Santa Paws pet photo event a success thanks to your support

On a cold and wet Sunday in December, the animals gathered at River's Wish to sit on Santa’s lap and share good thoughts for this holiday season. Santa Paws was a great time, with an assortment of dogs, cats, bunnies, a rooster and a goat each able to sit with Santa and tell him their Christmas wishes. Mr. and Mrs. Claus, played by Paul and Mary Charbonneau, gave their time and energy to help raise donations and share cheer at the sanctuary. Mary and Paul do Santa Paws for Washington Basset Rescue (www.wabr.net) each year. Thank you Mary and Paul. You know how to share the spirit of Christmas!

In this issue

Rescue purebreds
Page 2
They’re more common than you think. Find out more.

News & Updates
Page 3
Find out what’s going on at River’s Wish now and coming this Spring.

Acupuncture
Page 4
Learn how this ancient art can help your pet.
Looking for a purebred? Check the shelter!

You don’t have to look any further than your local shelter or rescue group!

An abundance of purebreds

Did you know that 40% of dogs at animal shelters are purebreds? Some of them were originally from puppy mills, sold to pet stores or popular “boutiques” in local malls. Still others were brought into the world as a way to make some money, without a care as to where they end up down the road. What all these dogs have in common is they wound up in the shelter looking for permanent homes.

Maya and her puppies

In 1997, Maya came to River’s Wish. She was a pregnant American Eskimo with no one to love her and she was never claimed. Her four puppies were all purebred American Eskimos with fabulous personalities.

All the puppies were spayed and neutered and adopted into great homes. Stubby and Freckles went to a home in British Columbia, Daisy was adopted to a home in Spokane and Sugar Bear was adopted by Morgan of Olympia, Washington. Recently, Morgan sent an update on Sugar. We are happy to see that thirteen years later Sugar is doing great. And Maya continues to enjoy lots of love at River’s Wish, where she oversees the dogs that pass through the sanctuary.

After fostering Maya and her puppies, we fostered a few more American Eskimos from the shelter. Cody was a sweet boy who had been bought at a Spokane pet store. His original paperwork was sent with him when his ‘family’ took him to the shelter, and it stated that he had been shipped to the pet store from Missouri, one of the largest producers of puppy mill puppies in the country.

Beware of puppy mills

While thousands of wonderful purebred and mixed breed dogs await their forever homes in shelters, there are pet stores selling puppy mill dogs. Not only do the dogs in the shelters suffer from this industry, but the very dogs used in puppy mills lead a miserable existence for pure profit. To find out more about puppy mills, go to www.humanesociety.org/issues/puppy_mills/

Finding your rescue purebred

If you are seeking a specific breed of dog, there are specific breed rescues and you can also put your name on a wish list at local shelters. Just search the Internet—there are many with dogs waiting for homes. You could also find an adorable mix breed, like Burt, the sweet terrier mix who came from death row in Dallas, Texas. He’s now home for the holidays after being adopted at a Petco adoption event.

Who needs a barn cat when you can get a chicken?

Patsy was a “wild child” at River’s Wish who just wouldn’t stay put. It didn’t take Patsy long to earn her keep once she found her new home. She was adopted by Virginia on Five Mile Prairie, who reports Patsy quickly cleaned house in the chicken coop by killing four mice! Patsy has settled in nicely and was recently joined by several more chickens from River’s Wish, including two Silkies and another Bantam mix. Chicks, like Rabbits become popular at Easter, only to need permanent homes once their owners decide they no longer want them.
Summer stories
Summer 2010 was busy at River’s Wish. Here’s a summary of some of the highlights:
- Animal Advocates held their vegan picnic here on August 14
- The Bunny Barn got a much needed paint job after 12 years thanks to Charley.
- The south pasture grew beautifully thanks to Larry and Bonnie.
- The Bucks for Buns & Beasts, a rummage sale put on by Pat Dennison and her family, brought in $1,200 for River’s Wish and Rabbitron. Thanks to Pat and all who donated to the cause.
- Peanut, the amazing horse featured in our last issue, was adopted in a loving home with Vicky.

