



All Things
Pawsible

November 2013



Believe

Creating Happy Endings for Special Pets



Hello Friends!

Believe. It's at the heart of everything we do at Humane Society Silicon Valley. By believing, we create a place where possibilities exist for every animal, where the unlikely becomes likely and happy endings are the norm. We believe that there are better solutions for feral kittens like Hamilton. We believe that elderly animals like Kitty the Cat and Miss Markle deserve a chance at a loving home. We believe that pets like Tee can be a loving member of a family with patience and work. We believe that people like Cindy really do exist for animals like Valentine and that it's our duty to try to find them.

It is this belief that creates outcomes that would have been almost impossible a decade ago. Belief runs deep at Humane Society Silicon Valley.

While no one could have foretold the specific endings for these animals, Humane Society Silicon Valley creates a place where wonderful things can happen. And do happen. We work hard to create partnerships in our community that allow them to happen. By believing, we manifest the impossible.

We couldn't do it by ourselves. Without a community of like-minded believers supporting the work we do, we'd be lost. Thank you for believing. Thank you for creating possibilities for not only these animals, but for every animal in our care.



Thank You!
Carol Novello
President

Humane Society Silicon Valley

901 Ames Avenue, Milpitas, CA 95035 (408) 262-2133 www.hssv.org

Humane Society Silicon Valley is an independent nonprofit organization. We are not governed by or affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) or the American SPCA (ASPCA) and receive no funding from these organizations.

Adoptions/Lost & Found

M-F: 12 pm–7 pm Sat & Sun: 10 am–7 pm
Adoptions: (408) 262-2133 x150
Lost & Found: (408) 262-2133 x110

Pet Store

M-F: 12 pm–7 pm Sat & Sun: 10 am–6:30 pm
(408) 262-2133 x164

Grooming

By appointment only
(408) 262-2133 x124

Spay/Neuter

Drop-Off: M–Sat 6:30 am–7:30 am
Pickup: Same Day 4 pm–6 pm
(408) 262-2133 x108

Vaccinations/Microchips

M-F: 9 am–6 pm Closed 12-1 pm
Sat: 9 am–5 pm Closed 12-1 pm
Sun: 10 am–3 pm
(408) 262-2133 x108

San Jose PETCO

Every day 10 am–7 pm
500 El Paseo de Saratoga, San Jose
(408) 370-2732

Sunnyvale PETCO

Every day 10 am–7 pm
160 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
(408) 720-1419

Our Medical Center is NOW OPEN SUNDAYS

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Hamilton Hits the Big Time



With the snap of a humane cat trap closing behind him, a little gray kitten with a mustache was launched on a meteoric rise to fame and fortune. Deals with major clothing retail chains, the Today show, newspaper covers in numerous countries, his own web series for a cable channel - it's been a very busy year for Hamilton the Hipster cat. With over six hundred thousand Instagram followers, the mustachioed off-spring of a feral cat is an Internet phenom.

When community cat caretaker Sandy trapped the kitten in San Jose, it was impossible to predict that this little guy would go on to become a scion of internet cat-fame.

"The photos were so cute and funny, with his perfect little mustache, that I thought other people would like them, too."

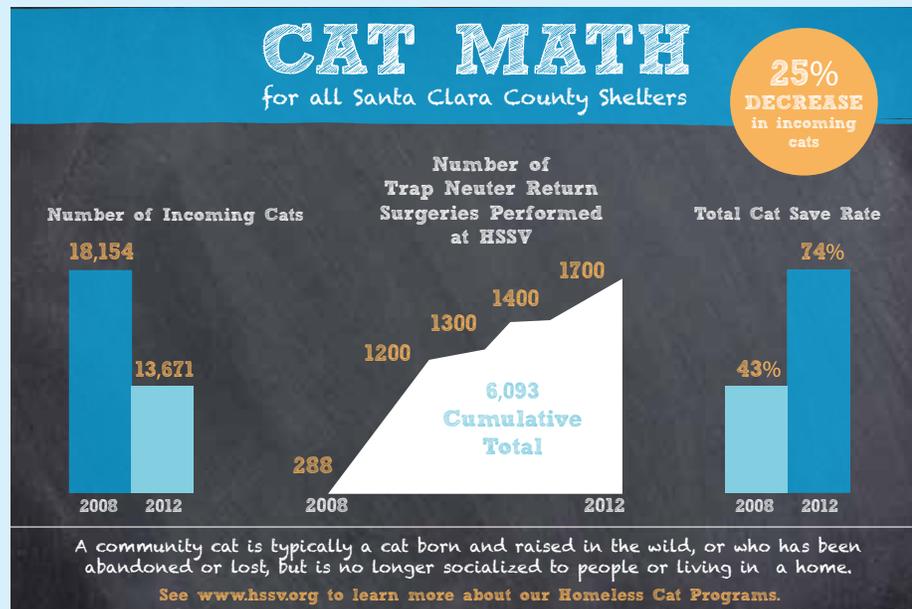
"He was curled in a ball in the corner of his cage. Any time anyone came near him, he would just hiss", owner Jason Stowe says of his first meeting with Hamilton. Even so, he was drawn to the kitten with the unusual face. When the counselor took the kitten out and handed him to Jason, he promptly fell asleep in his arms. "There was an immediate connection between the two of us."

