Meet the animals and people behind our programs and services

HAILEY
A happy ending for this once neglected dog
page 17
Thirty years ago I began my professional career in animal welfare. I was hired as the public relations coordinator for my local humane society located in Washington State. Typical in a non-profit organization, my job duties were many; in addition to public relations it also included fundraising, coordinating volunteers and giving humane education presentations. I was very excited to take this position because animals have always been very important in my life and I wanted the opportunity to make a difference.

A lot has changed since 1983—the number of animals spayed or neutered has increased, animal shelters and rescue organizations have been more creative and effective with their adoption promotions, and microchipping as a form of identification has saved many lost animals. All of this work has led to an increase in the number of animals that find their way back home or are adopted into new homes in shelters across North America, which is a big accomplishment!

Despite progress being made, our work is not close to being completed. On any given day you can walk around our campus and see how we help start or improve the relationships people can have with animals, respond to concerned citizens requests for assistance, and provide veterinary care to nurse sick and injured animals back to health.

For a more long-term approach, MHS has a multi-year strategic plan which identifies four areas of focus, and the strategies and key action steps set forth to accomplish those goals (more details of the strategic plan were shared in past Animal Chronicles and can be viewed on our website).

In planning this issue of Animal Chronicles we wanted to share real stories of how individuals are helping or being helped through MHS.

We want to show the more human side to our multi-faceted mission—because we are not just an animal organization! We improve the lives of animals and people through advocacy, education, and support. As you read through this issue I hope you gain a better understanding of the impact MHS has in our community, and beyond.

Our ability to meet the needs of animals and the people connected to them is only made possible through the support (financial and in-kind) we receive from individuals, corporations and foundations. MHS is your only local humane society. We are not a chapter or affiliate of any other animal organization. So every contribution makes a difference!

I hope this issue will inspire you to get more involved in MHS. From advocacy projects and spending time volunteering, to attending events and telling others to adopt from MHS, we have a lot to offer and we need you.

And please come visit the Marin Humane Society and ask for a tour.

In appreciation for the progress made and yet to come,

Nancy B. McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer
## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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Remembering a local cat hero

By Janet Williams

Susan Johnston
One of the smartest moves I ever made was to place an ad on Craigslist in March of 2008. That’s because the result was Susan Johnston. All I asked for was a feral cat colony feeder in Terra Linda but what I received was a close friend and eventual vice president of our nonprofit organization, Marin Friends of Ferals.

She left her mark in so many ways that wherever we look, we see our friend. Susan was someone who got involved. She always told me she was lazy and needed to be pushed to get anything done, but that’s not the Susan I knew. Her profession was computer automated design but she was also a talented seamstress and her home is adorned with numerous paintings she created.

Susan had a wicked sense of humor. Her easygoing, laid-back nature endeared her to pretty much everyone. She was a patient listener. When Susan did offer her opinion, it was usually the exact right course of action. She was bright and observant. I think she would have made a great detective because she noticed everything.

I spent thousands of hours over the last five years trapping feral cats with Susan for TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return). Trapping often includes a lot of down time. Those were some of my favorite moments with her because we’d talk into the night while waiting for that elusive cat to appear.

The word “no” was foreign to Susan regarding helping ferals. She’d get up before dawn to collect the cats at the shelter, deliver them to a local vet office and then return them afterward. She’d canvas neighborhoods talking to residents or distributing fliers—whatever it took to reach those with feral cat concerns.

Susan and I have shared some interesting scenarios over the years while trying to locate and rescue feral cats and kittens for altering. We’ve been into trees, attics and basements; walked through blackberry bushes, poison oak, and mud. We crawled under numerous decks and buildings, climbed hills and waded through streams. We found feral kittens under the front seat of an abandoned car and inside barns loaded to the ceiling with hay. Talk about a needle in a haystack!

Susan and I have traveled thousands of miles together through every community in Marin over the last five years. We’ve rescued feral cats from Sausalito to Dillon Beach and dozens of locations in-between. With Susan’s dedicated help, Marin Friends of Ferals has so far rescued 1,723 cats and kittens for TNR. Of those, 526 were fostered and eventually adopted through the Marin Humane Society. Susan herself fostered 79 kittens.

Our dear friend helped pioneer our nonprofit into an effective organization dedicated to the humane care of feral community cats in Marin. Trapping isn’t the same without Susan, but I feel her with me in spirit. The Marin Humane Society is remembering Susan with a stone bench in honor of her dedication and passion for cats—ferals in particular. The bench fittingly sits next to a statue of a cat. I’m sure Susan would think that’s just purrfect.

Janet Williams is a member of Marin Friends of Ferals, a volunteer organization dedicated to the humane care and management of feral community cats.

If you know of any cats living outdoors who have no one to take care of them, please call the Marin Humane Society at 415.823.4621 and we will work with you to find an effective solution. MHS can:

- Connect you with organizations like Marin Friends of Ferals that will safely trap feral cats so that they can be spayed or neutered
- Provide vouchers that cover up to $85 of the cost of surgery at participating veterinary clinics
- Spay/neuter, vaccinate and microchip feral cats for a discounted fee at the MHS Veterinary Clinic

Photos provided by Marin Friends of Ferals.
many communities in California are challenged by pet overpopulation and struggle to find homes for animals housed in overcrowded shelters. But in Marin County, the demand for adoptable animals is greater than the supply.

