



North Bay Pets

a publication of the humane society of sonoma county



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**Many thanks to our
Founders Society**
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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **LINDSAY MCCALL**

Dear supporters and friends,

I am thrilled to share exciting updates with you from the team here at The Humane Society of Sonoma County. As Executive Director, it brings me great joy to see the positive impact we are making in our community, and I'm extremely optimistic about the future of our organization.

Recently, we held an intensive strategic planning session that truly engaged our leadership. We set out to create a roadmap that would help us better serve the companion animals in our community, and I am proud to say we are on our way to achieving just that. Our team brainstormed exciting new initiatives that will allow us to broaden our reach and help more animals in need, both within and beyond the walls of our shelters.

One of our key areas of focus was community outreach. We recognize that, to have a truly lasting and meaningful impact, we need to work closely with our local community to stay ahead of the ever-evolving needs of companion animals and their people. We have already started planning exciting events and programs that will help us connect with more people and create a deeper understanding of the importance of animal welfare to our community's well-being.

I am pleased to report that we have also made great progress in our efforts to improve the lives of the animals in our care. Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers have been working tirelessly to ensure that every animal that comes through our doors receives the best possible care and attention, based on nationally recognized, leading-edge rescue, sheltering, support, adoption, and post-adoption safety-net strategies. We continue to implement progressive enrichment programs, training protocols, and veterinary treatments to help each animal thrive.

None of this would be possible without your support - our community of donors, volunteers, adopters, campers, gala guests, and animal lovers. Your generous contributions of funding, time, participation, and love have enabled us to save more lives than ever. We are deeply grateful for your continued belief in HSSC and its mission.

Our vision of a more compassionate world for animals drives and inspires us, and, with you by our side, we will do everything in our power to achieve it.

Sincerely,

Lindsay McCall, HSSC Executive Director & Bird McCall, Chief Morale Officer

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HSSC Community Veterinary Clinic client
Photo by Kelsey Joy Photography

North Bay Pets Digital Magazine help us save animals, money & trees!

A digital version of our Summer 2023 issue, which includes our 2022 Annual Report and expanded Happy Tails, is now available!

If you would like to request the digital version of North Bay Pets, please email us at info@humanesocietysoco.org.

To view our 2022 Annual Report separately, please visit our website at: humanesocietysoco.org/annualreport

Wags, Whiskers & Wine

Friday, August 5 | 5:30 PM

Tickets: HumaneSocietySoCo.org/wags



Best Charity Event & Best Animal Adoption Center- Sonoma 8 YEARS IN A ROW!



Look Out for Those You Love

In the spirit of ensuring every animal receives the love, care, protection and compassion they deserve, we've partnered with a free online resource called **FreeWill** that helps you make your will for free in just 20 minutes! Through your will, you can secure your future, protect your loved ones, and even designate a guardian for your pets so they are always in good hands.

Learn more at FreeWill.com/HSSC



BEQUESTS

OCTOBER 2022 - MAY 2023



~ With deepest gratitude ~

Linda Burton White Trust

Golden-Kidder Trust

Cynthia Gonzalez Estate

Green Administrative Trust

Benedict Alexander Heck Trust

D.E. Holmberg Animal Charity Benefit Trust

Charles & Mary-Page Masson Trust

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MEDICAL PROGRAMS IN MOTION

A RESOURCE FOR OUR RESCUE PARTNERS, A RESOURCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

HSSC Shelter Medicine

The capacity crisis that shelters across the country have been experiencing in the past year shows no sign of letting up. Here at HSSC, we continue to work with our North Bay rescue partners when they are facing tough decisions about higher-risk animals - including those with treatable medical issues – due to lack of space. Your support is literally helping us save these precious lives!

Last year, our shelter hospital provided veterinary care for over 1,000 homeless animals on their path to adoption. This year, the volume of shelter animals in need continues to grow. We are saving animals like Dothraki, a 5-year-old cat who was at risk of euthanasia at a very crowded, overwhelmed Central Valley shelter because of his acute medical condition. One of his eyes was abnormally large and infected, and required enucleation (eye removal) surgery in order for him to live a healthy, comfortable life. He was transferred to us just in time this past March, along with several other cats and a dog who were also scheduled for euthanasia.



In spite of the pain his eye was causing him, Dothraki was snuggly and affectionate from the moment he arrived. His life clearly revolved around people! His surgery and recovery went well and, in no time flat, he found a home where he will be snuggled and loved forever.

