

**Oregon Coast Humane Society
Board of Directors Meeting
October 12, 2023
TR Hunter**

Presents: Shauna Robbers, Vice President; Cynthia Beck, Treasurer; Jill Simpson, board member; Heidi White, Board member; Elizabeth Thompson, Exec Director. Excused: Mary Henry, President and Lisa Mullins, Board Member

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM

Check-In/Opening Thoughts/Kudos: Elizabeth was given great kudos for this month's director report. There is so much in it and on top of that, she moved!

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes: Cynthia moved to approve the September 2023 minutes. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Finance:

Cynthia emailed the financial package prior to the meeting for the board to review. We are still running well ahead of projected income. She did point out that medical care is up but that is due to the increase in the number of animals we are handling.

She shared that the Finance Committee, consisting of herself, Denise Horton, Elizabeth Thompson, and Mary Henry had met and are working on ways that the OCHS might be able to offer health care to employees. Their next meeting is October 19.

Cynthia explained the proposal regarding cat kennels that she had emailed to the board prior to the meeting. At this point in the meeting there was not a quorum, so this item was tabled for later in the meeting. This is the information she sent: "As part of our ongoing efforts to create a more stress-free environment for our shelter cats we are pursuing adding portals to some of the cat cages in order to create a two room 'condo' that separates the litter tray area from the feeding/sleeping area. This rationale was explained in last month's AWC report. Jenny has obtained a quote for 16 portals in the amount of \$1829, not including shipping. We may need a few more. We won't know shipping and installation costs until the portals are ordered and the project is underway.'"

Executive Director Report:

(Elizabeths report was emailed to the board prior to the meeting.)

YEAR TO DATE ADOPTIONS: 563!

YTD Animals seen in clinics: 435! Lost animals returned to owners: 108!

ANIMAL UPDATES: As of today, we have 120 animals in our care.

SEPTEMBER INTAKE: 59 clinic animals (microchip/vaccine clinics), 28 owner surrenders (including 3 cockapoo puppies and 1 “noodle” - a Newfoundland/Poodle mix), 14 returned adoptions (6 cats, 8 dogs), 58 strays (13 dogs and 45 cats, including 16 kittens dumped at a motel on 101), 10 transfers in (all Cali dogs, including Echo a mixed breed who spent 487 days in a Cali shelter!).

OUTCOME: 76 adoptions (51 cats, 25 dogs), 57 clinic out (microchip/vaccine clinic), 16 return to owners, 1 euthanasia (senior medical chihuahua Ragheti).

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES:

*Donations from the Jack Sparrow appeal letter are rolling in. So far, we've received 63 donations totaling \$8,130!

*Shorewood Ice Cream event raised \$554! Thank you to everyone who attended and to Shorewood for putting on such a great event to support the animals.

*Vet updates: Dr. Schaad is here this week from Portland performing three days of spay/neuter surgeries for shelter and community animals. Dr. Hall-Essoe, who works at our Microchip/Vaccine clinics, is actively shopping for medical equipment to start spay/neuter and dental procedures in our building. Dr. Ron Titterington from Eugene (who used to help at OCHS) has agreed to come back for surgery days as needed. Dr. Jaime Thurk from Eastern Oregon will be coming on October 26-27 for her first round of surgeries at OCHS. She is not charging us for her services this time and may be able to bring a team of vets for future clinics! Dr. Janel Montes continues to visit as needed for wellness exams, rabies vaccines, etc. An anonymous vet from Virginia is considering a move to Oregon and we are hoping to attract her attention at OCHS for some contract work, too. We are starting to see the results from soliciting veterinarians for the last few years!

*Youth volunteer Hazel (who comes from PDX to celebrate her birthdays with us serving animals) will be here this weekend on Saturday, October 14th with a team of volunteers.

*Builders Club youth volunteers will be at the shelter on Sunday, October 15th to photograph our shelter pets in holiday costumes.

*Boys and Girls Club teen volunteers continue to help at the shelter when they have staff to do so.

*Next Microchip/Vaccine clinic is Saturday, October 21st.

*Fall/Winter hours at the shelter and thrift store start on Sunday, October 22nd. We will be closing at 4pm instead of 5pm at that time.

*Annual visit for our shelter licensing from OR Dept. of Agriculture is October 18th.

*New business hosting cats: Serene Abundance Studio on 101!

*OCHS staff will be visiting Shorewood beginning on October 25th to trim residents' pets' nails. We hope to visit every 8 weeks for this community service.

*Pet Costume Contest happening October 28-29. Pics will be taken at the thrift store and then posted on Facebook for people to vote on their favorites. Top three winners will receive gift certificates to our thrift store.

*You are invited! The Celebration of the Animals at FUUF happens on Sunday, October 29th at 10am. It's led by Deborah Larson, one of our volunteers and longtime business sponsors. OCHS shelter animals will be recognized during the event.

*Lane County has sent their contract for us. It's currently being reviewed by a lawyer, and we will then go back to discuss details. We hope to be paid for the services we provide for animals outside the City of Florence.

*Disaster Preparedness Expo Nov. 4 at FEC - we will have a booth there.

*We will be participating in Bottle Drop's annual holiday matching campaign in November. OCHS will receive an extra \$0.02 per bottle during the campaign!

*Mary and ET will attend The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement's Annual Conference November 15-17 in Portland. We'll attend workshops and seminars on everything from fundraising to shelter health for our animals. If you'd like to attend, let one of us know. We will share what we learn upon our return!

*The Christmas Store will open on November 1st. Volunteers are already pricing and merchandising, and Valerie has contacted all past volunteers to ensure everyone is invited to help again this year. Would anyone like to discuss changing the name of The Christmas Store to The Holiday Store or something else more inclusive? If not for this year, then hopefully for next year we can rebrand this community event in a way that makes everyone's celebrations count.

*OCHS plans to decorate a tree for the Military Museum's Festival of Trees this year and place an ad in CROW's Holly Jolly Follies program. We need sponsors for each of these. Tree sponsorship is \$150, and CROW ad starts at \$250.

Elizabeth shared the following story about Echo: One of our rescue partners in California reached out about a young dog who'd been in the shelter over 460 days. Echo had been adopted and returned twice because he didn't know how to live in a home - he had literally grown up in a shelter environment.

OCHS had room at the time for Echo, so his transport was scheduled. Echo had developed quite a following among California shelter volunteers and staff and also online. The pleas to save his life reached animal lovers throughout the world, and when he was given a 72-hour window to leave the shelter alive the rescue community sprang into action. Pledges of financial support came from across the country, so Echo's arrival was really celebrated far past the West Coast.

Since Echo's arrival, donations have come in ranging from \$5 to \$500, and our donor base has grown exponentially. Thank you notes specifically tailored to the Echo donations were sent. After one donor received theirs, they let the transfer team know that OCHS would be on their list to receive regular donations.

Echo has brought joy to everyone he's met here, and we can't wait for him to find the perfect family. He is a great example of how we are better together - working with other shelters and rescues to save more animals is how we do this work!

Planning/Culture of Learning:

Regarding the various committees: In as much as Mary and Elizabeth attend most committee meetings and also need time to prepare for each, the committee meetings shall be held on different weeks of the month. For example, the Animal Welfare Committee does meet the second Tuesday of the Month. So, Finance, Strategic Planning, and Community Outreach committees should not meet in that same week.

Fundraising & Marketing (Community Outreach Committee Update):

Shauna explained that this committee is going to reform into two committees and that she will be helping Heidi write the Charter for her committee once the division is clarified.

Programs:

Animal Welfare Committee. Cynthia would like to see support for our volunteers made more consistent and be much more supportive of our volunteer base.

As a quorum was present, Cynthia moved to have the board approve a sum not exceeding \$4000 so that when ready, Elizabeth can order and begin installation of cat cage portals. The money would come from capital reserves as this can be considered a capital improvement. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

10:43 The Board entered an Executive Session.

10:45 The Board returned from Executive Session

Shauna moved that Maire Testa be appointed an interim board member. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 11 AM

Next meeting: November 9 (Thurs) at 10 AM, Office TR Hunter

Respectfully Submitted,

**Shauna Robbers, Vice President
Interim Secretary**