



Humane Society  
of **SKAGIT VALLEY**



# HSSV Media Kit

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# WHO WE ARE

WE ARE A SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS  
SAFEHAVEN FOR ABANDONED,  
ABUSED, OR UNWANTED PETS IN  
SKAGIT VALLEY

The Humane Society of Skagit Valley is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 to provide a safe haven to shelter and care for the abandoned, abused, or unwanted animals within Skagit County; to treat the animals with dignity and respect; to place these animals into loving and caring homes; to create public education programs that increase the awareness of humane treatment and the necessity of spay and neuter of all animals; and to coordinate resources for housing and placement of small animals evacuated during disaster. We are not a county or city municipal shelter, although we do contract with Skagit County and a number of cities to provide services to them. We are a private non-profit shelter that relies heavily on fundraising events throughout the year as well as donations and gifts left to us in wills. We truly appreciate the generosity of our community members as well as the amazing efforts of our volunteers at the shelter and at our fundraising events.



*We seek to  
achieve our goals  
through  
education,  
advocacy, public  
policy reform and  
the empowerment  
of our supporters  
and partners*

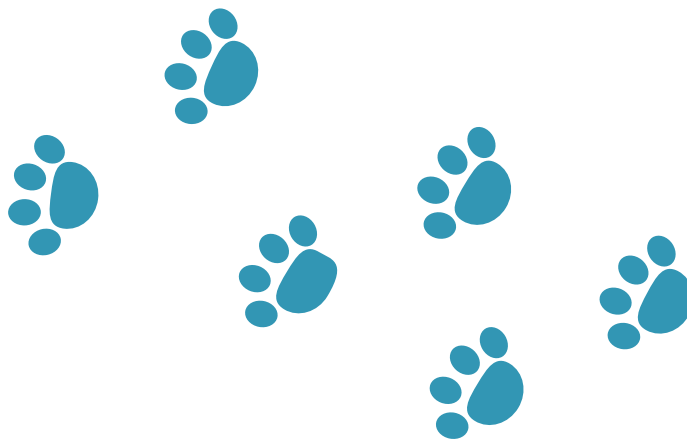
We are an open-admission facility. We do not pick and choose our pets, but accept any companion animals who need our care. We see over 2500 animals pass through our shelter each year. We provide care, comfort, and medical care to the animals that come through our doors. Even animals that have extensive medical needs get the attention they require.



## Mission Statement



Our Mission is to provide a safe haven to shelter and care for the abandoned, abused, or unwanted animals within Skagit County; to treat the animals with dignity and respect; to place these animals into loving and caring homes; to create public education programs that increase the awareness of humane treatment and the necessity of spay and neuter of all animals; and to coordinate resources for housing and placement of small animals evacuated during disaster.



## "It all started with a horse in need..."

Back in 1973, there was a horse in need of care and rescue. It was being neglected by its keeper and required an advocate to be its voice. A concerned citizen from the valley called the police, but to her dismay they could do nothing about it, no matter how appalling the situation. This citizen enjoyed taking photographs and loved animals. So, she set about taking photos of the horse to show its decline. When she felt she had enough photos highlighting the horse's plight, her next step was to take them to the local paper.

Sure enough, this brought about a public outcry for animal welfare advocacy and reform in Skagit Valley. As a result, in August of 1974, the Humane Society of Skagit Valley was registered as a 501c3 non-profit animal welfare organization.

Now, years later, we are still going strong - reuniting animals with their families, adopting pets to loving homes, significantly impacting the issue of pet overpopulation, and rescuing animals from high kill and in-crisis animal shelters across the nation.

Along the way, we engage in extensive outreach and seek to educate the public as well as collaborate with great animal welfare organizations like the nationally recognized ASPCA and The Humane Society of the United States. We also partner with local and statewide Animal Welfare groups in providing lasting and meaningful solutions to the most vulnerable among us without a voice of their own.

