

WAIF looks for ways to improve adoptability and quality of life for shelter animals

Thanks to the vision and generosity of a donor, things may be improving for our shelter animals. An anonymous donor is paying all expenses for three WAIF staff members to attend the 3-day **Masters in Behavior Conference** in Oregon March 6th-8th. It is an unprecedented opportunity for WAIF to learn from [top experts](#) in animal welfare and behavior within shelter environments.

WAIF's Longest Residents



[Michelle](#) - arrived 10/2/2008



[Alfonzo](#) - arrived 11/3/2009



[Matilda](#) - arrived 10/2/2008

The plight of longtime shelter residents like Michelle, Alfonzo and Matilda is always a major concern for WAIF. We are excited to have the opportunity to explore new strategies to enrich the quality of their lives at the shelter and solve issues that might be standing in the way of their adoption .

The conference focuses on behavior, training, and enrichment for shelter animals. The 2010 conference will include sessions on:

- Dog Behavior Assessment for Determining Stress Response in the Shelter
- Dog Welfare and Shelter Enrichment
- Using Temperament Information to Make Informed Euthanasia Decisions
- Kitten Adoptions and Risk Factors for Premature Death
- Cat Personality/Temperament
- Comparing Relinquishment & New Owner Information
- Reading Dog Behavior
- Creating a Successful Program for Dog Play Groups

Staff members, Donna Dunn, Heather McCrea and Danyelle Wieman will be representing WAIF at the conference. We look forward to their reports and how we can use what they've learned to improve adoptability and quality of life for our shelter animals.

The conference is hosted by Multnomah County Oregon Animal Services in Troutdale Oregon. Details [here](#).