



HUMANE SOCIETY
OF NEW ZEALAND INC

Newsletter

December 2019

Welcome and greetings from your committee.

As we are rushing madly towards the silly season I would like to wish all our members, and their families a wonderful Christmas. This is the time of year when we, and often our pets tend to over-indulge. So may the animals in your family have lots of play time and lots of treats and may one balance out the other when it comes to their waistlines.



I always try to get the animals presents at Christmas, but as they are totally spoilt, and have far more stuff than they need I try to limit it to things I would have got them anyway, at least that's what I tell myself. This year the dogs are getting new cool beds, and the cats are getting a new scratching post and yet another bed, as there seems to be some serious competition on between Tuppence and George for the same sleeping quarters. This would make more sense if the cave bed in question wasn't too small for George, so he likes to just lie on top of it and flatten it. I will never understand animals. Anyway, I have noticed there is definitely a campaign by the various pet retailers to divert me from the path of sensible presents, there are so many cute toys around at the moment, that it is inevitable that some will find their way into my house to take up more room in the over-stuffed toy box. Retail therapy rocks!



I currently have 4 kittens taking over my study, they were a litter that was born under some pallets at work, and were about 3 months old when I trapped them. I have only ever trapped single kittens at a time before, and having 4 has been very interesting. They don't tame down nearly as quickly when there are multiple of them, and to be honest I'm not sure if one of the girls is ever going to get there. Still, we persevere. The two boys, however, have been much easier, and are ready to be rehomed, even though their personalities are worlds apart. In the nature vs nurture debate in this household nature is winning hands down.



I apologise if anything in the newsletter seems to be misspelled, one of the kittens is fascinated by the letters appearing across the screen and keeps putting his big head in the way. He has been moved on a couple of times but to no avail so now I'm just hoping I'm typing what I think I am.

You will have noticed that since the AGM we are back to our full compliment of committee members for the first time in a while. Welcome to Geoffrey, Bubbles and Tina. Bubbles and Tina you may know as they have been dedicated foster homes for a long time, and do a fantastic job. Geoffrey is a new addition to the team and we hope he will enjoy himself as I'm sure he'll be a great asset.



Wishing you all the best this holiday season and throughout the year



Your committee:

Jill O'Keeffe, Heather Wade, Geoffrey Wade,
Tina Hadfield, Bubbles Otway, Lisa Finucane,
Jenny Mitchell and Fiona Seiffert

Society News

Wool Requested

Lynn would very much appreciate any donations of wool that would enable her to keep knitting blankets for our foster homes. Some blankets are small enough to fit into beds, while others are couch size to protect our foster home's furniture from couch-potato dogs in particular.

Any wool is appreciated, but baby wool, 1, 2 or 3 ply mixes in well with thicker wool.

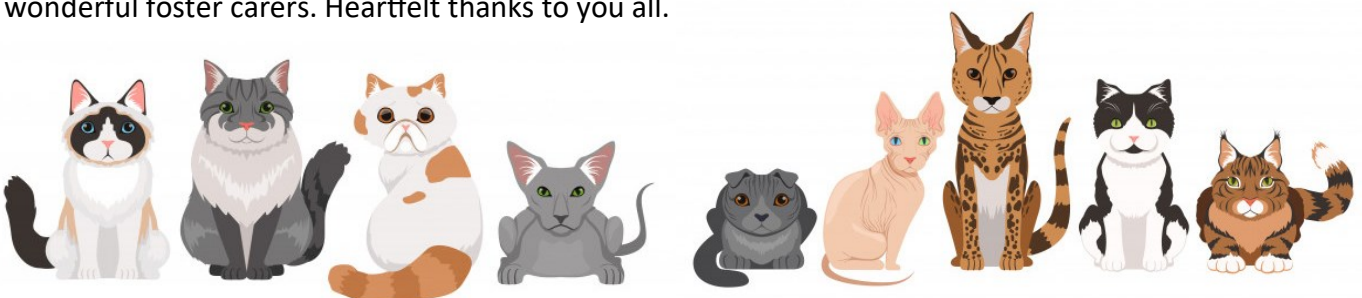
If you can help please email Jill at info@humanesociety.org.nz or call her on 372 6006.

SPAY/NEUTER FUND

We've had another bumper start to this financial year with our shared desexing scheme and continue to push through as many as we possibly can. We've processed just over 500 from April to end August, with these being not just in Auckland but nationwide. We also continue to assist three rescue groups in the north where there are huge problems with unwanted cats and dogs. Unfortunately we always have a backlog of applications from owners requiring assistance and Jill and Jenny struggle constantly with the volume, so to this end, Bubbles, one of our longstanding foster homes who came on to the committee this year has offered to ease our burden and take over processing some of these which we are sure will make a big difference. A large number of applications also come via vet clinics, which in many ways is preferable, as they know their clients' situations and whether they are genuinely in need of help. We do occasionally decline applications, one common reason is the applicant has purchased a dog from a breeder, prices reportedly paid by them ranging from \$800 - \$1500. The answer of course is that if you can afford to purchase a pure-bred dog, you should be aware of the costs involved and have the finances to support all costs – a bit of a try-on, we feel.

