



All Things Pawsible

Winter 2013

Puppy Love

A Tale of Ten Puppies

Love in Your Neighborhood

Dog Adoptions
Now in Saratoga

Love to Win

The Best Kind
of Contest





Hello Friends,

Love is in the air. Maybe it's the lingering aroma of roses and chocolates from Valentine's Day.

Or the joy we're feeling over all the kittens we've been saving. Or the warm sun through the window that carries the hope of spring. Speaking of spring, love will definitely be in the air soon for all of our animal friends – so make sure to tell your neighbors, friends and family to hurry and take advantage of our February Spay and Neuter Month special discounts at the Medical Center.

In this issue, we're celebrating all the ways our entire team is spreading that loving feeling. Please join me in giving some big hugs to all of our kitten foster family volunteers ("Whole Lotta Love"), the Triage/Receiving/Medical and Volunteer team that rescued a mom, dad and their ten puppies ("Puppy Love"), the loving crew of friends that pitched in to create their own Pet Pantry food drive ("Love To Win"), and all of our staff and volunteers who live their love of animals every day ("Who Do You Love?"). You're going to love their stories.

Your continued support of our vital programs helps us advance our lifesaving work across the Silicon Valley community.

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 offers compassionate and innovative medical care, training, grooming, adoptions and educational programs to enhance the human-animal bond.

"Our mission is to save and enhance lives"

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: 10:30 am-8 pm Sat & Sun: 10 am - 7 pm
Adoptions: (408) 262-2133 x150
Lost & Found: (408) 262-2133 x110

Pet Store

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

Grooming - by appointment only
(408) 262-2133 x124

Medical Center

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 Sat: 9 am-5 pm
(408) 262-2133 x108

Neighborhood Pet Adoption Centers

Open every day 10 am-6 pm

San Jose PETCO

500 El Paseo de Saratoga, San Jose
(408) 370-2732

Sunnyvale PETCO

160 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
(408) 720-1419

Board of Directors

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Puppy Love

A Lot Of Extra Love and Care Went Into Making These Puppies Healthy

It all begins with Lola and Lobo, the mom and dad of a litter of TEN gorgeous German Shepherd Husky puppies. Turns out, they weren't always so gorgeous. And neither was Lola.

"She looked awful," remembers Customer Care and Adoption Specialist Erlana Rutherford. "Lola's owner brought her in for a scheduled appointment to be spayed through our Preventing Unwanted Pregnancies (PUP) program. But she was in really bad shape with open sores and scabs all over her body. She had a lot of fur missing and was really uncomfortable. She was giving off a pretty bad, yeasty smell."

The medical team did an immediate examination and diagnosed Lola with Sarcptes, a form of mange caused by microscopic mites in the dog's skin.

"Canine scabies is a common condition," according to Dr. Carol Campbell, Veterinarian at Humane Society Silicon Valley.

"Left untreated, it will often result in severe infection." So the medical team began treatments immediately. Just as quickly, they sent Lola's owner home to fetch the ten puppies and Lobo.

"The moment he pulled up at our door we could see that Lola had transmitted her condition to the pups," Erlana Rutherford

remembers. "Lobo was also infected. But as a big adult, he was still holding up pretty well."

The owner was informed that we would be unable to admit the puppies into the PUP program until they were healthy again – and that complete treatments would likely take four to six weeks. He was disappointed but really wanted to help work it out. "Our goal is always to help the client," assures Rutherford. "Like most animal owners, he really cared about Lola, Lobo and their puppies. He just wasn't sure how to restore and preserve their health." For Rutherford, this medical situation was also an educational opportunity. "We gave him the right information, and the right tools and treatments."

Puppy Assembly Line

Delivering treatment for ten puppies is a complex process. "I worked with the team from Triage to set up an assembly line out in the parking lot," Rutherford smiles. "First we'd move all the puppies into a clean pen. Then we cleaned out the crate they came in. Taylor would weigh each puppy. Then Cindy prepped the appropriate amount of medicine for the size of the puppy. Monica and AnnaLisa would administer the treatment. And then I'd swoop in with the next puppy and take the treated one away to wait in the nice, clean crate. The process took five people about an hour to complete."

On the day of the final treatments, the puppies remained at Humane Society Silicon Valley to enter our PUP program. The program provides families in the community with free spay surgery for their dog, in exchange for the family turning over the puppies to us. We then provide full spay/neuter services,

all vaccinations, and microchipping. Before the puppies could be made available for adoption, however, they were kept under observation for a few days. During that time, Dr. Campbell provided regular examinations to make sure their condition had been fully arrested.

