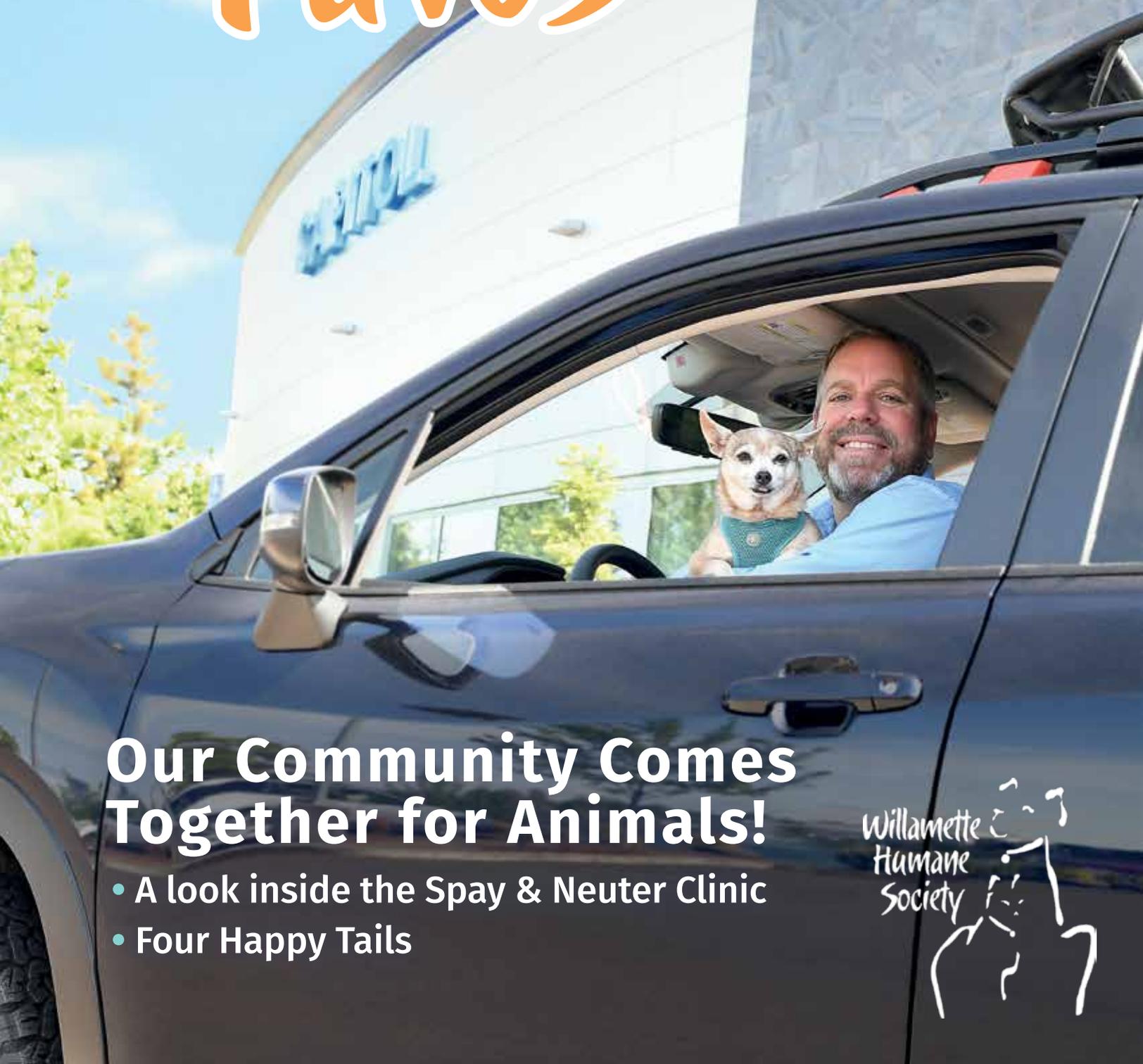




# Brief Paws



## Our Community Comes Together for Animals!

- A look inside the Spay & Neuter Clinic
- Four Happy Tails

Willamette  
Humane  
Society



Moving? Send us an email at  
development@whs4pets.org

**Willamette Humane Society**  
PO Box 13005, Salem, OR 97309  
503-585-5900  
WHS4Pets.org  
info@whs4pets.org

Due to COVID-19, shelter services  
are by appointment only. Visit  
whs4pets.org for more information.