DOG/CATS ADOPTED

Our amazing foster homes have been instrumental in adopting out dogs of all shapes, sizes and ages primarily from Shelters, and cats and kittens, mostly left to fend for themselves, with some also coming via the Manukau shelter and vets. There have been Catahoula's, Fox Terriers, Jack Russells, Labradors, German Shepherd x, Dog de Bordeaux, American Bulldogs, Staffie x, Pekingese, Bichon Frise, Beagle, Tibetan Spaniel x, Chinese Crested x and a number of Chihuahuas, four of whom came to us from a backyard breeder, aged 8 yrs who weren't toilet trained or socialised, we managed to adopt two out but on vet's advice two older ones had to be put to sleep. At least they were spared any further suffering. More recently we took a dog and cat into care, whose owner had died, all very sad, but once again, due to the tireless work of our wonderful foster homes, both of them have now been adopted. Our cat/kitten fosters currently have a number of kittens, not yet ready to be listed, but adult cats recently rehomed have been of all hues, tabby, champagne long-hair, black, ginger, grey, white/ginger and so on. Some of the recent kittens have needed to be hand-raised, a huge task and commitment by our wonderful foster carers. Heartfelt thanks to you all.



Home Made Toys for Christmas

Ball Dog Toy

Supplies:

Old ball (a tennis ball works great)

About 1/2 metre of Fabric

A piece of ribbon

Scissors

Cut your fabric into two strips – roughly 15 x 36 cm (you can adapt this to really any size you want)

Fold the fabric strips in half and wrap around your ball (placing the ball in the center of the folds). Tie your ribbon as tight as you can around the base of the ball after wrapping it several times around.

Cut the tail of your fabric into several 5 cm wide strips, then using three strips at a time braid them into sections. Try to make your braids as tight as possible (it's harder for little teeth to rip them apart then).

Using the excess fabric at the end of your braid tie several knots to keep the braids in place.

Voila! A brand new toy for your favourite furry friend.



Cat Tent

Supplies:

A medium t-shirt

A 38x38cm piece of cardboard

Two wire Hangers

Tape

Safety Pins

Something to cut the hangers with and help bend them - Like a large pair of pliers.

Cut off the twisted hook parts of hangers.

Shape the hangers into arches - try to make them smooth and pretty uniform. You want two graceful curves that will go from corner to corner of your piece of cardboard.

I also took this time to tape on a couple supports to the cardboard and tape all around the edges for a little more stability. This is really only necessary if you're using a piece of cardboard with a crease in it.

Poke a hole in each corner of the cardboard. Make sure it's at least a half inch in from each edge and not too large.

Cross the two hangers in the middle and make sure all the ends touch the surface you're working on. Tape them together really well so they don't shift. Push the ends through the holes you just made in the corners. Bend at least an inch on the bottom of each hanger so it sits against the bottom of the cardboard. Tape the ends down flat against the cardboard - make sure you tape it well so it's nice and smooth and won't snag the shirt when you pull it over!

Pull the shirt over the tent frame and position it so the neck hole is in the front middle and the bottom of the shirt is trailing behind the tent frame. Fold up the excess from the bottom of the shirt and tighten it up so the neck hole is taut and safety pin the bottom in place. Then pull the sleeves tight and safety pin them in place too. Leaving the t-shirt whole will make it easier to remove and wash.



Blast from the Past

Do you remember when all our advertising was done in the Herald and the local newspapers? We were given these old clippings by one of our volunteers at a recent get together. I recall being on the phones back then and often by the time people phoned up enquiring about the advertised dogs they had already gone, and we had a new list to describe to those who were interested over the phone.

Life is a lot easier now, and there are even pictures to look at.



Volunteer Afternoon Tea

Committee member Bubbles modelling the latest in fashion earrings, with the added bonus of providing a snack if you get peckish.

We had our annual volunteer Christmas afternoon tea in November, and it was a great turnout with everybody seeming to enjoy themselves.

We cannot emphasise enough how much we appreciate our hard working volunteers, without them this society simply wouldn't exist.



Interesting facts

Birds that live in cities have learned to line their nests with cigarette butts. Nicotine is a powerful insecticide that wards off mites, lice and fleas.

If dung beetles disappeared from the plains of Africa, its human inhabitants would be up to their waists in excrement within a month.

More people have been killed by sandcastles since 1990 than by sharks.

Slugs dislike copper; their slime reacts with it and gives them an electric shock.

Locust swarms move so fast because each locust is trying to eat the one in front and avoid being eaten by the one behind.

A crocodile can't move its tongue.

The paint on the Eiffel Tower weighs as much as ten elephants.

Oysters change sex up to four times a year.



10 Christmas hazards all pet owners should be aware of

Avoid cat-connected catastrophes and dog-related dilemmas this Christmas.

While humans indulge in a little festive frivolity, Christmas can be a dangerous time for pets with tempting but potentially poisonous treats adorning every open surface—meaning a third of pet owners will experience an emergency this festive season.

Vets now, the UK's out of hours pet emergency service, sees a 788 % increase in chocolate poisoning cases over Christmas Day and Boxing Day alone, and new research shows that while most owners (93%) are aware chocolate is poisonous 32% of pets have still been at risk after eating some. It's not just chocolate that's cause for concern, dozens of foods like macadamia nuts, grapes and raisins are also dangerous for dogs.

Chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine, a bit like caffeine, which, while tasty, is severely poisonous to cats and dogs.



Mince Pies and Christmas Puddings. All grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas are toxic to dogs; as are foods that contain them which means no mince pies for your pooch, we're afraid.



Blue Cheese while delicious to us, contains a substance called roquefortine C, which dogs are extremely sensitive to.



Tinsel while it might look like a lot of fun to play with, tinsel can cause dangerous blockages in an animal's stomach.



Macadamia Nuts often lurking in biscuits or eaten as a decadent Christmas snack, these nuts cause severe illness in dogs.

Garlic, Chives and Onion are found in many festive foods like gravy, stuffing and sausages, however all Allium species are poisonous to dogs.



Snow Globes some imported versions can contain antifreeze – as little as one tablespoon can be fatal for a cat.

Candles may create a cosy atmosphere, but candle flames can burn paws and the curious noses of furry friends. There's also risk of them falling over when brushed against.

Fairy Lights, Cats are curious and will try to chew on anything, including fairy lights – which can burn and even electrocute them.

Alcohol can cause severe liver and brain damage in animals. As little as a tablespoon can lead to problems for your cat or dog.

Other Hazards to be aware of include:

- Salt dough ornaments – the mix of flour and salt with water can cause a potentially fatal salt toxicosis.
- Christmas foliage like poinsettia, mistletoe and ivy– all of which are mildly toxic to both cats and dogs.
- Wrapping paper – eating a large amount of paper could cause an obstruction in the stomach.
- Lilies –those from the Lilium or Hemerocallis species are very dangerous for cats. Eating just two or three leaves, or even drinking water from a vase containing them can be potentially fatal.



If your pet has eaten anything potentially harmful, you should call your vet for advice. Many local vet practices choose to close over the Christmas period so it's essential you're aware of your local out-of-hours emergency vet.



Have a wonderful, safe and happy Christmas
With best wishes from the Committee



Humane Society Merchandise Available

Orders should be sent to: Humane Society, PO Box 29060, Auckland 1344



Keep your Drinks Cool \$10



Humane Society Key Ring \$2

A Handy little Gift Pack - Just \$4



Humane Society Pen \$2



A T-shirt \$30



**A Bandana for your dog
Small or Large \$10**



Order Form

Item	Quantity	Amount
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Please send to:	Post and Packaging	4.00
Name: _____	TOTAL	\$ _____
Address: _____		ENCLOSED

Donation Form

The Honorary Treasurer
Humane Society of NZ Inc.
P O Box 29 060
Epsom
Auckland. 1344

☐ **Donation**

I enclose a gift of _____ to help the service to animals rendered by the Humane Society of New Zealand, and for the progression of educational public awareness programmes to highlight the necessity for responsible ownership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ **Form of Bequest for Humane Society of New Zealand Incorporated**

To those benevolent individuals who may wish to become benefactors by Will to this Society, the following form is respectfully suggested:

I, _____ bequeath to the Humane Society of N.Z. Inc. the sum of _____ free of all duties payable at my death and the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Society shall be sufficient to discharge for such legacy. (If it should be desired that the legacy should be expended on some particular phase of the Society's work, a direction to this effect may be added to the form of bequest)

CAUTION: All Wills or Codicils must be in writing signed by the Testator and attested by two witnesses in the presence of the Testator and each other.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF N.Z. INC.
P O Box 29 060,
Epsom
Auckland 1344
Ph. (09) 630 0510

☐ **Membership or Volunteer**

Please register me as a member for the year commencing 1 July 20____

ENCLOSED: \$12.00 (Supporting Member)

 \$15.00 (Family Member)

 \$ 8.00 (Senior Citizen)

I am interested in helping the Society with:

- ☐ ANIMAL TRANSPORT
- ☐ WEEKEND PHONE VOLUNTEER
- ☐ WEEKDAY PHONE VOLUNTEER
- ☐ DOG FOSTER HOME
- ☐ DOG PLACEMENT CHECK

If you wish to pay by bank deposit our bank account is: 12-3025-0177631-000

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE _____ PHONE _____

Due to the ever-increasing cost of postage a clear email address would be most helpful

EMAIL _____