

Fall
2015

All Things Pawsible



HUMANE
SOCIETY
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VALLEY



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Smile About

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From the President

Our community extends far beyond those that find their way to our doors. Sometimes the people and pets that need us the most can't get to us — so we find a way to get to them. We engage with those around us and offer assistance where we can.

It's that offering and act of engagement — which is only possible thanks to your compassionate support — that allows us to be an effective safety net for pets in Silicon Valley.

In this newsletter, we celebrate our Regional Rescue Program and the lives that have been transformed as a result. Nearly one third of the more than 3,700 lives directly saved through our programs last year can be attributed to Regional Rescue. Through this unique, life-affirming program, built on a foundation of collaboration with other shelters in our area, we act as a safety net for animals that need us most. Twice a week, our Regional Rescue team goes to nearby shelters and returns with animals that need additional resources — resources we are uniquely equipped to provide. Last year, we took in 1,013 animals from our partner shelters. This year, we're on track to take in over 1,600 animals from those same shelters. That's 1,600 animals whose lives will be saved and a countless number of human lives enriched through the love those animals have to give.

By working with local shelters, we're able to identify our community's most vulnerable companion animals — like Crumb and Chu, whose stories are profiled here — and provide them the extra assistance they so desperately need. As we impact those lives, we decrease the burden on our partner shelters, allowing them to help more animals as well.



We're proud to be an enduring part of this community. It's your generous support that enables us to do this lifesaving work. Thank you.

Carol Novello
Carol Novello, President

Humane Society Silicon Valley Animal Community Center

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2440 East Charleston Road
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500 El Paseo de Saratoga
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Crumb

Nothing ruins a first impression like bad breath. Little Crumb, the waggy spaniel mix, was suffering from a monumental case of halitosis. Unfortunately the embarrassing social effects of his breath were the least of his problems. Because all tail wags aside, Crumb was in an awful lot of pain.

When our transfer team first met Crumb at another shelter, it wasn't his breath they noticed, it was his friendly demeanor and laid-back nature. Housed with a much larger dog, he obviously liked other dogs, and when brought in to meet the team, he was happy to greet everyone. Crumb was a great dog.

A great dog with appalling breath.

By providing our adoptable pets with care on par with private practices, we're able to offer potential adopters happier, healthier animals.

As with all the other pets profiled in this newsletter, the wavy coated pooch with the sturdy little body landed himself a one way ticket to our Animal Community Center, and into the competent, caring hands of our vet staff and their new dental machine.

Bad teeth might seem like a minor issue but the health effects for dogs can be far-reaching. Dental disease can contribute to heart problems and places stress on the kidneys and liver. While dental issues are never comfortable, in Crumb's case it was downright torturous. With too many teeth in his mouth, Crumb's mouth was crowded and dental disease had set in. One tooth even protruded from the roof of his mouth. For his whole six years, Crumb had been plagued with one enormous, mountain sized toothache that never let up.

Which is where the generosity of the The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation came in. Their donation of a dental

X-ray machine and dental training for our staff meant we could not only make Crumb more comfortable, we could make him healthier and improve his quality of life for years to come. And it doesn't end with Crumb. By providing our adoptable pets with care on par with private practices, we're able to offer potential adopters happier, healthier animals. Our veterinary staff performs approximately 250 dental cleanings and extractions a year on our adoptable dogs and cats. That's a lot of happier, healthier animals.

With the extraction of ten painful, crowded teeth, Crumb's demeanor shines even brighter. He plows through his breakfast with gusto and parades through the adoption lobby with a volunteer, his resplendent copper and white tail waving like a banner, on his way out to the yard to meet a potential adopter. With a smile this bright, his future surely is as well.

If you'd like to make a donation designated for something close to your heart, please contact our Director of Development, Major Gifts Amy Winkleblack at amy.winkleblack@hssv.org.



