



Happy New Year! This time of year almost requires a look back over the old year and a look ahead into the new. Far be it from us to sidestep this tradition. So we'll start this issue with a look back over

BUT FIRST - A WORD FOR OUR SPONSORS!

Oops, sorry. That was a little loud. But to continue: *You are our sponsors. And we **thank you** for your continuing support in becoming members of PHA and maintaining your membership. And now there's an easy way to give an additional donation to the homeless animals of Petersburg. This year you can **PICK.CLICK.GIVE** to the Petersburg Humane Association as you sign up for your Permanent Fund Dividend. (You knew this was a commercial, now, didn't you?) And now, back to our regular scheduled programming.*

2012. This year your Humane Association:

- ❖ Provided shelter for 24 cats and 3 dogs. The most felines we had at any time were 10, the fewest 2; the dogs came in one at a time.
- ❖ Made sure all intakes were fixed, healthy and up on their basic shots.
- ❖ Found foster homes for all three dogs and for 3 cats.
- ❖ Found permanent adoptive homes for 18 cats and kittens and all 3 dogs. We still have three cats in the shelters and one in foster care, all waiting for forever homes.
- ❖ Logged in 2272 cat days and 20 dog days.
- ❖ Cared for each cat an **average** of over 94 days. The dogs didn't stay as long, only 7 days on average.
- ❖ Spent \$1008.50 to spay or neuter incoming shelter animals.
- ❖ Spent another \$882.08 on other veterinary care for the shelter animals.
- ❖ Honored 24 scholarships to help needy pet owners spay or neuter their animals. These surgeries pay off in healthier pets and fewer unwanted litters.
- ❖ Spent \$3,355.50 on the Spay/Neuter Scholarship Program (due to billing cycles, this includes some from 2011; 9 surgeries from 2012 will be billed next year).
- ❖ Spent \$1,372.66 on pet food and supplies.

The Association also:

- ❖ Elected two new board members who brought fresh perspectives to the board. Secured a long-term lease on the land around the old Tent City between the airport and Sandy Beach Park for an animal shelter and a public dog park.
- ❖ Completed and dedicated a fenced area for small dogs to play.
- ❖ Brought a park for dogs of all sizes almost to completion. Both parks are usable and open to the public.
- ❖ Continued to work on plans for the shelter.



- ❖ Sponsored the "Strut Yer Mutt" entries in both the Little Norway and 4th of July parades, winning as best entry in our class in the 4th of July parade.

- ❖ Sponsored the "Strut Yer Mutt Variety Show" after the 4th of July parade with prizes in 16 categories.

- ❖ Collected pet pictures and created a 2013 Petersburg Pets calendar, continuing a 7-year tradition. (Have you bought your copy yet? There are still a few left.) The calendars netted us over \$1400 this year.

- ❖ Applied for and received a \$945 grant from the Petersburg Community Foundation for our Spay/Neuter Program.

Now we turn to:

2013. This year we're planning to:

- ❖ Continue to care for and find new homes for cats and dogs in need of our care.
- ❖ Continue our Spay/Neuter Scholarship Program. We definitely see the effect of former years in the diminishing number of dogs coming to us. We still have a ways to go with the cats.
- ❖ Continue to create the Petersburg Pets calendar.
- ❖ Complete work on the "all-dog" park.
- ❖ Make significant progress toward our new shelter building.
- ❖ Look for new board members to help us be the best organization we can be. (We won't subject you to another commercial, but if you have any interest in joining the board, please talk to one of the current members. As we work on building a new shelter, it's an exciting time to be on the board.)
- ❖ Have an outstanding annual meeting with lots of PHA members in attendance. You can help us with that. Do you have an idea for a fun event that will bring people out? What would bring *you* out?



Volunteers. PHA has great ones who have put in countless hours keeping us up and operational! There are ten faithful souls who come at least once a week to feed, water, clean up after, and socialize the shelter cats. Others have helped build the dog parks, repair the existing shelters, make goodies for the bake sales, walk the dogs, wash the cat bedding and numerous other tasks that need doing when caring for animals.



Given the length of time most of the cats are with us, there is always a need for more people to spend time with them. If you can

spare an hour or two (or even less) now and then, please call and leave a message on our cell phone, 518-1091, to set up a brief orientation, and then come and make these cats' lives a little happier. We would love to have at least two volunteers per day on a regular weekly basis.



If you have already volunteered to help out with dogs, a look at the statistics shows why we haven't called you to help out. The few dogs we get don't stay long. Be assured that we still value your offer and will probably take you up on it in the future. And if you would like to help in other ways, please let us know.

Besides direct animal care, volunteers can do the laundry for the shelter, take the garbage out of the dog park cans, help with small jobs (build a stair railing, change some light bulbs, make cat toys, write or read a radio spot - or an article for a future Update, etc.). If you want to help, we can find something for you to do.

Adoptions. Kyoya, Gillian and Roscoe (cats) and Missy (dog) found forever homes in December. Our fearless hunter Tobias remains with us, as does **Bobsie**, who still needs more socializing before we will feel comfortable adopting him out. **Tobias** has become very friendly as well as showing a propensity for hunting. So if you want an energetic mouser with a purr that can be heard in Wrangell, Tobias may be the cat for you. **Larry** is also a good mouser and a beautiful big cat. He's not a cuddler but enjoys being around people. **Baily** came to us in early November. She is a bit shy but very loving once she comes to trust you. She is still young enough to be playful. She's an indoor cat and is currently in foster care, putting on weight and snuggling with her foster mom.

Adoption fees. On the subject of adoptions, the fees PHA asks for adoptions are deliberately set very low in comparison with most other shelters. At \$35 for a cat and \$50 for a dog, we lose money on every animal we take in. The vet bill alone is more than that. The board felt, and still feels, that our first obligation is to the animals and trying to get them placed in good homes. That is the reasoning behind the low adoption fee. This does place a greater burden on the Association to make sure we have enough money to cover those extra expenses. What do you, as members, think about this situation? The board wants to be good stewards of the funds that come in while serving the needs of the animals PHA was created to serve.

Now in PHA care are:



Tobias
Neutered male



Larry
Neutered male



Bobsie
Neutered male



Baily
Spayed female

Current shelter needs:

- Volunteer cat cuddlers (any time!),
- Dry cat food (no canned food please),
- Unscented scoopable litter,
- Cat toys.

How you can help!

- Spend some time with the cats
- Replace the fluorescent lights in one of our shelter buildings
- Consider serving on the board
- Share your ideas for fund raisers

Your PHA Board:

Merrily Jones, President
Katie Sultani-Wright, Vice-president, Membership Chair
Denise Galli, Secretary
Rhoda Gilbert, Treasurer
Page Brumbley
Phyllis Hernandez

PHA Contact Information:

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Website: www.petersburghumane.org

Membership Categories:

Friends of Animals (under 18, over 64).....	\$ 15
Adults.....	\$ 25
Family.....	\$ 40
Corporate.....	\$100

Adoption Fees:

Cats	\$35
Dogs	\$50