"Between the treatments and the spay and neuter surgeries, it was quite a big job," Dr. Campbell

remembers. "But thanks to the super efforts of our medical staff, the intake team and our volunteers, all the puppies were fully healed and ready to find homes."

Like all puppies that come to Humane Society Silicon Valley, these littermates got a lot of attention. Each of them received hours of love from our volunteers as they performed extensive grooming to restore their skin and coats to a shiny luster. That was followed quickly by lots of love and hugs from dozens of moms, dads, and kids hoping to add a beautiful and healthy new member to their family. Within a few days of being declared available for adoption, all of the puppies were adopted into loving homes.



Olive & Wrigley

Photo courtesy of John Montgomery

Bundles of

Thanks to your support, we saved 1,331 kittens in 2012. Our highest total ever. “That represents a 12.2% improvement over last year,” according to Beth Ward, Chief Operating Officer at Humane Society Silicon Valley. “We also had 8% fewer kittens come in, reflecting the success of our community-wide spay and neuter programs.” Those efforts have really begun to put a dent in the numbers of new kitten births across all of Silicon Valley and have made it possible to significantly reduce the number of kittens who remain at risk.

“I’m thrilled and grateful to our very dedicated teams for this progress,” asserts Carol Novello, President of Humane Society Silicon Valley. “But we still have more lives that we need to save.” Novello shares credit for the consistent lifesaving increases with our partners across Silicon Valley. “The

coordinated efforts of the six shelters that make up our WeCARE alliance in Santa Clara County are having a very positive impact on community save rate.”

Commitment Is Making A Difference

“Humane Society Silicon Valley has made a commitment to every animal – including every kitten – that crosses our threshold,” Novello continues. “Whether it weighs two ounces or two pounds, our two primary goals are the same: save it, and find it a home.”

Meeting those goals require additional lifesaving resources. So in 2012, with special support from many of our cat-loving donors, we were able to open our new kitten nursery. “The new kitten nursery has been a vital part of our ability to save more kittens,” according to Novello. “It’s given our

Fostering Kittens Takes A Whole Lotta Love

By Michelle Bedard

One of the best moments for any foster family is when you first meet your new litter. Two words: so adorable! Two more words: total trouble! I picked up this new litter on the day the folks at Humane Society Silicon Valley were taking holiday pictures of the kittens I will take home. The big one, the male that my kids will call Drake, is peeking out of a Christmas gift box as the photographer works to catch him in his most playful pose. Drake paws at the gift ribbons and hops in and out of the box, unaware of the small crowd that has gathered to watch his precious antics with delighted, “oooh’s” and “ahh’s.” The little dude is a star. Of course, he’s also a scamp.

The minute Drake gets to my house, we notice that he never rests – just constantly claws and climbs. Teddy is the furriest, with long tufts flowing from his ears. He gazes at me with his close-set eyes, which makes him that much more adorable. The third brother, Chester, climbs up onto my computer to be close to me. Cute until he accidentally sends an email that I’ve yet to finish. Molly is the slowest to warm up to our family – so we will give her extra attention to help her become the sort of affectionate kitten that gets adopted quickly.

Neonatal kittens require regular feedings every 2 to 3 hours. Each little ball of fur takes about five minutes to feed. Five more minutes to clean up the mess all over their little faces, paws and ears. And then a few minutes to help each go potty – because they are unable to do that on their own at that age. It is really a 24/7 job.



The first few weeks of a kitten’s life are by far the most challenging for the kitten, too. Mortality rates among kittens can be as high as 50%. But thanks to our growing network of foster families, our new nursery, and the dedicated and talented staff – this kitten season, we saved a total of 1,331 kittens. Our save rate is over 30% higher than it was 5 years ago. That’s why we do it. Because it works. All our work, all our worry, all our love and all our fun pays off. It saves lives.

Y’know that two words thing? So adorable? In the end, all those hugs, all the little nose licks, all the hysterical kitten gymnastics – all that priceless kitten love totally outweighs any hardship. Being a foster has given me a whole lotta love.

Michelle Bedard is a writer. Her family has fostered kittens for two years. If you’d like to become a foster family, contact Jeri Seiden at x185 for info.

Love



Dr. Cristie Kamiya Joins Our Team

"This organization has an amazing potential to save more lives," beams Dr. Kamiya, our new Vice President of Medical Center Operations. "Most shelters struggle to save just the healthy animals in their care. Having achieved that goal for seven years in a row, Humane Society Silicon Valley is already working on the additional challenges of saving injured animals and kittens."