Considerable progress has been made in curbing pet overpopulation in our community. Many companion animals in Marin are spayed or neutered, and microchipped, and the percentage of stray animals returned to their guardians is much higher here than in other places. While extremely proud of our success, the Marin Humane Society remains committed to doing more for animals in need.

Through our Pet Partnership program, MHS partners with dozens of underresourced shelters in California—and beyond—to bring more than 1,500 animals each year to Marin to find new homes. “We support those shelters that simply don’t have the resources to care for the steady stream of animals entering their facilities,” says program coordinator Grace Stauffer.

The Pet Partnership program is making a difference at the rural-based Mendocino County Animal Services, where the area’s relatively small population limits the number of adopters. “With the Marin Humane Society as our partner, we are saving more lives,” says shelter supervisor Sage Mountainfire. “That’s what it’s all about!”

Staff at the Tehama County Animal Care Center feels very fortunate to be a part of the Pet Partnership program. “The Marin Humane Society helps find homes for so many of our unwanted canine and feline residents who would otherwise sit in the shelter for months waiting for a new home,” says shelter manager Christine McClintock. “Without their help, our euthanasia rates would go sky high.”

The Central California SPCA (CCSPCA) in Fresno receives dozens of stray and owner surrendered pets daily. “Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, not all of these animals find new homes,” says rescue coordinator Kim Yrigollen.

Partnering with organizations like the Marin Humane Society gives pets at the CCSPCA a second chance for adoption. “These valuable partnerships are often the only viable outlet for the many animals that pour into our facility daily,” adds Yrigollen. “With the help of organizations like the Marin Humane Society, we inch closer and closer to the goal of no more homeless and unwanted pets.”

While many of our partner shelters do not have the resources to work with animals that have medical or behavior issues, we are often able to treat these animals at MHS. Grace recalls a little dog named Princess Buttercup, who wouldn’t move or eat when she first arrived. “After several days here, she did a happy dance when taken out for walk.” And River, a Border Collie found in the Central Valley, emaciated and with sores all over his body. “After spending time in a foster home, River gained weight and turned out to be the happiest, most cheerful dog!”

Pet Partnership volunteers log hundreds of miles each month, retrieving animals from places like Fresno, Mendocino and Tehama counties. Says Grace, “We rescue animals that only have a few days left to find a home or that have been at a shelter for months waiting for a home, and then bring them back to Marin where people are thrilled to make them a part of their family. It’s a really positive feeling!”

Animal shelters exist primarily to serve their communities, but when fortunate enough to have the resources and support, organizations like the Marin Humane Society can help people and animals beyond our borders. Says Grace, “The ultimate reward is seeing the smiling faces of adopters when they take one of our Pet Partnership animals home.”

For more information about the Pet Partnership program, please call program coordinator Grace Stauffer at 415.506.6289 or email GStauffer@MarinHumaneSociety.org.

Photos: This page—River the Border Collie; Kim Yrigollen from the CCSPCA
Facing page—Princess Buttercup, a Chihuahua mix
Once reluctant readers are racing to the library

Maya Creedman and Anne Siskin, third grade teachers at Willow Creek Academy in Sausalito, are using the Marin Humane Society’s SHARE A Book program in their classrooms to help motivate reluctant readers who might benefit from an innovative opportunity to read to dogs. They describe the experience as transformational for their students.

The Willow Creek Academy third graders look forward to the Marin Humane Society’s Share A Book program all week! Twice a week after lunch, rain or shine, the dog teams sniff their way to the library for a special reading lesson. The SHARE a Book teams, who have completed two classes to be a part of the program, are an eager and attentive audience as the third graders read them a story of their choice!

Students who struggle with reading and don’t feel comfortable reading aloud eagerly grab a book and race to the library when it is their time to read to a dog. The students see entertaining their canine partner as a welcomed and important responsibility. Because the response from their partner is always positive (from the adoring, accepting eyes and lick on the hand to the snuggling head on the lap), the students feel more confident in their reading abilities. These fifteen minutes a week give the students an extra boost of confidence and motivation to grow as readers. Reading to a dog dials down the stress level of reading aloud and introduces the children to the joy of sharing a book.

The self-confidence and reading level of our reluctant readers has increased largely because of the kind and non-judgmental ears of the dogs and the generous time donated by their handlers. The students truly benefit from the human-animal bond that the Share A Book Program and their volunteers provide weekly.

Photos: Clockwise from top left—Gretl volunteers at Mary Silveira School (photo by Kathy Meier); Wesley listens to a Brownie read at SHARE A Book class graduation; Kai volunteers at Mary Silveira School (photo by Kathy Meier).

SHARE A Book human-dog volunteer teams visit Marin schools, libraries, book fairs, after-school programs, and reading labs to help children improve literacy skills while offering them an opportunity to have fun reading—to dogs! For more information about SHARE A Book, contact community programs manager Darlene Blackman at 415.506.6264 or dblackman@MarinHumaneSociety.org, or visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.
E lizabeth of Novato describes the day back in August 2004 when she adopted her animal companion, Honey, from the Marin Humane Society. “I was first in line when the doors opened. When I saw Honey, a skinny seven-pound Chihuahua, it was love at first sight.”

Three years later, Elizabeth endured two unsuccessful back surgeries that left her permanently disabled and with limited income. “Giving up my Honey was NOT an option,” says Elizabeth. “Fortunately, a caring neighbor told me about the Marin Humane Society’s SHARE program.”

Funded entirely by donations and grants, the SHARE (Special Human-Animal Relationships) pet care assistance program has helped Marin County’s low-income senior pet guardians for more than twenty years. Not only does SHARE provide funding for veterinary care, but the program’s eighteen volunteers regularly deliver pet food to 232 clients and their 307 companion animals, and assist clients with transportation for veterinary appointments, dog walking, cleaning litter boxes, and administering medications.

“I feel very fortunate to be a SHARE client,” says Elizabeth. “Throughout the years, the Humane Society has provided Honey with pet food, flea treatments, vaccinations and nail trims.”

Donations of pet food and supplies as well as financial contributions are a vital part of the SHARE program, which has seen a significant increase in demand for services from the community. “Requests for pet care assistance have risen steadily over the last several years,” says Annie Humphrey, SHARE program coordinator. “We now average more than 80 requests from both clients and non-clients every month.”

Honey, now 12-years old, had bad breath and a few cracked and missing teeth earlier this year. Elizabeth was overjoyed to learn that there were enough funds in the SHARE program to enable Honey to get a teeth cleaning, an important step for preventing some of the more serious side effects of periodontal disease such as damage to internal organs.

“Honey could now be pictured on the front of a Hallmark greeting card,” exclaims Elizabeth.

You can support the SHARE pet care assistance program by making a donation of pet food to the Marin Humane Society. Of particular need are cans and small bags of cat and dog food. Financial contributions are also welcome and can be made online or by calling 415.506.6259. For more information about SHARE pet care assistance, contact program coordinator Annie Humphrey at 415.506.6255 or ahumphrey@MarinHumaneSociety.org, or visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.
Since Marin Humane Society founder Ethel Tompkins began visiting Marin County classrooms 100 years ago, humane education has been an essential part of our mission. Today, children in Marin come to the humane society to be a part of after-school service clubs, internships, community service projects, shelter tours, birthday parties and our ever popular summer camp. We also perform outreach to schools and bring programs to libraries and other organizations.

More than 3,300 Marin children participate in our humane education programs annually, including Animal Care Club member Frankie Max of San Rafael, who has this to say about being inspired by MHS:

I like to work with MHS because I believe all animals should have good lives. I got involved through my grandmother, Lisa Max, who volunteers in the SHARE program. She works with MHS to train her dogs so she can bring them to hospitals and senior care centers to help make people feel better and to cheer them up, because some people don’t get visitors very often.

I also got my cat, Teddy, at MHS; he is a white, shorthair Siamese mix with a striped tail and blue eyes, like me! We also have two other cats, and a blind dog at home. I have also attended MHS’s summer camp for the last two years.

I’m inspired to work with animals because animals are always there for you. Sadly, some people aren’t there for them. MHS inspires me because they make a difference in the lives of all kinds of animals, even the ones you don’t always think about, like birds. Last summer there were even pigeons! I especially like their Pet Partnership program that rescues animals from other shelters.

I like to give back to MHS and recently donated $109, which I saved up from allowance and money I found around the house! I also volunteer in Animal Care Club, where I get to help out the grown-up volunteers, play with cute animals, and play animal awareness games. I like being able to help out even though I am only in 5th grade. The only thing I don’t like about Animal Care Club is that it only meets every other week!

Our humane education programs have thrived in Marin over the past century thanks to amazing youth like Frankie. To learn more about our education programs, please call 415.506.6288 or email education@MarinHumaneSociety.org.
Our family has always loved the Marin Humane Society. Even before we adopted our dog, Ellie, my son Jack had his birthday party there. Now with both a dog and a cat, we still visit just to see the wonderful animals seeking homes. Three years ago our connection expanded and we became a kitten foster family.

These youngest animals often need socialization and brief dosages of medicines to get a healthy start towards adoption. When a truck accidentally backed over a cat at the dump, we were called to help foster her orphaned kittens. Our little E.T. and Groucho came from a home with many cats, where they weren’t able to get the food they needed to develop. Maybelline, Revlon and Liner had been left on a barn roof, where their mother thought they would be safe.

Our efforts have been rewarding in so many ways it's hard to count. With each fostering experience we are assured that a pet has found a more secure future. The love and responsiveness of these small creatures connects us to our world in ways we have not experienced before. There is nothing that can replicate the feeling of a kitten nuzzling up to you for a cuddle and brief nap. It brings out the nurturer in everyone. It makes us realize that all living creatures need that connection, and how simple it is to provide.

Fostering has been a simple adjustment for our family. We often start the kittens out in our half-bathroom. It is a quieter place with less space to lose them. When they begin to trust us for more than food, water and a litter box, we move them to our kitchen where they have more room to run and play. They might still be a little shy, and want to hide beneath the counter bases, but it gives us more space to interact with them. Some like balls, others prefer dangling toys, or a brown bag, or even a simple pipe cleaner. Regular cuddling is needed for them to connect and develop a relationship with their future families. We usually keep them for two weeks to a month, with regular visits to see the coordinator, Suzanne, for medications and vet visits.

It makes us sad to return our foster animals, but we couldn't continue to foster if we adopted them all. Our friends, family, and even our plumber have adopted our treasures, so we still get to see our previous foster like Sadie and Frai Juan. Our reward is hearing they have gone on to loving families, sometimes with their brother or sister, and knowing they will continue to share the great love they have brought to our lives.

Photo: Grace (11), Angela and Cate (13) Hood of Novato.

