



Welcome to the latest PHA Update, a newsletter designed to keep members and friends up to date with what's going on with Petersburg's homeless animals and the people who work with them. We hope these newsletters will inspire you to join PHA and our efforts to improve the lives of the town's companion critters. If you want to get a closer look at what the board is doing, our monthly meetings are always open to the public. And our annual meeting is just around the corner - Saturday, April 26 at 7:00 in the Moose Basement.

Because, as we go into Spring, PHA has much to report, much to do and much to be grateful for, this Update is a little longer than most. We apologize, but we think it's worth the extra length to remind you of all that's going on right now.

March and April have been busy in the **cat world**. We've had cats come and cats go. All-black Junior came to the shelter from foster care and was adopted shortly after. Seal-point Siamese Sasha came in and left in just over a week. Lucky, our photogenic blue-eyed Siamese, continues to draw interest but needs a home where he can consistently get only three feet into the litter box when he urinates without doing damage. He's doing beautifully except for that.



We recently got a call from somebody concerned about a very pregnant-looking cat who appeared to have been hit by a car. When we went to pick her up, we found a sweet, friendly, beat-up looking kitty with the potential to be a real beauty. So we named her Beauty. However, she was in bad shape and we were afraid she wouldn't survive the birth of her kittens. With no vet in town, we decided to send her to Juneau for care. There the vet determined that she wasn't pregnant and she hadn't been hit by a car, but she had advanced FIP, a progressive autoimmune disease with no cure and no treatment. The prognosis was less than a week to live. The folks in Juneau doted on her, giving her lots of food and attention, so her last days were happy, but we sadly decided that euthanasia was the kindest option.



This case does point out a fact that we haven't had to face very often so far. Occasionally we get an animal who needs expensive care. Beauty's time in Juneau cost just shy of \$600. While we have the reserves to pay it, we don't routinely budget for this kind of expense. So we'd like to set up a fund specifically for major expenses such as these, so we can give the extra care needed without depriving the rest of our animals the more basic care they need. If you'd like to give to this fund, named for Beauty, just indicate on your check that it is for **the Beauty Fund**.

Meanwhile, cats still looking for permanent homes are:



Whiskas



Lucky



Blanca



Electra



Tobias

If you or somebody you know is interested in adding one of these loving animals to your household, call PHA's message phone at 518-1091.

Thanks to those who donated through Pick.Click.Give. Thirty-eight donors gave a total of \$2,075. We won't get your names until October, but in the meantime, thank you! Your wonderful generosity goes directly to making life better for Petersburg's companion animals and you are greatly appreciated!

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the **Petersburg Community Foundation**, which last year gave PHA a \$2,250 grant to help pay for our spay/neuter program. That money helped fix ten cats and seven dogs, preventing the birth of many, many kittens and puppies. It also helped prevent a lot of health problems in the animals, including cancer and injuries caused by fights. A huge thank you to the PCF!

Looking at April and speaking of generosity, April 6-13 is **Volunteer Appreciation Week**, and do we appreciate our fantastic volunteers and their wonderful generosity! PHA is made up entirely of volunteers, so anything that gets done, gets done by them. In particular we want to recognize the folks who show up week after week to take care of the cats in our shelter.

Christine Craske, David Wallen, Erica Worhatch, Hilary Wood and Marie Giesbrecht come faithfully to clean litter boxes and food dishes and dish out food, fresh water and love. They're especially important because most days, they provide the only human contact the kitties have. In addition, **Anne Lee** provides transportation and clean towels and blankets week after week as well as keeping up the dog park. Thank you all!! If you see one of them, give them a hug for the cats - or at least say thanks.

By now you've probably seen the flocks of **flamingos** trying out yards around town. April is flamingo month for PHA. If you have somebody you'd like to have host one of the flocks, give Merrily Jones a call at 772-3136. She'll set it up for you. It takes a donation of \$10 to put a flock in a yard. A similar donation is requested to remove the flock. If you prefer to remain flamingo-free, a donation of \$15 buys flamingo insurance. This is one of our two major fundraisers, so let's keep those birds on the go.

Another April fundraiser is the **PHA Kids' Pet Art Contest**, where school kids create pictures of pets that will hang in windows downtown for judging by the public. You can vote for as many pictures as you want as often as you want. Once again, we're aiming for the best election money can buy. Merchant-donated prizes will go to the top vote getters in each age division. Final voting will be at the PHA Annual Meeting, April 26 in the Moose Basement.

Which brings us to the **Annual Meeting**. Come join your friends and fellow animal lovers for an hour or two of conversation, entertainment and (very little) business. There'll be **artwork** to marvel over and vote for (last year it was fantastic!). There'll be **silent auction** items to bid for. There'll be **desserts** to sample. And there'll be **prospective board members** to elect. What more could you ask for? Well, how about a brief **update on the state of the new shelter** project by Joe Teter and discussion of any topics you want to bring up? Best of all, the business meeting will be blessedly brief, so come join the fun. Again, that's April 26 at 7:00 in the Moose Basement.



Radio spots. Local members of the Junior Honor Society have written and produced some short pet-centered educational radio spots, similar to those done by the medical center and the Forest Service. Sponsored by PHA and KFSK, these cover such topics as health tips for dogs, cats, dogs, chickens and bunnies. They're airing now, so be sure to listen for them.

Just a friendly reminder to keep taking pictures of your pets for the 2015 **Petersburg Pets calendar**. You can send them in any time to Merrily Jones (mjjones@ak.net). No need to wait until the last minute and then dash around trying to find that perfect one. The deadline for submissions will be July 5 this year, but that'll be too late to get a good winter picture. Next year's calendar will feature a cat or cats on the cover, so catch your favorite feline in the act of being adorable and submit the result. Closeups are especially good for the cover.

Your 2013-14 PHA Board:

Merrily Jones, President
 Mary Clemens, Vice President
 Rhoda Gilbert, Treasurer
 Denise Galli, Secretary
 Jane Smith, Assistant Secretary
 Rich Jennings, Member-at-Large
 Joe Teter, Member-at-Large

PHA Contact Information:

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 Petersburg, AK 99833
 907-518-1091 (message phone)
 e-mail: <mailto:pha@petersburghumane.org>
 Website: www.petersburghumane.org

Adoption Fees:

Dogs.....\$50
 Cats.....\$35

Membership Categories:

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

PHA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all-volunteer organization. All donations are deductible to the full extent of the law and are greatly appreciated. Without them, we could not continue to care for Petersburg's homeless animals.

If you are interested in joining PHA, here's a link to our [membership form](#). Please join your animal-loving friends and help us help homeless pets.