

OCT. 2020 | FALL ISSUE

ANIMAL SHELTER INC.

Your quarterly newsletter from Sterling Animal Shelter



**WHAT'S NEW IN OUR
WORLD?**

Read on to find out!

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Programs (2)
- Upcoming Fundraisers (3)
- Stay Tuned (4)
- The VIP Mission(5)
- Happy Tails (6)
- Special Feature (7)

As Sterling Animal Shelter navigates the difficult climate of life in the time of COVID, we remain committed to our mission. We continue to take in homeless animals from near and far in hopes of finding them a forever home.

Our Shelter and Spay/Neuter Clinic are currently open by appointment only. This has been an adjustment for us as well as for our adopters and supporters. We are incredibly pleased to report that despite the unique challenges of changing the way we operate, our shelter has still done XX adoptions since limiting operations in March.

Our volunteer program is still on hold, while we attempt to limit the number of people at our adoption center at one time. We hate not seeing all of our faithful fur friends throughout the week, and the staff REALLY misses having the extra help. We know you must all miss us too, so we've put together a list of some of the ways you can help support us without physically volunteering. If you have questions about how our programs work or want more info after reading, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!

WALK FOR A DOG [WOOFTRAX]

(*Available for free download on the app store)

One of our favorite programs is our "Walk for A Dog" team, and we're hoping YOU will join our pack! If you're new or want to join your fellow volunteers in raising funds for the shelter just by walking your own dog (or yourself) once a week, please check out the WoofTrax app. Once you select your charity of choice in the app (Sterling Animal Shelter, you can add your furry friends to your profile, track your weekly walks, and see how you compare against other friends and their canines. You can even opt into special challenges, like the "Step Up for Shelters" Challenge, with options to win extra donations for your shelter sweethearts. The more supporters we have walking, the more funds are donated!



VEHICLES FOR CHARITY

Call 1-866-628-2277 for more details/scheduling

Did you know that an unwanted car makes a wonderful gift? It does if you give it to Sterling Animal Shelter! If you have a car or truck that you'd like to get out of that driveway, donate it through Vehicles for Charity, and you'll be supporting, dogs, cats, and small animals here at the shelter! A portion of all vehicle value (even on clunkers) makes its way back to our adoption center, and you can rest easy knowing that your donation is tax-deductible and that you've crossed another "to-do" item off the list! VFC accepts most vehicles, from cars and trucks to boats and motorcycles, and will take care of pickup too!





OCTOBER FUNDRAISERS

All donations are tax deductible, donation receipts provided upon request

Amazon Smile: Check out the Charity List

ALL YEAR LONG!

Are you an avid online shopper? Do you love getting deliveries? Do you love helping raise money for your favorite little animal shelter while getting items you were already going to order, delivered straight to your door?

Join Amazon smile, and choose Animal Shelter Inc. as your charity of choice.

When you shop using Amazon Smile, a portion of your order price goes directly to our shelter! It's the same amazon delivery service you love, with the same ordering options.

What's the catch? Going straight to amazon to do your shopping won't cut it. You HAVE to visit smile.amazon.com in order for your purchase to count. If you're like us, you might forget to that each time you shop. Try setting a bookmark on your browser, so you don't forget to visit smile.amazon.com each time you shop.



Subaru Loves Pets

MONTH OF OCTOBER



During the month of October, our friends at North End Subaru will donate \$100.00 for every animal adopted at Sterling Animal Shelter!



COMING UP NEXT

FOR

ANIMAL SHELTER INC.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SOME NEW NOVEMBER FINDS

2021 SHELTER FRIENDS CALENDAR



With original art work by: Just Be
Watercolor Art by C.Tellier.

Our 2021 calendar will feature
handmade portraits of some
of our former residents.
Calendars will be available for
purchase starting in
November, and cost 20.00
plus shipping. Proceeds from
calendar sales will benefit
Sterling Animal Shelter.



PAMPERED CHEF:

