

Fall
2016

All Things



Pawsible



In This Issue:

Bronson's Beauty Shines Through

Saving Lives Through Spay and Neuter

Fire Couldn't Separate This Feline Family

A Hockey-Loving Kitty

Regional Rescue Match Available



901 Ames Ave.
Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

www.hssv.org

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From the President

Adoption is just the tip of the iceberg of what your support accomplishes . . .

It's easy to feel proud of a happy pet going into a deserving home. And while every adoption and animal saved is cause for celebration, it takes a lot more than that to make substantive and permanent change. Every adoption is a building block to create a compassionate community. But in order to sustain that community, we need a strong foundation and framework. Your support enables all of the programs and services to accomplish these objectives:

We prevent unwanted births through our spay and neuter programs.

We treat and rehabilitate homeless pets that might slip through the cracks.

We help keep pets in homes through programs that assist pet guardians in their time of need.

We educate future generations through our popular school and camp programs.

And, of course, we make adoption matches that enhance the lives of both the pet and the adopter.

With each prong forming a pillar, we are creating a brighter, more compassionate future. As we do this, our programs, services and quality of care are establishing standards for animal care and rescue programs across the country. As we improve our own community, we are influencing others. Your support enables us to change the world.

In this issue, you'll see stories of how each and every one of these programs is changing lives in a real way. We are proud of the work we do, and grateful to be a part of a community of friends like you who believe in our mission. Together, we are building a brighter future.



Thank you.

Carol Novello

Carol Novello, President

Humane Society Silicon Valley Animal Community Center

408-262-2133
901 Ames Avenue
Milpitas, CA 95035

Mountain View Neighborhood Adoption Center in PetSmart

408-425-1569
2440 East Charleston Road
Mountain View, CA 94043

Sunnyvale Neighborhood Adoption Center in PETCO

408-720-1419
160 East El Camino Real
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

West San Jose Neighborhood Adoption Center in PETCO

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

Saving Lives Through Spay and Neuter

The spay and neuter programs at Humane Society Silicon Valley are mission critical. Each year, this program prevents thousands of unwanted companion animals from being born.

Our spay/neuter efforts are driven by the desire to make spay/neuter accessible to those who need it most, and to make the biggest impact as quickly as possible. We provide free spay/neuter services for animals that reside in the following ZIP codes: 95111, 95112, 95116, 95122, and 95127. These areas are where 30% of the animals that come into Silicon Valley shelters come from — regardless of species or breed.

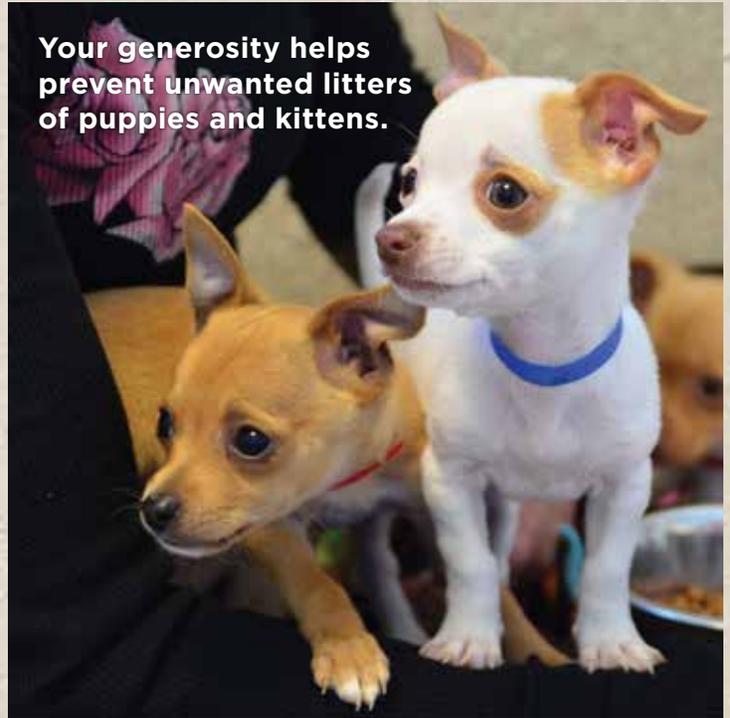
Offering free spay/neuter services to families that could not otherwise afford it is a critical component in solving animal homelessness.

Pets for Life recently reported that across the U.S., 87% of all pets are spayed/neutered, but that number is only 9% in low-income areas. This is an important insight into what is driving animals from the targeted region into local shelters. Offering free spay/neuter services and education to families that could not otherwise afford or access these services is a critical component in solving the root cause of animal homelessness.

Each year, more than 23,000 animals enter Silicon Valley



Your generosity helps prevent unwanted litters of puppies and kittens.



shelters. Our goal is to reduce that number to fewer than 20,000 over the next four years. Through this targeted program, we are already seeing the number of incoming animals drop.

