Welcome to the latest issue of Animal Chronicles!

Often when I tell people I work for the Marin Humane Society they say, “Oh, I couldn’t work there,” suggesting that it is a sad place. But the truth is, we see and experience positive, joyous outcomes every day. We see the impact people can make on an animal’s life and we see the impact animals make on the people around them.

In past issues, we’ve written about extraordinary events like our response to the Valley Fire or caring for special dogs who were saved from a South Korean dog meat farm. In this issue we want to share the smaller – but no less dramatic – things that happen at the Marin Humane Society every day.

Just this week, there were three examples of this. I overheard staff troubleshooting a situation where a pet guardian wanted to redeem their lost animal but could not afford to have the dog spayed. We offered to have the surgery performed free of charge in our public spay/neuter clinic if the guardian would agree to pay a minimal fee for a license. This may seem like a small thing, but for the guardian it meant a great deal, and for her dog it meant ending the cycle of breeding.

Animal Services officers returned from a call about a blind and disoriented buck in a local neighborhood, causing injury to himself and property. They worked carefully with local law enforcement to assess the situation, protect the public from any injury, and secure the animal from causing more harm.

Then, after nearly five months in our adoption suites, Layla and Jax (featured on the cover), an older bonded pair of Pug mixes, were adopted! We never gave up hope and continued to use our connections and creativity toward finding a home for this duo. After reaching out to local media and featuring them on a Facebook Live event, an adopter came forward. The joy on everyone’s face when we announced the news – especially from our volunteers who took the dogs into their homes for overnight fosters – was priceless.

We are more than just an animal shelter. Learn about our work advocating for all animals (see page 6).

As we look ahead to 2017 and beyond, we will continue providing programs that benefit both animals and people in our community. Our staff, board of directors, and volunteers are committed to implementing our strategic goals while operating a quality animal shelter for lost, stray, or unwanted animals, a public spay/neuter clinic, a robust dog training program, and rapid response to animal-related calls for Marin County residents. And we couldn’t do it without the generosity of our animal-loving donors.

Thank you for supporting the Marin Humane Society throughout the year. May your holidays be happy, healthy and humane! We’re counting on doing even more in the year ahead and welcome your involvement – as a donor, volunteer, or advocate.

For the animals,

Nancy B. McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer

Animal Emergencies
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### On the Cover:

Jax and Layla are a bonded pair that recently found their forever home!
On a hot day in August, we received a call that a dog had been found in a carrier next to a dumpster in Mill Valley. Animal Services Officer Ruth Darlington found a terrified poodle mix in a filthy carrier, with no identification and no microchip.

Officer Darlington brought the sweet but scared dog back to the shelter and tried to coax him out of his carrier. After trying a series of treats, it was mozzarella cheese that lured him out. Staff dubbed him “Mozzarella” and he soon became a shelter favorite.

We were unable to determine where Mozzarella came from and after his stray holding period was up – and after a much-needed grooming (donated by the fantastic team at Doggie Styles Grooming in Mill Valley) -- he was made available for adoption.

The very next day, a couple from Saratoga drove up to meet and adopt Mozzarella (now Ziggy). Their other dog – also a poodle mix – had been abandoned, too. The two dogs became fast friends and Mozzarella’s traumatic time came to a quick end.

Soon after shy, scared Cora, a Papillion-Chihuahua mix, was surrendered to the Marin Humane Society on a Sunday evening, Animal Care Manager Samantha Winegarner realized something important about her. She appeared to have recently given birth, yet the person who surrendered her said nothing about any puppies.

Fortunately, Animal Care Technician Alex Esquivel was able to contact the person who brought Cora to the shelter and convince her to allow us to come to her home and reunite the puppies with their momma.

The reunion of momma and puppies was caught on tape and the resulting video went worldwide. In fact, it’s been viewed more than 13 million times! But just as important was the change in Cora. She went from shy and shut down to happy and loving as soon as she was reunited with her puppies.

Since the reunion happened around the time the TV series *Downton Abbey* was coming to a close and because Cora was the name of one of the characters, we decided to give her puppies names from the show, too. After they were big and strong enough, little Edith, Moseley, Carson, and Branson all found loving homes. And so did Cora.
Richmond resident wasn’t sure what she was looking at when she spotted a ball of fur on the side of a road near I-80 but as she got closer she realized it was a tiny kitten who appeared to have been hit by a car. She brought the fragile little kitty to the Marin Humane Society, where our veterinary team found she had a broken right rear leg and an injury to her tail. Fortunately, we were able to pay for her costly surgery through The Joe Willie Project, funded by Mark M. Glickman. The injury to her tail was severe and the end of it had to be amputated, but this didn’t stop the spunky kitten – dubbed Freeway – from stealing the hearts of those around her. She was adopted in a heartbeat by one of the PESCM veterinary technicians.