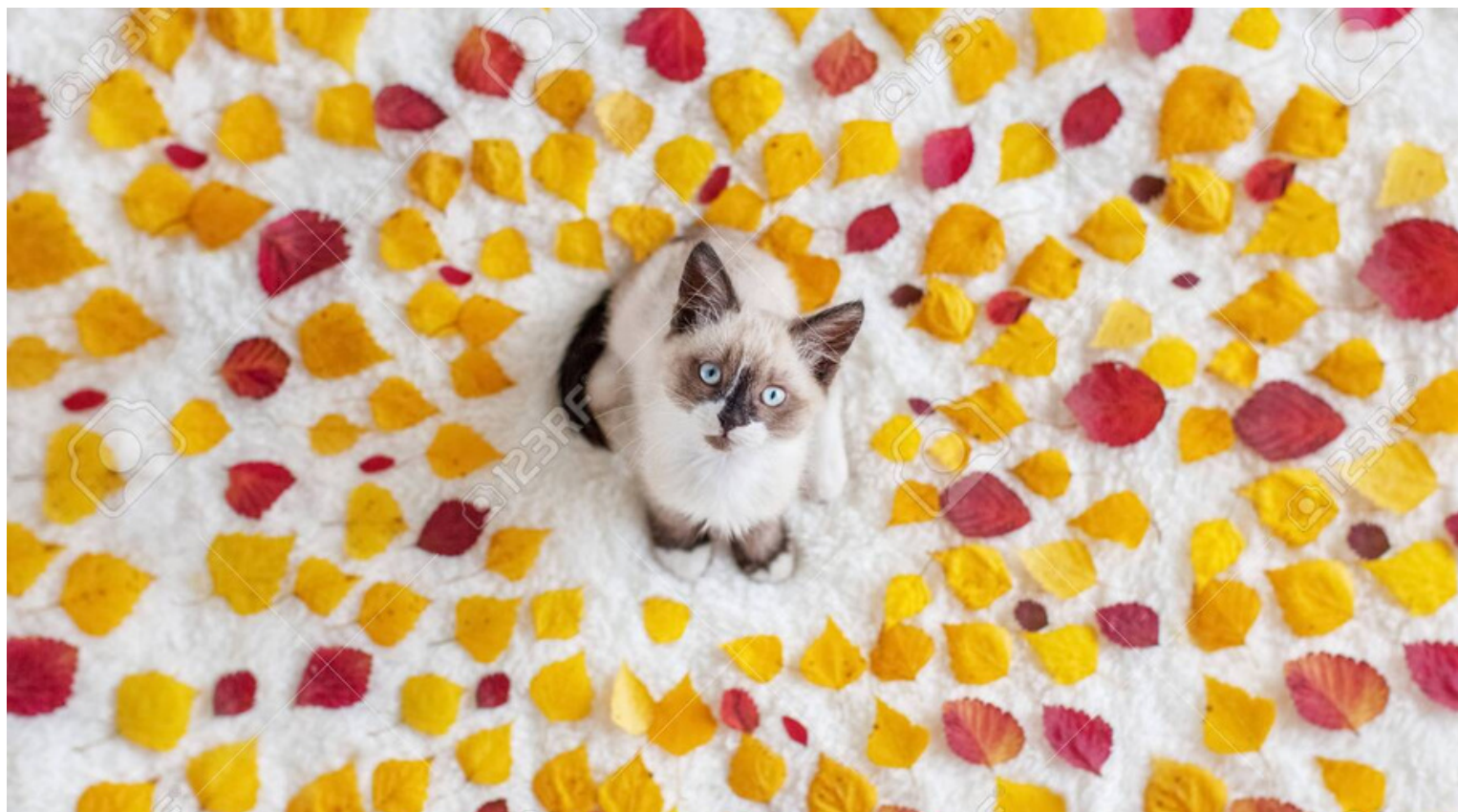
Our next online fundraiser
will be a pampered chef
party, so keep an eye on
our facebook for updates!



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What IS a VIP, anyway?

Sterling Animal Shelter's new membership program of supporters



Very Important Puppy Supporters

VIP Membership Program// Established May 2020

FOR
ADDITIONAL
ADOPTION
INFORMATION,
PLEASE
VISIT
OUR
"PETS
FOR
ADOPTION"
PAGE

[www.sterlingshelter.org/
pet-finder](http://www.sterlingshelter.org/pet-finder)

With so many adoption applications flooding in each time we get new animals, we've unleashed (pardon the pun) a new program to help us identify adopters willing to continue their support our mission after adopting. Our VIP supporters are members that have signed up for our recurrent giving program, contributing either \$15 monthly, or making a one time donation of \$100 or more. We honor our contributors by granting them priority application review when applying to adopt a pet, and we make sure they get a sneak peek at new animals going available for adoption. Our adoption fees only cover our transport and vetting costs, and sometimes *can't* cover them entirely. Our VIP members help ensure we are continuing to get new animals, and that our mission to rescue homeless pets animals in high risk areas continues on in these tough times.