Reducing the number of animals coming into all Silicon Valley shelters will relieve the stress on government-funded, publicly operated shelters and ensure stability in our own backyard. Previously, HSSV offered free spay/neuter services to just Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes in these ZIP codes, as they made up 28% of all dogs coming into community shelters and that percentage was historically increasing 18-25% each year!

To address this issue, HSSV obtained grant support in 2011 from PetSmart Charities to launch The Chihuahua Project, which enabled us to spay/neuter over 4,800 canines for free over a three-year period. As a result, Chihuahua intake in these zip codes has decreased by 12.5% and total community canine intake has decreased by 13%. We know this works!

Combined with efforts to increase adoptions and keep pets with their loving families, spay/neuter is an integral part of the lifesaving ecosystem to lower the number of homeless pets in Silicon Valley. As spay/neuter efforts are increased, we're able to use resources so generously given from friends like you to save more lives each year across our entire community.

Bronson's Beauty Shines Through

Bronson didn't have cosmetic work done, but his surgery definitely took years off his appearance . . .

When eight-year-old Bronson was found limping along the downtown streets, it was clear this pup had issues. An exuberant, silly, cotton ball of a dog, the poodle mix's bouncy demeanor belied his age and the fact that the simple act of walking was painful.

His temperament was perfect, but everything else about him was falling apart. His coat was matted. His teeth were layered with plaque and dirt. An ear infection was raging out of control. He had a heart murmur. And there was the issue with the back leg that caused him so much pain.

Bronson first went to an overwhelmed city shelter, and the staff did what they could to make him comfortable. They shaved him — freeing him from the prison of dirt and matted fur he had been wearing for a while — and got him on pain medication. X-rays indicated a problem with his leg that was beyond their capability to treat, so they reached out to us.

Bronson was transferred to our Milpitas Animal Community Center where our staff veterinarian, Dr. Andrea Moore, immediately investigated his painful back leg. It wasn't good. In the distant past,

"We're lucky our paths crossed and we found each other."

some trauma had left his hip out of joint and it had healed like that. As he walked, Bronson's bone ground against his pelvis, causing endless pain and a limp.

Treating and rehabilitating animals is a huge part of our five-pronged approach to saving lives. On paper, Bronson might have looked horrible, but the reality was that proper medical treatment would give him a healthy, longer life. Happy years he could spend loving and being loved. He might have had a rough life so far, but Bronson still had so much to offer.

Part of rehabilitation is having the right people for



Bronson was in poor shape when we first met him, but you would never know it to look at him now!



Now he's a happy guy and smiles all the time.

the job. Over the years, Dr. Moore has performed orthopedic surgeries on pets with similar circumstances as Bronson. Having vets on staff that can perform specialized surgeries and treatments allows us to offer that extra help and extended care to save more animals like Bronson.

By removing the top part of his hip, Dr. Moore could free Bronson from his pain and give him the ability to walk normally again. Within days of his arrival to our Animal Community Center, he underwent the procedure. He also had his teeth cleaned and his infected ear treated while he was under anesthesia. Bronson woke up to a brand new life — and a realigned body.

Like his namesake, Bronson was one tough guy when it came to his surgery and recuperation. After just six days he was walking on all four legs again. Within three weeks he was fully recovered — and was quickly adopted.

“He jumps and plays like he's a puppy,” says Bronson’s new mom, Patricia. *“We walk at a nearby park twice a day and he loves it. Now he’s a happy guy and smiles all the time. We're lucky our paths crossed and we found each other.”*



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 www.hssv.org/faithfulfriends

A Hockey-Loving Kitty

With one quick dash onto a crowded ice rink, an unassuming black kitten slid her way into the hearts of thousands of sports fans. She also became an unlikely ambassador for homeless pets everywhere.

It was a crowded night at the SAP Center hockey game this past May. The local San Jose Sharks were getting ready to take on the Nashville Predators. Suddenly, a kitten darted out from under the players' bench and onto the ice. While the team went on to win, the Sharks' management was concerned for the welfare of the tiny gatecrasher. They set a humane trap to capture the kitten, and called us for help.

Terrified and exhausted, little Jo PAW-velski became the center of a media frenzy. Weighing barely two pounds, the underweight seven-week-old kitten had obviously been living rough. She was also desperately shy — an unfortunate issue for a kitten the whole world wanted to see!

This tiny kitten's story promoted adoptions for animals everywhere.

As media requests poured in, President Carol Novello uncovered a unique solution for making little Jo comfortable while letting the world know how she was doing. With some decorating help from our friends at the San Jose Sharks and a Nest cam from Maddie's Fund, a live broadcast showed Jo's daily life in her private room.



This cat slid onto an ice rink, and into the hearts of thousands!

As the world watched, little Jo grew stronger, and socialized and made friends. She interacted with volunteers, medical staff and two other kittens brought in to befriend her. News outlets published the link to her



cam. NHL.com did a live interview from her room. In weeks, her live feed racked up over 30,000 views. Jo became a good luck charm for the Sharks, who were motoring through the Stanley Cup playoffs, and an ambassador for homeless pets.

