



Landmark Agreement helps Animals in Need

Today our community is a safer place for animals!

On June 4, 2013, the Sonoma Humane Society (SHS) and Sonoma County Animal Care and Control (ACC) made official a pact which will effectively save more lives. The SHS and ACC **Adoption Agreement** will support the collaboration between two agencies who share a common goal: to ensure that no healthy animal is euthanized in our community.

We want to take this opportunity to provide you with the details of this agreement – and its significance for animals in need.

The Sonoma Humane Society is a donor-funded non-profit organization and Sonoma County Animal Care and Control is a government agency. We are the two largest animal care and sheltering agencies in the county; collectively providing services for more than 8,200 animals each year. Both organizations have been seeking ways to work collaboratively – asking each other, “How can we be more effective together to save more animals’ lives?”

Since 2008, SHS has been operating as a no-kill shelter, meaning that no healthy and curable animals are ever euthanized at The Sonoma Humane Society. Our ability to do this lies in broad volunteer support, diligent training and behavior programs, medical and foster care services and a thriving adoption program. But for all of our individual success there were still animals at our neighboring county shelter who were at risk. We knew, with the right support and programs, we could help.

Being a guardian for animals in our community means working beyond your own borders and building collaborative relationships with other life-saving partners.

Late last year Kiska Icard sat down with former ACC Director, Amy Cooper to review shelter statistics. This transparent assessment helped both organizations pinpoint areas where they could make a bigger difference if they collaborated more closely. Specifically, there were some healthy and treatable animals who were facing euthanasia at ACC due to lack of placement options. The Sonoma Humane Society, with support from our community, had the foster, medical and training programs that could make a life-saving difference for these animals.

An unofficial partnership began. Between January and May of this year, ACC has provided The Sonoma Humane Society with daily lists of the animals in their care. Sonoma

Humane Society staff scanned these rosters, looking first for animals scheduled for euthanasia, to identify any healthy or treatable animals whom they could help. Then they looked for animals in need of rehabilitation – those who might need training, medical care or foster placement. During that time, 74 animals were transferred to SHS for care, foster or adoption services.

This daily communication and sharing of information creates a broad safety net that will help ensure that no healthy animal is killed in this community.

On June 4, 2013, an official Adoption Agreement between The Sonoma Humane Society and Animal Control was signed. It means that from this time forward, any animal who is healthy (or can become healthy through rehabilitation) which ACC cannot place through its channels will be offered to the Sonoma Humane Society. In turn, The Sonoma Humane Society agrees that it will accept that animal into care and arrange for its support and adoption.

We are excited to share this news with you and proud to be part of a community which supports our compassionate and life saving work. The Sonoma Humane Society believes, as we know you do, that no effort is too great when a life is at stake. In working side-by-side with our animal control agency, we are giving new hope to animals in need.

Kiska Icard
Executive Director