



# Paw Prints



Newsletter of Vashon Island Pet Protectors

Spring 2007

## The Spiciest FUR BALL™ Ever! August 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

### A Guardian for LIFE

Most of us think of our pets as family members, but in Washington and many other states, dogs and cats are considered property. Somehow thinking of Henry as “property” must have made it easier for someone to discard this blind dog. Fortunately for Henry, he was rescued and brought to Vashon Island Pet Protectors. Once he was bathed and groomed it became obvious that Henry was almost totally blind. He had a cataract in each eye and Henry’s vision was limited to shadows. Nevertheless, he was a happy little guy and a good candidate for an operation to restore his sight.



Thanks to a kind benefactor and the generosity of the Northwest Animal Eye Specialists, Henry had the cataract removed from his left eye. Henry can now see!

It was a big day when Henry ran for the first time, rather than cautiously feeling his way around the yard. Like every other dog, Henry can now spot a dog biscuit in flight! As soon as his eye heals and his protective collar is removed, Henry will be looking for a home where the family considers themselves Henry’s guardians, not his owners.



We invite you to join VIPPP and the hundreds of other humane organizations in promoting the use of the term “guardian,” which puts the emphasis on our responsibility for the care, treatment, and quality of life for the animals in our homes. As a guardian you are demonstrating that you have made a lifetime commitment to your dog or cat and that you have pledged to care and protect them for the rest of their lives. Words do matter. When VIPPP uses the word guardian in our adoption contracts, we are sending a message that you are adopting a new family member and that we are entrusting you with his/her emotional and physical needs throughout life.



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-Barbara Drinkwater, President

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