



S.A.R.A.'s Treasures Gift & Thrift Shop

871 River Road Eugene, OR

Open Daily 10:00 am—6:00 pm

Phone: 541-607-8892

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 41462 Eugene, OR 97404

Online at: www.sarastreasures.org

Spring Newsletter

May 2012

As spring arrives, with it comes “kitten season.” I remember being a kitten, everyone loved me cause I was “so cute and little.” Well here I am, 9 years old, in my prime, and I am no longer little or “cute.” What I am is an adult cat who is still looking for a home.

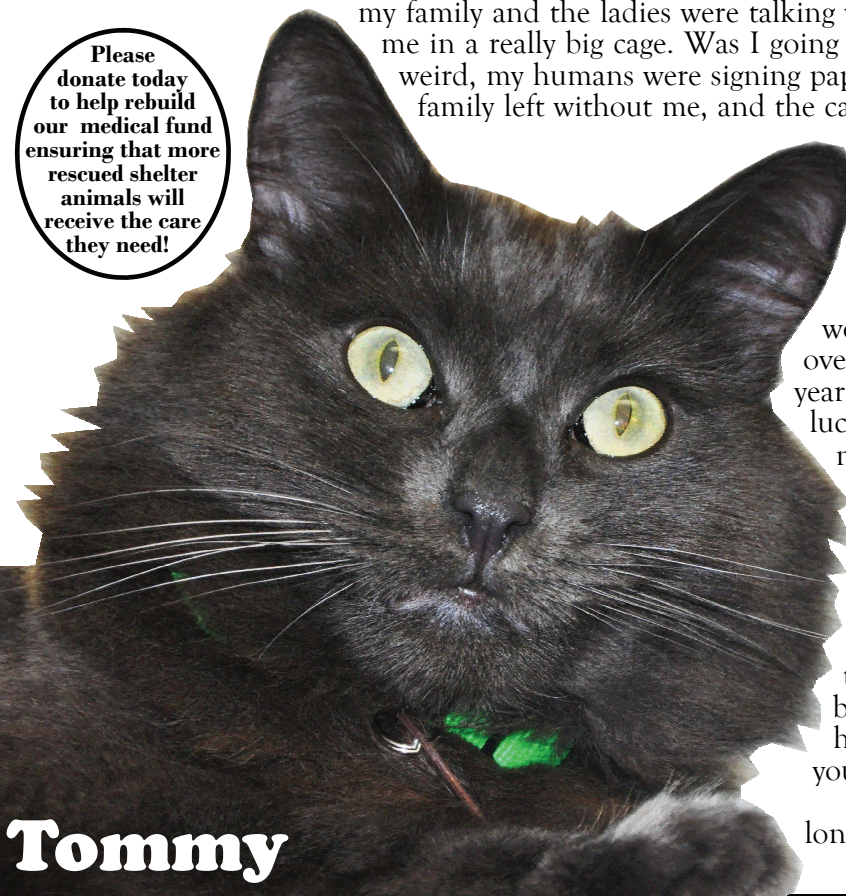
I was a good cat, I never fought, always used my litter box, and tried to stay off the furniture. I looked after my human family, sleeping with them every night, eating the food they put out for me, and keeping them company when they were feeling under the weather or just blue. But as time passed, they were distancing themselves from me no matter what I tried. One day they put me in the box we used to go to the vet. I was a good boy and went right in. We got in the car and drove to a place that wasn't the vet, but where I remember being as a little guy. Maybe we were going to visit the ladies who had rescued me in the beginning. We went to the back room, and

my family and the ladies were talking very quietly while another human was putting me in a really big cage. Was I going to visit for awhile? Things were starting to get weird, my humans were signing papers and the cat ladies were very sad. Then my family left without me, and the cat ladies were all around me, hugging and kissing me and telling me that everything would be ok. Two years later I'm still here. They tell me everyday what a good, handsome boy I am and that someday I will have a home of my own but I just can't seem to get excited.

It's kitten season again, which means tons of wonderful, loveable adult cats (*like me*) will be overlooked by families who want to adopt this year's “cute and little.” That's why I know that I'm lucky to be at S.A.R.A.'s. They're dedicated to making sure that *every* cat finds their perfect forever home, not just kittens.

Here, it doesn't matter that I'm nine, or that some of my friends here are almost fourteen—the great people at S.A.R.A.'s know that adult cats make great life-long companions. We're more mature and independent than kittens, which means we're perfect for busy households. Plus, when you open your home to an adult cat, you know exactly what you're getting—no surprises.

When you adopt an adult cat, you gain a life-long friend and you are truly saving a life. Like mine.



Tommy

Please donate today to help rebuild our medical fund ensuring that more rescued shelter animals will receive the care they need!

2012 Summer Events

5th Annual Mothers Day
Plant & Artisan Sale
May 12th & 13th
At S.A.R.A.'s Treasures
10:00–5:00 (both days)
Hanging Baskets, Bedding
Plants, Perennials, Herbs,
Veggie Starts, Gift Plants,
Artisan Items, & More!

Parking Lot Sales
Sunday, June 3rd
Sunday, July 1st
Sunday, August 5th
Sunday, September 9th
At S.A.R.A.'s Treasures
10:00–5:00

Visit S.A.R.A. at the
Eugene Celebration!
August 25th & 26th
We'll have a booth in the
Community Causeway
(the free section of the
Celebration) & will be
marching in the parade.

The Fate of Lane County Animal Services

As struggling families relinquish more pets to shelters due to the ever-increasing costs of pet care or are evicted from their homes and cannot find pet-friendly rental housing, funding comprehensive animal services becomes more important than ever. Unfortunately, our local government is planning to make significant cuts to the essential services provided by Lane County Animal Services (LCAS). Charitable giving is on the decline, meaning smaller local rescue groups (like S.A.R.A.) have to do more with less and are unable to take on all of the additional burden that these funding cuts demand. As city officials decide how to strip down and reorganize animal services to the point of ineffectiveness, the reality is that the local animal population will suffer, and unwanted dogs and cats will pay the ultimate price.

Budget shortfalls for the upcoming fiscal year have placed LCAS on the chopping block. Currently, LCAS is funded jointly through the City of Eugene and Lane County, with a small amount provided by the City of Springfield. The Eugene City Manager and City Council insist that due to these budget cuts, LCAS is no longer sustainable. They are planning to replace it with a new model (theoretically, a private organization that would individually contract with Eugene, Lane County, and Springfield) that would be able to take over housing and adoption services for less money than these services currently cost. Animal enforcement and licensing would be transferred to the jurisdiction of local police.

Officials for Lane County and the City of Eugene have been moving through this process at an incredible speed, making the announcement of the intent to dismantle LCAS the end of February and insisting that a new model will be in place by July of this year. Despite pleas by S.A.R.A. and others concerned with animal welfare to slow down and give this transitional period the time and planning it deserves, neither the County nor the City have taken these requests seriously.

Answers to even the most basic questions are hard to come by: *Specifically, how can the same quality of animal services be provided for less money by de-centralizing agencies? How can the same quality of service be provided at all, considering the new models will be operating with \$1,400,000 less than this fiscal year? How will adjustments be made if the new model proves to be inadequate at maintaining low euthanasia rates? How can animal enforcement function as an entity separate from housing and adoption services? Who will make the decisions regarding whether to impound an animal or ignore it? Or to answer an abuse/neglect/dangerous dog call?* S.A.R.A. representatives have been at all recent City Council, City Budget, and County Commissioners meetings, as well as additional meetings set up to specifically address animal services, but no answers have been provided and no plan is yet in place.

This dismantling will, without a doubt, undo nearly a decade's worth of hard work. Rescue organizations (S.A.R.A. included) and community members are responsible for transforming LCAS from a 'catch and kill'

facility to a progressive, low-kill shelter with an increased focus on adoption. Since 2001, task forces have been hard at work helping to implement programs that have dramatically reduced the number of animals euthanized each year.

City and County officials have stated their commitment to maintaining LCAS's current low euthanasia rate, but are unclear on the specifics of how this would be accomplished or who would be responsible for providing oversight. There are no animal welfare advocates included in the 'tri-agency transitional team' in charge of creating the new model. It's obvious that the team charged with dismantling LCAS views this process as merely a budgetary concern.