Open up your heart and home to an incredibly rewarding experience! Our foster families provide temporary home care for animals not yet ready for adoption due to illness, injury or age. We furnish all of the supplies. YOU provide all the TLC! If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact Anne Oliver, director of volunteer services, at 415.506.6267 or email aboliver@MarinHumaneSociety.org.
Vet Clinic never turns a blind eye

By Belinda Evans, DVM

Since the Marin Humane Society is an open door shelter, meaning that we accept any companion animal regardless of their health or temperament, we certainly see our share of unusual medical cases.

A recent example is Lucy, a lovely young cat who arrived at the shelter after a traumatic event in her previous home. We quickly noticed that Lucy’s eyes were unusual; her pupils were dilated and had a slight tremor, and we weren’t sure if her vision was normal. It was initially unclear if this was the result of head trauma, a condition she was born with, or something else. Lucy was sent to the Pet Emergency and Specialty Clinic of Marin (PESCM) in San Rafael, who partners with us to provide after-hours medical care. PESCM confirmed that her retinas appeared abnormal. They also thought that Lucy’s vision was impaired.

With an overall clean bill of health thanks to the work of the MHS veterinary clinic (with help from our veterinary specialist partners), Lucy was put up for adoption where she caught the eye of MHS board member, Laura Goff.

Says Laura, “I knew that I could give Lucy the ‘indoors only’ home that she would need, but I didn’t know if my two 12-year old cats would accept an addition to the family, especially my girl Lexie.”

Laura decided to bring Lucy home on our trial adoption program and introduce all of the cats gradually. “I got my answer when I found Lexie and Lucy playing tug-of-war with a cat dancer followed by a round of hide-and-seek in the kitty condo with my boy Frankie supervising. Frankie and Lexie said we could keep her, so we did!”

Belinda Evans, DVM is the director of veterinary services for the Marin Humane Society. The MHS Veterinary Clinic provides medical care for all shelter animals and victims of cruelty and neglect, and provides low-cost spay/neuter and vaccinations for Marin residents. For more information call 415.883.3383.

Photo: Lucy relaxes on the couch in her new home. Photo by Laura Goff.

In honor of our sweet girl

Indy

October 1, 1996 – July 22, 2013

You will always be in our hearts
Dazzle is Sue Rowley’s fourth Golden Retriever. Despite her experience with the breed, Sue was having a difficult time connecting with her. From the time Dazzle was a puppy, Sue enrolled her in our Family Dog class series. Though Dazzle behaved well in class, Sue still thought they weren’t “in sync” so I recommended a behavior consultation.

Behavior consultations at MHS address the “why” and “how” to modify behavior problems. During a private session with one of our expert consultants, we discuss a dog’s history, try to observe the problem behavior, explain how to modify the undesirable behavior, and then demonstrate applicable techniques.

During Sue’s behavior consultation, she identified “communication” as a major challenge. It was also evident that Dazzle had developed some bad off-leash behaviors; she ignored commands such as “leave it” and “come.” Additionally, Dazzle was shutting down during training sessions, which was frustrating Sue. I developed a training and behavior modification plan based around methods to improve communication and off-leash control.

One key element of the plan was to enroll Sue and Dazzle in a series of private lessons with me so that I could analyze their communication patterns. I observed that unless Sue was extremely clear with her, Dazzle would shut down. Sue would then become frustrated and things would spiral downward from there.

Sue learned how to break behaviors down into much smaller pieces so that Dazzle could successfully respond. Once Sue had a better mental picture of her expectations, it was much easier for her to communicate with Dazzle.

Sue’s frustration lay in the premise that Dazzle didn’t care about pleasing her, but nothing could be further from the truth. It turns out that Dazzle loves doing things well and pleasing Sue. Now, once Dazzle learns a behavior she responds very quickly to Sue’s requests, making eye contact and wagging her tail.

Sue and Dazzle have learned a lot about each other through this process and have continued with private lessons and classes at MHS just to keep learning new things. “Working with MHS has truly opened Dazzle and me up to a better relationship,” says Sue. Now when I say to her, “let’s do our work,” she pops up with eagerness to learn. Our experience at MHS has improved our lives in so many ways.”

Simba
July 29, 1996 - May 21, 2013

Simba was such a joy to have in our lives. We miss Simba so much and will always keep him in our hearts. Simba is a great example of why it is important to adopt pets because before he came around, our family never even thought about owning a cat. When Simba entered our lives, we grew as a family.
Kathy Miles says her love of animals was instilled in her as a child by her great-grandmother, who would doubtless be very proud of the many ways she translates that love into action on behalf of MHS.

Eighteen years ago, Kathy first came to MHS to adopt a dog, a loveable black Lab she characterizes as “very naughty.” With proper training, that dog eventually became so well-behaved that he worked with Kathy in the MHS Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) program, visiting people in nursing homes and hospitals.

As a registered nurse working in home health care, Kathy comes into contact with a lot of people. “I tell everyone about the Humane Society,” she says. “I've insisted that friends adopt animals, even when they weren't necessarily planning to. I spread the word wherever I can.”

Her many volunteer activities over the years also include the SHARE pet care assistance program, vaccination clinics and volunteer orientation sessions. She describes her volunteering during Operation Orphans of the Storm (rescuing animals after Hurricane Katrina) as a life-changing experience.

She calls MHS “the best place in the world to volunteer,” and she's also been a generous donor for many years. In addition, she's made provisions for MHS in her will, “because why shouldn't you continue to do good things for an organization you believe in after you're gone?”

