ANIMAL CHRONICLES

Fall/Winter 2014 | Vol. 23 | A Marin Humane Society Publication

Advocating for Issues Large and Small

Ask The Behaviorist

New Adoption Center Coming to San Anselmo!

A McKenney Minute

Earlier this year, I co-presented a workshop at a national conference on the topic of advocacy. The intent of the workshop was two-fold. First, to emphasize how the animal welfare movement has deep roots in advocacy and second, to not forget how far we have come.

The first SPCAs (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in the United States were formed by a few daring advocates who took up the cause for animal protection when no one else in their community would, primarily standing up to defend the care, use and treatment of horses in the late 1800s. Early child abuse cases were considered under some local cruelty laws and the American Humane Association (AHA) was formed in 1877 as one of the first national nonprofits dedicated to ensuring the welfare of both children and animals; they continue to operate both a child protection and animal protection division today.

Regrettably, many humane societies have become very cautious with their involvement in animal issues; some have even narrowed their mission statements to only be about dogs and cats. Because of this, our second goal for the Advocacy workshop was to encourage attendees to look at advocacy in a variety of different ways and not be afraid of it.

At the Marin Humane Society (MHS), we know advocacy is in this organization's DNA. In 1907 our founder, Ethel Thompkins, took up the cause of improving the poor treatment of the horses used as transportation through Marin and set upon a crusade to improve their care and educate the community. Fast forward to 2013-14: MHS has hosted many workshops to the public on topics such as ways to coexist with coyotes, mountain lions and bobcats; joined coalitions working on banning rodenticides; provided input on the new proposed dog policies in the GGNRA; and protected the state Hayden law regarding stray animal holding periods in animal shelters from being weakened. This past year, MHS also added its name to lawsuits fighting to keep the ban on the sale of foie gras, challenging the use of live pregnant sows in small cages as a state fair exhibit, and stopping the efforts to reopen horse slaughtering plants for food in the United States.

Advocacy can be defined as the act of recommending a particular cause or policy. At MHS, however, we feel it can be more than that. We see it as the simple or complex set of actions taken to raise awareness about the plight of animals and help individuals to "do better" when it comes to animals, whether this is informing elected officials about animal related positions, trying more plant based meal options or buying cruelty-free products.

Our strategic plan includes advocacy as one of our four key areas of focus. We will be updating our website to share more about the positions and projects underway. Visit MarinHumaneSociety.org to learn more.

Every day our dedicated staff and volunteers advocate for the animals entrusted to our care. Our Animal Services officers respond to calls of concern about animals, including wildlife, that are neglected, injured or lost in our community. As a private, local nonprofit organization, our Board of Directors, who are volunteers as well, ensure the MHS mission, vision and goals are on track.

Looking ahead into early 2015, we have some exciting things happening in addition to the strategic plan initiatives and advocacy work:

- Thanks to the support of Pet Food Express, we will be opening a small adoption center in San Anselmo—our first satellite.
- The date and location for our most important fundraiser of the year, our ninth annual *For the Love of Animals* gala, has been set for March 7, 2015 at the beautiful Peacock Gap Golf Course in San Rafael. Please consider attending and showing your support and love for MHS!
- Recognizing the need to plan for the future, we have embarked on a master planning project to identify our short term and long term facility needs for our main campus.

As you will see throughout this issue, your Marin Humane Society is active, adaptable and an advocate for animals. This of course would not be possible without the involvement of and financial support by the people in our community. Thank you for your help and on behalf of the board, staff and volunteers, we wish you the happiest of holidays!

Nancy B. McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer

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Life on the Farm Getting a Little Better Former factory chickens enjoy the sunshine for the first time

FEATURES

Life on the Farm Getting a Little Better 4
Landmark legislation changes lives

Kitty Corner is Coming! 8
New adoption center in San Anselmo

MHS in the Spotlight 18
Rubbing elbows with the stars

DEPARTMENTS

Ask the Behaviorist 7
Volunteers as Advocates 10
Update on Agility 11
Home Sweet Home 14
Planned Giving 19
Calendar 20

Life on the Farm Getting a Little Better

By Lisa Bloch

2015 will begin with the implementation of one of the most significant pieces of animal-related legislation ever passed in the state of California. The Prevention of Farm Cruelty Act, passed by 63% voters in 2008, is a modest measure that ends the cruel and inhumane confinement of many animals on factory farms. It requires their living spaces be big enough for them to turn around, lie down, and fully extend their legs and/or wings. This law is especially significant because it extends not only to factory farms in California, but also to those in other states that want to sell eggs in California.

For years, factory farms have been putting profits before even the most basic of humane treatment of animals. Egg laying hens have been confined to a space no bigger than a piece of notebook paper, and pregnant sows and veal calves to pens so small they can barely move an inch. In addition to the inhumane conditions in which the animals are forced to live, factory farms put the consumer at risk as well. Factory farms increase the risk of pathogens like E. coli and salmonella that cause food-borne illness in people. And, bad practices on even a few factory farms can end up on everyone's plate.

Food-borne illness isn't the only health threat from factory farms. Overuse of antibiotics can fuel the growth of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, the use of arsenic and growth hormones can increase the risk of cancer in people, and crowded conditions can be a breeding ground for disease.

Chickens and hogs on factory farms have no access to the outdoors, fresh air or natural light. Cattle on factory farms do not graze on pasture. And the pressure put on animals to grow faster and produce more meat, eggs or milk results in frequent health problems.

In order to prevent the spread of disease in the crowded conditions of confinement operations, and to promote faster growth, producers feed farm animals a number of antibiotics. Upwards of 75 percent of the antibiotics fed to farm animals end up undigested in their urine and manure. Through this waste, the antibiotics may contaminate crops and waterways and ultimately be ingested by humans.

Factory farms have had six years to implement these changes but along the way, big agribusiness has fought the voters' will at every turn imaginable. Fortunately, the law has withstood these assaults. In fact, as recently as this past October, a district court judge dismissed a lawsuit from the attorney general of Missouri—who was joined by attorneys general from Alabama, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska and Oklahoma—condemning California's mandate that all eggs sold in the state come from chickens with enough room in their quarters to lie down, stand up, fully extend their wings and turn around freely. The attorneys, the judge concluded, were acting not in the interest of their states' general populations, but rather in the interest of egg producers who want to sell to the nation's most populous state.

The Marin Humane Society was one of the state's leading advocates in this effort, working closely with the Humane Society of the United States and other local humane organizations, including five other Bay Area animal shelters.

"The California Prevention of Farm Cruelty Act is a perfect illustration of how animal protection groups are always more powerful when we stand together," said Paul Shapiro, vice president of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). "Partnerships between national groups like HSUS and local groups like MHS are essential to waging and winning campaigns of such monumental scope. In the case of this legislation, animals' abusers were all-too-eager to unite, but they couldn't compete with a united front of the animals' advocates."

MHS took an active role in helping to pass this landmark legislation through advocacy, education, and outreach to the Bay Area and beyond. For many MHS supporters, this marked the first time they became politically active on behalf of animals. They were able to lend their support to a cause that would have sweeping implications.

But this is not the first time MHS and its supporters have been a force to reckon with when it comes to the humane treatment of animals. In recent years, MHS has been involved in the fight to ban the sale of shark fins and foie gras

The California Prevention of Farm Cruelty Act is a perfect illustration of how animal protection groups are always more powerful when we stand together. –Paul Shapiro, