

Winter
2016

All Things Pawsible



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From the President

Our mission is a big one: to build a compassionate community by saving homeless pets.

Some pets, however, are more difficult to save than others. Some animals require more support, medical care and behavioral assistance. Some require a greater leap of faith. But every animal requires one thing: a caring community that's willing to be there for them, both with resources and support.

You are that community.

I love sharing these stories with you. Each one is cause for celebration, because we did it together. Your support made the impossible possible for animals like Sparkler, Centipede, Mirchi and the other cats and dogs whose stories you'll read.

The impact of these touching rescue stories extends far past the direct effect on the animals. It changed the lives of people like Cheryl, who found a healthier lifestyle through her relationship with her pooch, Penny. Or Aspen and her boyfriend, whose lives were forever changed by adding sweet Sadie to their home.

Your support allows us to be the hope for animals who are most at risk and out of options. Your donations enhance the lives of the people who adopt these animals and provide them a second chance for a happy, love-filled life.

Without you, our mission would be impossible. But if there's one thing our community of friends like you has taught us, it's that there's no such thing as impossible.



Thank you for all the possibilities you give to local animals. Together, there is nothing we cannot do.

Thank you.

Carol Novello, President

Humane Society Silicon Valley Animal Community Center

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901 Ames Avenue
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Sunnyvale Neighborhood Adoption Center in PETCO

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Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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408-425-1569
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Mountain View, CA 94043

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408-370-2732
500 El Paseo de Saratoga
San Jose, CA 95130



The Puppy with a Sparkling Personality

Sparkler had serious injuries to her legs that required numerous surgeries.

The road to recovery would be long and painful . . .

Sparkler loves to sit on Joanna Wlodarzewska's desk. Joanna is our Director of Development, Individual Giving Programs – so the two get lots of visitors! In most situations, seeing a dog perched on a keyboard, frantically wagging her tail, would elicit concern. But when it comes to this fluffy poodle mix, everyone is all smiles.

A few months ago, it was impossible to imagine Sparkler being able to walk, let alone jump on desks. Found as a stray, her condition was shocking. Our vets determined she had been hit and dragged by a car, resulting in skin and muscle loss on her front legs. Even worse was that she had been suffering like this for several days and infection had set in.

Her condition brought up numerous questions. Could she be saved? And what about her legs? Could we at least save one of them? Thanks to your generous support, the answer was, “Yes, we can save both legs.”

“My goal was to give her the best care and the best quality of life possible,” says Dr. Andrea Berger.

“My goal was to give her the best care and the best quality of life possible, period,” says Dr. Andrea Berger, our staff veterinarian assigned to her case.

While we treated the infection, a surgical plan was put together to ease her suffering and help her regain mobility. Over six weeks, Sparkler underwent four surgeries. Dr. Berger removed skin grafts from her

chest and reconstructed her legs. In between surgeries, Sparkler was anesthetized to have her legs treated to promote tissue growth.

And through it all Sparkler . . . well, she sparkled!

“She’s such a lovely dog,” says Dr. Berger. “Always friendly, always happy to see us. Even when she was in pain.”

After Sparkler’s surgery came the hardest part: recuperation. While her wounds healed, Sparkler needed to be on bed rest for weeks. Keeping an 11-month-old puppy quiet for that long is difficult, Luckily our Foster Team swung into action, finding a family willing to provide the love and care she needed.

She emerged from her confinement with full mobility and a confidence born of being in an adoring home. Because friends like you cared, Sparkler has a life full of possibility in front of her!

Celebrate a special occasion with a special gift



Give a tribute card. hssv.org/tribute

Brought Back to Life: Fox's Story

For all intents and purposes, there was nothing left of Fox to save. He was so hypothermic his body temperature didn't even register. On top of that, the one-pound kitten was an emaciated mess of foxtails and burrs. Though our vet staff knew he was still alive, he was severely dehydrated and his blood pressure was too low to register. A Good Samaritan had tried to save him by rushing the little stray to our Milpitas Animal Community Center, but it appeared to be too late . . .

Or it might have been too late had veterinary technician Candice Smith not been on duty that day. Candice, despite the appearance that all hope had been lost, did not give up. The main thing that makes kittens so adorable — their diminutive size — is the same thing that causes veterinary staff to work twice as hard when it comes to saving one in danger. With their tiny circulatory systems, kittens are notoriously difficult to get the necessary intravenous lines into.

This little kitten was nearly dead when he was brought in. But thanks to the support of friends like you, Fox is happy and healthy today!

"No one could have gotten an IV on this kitten but Candice. And without that IV, he never would have made it," says Dr. Andrea Moore, our staff veterinarian on duty when Fox came in.

Thanks to Candice's skill and diligence, our vet staff was able to give the little tiger kitten lifesaving fluids and raise his body temperature. Within just one day, he was moving around and head-butting everyone he met! Within two weeks, his weight had doubled and Fox was nearly ready for adoption.