It wasn't an easy journey. Jason gave Hamilton the bathroom as a quiet space before giving him access to the rest of the house. But for a kitten born without a home, adjusting can take some time. "I didn't even see him walk for the first two months. I'd go in and he would have used the litter box and eaten his food but he'd be back in his box. I'd take him out and he would sit on me

but he wouldn't walk." After two months of Jason's patient coaxing, Hamilton finally decided that he had had enough of the bathroom. "He started meowing one day, we let him out and he started exploring the house". And Jason started taking pictures. And putting them on Instagram. "The photos were so cute and funny, with his perfect little mustache, that I thought other people would like them, too".

Other people did like them. Within a month, Hamilton had a few thousand followers. Then a San Francisco paper did a story on him that went national. After that it was *The Today Show* and international media. No matter how high Hamilton's star rises, Jason never forgets Hamilton's beginnings.

"We're big advocates for adoption. We feature one adoptable animal a week on Hamilton's Instagram page. There are enough perfect pets out there that you don't need to spend a ton of money or go to a pet store to find one," he says. "And when you pick the harder ones, the shy ones, it's more special. I've had other cats in my life, and they were playful kittens when I met them, but none of them has been as loving as Hamilton. He's the best cat I ever had."



Be Mine, Valentine



To look at scruffy little Valentine, you would never guess there was anything wrong with her - just another sweet dog with insistent brown eyes and a wide smile. She bounces around with the usual vigor of a one year old dog. She sits on laps, gives kisses and races zoomies around the yard with her sister, Tina. You would not know, to see her, about the sad, barren yard where Animal Control found her, or that she is not quite like other dogs. You would just think she was a happy dog, with a mom and dad who love her and a sister-pup she's been with her whole life. That is probably the way Valentine would like it.

When Animal Control rescued the three little terrier mixes, they were living in a dirt yard with no access to food or water. Undersocialized, they huddled together in fear when people approached. Once they got to us, our behavior department jumped in to socialize them and volunteers took turns taking them out and

introducing them to a world they had never seen. They got unlimited love and hugs.

Then, during a routine medical exam, we learned of Valentine's devastating heart issue. An EKG and a consultation with a veterinary cardiologist confirmed the worst: the bravest of all three of the pups had a significant, irreparable deformity of her heart. While she was happy and comfortable for now, it was unlikely that she would live long. She was at constant risk for sudden heart failure.

Within hours, Valentine's story was shared all over Facebook. We are in awe of the power generated by a community that cares!

As our team discussed what to do, questions of her quality of life loomed large. At that moment, she had a wonderful quality of life—no suffering at all. Could a home be found that could accept and love Valentine for the time she had left knowing that it would likely be a short life?

We had to try. We posted a blog with her picture and story on it. Within hours, Valentine's story was shared all over Facebook. We are in awe of the power generated by a community that cares!

Meanwhile in Fremont, Cindy opened her computer to check her Facebook page. She had lost her dog over a year ago, but she didn't feel ready to love again. But when she saw the link her daughter posted on her Facebook page—a blog about a little black dog with a sweet face and a troubled heart—she called her husband into the room. They read the story. Both felt instantly connected to Valentine. "Her sweet precious face, those eyes, you could just sense her spirit by looking at her," Cindy recalls.

The next morning Cindy called Nichole Boudreau, our Director of Customer Care, certain that someone else would have already taken the little dog. "Nichole told me I was the first person to call. I went down that day and she came home with me. We know the facts, but we do hope that she'll beat the odds."



A few days later, Cindy and Greg checked the website and saw Tina, Valentine's sister, was still available. You guessed it—now they have two terriers. "They keep me on my toes—they play constantly!" Cindy laughs.

