



Indigo
Rescue & Adoption

Indigo Rescue & Adoption

PO Box 554 • Beaverton, OR 97075
503.640.7979

Web site: www.indigo-online.org
Email: info@indigo-online.org

Help end animal abandonment!

Newsletter

Spring 2001

New Spay/Neuter Program!

At long last, it's true! Indigo Rescue & Adoption, in cooperation with Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter (also known as Washington County Animal Control) has developed a brand new Spay/Neuter program scheduled to begin this spring. ***Washington County will be the first county shelter in the Portland metropolitan area to spay and neuter all of the animals prior to adoption.*** The new program, called POP (Pet Overpopulation Prevention project) will be widely promoted throughout Washington County.

A room at the shelter has been designated to be the new surgery room for onsite spaying and neutering, and remodeling is scheduled to begin soon. The program will begin with cats only, using the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon's Mobile-Surgical-Unit during the week. After the surgery room is complete, all of the animals will be spayed and neutered at the shelter, prior to their adoption.

In addition, each of the animals adopted from the shelter will be treated for routine health concerns such as fleas, worms, and ear mites. Dogs and cats will receive standard vaccines, and cats will be tested for FeLV (Feline Leukemia).

The benefits to the animals as well as the community are numerous. In spite of regular reminders to spay and neuter pets, the number of fertile animals and unwanted litters in our community continues to be staggering. In

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Who is Indigo Rescue & Adoption?

Indigo Rescue & Adoption is a Beaverton based, all-volunteer, nonprofit 501 (c) 3 animal rescue group, dedicated to ending animal abandonment in our community. Founded in 1998, the three women who started the group set out with a goal of placing as many abandoned and homeless animals as possible into new homes, after treating them for numerous health and behavioral issues, and spaying or neutering them. "Within a very short time, we realized that what we were doing was like putting your arms out to either side, and trying to hold back a tidal wave", says Heather Hines, one of the founders of Indigo. "We realized that if we were going to make a real difference, we were going to have to try to get to the heart of the problem".

So, Indigo slowly changed direction. They began to look for ways to help people from within the community to help themselves, and in the process, help the animals as well. "We would get call after call from people who either wanted to surrender their own pets, or who had found an abandoned pet and wanted somewhere to take it," says Hines.

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particular, the number of healthy, adoptable cats euthanized at local shelters is tragic. POP will reduce the long-term pet overpopulation problem significantly. By reducing the number of pets being born, the likelihood of abandoned pets getting new homes will increase. The shelters and rescue groups will have more opportunity to educate adopters on how to responsibly choose and care for their new pet.

An increase in the number of animals adopted from the shelter is expected by promoting within the community that animals adopted from the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter have already been spayed and neutered. This eliminates the need for potential adopters to take time out of their busy lives to schedule a surgery. Numerous studies have shown that spayed and neutered animals are less likely to escape or wander, are less aggressive, have fewer behavior problems, and are less likely to develop cancers associated with the reproductive system.

Fund-raising efforts to assure the continued success of the program will be a perpetual project. Currently, Indigo Rescue & Adoption is looking for volunteers experienced with grant writing and fund-raising, however, numerous other volunteer positions exist. Volunteers experienced with veterinary care for spay/neuter clinics will always be needed. Indigo welcomes any fund-raising suggestions or support.

Please contact **Indigo Rescue & Adoption** for more information at **503-640-7979**, PO Box 554, Beaverton, Oregon 97075.

Our sincere thank you to the staff at Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter for their interest in taking a gigantic step toward a more humane future for our companion animals. The staff at the shelter has been very enthusiastic and willing to accept a great deal of change in their daily activities to help make this program a reality. Please take a moment when you have the opportunity to let them know how much you appreciate their hard work and efforts.

Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter is located at 2650 S.E. Tualatin Valley Highway, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123. ●

ANIMAL ABANDONMENT IS ILLEGAL IN OREGON

Every day a significant number of people from within the metro area move away from their residences and leave their pet behind. They are domestic animals who are not equipped to survive on their own. Many are fertile, and continue to breed and create more homeless animals. On their own, they starve or freeze to death, spread infectious disease, are killed by wild animals, and are used by some people as "target practice". The average lifespan of an abandoned cat living on its' own, is less than two years.

Many Oregonians are still not aware that Animal Abandonment is ILLEGAL in the state of Oregon. It is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by 30 days in jail, or a \$500 fine if convicted. It also remains on a police record for a minimum of 2 years. The crime description includes leaving any domestic animal to fend for itself when you move away, and trapping stray cats (or dogs) and driving them to another neighborhood or out to the country and leaving them to fend for themselves.

So if you know someone who has committed this crime, or is considering committing this crime, PLEASE ask them to reconsider. Help them learn what their options are. Encourage them to take responsibility for their pet's life. Don't allow this tragic cycle to continue.

Help end animal abandonment.

Heather Hines, of **Indigo Rescue and Adoption** comments, *"The problem of animal abandonment and abuse in our community is escalating, and it will not go away because we turn our backs and pretend it doesn't exist. We invite the caring members of our community to get involved, regardless how little you think you have to offer. We need your help so that no more companion animals are forced to die these tragic and often violent deaths. Together we can bring this crisis to an end... please join us."*



**Read The Story of Indigo
on our Web site:
www.indigo-online.org**

Generous Donations Make Emergency Rescues Possible

In December of 2000, Indigo Rescue & Adoption intervened in the rescue of a litter of puppies who were put into a plastic bag and thrown from a moving vehicle. A woman who witnessed the incident brought the puppies to Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter. Two of the Red Heeler/Pit Bull pups were uninjured, and were adopted out through the shelter. Another pup had minor injuries and was adopted by a shelter employee. The runt of the litter "Riley," suffered multiple fractured legs, and required surgery to place a pin in his front leg.

We are happy to say that thanks to Dr. Scott Davis from Vista Pet Hospital, a significant amount of media attention and the generosity of a number of people who learned about Riley's litter, Indigo Rescue & Adoption received enough donations to pay for Riley's care. Riley has since had the pin in his leg removed, and been placed in a new home. He remained a "trooper" throughout his ordeal.

It's important to note that with your continued tax-deductible donations made to Indigo's "emergency fund," we will be able to continue to pay for the medical care necessary to rehabilitate the "crisis" cases such as Riley's that we are involved in through the shelter. As always, we thank each and every one of you who care enough to help us continue our work on behalf of the animals. ●

~ ~ ~

Newsletter Contributors and Volunteers:

Heather Hines
Claudia Wood
Barbara Haftorson

*Help us to be environmentally-friendly.
Send, or call us with, your email address.*

Who is Indigo Rescue & Adoption? . . . continued from Page 1

With a small amount of money, and no place to put homeless animals, they knew they needed to assist people with choosing the most responsible way to place their own pet in a new home environment. They also knew they had to assist people who rescued pets with what they needed to do to medically rehabilitate an abandoned animal they had found, before placing it in a new home.

Claudia Wood, another of the group's founders, and Hines started using the opportunity during return phone calls to educate people and offer suggestions to help the "home rescuer" or people giving up their pets. "First, we attempt to give suggestions as alternatives to giving up a family pet. We offer options for common health and behavior problems that may not have been suggested by their veterinarian." Next, they outline a safe protocol for responsibly finding a new home for a pet. "With the number of classified ads in the Oregonian each day, posted by people trying to find a new home for their pets, it's important that people think in terms of safety for the pet first."

With the new program about to launch at the shelter, the new functions of Indigo Rescue & Adoption will include fund-raising and coordinating for the POP project, assisting the shelter by receiving and medically rehabilitating emergency cases and finding homes for them privately, and maintaining our existing support service for "home rescuers" and people who are giving up their pets. "There's a lot to be done in order for us to reach our goal," says Hines, "but there's also a lot of gratification on the road to achieving it." ●

Contact **Indigo Rescue & Adoption** at:

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



I have enclosed \$_____ to help
Indigo Rescue & Adoption end animal abandonment.

All donations are tax deductible as the law allows.
Indigo Rescue & Adoption is an all-volunteer 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization
that operates on donations and community support.

THANK YOU!

New Cable Access Show Addresses Animal Causes

Indigo Rescue & Adoption is producing a new cable access show called "A Cause For Alarm." The show airs the first and third Wednesday of every month. Tualatin Valley Cable Access program broadcasts the live call-in show at 8:00 p.m. on channels 6 and 21. The show runs 50 minutes, and features guests on topics related to animal care and behavior, as well as various causes and events pertaining to animal welfare. The show is hosted by Heather Hines from Indigo Rescue & Adoption and offers callers from the community an opportunity to call in and ask the guests questions. Sponsored by the Bethany Family Pet Clinic, upcoming guests include:

- Dr. Mark Norman from Bethany Family Pet Clinic
- Dr. Brenda Smith from Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon
- Dr. Larry Peetz from Veterinarians Against Inhumane Trapping
- Barbara Tuler, local dog trainer and behaviorist
- Jim Hartmann of Rabbit Rescue of Portland
- Connie Theil of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds
- Laurie Lown of NW In Defense of Animals

People interested in offering suggestions for guests, or information on becoming a sponsor, contact: Indigo Rescue & Adoption 503-640-7979, PO Box 554 Beaverton, Oregon 97075.

Special thanks to our volunteer technical staff and contributors:

Claudia Wood, Patty Robeson, Manuel Perez, Sandy Rasmussen,
Malynda Rasmussen, Jackie Kubat, and Lorrie Biggs.

Original music donated by: Bob Hines

Sponsor: Bethany Family Pet Clinic

*"Until he extends his circle of compassion to all living things,
man will not himself find peace."*

-Albert Schweitzer



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