While innovative programs and top-of-the-line facilities are critical to our lifesaving work, so is staff. By hiring the best, most mission-driven people, we're able to save even more lives. Lives like little Fox who,



on a recent check-up, played with Candice's hair while she held him.

"This is what we do," says Dr. Moore. "And this is why we do what we do."



When we approached Sue and John Diekman with our plans to treat and rehabilitate even more animals with medical conditions each year, they stepped up with a matching challenge offer. Gifts of \$25,000 or greater for Humane Society Silicon Valley's Special Medical Fund qualify. **The Diekmans will match these gifts dollar-for-dollar — up to \$500,000.**

Learn how you can make a \$25,000+ gift to the Diekman challenge or give to one of our other programs that touches your heart. Contact Stephanie Ladeira, Vice President of Development, at 408-262-2133, ext. 134 or stephanie.ladeira@hssv.org.

Sweet Sadie

No Botox. No surgeries. Yet Sadie still looks less than half her age. Despite being seventeen years old, this Silky Terrier was active and in great health. Always ready for a walk and some lap time. With so much going for her, it was doubly heartbreaking that the happy senior dog found herself in a shelter when her owner left the country.

Despite her spry outlook and health, a larger question loomed: could we find a home for a seventeen-year-old dog?

Older dogs are notoriously hard to place, and for super-seniors like Sadie, it can be nearly impossible to find a home for them. Most people can't see past the fact that they are already past their expected life span. Traditionally, shelters have been forced to make tough decisions with older dogs. Will a geriatric dog be able to handle the stress of a shelter situation? Will someone adopt them?

“We understood our time with her could be cut short. We wanted to give her a loving home and she has blessed us with so much love.”

Thanks to your support, we were able to make a non-traditional decision for Sadie! With our spacious adoption suites, kind-hearted volunteers and our Sue and Dick Levy dog parks, the stress on Sadie during her time here would be greatly reduced. And we know that our staff and people in our community have huge hearts, so we welcomed Sadie with open arms.

After a thorough check-up and dental cleaning, Sadie was made available for adoption. With ace volunteer photographer Jackie MacMillan on the job, Sadie soon had a portfolio of glamour shots posted on our website and social media. Within hours of posting Sadie's picture to our Facebook page, the unthinkable became reality: a seventeen-year-old dog became the most wanted pet in California!



Could we find a home for a seventeen-year-old dog . . . even one as sweet as Sadie?

As people liked, shared and commented, Sadie's picture and story touched something in the hearts of our community. Within hours, several people were waiting in our lobby to meet her — including Aspen Cole and her boyfriend, who rushed in to meet her. “I just saw her and instantly fell in love with her,” says Aspen.

These days, Sadie loves and is loved greatly in return. “We picked her for being a senior,” says Aspen. “We understood our time with her could be cut short. We wanted to give her a loving home and she has blessed us with so much love.”



A Cutie Called Centipede

“Kittens this young don’t survive without our help.”

That was the thought racing through staff members’ minds one late spring afternoon. It started when a concerned citizen made a sad discovery under her fence — four kittens still attached to the umbilical cord, and a fifth one tangled up in it. While the attached four had passed away, the tangled kitten was miraculously still hanging on.

Animal care staff rushed to untangle the little female kitten. Our receiving team counseled the concerned woman that had rushed the kitten to us and provided her with a free humane trap so she could return home and try to find the mother to save the baby.

You saved Centipede’s life and today she is doing well in her new home!

Meanwhile, Animal Care Manager Laura Birdsall offered to foster the kitten. The mortality rate for unweaned kittens is notoriously high — odds were slim this little buff tabby would make it through the night. But we knew we had to try to save her! With your generous support, this kitten had a fighting chance.

For two days, the little kitten hung on. Laura named her Centipede and fed her every few hours, waking through the night to check on her. Then an impossible stroke of luck: the feral mama cat had been trapped in the yard where Centipede was found. We rushed to HSSV’s Jungle Room to prepare a quiet place to reunite mother and baby.

The Jungle Room is a large, brightly painted room nestled in a quiet corner of our building. Set up with beds and soothing music, it was perfect for a mother cat unaccustomed to human contact. It was large enough to allow staff to clean and check in on the little family without stressing mom out too much.

The pair thrived. Centipede gained weight and her mother, dubbed Demeter — after the goddess of agriculture — settled in. When three other kittens came in without a mother, Demeter accepted them as her own and began nursing them as well.



Centipede was only hours old when she was brought in. Unless her mother was found soon, her prognosis was grim.

After weeks of care, the kittens were ready for adoption. The Good Samaritan opted to take Demeter back and have her live on her property, where she could make sure the now-spayed garden cat stayed out of trouble. And Centipede, the little kitten with the odds stacked against her, is thriving in her new home.

Thank you for giving kittens a second chance!