For the fifth time in four years, an anonymous group of people dropped off boxes of cats and kittens at the shelter in the middle of the night. In total, 34 cats, most of them of the “tuxedo” variety, were left at the shelter’s back door. There was an anonymous note which suggested the kitties were rescued from a hoarding situation. As sad as it was to see so many felines abandoned, we were grateful they were now safe with us and our staff began the long and intense process of evaluating all of them, treating the ones who were ill, and eventually finding loving homes for them.

We were not able to determine the identity of the people who dropped them off but the “MO” was the same as four previous drops of tuxedo cats.

The story received a tremendous amount of media coverage and while we didn’t crack the case, it has a happy ending.
We were overwhelmed to finally see two major legislative bills passed that will go far to protect animals in California. This past session, Governor Brown signed into law a ban on bullhooks, a cruel tool used to train and control elephants. This was the result of a two-year process to outlaw this inhumane practice. The other major victory will end the captive breeding, display, and performance of orcas in California. Both of these bills are monumental in scope and will go far to set an important precedent around the world.

California was also instrumental in passing laws that protect good Samaritans who rescue or provide care to animals in hot vehicles, enact a new statewide protection requiring standards of care for pet boarding facilities (Marin County already requires this), and end the use of carbon monoxide chambers as a method of euthanasia still used by a small number of shelters.

Success in our laws protecting animals requires all of our attention and action. The power of a letter, phone call, or email to your legislators makes all the difference, whether it is a local, state, or national issue. While we may sometimes find the world of politics frustrating, working to change and strengthen laws that protect animals is everyone’s responsibility. There is something to be said about the power of the people when it comes to helping protect animals from cruelty and abuse. The next time you’re presented with an opportunity to help an animal or advocate for an animal issue, remember the importance of a phone call; the voiceless animals will thank you.

The Marin Humane Society takes great pride in advocating for animals. In fact, it is the foundation upon which it was formed in 1907. There are so many important issues facing animals these days it is often hard to determine how to help them in the most effective ways. The past year has been a record in the world of successes with many very tough animal issues.
I want to keep my cat safely inside, but all he wants to do is go outside. What can I do?

It's relatively easy to keep a cat who has never visited the outside indoors. Since cats don't read travelogues, they really have no idea what they are missing. Because of the coyote population in Marin (not to mention the danger of cars and other hazards), we recommend keeping your kitty safely inside. The best way to keep your cat happy indoors is to make life interesting. Bird or squirrel feeders outside a window provide kitty TV. Toy and food puzzles can engage your cat's mind. Cats think of their space in three dimensions, so providing them with a cat tree satisfies their desire to climb and gives them a strong, sturdy place to scratch. Rotating the toys they play with keeps them from getting bored.

Despite these efforts, some felines previously exposed to the outdoors are intent on going out. For these cats, an outdoor enclosure or catio, with access from a cat door or window, is the perfect solution. These may be an enclosed porch, a simple structure added on to your home, or complex outside adventure areas. Many companies offer prefabricated, custom, and DIY options. See MarinHumaneSociety.org/catenclosures for more information.

Our “Feline Environment Enrichment” workshop offers many low-cost ideas on how to keep your cat entertained and shows a variety of options for outdoor enclosures. See MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses to learn more.

Have a question about your cat's behavior? Call our Cat Behavior hotline at 415.506.6284. We offer phone and in-home consultations.

How do I stop my dog from chewing on things he shouldn't?

From an evolutionary perspective, dogs are designed to chase, grab, chew, and crunch things. Of course these days the process is much more civilized, but guardians need to give their dogs alternatives that replicate this natural activity.

Additionally, puppies explore with their mouths. If they see it, hear it or smell it, they will investigate it. Growing into adulthood doesn't mean that chewing diminishes in intensity or frequency. Adolescent chewing will persist until they are about a year and a half old.

The best way to modify any behavior is to understand the root cause and redirect it onto something appropriate. We recommend teaching all puppies how to play fetch and tug in addition to providing them with various edible chew items. If your puppy likes to chew on people, offer them a toy instead. Or, use a tie-down to limit the puppy's mobility and give him an approved chew item.

In general, choose items that aren't too hard, but that can't be swallowed in chunks that might create blockages. Experiment with different types of high quality chew items and carefully observe your dog. You'll learn which items tend to be safest for your dog. When you are unable to actively supervise your puppy or dog, manage his environment such that he doesn't have access to items that you prefer remain intact.