"Everyone says we're doing such a wonderful thing but honestly, we're the lucky ones. What Valentine gives us is much bigger than what we give her. She's been a blessing to us every day".



President's Circle

With deepest gratitude for the lives you save



How You Can More Closely Connect with our Life-Saving Mission

Our President's Circle members work hand-in-hand with us to save lives and affect deep change in our community when supporting the life-saving programs illustrated right here in our newsletter.

By giving \$1,000 or more a year, cumulatively, to Humane Society Silicon Valley, you'll join our President's Circle — and be further inspired by many unique opportunities to connect directly with those lives you help us save, while fully experiencing our mission here.

Learn how to deepen your relationship with us by visiting :

hssv.org/presidentscircle

Tee's Wild Ride Home

You gotta be tough to make it on the mean streets. Particularly if you weigh in at a whopping seven pounds and your long, soft coat has matted into dreadlocks that fall in front of your eyes, impairing your vision.

This is how the police found Tee, running amuck in a trailer park and snapping at anyone who came near her. She was skinny, matted and obviously needed care but wasn't about to let anyone get close enough to provide it. If you asked Tee, she probably would tell you she was doing just fine on her own, thank you very much. On a sunny Sunday, a good Samaritan called Animal Control to let them know she was out there. Animal Control wasn't available that day, so two animal-loving police officers went out to try to give the little dog some assistance.

This little dog was having none of it. After biting one officer and menacing the other, they managed to get her in the back of the police car. In the short drive between the local neighborhood and Humane Society Silicon Valley, Tee managed to do what a million criminals have tried and failed to do in the past:

She snuck out of the back of the police car.

En route to Humane Society Silicon Valley—and furious and frightened—she had squeezed under the barrier between the back and front, wedging herself under the driver's seat. Cookies wouldn't coax her out. Attempts to leash her failed miserably. Finally, after disassembling some car parts, we were able to rescue her from herself, pulling her out with animal handling gloves. Once out, she was wary but amicable. She certainly did not want to make friends, but was ecstatic to tuck into a big bowl of dog food. Pushing her facial dreadlocks out of the way on the edge of the bowl, she snarfed down her entire dinner and began playing with a stuffy toy.

We see a lot of small, scared dogs here. Now that the police were gone, Tee was not a small, scared dog. She was a small annoyed dog who liked her toys and her food but really wished we'd keep our hands away from her. She didn't mind us being around, she just didn't want to be handled. You could throw her toy for her but any attempts at touch were met with a yelp of outrage and a rapid retreat.

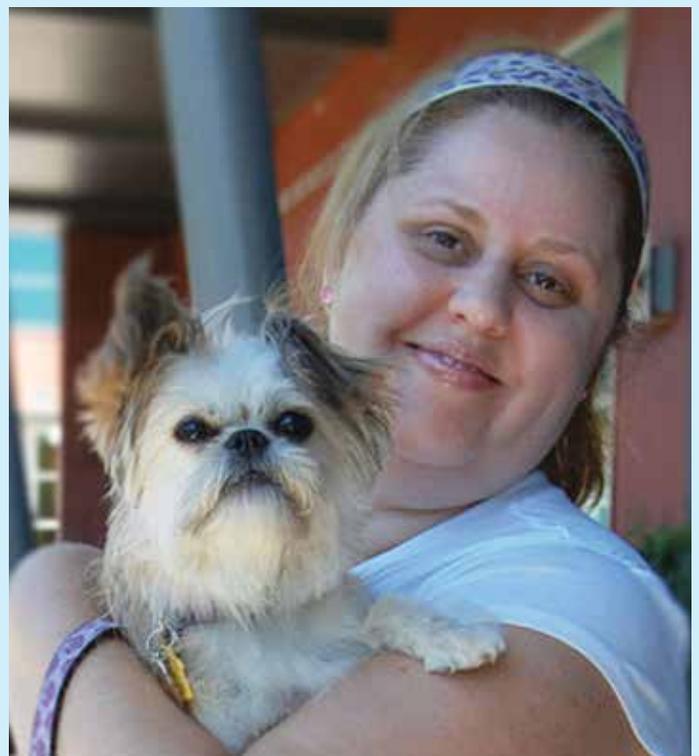
Due to her assault on the officer, Tee served a mandatory 10-day bite quarantine—plenty of time to get her ready for adoption. After sedating her, we vaccinated her and relieved her of her painful matting. A smooshed puggie face peeked out with bright, alert eyes.