The seasonal deluge of kittens is difficult. But thanks to the support of friends like you in our community, we’re helping ease the burden on other local shelters. Through our network of foster homes, we’ve been able to dramatically expand our capacity to help. In 2014, we sent 1,038 kittens to foster homes. By August of 2015, almost 1,600 kittens have gone through our Foster program.

Where are these kittens coming from? While Good Samaritans bring in some, many are transfers from other shelters that don’t have programs for underage or unweaned kittens. **With more foster homes, we’re saving more lives than ever!**

To learn more about how to become a foster parent, please visit our website at hssv.org/foster.

3rd Annual Maddie's Pet Adoption Days

After almost a year in our Animal Community Center, little Mirchi danced on his way out. Chronically overlooked, today was his day — Mirchi finally found a family! And to give him a proper send off, a large group of staff and volunteers gathered together to walk the small white and tan dog and his new family out to their car. There were tears and good-bye hugs.

Maddie's Pet Adoption Days are the best days of the year for shelter pets across the country. Why? Because so many of them get a new home. This year, 308 animals from Humane Society Silicon Valley found a family during this event.

308 adoptions . . . in two days? You're probably asking, how do we do it?

It's all about partnership: when we unite, we can do the undoable.

First, you find an amazing partner, like Maddie's Fund®. This family foundation was endowed by the founder of Workday® and PeopleSoft, Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl. They were inspired by their late miniature schnauzer, Maddie, to start a foundation in her honor.

We took part in Maddie's Pet Adoption Days on May 30th and 31st. Using the incentive of fee-waived adoptions in select shelters, this weekend is dedicated to placing deserving animals with loving families. This year, over 5,000 animals in three states found forever homes!



Mirchi is just one of the 308 pets who found a home during this two-day event!

Second, you assemble an army to handle the adoptions. For our third year participating in this event, we had it down to a science, with over 150 volunteers and staff working together.

Third, you engage a community that cares. Friends like you came out in full force to support this event. People began lining up outside our doors hours before opening, waiting for the chance to meet our pets and fall in love.

And fall in love they did. Over 300 times! Not just with the kittens, pups and younger dogs, but also with fantastic pets that had previously been overlooked. Pets like Mirchi and Ranger, a loveable senior cat who drools in delight when you pet him.

It truly takes a village. And with our village, anything is possible. Thank you for making Maddie's Pet Adoption Days a success!

The Prometheus Front Porch Challenge

Pet-friendly housing saves lives. But some providers of pet-friendly housing go above and beyond to help four-legged members of their community . . .

Prometheus Real Estate group chose Humane Society Silicon Valley as one of the six organizations to partner with this year for their Front Porch Challenge. They pledged that for every dollar we raised through their online campaign, Prometheus would match it up to \$10,000 in addition to making a \$13,000 donation to kick-start this campaign. Not only did you meet their goal, you smashed it. Through their drive we raised \$39,000 for our animals!

A huge "Thank you" to Prometheus for not only building great neighborhoods that house lots of pets, but for being a great neighbor as well!



A Patched Up Paw for Penny

At eight weeks old, Penny was a sad little pile of wiry fur with “dinner plate eyes.” The limping, cringing definition of the word ‘forlorn.’

The result of an accidental litter, there wasn’t time or space in Penny’s family’s household for these unwanted puppies. They reached out to us for help, and through our Preventing Unwanted Pregnancies (PUP) program, we were able to take in the puppies and spay the mother and neuter the father.

Once Penny and her littermates were in our care, Penny would hide and flatten in fear when anyone

Not only did your support allow Penny to overcome her fear, it also allowed her to remain whole.



To look at Penny now, you would never imagine the pain and shyness she has overcome!

approached her. When she did move, she held her right paw up pathetically, which our vets discovered was due to a broken toe. Terrified of a leash or a collar, she had to be gently carried to her room.

Thankfully, Penny was in the right place. While our medical staff patched up her broken toe, our behavioral staff worked on socializing the young pup. After a few days, Penny had bloomed into a happy little pup sporting a blue cast and doling out kisses!

Not only did your support allow Penny to overcome her fear, it also allowed her to remain whole. Early treatment of her badly broken toe helped it heal quickly and normally. Any further delay in treatment might have led to the amputation of her foot.

Meanwhile, in San Francisco, Cheryl was contemplating getting older. She and her husband needed to get more exercise. They thought a dog could help them become more active, though they hadn’t had one in 25 years. Casually looking at shelter pets online, she fell in love with Penny’s face instantly!

There’s a little miracle in every match made in an animal shelter. Two years after seeing Penny online and rushing down to meet her, Cheryl’s adoration endures. “She’s so good for us,” Cheryl says.

Cheryl and her husband are out every day walking Penny. And the family was so happy with Penny, nine months later they came back and adopted Bixby as a companion.

It was impossible to know what the future held for Penny two years ago when she cowered in our lobby. What we did know is that, with your support, anything is possible. Especially a happy ending like this!