We continue to take in multiple urgent transfers each week. Thank you for helping us serve as a beacon of hope for animals in need of second chances.

Community Veterinary Clinic



Dr. Ada with Ada

Our medical team also continues to make a lifesaving difference for beloved family pets at our Community Veterinary Clinic. Our CVC provides access to veterinary care for low- to no-income pet guardians, helping pets stay out of the shelter system and in the arms of their loving families.

In 2022, Our CVC team logged 1,945 appointments, an increase of almost 34% from the previous year! The number of surgeries performed at the CVC has increased by almost 10%. Our program focuses on providing urgent care for animals like Ada. The beautiful golden retriever was diagnosed with Pyometra at a local emergency veterinarian.

“Pyo” is a uterine infection that can occur in unspayed dogs. It can be life-threatening and emergency spay surgery can cost thousands of dollars. Since Ada was an indoor dog and the only dog in the household, her family wasn’t worried about her becoming pregnant and had never gotten her spayed. The cost of this surgery was out of their reach so the emergency clinic referred them to us. Thanks to your support, we were able to provide care for Ada at a subsidized price. Her family was so grateful to have access to this vital resource.

Read more Community Veterinary Clinic Happy Tails at humanesocietysoco.org/donate-to-the-community-veterinary-clinic/



Melina Stambolis, RVT & Katherine Menard, DVM

Spaying (and Neutering!) the Way... to a Better Future for Animals!

We are so proud of our highly skilled veterinary team for all the ways they've been ramping up to cross-train staff from each of our three medical programs to improve efficiencies – including our spay/neuter clinic.

Last year, 1,869 owned pets were spayed and neutered at our Low-cost clinics and 421 through our Community Veterinary Clinic. Additionally, 817 shelter animals were spayed and neutered before adoption. That's a total of 3,107 animals (and their guardians!) who are doing their part to help us end animal homelessness and curb the capacity crisis in local shelters and beyond!

Thanks to your support, HSSC is a leading provider of spay/neuter services in our county as well as an innovator in improving access to veterinary care for pet guardians. Now, we are launching another exciting program that will also have important and lasting impacts for the animals!

Our medical programs are the heartbeat of our lifesaving commitment to the animals. Your donations help us ensure that every pet is safe, cared for and loved.

humansocietysoco.org/give/angels-fund

HSSC HUMANE ED - THE HOTTEST TICKET IN TOWN!

This spring, registration for our Animal Adventure Summer Camps sold out in minutes! Does that make us the Taylor Swift of summer camps? One thing we know for sure: Sonoma County kids are digging our popular animal-centric curriculum! Our campers engage in fun and educational activities like communicating with cats, teaching dogs tricks, getting crafty and creating enrichment toys for shelter animals, and exploring different careers in animal care!

We are honored and excited to help nurture the next generation of compassionate individuals!

Sign up for our newsletter to get a jump on Fall Afterschool Animal Academy and Winter Camps! humansocietysoco.org/humane-education/

A Brand New Spay/Neuter Training Program

Anyone with pets who has tried to get a vet appointment recently is likely feeling the effects of the nationwide veterinary staffing shortage. Here at HSSC, we've been profoundly impacted too, as we can't begin to compete with private practices, especially corporate vet clinics, in salaries and benefits. So, as with any challenge we face, we looked for a way to be part of the solution!

In collaboration with high profile experts, including Cal Animals for All Animals (an initiative powered by the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program), Best Friends Animal Society and Community Animal Medical Project (CAMP LA), we are establishing an on-campus regional training program for up-and-coming and veteran veterinary professionals.

As HSSC Director of Veterinary Programs, Albert Escobedo, explains, "With a curriculum focused on high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HVHQS) training, our program will offer surgical instruction and hands-on practice, as well as experience in HVHQS, shelter medicine and community medicine settings. Additionally, our program will help us increase our capacity to care for more animals."

"We hope to increase capacity for all types of spay/neuter surgery across the region. We anticipate this program will enable us to expand our own lifesaving capacity and at the same time send more experienced veterinary staff into the community to expand overall access to care."

As the only program of its kind north of San Francisco, this is a win for our region, the veterinary community – and best of all – the animals! Our pilot program launched this spring, please stay tuned for updates!