Kathy currently lives in Novato with her three dogs, Peanut, Snoopy and Lucy. And she willingly provides regular day care for her grand-dog, Brody. “I'd have more animals,” she laughs, “but I think there's a legal limit.”

Photo: Kathy Miles with Peanut, Snoopy and Lucy.

Helping animals beyond your lifetime

Planned Giving: The Untraditional Gift

With the giving season upon us, consider giving an untraditional gift to support MHS.

Stocks and securities held longer than one year can be transferred to MHS and deducted at full market value. If they have gained value, you may avoid paying tax on the long-term capital gains. If your stocks or securities have lost value, you may be able to write off the losses and deduct the market value of the stock donated.

Traditional IRA and 401(k) plans are excellent ways to include MHS in your estate plans. Your legacy gift will go further as the full proceeds of your retirement account will avoid probate and benefit MHS as opposed to individuals who will have to pay taxes on the funds distributed.

For more information, please contact your financial advisor or Joe Lisella, director of development, at 415.506.6257.
San Anselmo teen donates Bat Mitzvah gifts

Thirteen year-old Rachel Luria has loved animals as long as she can remember. Rachel’s family instilled in her a belief in the importance of respecting the earth’s natural resources. At her school, St. Mark’s in San Rafael, she learned the importance of caring for animals and developed an awareness of the plight of endangered species. In her daily life, Rachel extends her reverence for animals as a vegetarian. When she received financial gifts for her Bat Mitzvah earlier this year, Rachel donated them to the Marin Humane Society and WildCare. “It’s really important to me and my family to help the world.”

At MHS, we are always inspired by—and incredibly grateful for—local youth poised to become the next generation of advocates ready to help animals in need. They set a wonderful and important example for their peers, and are an integral part of realizing our vision of a better world for animals. Rachel’s reason for giving is both humbling and touching: “There are so many great causes that you can be involved in to help the world. When you donate, you not only help the world—you feel better about yourself.”

Photo: Rachel Luria with adoption dog Stella.

Your support for the Marin Humane Society goes a long way toward helping animals in need in our community. For more information about giving opportunities, please contact Joe Lisella, director of development, at 415.506.6257 or jlisella@MarinHumaneSociety.org, or visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/give.
HOME SWEET HOME

Stella
(formerly Cosette)

When Cosette first arrived here, her future was uncertain. Found abandoned in a crate, she was scared and confused. She had a neurological condition that made her head wobble, and we also discovered she was deaf. What to do? We got our answer when, after several weeks of hiding under a blanket, a sweet little dog began to emerge. Cosette quickly became a shelter favorite and after passing her behavior evaluation and getting the go-ahead from our veterinarians, she was put up for adoption. We knew it would take a special kind of person to adopt her, and we found that person in Kyndra Kennedy and her husband, Iain, of San Rafael. Kyndra says, “We are constantly amazed by Stella's transformation, from the time she came to MHS when she was terrified and wouldn't walk or eat, to now, when she loves going on long walks and hikes with the family and loves playing with her brother Brando. Stella is full of love and sweetness, and we are so grateful to all of the staff and volunteers at MHS who patiently helped her find her way to our home.”

Delos

Delos was surrendered to us when he didn't work out as a classroom pet. He's friendly, curious and comfortable being picked up, so we knew he would be fine with older, calmer children. Delos was put up for adoption and began a 10 month wait to find his new family. When Jennifer Millett of Novato and her daughter, Amanda, came to the shelter looking for a rabbit to adopt, Delos's high energy made him stand out from the other bunnies. Now happily in his new home, Jennifer says that Delos has adapted quickly to their family's routine. Amanda adores him! Every day when she gets home from school she makes a snack for herself, and one for Delos, and they enjoy their snacks together. He also sleeps in her room. Amanda's favorite thing is giving Delos a bath because after she is finished she can wrap him up in a towel and snuggle him. Yes—Delos is now a totally spoiled bunny!

Phineas and Ferb

Phineas and Ferb came here from the Napa Humane Society through our Pet Partnership Program where they became a bonded pair. They are both FIV+ which means they need to live safely indoors as the only cats in the household. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus can be spread to other cats but not to other animal species or to humans. Although there is no cure, many cats with FIV live long, healthy lives. While at MHS, every day was an adventure for them as Phineas and Ferb concocted new ways of having fun. They both loved wand toys, visiting laps and taking turns grooming each other. When Laurie Mann of San Rafael came to MHS to adopt a cat, Phineas and Ferb immediately caught her eye and home they went where the non-stop fun continues. The pair is enjoying their cat tree and likes to hide from each other underneath the furniture. They also eat and sleep together, and gaze happily out the window, side-by-side. Says Laurie, “Phinny and Ferb are both such a treat and I'm very thankful I met them at the Marin Humane Society!”
Our cover dog!
Hailey
(formerly Smiley)

Smiley was one of 61 animals seized from one address by the Central California SPCA. Humane officers discovered deplorable conditions including piles of trash and emaciated dogs chained to trees with no access to food or clean water. Smiley was one of the 21 dogs MHS was able to take in from the Fresno-based shelter through our Pet Partnership program. Because she hadn’t been given a lot of attention or exposure to everyday experiences, Smiley was shy, nervous and uncertain. She would need to find an adopter willing to build her confidence. Barry Trailer of Santa Rosa was just that person. Renamed Hailey, Barry says that she’s now surprisingly well-adjusted. Everyone she meets seems to have the same comment – “she’s very sweet.” Not only that, she’s smart and very social with children, grown-ups and other dogs. Hailey enjoys playing, taking long walks and sleeping in the sun—quite a different life from what she had before. Says Barry, “We think we rescue them, but they rescue us, too.”

