



Winter 2013 | Vol. 25 | No. 2

North Bay Pets

a publication of the sonoma humane society



LOVE Connections pg.4

Happy Tails of Forever Homes with Heart and Soul

**Mythbusting
FIV**

**pg.10 Stay out
of the dog house**

Love Me, Fix Me

Spay/neuter clinics partner for good

www.sonomahumane.org

We're all in the journey together

Reflecting on some of the warm wonderful stories and major events of the past year reinforces our collective commitment to helping as many animals as we can. All of us here at Sonoma Humane Society are honored by each and every animal who touches us on their journey. They remind us daily through the struggles and through the smiles that they are the reason we do what we do.

Our goal in signing our landmark adoption agreement with Sonoma County Animal Care and Control (ACC) this past summer was to be able to help more homeless animals who are healthy (or can become healthy through rehabilitation) to find their forever homes. Our partnership with ACC has enabled us to save even more animals and get them into loving homes. In the first six months of this year we doubled the number of animals we transferred in from ACC. Through our efforts combined with the work of many other shelters and rescue organizations throughout the county, euthanasia rates in our community are dropping dramatically. We are so encouraged by this progress - it's what we want, it's what our community wants.



Blaze; one of many success stories

Each and every animal who comes through our doors is helped by many facets of our organization. From our Shelter Medical team who examine each animal upon admission and deliver the care needed to make them healthy, to our Behavior and Training Department who work with each dog to help them become great future family members. The journey continues with our amazingly dedicated volunteers who so lovingly nurture the animals during their stay at SHS - from cuddling and grooming, playing and walking, or by providing Foster and Fospice Care, all the way on through to our Adoption Staff who facilitate best matches for people and pets.



In this winter issue of North Bay Pets, you'll get to read about some of the individual animals who have touched our hearts and the work that goes into ensuring a hopeful future for each one. We hope to warm your heart and inspire your own involvement with Sonoma Humane Society - we share in this journey together.

Kiska Icard

Kiska Icard, Executive Director

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The Sonoma Humane Society - ensuring every animal receives protection, compassion, love and care. We are a locally founded, locally funded nonprofit organization supported through donations from our community.

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On the Cover: SHS cat-cuddler extraordinaire Terry Hagerman spends some quality time with FIV+ cats (Bobby; pictured was adopted the day after our photoshoot.) Meet some of these Fantastic Intelligent Vibrant cats and learn more about FIV on page 8.

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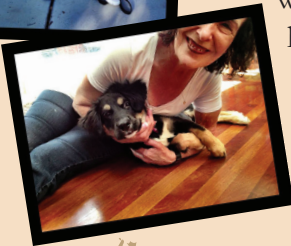
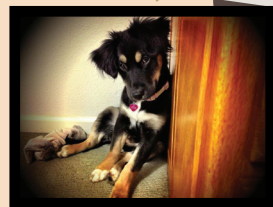
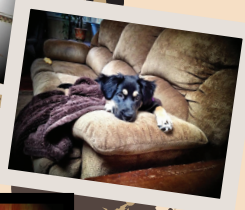
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love connection

Is your future soul mate waiting for you in cyberspace? In Lucy's case the answer was YES! The moment we posted the 3 month old Australian Shepherd's photo on Facebook, her future guardians were smitten. She reminded them so much of their dog who had passed away 8 months prior. They had been searching for a new friend, and instantly knew in their hearts that Lucy was "the one"! These folks certainly know firsthand how the circle of love is infinite: their beloved Sweetie, who lived to be 15 ½ years old, was also adopted from Sonoma Humane Society in 1997. As they embark on their new adventure with Lucy, we are happy to hear that she is fitting into her new digs like a dream. They report that in addition to charming them with her adorable puppy-ness, she's a quick learner and is adapting well to the rest of the dog pack. We couldn't be happier for the love connection that Lucy has found!



♥ LUCY



destined for greatness

When a homeless puppy survives a serious illness and ends up with a terrific family, you just know it was meant to be. Clooney (who has been renamed Dexter) arrived at Sonoma Humane Society one sick little guy. Stricken with Parvo, he needed to spend several weeks in isolation while he was treated with antibiotics, intravenous fluids and mega-doses of love. While in treatment he didn't get to frolic with other pups, but thanks to all the TLC he received his sweetness, alertness and spunk didn't falter. Dexter's forever family saw his potential for greatness and he was adopted in July 2013. They report that he continues to be "super sweet and smart, and fits into the family well". He has won over his human siblings with lots of cuddles and play and now he's trying to impress the family cats. One of Dexter's new hobbies is shopping at the pet store where he's always hopeful that a new stuffed toy makes it into the cart! His guardians have also enrolled him in the Bully Breed Fundamentals class at SHS to enhance his "already awesome manners". Looks like it was destiny for Dexter to end up with such a fun, proactive and loving family!



♥ DEXTER

During her stay with us here at Sonoma Humane Society, Maxine was known as the cat who would literally race to her carrier when it was her turn to while away the afternoon in our outdoor cat enclosure. At 6 ½ years old she thrived on being able to observe the sights and smells of the great outdoors. Unfortunately Maxine came to us with her front paws declawed. We knew her optimal forever home would need to be able to accommodate this nature lover in safety. We are happy to report that Maxine ended up in good paws. Her new “mom” not only has lots of cat rescue experience, she has some pretty posh cat accommodations. Maxine can now enjoy roaming around or stretching out and keeping tabs on the natural world from the safe confines of an enclosed outdoor patio. Do a web search for some D.I.Y. ideas for building your own cat-safe outdoor enclosures!

nature lover

MAXINE



BELLA BLUE

FOREVER FRIENDS

As a veteran of our foster program Bella Blue was one of those rare cases who never found a forever home – until the end of her journey. Over her 13 years, she had lived with four different families who were in transition. Sonoma Humane Society staff was one of the few constants Bella knew. In her last year of life however, she was able to have the love and solidarity of a “Fospice” family. Even as an older dog with sore joints, Bella Blue had a playful side which was

nurtured by this family who understood her physical limitations. They had ample outdoor space where she could stretch her legs and even play alongside baby goats. She also had her own bed which they moved from room to room so she could hang out with her people in comfort. The family told us that Bella gave them lots of smiles and happiness. They felt good knowing they could give her stability, care and friendship so she didn't have to face her last days alone. It takes a special breed of human to provide this type of unconditional love for an animal who has a limited amount of time. We are so grateful for this outpouring of true compassion and we know Bella Blue was too.

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Dedicated, Compassionate and Invested in the Future

Theodore and Joyce Picco

Joyce and Ted Picco shared a lifetime of love and compassion for animals and it was clear that one species was nearest and dearest to their hearts. Quite simply...they loved cats. Their devotion was evident in the love and attention they bestowed on their own feline pets. Yet the true depth of their dedication went far beyond the threshold of their own home and reached deeply into our community.

Through their involvement with the Sonoma Humane Society 16 years ago, Joyce and Ted became champions for the provision of low-cost feline spay and neuter services and, in 1997, established the Theodore L. Picco and Joyce M. Picco Endowment Fund. With an initial \$1,000 donation they declared their intent to make annual contributions to the fund - and they were true to their word. Between 1997 and 2005, Joyce and Ted generously donated to the endowment account and then invested a \$25,000 sum into a 10-year CD. "The interest from our endowed fund generates an operating gift annually to support the program we care most about", said Ted. Of course, that program was feline spay and neuter services.

The Picco's, who also participated in the Sonoma Humane Society's building campaign, hoped to inspire other donors to take similar actions and to leave the Society with a sustainable income to support low-cost spay and neuter clinics for cats. But in August of 2005 Ted passed away unexpectedly.

Over the past 8 years Joyce Picco remained dedicated to making the future brighter for both animals and children in Sonoma County. While continuing to support the endowment fund for the Sonoma Humane Society and our affordable spay and neuter clinic, Joyce coordinated a knitting circle at Oakmont Gardens where she and her group provided hundreds of blankets for local foster children. When she passed away in June of this year, Joyce left behind a legacy of kindness and giving from the heart.

You see, Joyce and Ted did more than establish a Sonoma Humane Society endowment fund during their

lifetimes, they also planned a way to significantly grow that fund for the benefit of future generations through a bequest gift in the Theodore and Joyce Picco Trust.

One day soon, when their bequest is combined with the endowment fund, the Theodore L. and Joyce M. Picco Restricted Endowment will provide an annual source of income for the Sonoma Humane Society's feline spay and neuter activities and help us reduce homelessness and suffering for cats in our community.

Joyce and Ted shared a vision for the future welfare of the animals they loved so dearly. During their lives, they were cherished friends to the Sonoma Humane Society - volunteering their time and resources to help us grow with the needs of Sonoma County. It will be our honor to carry out their wishes through the Sonoma Humane Society's spay and neuter clinic, where Joyce and Ted's legacy will come to life - ensuring every animal is born into a life of love and compassion.