HAPPY *Tails*



HER MAJESTY MAXINE

Her Majesty Maxine is the kind of gloriously affectionate cat who purrs and drools when she's happy and adores being the center of attention! With her outgoing personality and gorgeous looks, we were surprised that the sweet senior cat had been available for adoption for 4 months with little interest before finally meeting her purrfect match!

Laura stopped by our Santa Rosa shelter searching for a new kitty companion and when we suggested she meet our diva kitty, Her Majesty Maxine, it was love at first sight! Laura says, "I fell in love with her the day we met and took her home. With patience and love, she has become relaxed and happy in her new home. She gives kisses, sleeps in bed with me and is very affectionate. Thank you, Humane Society!"



MYLO

Mylo was transferred to HSSC from the Sacramento SPCA last December. He was very scared upon arrival and needed time to decompress. Our staff and volunteers moved slowly to help him adjust and gain confidence. It took a while for Mylo to begin trusting us, but with time, patience and a lot of yummy treats, he warmed up enough to allow gentle pets.

Even though Mylo was never a super snuggly cat, we knew that once he settled into a new home he would warm up and form loving bonds with his people. We're so grateful that he found such patient, gentle adopters in Deborah and George. They understand who he is. They don't push his boundaries and they give him the space he needs to get comfortable. In a recent update, Deborah shared, "Mylo is smart and handsome and we are so glad to have him! He loves our sunroom with large picture windows! As Darby (HSSC adoption counselor) said, 'He's work, but so worth it!' George and I look forward to the day Mylo warms up to us enough to let us pet him. Until then, we will continue to love and play with Mylo and give him the time and space he needs to adjust."



DIEGO

Diego is a special underdog whose happy face and silly personality melted all of our hearts in the nearly two years that he with us. During his time at HSSC, Diego enjoyed going on out-and-about to his favorite coffee shop for "puppicinos", dressing up and diving head first into a bucket of stuffed animals to find a special toy!

We were overjoyed when Karen called to ask about him. She'd had her eye on him for a while, but her house had been under renovation and she hadn't been ready to adopt. When Karen met Diego, it was instant mutual love! The timing was perfect and she adopted him the next day!

She recently shared this "pupdate": "Diego is doing so well! Day one my husband looked at him and said 'I love you.' He sleeps in bed with us every night and loves his morning routine - breakfast, then a nap, followed by a lot of big zoomies! He has his own huge basket of stuffed animals that he takes out, scatters around the floor and sleeps next to. He likes to spend his afternoons lounging on top of the couch, by the front window, snooping on the neighbors! He's a very good boy and we're so happy to have him."

ALABASTER

Alabaster was transferred to HSSC in desperate need of medical care. He had severe dental disease and suffered from a painful eye condition known as entropion. Both would require surgery in order for him to live a healthy, comfortable life. With his eager affection and attention-seeking meows, Alabaster won the hearts of our veterinary staff and volunteers during his medical procedures and recovery. Once healed, he went on to win the heart of his forever human!

James is a veteran who was searching for a friendly, fuzzy companion. When he met our sweet Alabaster, he knew immediately that this was the cat for him. James recently gave us this happy update: "I can tell you that Alabaster has integrated very well into our home. He loves to cuddle and that works for me anytime. I especially love a nighttime ritual he has already developed. When I go to bed at night, he does a slow crawl up to my arm and settles in using my arm as a pillow. He may have had troubles in the past, but he doesn't let that slow him down or make him any less loving or trusting of people."



KYLER (NOW KYVER)

Kyler arrived at HSSC shut down and terrified, too scared to exit the transport van. Our staff needed to carry him in his crate just to get him over the threshold and into our shelter. He was about a year old, and BIG - close to 100 pounds! His long legs shook nervously when he walked. We gently worked with him to help him feel comfortable and build trust. At first, he wouldn't leave his room. It took a bit of time before he would go outside, or even walk down hallways. Slowly though, we earned his trust!

When Whitney called, she explained that she and her senior pup Kujo were looking to add another dog to their family, and we had a hunch this would be a fantastic fit. She had shy dog experience and we knew Kyler could benefit from a patient doggy mentor.

Whitney told us that Kyler (now Kyver) is doing wonderfully in his new home! "He's a total love bug and enjoys spending time with his head in a lap while someone pets his face. He spends his days napping in my art studio while I work. We did a DNA test and it turns out that he is 100% Anatolian Shepherd! He likes playing 'King of the Mountain' with Kujo. He knows sit, stay, up and lay down, and he loves being brushed! We're happy to give him the time and space he needs to grow through his fear and into an even more wonderful dog than he already is! As someone with diagnosed anxiety disorders, I feel like he and I have a special understanding of each other. I'm so glad we ended up being his fur-ever home."



