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The GO & DO guide for the north Oregon & southwest Washington coasts

Monday, April 13, 2009

## United Paws to hold multi-species adoption fair

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Tori wants everyone to come to the United Paws adoption fair April 18 to find a furry friend. She even – reluctantly – admits there will be dogs up for adoption at the fair, which will be at Tillamook Fairgrounds. Submitted photo



Who can resist those sad eyes?

TILLAMOOK - In honor of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, United Paws is holding an adoption afternoon for cats and kittens in foster care from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 18, in the 4-H Dorm at Tillamook County Fairgrounds, 4603 Third St. Tillamook Animal Shelter is joining in this month as well, to showcase dogs for adoption.

The nation's first humane society, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), designated April as Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month because the charter establishing the organization was signed in April 1866.

The ASPCA's founder, Henry Bergh, was a rich man who, when traveling through Russia, stopped a peasant from beating his donkey. Bergh experienced an overwhelming sense of accomplishment at having saved the donkey. On his way back to the United States from Russia, he extended his stay in London to visit the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the organization that successfully prosecuted the first case of child cruelty. (The RSPCA accomplished this by having a little girl classified as a "small animal" because no laws existed to protect children from mistreatment at that time.) After his visit to the RSPCA, Bergh wrote, "At last, I've found a way to utilize my gold lace - and about the best use that can be made of it."

Once back in New York, Bergh drew up the Declaration of the Rights of Animals, gathered notable signatories, and the ASPCA came into being. Shortly thereafter, the first law in the U.S. was passed to protect animals, especially New York City's draft equines, who were often literally worked to death. Regarding cruelty to animals, Bergh said, "This is a matter purely of conscience. It has no perplexing side issues... it is a moral question in all its aspects."

Bergh went on to help found the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He successfully challenged the prevailing view that children and animals were property with no rights of their own. Because of him, it is now accepted that abuse of animals and children is an offense to both human sensibility and established law. Bergh also did not want his organizations to be male-dominated and actively encouraged women to become patrons - a forward-thinking attitude on all fronts for those times.

### United Paws/TAS Adopt-a-Thon

Now with cats and dogs!

Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 18

4-H Dorm at Tillamook County Fairgrounds, 4603 Third St., Tillamook

Adoption fee includes spay/neuter or certificate for spay/neuter

[www.unitedpaws.org](http://www.unitedpaws.org)

They say "see me, love me,  
take me home – and then take  
me for a walk." Stock photo

The ASPCA is celebrating April by asking everyone to "Go Orange for Animals," so when you stop by the United Paws/TAS adoptathon to adopt one or more fabulous friendly felines and delightful darling dogs, be sure to wear orange. Why orange? Because orange is the color of a life-vest, which represents prevention, safety, security, confidence and hope - exactly what United Paws, TAS (and the ASPCA) strive to provide for their animals every day. The ASPCA's Web site at [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org) has some good "orange" ideas on what schools can do to celebrate Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month.

To preview kitties looking for their very own loving "forever" homes, visit the United Paws Web site. For more information about United Paws, Tillamook County's all-volunteer, spay and neuter advocacy group, call the hotline at (503) 842-5663 or visit [www.unitedpaws.org](http://www.unitedpaws.org)

The adoption fairs are for adoptions only; no animals will be accepted. Potential adopters will be screened for the animals' safety. And keep in mind that it is illegal to abandon an animal. Check the Web site for further details.

*United Paws volunteer Christine Watt contributed this story.*