

Why You Should Foster Shelter Pets

The Scoop- Animal Shelter blog

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Up to 300,000 homeless animals are euthanized each year.

Do sad puppy eyes peering from behind cage bars make your eyes tear up? Does your heart break for the poor stray cat that stalks your neighborhood? Even if you can't take home another companion, you *can* still cut down on the number of homeless animals euthanized each year.



Figure I: (Vegan Souls, n.d.)



Figure II: (Vegan Souls, n.d.)

The reality is not 300,000 distempered or old, ill animals being put to sleep every year. It's an abundance of undesired litters off family pets, and older cats and dogs surrendered for the younger, cuter model, which overwhelms our shelters. When rehoming becomes too timely or seems too difficult, the animals are euthanized.

A commitment to spaying or neutering your pets at home, and those strays in your neighborhood control your community's animal population. Controlled populations lower shelters demand and drastically cut the number of animals euthanized.

I know you may be skeptical, with the costs of doing something like this seem daunting. Most pet **owners** budget for vet visits and surgical procedures, and your feral cat colony is large; how can you possibly afford any of this?

	Cats	Dogs
Surgical Fees	Up to \$250	Up to \$474
Vaccines	Up to \$110	Up to \$165

Table 1: Average veterinarian clinics' charges

Seattle Animal Shelter's Spay and Neuter Clinic

The costs of veterinary visits and surgical procedures add up quickly and Covid has many on shaky financial ground, but the Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) can help.

Did you know the Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) has a reduced-price spay and neuter clinic? Monday through Fridays our clinic performs these procedures for anyone in need. What's even better, is that the fees for these procedures are more budget-friendly:

	Male	Female
Dogs' surgical fees (determined by weight)	\$ 144-186	\$ 158-186
Cats surgical fees (all sizes)	\$ 102	\$ 108
Dog vaccines	\$80 (all breeds/ sizes/ etc.)	
Cat Vaccines	\$60 (all breeds/ sizes/ etc.)	

Table 2: Seattle Animal Shelter clinic fees

You may have some doubts about discounted veterinarian services for your pet, but we are committed to your pet's well-being from check in to discharge.

Our visit includes a screening exam, pain control, and clear instructions for recovery at home. Your pet is not receiving discount care, you're just not paying as much. Our veterinarians are dedicated and perform thousands of these operations a year, so your furry friend is in great hands (Seattle Animal Shelter, 2020).

Our clinic offers further financial assistance through the "Pet Population Control Fund" for those who need it (Seattle Animal Shelter, 2020). *This is useful to those aiding their resident strays too. This fund also covers care for our foster animals for those looking for a quarantine companion to fill the silence and a rewarding experience.

An SAS Foster Success



This is John Wayne, affectionately called J-dub and he is one of our foster success stories. J-dub came to the Seattle Animal Shelter in a taped-up computer box. His owner left him on our clinic steps when he was no longer wanted at home. I won't detail the horrible conditions J-dub and the box had been left in for *days*:

- * no food
- * no water
- * no litter-- was not pretty.

J-dub was so skinny you could see every bone under his skin. He was *terrified* of staff and had to be sedated before they could even bathe him, he was so stressed.

While at our shelter J-dub refused to eat and spent all day and night cowering in the corner of his cage. He would startle easily, cry out when touched, and suffer daily asthma attacks.

J-dub needed a quiet, safe, stable environment with someone who would nurse him, nurture him, and re-introduce him to people.

Luckily, SAS had a pool of patient, loving foster families or parents waiting to take his case. A meek, emaciated cat was taken home by a foster mom who nurtured this precious boy into a chonky, cuddly, lap cat.

It was an amazing transition.

J-dub's foster mom adopted him and he spends his days cuddled by his mom and adopted sister Osita and showering both with his own affection and love right back.



Osita and J-dub

About Foster Care

Over 2,000 stray animals are taken in every year by Seattle Animal Shelter, and over 1200 need new homes. Many of our adoptees have difficult stories like J-dub and need extra love and attention we can't offer at the shelter. We depend on volunteers to help us care for all our animals.

We rely on our foster parents- people like you- to provide these critters a safer, happier environment where they can recover, develop, and eventually find their forever family.

The Seattle Animal Shelter Foundation offers training, resources, and medical coverage for all our foster families. All we ask is your time, your patience, and your affection to help change the life of a stray, like J-dub. You may just find your missing piece in one of our furry friends.

For more information please visit <https://www.seattle.gov/animal-shelter/get-involved/volunteer>.

#Furry 5k Run

March 23rd, 2020 --

This was the start of Seattle's order to shelter in place. Forty-one days spent in quarantine *if* the order is not prolonged beyond the current date, May 4th.

I don't know about you, but I am looking to *fill* my calendar once the quarantine ends. Every free moment will be spent surrounded by my friends, my family; even people I don't really know yet. For this, keep SAS in mind because we have the perfect event.

A pet and family-friendly 5k event in the sun. A reason to get both two and four-legged family members together for a wonderful cause.

Our Furry 5K

On August 16th, 2020 we will host the Furry 5k pet-a-palooza race. Walk off those frustrating hours of confinement, and meet other pet families, while enjoying a day of events, entertainment, and vendors all in the name of animal rescue. Proceeds provide our shelter animals with the veterinary care they need!

For more information or to get tickets to the event, please visit <http://www.furry5k.com/run-or-walk/> or seattleanimalshelterfoundation.org

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