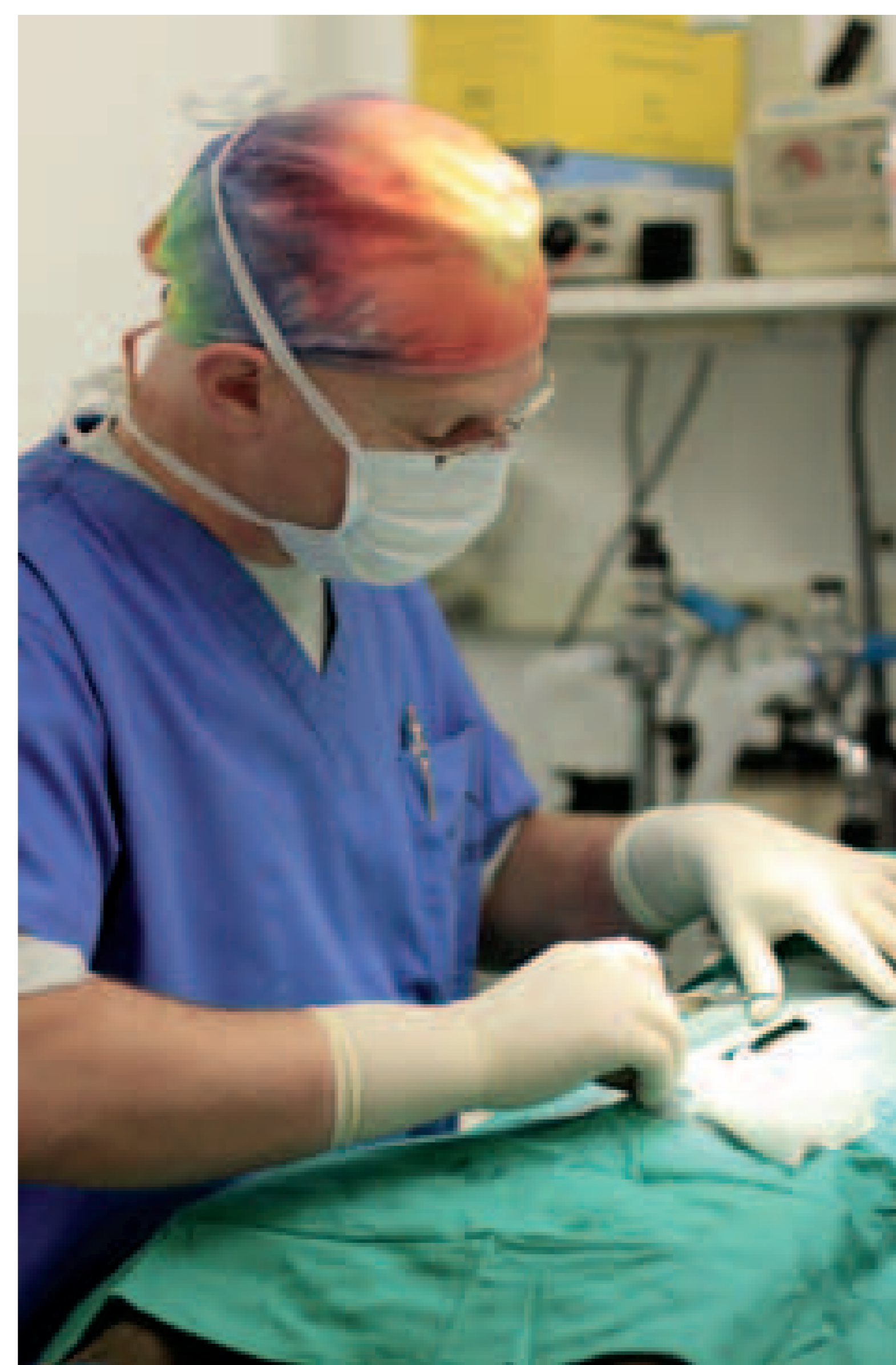


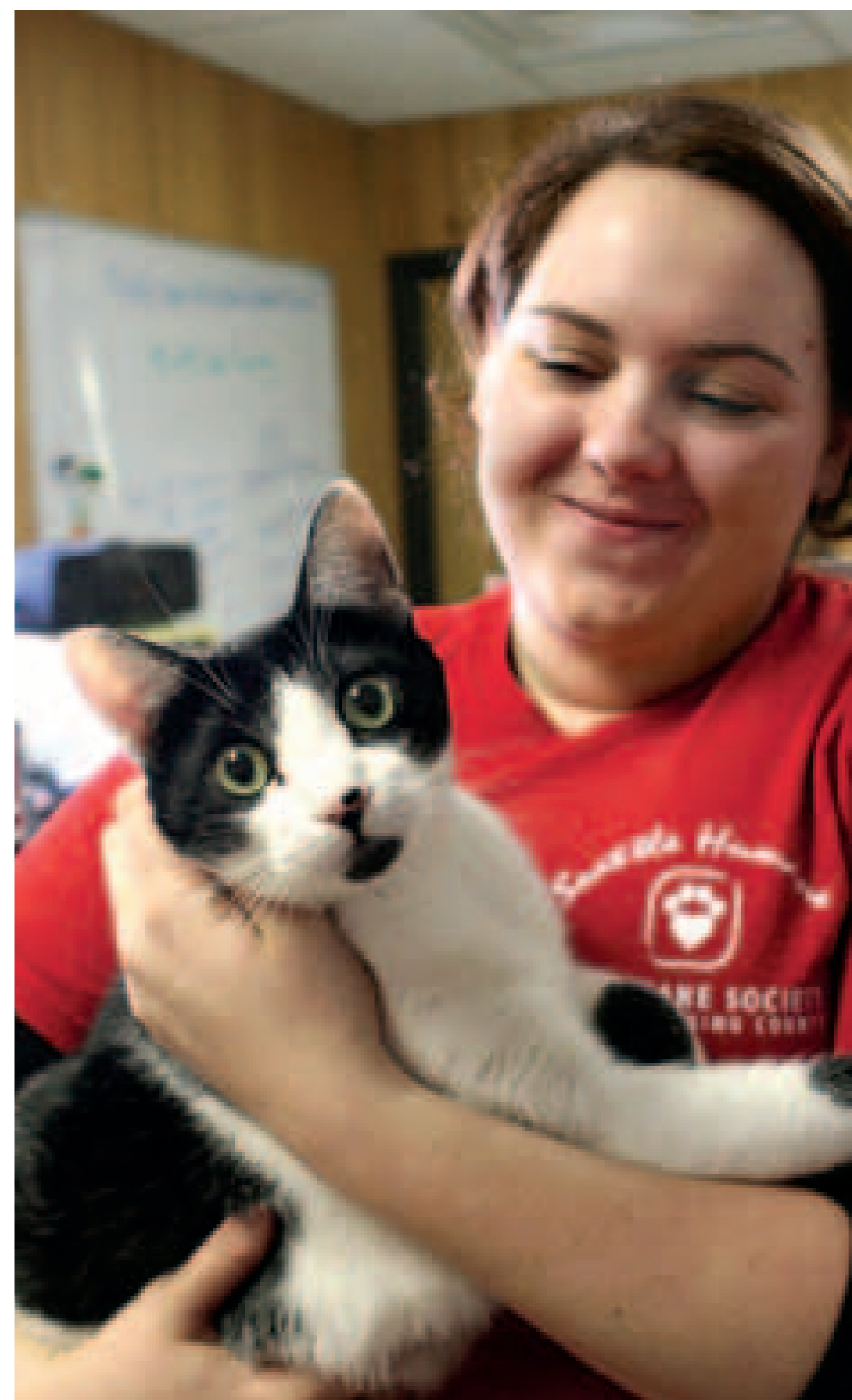


From left to right, Maria, Daryl, and Mark Russinovich



One of the surgeons at SHS, Dr. Brad

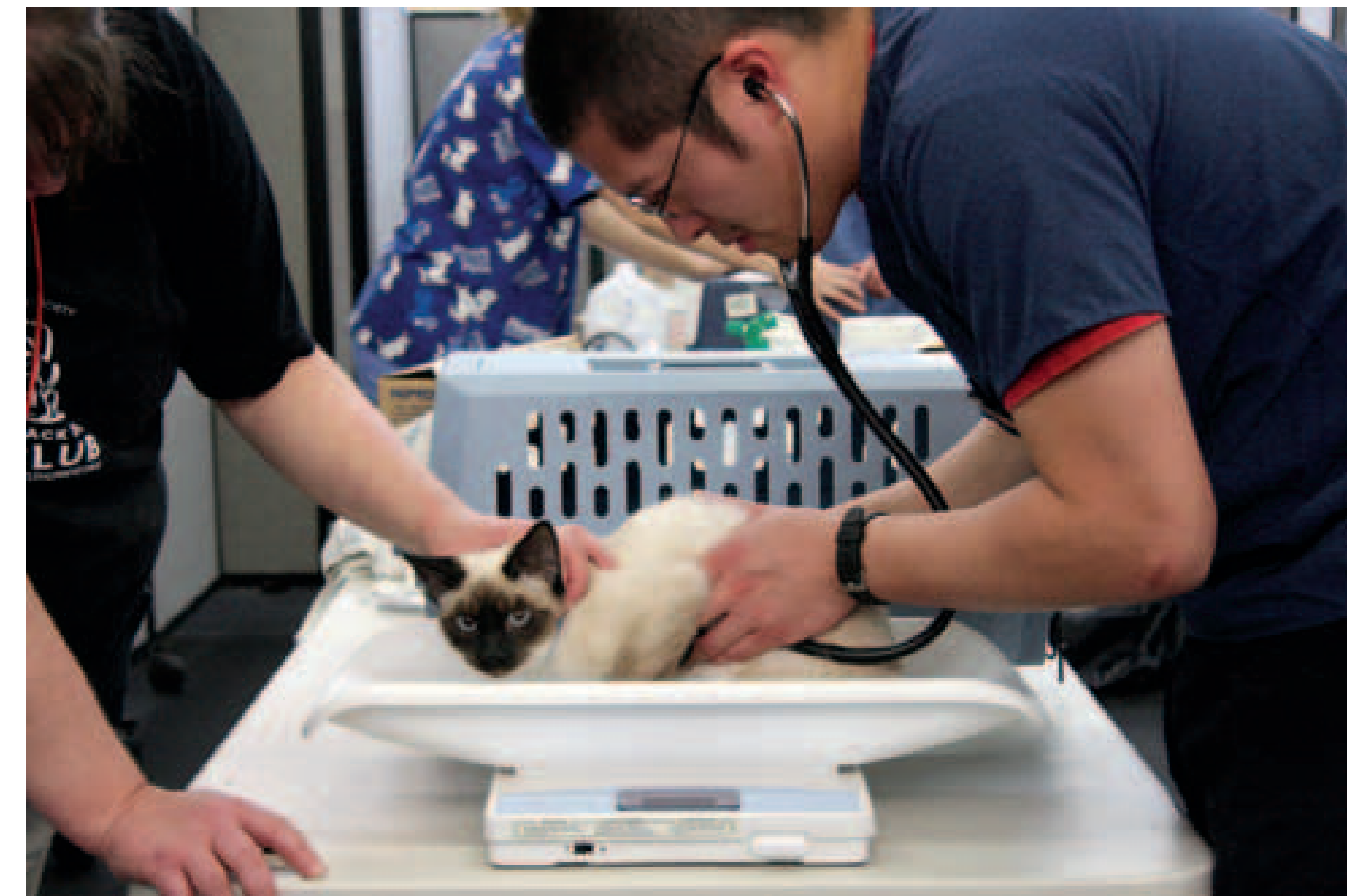
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A SHS volunteer with a cat



The Tuxes & Tails Auction at the Bellevue Hyatt



HANDS HELPING PAWS at the Seattle Humane

By Mikaela Cowles

When you move from Texas to Seattle with a six-year-old and you want her to get involved in volunteer activities, where do you go? Daryl Russinovich went to the Seattle Humane Society (SHS). She was familiar with animal shelters because the Russinovichs have rescue pets from a shelter in Austin. Daryl said:

Initially, I volunteered in the Pet Food Bank because it was something Maria could do. SHS volunteers must be at least eighteen years old because of the liability of working with animals. But she could help me with the food supply. We organized it and delivered it to clients. It was really interesting and fun for her.