Creating an entire complex system of animal control is not something that can be done quickly or haphazardly. Despite input and offers to help from knowledgeable community members, the City and County refuse to accept that this decision will have serious ramifications. It has taken eleven years for concerned Eugene citizens to transform LCAS into the low-kill shelter that it is today, and to eliminate LCAS will not only erase years of hard work, but also increase future costs to the city and put additional animals (and people) at risk.

This lack of knowledge regarding animal care and a total absence of community involvement is alarming. Making this process as secretive as possible does not fit with the transparency that should be required of our city, our county, and any contracting organizations.

Most people couldn't imagine living in a community with no school, no hospital, no police, no road maintenance. An animal shelter, too, is a community institution, and shouldn't be allowed to go under. It's obvious to everyone that we're in tough financial times, but the city and county need to understand that cutting animal services is not the answer. The staff and volunteers at S.A.R.A. will continue to monitor the situation closely and demand that the people and organizations that have made such important reforms are not excluded from this process. Innocent cats and dogs should not be exposed to more suffering all in the name of saving a few bucks.

How You Can Help Lane County Animals:

- **Continue to support S.A.R.A. as we monitor the way the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County handle this transition.**
- **Make your voices heard: Talk to your representatives on the Lane County Board of Commissioners and City Council. Let them know that progressive Animal Services are important to you and your community.**

Adaleen and 8 Hungry Kittens



Adaleen

Living outside in October with no sight or mobility, your only protection coming from your mother, who has 7 other mouths to feed and protect. This was the story of Tancy, Adaleen (her mother), and 7 other siblings. Luckily, a good Samaritan saw a cat carrying 1-week-old kittens through her back yard one and a time, leaving them in the shelter of a bush in the rain and came to their rescue. S.A.R.A. accepted this large family into our rescue program and immediately started helping Adaleen nourish her kittens (staff supplementally bottle fed the kittens since it's a lot to ask one mom to feed 8 mouths) and rid them of all their parasites from the street life. S.A.R.A. supplied kitten formula, tons high quality kitten food for mom and her kittens, litter, toys, cat trees, and tons of love and affection so these special guys would know they would never have to fend for themselves again. Of course, the kittens grew like weeds...and turned into 8 tiny models of mom (*we have never have had a litter where everyone looked so much alike!*)

Once Adaleen's kittens were old enough to be weaned, (a full 12 weeks at S.A.R.A.'s in order to ensure proper socialization and healthy immune systems) she was finally able to be spayed. She also required a dental cleaning with many teeth extractions—all those years on the street were hard for this little gal! Now that she is healthy, free of parasites, and feeling good, she is able to think about herself, having to raise kittens or worry where her next meal is going to come from. Adaleen is gaining confidence and learning about the luxuries of being an indoor kitty—catnip, treats, and having a warm, soft place to sleep. After the kittens were spayed and neutered, they were put up for adoption in S.A.R.A.'s Treasures. J.J., Roman, and Grant have already found their forever homes and are thriving! Tancy, Bill, Wanda, Margene, and Adaleen are still waiting for forever homes.



Tancy



**Did you know that a cat can have up to 5 litters a year?
Adaleen will never again contribute to the cat overpopulation
problem in Lane County.**

Help Us Continue Our Life Saving Mission



A donation in any amount that you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

We've enclosed an envelope for you to rush your support.

Thank you for being a part of this life-saving work!

A One-of-a-Kind Cat



I'm Sven, the most handsome cat that you'll ever meet. Unfortunately, my family didn't feel that way, and when they moved away, they left me and the tree dogs behind. The people at S.A.R.A. were keeping a close eye on the situation, and when LCAS came to get the dogs, S.A.R.A. arranged to take me into their program.

I love it here at S.A.R.A.'s Treasures—there's so much to do! The other cats who live here don't seem to realize that every box, paper bag, and storage tub is a play thing. I love to race around the warehouse and one of these days I just know that I'm going to catch my tail. The ladies who work in the office thought they had created a cat-proof door, but it's no match for me—I'm smarter than I look. Plus, I know that they really do want me on their desks



while they're working, no matter what they say.

I'm only three years old, but I'm ready to settle down and find a *real* forever home. If you or someone you know is looking for a really debonair guy to add a little fun to your life, stop in to S.A.R.A.'s Treasures to meet me soon.

