



Lopez
Animal
Protection
Society

The LAPS Gazette

468-2591 • 468-2258 • P.O. Box 474 • Lopez Island, Washington 98261 • Fall 2010

Small Dog—Big Puzzle

So many assumptions were made when a small black dog was seen in several places on the Fisherman Bay Peninsula. For about a week, the dog would show up periodically on doorsteps, then bark and run off when approached. As there are some part-time residents in the neighborhood, the assumption was that he belonged to one of them or their guests. Although he was wearing a thin sweater of some kind, it did not seem adequate for the wet and cold November weather.

Neighbors were contacted but no connection was found. Next, posters were put up around the island and announcements were made on KLOI. Could he have fallen from a boat? The marinas had not heard from anyone missing a dog.

When these efforts produced no clues, LAPS volunteers and neighbors tried to catch the dog. He would not let anyone approach him. He did not eat food set out for him. Finally, Joan and Tommy Thomas were able to trap him about two weeks after he was first seen.

LAPS took him to Ark Vet Clinic for a check up. Here, Dr. Jerry Scherzinger determined he was an unneutered male Lhasa Apso mix about five years old. The dog sweater turned out to be an infant's T-shirt that was so

tight it had to be cut off. There was no I.D. on his collar. He was very dirty, matted and frightened.

Because the weather was too harsh to shelter him in our outdoor kennel, we arranged boarding with Linda Leamer. Here he quickly became more social, boisterous and endearing.



Nancy and Jon with William and Seng Kai

As our hope to reunite this dog with his owner dimmed (and our assumptions were not realized) we moved ahead with a plan. Soon after the mandatory "holding period" was over, he was neutered, vaccinated and made available for adoption.

Jon and Nancy Edwards already had three dogs; William (Jack Russell/Shih-Tzu), Blackie (Terrier/Chihuahua) and Lily (Blue Heeler/Lab). Seng Kyi

was more than they could resist and he was soon eagerly welcomed into their home. Nancy told us "I never, never thought I would want a black dog" Well, they now have four dogs and all but one are black!

Seng Kai (Tibetan for "Bearded Mountain Dog") made himself right at home. Nancy describes him as a "peach" of a pet and the "huggiest dog she has ever had". We may never know why this healthy and handsome dog was abandoned but we do know he is one lucky pup!

To enhance and protect the lives of domestic animals on Lopez Island.

Celebrating 25 years!

We have been active advocates for dogs and cats in our community since 1985. LAPS started with very modest financial and material resources. In 2002, we became an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, which allowed us to apply for grants. These monies have been used for spay/neuter clinics to reduce the number of homeless pets. We began fund-raising on Lopez to help with our expenses relating to animal care. All along the way, you have been generous to our cause. You have given time, equipment, supplies, money, “forever” homes to countless dogs and cats and moral support to our cause.

In 25 years, the population on Lopez has approximately doubled and with that the corresponding increase in pets. There are now more than 800 full-time dogs (plus many more part-time or visiting) and at least that many cats. We will continue to work hard to earn your support for LAPS, the only Lopez organization devoted to the welfare of our domestic four-legged best friends. A big THANK YOU!



Barbara and Clancy

Clancy

The calls started coming early in December, first from employees and then from others dashing in and out with holiday mail: a chatty, handsome brown tabby cat was hanging around the post office parking lot. We started looking for the owner and when no clues were found, we moved him into one of our warm "guest rooms" while the search continued for several weeks. Veterinarian Jerry Scherzinger found him to be healthy, about two years old and already neutered. Where did he come from?

We put up posters, asked around the village and placed announcements on KLOI and Lopezrocks.org. Then in a fateful encounter at the library, Barbara Fleming agreed to welcome him into her LOHO home. This gregarious guy wasted no time endearing himself to Barbara. Her biggest challenge was to find the perfect name to match his winsome personality. Clancy now comes and goes via an open window and is never away from love and food for long.

If you see a stray animal, please contact us. We will search diligently for the owner. If that fails, we will do our best to find a new “forever” home for the cat or dog.

Bean's New Beginning

Kathy Keller was on the way to her job at the Lopez ferry terminal very early one April morning as usual. What she found on the way was anything but routine. In the dim light, she thought she saw a rabbit's ear sticking up alongside the road. Then she realized it was a small, light colored dog's tail! She scooped the little guy up and turned him over to LAPS.

This Chihuahua was somewhat nervous and whined continuously at first. A trip to Ark Vet Clinic determined he was a young unneutered male. He gradually settled down but did not like walking on a leash or coming when called.

Kathy was eager to give him a try with her Shih-Tzu “Sadie” and her tabby cat “Gracie.” She took him home right after the mandatory time elapsed for the owner to claim this pet. After a little adjustment time, “Bean” was welcomed as part of the family. Gracie and Bean were a good match for wrestling as they each weighed 4.5 pounds!