Have a question about your dog's behavior? Call our Dog Behavior hotline at 415.506.6281.
One of the greatest things about living in Marin County is the abundance of wildlife so close to urban areas. It’s not uncommon to spot skunks, opossum, raccoons, and of course deer.

For most people, catching a glimpse of deer grazing in small groups or scampering up a hill is a delight. These large, elegant, and gentle creatures have been in Marin for as long as most people remember. Most don’t object to deer visiting their yards or strolling by their homes. That is, until those deer start eating their gardens and jumping out onto roads. Rapid and recurring changes in wildlife habitat have resulted in more direct interaction and encounters between people and deer. Marin County has gone through some bursts in population and environmental changes. What were once forests and open fields are now suburban communities and shopping centers. With the expansion of Highway 101 and the decrease of natural habitats, wild animals live a hard and uncertain life today.

There are a number of humane, low-impact methods of controlling deer damage. The best way appears to be fencing. Due to their excellent leaping skills, deer fences may need to be as high as eight feet. If possible, homeowners should erect fencing slanted out towards the approach area. Fencing may not always be the most practical solution since deer are very good jumpers. The concerns become those of height and material, not to mention zoning restrictions, cost, and terrain. A possible alternative is wrapping vulnerable plants and laying chicken wire on the ground over sprouts. Black nylon netting commonly used to protect berries from birds can also be a temporary solution. It is less expensive than full fences and is fairly inconspicuous.

Landscape changes can be another deer proofing tactic. Entryways and property lines can be made “less attractive” to deer by creating a barrier of hedges reducing the view of a yard. Removing fallen fruits and keeping grass and underbrush trimmed will simply give deer less of a reason to investigate. Furthermore, protecting susceptible plants by surrounding them with repellant ones such as thyme, catnip, chives, and lavender will encourage the protection of plant life. Another helpful hint—since deer feeding preferences vary widely by region— is to check with a local nursery for recommendations when making landscaping decisions.

In addition to the above-mentioned tips, pet-safe sprays and homemade concoctions can be applied. Unfortunately, they do not protect new growth and can be washed off with dew or sprinkles. To be effective, these sprays must be reapplied frequently, especially after every rain.

Other devices such as deer whistles will alarm deer and “scare” them away. Keep in mind if this happens on an open roadway and the deer jumps out towards moving traffic, you have not only put the deer’s life in danger, but yours as well. Living safely with deer involves staying alert and driving defensively. Development encroaching into deer habitat and people driving at faster speeds have added to the frequency of collisions between humans and wildlife. In desolate areas, be aware of warning signs, scan roadways, use high beams, and drive at slower speeds.

Always keep in mind if you see one deer, chances are high there are others. Dog owners are encouraged to keep their companions indoors, especially if their yards are unfenced. When hiking on open trails with your pet, it is important to have strong voice control of your dog and keep him in check should a deer be encountered. There is nothing more exciting for Fido to chase than a live, fast moving object. Unfortunately, deer-dog clashes can end in severe injury. There is no surefire way of coexisting with deer without some conflict. However, Marin County is a beautiful and wonderful place for humans and animals, and there are safety measures we can take to share habitats. Let us be cautious and considerate in this magnificent county. It is a privilege to have nature’s beauty and grace in our own backyards.
Kitty Corner Update
By Ruthie Tolleson

Last year, we opened our very first satellite adoption center – Kitty Corner! Pet Food Express generously donated the rent for five years for this tiny but mighty storefront, which is located in the Red Hill Shopping Center in San Anselmo.

Small, sleek, and modern, Kitty Corner has far exceeded expectations and could become the model for more off-site locations for the Marin Humane Society. Cats and kittens are housed in spacious, multi-tiered condos providing them with views of the outside world. Potential adopters can visit with the kitties and if the match is right, take their new best friend home.

In addition to being located in Central Marin, a large part of Kitty Corner’s success is due to our dedicated staff and volunteers. They make sure the kitties are well taken care of during their stay and that they’re matched with the right families. Our volunteers do an amazing job keeping Kitty Corner tidy and inviting and help bring even the shyest cat or kitten out of their shell.

A huge thank-you to longtime supporter and cat lover Mark M. Glickman who donated the adoption fees for the first 100 adult cats adopted from Kitty Corner and to Brian Kirchoff, the self-proclaimed “Cat Daddy,” who left a generous bequest to help support the center.

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504
# cats/kittens adopted through 11/20/16

15%
% increase in adult cat adoptions
(Novato campus and Kitty Corner combined)

180
# of weekly visitors

25
# of volunteers
After Max and Larry adopted one of their dogs ten years ago, they encountered some challenging behavior issues. Seeking wisdom to address these canine issues, they came to the Marin Humane Society for a behavior consultation. Following the success of their first experience at MHS, they participated in an assortment of training classes, including Family Dog, Agility, and more. Several MHS dog trainers said they were both “naturals” with the dogs and suggested they consider spending more time at MHS. This was the start to Max and Larry's great volunteering adventure at MHS!

They began their volunteer careers at MHS in the summer of 2006 as Dog Training Assistants. After attending a rigorous “Dog Training Boot Camp,” Max and Larry started assisting in classes where they coached people who were learning new skills with their dogs in our group training classes. Larry then expanded his role in the Behavior & Training department by joining the Pet Partnership Program. Through our Pet Partnership Program we collaborate with dozens of overcrowded shelters in Northern California (and sometimes beyond this region) to bring hundreds of animals each year to Marin so they can be adopted into permanent homes. Working collaboratively with staff, Larry's keen knowledge of dog behavior has been instrumental in selecting the dogs we bring back to MHS.

In 2009, Larry joined the Pen Pals of San Quentin program. The participating inmates, called Pen Pals volunteers, work in the prison firehouse either as firefighters or emergency medical technicians. Many have benefitted by working with the MHS Pen Pal instructors like Larry; their self-esteem increases by learning new skills and they find great satisfaction by seeing their dog’s progress and successful adoption into a new home. Moreover, our Pen Pal instructors help the inmates develop increased empathy by taking care of their dog's needs around the clock.

While Larry was forging ahead into these new volunteer roles, Max broadened her volunteer experience by becoming a Dog Pet Pal. Max is also one of a dozen Dog Pet Pal mentors who provide one-on-one, hands-on training to the volunteers starting to work with the adoption dogs.

Dawn Kovell, director of behavior & training, says “Larry and Max are key players on the Pet Pal team. From handling special situations to the ‘Large and in Charge’ group to the ‘Shy and Shut Down’ team, they cover the gamut of behavior problems. They are also leaders and educators for their colleagues. We are so lucky to have such talented individuals!”

Volunteering at MHS is just an extension of Max and Larry's compassion for animals. Both always had dogs in their households growing up, and from an early age Max raised Arabian horses in Sleepy Hollow. Max also dedicated herself to animals in her professional career. For over a decade, she was the clinic supervisor at WildCare, caring for a wide variety of animals including pelicans, raccoons, baby skunks, seals, eagles, snakes, and chickens!

Max and Larry are volunteers who make a world of difference for animals every time they step foot on our campus or contribute to one of our programs. Catherine Tryon, MHS adoption manager, says, “All of the dogs know when Max and Larry arrive. They start quivering in anticipation of a visit from Max. They know she's in the building – way before I even know she's around! And Larry, well he's the savior for those big dogs that nobody else is able (or allowed) to walk.” The animals, people, and programs at MHS are very fortunate to benefit from the dedication and compassionate spirit of Max and Larry Nilsen!

For more information about volunteering at MHS, please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org or call 415.506.6267.
Career Cats

By Janet Williams
President of Marin Friends of Ferals

Recently, someone saw the Marin Friends of Ferals (MFF) placard on the door of my SUV and asked, “What’s a feral?” That’s when I realized we still have a lot of work to do in educating people about these cats born with little to no human contact, rendering them technically “wild” and therefore not adoptable.

Thousands of ferals call Marin home. Fortunately, we’re a progressive county which means that a large contingent of residents recognize the benefits of having feral cats for rodent control and also understand we shouldn’t blame the cats for being unable to live indoors like domestics. Because of us, they have no choice. When people refuse to sterilize their domestic cats, ferals pay with a lifetime relegated to living outside, often in fear of people.

We at Marin Friends of Ferals, along with the Marin Humane Society (MHS), believe the solution for these cats isn’t to euthanize them but to put them to work, so to speak. Feral cats are nature’s way of controlling rodent populations. Just because we can’t cuddle on the sofa with ferals doesn’t mean we can’t offer them compassion through our Trap–Neuter–Return program. It’s the most effective and humane way to control feral populations.

By nature, cats are hunters. By making them Career Cats (AKA Barn Cats), we put them to work hunting rodents without costly monthly pest control, including poisons that kill not only pests but everything that consumes them. It’s harmful to the environment as well as being a torturous death for the rodent; poisons do more harm than good.

MFF has teamed with MHS to offer Marin residents a choice in rodent control and one we believe is the natural, green alternative. Since the outdoors is home to them, we relocate them (sterilized, tested, and vaccinated) from their current outdoor homes where, for a variety of reasons, they can no longer live.

