



North Bay Pets

a publication of the sonoma humane society

Lapphund Rescue
p.8

Compassion³

Let us count
the ways **2013**
Annual Report

Room for one more?
Becoming a multi-pet family

This kitty's got claws...

www.sonomahumane.org

On happily ever~afters and new beginnings!

When you support Sonoma Humane Society, you're helping re-write the future for each animal we help. As we do not receive any government or national funding, we rely on the compassion of our donors to help us carry out the work that needs to be done. By supporting us, you become a part of our story and you become a part of each animal's story.



In this issue of North Bay Pets, you'll read some of the "happily ever afters" from our large scale Finnish Lapphund rescue earlier this year. With your generous donations of supplies, funding and volunteer hours, 63 dogs were saved from a critical situation and given a chance to know a life of love, health and happiness.

Your compassion is reflected in our 2013 Annual Report. Each number represents an animal whose life you changed for the better. Each animal you've helped off the street, provided a warm bed, nutritious meals and life-saving medical treatment for. Each animal who received training to help them find and keep them in their forever home is because of you.

With an eye to the future, new beginnings are taking place. In April we set out, in partnership with Petaluma Animal Services Foundation, to become a community-based resource for people and pets in Healdsburg. The Healdsburg Center provides cat and dog adoptions, accepts stray and owner-surrendered animals and redeems lost animals to their guardians. We are extending our safety net to help more animals and change more lives.



As we move through our year, working every day to make Sonoma County a safe haven for animals, we know we can't do it without you. We are so grateful that you're a part of the story that makes it all possible.

Kiska Icard

Kiska Icard, Executive Director



North Bay Pets **INSIDE**

Happy Tails	Pg. 4
Compassion in Action	Pg. 6
Lappies New Beginnings	Pg. 8
Annual Report	Pg. 11
Compassion ³	Pg. 18
Room for One More?	Pg. 21
Destructo-kitty?	Pg. 22

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.
Tax ID# 94-6001315

North Bay Pets is a publication of the Sonoma Humane Society.

Editor in Chief:
Cindy Roach

Content Writer:
Signe Ross-Villemaire

Contributors:
Christi Cambor
Kiska Icard
Suzanne Kernek

Contributing Photographers:
Sumner Fowler
Natalia Martinez/Photolabpets.com
Atsukpo Otsuka
Wendy Welling

Designer
Wendy Welling

On the Cover: Say hello to Finn, one of the 63 Finnish Lapphunds from our large scale rescue. After receiving extensive medical and behavioral rehabilitation at SHS, the Lappies are now living healthy, happy lives. Read their stories of resilience on page 8.

Photography © 2014
PHOTO LAB PET PHOTOGRAPHY,
www.photolabpets.com.



The New Benchmark in Fine Wine.

Family Owned & Operated in Sonoma County.

Visit us online at uptickvineyards.com

UPTick Vineyards, 779 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA, 95448, 707-566-9153

Lucky Star!

It must have been in the stars for this beautiful German Shepherd mix to land in such a great home! Layla (now called Star), sparkles in the eyes of her pet parents. They report that she is a very welcome addition to their family. With lots of room to run and play at her forever home, this energetic 4 ½ year old looks like she's having the time of her life. Happily, she has not brought her humans



any gophers as a token of her appreciation, but not for lack of trying! When Star was with SHS we worked with her on reactivity issues. Her new guardians, committed to her success, learned further skills to enrich her life and channel her energy in a “Reactive Rover” training class. We are so pleased that Star finally gets her chance to shine!



What a pair: Taylor and Coconut

Remember Taylor and Coconut from our FIV cats feature in the last issue of North Bay Pets? As a bonded pair, they wanted to be adopted together. As FIV cats, they needed a conscientious guard-



ian who could keep an eye on their health. Their new mom's beloved cat had recently passed away and she was ready to fill her heart with some new kitty love. Luckily for Taylor and Coconut she had room in her heart for two! She reports that the boys look forward to their daily brushing ritual and love curling up together for naps. Don't they look purr-fectly content in their new home?

Violet is a pretty grey bunny with little white socks who was happy but very shy while at Sonoma Humane Society. Her new family reports that she is slowly but surely coming out of her shell. She loves to explore the home for fun hiding places, but has the uncanny ability to sense when it's meal-time – showing up at the same place, same time, to wait patiently for her dish. Her favorite part of the day, though, is when the family settles together on the couch in the evenings and she gets to make the rounds for her beloved ear rubs. Her new mom says “Violet has become a member of our family, I can't express how much we love her!” We couldn't be more thrilled that this sweet bunny has found her “hoppily” ever after!

Violet: hoppily ever after



Now there's a safe haven for animals in Healdsburg!

Sonoma Humane Society is expanding our safety net to serve even more homeless animals in our community. On April 1st, 2014, in partnership with Petaluma Animal Services, we opened the Healdsburg Center. Our day-use animal care facility offers adoption services, owner and stray animal reunions and appointments for owners who must surrender their pet(s).

We are currently operating out of modular offices as we assess the long-term needs for the animals of Healdsburg. Homeless animals brought to the Healdsburg Center receive the same compassionate care as every animal in our well-established programs. Those in need



are transported back to SHS's Santa Rosa campus where we provide the veterinary care and training support they need to live happy and healthy lives.