Snorkel's Story

I'm Snorkel, and I've been told that I'm one of the most difficult cats that anyone here at S.A.R.A.'s has ever seen. They don't mean my behavior, of course—I'm a perfect lady. But medically—that's another story.

I was dumped at S.A.R.A.'s Treasures in February of 2011 with eleven (yes, *eleven*) of my family members. Initially, we were all really sick—upper respiratory infections, parasites, underweight—but eventually everyone got healthy and found homes of their own. Except for me. For an entire year I've battled a chronic stuffy nose that was occasionally so bad that it was hard for me to eat. The people at S.A.R.A.'s took me to all kinds of vets who tried everything to make me feel better: various antibiotics, steroids, homeopathy, nasal flushes, dental cleanings and extractions, prescription food...And while some of these had a temporary effect, nothing lasted and I was back to my snorkely, wheeze-y self in no time. All I wanted to do was nap.

Running out of ideas, the S.A.R.A.'s staff decided to take me to see Dr. Naidoo, a small-animal internist for another nasal flush and possible biopsy. As soon as they began to intubate me, Dr. Naidoo found a polyp in my soft palate. The polyp was the size of grape—no wonder I was having such a hard time breathing and eating normally!

Now, with the polyp removed, I'm a whole new cat. I feel great and I looove meal time. I still love a good nap, but I'm also a great player. If you've got room in your heart for a little gal who is finally ready to find a home of her own, visit me at S.A.R.A.'s Treasures.



Renovations at S.A.R.A.'s Treasures



Hey guys, Rollo here to let you know that if you haven't been in to S.A.R.A.'s Treasures lately, you're in for a nice surprise on your next visit. This April, our thrift store underwent some much-needed renovations, including a few coats of new paint and the installation of all new vinyl flooring.

Thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, we were able to get the store emptied and the walls painted in record time. The kitties were a little upset at being displaced from the shop for a few days, but everyone (including me and my sister Jujube) loves the new floor. Toy balls really roll now!

Of course, we always need new donations to keep our store full and to raise money for our life-saving shelter animal rescue programs. Get a jump-start on your spring cleaning and bring your unneeded household goods, books, clothing, and more to S.A.R.A.'s Treasures. All donations are tax-deductible and are gratefully accepted during business hours.

Stop in soon to see all of our hard work, and don't forget to pet me while you're here.



**We're Open
Every Day
10:00-6:00**

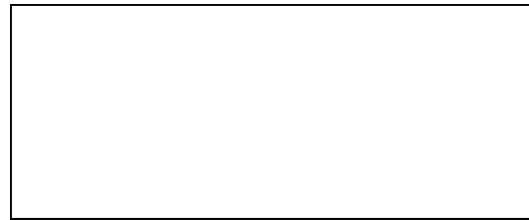




Shelter Animal Resource Alliance
P.O. Box 41462
Eugene, OR 97404

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S.A.R.A.'s Wish List

Caring for our animals requires a lot of time, love, money and supplies. We use all of the items on our wish list nearly every day, and these ongoing expenses can really add up. With your donation, we are able to save money so we can dedicate the greatest amount of our resources directly to the cats and dogs who are relying on us.

- Monetary Donations for Vet Bills and Medical Supplies
 - New and Gently Used Items for Our Thrift Store
 - Wellness Brand Canned Cat Food
- Gift Certificates (Office Max, Costco, Fred Meyer)
- Revolution or Advantage Flea Treatment, Dog & Cat (All Sizes)
 - Rubbermaid 18 Gal. Roughneck Storage Tubs
- Environmentally Friendly Dish/Laundry/Hand Soap
 - Simple Green Cleaning Solution Concentrate
 - Cat Litter (Scoopable/Unscented)
 - Clear Packing Tape
 - Household Surface Wipes
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Garbage Bags
- Febreze Fabric Freshener 1 Gal. Refills
 - Postage Stamps
- Printer Ink (HP901XL Color and Black)
- New Cat Toys & New Squeaky Dog Toys

Donated items can be dropped off at S.A.R.A.'s
Treasures, 10:00am to 6:00pm, every day!