Thanks in large part to a generous donation from Mark M. Glickman, the benefactor of The Joe Willie Project in memory of his beloved kitty, we’ve been able to purchase necessary equipment required for the 3-week holding period for our Career Cats. His contribution also helps us supply cat food to those feeding large colonies and enables us to purchase shelters and feeding stations for the ferals we relocate each month.

We always relocate in pairs or more, as the cats seem to enjoy having a buddy with them. Depending on the size of your property and the extent of your rodent problem, more can be provided. Once released from the relocation period, all cats must be offered daily food, water, and shelter (we can provide you with a shelter). We also give you an instruction sheet for the acclimation period to make the transition as smooth as possible for you and the cats.

Most adopters tell us they notice a huge reduction in rodents even while the cats are still in the cages. Apparently just the sight and smell of the felines scares many away. And as an added bonus, there’s no fee to adopt Career Cats at MHS. Our goal is to save lives while providing the community with a valuable service. To date we’ve relocated more than 260 cats.
Just a few of the animals that have found new homes...
The Evolution of Dog Training

What is Relationship–based Dog Training?

Humankind’s early association with dogs arose from mutual benefit. Domesticated dogs worked with people in various tasks such as herding, hunting, pulling sleds, killing vermin, and protecting property. As such, dogs worked in partnership with people and were considered worthy and valuable workmates in day-to-day life. Dogs and their people learned to communicate and work in tandem towards a common goal. Sometimes dogs lived in the home and sometimes they lived with the livestock in a barn. Working together day after day promoted a very close bond between handler and dog and a good relationship was essential. History is filled with examples of dogs who were cherished by their guardians.

Formalized dog training began with Colonel Konrad Most in 1906. He trained dogs for the Royal Prussian Police and later became director of Berlin’s State Breeding and Training Establishment for police dogs. He then headed the Canine Research Department of the Army. His training protocols became the foundation for much of the dog training that followed. Unfortunately, this training style was specific to relatively narrow applications and dog training became heavy handed, sometimes utilizing social isolation and other inhumane methods to make the dogs more willing to work.

During the 1980’s dog training became based more on positive reinforcement — however, this wasn’t a new concept! Early human–dog working partnerships had been based on the same conditioning principles.

The Dog Training Program at the Marin Humane Society reflects the most current behavior research and training techniques available. Our goal is to help dog guardians understand and appreciate the life–changing benefits of sharing their lives with a dog. To us, that starts with communication and ends with a mutually rewarding relationship.

Today, we are striving for a more complete relationship–based education and training which first promotes the human–dog bond based on respect for the dog and his perspective. Our dog training program focuses on the needs of the learner (i.e. your dog!) in addition to the behaviors the dog needs to learn to fit into our increasingly complex human culture. Of course, this can be challenging because inclusion in the family social network and time are two of the dog’s most important intrinsic needs.
We recognize the challenges that people who live with dogs face, and our Behavior and Training program has a wide array of educational and training services that can help. There is puppy socialization, manners, and management so the puppy is welcome in the home and has positive experiences with the family. We have an obedience program that emphasizes positive reinforcement in the form the dog prefers most, be it treats or toy play or another opportunity to earn praise or interaction with other dogs. We have a scenting program that builds confidence in shy dogs, calms overly excited dogs, focuses dogs who bark at other dogs, and allows your dog the opportunity to utilize his innate skills. Our Agility field allows dogs and their handlers the opportunity to exercise both brains and body in a lovely outdoor environment.

Private training sessions are available for handlers like Mark and his dog Omar who wanted a customized training program to further their progress as Search and Rescue hopefuls:

“It was an absolute pleasure to meet you!!!! I will definitely come to you for any further help I need. Can’t thank you enough!!”

Or behavior consultation services for clients like Gwen with specific issues:

“I honestly can’t thank you enough for changing my life with Jake. I prepared myself for the worst when I first booked a consultation and walked out with the best advice and techniques that have had groundbreaking effects for Jake and me.”

Develop a joyful partnership with your pup in one of our relationship-based training classes!

Visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/OhBehave for more information.
EMMA

At eight years old, Emma was surrendered because her lifelong guardian could no longer care for her. Her behavior evaluation said she was “practically perfect” – her only challenge being her preference not to interact with other dogs. She had a tough time adjusting to shelter life, voicing her displeasure with unhappy barking. Valerie Robbins, our director of human resources, offered to let Emma hang out in her office during the day, thinking of it as a temporary situation. Emma immediately settled in, becoming the perfect officemate. Soon Val was fostering Emma in her home, and the two grew closer and closer. They took long walks and Val shot endless videos and pictures of Emma chewing on her “stuffies” and lounging in the sun. Val says “she showed me the tricks she knew and modeled perfect manners in my home (well, except for the occasional trashcan forays!). It was impossible not to fall in love with her undeniably sweet nature.” Val has now proudly joined the ranks of what we call “failed fosters” by making the arrangement permanent.