We are excited to be a part of the animal care community of Healdsburg. As we grow in our mission to offer protection and hope to every animal, we are grateful for the support of our volunteers, donors and partners. For more information, visit our website at sonomahumane.org/hbg



The Healdsburg Center is located at 14242 Bacchus Landing Way, Healdsburg 95448
Open 9AM - 5PM, Monday - Saturday 707.280.9632



**HEALDSBURG
CENTER**

Winston: an extraordinary gentleman



Winston is a sweet little gentleman who was suffering from a chronic skin condition. His previous family became so disheartened by unsuccessful treatments they gave up and scheduled his euthanasia with their vet who called us for intervention. We knew that this cheerful Pug deserved a second chance. Our shelter veterinarian put him on a hypoallergenic diet and prescribed special baths and medications to help clear up his skin problems. Within a few weeks, his skin showed marked improvement. SHS executive director Kiska Icard fostered Winston while he was healing. He proved to have a fun personality, great manners and fantastic people skills! We loved the comic relief he provided during his daily office visits but nothing makes us happier than reporting that Winston, adopted by a carnivore keeper at the San Francisco Zoo, continues on his path to health in a loving forever home!



Compassion in action

*A community comes together
to rescue dogs in need*

It's said that times of crisis can bring out the best in people. And when the best of humanity joins together to help dogs in a compromised situation, remarkable feats can be accomplished.

On January 21, 2014, Sonoma Humane Society and Forget-Me-Not Farm were called upon to rescue dogs from a breeder who had fallen on hard times. Initially thinking they would be bringing back about 30 healthy dogs, our rescue team discovered that there were actually twice as many dogs all living in unthinkable conditions. True to the SHS credo that no effort is too great when a life is at stake, they knew that not one dog should be left behind.

Through the wonders of social media and our community support network, word of the rescue began to spread. The outpouring of support that ensued was truly overwhelming - and desperately needed - to get these dogs physically and emotionally healthy. Donations of food, blankets, towels and other supplies began flooding in as did financial support locally, nationally and globally. Not only did people across the country contribute, we saw donations from Canada, Chile, United Kingdom, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, and even Australia! People were touched and wanted to help in whatever way they could.

From Rescue



61 dogs of all ages and in very poor health had been confined in squalor, their thick fur matted and caked with urine and feces, lice and fleas. Many had broken teeth from trying to chew through their cage wires. From what our team saw, the dogs had little exposure to human contact other than that of the breeder. Once admitted to SHS, 61 dogs turned into 63 by the next morning, with the birth of two pups. Frightened and confused, these dogs were now safe in the caring hands of people who could offer them hope for the future.

A four year old girl donated the contents of her piggy bank. A young boy donated his bright yellow smiley face pillow, saying it had always helped him feel better and he hoped it would do the same for the dogs. A Lapphund lover from England heard about the rescue and wanted to help. She stitched special colorful collars for each of the rescued dogs to wear when they went home for adoption. Another Lappie fan from England ran in the Barcelona marathon, fundraising in support of the rescue efforts.



To Rehab

Our incredibly dedicated volunteers rose to the challenge too. Shouldering the workload with SHS staff, they logged well over 700 hours of their time. They joined local groomers to clip away matted fur and gently bathe the dogs, a first step in helping the dogs shed their former life. Local veterinarians gave their time to support SHS medical staff in administering lice and flea treatments, medications for numerous intestinal parasites and ear infections, as well as to perform spay/neuter surgeries and dental procedures. Volunteers supported our Behavior and Training team in beginning the socialization process for the dogs; rewarding positive behavior with treats and getting them used to human touch.

Finnish Lapphunds are described by the American Kennel Club as being hardy, intelligent and easy going. To this list we would add resilient. The hard work of everyone involved in the rescue effort was rewarded by the way the Lapphunds responded to medical treatments, training sessions and lots and lots of love. Many

We received well over 100 adoption applications for the dogs and carefully reviewed each one to determine the best match for each dog. We were eager for the Lappies to succeed in their forever homes and knew that some dogs would take more time and work to live happy and healthy lives. As the adopters came to meet and interact with the dogs, our Behavior and Training team were able to evaluate the best course of action for the new guardians to make sure the Lappies would successfully adapt to their new homes.

As we began to get progress reports from Lappie adopters that the dogs were adjusting well to their new homes we knew the rescue operation was a success. Strong bonds are being formed as their new families continue socialization and training work. This is the outcome that everyone involved in the rescue had been striving toward – to have these dogs settle in happily and healthfully with people who can love and care for them. Through the incredible efforts of SHS staff, volunteers



To Forever Homes

hours of slow, quiet interactions and gentle touch helped the dogs learn to trust humans. Once the dogs were more comfortable around people, they showed signs of becoming playful and eager to learn. The next step in building their confidence involved introducing them to playtime with toys and leash training. Gradually they were introduced to the outdoors. Seeing the dogs run around outside and play with each other for the first time in the SHS courtyard was a humbling and emotional experience!

and community (both near and far!), we have seen human kindness rise to the occasion and turn an overwhelming situation into an awe-inspiring one. Knowing that these dogs are going forward in life with all the care, security and love they deserve touches us profoundly – and we are so grateful to everyone who has had a part in getting them there!



Lappie New Beginnings



Our mission to ensure a hopeful future for each of the Finnish Lapphunds from our largest scale rescue came to fruition as the dogs made the journey into their new homes. These Lappies share a common history: from their rough beginnings in a nightmarish environment to their recovery time here at Sonoma Humane Society where they received nurturing care, socialization and training. Even coming from such a dark past - with their resilience and a healthy new foundation to build upon - their future became beautifully bright.