**WHS Spay & Neuter Clinic**  
Phone: 503-480-SPAY  
Online at whs4pets.org/clinic

**WHS Thrift Store**  
548 High St. NE in downtown Salem  
Phone: 503-362-6892  
Online at whs4pets.org/thriftstore

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

BJ Andersen, CAWA, Executive Director



**Ubuntu** is a South African word that “speaks of the very essence of being human ... that you are generous, you are hospitable, and you are friendly and caring and compassionate. You share what you have.”

*Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

I think we can all more or less agree on what it means when we tell our pets “good dog” or “good cat.” I think ubuntu defines a “good human.” It speaks to our ability as conscious humans to participate in our community with reverence, joy, generosity, gratitude, and loving kindness.

We are all interconnected. That’s something I have meditated on for decades, and nowhere have I experienced it more directly than in the last year. In this issue, we will share with you some of the many ways that our community, both as individuals and businesses, have come together to support the animals and the people that WHS serves.

Take Vickie Clarke for example. When a litter of nine puppies with severe ringworm were brought to us for help, Vickie and her husband provided a home, medicated baths, and regular environmental disinfection, while still managing to socialize and train the pups to be great companions when they finally got adopted. She now provides moral support to the foster homes caring for kittens being treated for this common and treatable condition. She gives us all hope and strength to conquer the fungus!

And of course, you will read about our good friends the Casebeers and their business, Capitol Subaru. They have been the top sponsor of WHS for over seven years. Their loyal support provides food, medicine, and supplies, in addition to helping pay for the top-notch medical team that means Vickie’s foster puppies had all the resources they need to thrive. And so much love!

Your kindness and generosity are humbling. Over the past pandemic year, we have seen that we are stronger together, and that by thinking of each other, and caring for each other, we can survive and thrive again. I want each of you to know that your compassion, empathy, and engagement is an inspiration to everyone at WHS and that it enables us to grow our programs in ways that I never imagined possible when I started here.

As your support empowers us to expand our mission to support the human-animal bond wherever it is found, you are creating a community based on compassion, and a society that can, in fact, be measured by how it treats its most humble members. You have tapped into the spirit of ubuntu, the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all life. That spirit renews hope and restores faith in human kindness, and it saves lives.

I am eternally grateful to be connected with each of you.  
Thank you. You are a good human!



# The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual WillaMutt Strut

By: Erin Weldon, Development & Community Engagement Manager

On June 6, Willamette Humane Society celebrated our tenth anniversary of the WillaMutt Strut! Once again, social distancing didn’t stop our community from strutting their stuff — virtually — for shelter pets. Over 100 people (and their pets) joined us for the virtual event, putting their paws to the pavement. As WHS’s second-biggest fundraiser of the year, WillaMutt Strut raises critical funds to help us serve people and pets in Marion & Polk Counties.

We kicked off this year’s Strut with a special 10th Anniversary T-Shirt design contest. We received entries from across our community. Congratulations Phil Fehrenbacher for the winning design! Along with these limited edition shirts, registered participants also received a goody bag, sponsored by Cashmere Construction, stuffed with giveaways from our sponsors.

The fun didn’t stop there. Pups participated in our ever-popular “My Dog Will Eat That” contest sponsored by Capitol Subaru. And Ruby was the big winner. And this year, the cats came to play too! In our first, “My Cat Will Eat That,” Sunny and Cora claimed the top prize.

It’s not the WillaMutt Strut without the top WillaMutt — The Muttiest Mutt of all! The top dog was

Perseus, who received a special award and a doggie DNA test. Perseus, we look forward to finding out what dog breeds came together to make you the perfect mutt.

On June 6, we hosted the Virtual Paw-ty online, where we announced an amazing total of over \$25,000 raised through ticket purchases, sponsorships, and fundraisers. Viewers joined us in giving a big “Woof, Woof, Hooray” to our top fundraisers — our top team Mayhem Mutts, and our top individual fundraiser, Tiffany Dienhart. Thanks to everyone who supported shelter pets at this year’s event.

We were so excited to be able to celebrate the 10th anniversary with The Marble Center, who has presented this amazing event every year! They were joined by other local business sponsors, including Maps Community Foundation, VCA Animal Hospital, Valley Credit Union, Capitol Subaru, Killers Pest Control, and Bindi & Brinn the Pugs. Thank you to all these sponsors — and remember to shop local and support the businesses who support the pets!

We have our paws crossed that next year, we’ll be able to come together in person again to celebrate. Until then, keep on strutting!

# Woof, woof, hooray!

# Petcetera

WHAT'S GOING ON AT  
WILLAMETTE HUMANE SOCIETY  
THIS QUARTER?