During her quarantine, staff spent time getting to know the little dog. Visits from people she knew would cause her to erupt in a full-on gymnastics display of joy—she spun, she leapt, she danced on her back legs while deftly dodging any petting attempts. She would even sit on your lap and give kisses, provided the food kept coming and you kept your hands to yourself.

Then one day it happened. While Tee was chewing on a greenie on the lap of a staffer, a careful hand was laid across her back. Tee stiffened, gave a dirty look, and went back to what she was doing. No jumping, screaming or theatrics. Just an acknowledgement that while she didn't like it, she would tolerate it.

After that, she made progress rapidly. First, one staff member, then a volunteer, then others were able to touch her. She discovered she liked to have her butt scratched. That the groomer was good for a lot of treats. That the only thing better than sitting on a lap was getting your ears rubbed while you were in that lap.

A month after Tee was pried from under the seat of the police car, Kristin came in to meet her. The two hit it off immediately. Tee walked out with her new mom and put her wild ways behind her.



Tee with her new mom, Kristin

A Much Beloved Kitty

Technically, Kitty the Cat was homeless. But it would be hard to say he didn't have a family.

Months before, Tess had noticed an elderly kitty outside in her neighborhood. It was impossible to ignore Kitty, who was completely deaf and incapable of hearing himself. His plaintive meowing could be heard around the block. He seemed out of sorts, frightened and lost. Asking around, she learned her elderly neighbor had passed. Whoever had cleaned out his house had placed his beloved cats outside in the dead of winter. Tess and her roommate set out to bring them to safety. They first got Kitty, fifteen years old. Then Miss Markle, a declawed sixteen-year-old tabby. They brought the cats to Humane Society Silicon Valley.

Miss Markle was quickly adopted. Because of some kidney and other health issues, Kitty the Cat bounced between adoptions and the medical center. Regardless of his location, he had a regular slew of visitors. Friends and staff adored the talkative, friendly feline with the booming voice.

"He was a go-to cat for the volunteers," cat socializer Laurie remembers. "If someone came in and they had never been around cats, we'd take them to see Kitty the Cat. Volunteer Jane Bramwell used to carry him around like a baby. It was his favorite thing."



While he met numerous potential adopters, none were the right fit. Meanwhile, his health began to deteriorate. Kitty the Cat's kidneys were failing. His arthritis made it difficult to keep him comfortable. His frequent stomach issues caused him to lose weight and weaken. Maintaining a decent quality of life was becoming impossible. When he lost his ability to tolerate his arthritis medicine, the decision was made. We would not let him suffer.

Many staff and volunteers had asked to be notified if Kitty became critically ill. His final few days were full of visitors, treats and love. A steady stream of friends and admirers came to say goodbye. Volunteer Laurie Holst and employee Denny Ying were with him when he passed, holding him, letting him know he was loved.

"He touched all of us. He was one of the ones so many of us bonded with," Laurie says. "He had a lot of love at Humane Society Silicon Valley."

Volunteers Jane and Malcolm Bramwell keep his ashes in their bedroom, next to those of their cat Burt. Tess, the woman who initially found him, continued to check up on him during his time with us.

"Kitty the Cat was adopted" says Director of Development Bridget Keenan, "by many people, and he had a wonderful life in his final months." As for the staff and volunteers that loved him, all of them were grateful for the time they got to spend with the unusual cat with the booming voice.

Walk 'n Wag



Congratulations and sincerest thanks to all our Walk 'n Wag 2013 fundraisers - You raised \$230,000 in lifesaving funds for the animals! A special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, NVIDIA; and Top Sponsors Petco Foundation, TiVo, and GoDaddy, who helped us celebrate in style on Saturday, October 5th

A Lifesaving Celebration

*It wasn't just a party for dogs & people, it was a celebration of lives saved.
September 8th was our 8th annual Foster Dog Reunion.*

There are many reasons for dogs to be placed in foster care. Sometimes puppies are too young to be available for adoption, sometimes a dog is being treated for a medical issue, and sometimes they are simply too shy to be in a shelter—even an Animal Community Center as quiet, clean and friendly as ours. Many of these dogs were transferred in from other shelters where there were not enough resources to care for them.

The reality is, without our fabulous foster parents, saving those lives would be impossible for us.

To see the dogs at the Foster Dog Reunion that day, you wouldn't know that any of them had ever had a care in the world. The dogs dance in delight at the sight of their former foster families and then run back to their adopters—a testament to the strength of their new bonds and the joy of their past ones.

By partnering with foster families, we can save more animals with greater needs.

It's just one more way that by believing we can do something, and by asking our community to help, we can make what seems impossible **possible**.

