

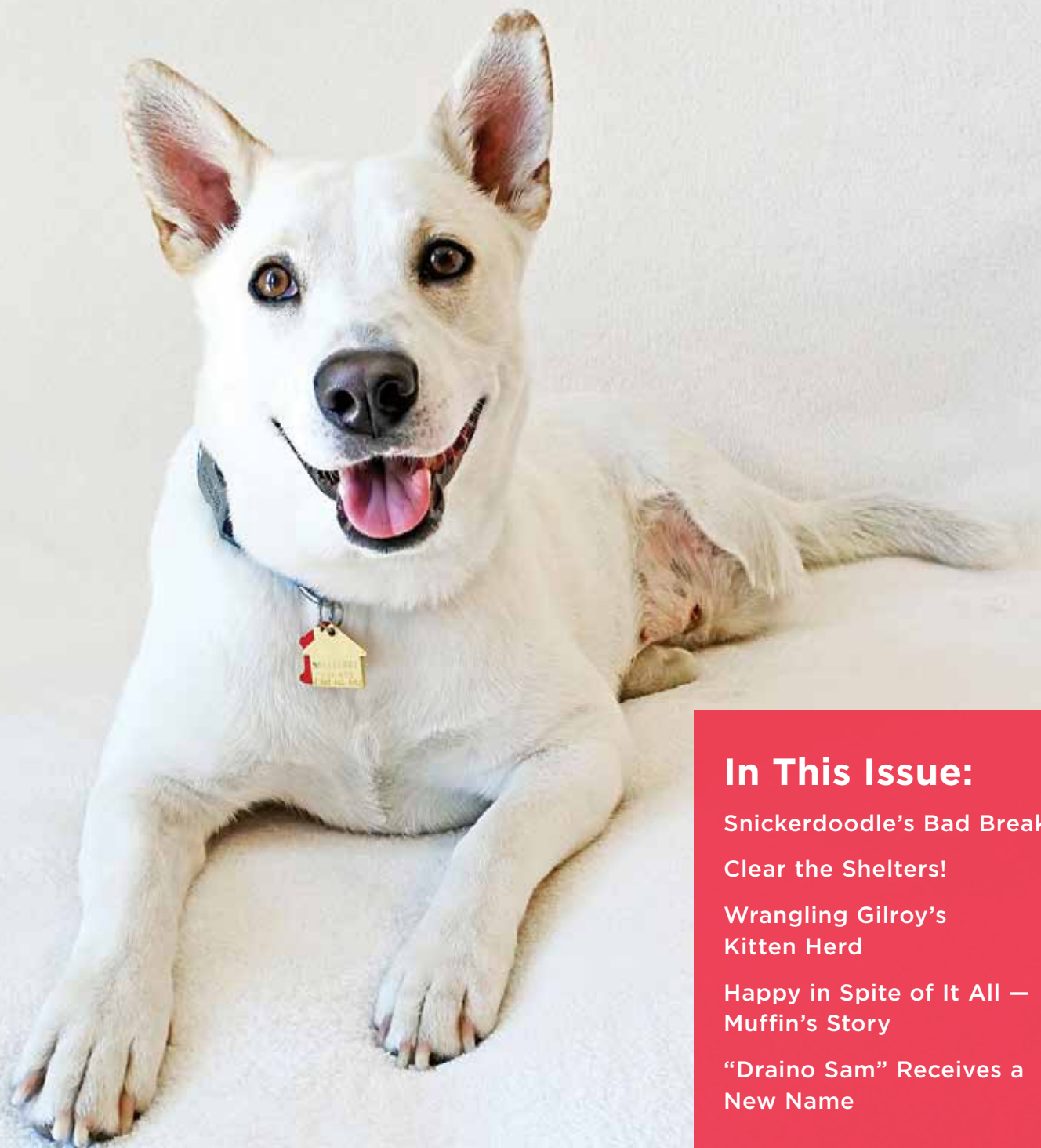
Holiday  
2016

# All Things



# Pawsible

*Special President's Circle Edition*



## **In This Issue:**

Snickerdoodle's Bad Break

Clear the Shelters!

Wrangling Gilroy's  
Kitten Herd

Happy in Spite of It All —  
Muffin's Story

"Draino Sam" Receives a  
New Name



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# From the President

*You have to believe it to see it . . .*

That may sound backwards, but it's actually true at Humane Society Silicon Valley: *believing* is the foundation of everything we do.

When our medical staff vaccinates a new pet coming in . . . when our adoption staff greets potential adopters . . . when our veterinarians spay and neuter animals in our clinic . . . the inspiration is belief that they're making a difference.

And when your belief inspires generosity, you are working right here alongside us. Because you are one of our most generous friends and a member of our President's Circle, you are making the future brighter — not just for pets, but for people and for our whole community.

This deeply ingrained belief reaps such rich rewards. In this month's newsletter, you'll meet some animals and people whose lives were changed through the actions that belief inspired. Animals like Muffin, Snickerdoodle, and "Draino Sam." Each of them deserved a better life than the one they were living. Now, they've received them — thanks to you.