Interested in volunteering? Visit us online at riverswishanimalssanctuary.org

Art for the Animals Auction
We are excited about the upcoming silent art auction, taking place in late Spring. The art will include sculpture, prints, paintings, drawings, ceramics and jewelry, to name a few. Both regional and national artists will be represented. Stay tuned for more information as it develops. All proceeds go to the feed and care of the animals at the sanctuary. This will be a great opportunity to buy a piece of beautiful art while supporting the animals.

A perfect gift
Need a gift for a pet lover? Consider the purchase of forged steel furniture and objects or commission a painting of your beloved animals. All proceeds go to the care of the animals at the sanctuary. You can view work samples at www.jagodadesign.com.

Bone Collar by Pete Jagoda

Birdie Girl by Kit Jagoda

Bunny Love by Kit Jagoda

As the Donkey Brays…
Happenings, thanks and events at River’s Wish

On July 31, Kit and Tracy had the opportunity to speak at the House Rabbit Headquarters in Richmond, California. As House Rabbit Educators, Kit and Tracy spoke about general management and predator proofing in a sanctuary setting, traveling with rabbits and advocating for rabbits. It was exciting to be where it all began in 1988 and to meet a few of the founding members such as Marinell and Bob Harriman and Beth Woolbright. To read about the House Rabbit Society and all there is to know about rabbits, go to www.rabbit.org. For the past six years Tracy Martin, graphic design artist, has created billboards and advertisements opposing ‘Easter rabbits’. Read more at www.rabbitron.com. River’s Wish advocates rabbits as companions, much like a dog or cat, and that they, along with all animals, be treated with the utmost kindness, respect and compassion.

Rabbits third most common animal at shelters
We are happy that several bunnies were adopted to loving homes where they will be house rabbits. Buttercup, aka Squishy, went home with Sarah. Malibu went home with Lady and Stephanie, Sarah and Bread went home with Lily and her people. Charlie went home with Laura and Velveteeen has been officially adopted. Murray is now Honey’s honey. Rosemary went to live with Jasper and his people and we are crossing our fingers that Charlotte will accept Sundance as her companion. We strive to find committed and loving indoor homes for the rabbits who come into the rescue, after they have been spayed and neutered and cared for.
Acupuncture for pets

by Dr. Rosemarie Asterino, DVM

What is Acupuncture?
Acupuncture is part of the holistic system of healing known as Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). TCM sees the body, mind, and spirit as an integrated whole and recognizes and treats patterns of imbalance to restore harmony. Acupuncture has been used to treat animals for over 4000 years; originally it was used to treat valuable livestock in Asia. It is now used worldwide for the treatment of horses, livestock, zoological collections, wildlife, and pets. All pets can be treated including dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and pocket pets.

How is Acupuncture Performed on Animals?
Acupuncture is very safe and is performed by the gentle insertion of very fine, sterile needles at precise points on or near the surface of the body. This process produces physiological changes in the body that promote natural healing. The needle insertion is usually painless and most pets really seem to enjoy their treatments, becoming very relaxed and sometimes falling asleep. Acupuncture is used to treat existing diseases and injuries, as well as to improve overall health and prevent future illness.

How Does Acupuncture Work?
According to the ancient theories of TCM, there is a vital life energy flowing through all living things called Qi (pronounced chee). An individual’s health is affected by the quality, quantity, and balance of Qi. Qi flows throughout the body in pathways known as meridians. Meridians are like interconnected highways or rivers flowing inside the body. When the body is healthy, Qi flows smoothly to every organ, gland, muscle, bone, and tissue. When Qi flow is disrupted or blocked, disease or pain can occur. Acupuncture can restore the proper flow and balance of Qi and thereby help the body heal itself.

