



# wags & purrs

WINTER  
2022

## Season's Greetings...

As we look back on each passing year, I usually wonder how we got here so quickly. Approaching the end of 2022 is much the same; however, the first thing that occurs to me is how proud I am of our volunteers and fosters.

These past few years have been a time of changes and challenges, many of which we still face. But as each new challenge

has presented itself, I've seen these remarkably dedicated people look for ways to cope and keep moving forward, focusing on our mission to save the next pet that needs our help.

I am so proud to be a part of this team and the community of people who support us! —Nina

### Adopting a Queen

Adopting Queen Persephone (formerly Kohlie) has truly been the highlight of our year.

Sophie, as we call her for short, is a brave, curious, beautiful, and chatty cat who has grown to adore cuddles and gets along amazingly well with our at-times-rambunctious dog.

If she wants affection, she lets you know by walking over, mewing, and flopping loudly onto the floor at your



feet; there is no choice but to kneel down and pet her fluffy belly.

Our family is more complete with Sophie in it; and we are so grateful for the dedication, generosity, and compassion of everyone at S.P.O.T. who made this possible!

—Emmaline, Matt, Persephone, & Luna

### Adopting Sushi

I adopted a 6-month-old kitten from S.P.O.T. a few weeks ago and had the best experience. Dawn was with me every step of the adoption and made everything so easy and exciting!

I met Donna, now Sushi, and instantly fell in love; she was so calm and sweet and definitely well adapted to her surroundings.



Sushi has been attached to my hip, and she and my 3-year-old cat are the best of friends. I had never adopted from S.P.O.T. before but would certainly recommend their rescue to others! The entire adoption process was so personal; and because of that, I found the sweetest new addition to my family!

—Cassidy

### A Seamless Adoption

I'd been considering adopting a third dog for quite some time but knew that if I did, the dog would have to be the perfect fit for my other two rescue pups. In mid-September I went on Petfinder



and was immediately drawn to Pepper's profile. It didn't take long for me to submit an application to S.P.O.T.

I soon was emailing Nina; then we chatted on the phone making plans for my pups to meet Pepper. Our meeting went better than I could have imagined; both my pups and Pepper were at ease with one another immediately. Pepper also warmed up to me quickly, especially

once she discovered I had treats in my pocket.

Having adopted dogs in the past, I knew that Pepper, now Frankie, would need time to adjust to her new surroundings; but I didn't expect her to feel at ease so soon. From the moment she came home, she made the place hers. Her first night started with some of the best doggie snuggles I've ever had, and they haven't stopped since.

Frankie has brought a new energy and life to our household. She quickly bonded with my biggest dog, Milo, and often sleeps right on top of him. She and my smallest dog, Buster, are bonding and frequently play together.

Frankie is silly, sassy, loyal, and so loving. She completes our pack, and I'm so happy she's found her furever home.

—Marissa

### The Brosnan Boys

The newest Brosnan boys, Jonesy and Seamus (previously Hogan and Rudy), have not stopped purring since they came to our house on October 22.

The humans in the house have discovered that we do in fact move our feet when we sleep and what the light looks like at 3:42 am.

We'd like to thank the S.P.O.T. volunteers, especially Beckie Kowalski, for rescuing the perfect kittens for us.

—Kathleen & Neil



S.P.O.T. intends to find each pet we care for a new home, but, occasionally, we take in a pet that has too many care issues for a secure adoption. Sometimes it's an age-related infirmity or ongoing health issues. Sometimes there are behaviors that prevent adoption.

We've developed a Sanctuary Home program. A Sanctuary Home provider agrees to give a cat or dog a loving home where their special needs can be met and they can live out the rest of their lives with dignity and comfort. Giving a home to a sanctuary animal can be an incredibly special and rewarding experience! Each cat and dog come with their own unique backstory and unique circumstances. S.P.O.T. provides veterinary care, medication, food, behavior support, and other necessities of care.

Designated S.P.O.T. volunteers help get pets set up in their new homes with supplies, instructions, and ongoing support to meet each pet's individual needs. Sanctuary pets are posted on our website and can be applied for much the same as an adoptable pet.