# What We Do



**"The best way to find  
yourself is to lose yourself  
in the service of others."  
- Mahatma Gandhi**





## Pet Adoption

**We are passionate about finding forever homes and families for our furry friends.**

We try to place every dog, cat, rabbit, bird, and other domestic animal in a good home and assist potential adopters in selecting the right pet through adoption counseling services. We have animal-savvy staff members with extensive knowledge of dog and cat breeds, behavior, and temperaments.

We do not operate on a "first come, first serve" basis, but rather, make every attempt to thoroughly vet our applicants to find the very best home. We find that this approach limits the number of pets being returned to our shelter or abandoned, due to a poor fit. Our goal is to ensure every pet that leaves our facility is matched with the very best home that can offer it success and the loving, forever family it deserves.

Our low adoption fee includes the cost of micro-chipping, spay and neutering, first vaccines, collar, identification tags and a complimentary vet visit with any vet in Skagit County.



## Low Income Spay & Neuter Clinic

### Tackling Overpopulation in Skagit County

Pet “overpopulation” encompasses two primary factors: (1) allowing cats and dogs to reproduce with little chance to find homes for the offspring and (2) pets being relinquished by owners who can no longer keep their animals, or who no longer want them. Every year, millions of cats and dogs are euthanized in our nation’s animal shelters because there are more pets than there are responsible homes for them. Until this issue is resolved, HSSV believes that all cats and dogs adopted from public or private animal care and control facilities should be spayed or neutered (i.e., sterilized).

However, we know that financial hardship can create a barrier to pet alteration. To that end, we operate a low income spay and neuter clinic to assist those in our community who want to do the right thing, but need a little assistance. A lack of funds should not stand in the way of being a responsible pet owner so our partnership with several local vets and other agencies enables us to help community members in need to overcome that barrier.





Community engagement is a critical component of our mission. We offer guided group tours, public presentations, tabling events, and educational seminars.

Our staff and volunteers teach responsible pet ownership and respect for all animals. We emphasize the importance of diminishing pet overpopulation through spaying and neutering.

We welcome classes and groups to the shelter to learn more about pet care and animal welfare issues and often venture out to offsite locations to spread the word and educate the public.



“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

## Pet Counseling

The Humane Society of Skagit Valley believes that pet care education is extremely important. If a community member needs advice on a pet care issue or needs support in improving their relationship with their family pet, we encourage them to call the shelter for tips or resources. We offer this service to encourage responsible pet ownership and to enable pets to stay in their homes, rather than to be surrendered due to behavioral issues that might be easily remedied with a little expert advice.



## Animal Care Information

We answer hundreds of calls each month about pet care. If we can help the public keep animals healthy and happy, we consider that a success! No question is too small.



## Animal -Assisted Therapy

Volunteers provide hours of enjoyment to local nursing home residents by bringing pets from the shelter to visit.



# Animal Transport

We partner with many great agencies across the United States and, indeed, the world to relocate animals in crisis. Whether that's from a shelter flooding in Texas needing to evacuate an entire kennel, wildfires ravaging a California shelter, or a shelter experiencing a high kill rate, we take in as many as possible and set about comforting these traumatized animals and finding them forever homes. We even take in animals from abroad, such as the transport we coordinated in Summer of 2019 from Israel.



## Feral Cat Colony

If you visit HSSV, you might notice pet houses and igloos, feeding dishes, and watering bowls littered across our property. You'll definitely notice the big red barn. All of this is to support our feral cat colony. In our effort to reduce pet overpopulation we take in feral cats, ensure their health, spay or neuter them, then release them into our colony for continued care. We even go out in the community and help to trap feral cats when community members are unable to do so themselves.

## Barn Buddy Program

Our Barn Buddy Program is designed for the cat lover who has a barn or other secure outdoor structure and is interested in adopting cats that are not suitable for life inside of a house or are unhappy living inside. Cat temperaments range from feral to friendly. This program is designed to find homes for cats that have traditionally been deemed unadoptable through standard adoption procedures. It is quite popular with farmers in need of good mousers. It's a win-win situation!