Western science has shown acupuncture to have many effects. When the needle is inserted into an acupuncture point, it causes a stimulus that the body responds to in a multitude of ways. These responses have various physiological effects in the body. Acupuncture can stimulate the release of anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving chemicals, affect secretions of neurotransmitters, increase blood flow, modify immune function, change some blood chemistries, affect hormone production, and diminish pain. All the effects of acupuncture are not yet fully known, but as we grow scientifically our understanding of how acupuncture works will also grow.

What Can Acupuncture Treat?
Acupuncture is now recognized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to be effective in the treatment of a wide variety of medical problems in people. In animals, acupuncture can be used alone or in conjunction with more conventional western treatment modalities in the treatment of many conditions including:

- Treatment of painful conditions including hip dysplasia, neck and back disorders, arthritis, and injuries.
- Behavioral problems including aggressiveness, anxiety, fear, and inappropriate urination.
- Skin disease including allergies.
- Respiratory conditions including asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia.
- Digestive disorders including colitis, stomach problems, inflammatory bowel disease, and constipation.
- Urinary tract disease including kidney disease, cystitis, and incontinence.
- Neurological disorders including seizures, nerve dysfunction, stroke and spinal disease.
- Geriatric management to help with overall well being, improve energy and stamina, help with appetite, and improve senility.
- Cancer therapy to help with appetite, improve energy, relieve pain, and help the immune system.

Dr. Asterino can be contacted at:
1428 W. Mansfield Ave.
Spokane, WA. 99205
(509) 327-2062
With a little help from our friends...

Special thanks to go to all our amazing volunteers. 2010 has been a year of many challenges for River’s Wish, along with Kit and Pete, and it would be impossible to care for all our animals without the help of so many wonderful and caring individuals. In November, Pete was in a car accident and broke his right leg. During the months that he is unable to put weight on it, several people have been helping to care for the animals and help us maintain some sense of balance. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of the hard work, offers, support and well wishes you have given River’s Wish during this time and throughout the year.

We want to give a special thank you to Tsjuz Marketing for updating the look and feel of our website and managing our print and online newsletter. We also want to thank Carla Peterson for the time she took to manage our website from afar—she helped get our web presence off the ground.

Volunteer Spotlight

River’s Wish is fortunate to have so many helpful, generous and handy friends. We’d like to feature three special volunteers for their efforts.

Alex Trejo, thanks for your weekly focus on cleaning and caring for the rabbits.

Charles Grizzle has been volunteering at River’s Wish since the spring of 2010. Charles cuts and discs fields, spreads manure and fixes fences. Chuck was raised in Indiana farm country and worked in the movie, audio visual and advertising business. Chuck has a special affinity for animals, fieldwork and tractors. We are so appreciative for your help Chuck!

Nicki Schuker is a special young person who was touched by the animals and their stories when she visited the sanctuary in July. So much so that she started a dog walking business in her neighborhood and has raised $100.00 for the River’s Wish. Nicki, thank you for your hard work and inspiration you give us all.

We need your support!

Yes! I’d like to help support River’s Wish in the following way:

- I’d like to purchase _______ bales of hay at $9 per bale for a total of ______________.
- I’d like to support the medical fund for animals in the amount of ______.
- I have supplies or skills to donate. Please contact me.
- I’d like my contribution to go where needed most.

River’s Wish is a 501 c3 non-profit organization, and as such, your tax donations are deductible.
Dedication to special friends

This winter issue is dedicated to two amazing women. Sue Ehama and her family are supporters of River’s Wish. Sadly, Sue passed away on September 19, 2010.

We also wish to dedicate this newsletter to Hope Dodge. Hope gave hope to a group of 20 dogs living on chains north of Spokane. To the left, you’ll see pictures of our own Clarice “before” and “after” Hope’s intervention. Hope has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and is currently in Hospice care. We hold Sue and Hope and their families in our hearts.

*May your holidays be spent in the company of loving friends & animals*

River’s Wish Animal Sanctuary

PO Box 18371
Spokane, WA 99218

To Our Friends at: