



HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF NEW ZEALAND INC

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# Newsletter

July 2020

Welcome and greetings from your committee.

With the disruptions caused by Covid 19 our AGM is being held a little later this year, and will now occur mid-August. We are holding a light lunch afterwards for anyone who would like to attend. We'd love to see you there, it's always wonderful to get input from our members. If you are interested the full details are on the next page.

Talking of Covid 19 and the lockdown there has been one silver lining from all of the clouds that this pandemic has caused. There seems to have been a real resurgence in interest when it comes to adopting animals in need. The SPCA is currently nearly empty and most of our animals have been adopted within days of them being listed. People seem to be walking their dogs more and just generally appreciating the companionship a family pet brings. It would be fantastic if this continued.

I have been reading that Sweden and Norway have no stray dog problems. Sweden only has one dog pound. This is not due to a very strict spay and neuter program, they actually don't believe in desexing for other than medical reasons, but because everybody takes the responsibility of owning a dog extremely seriously. I wonder how it would be possible to change the culture of other nations to do the same. Apparently in Sweden it is expected that all dogs are well trained and obedient, and the agility and obedience clubs are always full. Sadly the same cannot be said of New Zealand where all dog sports are declining and lovely, but totally out of control dogs are common in dog parks. The result of this is more and more restrictions are put on owners and their pets, which gives them less opportunity to be taken out and taught manners and the downward spiral continues.

I have been working from home since the lockdown, which the entire menagerie has been very happy about. However, it does cause me some concern, the dogs especially are going to find it hard to adapt when I finally end up going back to work full time. I read that it's a good idea to shut them outside for a period every day to get them used to being without you, but the weather has been terrible so they've spent their days asleep in the living room while I work. My older dog is quite sick so he spends the day asleep on the sofa the younger makes do with the floor. To keep things comfortable for my old dog and make the transition easier, I think I'll let them continue these sleeping arrangements once I go back to work, but as they'll have free access to the outside I see lots of mud in my future.



With subs now due it would be great if you could ensure you include an email address on your forms if we don't currently have one for you. These days email is far more reliable than the postal system, and the money we save on stamps is also a bonus. Keep warm and dry, and hope to see you at the AGM

## Your committee:

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

# Society News

## Annual General Meeting —2020

This year's AGM is being held on Saturday 15th August at 11:30 in the Parish Lounge of St Marks Anglican Church, 95 Remuera Road, Newmarket end. Parking available off St Marks Road.

After the AGM there will be a light luncheon and an opportunity to catch up with other Humane Society members. We always appreciate people coming to our AGMs, it's great to have your thoughts and any suggestions you have for the future of the society.

If you think you will be able to come please RSVP before 05 August so we know how much food to order.

RSVP to [info@humanesociety.org.nz](mailto:info@humanesociety.org.nz) or [jillbruceok@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jillbruceok@xtra.co.nz) or phone 372 6006

We hope to see you there.

## Membership Fees

These were due on the first of July.

## 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.

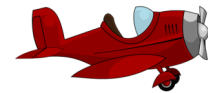
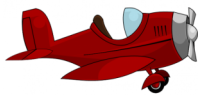
## Cheesy Homemade Cat Treats

- 3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
  - 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
  - 1/4 cup plain yogurt, vanilla yogurt, or sour cream *Note: We used vanilla yogurt.*
  - 3/4 cup flour *Note: We used white whole wheat*
  - 1/4 cup cornmeal
  - 1/4 cup or water more or less
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
  2. Combine the cheeses and the yogurt (or sour cream), then add the flour and cornmeal.
  3. Add enough water to create a workable dough.
  4. Form the dough into a ball, then roll out to a square or rectangle 1/4 inch thick.
  5. Cut into one inch sized pieces and place on a greased cookie sheet.
  6. Bake approximately 25 minutes.



## Mascots in the R.A.F

it was common practise for Squadrons to have mascots which helped with the morale of the Airmen and also featured as part of their superstitions. In this case, a dog called Kiwi can be seen climbing aboard a Lancaster which he did regularly for cross-country training flights and is also thought to have flown on actual raids using a specially adapted oxygen mask. Kiwi was very popular at Faldingworth, Taking animals was officially forbidden but in many cases a “blind eye” was cast over the activity. Cats could also be found to be companions of Air and Ground Crews, as seen here.



## Chilled out skydiver



Leaping out of a plane at 14,000 feet shouldn't really be any rational human's idea of fun, but hey, each to their own. Imagine though, if you were a dog. 14,000 feet suddenly sounds a whole lot more daunting if you're only three feet tall, no? Enter Siara, a pooch who's not only conquered the skies, but barely batted an eyelid while she did it..

Clearly nonplussed by leaping out of a metal tin hurtling through the sky, Siara even chats to her fellow pooches on the way down, barking at other four-legged jumpers as they pass. To her, soaring through the air is barely any different from a trip down the shops in a car.

The one year old (!) Belgian malinois is a member of a crack Columbian search and rescue squad, and she's just finished her training.

Skydiving service dogs are nothing new – Soviet forces employed them as far back as the 1930s, while last year African police forces utilised some tail-wagging trainees to help combat poaching in hard-to-reach areas. You'd be hard pressed to find another airborne pooch that's quite as zen as Siara, though.

# SPAY/NEUTER FUND

It has certainly been a topsy-turvy few months since the end of the financial year in March. During Covid lockdown, by far the majority of vets weren't carrying out routine surgeries, dealing primarily with urgent consultations and emergency surgery only. This of course, has created a rather large backlog which the vets and we are still ploughing through. In spite of all of this, from 1 April to 30 June, we managed to put through 131 assisted spay/neuters, for both cats and dogs. There are more allocated for these months, but haven't been carried out as yet for one reason or another. Applications continue to arrive on a daily basis, so we are never able to get completely on top of them. Some are easy to process and others take an awful lot of time and work, depending on the applicant and often their circumstances. We continue to assist rescue groups in the north and Bay of Plenty, and these are included in the above number.



## DOG/CAT ADOPTION



Lockdown was much kinder to us on the adoption front. We continued to advertise the dogs we had in foster care (when other groups didn't) and even though potential new owners weren't able to visit, they were happy to wait, they completed an Application for Adoption to confirm interest and as soon as we got down to Level 2 it was all go. Every one of those new owners who committed, without even seeing the dog went ahead with it and visited as soon as they possibly could, two of whom were from Whangarei, others from Rotorua, Cambridge, Hamilton, Te Aroha, Wellington and Papamoa. The upshot of this was in the period from April through to late June/early July, we adopted out 23 dogs and 24 cats/kittens. We are very proud of these numbers, which required a huge amount of effort, dedication and extra work for our foster homes, who had to look after them for longer than usual and as always, worked tirelessly to make it all happen. Out of this, we have now streamlined our adoption process and email out all the paperwork prior to adoption, which potential new owners complete and send back to us, before meeting the dog they are interested in adopting. So far, they have all gone ahead and even if some don't in the future, our foster homes can then focus on looking after the animals and meeting new owners, as if that isn't enough!



*"Sometimes it's not easy being everybody's primary caregiver."*



**Hopefully we won't have to go back into lockdown, but if we do here are some tips for your dogs.**

Working from home comes with positives, like being nearer the biscuits and working in pyjamas. But it also has challenges, like communicating with colleagues and keeping the children entertained.

Like us, many of our pet dogs are also likely to find this change difficult. And a bustling household and reduced exercise may mean our pups display more problem behaviours than usual – especially dogs easily overstimulated. But the good news is that while we're adjusting to lockdown life, there are things that can be done to help our dogs feel more comfortable.

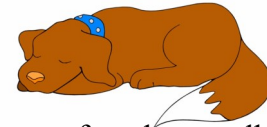


### **Give them a safe space**

Firstly, all dogs should have a safe spot in the house to enjoy when they need some quiet time. This could be a spare bedroom, bathroom, or utility room (as long as it is not too hot or cold) or simply a bed in the corner or under a desk. A crate is also an excellent option for many dogs, and with careful introduction can become their favourite spot. Here, place a bed, some favourite toys, and perhaps a long-lasting chew or some stuffable treat like a Kong.

### **Make sure they get enough sleep**

Adult dogs on average sleep for between 12 and 16 hours a day, and puppies need even more sleep than that. Most dogs will sleep during the day while their families are at work and school, so having us around constantly during lockdown means many dogs aren't getting the rest they need. A quiet spot where they won't be disturbed by video conferences or children will help your dog catch some Zs.



### **Mix-up walkies**

Some dogs benefit from getting their energy out in the morning, while others may prefer a later walk to stave off those late-night zoomies. For non-dog owners, zoomies is when your dog starts running or "zooming" around manically and joyfully for no seemingly discernible reason.

If you can, try varying the time you take your walk to find what works best for you and your dog. You should also plan your route carefully. If you usually drive somewhere to walk, this is no longer advised so you should plan a route near your home.

Walking routes may be busier than usual with other walkers and cyclists, or runners now unable to visit the gym. If your dog struggles with any of these, planning your route and avoiding popular times is crucial. Your dog may find their new routine more stressful than usual, so be understanding of this.



### **Stimulate them mentally**

Providing mental stimulation for your dog is very important as it gives them something to do and enriches their lives. It can also help to relieve boredom and unwanted behaviours such as chewing – think puzzle and food toys and trick-training. Through the beauty of YouTube and social media, dog owners can also learn more about canine enrichment than ever before.

One of the easiest options for mental stimulation is scatter feeding. Simply scattering some of your dog's kibble or some small treats on the floor and letting your dog Hoover them up encourages them to use their nose and makes dinner time more interesting.

Once your dog gets the hang of this you can try it in the grass, or in a snuffle mat. Or go one step further and teach your dog some basic scent work – hide the food and let them sniff it out. This is my dog Cooper's favourite! Longer-lasting chews or fillable toys like Kongs are a great option for helping your dog to wind down as licking and chewing behaviours promote relaxation.

Filling a Kong or similar fillable toy with dog-friendly peanut butter or treats will also help your dog to chill out while on that important call. Freezing fillable toys makes them last longer but build this up slowly to avoid frustration. You should also introduce foods carefully and avoid overfeeding – always ensure the food is dog safe, too.

### **Be realistic**



These are difficult times but being there for our pets will help to make the transition smoother for everyone. But it is also important to be flexible – the change to life in lockdown is tough on all of us, so if your dog regresses in his training, or displays new undesirable behaviours, be patient and prepared to make adjustments and seek guidance from a force-free trainer if you need help. Above all else, enjoy this time with your dog. While the world feels so unfamiliar, our pets are working hard to bring us joy. Let them know they are doing a great job!

# 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**



**A T-shirt \$30**



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

**Humane Society Pen \$2**



## 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.

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Now Due for 2020—thank you**