How else could a kid get involved? Daryl recommends organizing a pet food drive at school or asking for pet food donations in place of birthday gifts. She also suggests the SHS Foster Care Program. “It is great for families and people who don’t want to take on the long-term commitment of an animal,” said Daryl.

Now a Clyde Hill resident for five years, Daryl said that she “absolutely loves it here.” Continuing on, she said, “I love the schools and neighborhood. All of it.” This wasn’t always the case. “I came kicking and screaming. I didn’t want to leave my family and friends,” she remembered. Now, she and Mark, her husband of eight years, have purchased property on Hunts Point. Daryl

also recently accepted an invitation to join the SHS Board, about which she is incredibly excited.

SHS practices a no-kill philosophy, meaning they find homes for every healthy and treatable animal. With just eighty-one employees and 1,400 volunteers, they helped over 4,847 pets last year. Despite working in a small space with only two surgery bays, the veterinary team provided exams, spay/neuter surger-

ies, and treatment to nearly 6,000 pets. Their two medical funds—the Grinstein Fund (for cats, in honor of the late Keith Grinstein) and the Lexus Fund (for dogs)—help provide treatment for broken bones, infections, and treatable diseases.

As an independent organization, separate from the better-known national Humane Society, SHS receives absolutely no government funding. This fact alone makes their last year “save rate” of 94.1 percent impressive. And, it is one of the highest “save rates” in the nation. Completely funded through donation, SHS relies heavily on their biggest fundraiser of the year – the Tuxes & Tails auction held annually at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. Last year they raised \$868,000. The live and silent auction offers a wide range of times from small trinkets to larger items.

“I once won the opportunity to place a picture of my dogs on the cover of Seattle Dog Magazine. It was fantastic. I used that picture for my Christmas card,” said Daryl. This year’s auction is May 12. Ticket information is available on the SHS website.

If the auction doesn’t raise enough, there are rumors Daryl will once again take the stage at The Comedy Underground. Be sure to ask her about ticket prices.

For more information about the Seattle Humane Society visit their website: www.SeattleHumane.org.