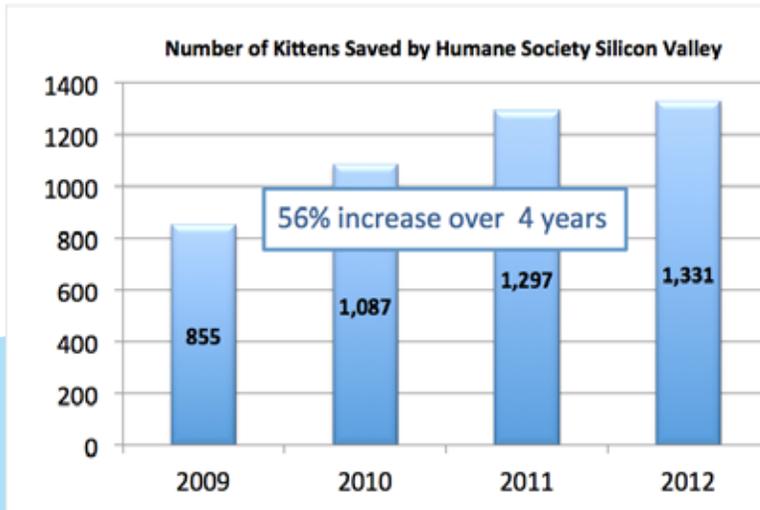
Dr. Kamiya views saving more kittens as addressing three challenges:

Infant care. "Most kittens that come to shelters are already weaned. They're pretty healthy, but they still need a safe place to eat, sleep and grow – just for a few weeks. But time is a luxury that most shelters don't have. Thanks to our nursery and our highly skilled and committed foster families, we are constantly growing capacity."

Preventative. "Most kittens we see are the offspring of what we call community cats. These are cats that may be feral or they may have human owners but they live outside a lot. They're well adapted to living around people. And they're really good at making babies." Kamiya is using community-wide data to target specific neighborhoods with intensified spay/neuter efforts.

Community. Limited resources force shelters to make choices that may put lives in peril. Coordinating the efforts of many shelters can make more efficient use of limited capacity and – combined with preventive efforts aimed at reducing overpopulation – reduce the lifesaving challenges faced by overpopulated shelters.

Beyond Today. For Kamiya, the future is already here. "Humane Society Silicon Valley is already leading the way in finding effective new solutions for saving and sheltering cats and kittens. We're proving that we can keep them alive and give them a good, healthy life. In the process, we're also giving the community exactly what they want: healthy, loving, spayed and neutered kittens to add to their loving families."



staff the capacity to care for a large number of kittens with a variety of special needs. And our growing army of volunteer foster families make the program scalable."

Saving More Lives Means Facing New Challenges

According to Novello, to continue to save more kittens, Humane Society Silicon Valley needs to take steps to improve our capability to care for neo-natal kittens, increase capacity in quarantine areas, improve efficiency of spay and neuter surgeries, and find homes for kittens more quickly.

To help us meet these next challenges, we've brought in Dr. Cristie Kamiya. "Dr. Kamiya has the perfect combination of training and experience," Novello explains. "In addition to over 20 years of sheltering experience, she is also one of only twelve people in the U.S. to have earned a PhD in Advanced Shelter Medicine as well as an MBA from Colorado State University." Dr. Kamiya will be tackling the multiple challenges of improving support systems and creating higher lifesaving capacity. Novello explains, "As we continue to put the right resources in place, we're moving in the right direction to save more kittens in 2013."

“Who was the first animal you ever loved?”

“I was just a little girl when we got Star, a big Lab mix with fawn and white fur. She used to jump up onto the top of the back fence – which was a pretty good balancing trick for a big dog. She’d hang out up there, barking at my brothers playing Frisbee out in the street.”

-Billie Perez, Medical Center



Kara & Grover

“I was in second grade when a friend’s family moved to Hawaii and had to leave behind their Basset Hound, Grover. Grover and I were both seven years old. He lived to be 18 – so he and I really grew up together. One day when we were at the lake and heading out on the boat, Grover decided he didn’t want to be left behind on shore. He started to swim toward us...and then suddenly just sank under the surface. My dad had to jump in and rescue him.”

-Kara Fike, Adoptions

“I was about six years old when my dad brought home Lupe. Just a little white dog with a curled up furry tail. He was such a tiny puppy that my dad put him inside an oatmeal box and gave it to my mom as a gift.”