## Getting Settled



### Shelter Awarded \$25,000 in Grants

Thanks to a \$3,300 grant from the Leslie Ehmann Charitable Trust, 77 Community Cats will be spayed and neutered. The shelter's clinic sterilizes over 1,500 Community Cats (also called strays) each year. For ten years Willamette Humane Society has received funding from the Leslie Ehmann Charitable Trust. WHS also received a \$22,000 investment from Petco Love. These funds will be used for lifesaving medical procedures on shelter pets.

When cats or kittens are brought to the shelter, sometimes they can be frightened, shy or as WHS staff like to say, "spicy." These cats just need a little extra time in a quiet place, away from the public, to settle in.

The use of "settle time" is a lifesaving effort, as over the past three years there has been an average 95 percent live release rate for cats who have needed, and received, extra time in the shelter.

The cats are placed in Tilly's Corner, an area of the shelter not visible to the public, that gives them the time they need in state-of-the-art kennels, with more room and a quiet area to settle.

Once the cats are used to sounds, smells, and sometimes people, they are moved to the adoption floor to wait to meet their perfect match.

"Tilly's Corner is a valued and essential space, providing a calm refuge that allows staff to assess behavior, and determine appropriate future homes," said Marilyn Peterson, CPDT-KA, Behavior and Training Manager.

This space was funded by generous donors, including Ted and Monica Nicholas, in memory of her mother Tilly.

## Kittens, Kittens and Kittens, Oh My

What's a shelter to do when there are more kittens than there is space? Partner with a supportive organization, and hold off-site adoptions.

Thanks to the generosity of PetSmart, shelter kittens can be adopted at Meow Town, located inside the PetSmart on Lancaster Drive.

On average, over 800 moms and kittens come into the shelter from April through October. Kittens old enough to be spayed or neutered are placed on the shelter's adoption floor. Kittens too young for

adoption go to foster homes where they are cared for and socialized. Once they are old enough, they head to Meow Town.

"Because of Meow Town we can devote shelter space to cats that need more time or medical care, as well as senior cats," said Traci Carillo, Customer Care Manager.

Between March of 2020 and March of 2021, 1,000 cats were adopted out of PetSmart.

Staff and volunteers are there Thursdays through Mondays, from noon to 6 p.m. to help people find the purrr-fect feline friend.

"Without having the space and support of Meow Town and our volunteers, this past year would have been devastating for cats," said Traci. "We're so grateful to PetSmart for partnering with us to save lives."

## Tired of Your Current Car?

Did you know that you can put your old car or truck to good use by donating it to Willamette Humane Society to help shelter pets? We're proud to partner with Donate for Charity, Inc. to manage our vehicle donation process. Donate for Charity, Inc., will arrange for your car to be picked up, and will also handle all of the logistics associated with donating your car.

The program benefits both you and WHS pets because in addition to avoiding the headache of selling your old car, you get a minimum \$500 tax deduction (or higher, depending on what your car sells for), and WHS receives the net proceeds to support our programs. So by using Donate for Charity, you're helping shelter pets on the road to a happier life. For more information, contact Donate for Charity directly at (866) 392-4483. In the past year, over 20 cars were donated to help shelter pets.

## WHS ADOPTION STORIES

### Lagatha

"Last fall, you sent a most caring letter to all the friends of WHS who resided within the areas impacted by the catastrophic wildfires. I wrote our



sincere thanks to you and about our ongoing search (since last January 2020) to find a rescue. It had been over three years since we lost our aged yellow lab we raised from a pup.

With Covid-19 and the increased desire for pet companionship, there was constant competition when dogs became available. A great situation

for the dogs, but a little disheartening for us.

However, thanks to your reply to our email and your kind words of encouragement we kept checking online.

In February, we met Lagatha: a five-and-a-half year old Malamute/Great Pyrenees mix. 100 lbs of total sweetness! We visited and fell in love! She is smart, well-mannered and beautiful! We have changed her name to Mischa (meaning "little bear") which we think suits her and sounds better.

We are blessed and it proves again the adage that 'all good things come to those who wait.'"

### Percy

"Percy came with a couple of unidentified health issues as a four week old kitten. He struggled with gaining weight and was almost five months before he hit two pounds. Watching him grow and beat the odds made my heart so happy. I absolutely love fostering those kittens who struggle. Yes, many times those kittens don't survive, but for their short lives, they felt love. For those who do survive, they move onto families who love them and accept the possible health issues.

Percy seems to have outgrown his health issues and is now 10 pounds. Also, he is the foster who never left. He does have quite the attitude toward other people. He chose me, and I am definitely his person."



# Happy TAILS

### Stella

"Just wanted to give you guys an update on our sweet Stella. She's been with us a little over a year now and we cannot imagine life without her. She has the biggest personality and she's just absolutely hilarious!

