



FOREVER HOME

Camano Animal Shelter Newsletter

Issue 1
Spring, 2008

Volume 2

CASA

Mission Statement:

The mission of CASA is to find loving Forever Homes for all of our healthy adoptable animals. We strive to provide quality care and service to the animals and people of our community while encouraging and promoting responsible pet ownership.

News from the Managers

Hello from CASA's Managers, Lynette Lawson is the Shelter Manager and Amy Tierra is the Programs Manager. We are a duo that share a 25 hour per week position. Both of us began as volunteers at the shelter; Lynette as a cat room cleaner and Amy as a dog walker. From there, Amy became a staff member, we both served on the board of directors in 2007, and in October of 2007, we became a management team.

Our goal this year is to gain community support and awareness. Many new residents to our community don't even realize that there is an animal shelter on the Island or have preconceived notions of a shelter environment being dark, dreary and depressing.

We are proud to be part of this shelter and work among the dedicated and hardworking staff and volunteers. Grab a friend, neighbor or a loved one and come visit CASA. We expect you'll be pleasantly surprised at how different we are. Who knows, maybe you will find your new best friend.



The 3 dogs shown above were among those adopted during 1st quarter.

Mona and the "M" Puppies

Mona was surrendered to CASA on January 14th this year. We were told that she was 4 years old; although this seemed doubtful. After discussion, it turned out she had lived with these people for 4 years but was a full grown dog when they got her. During our intake process we noted that her nails were painfully long and she was likely pregnant. The vet confirmed the pregnancy and said Mona would likely deliver within a week. He said that Mona was about 8 years old, had cataracts, arthritis, and a bullet lodged in some fatty tissue. Her nails were very over-grown and it took some time to trim them properly to help make Mona feel more comfortable. Through all this, Mona was a champ. She never complained and was always a love.

On January 22nd at about 4 a.m. Mona began giving birth. She had 8 pups—7 males and 1 female. She remained very calm, even with most of the CASA staff there watching and helping. We were concerned about her age and ability to care for the puppies, but she turned out to be a great momma.

Mona has found a new Forever Home where she has a loving family and another canine companion. Each of the puppies has also been adopted. We called them the "M" puppies because we gave them all names that began with "M". It is the custom at CASA to name all of our animals if they come to us without one.



Before moving to her Forever Home, Mona was fostered by Kim, animal lover and CASA staff member. Kim told us many stories about Mona and her 8 puppies. Here's one of them:

On a warm, sunny day, I took the 8 puppies and Mama Mona outside to their own little play area. I've done this before, and as long as I was outside and watching them, everything went great. The puppies were just learning how to play and run, even though they would trip more than anything. While I was petting Mama Mona, from the corner of my eye I caught one of the puppies (Mercedes) walking through the fence—livestock fencing. Because the puppies could just walk right through the holes

in the fence I always stayed with them if I put them outside. All the other puppies saw Mercedes escape and soon I had more puppies following one after the other through the fence. I ran around to the other side of the fence to catch them and put them back into the yard. Now that they

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www.camanoanimalshelter.org



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Hours:
Tues - Fri 11-3
Sat 11-4
Sun & Mon Closed

Volunteers Needed

If you talk to any of the CASA staff, they will tell you they really appreciate the help they receive from volunteers. As a volunteer you get to know the staff and work directly with the dogs and cats, many of them in need of personal care and attention. Training will be provided wherever it is needed.

MORNING CLEANER – Assist the shelter staff with the morning cleaning of the cat room, main office and laundry area. This position is fast-paced and can be strenuous. It involves sweeping, mopping, doing dishes and laundry.

CAT SOCIALIZER - Provide extra love and attention to cats or kittens that are less social.

DOG WALKERS – Provide essential leash walking skills and necessary exercise for our dogs. Dog walking helps relieve their stress by taking them out of their kennel and into a new environment.

DOG SOCIALIZERS – Spending quality time with adoptable dogs who may be finding shelter life stressful. Dog socializers will spend time just sitting with a dog, encouraging him/her to be calm in the presence of people.

FOSTER PARENT – Provide temporary home care for animals needing a little extra attention or just some extra time to grow.

OFFICE – Help staff the front desk and assist with other clerical tasks.

FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS - Attend one of the monthly meetings held the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Camano Center next to the shelter to learn more about the shelter and to help plan and participate in our fundraising initiatives. (Check our website to confirm each month.)

Media News Coverage

Special thanks to The Herald for their article on CASA and follow-up articles. As a result of this publicity, we were mentioned on KOMO-TV and KING5-TV did a special report on the shelter. Thanks also to the Stanwood-Camano News for their article and continuing support of CASA.

Since this media coverage, we have received over \$15,000 in contributions, many coming from outlying communities.

In addition to contributions we have received pet food (we now have an outdoor shed filled with food), pet treats, collars, leashes, carriers, kitty litter, paper products, laundry detergent and bleach.

The photo of the kittens shown here also appeared on the front page of The Herald. The kittens were being prepared for adoption at CASA when reporter Scott Pesznecker and photographer Dan Bates visited. There was a huge response from people wanting the kittens and they were adopted in a very short time on the morning they became eligible to go to their new forever homes.



Dan Bates/ The Herald



(continued from Page 1 - Mona and the "M" Puppies)

knew they could get out, they were escaping as fast as I could get them back in. On one of my trips out of the yard, I spun around, stepped in something I'd rather not have stepped in, and slipped—just like in the movies. Before I was able to pick myself up off the ground, I had a puppy on each pants leg and a puppy on each arm. One puppy had hold of my pony tail and tugged away like I had

planned on playing tug-of-war. The other puppies had hold of my coat or another part of me. Mercedes was standing on my chest licking my face and chewing on my eyeglasses. How could I be mad when I was laughing so hard? When I finally managed to get back to my feet, the puppies left me and ran to Mama Mona for a mid-day meal. Afterward, they all snuggled up together in the sun and fell asleep. I picked up each muddy, full, sleepy little puppy and put them, one-by-one, in their bed inside. Then, after a shower for me, it was my turn to nap.

A Day in the Life of CASA

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at your local animal shelter? Wondered why there are cars in the parking lot when the shelter is “closed” for business?

The shelter really never closes. A typical day at the Camano Animal Shelter begins at 8:30 in the morning. One staff member arrives to transport animals to the vet for spay/neuter surgery appointments, and to check any phone messages left from the night before. The heat is turned up, coffee is set to brew, and the cleaning rush begins while cats and dogs who are overjoyed to see their caregivers are barking and meowing for attention.

9:00–10:55 a.m. The “Dog” staff member rotates the dogs into the play yard while their kennels are cleaned and sanitized, and clean blankets, fresh food, and water are provided. Dogs are given extra time in the yard when they have a compatible dog “yard buddy” to play with. When all the kennels have been cleaned, the yard is scooped and cleaned, then the garbage is emptied. Then it’s time for the dogs to get some much needed one-on-one time. Vaccinations, microchipping, temperament testing, daily health checks and vet appointments are all on the “to do” list. The volunteer dog walker arrives and takes the anxious, energetic dogs for a walk. The staff member must keep track of where each dog is and what dogs can play or walk together.

The “Cat” staff member empties, sanitizes, and refills all litter boxes, food bowls, and water dishes. The cats line up, eager to be the first to use the fresh litter boxes. Beds and blankets are changed, floors are swept and mopped. The cats get their one-on-one time while receiving their daily health check. Kittens and cats in isolation for illness or during their hold period have their cages cleaned and sanitized, litter and bedding replaced, and then receive their daily health checks and any medications and vaccinations needed.

It’s 10:55. Deep breath.... Time for a quick cup of coffee and snack before the OPEN sign is turned. The doors are unlocked and the day begins. Laundry is washed, dried, folded, and put away throughout the day.

11:00. Visitors are lined up in the parking lot, waiting to see the kittens just featured on the news. They are disappointed to be told that the kittens are actually in foster care and won’t be available for a few weeks. Staff members welcome all visitors, give tours, and tell them about the shelter. People love that the shelter doesn’t smell like most animal shelters and that the cats are allowed to roam free, finding their own spot on the desk or under the desk, or perched on a cat tree or in the window.