# Lost & Found

We reunite literally hundreds of pets with their families, each year. Members of the community who have lost or found a pet can log their issue with us and we use all the tools at our disposal to bring them home, where they belong.



# Community Fundraisers



HSSV is funded almost entirely by community donations. It is a common misunderstanding in the community that we are a county-funded shelter. We do have stray animal boarding contracts with Skagit county and with a number of cities in both Skagit and Snohomish counties, but we are a private, non-profit organization that relies heavily on donations, fundraising, and profits from the sales at our thrift shop to keep our doors open. While we do request grants from charitable foundations, those grants are never guaranteed. Therefore, we count on our members and donors to provide the products and cash that it takes to keep the animals fed, sheltered, and medically attended. Beside donations, much of our funding comes from our annual fundraisers.



## Volunteer Programming

**"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." - Elizabeth Andrew**

We have a robust volunteer program at HSSV. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our shelter. We have dedicated volunteers who offer their services in kennel care, animal socialization, administrative tasks, transportation, maintenance, outreach, and so much more. Our volunteers help us keep the doors open and the services flowing out to our great community. There are many different opportunities for volunteering and internship with The Humane Society of Skagit Valley and we couldn't be more appreciative of all our volunteers provide.

# HOW WE'RE DOING

## ONLINE REACH @ WWW.SKAGITHUMANE.ORG:

Daily Views - 1k+

Monthly Views - 31k+



12k+



1k

## PERFORMANCE TRACKING THROUGH GOOGLE:

Monthly Searches- 21k+

Monthly Views - 29k+



ACTUAL SUBMISSIONS,  
TAKEN FROM GOOGLE  
REVIEWS



## TESTIMONIALS

"Amazing staff, volunteers, and care for the animals and the community." **Abra Anderson**

"By far the best shelter in the area. Lets the animals roam more freely so they show their true personalities more comfortably." **Ari Winter**

"It was our first time there and the facility was clean and the employees were very friendly. You're able to have good interactions with the animals." **Stacy Mahon**

"Great customer service, great pricing for spade and neuter." **F.M.**

"The director and staff really care for all the animals at the shelter. As a strong advocate for taking care of unwanted animals, getting them back to good health and finding good, solid forever homes, Skagit Humane Society does a wonderful job. Your fundraisers are great for the community to come together hear all what you do and support the shelter. Thank you for all you do." **Janet**

"Skagit Valley Humane Society is clean and well cared for facility. It is obvious that they care for the animals entrusted to them. I have adopted 2 Saint Bernard's from there and enjoyed working with the staff." **Kathy Morris**

"So many smiles and happy hard working, loving, committed people. I recently started volunteering and it's the highlight of my week. The animals are not just well cared for, they actually heal and become happier in the time they are there....could always use more volunteers of course..it's so fun and SO needed....animals need love...so do we....it's perfect :-)" **Chadd Wamboldt**



# By The Numbers...

# 1800

Average number of adoptions  
conducted annually through  
HSSV

# 350

Number of lost  
canines and felines  
returned to owner  
on average, annually.



We are proud of the difference we are  
making in the lives of abused,  
abandoned, and unwanted animals in  
Skagit County and beyond.



# To reach us, please use any of the methods below.

We are happy to speak with you regarding our services and mission.



**Executive Director**, Janine Ceja:  
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**Director of Development and Volunteer Management**,  
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[kimw@skagithumane.org](mailto:kimw@skagithumane.org)



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Burlington, WA, 98233



Reach us via phone at: 360-757-0445



Visit us online at:  
[www.skagithumane.org](http://www.skagithumane.org)



Find us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/SkagitHumane](http://www.facebook.com/SkagitHumane)



**Instagram**

Follow us on Instagram at:  
[www.instagram.com/humanesocietyofskagitvalley](http://www.instagram.com/humanesocietyofskagitvalley)



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**We look forward to talking to you!**