Happy Tails & Love Stories

ADOPTION FEATURES, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We asked, and you answered! Here are a few success stories from former adopters that help remind us WHY our mission is so important, and keep us coming back day after day. We hear all the time, "I don't know how you can do this job, I would want to take all of the animals home". Well it's true, we do fall in love with all of our residents. But we also know sending them off to their forever homes lets us continue to save other pets that also need a second chance at finding a forever home. Thank you for helping us remember what love means.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR STERLING ANIMAL SHELTER LOVE STORY, PLEASE SUBMIT TO
KENDEL@STERLINGSHELTER.ORG.



The Herrera family would never have been complete if it wasn't for Sterling Shelter. Three of our four fur babies are from Sterling (pictured is Elphaba and Xiomara Maria, a Sato from Puerto Rico). I've also had the pleasure to volunteer and foster for them.

They are wonderful to work with and truly care about the beautiful little souls that depend on them to find their forever home. Thank you, Leigh and the staff at Sterling Shelter, for all wonderful work that you do!

-The Herrera Family

My husband and I took two years to find our addition to our family and sterling shelter was a huge help through out the whole process. It was so important to us that we not only find a dog that worked well for both of us but that we were in the right mindset to take on the responsibility. The staff at sterling was so helpful and never once judged us for coming to look at dogs again and again they where actually super supportive and encouraging. When we finally found our little man there was absolutely no question that it was ment to be. We adopted our little Odin Hemingway (previously Carlos) August of 2019 and since then he has truly given us so much joy and become a huge asset to our wellbeing. Specifically for myself as i have bad anxiety and get blackouts. Odin has learned when one is coming on and helps me pull through it and stay safe. The love hes has showns us is to hard to put into words. We are so greatful to sterling for all the help the gave us in finding our Odin. He has truly saved us.

-Christine



Hemingway

SPECIAL FEATURE

STARRING BARNEY, ADOPTED 2008

HOW ABOUT A FEEL GOOD STORY

Twelve years ago, after being burn out after my first three years of teaching, I started volunteering at Sterling Shelter.

I folded lots of towels, prepped lots of newspapers, cleaned dog runs, and met some really amazing people. I also volunteered to foster an animal at a time, though my fiance at the time was not so sure about the fostering part. Until one day we got a call from Melissa saying that there was a puppy who was not doing well because of his extreme anxiety. I called my partner and said, "I have a favor to ask and you can't say no." Right after that, I was on my way to the shelter to pick up - of all names... Corona.

He was a four-month-old tri-color beagle mix with large scars on the top of his head. And I'll never forget getting into the car and having Melissa tell me that I should put a towel on the seat under him because he might have an accident because of how scared he was. Corona was fine on that car ride, but in the following days, when we would carry him down the stairs in our building (the elevator was too scary) and we would run into other people, Corona always had a little accident in our arms. He was scared of his shadow, and we couldn't use stainless steel food dishes, because his reflection freaked him out. It took about a week for him to come out of the crate on his own, and another week to stop hiding behind the couch without help. Slowly, Corona came out of his shell and got used to us and even being okay around neighbors. Around two weeks after we had him, my partner said we should really find a new name for him. I was shocked and let him know that you don't change a dog's name without the intention of keeping him.

Continued...

BARNEY / CORONA

(CONTINUED)

But no human would have been able to resist this dog we now called Barney. He cuddled with us all the time, was house trained since the day he walked in the door and just knew exactly what you wanted without even having to say it. He was pathetically perfect, and a couple of months later, we officially made him ours. Barney was my husband's first dog ever, and he was there to greet both of our children when we brought them home from the hospital. We all called him their older brother, and he was a true part of the family. He taught my husband about the joys a dog can bring, and how there's nothing like being with your best friend in times of frustration or sadness. Or how taking him on a walk each morning is not an imposition, but a privilege, rain or shine. When my kids couldn't pull it together or were sad, they were directed to go hug Barney, and their shouts or crying would immediately cease. Barney wasn't an official therapy dog, but he sure was ours.



Adopting Barney also led us to find out more about the importance of adoption and how pet stores and puppy mills need to become a thing of the past because of the abusive systems they create. We have spread the news after learning more about it and talked with many, many people about the merits of adoption, as well as sent lots of friends to Sterling Shelter! I've also gone back to teaching, and once or twice my advisory's community service has been learning about adoption vs. pet stores or puppy mills and collecting items needed for the shelter, especially towels and newspapers.

We couldn't be more thankful to Sterling for doing what they do and for supplying us with one of the great loves of our lives. Sadly, we recently lost Barney, but he lives on in our hearts and in so many others' that he finally got to happily walk up to and meet over the years. He was a beautiful 30-pound boy that showed so many, many people that every dog deserves another chance, and that the bond between adoptee and family is one of the most special and rewarding things you could ever experience.