Fortunately, another common thread for these dogs is the community of love they have been received into. This love has helped them navigate the uncharted sights, smells, and sounds of their new lives outside the shelter. Here we feature just a few of the "happily ever afters". To see that they are adapting well and enjoying typical dog behavior in loving homes demonstrates the power of a compassionate community working together to make a difference for animals in need.

Finn

Finn greets his visitors with an easy-going friendliness, coming right up to us for affection and treats. As he confidently explores his new backyard he looks like a curious, carefree - and cared for - dog. Like most of the Finnish Lapphunds rescued in late January, Finn was very fearful during his initial medical exam. By the time he had been treated for a skin condition, ear infection and a host of intestinal parasites, he was starting to get familiar with human contact. When he was officially observed for the first time by our Behavior and Training team, he demonstrated an interest in people but could startle if approached too fast. We knew this sweet dog could grow to thrive, it would just take the right caring, patient person to give him a loving home where he could live up to his potential. Watching Finn move comfortably through his new surroundings, it's clear that he's landed in just such a loving home. Even though their relationship is still quite new, he leans into his guardian Frances for cuddles as though they've been best friends forever.

Finn shares Frances with Tish, a Malamute she adopted



Top: A family who makes us smile.
Left: Finn steppin' out.

Photography © 2014 PHOTO LAB PET
PHOTOGRAPHY, www.photolabpets.com

Above: Finn (formerly Cinbad) and
Frances on adoption day.

from SHS in 2001. She thought having a younger canine friend would encourage Tish to “persevere toward a longer life’s journey”. Frances also thinks Finn is going to help **her** live a better quality of life - he sets a much faster pace on their walks and she finds the aerobic exercise invigorating. In fact, people stop her and want to know how old her puppy is. Imagine their surprise when she tells them he’s 9 years old!

Perhaps as a vestige of his former life, Finn has a strong distrust of his crate. Frances is working on this with him by leaving treats inside the crate. As soon as she turns her back, he sneaks in and grabs them without her even seeing him. She notices he loves being outside exploring the backyard, playing and basking in the sunshine. Frances says bringing Finn into her life has been a rewarding experience. She admires his resilience in that he shows very few adverse effects of his past situation. “He is so eager to love and be loved that one forgets that he comes from nine years of poor treatment. It is very humbling.”

Chaco

Left: Adoption day with SHS B&T Manager Suzanne Kernek (left) and new mom Sherrill.
Right: Chaco (formerly Arvi) follows the bouncing pickle!
Below: Taking a “paws”.



Our Behavior and Training team thought that Chaco showed promise, but it would take some work. His initial assessment indicated that he was very fearful and prone to snapping, reserved yet cautiously friendly. After very careful consideration, he was matched up with his patient and proactive new mom Sherrill. Through her dedication and hard work with him, Sherrill reports that every day they achieve small breakthroughs. She says he’s still a bit shy towards people but has shown no aggression whatsoever.

This is Sherrill’s first experience adopting a dog who wasn’t a young puppy. At just over a year old, Chaco tries his best to be very puppy-like anyway. Sherrill thinks he’s making up for lost time! As he becomes less fearful, his playful side is coming out. He adores other dogs (and cats!) and wants to play with each one he meets on their walks. He’s made friends with Sherrill’s Ragdoll cat, and has wisely learned that the other two resident cats don’t want to play. To make sure his socialization needs are met, Sherrill schedules play dates with other dogs. Chaco approaches this playtime with gusto and stamina, before curling up on the couch for a nap!

One surprise to Sherrill was Chaco’s chewing prowess. He chewed through leashes and harnesses, a dog bed zipper, outdoor furniture and planter boxes. To counteract this behavior she makes sure he has plenty of chew toys around at all times. Favorite toys? Anything that bounces, especially if it’s in the shape of a giant green pickle! Having learned Chaco’s requirements to expend excess energy, Sherrill has been engaging him in games of fetch - throwing toys for him to chase, he is just starting to bring them back to her.

Another interesting development in their journey together is that Sherrill is learning to read Chaco by his unique body language: “His tail tells me when he is completely happy and having fun... it curls tightly over his back. When he is a little unsure, his tail is slightly curled away from his body. And when he is really anxious, his tail and eyes give it away.”

We are so encouraged by the progress Chaco is making in his new life with Sherrill. It’s wonderful to see that his life is stabilizing and that good habits are being established under her diligent commitment to provide him with a secure life. These are the story endings we live for.

Continued on pg.16



Paws For Bingo
A BENEFIT FOR SONOMA HUMANE SOCIETY

Saturday, October 18, 2014
12:00-4:00 pm

Center For Spiritual Living
2075 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa, 95401

PRIZE DRAWING!

Cost: \$25 per person or \$30 per person for a VIP table includes lunch, wine & dessert

BINGO PRIZES!

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
<http://pawsforbingo.brownpapertickets.com>
or
call to purchase tickets
Victoria Denning (707)849-3889 Charlotte Pearce (707)738-4300




Give us a ride?



Do you have a compact car in good running condition that you'd like to donate in the name of art and helping animals? This top secret project with local artists is going to be epic! Got the goods? email wwelling@sonomahumane.org

Need some extra hands, er... paws around the farm?

Spring is here, the crops are coming in. Put us to work watching over your ranch, vineyard, farm, warehouse, barn/workshop – we love having a job to do! Think of us as low-maintenance guard duty (nothing gets past us!) We are spayed/neutered and have been vaccinated and micro-chipped. All we need is food, water and a safe spot to curl up in at the end of a long day.



Interested? Call Don at 707.577.1917

Cats who are better suited as household companions don't adopt out through the Country Cats program



Remember Your Pet with a Memory Heart



Your Pet's Ashes Memorialized Beautifully in Glass

Losing your pet is like losing your best friend. Cremation of our beloved pets is a way to keep them with us. From their ashes we are able to create a beautiful solid glass keepsake for you to hold and cherish.

Be forever surrounded by your precious pet's memories and celebrate not only your pet's life, but also the joy, happiness and unconditional love you shared.



Pets ♡ Pampered, Protected & Remembered

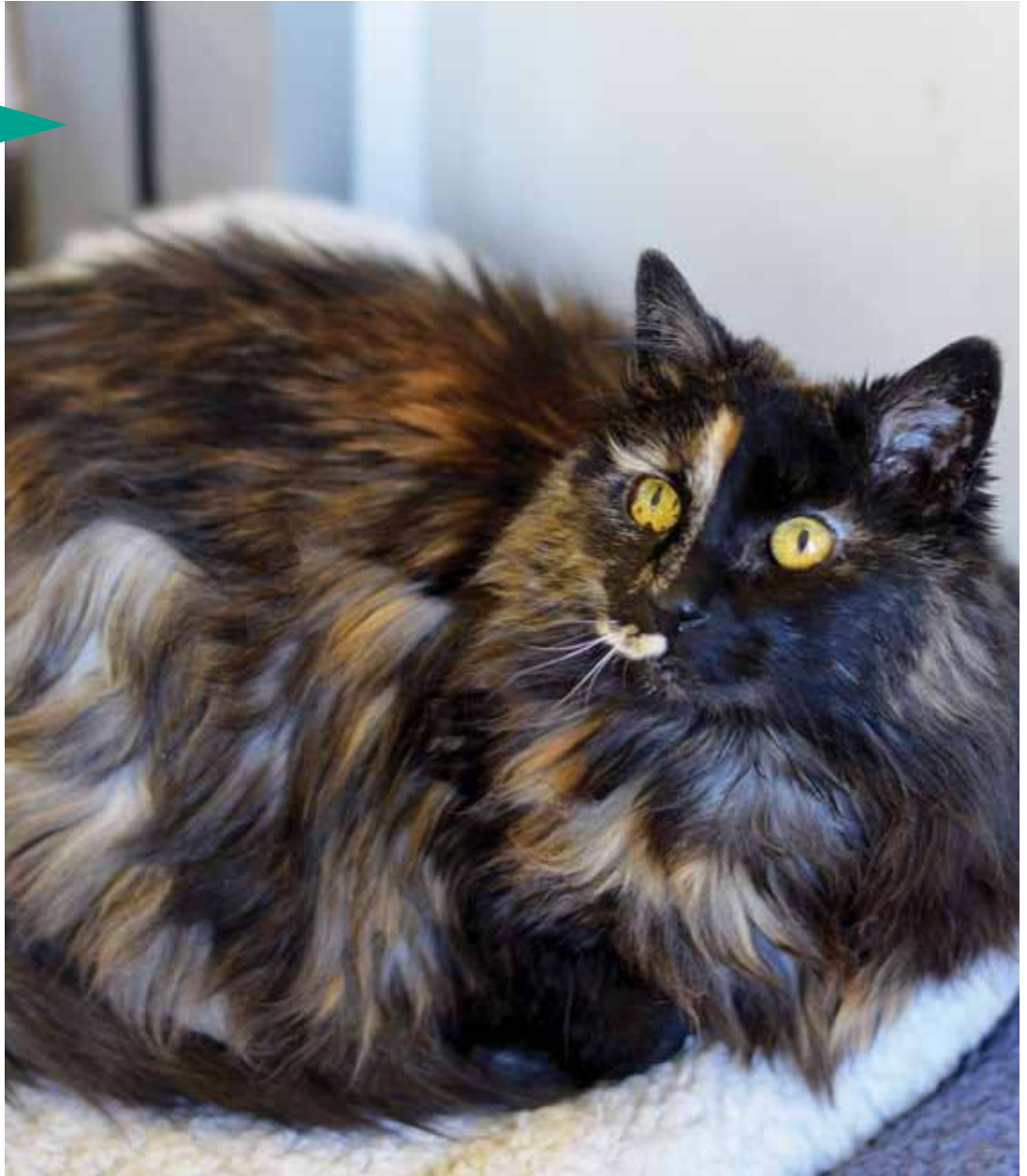
Our custom glass hearts and candle holders capture the essence of your beloved pet's spirit and soul in a radiant swirl of color and ashes. Just as your pet was unique and special, so will be the heart or candle holder that is created specifically for you.

In the glass blowing process, your pet's ashes crystallize into diamond-like dust, creating a beautiful, sparkling halo effect.

Satine's Heart ♦ **Santa Rosa, CA** ♦ **707.239.5262**
www.SatinesHeart.com

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1- December 31, 2013



Our Mission:

To ensure every animal receives protection, compassion, love and care.