Second Chances Start Here

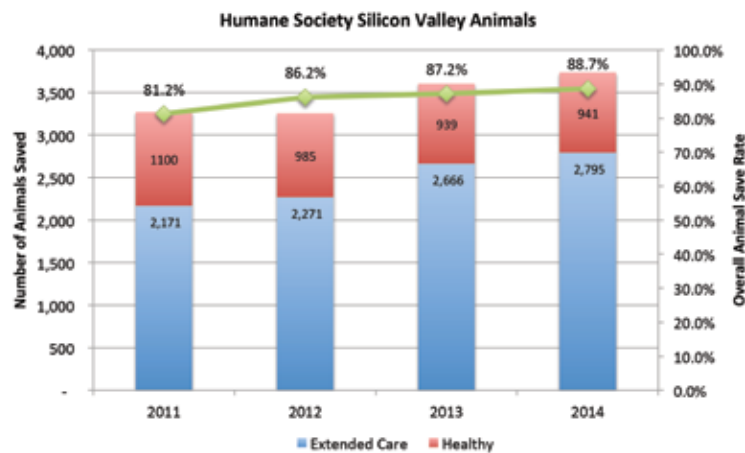
On an overcast Monday morning, Candy Holeman seems to be everywhere at once. She flies from the laundry room to the transfer truck parked in the lot, bearing armfuls of towels and blankets, a clipboard tucked under one arm.

She darts from department to department like a hummingbird. Asking questions like, what medical conditions can our vet staff accommodate right now? How many dog rooms do we have open? Cat suites? Is there space in the kitten nursery for any young'uns? Everything gets marked down on the clipboard. Every mark on the clipboard represents a second chance for an animal at the municipal shelter she's off to visit. Today there are a lot of second chances available. It's been a good weekend for adoptions and there are plenty of open dog rooms and cat apartments at Humane Society Silicon Valley. With the truck stocked, her clipboard stored and staff member Aminah Ameer in the passenger seat, Candy swings into the driver's seat.

We'll definitely see who we can take, but if anyone else needs help, they'll go too.

While public shelters, like police departments, have jurisdictions, we believe all animals in our community deserve a second chance for a loving home — regardless of where they come from. Which is why we work with area shelters to take their most vulnerable animals. It's those vulnerable animals that Candy and Aminah are looking for at the municipal shelter.

The municipal shelter has prepared a list of animals needing rescue — pets that need medical attention or are simply not doing well in a traditional shelter environment. Aminah and Candy give it a look-over in the parking lot as they walk in.



“We look in every room,” Aminah says. “We’ll definitely see who we can take, but if anyone else needs help, they’ll go too.”

When they check in with the shelter’s staff, some underage kittens that just came in are mentioned. After a quick call to our foster department, Candy nods. The kittens are on the bus. As are several cats in the isolation area.

Tostada, an older grey and white cat, and Star, a stunning white cat, have been unable to shake head colds. To keep their colds from turning into an outbreak, the municipal shelter has been forced to take them off the adoption floor, far from the eyes of potential adopters. Their paperwork is added to the ‘take pile.’

In a holding room, two gangly teenage kitten siblings are playing. A bonded pair, they were brought in at eight months old when the owner’s allergies became overwhelming. Aminah opens the cage and is immediately rushed with head-butts and batting paws.

Celebrate a special occasion with a special gift



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One kitty attempts to crawl up on her shoulder. With space at a premium at this shelter, two black cats are unlikely to find a home quickly. Aminah hands their paperwork to Candy, who adds it to the 'take pile.'

Room after room, the pair painstakingly goes through every cage and kennel. Aminah cradles a grey cat like a baby. They spy three very young, long-haired kittens whose adorable faces contrast with their hissing and spitting behavior. The paperwork pile grows. By the time the pair is ready to leave, numerous dogs, cats and kittens have been tapped for transfer.

Less than two weeks after arriving in our care, all of the adult cats have been treated for health issues and adopted. The playful brother cats leave first, finding a home with visitors to our Sunnyvale Neighborhood Adoption Center in PETCO. Then Bruce, the grey cat that Aminah held like a baby. The last one adopted is sweet Tostada, the adult grey and white cat that found love with a nice couple with a cat-loving Golden Retriever.