ISABELLA

Sweet little Isabella was surrendered to us because of her guardian’s medical issues. Overwhelmed by all the noise and activity at the shelter, 11–year–old Isabella withdrew and cowered in her bed, shaking and trembling. When Kristin Mealiffe, animal care supervisor, she sat down next to her, all she could see were those big brown eyes and foxlike ears poking out from underneath a blanket. Having a soft spot in their hearts for senior dogs, Kristin and her wife Patty quickly offered to foster her. Tiny four pound Isabella slowly integrated into their pack of senior dogs at home – Milo, Hamilton, and Lexi – in addition to their younger dog Beau and three cats. Kristin and Patty soon realized they were going to become another “failed foster” and Isabella moved in for good. She now comes to work with Kristin every day. “When it’s time to go, Isabella does a little happy dance and her tail shakes like a rattlesnake!” said Kristin. “She has become a lively, confident, strong–willed, loyal companion who reminds me to slow down and appreciate the little things in life.”

BOWIE

Thanks to the high adoption rates in Marin, we’re able to bring animals facing possible euthanasia in overcrowded shelters throughout California to our shelter to better their chances of adoption. Recently one of our partners, Compassion without Borders, was in Fresno where they spotted Bowie, a cute little Italian Greyhound mix, looking sad and forlorn. They brought Bowie to our shelter, where he quickly became a staff and volunteer favorite – and caught the eye of Lisa Bloch, director of marketing and communications. Having recently lost her 12–year–old McNab mix Digby, Lisa wasn’t sure she was ready to adopt another dog. “I was still missing Digby but once I saw how much Bowie enjoyed greeting new people, playing with toys, and respectfully hanging out with other dogs – I realized I was ready. And, being a big David Bowie fan myself, there was no need to change his name!” Bowie quickly settled in at home with Lisa’s nine–year–old daughter Zoe and their two cats, Mischief and Magic (also MHS alums). Bowie enjoys coming to work with Lisa where he has already graduated from Family Dog 1 class. Up next – a tricks class!
DOC HOLIDAY & WYATT EARP

Five-year-old Siamese mix brothers, Doc Holiday (not pictured) and Wyatt Earp, were surrendered when their guardian had to move. Having lived together their whole lives, we wanted to keep this handsome pair of kitties together. Bunny Lane, behavior and training administrative assistant, had just lost her 17-year-old cat and planned to take some time before looking for another one. After three lonely nights, her timetable for getting another cat moved up. Bunny wanted to adopt two older cats, and when she first saw Doc & Wyatt snuggled together, she knew she had met her new family. Bunny was soon calling them “my boys” as their personalities emerged. She says, “Doc is always moving and gets into everything. He loves to walk on my head, and scratches incessantly on the mirrors to get me up in the morning. Wyatt spends most of his time sleeping, cuddling, or plopping himself in my lap. Although they have lots of toys, Doc’s favorite is plastic bags. Wyatt loves only the plastic strips you take off vitamin bottles. When it’s time for bed they groom each other then sleep curled up next to me.”

SMOKEY

Handsome Smokey, a nine-year-old big grey teddy bear of a cat, was brought to us after being found wandering the streets on his own. Evie Holt, one of our intrepid customer service representatives, and her boyfriend Steve had been discussing getting a dog but didn’t have the right living situation. So Evie kept her eye out for a very dog-like cat and when she met Smokey, she knew he was just that. Very outgoing and social, Smokey loved people and purred up a storm when getting attention. Playing with wand toys was one of his favorite activities. Now happily at home with Evie and Steve, Smokey follows them from room to room, jumps on them in the morning to wake them up, and eagerly awaits his mealtimes. He also checks in with them frequently, making sure they’re okay. If he wakes up from a nap he’ll wander over to nuzzle them before returning to his designated napping perch or bed. He’s also a world class beggar! To quote Evie, “We have found our perfect dog-like feline, and are now converted into loving cat parents.”