Featured cat: Nutmeg

This 12-year-old Tortoiseshell beauty is looking for her forever home. Nutmeg came to Sonoma Humane Society as a stray. While she has adapted to living with other cats in our shelter, she'll thrive in a home where she can be the only cat. Like many mature kitties, she likes to balance her need for human affection with plenty of quiet time for feline contemplation. Nutmeg is part of our Medical Incentive Adoptions program. When you open your heart and home to this wonderful cat, she'll receive complimentary annual veterinary exams and vaccinations from SHS for life.

Photo: Summer Fowler



A Safe Haven for Animals

2013 Annual Report

Total number of animals rescued	1956
Strays	739
Owner Surrenders	845
From other shelters/rescue organizations	372
Fospice Care	61
Foster Care	738
Animals returned to their guardians	217
Live Release Rate	96%
Shelter capacity	200



Low-cost feline spay/neuters	2395
Public spay/neuters	146
Shelter spay/neuters	317

Preventing overpopulation where it starts



Nurturing Relationships

406
at-risk youth
engaged in
Forget-Me-Not
Farm's animal-
assisted and
horticultural
therapy activities



Forget-Me-Not Farm	
Total children served	406
Number of agencies served	12

Saving lives, improving lives

better health and behavior for

4,989 animals

Shelter medical cases treated	1760
Number of animals served at SHS public hospital	1746
Charity Medical Services	\$31,878
Number of public dogs trained	1076
Number of shelter dogs trained	407

Inspiring unconditional love

1,356

children participated
in humane education
programs

Summer/Winter Camps	239
Mentoring and Community Service	146
Library and Reading Dog Program	860
Youth Tours and Outreach	111
Total children served (ages 7-18)	1356

Heroes make a difference for the animals

39,092

volunteer hours worked

Number of volunteers	760
Number of volunteer hours	39,092
Full-time employee equivalent (persons)	19.55
Equivalent employee compensation	\$371,374

Numbers are
important...

but not as important as
each life they represent

Give local. Give hope.

Income

Donations, Events, Grants and Bequests	\$2,106,361	55%
Hospital, Adoption, Training and Service Fees	\$1,507,431	40%
Pet Supply Shop Sales	\$93,910	2%
Grants and Contracts	\$78,569	2%
Investment and Rental Income/Loss	\$28,918	1%
Total	\$3,815,189	100%

Give local.

Founded in 1931, the Sonoma Humane Society is a local donor-supported safe haven for animals. Providing life-saving medical procedures to behavior training and adoption into forever homes, we believe that every animal deserves love and compassion.

Expenses

Adoptions and Animal Care	\$2,210,832	63%
Education, Outreach and Abuse Prevention	\$347,113	10%
Management & General	\$292,788	8%
Donor Development and Fundraising	\$307,605	9%
Cost of Sales	\$328,074	9%
Total	\$3,486,412	100%

With our roots firmly planted in Sonoma County, your charitable contributions help rebuild the lives of homeless animals. We do not receive federal or state funding or financial aid from any other humane society or shelter. When you support Sonoma Humane Society you can rest assured that your donations stay local, and that 83¢ of every dollar donated directly helps the animals in our care.

Give hope.

With your support, homeless animals in our community have hope for a brighter future. Join us today!

2013 Board of Directors

Kiska Icard, Executive Director
Evelyn Mitchell, President
Pam Ingalls, Vice President
Shannon Vandewalle, Treasurer
Kathy Yerger, Secretary
Kati Aho
Darlene Brazil
Fredd Culbertson
Amy Loflin
Marty Olhiser
Mark Penn
John Prouty
Robert Quail

Advisors

Karen Alary
Andrea Bandy
Scott Bartley
Ronni Berg
Candy Dowdy
Thomas Duryea
Rob Icard
Paul Pendergast
Robin Schaffner
Betty Ann Sutton

- Contact Cindy Roach, Development Director, at (707) 577-1912 or croach@sonomahumane.org
- Donate online by visiting sonomahumane.org and clicking on **DONATE**.



5345 Hwy 12 West, Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Tel: 707.542.0882 Fax: 707.542.1317
www.sonomahumane.org
Tax ID# is 94-6001315



Get the Scoop!

Would you like to connect with Sonoma Humane Society more frequently? Subscribe to eAnimail to get the latest updates, stories and events delivered to your inbox each month. It's an informative and entertaining way to stay in the loop with all the happenings here at SHS!

To subscribe please visit:

www.sonomahumane.org/eanimail-subscribe/
or scan the QR code with your smartphone

The Sonoma Humane Society never shares any contact information, including email addresses, with other organizations. Your privacy is always protected and very important to us.



PETCARE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Enhancing the quality of life for pets and their families

We're here when you need us...

PetCare East Campus

Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Emergency, General Medicine,
Specialists in Surgery,
Internal Medicine, Oncology and Dermatology

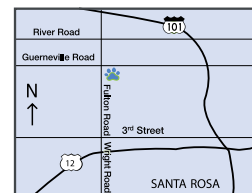
2425 Mendocino Ave Santa Rosa CA 95403
T: (707) 579-3900



PetCare West Campus

Open 7 days including weekends and late evenings
General Medicine, Vaccines, Puppy/Kitten Plans,
Senior Care and Urgent Care

1370 Fulton Rd Santa Rosa CA 95401
T: (707) 579-5900



locally owned
Since 1991

www.pcvh.com



Visit pcvh.com for more information | Like us on Facebook



Henna



Top Left: Henna means “ruler of the home” in Finnish.
 Top Right: Going home in Richard and Anne's good hands.
 Above: Henna explores the great (fenced!) outdoors.