Thanks to you, all these animals were given second chances and have loving homes today!



HSSV's Regional Rescue Program is critical to saving lives in our community. Over one-third of the animals who come into our care are transferred in from public shelters where resources are limited. The Regional Rescue program exists as a safety net for both healthy and treatable animals in our Silicon Valley community. To support this vital program, please contact Amy Winkleblack, Director of Development, Major Gifts at amy.winkleblack@hssv.org or 408-262-2133, ext. 144.

A Cat Named Chu

There are kittens, there are cats, there are senior cats . . . and then there was Chu. When Chu was surrendered at a local shelter, her owner said the cat was about ten years old and was experiencing some medical issues. Something was obviously wrong with the outgoing Siamese with the leonine face. Her coat was ragged and matted, her teeth were decaying, she was emaciated and she appeared old beyond her years.

Which, as we were to find out, she was. Very old beyond her supposed age.

Knowing that the prospects for an older, sickly cat at a crowded city shelter weren't good, and swayed by her charming personality, our Regional Rescue team immediately made the decision to send Chu to us. Once she arrived, our medical team set to find out what was sapping Chu of her energy. They ran a battery of tests and ordered X-rays to get a better look at her stiff gait.

Chu was in rough shape. But the thing with being in rough shape is that a little love and TLC can make a huge difference.

It was during these tests and exams that her microchip was found. This wasn't shocking, as shelters routinely chip animals as a form of identification. What was shocking was the information contained on the chip. When our Customer Care staff called the chip company to trace it, they found it had been implanted a long time ago. Nineteen years ago, to be exact.

In addition to being ill, Chu was also nineteen years old!

While awaiting test results, our vet staff cleaned her teeth and shaved the matted hair from her neck. Once she was more comfortable, she began sucking down food.

"Chu was in rough shape," staff vet Dr. Andrea Berger remembers. "But the thing with being in rough shape is that a little love and TLC can make a huge difference."

There was a universal sigh of relief when Chu's test results showed nothing more than a treatable thyroid condition.



We were shocked to find out how old this cat really was!

"Thyroid is one of the more common issues we see in older cats, and one of the most treatable," says Dr. Berger. "And Chu responded to treatment like a champ."

Between the thyroid medication and the TLC, Chu soon bulked up, gaining two pounds. She was placed in the adoption area where she quickly had staff and volunteers wrapped around her paw. Healthy, gorgeous, friendly and sassy, she never saw a lap she didn't want to sit on or a person she didn't want to meet.

For two months, Chu worked the floor like a lounge singer, greeting potential adopters and entertaining staff and volunteers. So many people fell in love with her, but everyone had the same concern: her age and her medical condition. Until Laura came in . . .

A senior herself, Laura had come in looking for an older cat. She had a little trepidation about adopting a cat as elderly as Chu, but couldn't stop thinking about the ancient cat with the kitten demeanor. After talking to her vet, it was a done deal. A week later, the oldest cat to pass through our adoptions program left to spend her remaining days loved and adored by Laura.

Chu's heartwarming story is incredible — but what's more amazing is that it's YOUR help that made it possible for her to find someone to love and care for her!

Matching gift challenges inspire and encourage our community to support our lifesaving work. Sue and John Diekman recently made a \$500,000 matching challenge commitment for our Special Medical Fund that ensures treatable animals can get the care they deserve. Participating in this match requires a minimum donation or pledge of \$25,000, which can be paid over the next three years. Prospective donors wishing to help Humane Society Silicon Valley expand our capacity to help even more animals can contact Amy Winkleblack at 408-262-2133, ext. 144.

A Gentle Giant Gets His Groove Back

There's an old adage that dogs look like their owners. While that couldn't be further from the truth for volunteer Greg Price and his Great Pyrenees, Jackson, it is true that they do share some personality traits.

Greg, a mental health professional, radiates calmness and empathy. And Jackson, despite being 80 pounds of two-year-old pooch, also radiates wisdom and kindness. You also might notice that they both seem enormously patient. When you talk to Greg, he listens to you. When other dogs greet Jackson, he's incredibly tolerant of them.

What's harder to notice, though, is the slight limp and smaller leg that Jackson has. A miniscule difference that threatened to derail his life . . .

Greg has volunteered with the HSSV behavior department for a long time, and has seen a lot of dogs. Dogs that he wasn't compelled to take home. But Jackson was different, and Greg knew that right from the start.

"I met Jackson during a rescue intake trip to another area shelter. We needed a large dog for an introduction with a boxer we were evaluating, and someone went and got Jackson, who was also staying at the shelter," he recalls. "Upon seeing Jackson, the boxer growled, lunged and snapped at him. Jackson turned his head and backed up, immediately diffusing the situation. What better dog skills could you ask for?" Greg felt an immediate connection to the big dog with the peaceful soul.

When our Rescue Bus returned to our Animal Community Center in Milpitas that afternoon, Jackson was on it as well.

While Jackson's temperament was sound, the gentle giant's body was not. A deformed kneecap had left his rear left leg

Each year, Humane Society Silicon Valley sees an increasing number of incoming animals that require behavioral or medical intervention. Our organization continues to serve these animals requiring extended care, while still saving 100% of our healthy population and increasing the number of animals saved. So far in 2015, we have already achieved a 92% save rate for all animals in our care.



almost unusable. Jackson was young — barely a year and a half old — but he had probably never had much use of that leg. As a result, the muscles were atrophied and shrunken. In a smaller dog, an amputation wouldn't have been a big deal, but in a giant breed it was more complicated.

Losing a leg can significantly reduce the quality of life for extra large dogs. That said, trying to fix the leg would require a complicated procedure and a long road to recovery. A road that Humane Society Silicon Valley was willing to take. Greg and his partner Wayne were also more than willing to see Jackson through the necessary treatment and care. They volunteered to foster Jackson while he underwent surgeries and therapy.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to bring in Dr. Roush, an orthopedic specialist, to give Jackson the best possible chance of keeping his leg. Due to the severity of the problem, he needed two surgeries to correct the issue. Each surgery required a rest period, which was challenging for Jackson, who had already settled into a routine of daily walks and going to work with Wayne.

"Keeping Jackson inactive after the surgeries was the biggest challenge," says Greg, "He still has quite a bit of puppy in him."

Now that both surgeries are behind them, Jackson and Greg are getting ready to start physical therapy.

"It's never going to be a normal, athletic leg," says HSSV veterinarian Andrea Moore, who has overseen Jackson's therapy. "But he's going to have a terrific quality of life."

A very good quality of life, indeed. After Jackson's treatment is complete, Greg and Wayne are going to adopt him to make him officially part of the family. A family that is made more complete thanks to you!

Team Puppy

If you walk through our Administrative Area on most days, you'll hear a fair amount of yelping and whining coming from our finance office. No, it has nothing to do with budget crunches or expense reports. It has to do with puppies.

When underage puppies come in, they're sent to a foster home. But finding foster homes can take time. Puppies, with their limited immune systems, are better off far from high traffic areas. Enter our finance team members and their huge hearts.

Tucked in the back of our Administrative Area, it's a perfect place to stow vulnerable babies while they're waiting for foster parents. Set up with portable playpens, toys and the loving attention of our finance staff, it's a dream nursery for orphaned babies. Many of the finance team members also



Finance staff member Brooke Bueno with foster puppy Charlie.

These young dogs receive loving care and attention to give them the best start in life.

have super puppy-patient pooches they bring to work who show the little ones how to behave!

And if foster homes can't be found? Sometimes Team Puppy takes their work home with them, fostering the foundlings until they're old enough to be adopted.

Now that's some dedicated staff.

You can help! Being a foster parent is a very tangible way to help save lives. Our foster homes allow us to expand our capacity beyond our four walls and help more animals. For more information on fostering, visit our website at www.hssv.org/foster.

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