Allie is a young, beautiful 1½-year-old female tabby. Smart, silly, and curious, she was born missing a second eyelid on one eye, a condition called eyelid agenesis.

Because of this condition, her vision is impaired and she can be frightened by a sudden movement or unexpected touch. She enjoys being with people and can be quite the goofball with her favorite toys.



Allie also has a neurological issue which gives her a rather interesting gait, a wide-eyed gaze, and some very cute quirks. We would love to find the perfect person to give Allie a sanctuary home. She is such a joy and each day with her is a treasure.

Roger is an older cat who became homeless when his owner passed away. Animal Control said he had been alone for quite a while in his owner's home.



He arrived at S.P.O.T. very thin, dehydrated, and with some significant arthritis. Our hearts broke for poor Roger. This old guy had lost his long-time home and his only person.

That is why we were so excited to receive a message from a wonderful person whose senior cat had passed away. Joe missed having a cat to cuddle

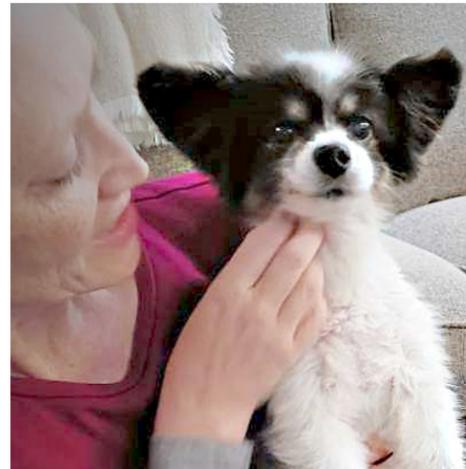
and care for. As a senior himself, Joe did not feel that adopting a young cat was the right thing for him; but he was interested in giving Roger a sanctuary home.

Even though Roger sleeps a lot, Joe says he really enjoys having him around and that Roger is there to stay!

Dorie is a sweet little senior Papillon with heart disease. She found her sanctuary home earlier this year and is adored by her new family.

When the weather is nice, she enjoys meandering about the fenced yard with her mom and dad; otherwise, she lounges on the sofa and keeps a good eye out for treats.

She is the best little copilot for car rides and loves her special car seat.



A litter of kittens is born in a local barn. Instinctively, they struggle to latch on to their mother for sustenance. Footsteps approach and the feral mom flees as she is too overwhelmed with fear to stand her ground. Only a few hours old, the kittens are carefully gathered up by the intruder. In fact, many kittens are removed from the barn that day, some older, some newborns.

It may sound cruel, but the owner of the barn is dealing with an unsustainable situation. Asking for help to remove young litters with or without their moms



gives these babies a chance at a better life. And how many cats can one barn sustain and still be a working structure with healthy cats?

Cats and kittens that have formed a feral colony in a specific location

that becomes overpopulated result in population stress illnesses and even death. One sick cat in a large colony can infect the entire colony. Fights are inevitable, along with painful injuries and sometimes serious infections which can lead to a slow death or painful life. And then there are the predators.



This is the reality of domesticated cats, bred to be dependent on humans for their physical and emotional care, finding themselves homeless and doing their best to survive in a harsh and cruel world in which they were never meant to live.

Now that the newborn kittens have been picked up, what's to become of them? Who agrees to bottle feed these babies every two hours around the clock?

A volunteer foster at S.P.O.T. does. But it's not easy. Extremely young kittens are fragile and can die. Even the most hardened foster still feels the pain of losing a kitten. Some fosters who start with all good intentions discover they

cannot deal with the loss of a kitten in which they've invested hours and days trying to keep alive. It takes a very special foster who can somehow deal with that pain and continue to meet the demands of the remaining babies.



But a kitten's journey isn't over just by surviving infancy. Socializing with other kittens is critical for development. Learning indoor house manners as well as how to be a loving pet without a



domesticated mom is a big obligation for that foster parent. It is very rewarding to see a litter of kittens born from a feral mom get adopted and become a vital and much-loved part of a family.

## Aches, Breaks, and Needing Help



Harry thought he could make the jump but instead he ended up with a broken leg. He still has a little limp but it doesn't stop him at all. Adopted!



