Well hasn’t this been quite a year? On the National level we have many things vying for our attention. We’ve had to make major changes in our lives to do our parts to keep people safe, among other life-affecting challenges. On our local level there have been big changes, as well. This year, Tail Wagging News salutes the Spay and Neuter Program. When our Veterinary partners had to quit making spay and neutering appointments, it took several months to begin S/N appointments again. However, our dedicated TNR Team, independent trappers, our Foster Kitten Program and other individuals have still been able to get many dogs, cats and rabbits fixed, saving lives and helping to reduce the number of unwanted animals who end up in shelters or on the streets.

The shutdown has also meant limited fundraising events. However, with your continued support our dedicated all-volunteer organization is working hard to provide services. We thank you all for that because without YOU, we couldn’t do what we want to do for the animals. We hope you’ve noticed our OHS presence on social media and our occasional digital newsletters. You may request the digital newsletters by calling 510-792-4587.

Spay and Neuter Program

When the pandemic closed things down, one consequence was that Vet clinics could no longer do spay/neuter procedures as they were considered “non-essential”. So, these services came to a complete halt for several months. Since they’ve been able to restart these procedures, needless to say our Vet partners have been overwhelmed. In the midst of all this, as of this writing, we have still been able to spay and neuter 278 pets belonging to our low-income neighbors, as well as 323 feral cats.

Meet Lisa and her two, sweet, pit-mix pals, Ginger and Baby Doll, on their way home after being spayed.

Shelter Assistance Program

It takes a village to help create a lifesaving community! This is especially true during difficult times. Due to COVID-19, the open admission Tri-City Animal Shelter (TCAS) had to close their doors for adoptions, but their wonderful and dedicated staff are still working hard behind the scenes. Many thanks to TCAS for continuing to reunite lost pets with their owners and placing other animals with rescue partners. We look forward to when TCAS can fully reopen, and we’ll continue to support them every step of the way.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Just like that 2020 is over and so is our seasonal care for all the Tri-Cities injured, sick and orphaned wildlife. We took in over 700 wild animals this year and all of them received the care they deserve so they could have a second chance at life. Our continued service to so many animals is due to our dedicated staff, remarkable volunteers, our community members but most of all, YOU! Thank you for being an OHS member so we can continue to care for the animals in our community. Best wishes to all of you in 2021.
Pets Meals-on-Wheels

OHS Pet Meals-on-Wheels provides nutritious meals to pets in need. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have received and distributed over 4000 pounds of pet food. In addition to providing for pets of homeless, disabled, and elderly members of our community, we are currently supporting 8 dogs, 5 puppies, 1 cat and 4 kittens whose families were displaced by the fires. We are seeking donations of small bags of cat and dog food to continue our efforts to keep these beloved pets out of the animal shelter until they return home.

Foster Kitten Program

This is from 5-year-old Henry W:
We have four foster kitties at our house. They are very soft and cozy. Sometimes I dream that I am a kitty cat and I can sleep with them. Every time I pick up Margaret Hamilton she snuggles and cozies up to me. The names are Hoppy, Poppy, Mae Jemison and Margaret Hamilton. You spell Hoppy like the H-O-P-P-Y. We foster them. That means we love them until they get big and go to their real home. We love them, feed them, and give them water and Daddy scoops their poops. I play with them to make them happy and they love toys. You can foster cozys kitties!
Seriously
Henry W

Animal Assisted Therapy

Interested in sharing your loving animal with those in need? Do you have an especially well-socialized animal companion who loves to interact with people? We Want YOU! During shelter-in-place we are actively recruiting therapy animal teams for volunteer work in our community! Now is a great time to do your online handler coursework, practice handler skills and brush up on animal training at home to prepare for your in-person team evaluation. Prepare NOW to join us in making a difference in our community as soon we can resume visits. Visit the OHS website for more information on how to get started!

Trap Neuter Return

For the TNR Team, being in lockdown was not an option. Although Vet appointments were hard to come by, the community cats were still taken care of. This small but mighty group of volunteers works tirelessly to trap community cats, get them fixed and recover them for 1-3 days. They then return the cats to their colonies, knowing there will be fewer unwanted cats to be concerned about. As of this writing, the Team has trapped 129 cats to be fixed and rescued 101 kittens just this year, alone. No kitty, no matter the size, age or health will be left behind.

Special Assistance

Eight-year old Sitka lives with John and Carol in their camper. When he developed two serious tumors, OHS helped his family pay for the surgery to have them removed. He has recovered, now, and is doing well. Our Special Assistance Program helps people who cannot fully pay for their pets' medical services. Currently, we cannot help all the animals who need help because we don't have the funds to do that. It's one of the OHS programs that we would very much like to expand as we have the financial resources to do so.