-Mary Jackson, Volunteer since 2010

“My first love wasn’t even a real animal. My parents wouldn’t let me have a real dog, and our cat didn’t really like four-year-old me, so I bought a big stuffed mouse with my own money. I named him Mousey. I still have him – although after surviving so well for all those years, he recently got his nose chewed off by my current love, Ruby.”

-Stephanie Ladeira, Development



Stephanie, Ruby and noseless Mousey

“Pagan was my first dog. A beautiful Sheltie. My parents got her about a year before I was born, so she was their practice-child for raising me. Because I was an only child, I always referred to Pagan as my sister. She’s the one that inspired me to go into this career. Pagan passed away when I was 15, but I still carry her photo on my computer so she’s with me every day.”

-Ali Talley, Behavior & Training



Ali & Pagan

“We had this big tabby named Tisch that we used to carry around on our shoulders. My brothers and I used to dress him up in my doll’s clothes. Tisch just sat there and played along. He lived to be almost 21 years old. And I’ve had tabby cats ever since.”

-Jean Wilder, HSSV Volunteer since 2001

“Our spaniel mix, Rusty, was at my side on all of my after school and weekend adventures. In 1974 when my family moved from Washington State, Rusty had a difficult time adjusting from the rural environment where she grew up to the suburban sprawl of California. Me too. To this day I still reflect on this first love and how it impacted me as a pet guardian.”

-Mike Foltz, Animal Care and Services



Want some fun in the summertime?

Summer camp Registration is now open!

Go to www.hssv.org to register



Love to Win

"I have a lot of really competitive friends," beams Board Member Kara Berg. "So I needed to come up with the perfect challenge for them." Kara came up with the perfectly festive, dog-eat-dog contest: a prize for the person who brings in the most food to the Humane Society Silicon Valley Pet Pantry program.

This year, Kara and her friends donated a whopping 1,465 pounds of dry food, and an additional 496 cans of cat and dog food. "This has become an annual event," Kara insists. "It's growing fast." This year's winner by a landslide, Ben Oliphant, conducted his own pet food drive with his family. He put fliers out to his entire neighborhood and



Kara Berg, MaryKay Oliphant, Scamp, Chris & Ben Oliphant

claimed the prize of a new iPod when he collected and donated a total of 1,126 pounds of kibble and 164 cans!

Throughout her month-long challenge, Kara sends out motivational updates and reminders to everybody. "My favorite part is seeing how excited all my friends become. They really get into the challenge of doing more—getting more food for the animals. This is a great way for us to know that we're

really helping. It's tangible. We can picture our work actually helping a family."

Kara has a very personal connection that rises above the competition. "I have a dear friend who was given assistance through the Pet Pantry program," Kara remembers. "I wasn't aware of it at the time, but she told me that this program helped her keep her pets – which meant the world to her when she was going through a really tough

time in her life. I was really touched that our Pet Pantry had been so important to people I knew – that it absolutely helped her family. I just had to become involved."

Together, Kara and her friends are having a huge impact on the Pet Pantry program and on the community. "And we're having fun, too," Kara smiles. "We can't wait until next year."

Dog Adoptions Move to Your Neighborhood

Dogs are now available at our Neighborhood Pet Adoption Center in Petco San Jose at El Paseo de Saratoga. "Expanding to include dog adoptions has been a very important goal for us," says Aminah Ameer, Adoptions Manager for Humane Society Silicon Valley. "The new renovations Petco built for us have finally made it possible for us to have dogs available for adoptions here in the neighborhood."

Ameer indicated that her team in Saratoga, as well as at our second Neighborhood Pet Adoption Center at Petco in Sunnyvale, are constantly hearing from potential adopters that they want us to add dogs. "We tested the idea before," says Ameer. "But we didn't have the facilities to keep dogs here overnight. And transporting them back and forth every day was too disruptive to the animals." The new space that Petco constructed provides dedicated rooms for our dogs. "So far, it's working out great," Ameer adds. "We have a lot of dog lovers in these neighborhoods. Families are already rushing in to hug and pet the dogs. We're pretty sure that's going to lead to a lot more dogs finding loving homes."

Tell your neighbors and friends about our Neighborhood Pet Adoption Centers.

San Jose Pet Adoption Center
500 El Paseo de Saratoga
San Jose, CA 95130

Sunnyvale Pet Adoption Center
160 East El Camino Real
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

...And Kitten Love Too!

Bundles of Love

We've Saved the
Most Kittens Ever!

Whole Lotta Love

Loving the Work
of Fostering Kittens