Tintin and Roosevelt
(formerly Taz & Bubba)

Taz and Bubba found themselves at MHS when their guardian had to move and the new landlord said guinea pigs weren’t welcome. They were a bonded pair and so we wanted to find them a new home together. When Jennifer Dolan of El Cerrito and her family came to the shelter looking for a pet, our adoption staff suggested Taz and Bubba—and the family couldn’t be happier with their new additions! Now Tintin and Roosevelt, Jennifer says that they have become the focal point of their household. They love their big cage and are lots of fun to be around. Nate (9) and Julia (7) wake up every morning ready to feed them, change their water and cuddle with them. Both Tintin and Roosevelt like watching baseball and having books read to them. They also love eating radicchio, their favorite treat. “It feels like we’ve been friends forever,” says Jennifer. “We love our boys!”

Stella
(formerly Ginger)

Little Ginger was found as a stray puppy wandering around downtown San Rafael all by herself. When nobody came to get her, we assessed her behavior and health and then put her up for adoption. She didn’t have to wait long! Lisa Bridges and her partner Sarah Petrini came to MHS after losing their beloved Pit Bull, Stinson. They took Ginger out for a walk and sat down on the sidewalk to discuss whether they were ready to adopt another dog. When Ginger climbed into Sarah’s lap, curled up and fell asleep, they knew they had their answer. Now Stella, Lisa tells us that “she is a perfect match for our family. She’s a snuggler, sun seeker and loves everything life has to offer. She has brought smiles and laughter back into our home.” Stella has also completed our Family Dog 1, Family Dog 2 and Recall Madness classes with flying colors. “Thank you for bringing her into our lives,” says Lisa.
Our Animal Care department works extremely hard to ensure that the animals under our care are as comfortable as possible during their stay at MHS. At any one time, animal care technicians are responsible for the care of dozens of animals, including adoption and stray animals, and animals under protective custody. Behind the scenes, these dedicated staff clean animals’ housing, keep up with piles of laundry, feed and administer medications, find foster homes and help anxious pet guardians find their lost companion animals. Our dedicated team includes 33-year veteran, Margareta Luff.

Employee: Margareta Luff

Years of employment: 33

First job at MHS: Vet Assistant in the MHS Veterinary Clinic (18 years)

Current position: Animal Care Technician

Interesting fact: “In the 1980s the majority of animals spayed and neutered in our Vet Clinic were owned pets. Back then we didn’t spay/neuter shelter animals until six months of age. If an animal was adopted beforehand, we had to follow-up with the guardian to make sure they scheduled the surgery.”

Most dramatic changes seen at MHS over the years: Decrease in local pet overpopulation, better education on dangers to outdoor cats, more sophisticated veterinary care for shelter animals, facility improvements and community programs like SHARE.

Number of pets adopted over the years: Eight cats

Favorite aspects of working at MHS: “My connection with the animals is incredibly rewarding. And all the employees and volunteers are so dedicated—we are like a well-adjusted family. It’s especially exciting to see a shy animal come around and then find a new home. Or be able to reunite a family with their lost pet. I also love providing ‘room service’ for the animals. And I’ve been volunteering with our SHARE program for 15 years doing nail trims for clients which is very rewarding.”

On coping with the emotional aspects of the job: “I’m lucky to have so many caring co-workers and volunteers that I can rely on. I also spend a lot of quality time with my one-eyed 12-year-old cat Thor, the love of my life.”

Comedy is tragedy plus time: “I remember approximately 10-12 years ago I was working the night shift alone when someone surrendered 64 guinea pigs. Some of the guinea pigs got loose in the shelter. Boy, we had a heck of a time catching them!”
Making connections on the inside

Since 2005 San Quentin State Prison has been hosting the MHS Pen Pals program, which enables carefully screened inmates to care for and train shelter dogs that require a long recuperation period due to behavior or medical issues. Pen Pals dogs share rooms above the prison firehouse with their handlers, who are low-security inmates working as firefighters. The dogs teach the inmates about responsibility and empathy, while the inmates make the dogs more adoptable through nurturing and training.

Gilbert Torres, currently serving time at San Quentin, shares how he has benefitted from the Pen Pals program.

Asked to write a few words on behalf of the Pen Pals program, I was at a loss. Not because I have nothing good to say, but because I have so much to say and little space to say it in.

Being in the program for me has been an unforgettable experience. It has enabled me to reach deep down within myself and unleash this great need to express a part of me that otherwise would never see the light of day.

The dogs that I have had the privilege to work with have really helped to shape the person that I am today. Before Pen Pals I never gave these animals a second thought. Now I feel the need to be a voice for these animals that have had a hard knock with life.

Before I felt like I did not have a care in the world. Today, I feel like I have a purpose. Deep down I’ve known there was a humane side to me, scratching the surface to be let out. I just hadn’t gotten in touch with that side of me until after I came to know several of the dogs that have come under my care. I’ve spent so much time with the dogs that I’ve connected at a level much like you would connect with another human being. Pen Pals has offered me an opportunity to find the perfect companion. I have been a dog owner throughout my life but I have never genuinely bonded with them as I have here at San Quentin.

Gilbert Torres

Photo: Gilbert Torres with Mikey.