LUPE

Lupe, an albino leopard gecko who was missing her rear toes, was surrendered to us because her guardian was moving. Marisa Russo, adoption assistant at both Kitty Corner and our Novato campus, adopted Lupe — now called Skylar — because she feels it’s important to recognize that our reptile friends need second chances, too. Marisa’s 10-year-old daughter Leah had no idea that reptiles were at the shelter, believing it was only intended for cats and dogs. Marisa says “It was very important for us to show her there are other amazing types of animal friends besides the furry types – like Skylar!” Leah now thinks that Skylar is the “sweetest, cutest, and best pet ever.” Skylar loves to eat her meal worms, crickets and, after a hearty meal, bask under her heat lamp. Marissa and Leah declare, “It’s a wonderful life for a gecko — especially one that can live up to 40 years! We love Skylar.” And, true to her word, Marisa has also adopted six tropical fish that were left in the shelter’s back parking lot, along with a goldfish abandoned behind an office building.
**Giving Wisely**

By Joe Lisella

Going above and beyond for a kitten born with special needs, rescuing dogs from overcrowded shelters to give them a second chance at finding a home, providing humane education lessons for the kids of Marin. These are just a few of the ways in which your support helps us transform the lives of animals.

Marin Humane Society depends on our generous donors to help thousands of animals every year. And giving can help you, too!

While most gifts are made with checks or credit cards, if you’re 70 1/2 or older you can take advantage of tax benefits available to you as a donor. If you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA account, consider taking advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover option. The Rollover Option is perfect for people who don’t need all of this income and prefer to avoid taxes on distributions. To take advantage of this charitable opportunity:

- **Contact your IRA plan administrator to initiate a direct gift from your IRA to the Marin Humane Society;**
- **Donate all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) annually; and**
- **Make your gift before year-end.**

Direct gifts from your IRA are not counted as taxable income and you can give up to $100,000 each year to Marin Humane Society. And your spouse can also make a gift of up to $100,000 from his or her IRA, as long as it is a separate account.

IRA Charitable Rollovers are a great way to make your tax deductible year end gift and support Marin Humane Society! Contact Joe Lisella at 415.506.6257 or jlisella@MarinHumaneSociety.org

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**Sophie’s Second-Chance Bridge**

By Virginia Haldan

On October 15th, staff, volunteers, and friends gathered to celebrate the permanent dedication of the bridge between the main shelter buildings and the dog parks in honor of Sophie, who was adopted by Virginia and Glenn Haldan of Mill Valley. Virginia volunteers in the customer service department every Saturday.

On a Saturday morning in April 2007, I was volunteering in the front office when a woman came in with a puppy in her arms and said she couldn’t keep her any longer.

I thought to myself that this was the puppy my husband and I had been looking for since our beloved dog Scarlett had passed away two and a half years earlier.

Sophie was soft and cuddly and had the most beautiful eyes of any dog I had seen since Scarlett. I called Glenn to come and meet her. When he arrived, we took Sophie for a walk across the bridge to the dog park where she played and quickly “convinced” us we should take her home, forever, and give her a second chance. We knew then that Sophie was to become a very special part of our family. She still needed to be spayed and medically cleared, so we couldn’t take her home for two very long days.

Sophie is now nine years old, full of life, and we cannot imagine our lives without her. She is one-of-a-kind and absolute proof of the old saying...“dogs are a man’s best friend.”

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Sophie is now nine years old, full of life, and we cannot imagine our lives without her. She is one-of-a-kind and absolute proof of the old saying...“dogs are a man’s best friend.”
At the Marin Humane Society, humane education has always been a large part of our mission. Empowering the next generation of animal guardians and advocates has been key since our founder, Ethel Tompkins, began visiting classrooms in 1913!

Fast forward to 2016 and our Humane Education programs are ever-expanding to reach more youth in our community. We're still visiting classrooms and fulfilling requests for our humane lessons that are paired with state standards. As people become more aware of the importance of the human–animal bond, more teachers are requesting our Animal Assisted Therapy teams visit their classrooms to help budding readers feel more comfortable reading in front of their peers. These special dogs serve as a comfort to anxious new readers. We also have volunteers who are trained to go into special education classrooms with adapted lessons and activities. Each time we enter a classroom, our goal is to highlight that human–animal bond, as well as educate the youth in Marin about how to interact with animals.

Back on our main campus, our after-school clubs are contributing to the shelter in many different ways — socializing our adoption animals, helping the Animal Care team with laundry and making toys, putting together holiday gifts for seniors, and much more! Currently, we have three after-school clubs for 5th–12th grade students and a Student Volunteer program for high school students. In 2017, we'll launch our Student Advocates Club for middle and high school students who desire to be a voice for animals and our environment. This group will focus on advocacy goals related to the Marin Humane Society’s strategic plan and the students’ interests and passions.

With many years of summer camp under our belt, the Humane Education staff has started hosting “Behind the Scenes Camps,” a one-day camp experience for children 8–10 years old. These camps highlight animals and programs which are sometimes lesser known, such as our barn animals or reptile friends. This camp also highlights skills that different animals have, such as a dog’s incredible sense of smell which demonstrates how animals can sometimes see (or smell) the world differently than we can. We’re planning two more Behind the Scenes Camps for early 2017 — the first on Wednesday, January 4, and the next on Monday, March 13.