The phone is ringing, people are in the office asking to see a dog they saw on www.petfinder.com. The washer and dryer just buzzed. The “Dog” staff member briefly talks to the family wanting to see the dog, pulling out the dog’s paperwork to be able to answer their questions as accurately as possible. She then takes the family out to the dog kennel to meet the dog and answer more questions. After a long hour of talking and questions and playtime with the dog in the yard, the family leaves, encouraged to think about the dog and call if they have more questions.

12:30 p.m. Another deep breath. The shelter is quiet. Cats are snoozing in the warmth of the afternoon sun or curled in a cozy basket on the desk after a busy morning of playing. Most dogs are napping after spending the morning playing in the yard or taking their turn for a walk with the dog walker. The phone is quiet. Messages have been returned. The office is empty. Is there enough time to grab a quick bite to eat? Staff grab their lunches from the refrigerator, but before the first bite is taken, round two begins.

12:35. The phone rings, animal control brings in a new impound, followed closely by the dog’s owners, not too happy to have to pay fees to redeem their dog that never leaves the porch. A cat wakes up in a cranky mood and starts a fight. A woman arrives wanting to surrender her elderly dog because she is moving and can’t take her. There is paperwork to do and a kennel to set up for the new arrivals. More people come in. They are new to the island and need to license their dogs. “Wow! What a great shelter,” they say. “Can we have a tour?” Licenses are done, a tour is given. At last, a moment to sit down. A very brief moment... More people arrive. These visitors are interested in finding an adult cat. The scavenger hunt for the cats begins... “This one is very affectionate and loves people, this one loves to be petted and held but isn’t as needy. This one doesn’t care for other cats and will chase away dogs.” They are shown to the cat room, made comfortable on the bench, and told to take their time. An hour or so later, they emerge. “We’ll take this one. We don’t have any other cats or dogs, and she seemed to pick us” Paperwork is done. The cat is given a hug good bye from each of the staff and volunteers and tucked safely into a carrier for the trip to her forever home. Everyone cheers when an animal is adopted. It is the highlight of the day.

2:00. Faithful volunteer dog walkers and cat socializers arrive in the afternoon, just as the animals wake from their slumber. A final play session begins outside to burn off some of the youngest dogs’ energy.

3:00. Time to turn the sign to CLOSED, lock the door, take a deep breath. But the day isn’t over just yet. Time to feed the dogs and cats, scoop the litter boxes and play yard, wash dirty dishes, tidy up, and retrieve animals from the vet. The day is almost done. Make sure garbage is emptied, windows are shut, afternoon medications are given. Account for each animal and tuck them in for the night.

3:30. The lights are turned out, soft music (jazz is the preference) is turned on for the dogs. The dogs all curl up on their Kuranda beds and wait patiently until the next morning. What happens in the cat room after hours is another story that only the cats can tell. We often theorize about the after-hours festivities taking place, but no one ever confesses!

CASA Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June:

Twin-City Idlers
1st Annual Dine out for CASA

August:

2nd Annual CASA Dogwash -
August 16th

September:

Harvest Festival

October:

3rd Annual CASA Auction -
October 4
Blessing of the Animals

November:

3rd Annual Santa Pictures
Lights of Love

December:

Stanwood Community and
Senior Center – Festival of
Trees

Elger Bay Elementary School—CASA Visits 1st Grade Classes

During the month of February, the first grade classrooms at Elger Bay Elementary School collected items for the animals at CASA.

On February 20th staff members Kim Thompson, Linda Wickler and Amy Tierra made a special visit and brought Ellen the kitten, puppy Bacchus, and Bridgette the cat to share with the students.

Thank you to the staff, students, and their parents for participating. All of the animals are loving the toys and goodies so generously donated.

Mrs. Luddens' class (shown below) collected 138 items for CASA.



**THANK YOU
2008 BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

Camano Island Kennels
Cloud's Canine
Sawtooth Trucking, Inc.

**THANK YOU
MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES!**
These companies have generously
matched the contributions made to
CASA by their employees.

- Attachmate
- BP
- Microsoft
- Verizon
- Washington Mutual
- Washington Post

**A special THANK YOU to the many
volunteers who help with the
ANIMALS.**

Fosters: Amy, Allison, Ashley,
Ayleen, Connie, Joe, Kim, Terry,
Wendy
Dog Walkers: Amy, Cherie, Jennifer,
Joe, Theresa
Cat & Dog Socializers: Cherie,
Kylee, Leanne, Liz, Tory V., Tory W.
Cleaners: Kylee, Theresa, Tory V.

Did You Know?

The Camano Animal Shelter serves the residents of Camano Island. As an Island County facility, the shelter receives funding from the county as an impound facility for dogs, but, in reality the majority of the dogs and all of the cats come to the shelter as surrenders or strays.

Impounded dogs brought to the shelter by the County Animal Control officer stay at the shelter until their owners retrieve them or they are placed for adoption. Strays are animals brought into the shelter by individuals. Surrendered animals are brought to the shelter by owners with various reasons for leaving the animal.

The reasons may vary, but the end result is that these animals will now make the shelter their home. Contributions are used to supplement the gap between county funding and expenses to make sure these animals are cared for during their stay.

	Impounded	Stray	Surrender	Total
Dogs	6	11	24	51
Cats		12	35	47

Almost 100 animals came to the shelter in the first quarter of 2008!

Visit www.camanoanimalshelter.org or www.petfinder.com to view and read about all of our adoptable animals.

Have you adopted from CASA? Send us a photo and we'll include it in our next newsletter! Mail photo to CASA or send via email to CASA@camanoanimalshelter.org. Please include the full name of your pet and the month/year adopted.

There are many ways you can give to CASA and the animals:

Become a Business Member – Business memberships are \$100.00. Your company name will be listed in our newsletter, on our website, and at the shelter.

Become a Newsletter Sponsor – Newsletter sponsors, \$50.00 are listed on the back of the newsletter. This contribution will help defray the cost of producing the newsletter.

Matching Gifts – Check with your employer to see if they will match your contribution to CASA.

Children’s Birthday Party – Having a birthday party? Consider asking the guests to bring an animal toy and monetary gift for CASA.

Memorial/Honorary Gift - Give a donation in memory of or in honor of an individual and we will mail an acknowledgement to the individual or family.

Pet Memorial – If your pet has passed away, remember him/her by giving a donation in memory. Your pet’s name will be included in our next newsletter. Consider adopting from CASA, but if you are not ready, consider a monetary donation quarterly representing the money you would have gladly spent on your pet.

Estate Planning – Remember CASA in your will or estate

Please notify us if you:

- Have address changes
- Are receiving 2 newsletters
- Want to be removed from our mailing list.

Send email to:

CASA@camanoanimalshelter.org

CASA Wish List

- Black Kong Toys (extra tough for strong chewers)
- Hollow filled bones
- Cat trees
- Cardboard cat scratchers
- Space heaters for dog kennel—it gets very cold back there.
- 10 yard of pea gravel for our play yard (and volunteers to move and spread it)
- Nyla bones
- Non clumping cat litter or pellet stove pellets
- Kitten food
- Canned cat and dog food
- KMR (kitten milk replacement)
- Baby food (small jars of pureed meats)
- Postage Stamps – We use lots of stamps! A roll of stamps can be purchased on-line at <http://shop.usps.com> and mailed direct to us.
- 8½ x 11” typing/copy paper
- #10 Mailing Envelopes
- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Paper Products
- Digital Baby Scale



CASA does not sell or otherwise disclose donor information outside of the organization. This policy has no exceptions. We do not sell or exchange your information with any other organization - public, private, or non-profit.

YES ...I WANT TO HELP THE ANIMALS AT CAMANO ANIMAL SHELTER

Enclosed is my TAX DEDUCTIBLE gift of:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Name (Please print)

Street

City State Zip

Phone Email address

If this donation is a gift or in honor or memory of someone special, please include a note and we will mail an acknowledgement to the individual or family.

I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

My employer will match my gift. Enclosed is my completed matching gift form.

Thank you for your support!

CASA is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Please make check payable to CASA.

(Credit Card donations accepted via PayPal at www.camanoanimalshelter.org)





Newsletter of CASA
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BUTTERCUP and DANDYLION
She and he are twins and would love to stay together.



AYMEE is a 1 year old female Border Collie/Foxhound mix. Seen here with Stuffy, a favorite companion.



BENTLEY is a medium size male Akita mix.



CISCO is a male 1+ Year Old Boxer / Labrador mix.



ROXY is a Young Female Spaniel



1 1/2 Year Old Domestic Short Hair Cat
NORMAN