When you believe you can make a difference, you can. Thank you for believing along with us, and for making a difference in the lives of so many animals and people.

Thank you.



Carol Novello, President

***"As a member of our President's Circle, you are making the future brighter - not just for pets, but for people and for our whole community."***

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# Clear the Shelters!

**Your generosity helped more than 170 pets find new forever homes — in a single day!**

It was a warm, humid morning in late July. The press was here. Local celebrity anchors cuddled with dogs and cats in front of news cameras. The people were here. When our doors opened, the line stretched all the way out to the entrance of the dog park.

**“It was a day of a million small miracles and an enormous amount of joy. And it was all made possible by your support . . .”**

But by the end of the day, the animals weren't here. More than 170 of our adoptable pets found new homes that day. The event, called **Clear the Shelters**, was a partnership between NBC Television and animal shelters and rescues across the country. The goal was to get as many homeless pets into new homes as possible that day. We believed it would be a huge success. We didn't know how big a success it would be.

While kittens and puppies flew out the door of our Animal Community Center and our three Neighborhood Adoption Centers, some of our most special animals found homes that day as well. Fiona, who had been with us for five months, met the family of her dreams. Marmalade, an FIV+ cat who had been overlooked for



months in a sea of kittens, found love with an older woman and her daughter. It was a day of a million small miracles and an enormous amount of joy. And it was all made possible by your support. Thank you.



**Your vehicle donation  
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Donate today  
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# Snickerdoodle's Bad Break

**Every step caused Snickerdoodle severe pain. But an operation began the healing process, and today her life is entirely different.**

These days, Snickerdoodle's biggest problem is a reoccurring itch behind her left ear. But it wasn't always this way. There was a time not long ago when an itchy ear was the least of her worries.

When our transfer team got a call from another shelter asking for help, they loaded up our transfer van and went to offer assistance. Upon arrival, they were immediately struck by the gentle, sad-eyed shepherd mix who didn't want to stand up. Carefully and lovingly, our staff loaded Snickerdoodle onto the van to bring her to our Animal Community Center in Milpitas, where she would receive the help she desperately needed.

"Any movement of her bad leg would cause her pain," Humane Society Silicon Valley staff veterinarian, Dr. Andrea Moore, remembered, "so she just chose not to move."

We soon learned Snickerdoodle had been living with this pain for a very long time. When Dr. Moore X-rayed her back leg, she found a break at least a year old. The bone hadn't healed correctly and was a constant source of agony. She couldn't put weight on it, and the mere motion of it swinging when she moved was torturous.

**"It was one of the most rewarding surgeries I've ever done," Dr. Moore remembers, "because it made such a big difference in her quality of life . . ."**

But thanks to your generous support, this wasn't a pain she was going to have to live with any more.



## Transformational Surgery

The age of the injury meant that there was no way to fix her leg. However, amputation would at least end her chronic pain. Within two days of arriving at our Milpitas Animal Community Center, Snickerdoodle was in surgery.

"It was one of the most rewarding surgeries I've ever done," Dr. Moore remembers, "because it made such a big difference in her quality of life and you could see that right away."

Though Snickerdoodle's recovery would take weeks, the difference in her demeanor was apparent the very next day. The dog that never wanted to stand was up at the front of her kennel waiting for breakfast and affection. Her tail was wagging. She was less hesitant around people.

## Cone of Joy

While our medical team helped her through her physical recovery, our volunteers and staff loved on her and took her on short walks. Kids from our education program designed a special "Cone of Joy" with flowers and hearts that kept her from chewing her stitches. With so much love, it was inevitable that Snickerdoodle would blossom.

Three weeks after she limped painfully through our

doors, a happier Snickerdoodle walked confidently to her new room in our Adoptions Department. She was still a little skinny, still healing — but ready for a new life.

“I thought she was so beautiful, and her adorable eyes and wagging tail told me she was just looking for a loving home,” adopter Sarah told us. “A volunteer walked by and told me, ‘You should adopt that dog. She is the sweetest dog I’ve ever met.’ I felt like that was confirmation that I was choosing a great companion.”

## An “Inspiration” You Made Possible

Snickerdoodle fell for Sarah as hard as Sarah had fallen for her. These days she not only stands up . . . *she runs and plays!* She has the life we always believed she could have. Complete with a loving mom who helps with those itches behind the ears.

And she gives Sarah as much as Sarah gives her. “Snickerdoodle is such an inspiration,” she says. “She’s experienced unimaginable hardships and is nothing but loving, loyal, and happy. I’m so grateful for her.”

*Thank you so much for changing Snickerdoodle’s life — and for giving her a new family!*



“Snickerdoodle is such an inspiration. She’s experienced unimaginable hardships and is nothing but loving, loyal, and happy.”

# YEAR-END MATCHING CHALLENGE

Give cats, dogs and other animals  
twice the lifesaving help.



Please make your  
**tax-deductible gift**  
before 2016 ends.

To have your gift doubled  
in value and impact, go to  
[hssv.org/believe](http://hssv.org/believe) today.

Your support will help save  
twice as many lives!