When articles about the Lapphund rescue began appearing in the Press Democrat, Richard and Anne were intrigued. Having lost their beloved Chow/Golden mix last year, they had been scoping out SHS for their next furry family member. Upon researching the breed, they discovered that Finnish Lapphunds are easy-going, smart and affectionate. Anne joked that Lappies were a lot smaller than the dogs they were used to (their other dog is Samson, a Great Pyrennes), but at least they had a long coat! These good folks managed to see the beauty in the skinny 2-year-old dog, shaved to remove tangled matted fur – Henna captured the hearts of the whole family upon first meeting.

Like all great adopters, Anne and Richard did not take their decision to bring Henna home lightly – they gave it much thought: Were they prepared to care for one of these disadvantaged dogs? But then they realized “all of our other dogs had been shelter rescues - at least with Henna, we knew her history!” With their minds made up, they began making plans to bring her home. Work schedules were shuffled so Henna could have someone with her at all times, furniture was rearranged, floors were prepared for housetraining and a new dog bed was purchased.

Once home, Henna claimed a spot under the piano, but also quickly learned the pleasures of exploring the great (fenced!) outdoors. She lets her people know when she wants to go out and come back in and is now fully housetrained. She’s becoming more comfortable with her new dog brother Samson’s “100 pounds of exuberance” each day. In Henna’s first behavior assessment our team noted that she was “sweet but frantic; and that she snapped with restraint”. We’re encouraged to learn that her new family describes her as happy, cheerful and becoming more trusting and confident. She’s progressing well with leash walks and is currently working on “sit” and “wait”. Her socialization adventures continue in her visits to Anne’s office.

With her chocolate brown coat growing in beautifully, Henna’s bright eyes and hopeful expression in recent photos say it all. Here’s a dog who, with copious amounts of love, guidance and belly rubs from her forever family, is blooming and thriving.

Neeko's mom Carol was compelled to open her heart and home to a Finnish Lapphund after reading about the rescue in the newspaper. Amazed by the immense effort to care for, rehabilitate and place the dogs into loving homes, she was inspired to help. She'd been considering getting another dog, and after researching the breed and discovering they were similar in many ways to the family's dog Sophie, a Shetland Sheepdog, the timing felt right.

In his early days at SHS, 3 year old Neeko was noted to be undersocialized and a high energy flight risk. He also needed to be housetrained. Carol said she was pleasantly surprised how easy it's been to help him overcome these behaviors. Eager to please, he's even learned how to sit and shake hands.

Neeko's new family has enjoyed welcoming him into the fold and seeing his personality emerge. When they noticed he wasn't using the bed they'd bought for him, Carol's son simply picked him up and placed him in the bed – now he knows it is his. They also report that Neeko seems to favor nature over technology. He has a favorite daffodil in the garden that he's visited since his first day home – he goes over and sniffs it each day, even though the bloom has long since dried up. Neeko wasn't sure how he felt about the TV for several days but eventually made peace with its existence. However he still barks his displeasure over the neighbor's satellite dish!

Looking at Neeko's relaxed happy demeanor, he is the picture of a contented and loved pooch. He has clearly found his way home and is flourishing with his family's love. Carol shares "it's been rewarding to see Neeko become more relaxed and comfortable with us and learn to trust us to take care of him. I'm just amazed by his resilience and spirit for life after all he's been through. Now Neeko seems to be exploring his new environment with a happy heart."



Neeko

Below: Neeko (formerly Pakko) and his new sis Sophie.
Bottom Left: Neeko settles in to his very own bed.
Bottom Right: Happy lappy head tilt.





Compassion³

Did you know there are many opportunities beyond standard adoptions to provide hands-on help for animals in need? Sonoma Humane Society recognizes that some animals, whether due to a physical or emotional condition or a particular stage of life, respond best to care outside of the shelter environment. Even an excellent shelter can seem like a loud, frightening or distracting place to some of the animals who live there. For these animals we have three different programs designed to get them into caring homes where they can get the special attention they need.

1 Foster

Who: Animals not yet ready for adoption: puppies or kittens; nursing moms and their litters, animals rehabilitating from surgeries or animals who could benefit from more consistent human interaction. There is a critical need for helping dogs who find the shelter environment too stressful – getting these dogs in to a foster situation is imperative to their well-being.

What: Depending on the animal in your care, you could be responsible for something as simple as providing shelter for a feral cat to more involved care such as bottle feeding, changing dressing on wounds, or doing behavior work. Foster volunteers monitor and report an animal's development and progress, administer lots of TLC and engage the animal in a wide range of normal behaviors that would be difficult to achieve in a shelter setting.

Why: By providing a these animals with a nurturing environment to grow, rest or heal in, you are giving them a solid foundation for a successful future and increasing their chances of finding their

forever homes. You'll have a sense of accomplishment knowing you've made a big difference in giving an animal a positive start in life or helping them through a rough patch!

When: Sonoma Humane Society needs foster volunteers for dogs and cats year-round. We also need emergency fosters to be on call during the spring/summer "kitten season". Please visit sonomahumane.org/event-calendar to see our upcoming foster orientation schedule or contact our Foster Care Coordinator at 707.577.1919 for more information.

How long: Puppies and kittens will live with you until they are ready to be spayed or neutered, generally when the animal is about 8 weeks old. Animals recovering from medical procedures or working on socialization will live with you through the duration of their rehabilitation.

We provide: We will provide food, medications and all veterinary services for the animal(s) in your care. Your opinions and observations help us determine how the animal is progressing and when they will be ready for adoption.