Without fail, everyone who shared the story of Jo and the Sharks' winning streak also stressed the importance of pet adoption. This tiny kitten's story promoted adoptions for animals everywhere.

After several weeks with us, Jo went to live with Sharks' forward Patrick Marleau, who had been playing the night of her fateful run across the ice. Jo and one of the kitten roommates she befriended are now happy in their new home with Pat, his wife Christina and their fantastic kids.

Finding homes for pets is one of the biggest and most visible things we do. Part of finding those homes is being proactive — constantly inviting members of our community to see who we are and what we do. Partnering with the San Jose Sharks and local media to help Jo introduced us to many new potential pet owners who will help save lives in the future.



Fire Couldn't Separate This Feline Family

Lion wouldn't stop doing somersaults. Every time you looked at the grey tabby he would flip onto his back, wiggle his paws invitingly and return to his feet in disappointment when a belly rub wasn't forthcoming. The slight odor of smoke had worn off of him. He was well fed, content enough and, most importantly, safe. His feline brothers, Tiger and Powder, were with him. Despite their ordeal, everyone would be okay. Their guardian was coming for them, and they would be together again.

When a fire ravaged a local apartment building, the blaze left 50 people homeless. Buried in articles about the incident was a singular sentence: "Firefighters evacuated numerous pets as well." For the families who lost their homes that day, they were also facing another loss: their pets. With many victims staying in shelters or with friends, they needed a place to temporarily house their beloved pets until they got back on their feet.

For the Sunnyvale fire animals, we were that place. Thanks to your compassionate support, we opened our arms to five cats and three parakeets — as we have welcomed so many animals over the years.

For over a decade, we've partnered with the Red Cross, government agencies and domestic violence shelters to temporarily house animals whose owners

are going through a crisis. It's another way we respond to the needs of our community, both two- and four-legged, to help keep families together. These programs can help save human lives as well. A University of Illinois study found that 34% of women who had recently left abusive relationships had delayed leaving out of fear for their pets' lives. Allowing them to get their pets to safety encourages victims to seek safety themselves. Over the years, our Anisafe program has worked with domestic violence shelters to help dozens of people and pets.

Keeping pets with the people that love them, particularly during rough times, is another reason to celebrate.

Intake Staff Ryan Boehm often answers check-in calls from people who miss the pets that are staying with us for emergency housing. When one of our clients was having a rough day and missed her pup, Ryan took a quick phone video of her pet playing in one of our yards and sent it to her.

"I took the video because that was something simple I could do to assure our client her little buddy was in a great place. That she was going to receive all the love and care she needed while away from home," says Ryan. "I can only imagine what a weight was taken off of her shoulders to see a video and know her pet was in a good place."

For Lion, his brothers and his owner, it was this care that made all the difference in the world. Due to the tight housing market, it would have been easy for the owner to lose his beloved feline family. Instead, we were able to reunite him with all three of his cats.

While finding a new animal a home is one kind of happy ending, keeping pets with the people that love them, particularly during rough times, is another reason to celebrate. Thank you for helping keep pets and their animals together and safe!

Lion is a playful cat who loves to beg for belly rubs!



Regional Rescue Match Available

Board Chair Sue Diekman and Honorary Board Member John Diekman are generously offering a Matching Challenge for the Regional Rescue program. **The Diekmans are doubling gifts of any size — up to \$500,000 — in honor of their adopted HSSV dog, Jeremy, who is a Regional Rescue alum.**

This golden retriever came to HSSV from San Jose Animal Care and Services in poor shape. Jeremy was overweight, his fur was matted and he was suffering from arthritis and dental disease. But we knew that with time and care, he would make a wonderful addition to someone's family.

We knew our friends, the Diekmans, had just lost their beautiful dog Rosie a few weeks prior to Jeremy's arrival. We hoped it would be a match made in heaven . . . and it was! They took one look at him, and after the approval of their Australian Shepherd, Lucky, Jeremy went home! He is now in great shape — enjoying long walks and exercise — and loving life with his adoptive family.



Sue and John Diekman and their dogs, Jeremy and Lucky.

When you make a gift to the Regional Rescue Program, the Diekmans will match your gift dollar-for-dollar to help care for twice as many animals in need!

HSSV provides a safety net for homeless animals by bringing them in from other shelters with fewer resources. We take animals with more specialized needs that government-operated shelters are unable to assist, or when

time or space constraints become an issue. Animals that come in through our Regional Rescue program make up 40% of the animals brought into our shelter each year. Last year, HSSV brought in 1,850 of animals through the Regional Rescue program.

By committing to the Regional Rescue program, HSSV supports the community by taking in the most at-risk population of animals. This allows other shelters to continue to care for healthy and easily adoptable animals that are able to survive without intervention, while we efficiently leverage our resources to care for animals in need of more extensive care. The Regional Rescue program increases the number of lives saved across the entire community, as public shelters won't have to make choices for euthanasia due to overcrowding, illness and behavior struggles.



TOGETHER WE CAN PAINT A BETTER FUTURE.