Pen Pals program expenses are funded through donations and grants. Since 2005, 225 dogs have graduated from the program. For more information, including funding opportunities, please contact program coordinator Larry Carson at lcarson@MarinHumaneSociety.org or 415.506.6292.
Our volunteers are the heart of MHS. They bring love and compassion to their work with the animals and people of Marin. Our staff of 95 is supported by nearly 700 volunteers who work in almost every aspect of the organization, contributing upwards of 60,000 hours annually! We asked our volunteers to tell us how MHS has made a positive difference in their lives. Here’s a sampling of their responses. We think you’ll be as impressed as we are by these exceptional people with extraordinary hearts.
The SHARE and Education programs provide me and Charlotte with the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children each year. Charlotte and her fellow SHARE companions are powerful motivators in special education classroom settings. We interact with students, through classroom visits, summer camp and special programs, and hope to instill in them a love for animals, responsible pet guardianship, a sense of compassion and a desire to make the world a better place.

*Kathie Meier*  
SHARE and Education  
14 years

I am part of a SHARE team with my four year-old Golden Retriever, Shasta. We have been volunteering at The Redwoods, a community of seniors in Mill Valley, for almost two years.

At first I was concerned we would not know what to say to each elder as we approached. What I have learned and deeply felt is our simple presence is the gift … unconditionally loving and being present with someone whose life moves at a vastly slower pace than those who are younger, but is equally important, equally rich.

Our elders are now our extended family. I even had one staff member ask, “Is that your father?” when we were visiting one of our favorite 96 year-old gentleman. I answered, “It certainly feels as if he could be.”

*Jill Fugaro*  
SHARE  
2 years

When I arrived in San Rafael I had been without a pet for four years. Joining the Pet Pals team filled a void and enriched my life. I realized what a win-win situation volunteering is: the dogs receive great walks and caring and I enjoy the fruits of their gratefulness.

*Judy Hansen*  
Dog Pet Pal  
3 years

Volunteering with the SHARE Animal-Assisted Therapy program has been a very rewarding experience. It’s amazing how a visit from an AAT dog can brighten up a patient’s day. There have been times when patients don’t want visitors but when they see Sawyer, they welcome us into their room. Participating at Camp Erin (Hospice By the Bay’s grief camp for children) has been the highlight of being part of the SHARE team. The smiles on the children’s faces were priceless!

Mary Nicolini  
SHARE  
2 years

It especially warms my heart to socialize a really shy and scared cat. And when a “difficult to place” cat finds a forever home, I cry tears of joy!

Annegrethe Kisling  
Cat Pet Pal  
5 years

I really look forward to visiting and playing with the animals. It calms me and fills my heart. The best part of the day is when a kitty gets a new forever home!

*Candace Ackermann*  
Cat Pet Pal  
3 years

I feel that I have the happiest job of all at the Marin Humane Society! I get to work directly with potential adopters to help them pick out the perfect new companion animal that is just the right fit for their home, lifestyle and family/living situation. I love to see the happy faces of the adopters as they hug and cuddle their new companion, and think about the happy life that both the pet and the person will now share together, each of them enriched by having the other to love and care for!

*Kathleen Bennett*  
Adoption Counselor  
14 years

I have truly enjoyed volunteering with the front office staff over the past eight years and feel that I have made some very special friends. The time spent doing my job has helped me realize how lucky I am to be part of the process in making the Marin Humane Society what it is today.

*Virginia Halden*  
Front Office  
8 years
I have been volunteering with the MHS Auxiliary Thrift Shop since January 2008. During that time I've been preparing to go vegetarian. In early 2013 I was able to become vegetarian for the betterment of my health and for the animals. I hope to never go back, and it has definitely improved my health.

Marina Osbourn
Auxiliary Thrift Shop
6 years

Volunteering at MHS adds such joy and meaning to my life. I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference.
Carol Hayes
Pet Pal, SHARE
15 years

The difference it makes for me is making a difference for the “better” in an animal’s life by spending time with them.
Mickey McNerney
Dog Pet Pal, Barn Animals
8 years

I have not had pets of my own through my life and inherited a cat. Deciding to volunteer at the Marin Humane Society as a Greeter has made my life so much more interesting and educational by getting to interact with both the people and the many different animals (my new companion as well) that I am learning about.

Emelie Wilson
Shelter Greeter
10 months

My life is a crazy roller coaster. When I walk into MHS I feel a true peace. I get to share that with amazing people. It is a privilege I was given and I value.
Denee Cruz
Animal Care, Small Companion Animals
1 year

We experience such happiness as we walk through the various senior facilities with our dog Lara and cat Bocelli and see the looks of joy they bring to the residents. It has become so apparent to us how much animals enhance the lives of humans. It is an honor to be SHARE volunteers.
Carl & MaryKae Krause
SHARE
8 years

Volunteering for the Marin Humane Society’s Foster Care Program has been an amazing experience for our entire family. We’ve enjoyed the little kittens and puppies that have visited us and it is comforting to know they have had a healthy start to a long life. Our two cats, Turbo and Bella, plus our three year-old Border Collie, Harleigh, have also welcomed their house guests with open paws. Harleigh’s motherly instincts kick in as she shows affection, patience and love toward the little ones.
Kathy, Thomas, Gabrielle & Stefan Jung
Foster Care
8 years

Helping companion animals find the right homes has taught me to be more tolerant of humans because I realize we all deserve a second chance.
Kim Bromley
Dog Pet Pal, Pet Partnership, Behavior & Training, Foster Care
20 years

My daughter Cassidy (7 years), our dog Nesta (8 years), and I have been SHARE volunteers for almost one year. Our participation in the SHARE program has been a valuable experience on so many levels. In addition to bringing smiles to the lovely people we meet, our visits with Nesta teach my daughter the spirit of giving. Plus, it’s a wonderful bonding experience for all three of us!