For more information about our Humane Education programs or to sign your child up for our upcoming Behind the Scenes Camp or after-school clubs, please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.
December/January 2017

Fee-waived Adoptions
Tuesday, December 27 through Saturday, December 31
Celebrate the New Year with the beginning of a special relationship! Search adoptable animals at MarinHumaneSociety.org/adoptapet.

Behind the Scenes Camp
Wednesday, January 4, 9 am – 3 pm
Registration $65 per camper
Your 8 to 10 year-old will learn how we care for shelter animals and get a chance to see compassion in action. For more information and to register visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.

Play With Me!
Sunday, January 15, 11 am – 1 pm
Registration $40
Build a relationship with your dog or puppy through interactive play! For more information and to register visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/dogclasses.

Feline Environment Enrichment
Sunday, January 15, 1 – 2:30 pm
Registration $25
Bored kitty at home? Learn how to provide safe, fun entertainment for your feline friend. For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses.

Animal Film Festival
Saturday, January 21, 7 – 8:30 pm
Tickets $12 - $15
Presented by the Center for Animal Protection & Education (CAPE). For more information and to buy tickets visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.

Pet First Aid & CPR
Saturday, January 28, 9 am – 1 pm
Registration $65
Presented by American Safety & Health Institute certified instructor Peter Pay. For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.

February

Dogs & Cats: Living in Harmony
Sunday, February 12, 1 – 2:30 pm
Registration $25
Living peacefully with both a cat and a dog IS possible! For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses.

February (continued)

Summer Camp Registration Opens
Wednesday, February 15
12 pm (Noon)
For more information visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/summercamp.

How To Train Your Cat
Sunday, February 26, 1 – 2:30 pm
Registration $25
Yes you can! Cats respond well to positive reinforcement. For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses.

March

“Jumping for Joy,” the MHS Annual Gala
Saturday, March 4, 6 pm – 10 pm
Tickets $200
Join us at the Clubhouse at Peacock Gap for this fabulous fundraiser. For more information visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/Gala.

Humane Education Poster Contest
Wednesday, March 1 through Friday, April 14
For more information visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/postercontest.

Bird Basics Workshop
Saturday, March 11, 1 – 3 pm
Free
Presented by Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue. For more information visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/EventCalendar.

Behind the Scenes Camp
Monday, March 13, 9 am – 3 pm
Registration $65 per camper
Your 8 to 10 year-old will learn how we care for shelter animals and get a chance to see compassion in action. For more information and to register visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.

Senior Cat Care
Sunday, March 19, 1 – 2:30 pm
Registration $25
Learn how to make your older cat’s golden years even better. For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses.
Join hundreds of feline fanatics for a celebration everyone will be purring about!

Catapalooza, on Saturday, May 6, will celebrate all things feline with a vendor village, delicious refreshments, and of course, plenty of playful kittens! Be sure to check our website for details!

Film buff? Animal lover? Join us for the Animal Film Festival!

We are thrilled to once again partner with the Center for Animal Protection and Education to bring this amazing event to our community. Seven thoughtful films will explore the human-animal bond, welfare issues, and programs that change the lives of animals.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $12 for children and seniors. This is a family friendly event and a must see for animal lovers in Marin! Buy your tickets at MarinHumaneSociety.org.

Auditorium, Marin Humane Society
Saturday, January 21
7 – 8:30 pm
Vegan appetizers, beverages, and wine
Seven Award-Winning Films

The Marin Humane Society Gala: Jumping for Joy!

Don’t miss our Annual Gala at The Clubhouse at Peacock Gap on Saturday, March 4, 2017, as we celebrate “Jumping for Joy.” New this year, guests will have the chance to sponsor shelter animals during the reception, meet some of our furry ambassadors, and of course, partake in the Puppy and Kitten Photo Booth! Dinner will feature our Story of the Year, “Jumping for Joy,” followed by a live auction. Buy your tickets at MarinHumaneSociety.org/Gala.

We welcome referrals to companies and individuals interested in sponsorship or donating to the event. Please direct inquiries to Special Events, 415.506.6208 or sbohannon@marinhumanesociety.org.
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Visit Animal Outfitters
Tuesday–Sunday, 10 am to 5:30 pm
415.506.6229

MHS Thrift Shop
Visit the Marin Humane Society Auxiliary’s Thrift Shop in downtown San Anselmo! Shop for clothes, kitchenware, books, handmade cards, collectables, and more. Proceeds support the Marin Humane Society’s spay/neuter program.
Item donations welcome!

360 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo
Monday–Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm
415.459.5787