Utah felt so much better after his eyelids were repaired. He came to us with Entropion, a rolling inward of the eyelids which causes the eyelashes to rub on the cornea. It's painful and can cause vision issues if not corrected.



This little pup is one of five very young, probably less than two days old, pups that a couple of S.P.O.T. fosters agreed to bottle feed. They look like little bully breed babies. Newborn pups need to be fed every two hours around the clock. At two weeks of age, like the pup in picture, puppies are pretty adept at drinking from a bottle, but initially it is quite the challenge!



Pepper came in with a prolapsed gland of the 3rd eyelid or 'Cherry Eye' which required surgical correction.



Poor Millie was hit by a car resulting in a severe road rash and a broken front leg that needed pinning. The painful road rash was the most challenging to heal. Bandage changes and wound treatment every 48 hours was not her favorite activity, but she got through it with no movement limits in her leg. Once her pin was removed, she found her new home!



Asher was found with a broken leg. Five days later with no owner in sight, he was about to be euthanized when animal control called S.P.O.T. as a last hope for this sweet dog. The femur break was severe and needed immediate treatment so amputation became the best option. Asher was a favorite of the vet clinic staff and his foster family. He quickly found a new family to love!

Some Come Broken

...One at a Time



Hardy was hit by a car. The resulting injury left him incontinent and unable to stand or walk. Radiographs did not indicate anything broken, but the vertebrae in his neck seemed to have absorbed most of the impact. Hardy's prognosis was questionable; but only time, medications, and dedicated support care would tell if he would recover. It took months of slow progress, but eventually he was up and running and ready for adoption. Sweet boy!



Stella had a thin cord wrapped around her neck as a pup that deeply cut into her neck as she grew. After veterinary care, her injury healed and she was a happy, playful older pup that was successfully adopted.



Cotton was a 4-month-old pup when he was surrendered to the Pet Emergency Clinic with a broken back leg. P.E.C. kindly pinned the leg and then called S.P.O.T. to see if we would take on the rest of his care and eventually find him a home. We did just that!

Below are some stats regarding the pets who were in S.P.O.T.'s care during the first 11 months of 2022 (with another month of incoming pets remaining).

Of the 189 rescues (128 cats and 61 dogs), 103 have been adopted, 14 were either humanely euthanized or died (generally extremely young babies or senior sanctuary pets), 3 were returned to their owners after being altered, and 20 were placed in Sanctuary care.

That leaves 49 pets that currently remain in our care with 15 of those ready for adoption.

S.P.O.T. is not a shelter turning out hundreds of adoptable pets yearly. That was never our goal from day one in 1999; thus, our name, "Saving Pets One at a Time".

A high percentage of the pets we take in need some sort of health care or behavioral remediation before they are adopted. This takes time, care, and financial support; and we are extremely grateful to have the resources to help each pet attain the best health and quality of life reasonable before adoption. So many of these pets are incredibly loving and just need the time and care to recover.

We often have pets waiting to come in, but we take care not to overextend our fosters as well as allow each pet the time it needs to reach a physical and emotional state for adoption.



**Saving Pets One at a Time**

PO Box 211 • 830 S Spruce St  
Burlington, WA 98233  
Phone: 360.336.5388

Website: [www.savingpetsonatime.org](http://www.savingpetsonatime.org)  
Email: [spot@savingpetsonatime.org](mailto:spot@savingpetsonatime.org)  
501(c)(3)—EIN #91-2008766



### THE TALE OF THE STARFISH

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied,

"Well, I made a difference for that one!"

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.

Adapted from "The Star Thrower"  
from THE UNEXPECTED UNIVERSE by Loren Eiseley

We would like to thank many of you who have in much the same way joined in to support our efforts to make the world a much better place for these pets and the families who adopt them.



Dusty Graham

Sadly, we lost one of our previous board members and long-term supporters recently.

Dusty and Nancy Graham had been active S.P.O.T. volunteers until Covid restrictions changed many of our events. Dusty was a dedicated photographer who took annual "Santa Pictures with Pets" for us for years.

He and Nancy were always willing to man a table with S.P.O.T. information at different outreaches.

We will miss this generous, kind, humorous man so much!