Maria and Cassidy Potter
SHARE
1 year

Twenty-five years ago I left an unfulfilling career to volunteer in the MHS Behavior & Training Department. At the time there was no “department” to speak of, but gradually expert leadership prevailed and we embraced the concept of positive reinforcement to become one of the country’s finest shelters. The pride of knowing I was a part of this continues to enrich my life, even in semi-retirement.
Gerry Holcomb
Behavior & Training
25 years

I still remember my first day in 1985 at MHS as an adoption counselor trainee. I was so impressed that the Executive Director made a point of stopping by to welcome me to the organization. MHS is my “other” family … a community of dedicated and passionate people who care about animals and the people who live with and care for them. MHS will always be my home away from home.

Betsy McGee
Behavior & Training, Dog and Cat Evaluator, Dog Training Instructor
28 years

This is the best job I’ve ever had! The benefits are unparalleled and the pay is lots of love!
Althea Gould
Dog Pet Pal
9 years

After 40 years in the corporate world, I can say that volunteering in adoptions is by far the most rewarding experience I’ve ever had. When we win, everybody wins.

Greg Hatch
Adoption Counselor
1 year
Darby, my sweet King Charles Cavalier, and I have been part of the SHARE program for over five years now. It's so rewarding to visit an elderly or sick person who will respond to her just as we enter the room. Some people don't respond to anything else. After visiting Josephine, who had never spoken for five years, she sat up in the bed and pointed at Darby and said, “It's a dog!”

**Jill Johnson**
**SHARE**
**5 years**

Volunteering at MHS has thoroughly enriched my life. I’ve met lifelong friends and I have the great pleasure of knowing I make a difference in lots of animal’s lives. It is one of the best things I have ever done for myself.

**Susie Harper**
**Behavior and Training, Pet Partnership, Foster Care**
**20+ years**

To me, being a Cat Pet Pal is the best therapy! I remain honored to be a volunteer at MHS, and hope that I have been, and will continue to be, a positive part of facilitating our MHS kitties in finding their new forever homes.

**Sharon Lapin**
**Cat Pet Pal**
**7 years**

Being a volunteer at MHS is an exchange: we spend a few moments to give a second chance to the animals. MHS provides immense value to volunteers and to the animals. That’s why it is so rewarding be part of this organization.

**Karen Benevenuto**
**Small Companion Animals, Clinic**
**9 months**

Join our volunteer family! We ask for a one year commitment of at least two to four hours a week per job. Volunteer orientations are held monthly and pre-registration is required. Visit MarinHumaneSociety.org for more information or email Anne Oliver at aboliver@MarinHumaneSociety.org or call 415.506.6267. Volunteer opportunities for those under age 18 are managed by our Education department—visit the Student Opportunities page on our website.

**Save the date for these 2014 events!**

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At the Marin Civic Center

*For more information or to sponsor one of these events, please call 415.506.6208.*

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Contact Carrie Harrington at charrington@MarinHumaneSociety.org or 415.506.6256.
In addition to our role as a non-profit animal shelter, MHS also contracts with the County of Marin to provide the county’s animal services. Services provided by MHS include emergency response, complaints, lost and found pets, pet licensing and animal permits. For more information about MHS Animal Services, contact Captain Cindy Machado at cmachado@MarinHumaneSociety.org or 415.506.6209.

Spotlight on Captain Cindy Machado

Years of employment: 29

First job at MHS: Animal Services Officer

Current position: Director of Animal Services

First animal cruelty case: “I was involved with the rescue of a horse that had been beaten with an ax. That case made me determined to always protect animals from their abusers.”

On the changing role of animal services: “There were many more stray dogs running around Marin in the 1980s, and more cases of animal cruelty and neglect. But thanks to visionary leadership, things have significantly changed for the better in Marin. Paramount to that have been our efforts to educate the community about responsible pet guardianship and respect toward all animals. In 1973, MHS opened the first subsidized spay/neuter clinic in California. And in 1988, we were the first shelter to mandate that all shelter animals be microchipped. Considered pioneering at the time, these actions have paved the way to significantly reducing pet overpopulation in our community.”

First pet adopted from MHS: “Ellie was a kitten who had been hung upside-down by her two rear legs on a light switch. I hold a special place in my heart for abused animals like Ellie, knowing that I can provide them with proper care and a soft place to land.”

On becoming a national expert on animal welfare issues: “I feel lucky to be in a position where I can utilize my years of experience to make an impact beyond our borders. I’ve traveled around the country to train animal law enforcement agencies on circus inspections. In 2005 I led a team to the Gulf region to assist with animal rescue in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. And most recently, I was one of several MHS employees asked to assist with the largest ever seizure of animals in California down in Riverside County, where more than 18,000 rats and reptiles were found sick and dying.

Advice for people new to the animal welfare field: “Enjoy all the happy endings. Don't be discouraged by all the sadness. Some cases will burn a hole in your heart, but you'll learn how to withstand the agony of what people and animals endure and channel anger into action.”

Photo: Captian Cindy Machado; inset: Cindy processes a humane custody dog in December 1985
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