disseminate important information on shelter medicine topics.

It's crucial to not only look at how far we have come, but also express gratitude where it is due. None of these changes could have been possible without the continued support from our community. Being a shelter vet at IHS today means being empowered by our supporters and organization to provide high-quality care to our shelter pets, and always staying open to innovation.

# Helping Families and Other Shelters in Need



The Idaho Humane Society's Pet Food Pantry was established in 2008 as a safety net program, designed to provide resources to struggling pet owners and shelter animals. We never want to see animals surrendered to the shelter when with some assistance from us, they can instead remain in their loving homes.

Our Pet Food Pantry also supplies pet food for:

- Meals on Wheels deliveries to homebound seniors
- Families and individuals facing economic hardship
- Shelter animals living in dedicated IHS foster homes
- Other animal welfare groups in need of occasional pet food support

We've given tens of thousands of pounds of pet food through the coronavirus pandemic to pet owners, shelters, rescues and food banks across Idaho. On average, we typically distribute several thousand pounds of pet food per month, but with the added assistance of a recent food grant from Greater Giving, we're currently distributing over ten thousand pounds of food monthly, most of it going to dozens of organizations in need of assistance. We are thankful to Greater Giving, our local supporters and businesses who donate food, and the volunteers that work so hard to run our program.

**If you'd like to assist the Pet Food Pantry, we are in regular need of:**

- Canned pet food, especially canned cat food from early spring to late fall
- Dry dog and puppy food
- Dry cat and kitten food
- Cat litter
- Dog treats
- Monetary donations to purchase any of the above items that are in short supply

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## THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER



**6,636**

Cats, dogs and other small animals adopted out last year.



**1,783**

Lost pets reunited with their owners last year.



**7,912**

Puppies and kittens spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted litters.



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