2 Fospice

Who: Homeless animals who have life-limiting conditions, or end-of-life illnesses but still have good quality of life.

What: This program is a combination of foster and hospice. Being a fospice volunteer requires emotional strength knowing that the animal in your care has a limited time to live. You may need to administer daily medications and other types of treatments. You will closely monitor the animal's daily habits and keep him or her comfortable in a low-stress setting. Fospice animals are under medical care with Sonoma Humane Society and will need to be brought in for periodic check-ups.

Why: Sonoma Humane Society believes animals nearing the end of their journey deserve to be treated with compassion and dignity. Fospice is a unique opportunity to give respite to a homeless animal who might not know it otherwise. Your loving care enables the animal to live out his or her days in comfort and companionship.

When: Sonoma Humane Society has an ongoing need for Fospice volunteers. Please contact our Foster Care Coordinator for more information 707.577.1919.

How long: Fospice care may last a few weeks or months. Generally animals in our fospice program are expected to live less than a year.

We provide SHS will provide routine veterinary care, food, medications, emergency care and when the time comes humane euthanasia and cremation. We also support you with guidelines for administering special daily care and a quality of life checklist.

3 Medical Incentive Adoptions

Who: Animals who have non-terminal medical conditions which require a little extra TLC. Their conditions may be complex but shouldn't stop them from living healthy and happy lives.

What: Depending on their condition, you may need to administer medication temporarily or for the long term. A cat who just had dental surgery may need antibiotics during the first week they are home with you. A dog who has a touch of arthritis may need daily medication. Some animals may be entering their golden years and would benefit from more regular check-ups.

Why: Animals who have special medical circumstances need extra special humans committed to looking out for them! These animals might get overlooked by people who are looking for younger pets. It's rewarding to know that your compassion is making a difference for an animal who might have a harder time finding their forever home.

When: Ongoing. Our roster of adoptable animals with medical incentives changes often. Please check sonomahumane.org/adopt for current profiles. Or, come visit the animals in their habitats and look for the VetCare+ symbol on their kennel cards.

How long: Like a traditional adoption, you'll provide a loving forever home for an animal with special medical needs - for life!

We provide: We want to make it as easy as possible for these animals to find a home, so each one comes with their own individualized health care package including complimentary medication and/or vet visits.

CYPRESS FINANCIAL MORTGAGE & INVESTMENTS, INC.

Thinking about *moving* or *refinancing*?

Take advantage of these **historic low interest rates!**

CALL TODAY
for your
FREE
consultation.



Shannon Tracey Vandewalle
Mortgage Broker

707.544.6200 ext. 203
Shannon@CypressFinancial.com

DRE# 01164883 :: NMLS#243964



Goodenough Website Services

Sonoma County Website Design & Maintenance

Jim Goodenough works with business owners to increase sales via the creation and maintenance of a website. Jim's goal is to integrate his website designs into his client's business strategy and tactics. The vision for Goodenough Website Services is to hear clients say "the website design and maintenance process via Goodenough Website Services is a continuing part of our success."



www.goodenoughwebsiteservices.com

Here When You Need us

Expert, Compassionate 24/7 Emergency & Specialty Care



**VCA Animal Care Center
of Sonoma County**

- Urgent Care & Emergency Services
- 24 Hours a Day, 365 Days a Year!
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
- Pacemakers
- Fluoroscopy, MRI, CT, & Ultrasound
- Advanced Wound Healing Technology
- Neurosurgery
- Oncologic Surgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Endoscopy & Bronchoscopy
- Pain Management Center
- Canine Physical Rehabilitation
- Hydrotherapy
- Acupuncture

We understand how much you care...
6470 Redwood Drive, Rohnert Park • 707.584.4343

Room for one more?

Becoming a multi-pet family



As a Sonoma Humane Society supporter and animal lover, you feel compelled to do your part for homeless animals. Sometimes the most direct way to help a shelter animal is to get them out of the shelter – and into your home! Even the nicest shelters (like SHS!) can be stressful environments for animals. When separated from everything familiar and suddenly faced with new smells and noises, other animals, and inconsistent human contact, an animal's well-being can quickly become compromised. Getting them into a home environment, either for temporary rehabilitation or with a forever family, is the best thing for them.

When you bring a shelter animal home, you're not only making a huge impact in the life of this one animal, you're creating space in the shelter for another homeless animal to be cared for. Fostering is an excellent way to do this (see Compassion³, pg. 18). A temporary commitment, fostering will give an animal reprieve from shelter stresses and the extra socialization will boost their adoptability. Or maybe you're considering diving right in and adopting? Chances are, being the animal lover you are, you've already got a pet (or two!) at home. There are many things to consider when bringing a new furry family member into the fold, but fear not - our Behavior and Training Department has compiled resources to make introductions and transitions smooth and successful!

Visit our B & T virtual library at sonomahumane.org/behavior-training/resources
Our team is also available for consultations. To schedule call: (707) 542-0882 ext.233.

DEALING WITH DESTRUCTO-KITTY: DECLAWING IS NOT THE ANSWER!



Cats were designed to scratch. They wouldn't do it if it didn't feel so goooooood! A normal function of feline physiology, scratching is a cat's way of keeping nails groomed, marking territory and getting in a nice stretch. While rendering your cat unable to scratch up the furniture may seem like a dream come true for your living room, it can be a nightmare for your cat. Declawing is currently commonly seen in the United States as a solution to destructive behavior, but it is in fact a very inhumane practice banned in at least 22 countries.

Besides frustration over destroyed furniture, some folks declaw their cats out of fear of infections. People with immunodeficiencies or bleeding disorders are sometimes wrongly advised to declaw their cats to protect themselves from scratches. According to the Humane Society of the United States, infectious disease specialists don't recommend declawing, saying that the risk from bites, cat litter or fleas carried by cats is actually greater than from scratches for people with compromised health.

If you are considering declawing your cat, we're here to beg you to reconsider. Many people innocently assume declawing is as harmless as clipping a cat's nails,

but in reality it's a surgical procedure that involves partially amputating the end bones of the cat's toes. Declawing (or Onychectomy) is a painful surgery that, if performed on a human, would be the equivalent of cutting each finger off at the knuckle. If you think that sounds like an act of cruelty, we agree! In addition to being an extreme procedure, declawing alters the way a cat's feet meet the ground – affecting their agility, balance and overall support. It also takes away a cat's primary method of defense; an "indoor cat" often ends up outside or in shelters for various reasons and this leaves them extremely vulnerable to predators.

Another sad fact of declawing is that for many cats it can lead to litter box issues. Over 75% of declawed cats we see here at Sonoma Humane Society have problems with urinating outside the litter box. SHS veterinarian Dr. Cambor says the underlying cause for this is not well understood, but she believes it could be due to the trauma of the painful procedure or possibly related to a residual sensitivity which makes scratching in the litter box unpleasant for the cat. Poor litter box habits make it incredibly difficult for us to re-home these cats, especially since living outdoors defenseless is

not an option for them.

Now that we've established that declawing is an ugly practice, what are your options for protecting your furniture? A first step could be to simply accept the behavior. If this doesn't work for you, it's time to get a little proactive:

- Make sure your cat gets regular nail trims. You can ask your groomer or veterinarian for tips on doing it yourself. You might consider rotary sanding devices such as "Pedi-Paws".
- Look into vinyl nail caps (such as "Soft Paws") for your cat. This product is applied to a cat's claws with non-toxic glue and needs to be replaced every 4-6 weeks as the cat sheds its claw sheaths.

Other solutions involve redirecting your cat's scratching to more appropriate outlets:

- Supply alternative places for your cat to scratch such as scratching posts or cardboard scratching boxes. Get creative and provide a variety of materials and textures to entice your cat: wood, carpet or sisal.
- Cover furniture or use furniture-protective sticky scratch guards that deter cats by feel (such as "Sticky Paws" a double-sided sticky tape in sheet form).

(For more ideas and information please check out the following resources: catscratching.com, softpaws.com, softclaws.com.) At Sonoma Humane Society we are so strongly against declawing that we require adopters to sign a contract stating that they will not declaw any cat adopted from our shelter. Until this merciless practice is banned in the U.S., we hope you'll join us in spreading the word about the dangers of declawing. Please share your awareness with other cat lovers in your life and together we can make strides towards more humane treatment for all living things.



The following donors were
regretfully omitted from
our Winter 2013 issue.
We wish to thank them for
their generous support!

Sponsor

Karen and James Bowron *
Robert Epsen *
Christina Frehe *
Molly Goodenbour *
James and Jutta Grasso *
Paul Gussenhoven *
Lance J. Parker *
Patricia Pugh *
James and Denise Thomas *
Donna Turrentine *
J. Alexis Woody and Tim Foote *

Supporter

Emil and Constance Alberigi *
Norman and Gina Barnhart *

**Monthly giving program donor*



Mr. Ryder
and
Company
art & antiques

OPEN

Daily 11 ~ 5
Sunday 10 ~ 4

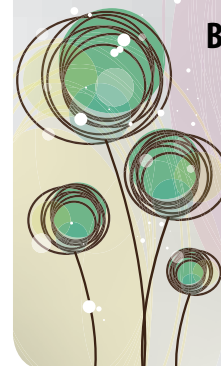
www.mrryderantiques.com



Very special thanks to

John and Susan Prouty

**Best Friend sponsors
of the Sonoma
Humane Society's
Wags, Whiskers
& Wine gala event.**



9040 GRATON ROAD, DOWNTOWN GRATON • (707) 824-8221



Sonoma Humane Society
P.O. Box 1296
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1296

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID
Sonoma
Humane
Society

Contact us: 5345 Hwy 12 West, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 Tel: 707.542.0882 Fax: 707.542.1317 www.sonomahumane.org
The Sonoma Humane Society does not receive any funding from government sources.

We depend on donations from our local community.

North Bay Pets is a publication of the Sonoma Humane Society. © Copyright 2014. All rights reserved.

*Lately, Mark's commissions have
gone to the dogs...
and cats, birds, and
hamsters, and turtles,
goats, pigs
and...*



Mark C. Penn REALTOR®
Mark@MyHomeInSonoma.com
888.SONOMA2 / 888.766.6622

**When you buy or sell your
next home, you help homeless
animals find theirs.**

Mark donates 10% of his sales commission to the
Sonoma Humane Society in your name
when you buy or sell your home.

*You'll always get top-notch integrity, professionalism, friendly
service and, on special request, maybe even a few dog kisses!*

Wags & Whiskers Wine

gala 2014



Friday, August 15th

Trentadue Winery, Geyserville

Join us... Call 542-0882 x203

Tickets \$175

Reserve your ticket today!