



Two black cats lounge around at the Oregon Humane Society. These friendly felines are two of the 98 recently rescued from a hoarder's home. The Humane Society offered half price adoption fees for Black Friday for any black cat, six months or older. The Humane Society houses all kinds of different animals that are always available for adoption.

Black Friday gives homeless kitties hope

By Mandie Gavitt
Arts & Culture Editor

Black Friday is that infamous day that causes people to either avoid the shopping malls at all costs or draws those courageous enough out to brave the crowds for door-buster sales. This year, however, getting deals on iPads and laptops were not the only things on people's minds. In addition to deals on Christmas presents and electronics people also saved on bringing in new additions to their family.

The Oregon Humane Society had a 50 percent off sale for any black cat six months or older during Black Friday. This was done in part to help bring down the number of cats that need to be adopted from the shelter as every year the Humane Society has more cats that need homes than there are homes to give.

"Now more than ever that we have a big demand for placing cats into households. We have a waiting list of 900 cats waiting to go to the Humane Society," said Barbra Baugnon, spokesperson for the Humane Society. "In Oregon alone, we typically euthanize 40,000 cats every single year."

The organization only takes in the

animals they can place in adoptive homes. "It's like a hotel, that's what we always say," said Baugnon. "We don't overbook our hotel. We only accept the animals we can be responsible for. For cats, we have never been able to meet the demand for placement," said Baugnon. They have been doing so for the last 143 years. This year 10,270 pets have been adopted at OHS. Each adoption fee covers the cost of sterilization, microchipping and examination by a vet.

"There's too many cats out there that need homes for anyone to think about going out and buying a cat or a dog or a bunny. There are plenty of highly adoptable, wonderful animals right here at the shelter that could use a home," said Diana Gableton, a volunteer at the OHS.

The overwhelming number of cats that need homes is due to a number of causes. According to Baugnon, this is because of a variety of factors such as people not spaying and neutering their cats, lack of leash laws for cats and people not seeing their cats as a priority. "People will claim their dogs," said Baugnon. "Less people come to claim their cats."

Shortly before Black Friday, 98 cats

were rescued from a hoarder house. The majority of these cats were sent to foster homes until they were ready for adoption but two rooms at OHS were devoted to the hoarder cats, many of which happened to be black. "I didn't hear of any of those cats needing to be euthanized," said volunteer Rita Stanely, "which is quite unusual for hoarder situations."

Baugnon said that there is no need for breeders today. "With all we know in this day and age about pets and pet adoption problems there's no reason to go to a breeder." According to Baugnon, those who are looking for a particular breed of dog or cat can check Petfinder.com to find one that needs a home, rather than supporting breeders.

Black cats were not the only lucky animals to find homes on Black Friday; multiple litters of puppies were available for adoption. By 3 p.m. only one puppy was left: Holiday, a chihuahua mix.

The Chandler family came in to adopt a cat on Black Friday because a friend had recently adopted a new kitten and they wanted their dog to have a playmate. "Our dog needs a friend," said Peyton Chandler, as she held a black kitten the family was considering adopting.

For those wishing to volunteer at OHS there are many opportunities for positions from dog walking to cat socializing or housing animals in your home as a foster home.

Animals are up for adoption year round, there's no need to hesitate in bringing a lonely cat, dog or even rabbit home for the holidays.




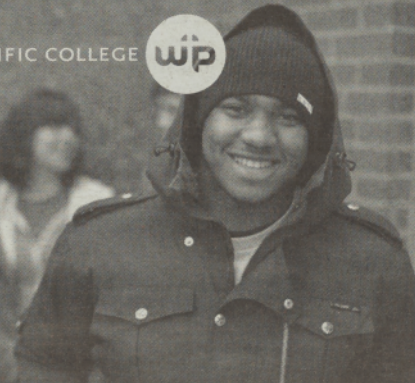
Holiday, a chihuahua mix, is just one of the many homeless pets hoping to find a new home this season.



All photos by Mandie Gavitt The Clackamas Print

Animals at the Oregon Humane Society located in Northeast Portland, wait patiently to be adopted on Black Friday. The Humane Society has a no kill policy, meaning that every animal they open their doors to will eventually find a home.

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