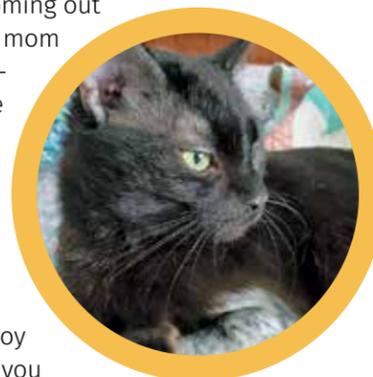


Her snorts and grunts just crack us up. She is very good at giving us what we call her 'ASPCA face' when she pouts, and we joke that we're going to call Sarah McLachan for her to tattle on us. Stella loves the bath, hates the smell of beer and is literally just the best dog ever! She lost her mind when it snowed this year! We are so thankful for her and to you guys for all that you do."

### Suds (now Xerxes)

This photo of Suds was taken by his loving foster family. You'll notice the shaved arm. Suds came to the shelter with a significant injury of unknown origin. He needed surgery and several rounds of medication to get better. But he did just that, and he found the perfect family. Here's the update:

"I just wanted to reach out and thank you all for the work you do. At the beginning of June, I came in for an adoption appointment with 'Suds'. He was very shy and not sure about the whole coming out of his crate business. Foster mom had given him a glowing recommendation though, so he came home with me anyways! Flash forward almost a year later, and I'm so glad I did! Xerxes has completely warmed up and been the best work from home companion! He brings so much joy into my life, and I'm so glad you all made our life together happen — Thank you WHS!"



# Lifesaving Equipment at Work in the Spay and Neuter Clinic

By Jean Dion, Digital Content Coordinator

Willamette Humane's Spay and Neuter Clinic is filled with state-of-the-art tools and equipment that can help animals lead healthier, happier lives. We put those tools to work every day to help pets like Luna the cat and Boo Boo the dog.

Both of these sweet pets entered the shelter with very sore, plaque-covered, loose teeth. They both needed surgery within the clinic to prepare them for adoption.

Before these procedures, all surgical equipment was sterilized in our autoclave. This machine has helped more than 56,000 pets since 2010. Without it, we wouldn't be able to ensure a safe, sterile procedure for pets in need.

The team then used our dental unit, which includes an ultrasonic scaler and high-speed drill. This tool can remove surface tartar and debris so pets have healthier smiles. With tartar removed, our doctors can also spot teeth that are too damaged to remain inside the mouth.

Between them, Luna and Boo Boo had three teeth extracted during surgery. Those few teeth that remained were shined and polished. Boo Boo also had an oral/nasal fistula repaired. At a regular veterinarian's office, this surgery could cost thousands of dollars.

"Dental disease is one of the most common medical conditions in dogs and cats. Unfortunately it is often left untreated due to the cost of veterinary dentistry," explains Sara Livesay, DVM, shelter veterinarian. Animals must be under general anesthesia for the dental cleaning and extractions, and that increases the cost. By performing dental cleaning and extractions (if needed) on animals in the shelter, we are setting them up for greater

long-term success in their new homes. The adopters will continue to follow up with their veterinarians for regular dental cleanings as needed, but hopefully we are lessening that burden.

There's one more piece of equipment we wish we had for pets like Luna and Boo Boo: a digital X-ray machine.

"Currently we do not have a radiograph unit," Dr. Livesay explains. "Through our partnership with local animal hospitals, we can send our shelter animals to vet clinics to obtain X-rays when needed. While we are grateful for our partners, we would love to have our own radiograph unit here at the shelter so we can keep the animals in the clinic."

Digital X-rays could help Dr. Livesay explore underlying health conditions, such as heart disease or unusual lung sounds prior to surgery. She could also use that tool to address significant health emergencies, such as fractures.

An investment in a digital X-ray machine could also help to cut costs. In 2020, WHS sent 13 animals to local vet clinics for these exams, and we spent \$2,700 on tests. After a few years, those funds add up, and they could be used to help more shelter pets.

Both Luna and Boo Boo recovered nicely from surgery. Boo Boo had a new bit of pep in her step now that her teeth are no longer sore and painful, and she quickly found a new home. Luna hopes the perfect family will find her soon. A short visit to the clinic meant the beginning of a whole new life for both pets. That's something we can all celebrate.