Kathy was quick to tell us that she is "not an animal person," and especially did not like Chihuahuas! This is very hard to believe if you have an opportunity to see her at



Kathy and Bean

work. Both dogs will be there for all to admire. Perhaps you will also notice her new book, *Chihuahuas For Dummies!* Another wonderful “New Beginning” for a lucky little guy.

It Took a Village

Several times each year, we become aware of litters of feral kittens. If we can rescue them before their wild instincts “kick in” (between 6-8 weeks), they can usually become loving adoptable cats...and another cycle of feral, unwanted cats can be prevented.

This time was a real challenge! The mom cat and several kittens were discovered in a crawl space under a Lopez village business. By the time we tried to intervene, the mom cat became “spooked” and moved her litter—probably to an even more inaccessible place in the same long connecting area under a number of businesses.

Then we waited...Sue Noble was weaving in her studio in the wee hours a few weeks later when she heard distinct meowing. She was quick to respond to a very thin and hungry, approximately 6-7 week old orange tabby kitten on her doorstep. Then, just four days later, Ron Hall came upon a second littermate in front of his store on the other side of the village! This little tortoise/calico was also very vocal and thin. Soon they were both in our care and doing better by the day. No more kittens—or their mom—were found.

The Sorenson family had long been wanting a kitten and Richard, especially, hoped for more than one. Cheddar and Brie won them over in no time. The Sorensons did everything with “textbook” perfection as they slowly introduced the ultra-lively newcomers to their stunned Retriever/Lab Vegas. At first, the new kids commandeered the master bedroom and bath and took turns taunting the dog through a kiddie gate. That lasted until they figured out how to climb over the top and take control of the whole house. This included flipping Vegas’ kibble out of his dish to crunch and savor each tasty nugget.



Cheddar and Brie

Now, all three sleep with Nichelle and Richard. This goes well except when the kittens’ nocturnal curtain climbing results in one of them landing with all four feet on Richard’s head! Nichelle does admit that squirting them with the warning water bottle might contribute to that outcome.

Vegas is protective of Cheddar and Brie when they go outdoors. The kittens are team hunters and team players. Nichelle, who is terrified of rodents, cheers them on in what she calls “kitty world cup soccer” if they succeed in cornering a vole!

Travel Insurance

At last, your long-awaited vacation is about to happen and you are ready. The packing is done, the mail is being held, the arrangements for watering the garden or house plants is made and your pets will be cared for.

But wait! Dogs and cats left at their home alone with someone dropping by to feed them often get lonesome and bored...and wander off. Dogs staying at your friend’s home sometimes try to head back to familiar territory—looking for you.

Ah, luckily you have thought of that. Your dog is wearing a current license tag and maybe even micro chipped! Your cat has a “break-away” collar with your phone number on it! But when your pet strays and you are called, there is no answer or clue to your whereabouts. Also, a veterinarian can only treat minor injuries without an owner or caregiver’s consent if that is necessary.

And, what is the very easy solution? Add the caregiver’s name or number to your pet’s I.D. This can be as simple as writing the information on adhesive tape affixed to the collar or letting us know who will be caring for your pet. Please take this extra step and, enjoy your holiday!

Vesla's Fund

We have set up a fund for special projects to honor former board member Vesla George. When LAPS receives donations in memory of a special person in your life, we will use the funds to offer micro chipping at a greatly reduced price for Lopez dogs and cats. This will give pet owners an increased ability to be quickly reunited with their pets should they become lost.



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P.O. Box 474, Lopez Island, Wa 98261

468-2591 or 468-2258

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Return address requested

Your Support is Important to Us and the Lopez Community

We receive no support from taxes

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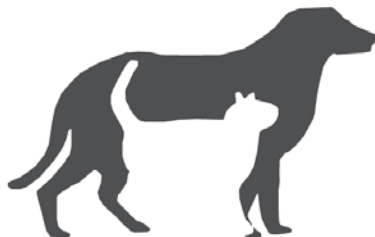
Amount enclosed _____

Your contribution is tax deductible. Please make checks payable to LAPS, P.O. Box 474, Lopez Island, WA 98261

This gift is to honor or in memory of: _____

Your gift of \$ 20-\$ 50 could cover our costs for spaying or neutering a cat; \$ 50-\$ 100 to spay or neuter a dog;
\$ 15 for food and supplies for a week of foster care.

Lopez Animal Protection Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization.



"WHEN DOGS LEAP INTO YOUR BED, IT'S
BECAUSE THEY ADORE BEING WITH YOU.
WHEN CATS LEAP ONTO YOUR BED, IT'S BECAUSE
THEY ADORE YOUR BED"

—ALISHA EVERETT