# Wrangling Gilroy's Kitten Herd

## What would you do if eleven tiny kittens showed up at your back door?

There were kittens everywhere, and bedlam was ensuing. While two kittens attempted to scale their pen, another one launched itself off the sofa, almost hitting the photographer in the face. Another tried to run through the glass door, harmlessly bouncing off into another pile of three kittens that were wrestling over a feather toy.

Every time you would pluck one out of harm's way, two more would find something to get into. Even with three people wrangling them, the mass of kittens was uncontainable.

This was the Gilroy Kitten Herd. And while the task at hand was to photograph the eleven nearly identical Siamese-looking kittens, our "models" had other ideas.

## Backyard Discovery

Last year, we were able to save more than 2,000 kittens. While it's not unusual for us to take in two to three dozen a day during the height of kitten season, this horde of rambunctious youngsters was anything but run of the mill. They came to Humane Society



Silicon Valley after a Gilroy resident opened her back door — and saw twenty-two blue eyes staring up at her. They had been left there, so she called us.

Underweight and a little dirty, the large group of seven-week-olds needed medical care and a little time to grow up before they were ready for new homes. Our incredible foster team rounded up four foster homes to accommodate them. After several weeks, they received a clean bill of health and all eleven of them were adopted into loving homes.

Thank you for giving a lifetime of happiness to each of these kittens and the families who welcomed them!

## We love animals. Every. Single. Day.

As someone who cares deeply about animals, you know that food, safe shelter and medical treatment are just some of the basic services we provide — and that they are costly. Knowing a dedicated group of *Faithful Friends* will always be there to support our work every month helps us commit to every animal that needs love and care.

*Faithful Friends* are the heart of what we do at Humane Society Silicon Valley. By setting up an automatic gift each month, you ensure there are resources to help care for every homeless animal who comes through our doors.



**Sign up to be a Faithful Friend today! Visit [hssv.org/faithfulfriends](https://hssv.org/faithfulfriends)**

# Happy in Spite of It All — Muffin's Story

**If the ability to be cheerful in the face of adversity is a recipe for happiness, Muffin has a lot to teach humanity.**

Found outside a chicken restaurant, it was obvious that Muffin hadn't been dining there recently. She was painfully skinny with infected ears and an eye injury. Despite that, the petite English Bulldog couldn't stop wagging her nub of a tail. Pats would bring out a happy snort and a kiss if your face was close enough.

Life might have treated Muffin unkindly, but it certainly hadn't robbed her of her ability to love.

However, overbreeding and rough living had taken their toll. Repeated cesarean sections had left her with scarred insides. English Bulldogs can be prone to ear infections, and Muffin was typical of her breed. Lack of cleaning had left her with a painful infection in one ear. She was missing teeth. Her paws were red and sore. She had an abscess on her back end. Her inflamed eye was the result of a chronic condition that required regular eye drops. Dr. Andrea Berger lamented, "She was a medical train wreck. She had to have been so uncomfortable. And if there was ever a dog that deserved a good life, it was Muffin."



**Thanks to your support, a good life is exactly what she got.**

For almost two weeks, Muffin underwent multiple treatments to restore her health. While she never was going to be an athlete, she soon felt well enough to frolic in the dog park — much to the delight of everyone who saw her. Her awkward, lurching gallop across the grass was not only adorable, it was hopeful. This dog was going to have a great life. She was not only going to be happy, she was going to make some family happy as well.

Which is why it was inevitable that, on the day of our Clear the Shelters adoptions event, the Norris family chose to adopt her. A much healthier (and if possible, happier) Muffin waddled out the door with them, distributing a few snorting kisses to staff and volunteers on her way.

**Overbreeding and rough living had ruined Muffin's health. Your kind support gave her new health — and a happier future.**

# “Draino Sam” Receives a New Name

When PG&E received a call about a strange mewing coming from a pipe, they came to investigate — and found a trapped cat. After they freed “Draino Sam,” as he came to be known, he seemed not the least bit perturbed by his ordeal. If anything, he was simply delighted to meet new people.

While the kind workers who freed him were charmed by the round-faced, gregarious kitty with the striking eyes, they wanted to make sure he stayed safe. So they brought him to our Milpitas Animal Community Center.

Draino Sam was dirty, his stomach was upset and his teeth needed a bit of work. But he was clearly used to human interaction. When no one claimed him, we put ads on various websites and monitored the local classified section — but still gained no leads.

## New Life, New Family . . . New Name?

Meanwhile at the shelter, Draino Sam’s popularity increased. He purred during vaccinations, asked for belly rubs during his behavior evaluation and enchanted everyone. And then there was that face. Our mystery cat was the George Clooney of the feline world.

With no one stepping forward to claim him, our medical staff cleaned him up for prime time. After being neutered, he went to our Sunnyvale Neighborhood Adoption Center in PETCO — where he quickly charmed Jake and Juliette. He’s since



moved in with them and they continue to shower us with pictures of him loving his new life and family. He even received a new name — he’s now known as Sir Reginald Tubbins, a most worthy moniker for such a regal cat.

Yes, Sir Reginald Tubbins has certainly come a long way from his “Draino Sam” days. And every step of the way was made possible by your support. Thank you!



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