For more information about how you can support the clinic, contact Sherri Partridge at 503-585-5900 ext. 305 or by e-mail at [sherri.partridge@whs4pets.org](mailto:sherri.partridge@whs4pets.org)



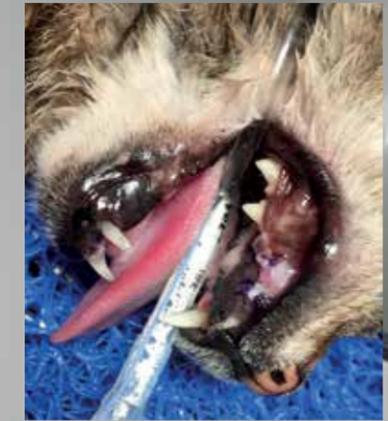
A happy Boo Boo after surgery.



Luna



Before



After

Above: Dental surgery for Luna is performed in WHS Shelter's Spay and Neuter clinic. Below: Surgery team led by Sara Livesay, DVM, operates on a cat in the shelter's surgery center.



# Don and Chris Kirkwood: Friends to all Felines for Life



Chris cuddles a handsome shelter cat.

By Sherri Partridge, Community Philanthropy Officer

What do you do when you live in the country, and people keep dumping cats on your property? Most people either ignore the furry felines and hope they go away, or show compassion and provide food and water. Chris Kirkwood's mom chose to take care of the unwanted cats.

"One time I think we had five inside cats and five outside cats," said Chris. "Mom would always get all the cats spayed, neutered and their shots. It helped that there was a vet next door."

Chris inherited her love of cats from her mom. "Some would be scruffy old toms, battle scarred and bitey, but in time, and with patience, they would become a bit tame and sometimes even get to come in the house."

When her mom died in 2012, Chris and her husband Don thought the best way to honor her mom was to support Willamette Humane Society's (WHS) Community Cat Spay and Neuter program.

"This service is so important for those stray cats to be spayed and neutered and to have their first vaccine so they can go out into the world and not reproduce," said Chris.

Chris and Don have supported WHS in a number of ways over the years including adopting, volunteering, and attending many fundraising events.

"We love spending not only our time, but also our financial resources, at WHS," said Don. "We think the most important thing is preventing overpopulation and preparing animals to be great pets. And Willamette Humane Society does a wonderful job at both of those things."

It takes funding, however, to keep all the various WHS programs and services running, and Chris and Don want people who are considering a gift to WHS to *Just Do It*.

"Donating to the shelter is a great way to make a real difference," said Chris. "How a society takes care of powerless animals and people is a reflection on what kind of society it is," said Don.

For more information on how you can support Willamette Humane Society, contact Sherri Partridge, Community Philanthropy Officer at 503-585-5900 ext. 305 or at [sherri.partridge@whs4pets.org](mailto:sherri.partridge@whs4pets.org)



Longtime WHS supporters  
Don and Chris Kirkwood

## People Memorials

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**RUSS BAGLIEN**  
Tom Flomer

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Debra Coville  
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**MARIE BENZ**  
Don and Joanne Adams  
Douglas Wilson

**KAREN MASSER BERNARD**  
Brian Schachtsick

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LeRoy and Sylvia Kline

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**ANGEL**  
Nancy Butters Godwin

**AUTUMN**  
William and Marsha Hoskins

**BEHMER**  
Patty Jackson

**BLAZE BELVEAL**  
Al and Sharon Zupo

**BENTLEY**  
Lorraine Beugli  
Jan Sloan

**DANNY BOY**  
Mike Meaghers

**HANK BRIGGS**  
Marla and Brian Briggs  
Kate Hager

**LILY BRIGGS**  
Marla and Brian Briggs  
Kate Hager

**MEDUSA BROWN**  
Brittany Brown

**BUDDY**  
Lori Murphy Cole

**BUFFY**  
James Stone

Willamette Humane Society

PO Box 13005  
Salem, OR 97309-1005



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**Alex and Sparky**

*Photo by Wayne Beasley*

## Subaru Shares *The Love!*

There are many traits Salem community members have in common. They are kind. They are generous. They love their pets. And they love their Subaru.

For the seventh year in a row, Willamette Humane Society (WHS) was chosen as Capitol Subaru's hometown charity of choice during the national Share the Love campaign.

From November 19, 2020, through January 4, 2021, Subaru donated \$250 for each new Subaru sold or leased through Capitol Subaru. Each buyer had the opportunity to choose one of four national nonprofits to support with the donation, or they could choose the hometown charity, Willamette Humane Society.

The numbers are in, and Salem Subaru drivers proved they love pets! Thanks to you, along with Capitol Subaru, WHS was presented with a check for \$57,716. And for the second year in a row, we're celebrating Alex Iker as the top salesperson at Capitol for the Share the Love campaign. Thanks to Alex and the entire Capitol Subaru team for the amazing work you do to help shelter pets in need in our community.