BESSIE & HARLEY (NOW MAGGIE MAE & HARLEY)

The story of Bessie and Harley involves an HSSC adoption counselor, fostering and lots of love. The two dogs were adopted from HSSC to the same family one year apart from each other and they've been living happily as best friends ever since!

Bessie is an 8-year-old, 130 pound Great Pyrenees who was transferred to us from Tehama County in early 2022. We wanted to give her a break from shelter life, so Darby, one of our fantastic adoption counselors, decided to foster her at home with her dad and her dog Noodle. It didn't take long before Bessie won over Darby's father's heart, and he decided to turn his fuzzy foster friend into a loving adopted family member! "We loved her so much we just had to keep her," he said. "She's a total love and likes to smack you with her paws if you stop petting her!"

Bessie, now Maggie Mae, settled in perfectly, but when Darby and Noodle moved into a new home, he wanted to find Maggie another dog friend. Luck just happened to strike twice! Darby began fostering Harley, a young, 75 pound Great Dane. Harley had been bouncing in and out of the shelter since she was a pup and Darby had a soft spot for her. She fit in right away! Darby's dad said, "When Harley met Maggie for the first time, she was a little nervous. But all Maggie wanted to do was play and cuddle! They became fast friends and we knew we needed to keep her. She's a goofball who just wants to be near you. It's been a month since Harley joined our family and our girls play so well together every day now. We love them both and are so thankful for them!"



JOINING TOGETHER TO **FEED THE NEED!**



In recent months, shelters across the country have been seeing an uptick in pet surrenders due to financial hardships. Here at HSSC, we've also seen a dramatic increase in the number of surrender requests we are receiving each day. That's why we're working hard to expand access to affordable veterinary services, pet food and supplies, pet behavior support and other resources to help curb this trend.

Our new Community Action Team (CAT) is focused on meeting the need where it exists – starting with making sure no pets go hungry. For years, we've been distributing thousands of pounds of pet food annually through our pet food pantries at our Santa Rosa and Healdsburg shelters. To better support those in need, our CAT program has been delivering bulk quantities of donated food and supplies to human service organizations in the community as well. We're going to Redwood Gospel Mission's weekly mobile shower sites for unhoused individuals and the monthly Guerneville food pantry, which is a program of the Salvation Army. We're also working with Reach for Home and The Living Room for distribution to their clients with pets and partnering with Compassion Without Borders to bring a mobile pet food pantry to their monthly wellness clinics.

Currently, we're distributing about 800 pounds of food and other necessary pet supplies such as collars, leashes, bowls, beds, etc., every month through our mobile services. That's roughly the equivalent of 2,400 meals for dogs and 3,200 meals for cats each month - and our efforts are just getting started!

This service is almost exclusively supported by financial and in-kind donations and is proving essential, now more than ever, due to rising costs and economic uncertainty. Along with our safety net of medical programs, our Pet Pantry and CAT program ensure pet parents will be able to provide for their pets even through difficult times. Together, we can ensure that more animals will stay out of our shelters and in the arms of their loving companions!

Find out how you can help by visiting humanesocietysoco.org/owner-support/pet-food-pantry/

UPDATES FROM **HEALDSBURG**

Cats of all stripes have known for years that Kitty City is a posh place to land on the journey to adoption. Until recently though, we hadn't been able to officially dedicate this cat-astic communal living space. (Covid, we're looking at you!) In March, we were thrilled to celebrate with a special ribbon cutting ceremony. This fun event was attended by dear friends, volunteers and donors Clay Nesbitt and Dan and Debbie Mason, who were instrumental in the creation of Kitty City.



We commemorated long time beloved donor and extraordinary cat lover, Dean Gross, whose support and care have been essential and sustaining over many years. Joining in the festivities were friends from the Healdsburg Chamber and community. Guests enjoyed delicious wines from Rodney Strong Vineyards, tasty vegan nibbles from Taco Sagrado/Epicurean Escape, and smooches from the Kissing Booth pups!

Our animal loving Healdsburg community even brought donations of pet food and supplies for our Pet Food Pantry and Community Action Team. Our heartfelt thanks to all who came and helped make this evening a delightful success!