In addition to Ted and Joyce Picco, we gratefully acknowledge the estate gifts which were received between April 1st and November 1st, 2013, from the following individuals.

Anne Andrews Trust
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Community Spay and Neuter clinics partner for community good.

If you've been reading your SHS newsletters, you already know how much progress is being made to provide low-cost spay and neuter services for Sonoma County residents and their animals. Today those services are even easier to access...and understand.

Almost two years ago, in January of 2012, the Sonoma Humane Society received a generous grant from Community Foundation Sonoma County to help sustain a local S/N clinic at the SHS veterinary hospital. SpayPAL, as it has been named, opened its doors offering \$30 feline sterilizations and has been operating a high-volume spay and neuter service ever since. In fact, as of the writing of this article, the SpayPAL clinic has provided more than 3700 surgeries for both cats and dogs!

That's great news, but it gets even better. The Community Foundation of Sonoma County also helped to fund a mobile spay and neuter clinic which is operated by Sonoma County Animal Care and Control. The mobile clinic, named Love Me, Fix Me, operates from a Mobile Animal Care van which is fully equipped for surgical procedures. The van is driven to high density areas of our community where services are provided by appointment.

Speaking of appointments, did you also know that VIP Petcare Services volunteered to donate their call center services for both of these spay and neuter clinics? It's true! For both SpayPAL and Love Me, Fix Me, all appointment calls are directed to the VIP Pet-

care phone lines and their staff maintain the appointment schedules for both of these high volume clinics...at no cost.

Wait a minute! We have two low-cost clinics funded by the Community Foundation of Sonoma County and both of them send their appointment calls to VIP Petcare. Why on earth would these clinics need two different names?

It didn't make sense to us either. On June 1, 2013 the Sonoma Humane Society and Sonoma County Animal Care and Control decided to eliminate the confusion. Today both clinics bear the name Love Me, Fix Me and offer identical services and rates! With one identity and one phone number to dial, appointments can be directed easily to the most convenient date and location. Working together makes it easier for everyone involved – especially those seeking services. And as we all know...the easier it is for the customer, the more likely we'll get that spay or neuter done!

We're excited about the future of our partnerships and the important services they provide for our community. Want to be a part of our spay and neuter provider network? Make a donation today for Spay and Neuter at www.sonomahumane.org or call 707-577-1903.



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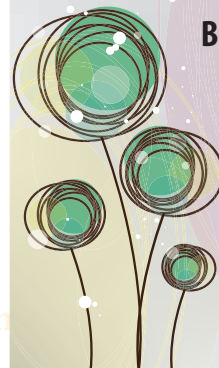
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We believe that **f i v** is not a death sentence

Sonoma Humane Society currently has 6 absolutely adorable cats eager to find a home for the holidays. They are all vibrant, friendly, gorgeous and loving. They are all also FIV positive (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus).

These cats are expected to live normal, healthy lives as long as a few precautions are taken: keep them indoors, feed them well and give them big doses of love and regular veterinary care. Your family and canine friends cannot catch FIV, but FIV+ cats should not live with non-FIV cats.

When you adopt an FIV+ cat from us we're prepared to support you along the way. We'll provide you with all the information you need to know to be well-equipped to care for your new companion.

Come meet and be a champion for one (or more!) of these lovable cats.



b o b b y

Age: 7 years of Tuxedo'd splendor

Favorite Pastime: Gracing sunny windowsills with my handsome, languid presence.



j i n k s

Age: 3 years wisdom acquisition

So Far I've Learned: Life requires a healthy balance of socializing and then retreating to a comfy perch to watch the world go by.

q

What is FIV?

a

FIV stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. It is classified as a lentivirus which means it has a long, slow incubation period, similar to HIV in humans. FIV can live in many different tissues in cats, and typically causes a weakening of the cat's immune system.

q

How do cats get FIV?

a

One of the tissues in which FIV lives is the salivary glands, so the most common route of infection is a deep bite wound from a FIV+ cat to another cat. Free-roaming cats are most at-risk for contracting FIV. It can also be transmitted via blood, in utero and from milk from an infected mother cat to her kittens.

q

Can FIV+ cats live a normal life? Why does Sonoma Humane Society adopt out cats with FIV?

a

We believe that FIV is not a death sentence. We recognize that while cats with FIV need special care, they usually live long, healthy lives and deserve a chance like any other cat. An FIV+ cat can live a normal life both in quality and duration with a little monitoring on your part:

- Keep your FIV+ cat indoors. A stress-free environment is best.
 - Watch for any health changes in your cat, keeping an especially close watch on dental and mouth health.
 - Bring your cat in for regular vet visits.
 - Feed your cat a nutritious diet and give them lots of love.



rosie

Age: 10 years young
Friends Describe Me As:
Chubby, Cheerful and Chatty

q

What are the signs of FIV infection?

a

Cats can live for many years with the virus without showing any symptoms. Once the virus has taken hold, a cat becomes more prone to secondary infections. Even though there are no specific signs of the FIV infection, FIV+ cats are more likely to experience upper respiratory infections, ringworm and dental disease.



mr t

Age: 10 ½ years
What's in a Name: Who knows? I'm a lover not a fighter - tummy rubs are the way to my heart!



taylor

Age: 3 years

Skill Set: Mesmerizing you with my baby blues; chillin' with my comrade Coconut (he completes me!)
(Taylor is bonded with Coconut and these two should go home together)



coconut

Age: 5 ½ years

Favorite Hobby: Purring loudly while you shower me with affection; bro-ing out with Taylor, my blue-eyed best bud
(Coconut is bonded with Taylor and these two should go home together)

You've Got to Accentuate the Positive

What is the number one reason dogs are surrendered to shelters? Bad manners. In many cases these dogs are young, energetic and just lacking some basic training. Their unmanaged behavior is frustrating to their guardians and becomes unbearable to live with. Many of these surrenders could be avoided by early training and fulfilling the animal's requirements for environmental enrichment and exercise. It all comes down to being a responsible pet "parent" and following through with training.

At Sonoma Humane Society, our Behavior and Training Department works diligently training the dogs in our shelter to learn manners and to get along well with people and other dogs. Having good "social skills" and understanding basic

emphasizes the benefits of establishing a relationship with your dog through training, which builds mutual feelings of trust and confidence. "Training strengthens the human/animal bond and there are as many ways to train a dog as there are people and dogs" she explains.

The method that Kernek and her team have the most success with is positive reinforcement. The key is to reinforce the behaviors you want to see again and not to reinforce unwanted behaviors - ever. For example, if you don't want your dog to jump on people then don't encourage it in play or other activities. If you want your dog to sit politely when greeting, you could reinforce that behavior with something very motivating to increase the chances of having that behavior repeated.



commands increases their likelihood of finding – and staying in – their forever homes. We also offer classes, workshops and private consultations/training to help you and your dog work together toward great behavior. Suzanne Kernek, Manager of Behavior and Training here at SHS explains that "a dog who is well-behaved in the home is more apt to get played with and receive positive attention. Dogs who don't have this kind of relationship tend to develop behavioral issues." For instance, a dog who is relegated to the backyard due to bad house manners will develop further issues from lack of human contact and interaction. Young dogs in particular need lots of mental and physical stimulation. To avoid the cycle of bad manners and poor behavior, Kernek

The benefits of a well-trained dog extend beyond having a courteous furry family member. A dog with trained behavior is more predictable in public and therefore more apt to get to go along more places with their people. Trained dogs focus on their handler which also helps them be more obedient and take cues from humans, thus making them easier to control and respond more readily in an emergency situation. And having a well-controlled pet can go a long way in saving money and hassles due to property damage, impound fees, vet bills and possible legal fees. With patience, practice and consistency you can improve the quality of your relationship with your dog and ensure that you have a lifetime of positive experiences together.

Tips for Staying Positive

- What motivates your dog? Is it praise, toys, treats? All of the above?
- If your dog is food motivated and weight control is an issue, consider using frozen peas, cheerios or even part of his daily kibble ration as small treats.
- Combine treats with a verbal reward.
- Make sure to reward your pet's behavior within seconds so that they associate it with the desired action.
- Keep cues short and simple – “Come”, “Sit”, “Stay”.
- Consistency is key. Everyone in the family should use the same cues and reward the same desired behavior.
- Enroll in a positive reinforcement training class with your dog.



Need a Little Reinforcement?

For an introduction to positive training methods, check out these class offerings from SHS Behavior and Training Department. For a complete listing of class descriptions with dates and times, please visit sonomahumane.org/behavior-training or call (707) 542-0882.



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 Their gifts, received before August 31, 2013, helped to sustain
 our life-saving programs and services.

This list represents membership drive gifts only. The Sonoma Humane Society gratefully
 acknowledges the many donors whose other contributions were also instrumental in helping
 us save lives this year – but whose names are not represented in this publication.
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