Get the scoop on our Healdsburg shelter here: humanesocietysoco.org/healdsburg-campus

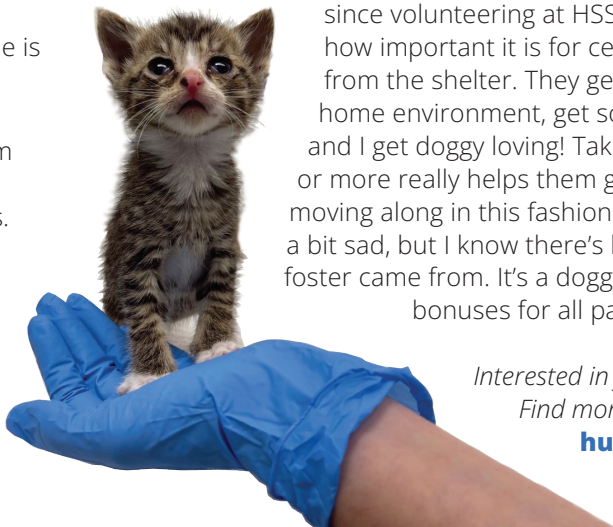
FOSTER FOCUS - IN THEIR OWN WORDS

HSSC volunteers are a crucial factor in our lifesaving equation, both in – and out – of our shelters! Our foster volunteers open their homes and hearts to animals in need of extra TLC, enabling us to expand our capacity to care for even more of the animals who need us. Here, a few of our foster friends share what this important volunteer role means to them.

“What I enjoy most about fostering is seeing a dog that is not doing well in a shelter environment transform into the joyful and loving creature he is meant to be.” -Linda Meehan

“I love fostering kittens. We get to socialize them and play with them and, when they leave our home, they will be going to their forever homes. Once they go back to the shelter, I get to look forward to my next batch of kittens. I grew up with cats and miss being able to have my own at this time. Fostering allows me to have pets without the long-term commitment. I love knowing we have given them a strong start in life.”

-Carolyn Bischof



“I love dogs and have loved being a dog owner, but since volunteering at HSSC, I have seen firsthand how important it is for certain dogs to have a break from the shelter. They get to relax into a loving home environment, get socialized and civilized - and I get doggy loving! Taking them home for a week or more really helps them get adopted. Keeping dogs moving along in this fashion is very satisfying and also a bit sad, but I know there's lots more where that last foster came from. It's a doggy lending library with big bonuses for all parties!” -Mary Munat

Interested in joining our foster roster?
Find more information here:

[humanesocietysoco.org/
get-involved/foster](https://humanesocietysoco.org/get-involved/foster)

“Connect with your dog from the heart, not a leash and a collar.” - Zak George



If you've ever taken an HSSC dog training class, you know we believe in keeping things positive! Our positive training philosophy extends right down to the kinds of collars we recommend for dogs. This means we **do not** endorse any collar designed to pinch, shock or choke your dog. You've probably seen these scary looking items at pet stores. Maybe you've even been told they are effective training tools to curb unwanted behaviors in your dog.

Studies have shown however that prong, shock and choke collars are not only inhumane and dangerous, they are ineffective training tools (sfspca.org/behavior-training/prong/studies/).

They can result in injuries ranging from punctured skin, spinal cord problems and crushed tracheas.

Additionally, they can increase fear, aggression and reactivity in your dog and break down the bond of trust.

The good news is that there are so many humane equipment choices available! Determine which one is best for your dog's unique needs. We can help! Flat, rolled or Martingale-style collars, or front- or back-clip harnesses are some safe, humane options, as described here: <https://www.sfspca.org/behavior-training/prong/alternatives>. Next, find out what motivates your dog – praise, play, petting, treats? - and reward the behaviors you want to see more of, early and often! Rewards make your dog more likely to repeat desired behaviors and make training a much more enjoyable, loving and humane experience.

Need help with your dog's behavior? Contact us at dogtraining@humanesocietysoco.org or check out our training classes at humanesocietysoco.org/dog-training/



HSSC Alumna Kiara

FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

We are deeply grateful to our Founder's Society members for their generous gifts, received July 2021 through June 2022. Your loving kindness sustains our lifesaving programs and services.

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In Remembrance • Chris Stover

We are saddened by the passing of beloved HSSC volunteer Chris Stover. A passionate advocate for house rabbits, Chris made sure our shelter rabbits received the best possible care on their journey to adoption. He will be deeply missed, yet his legacy of compassion for these special creatures will live on forever.

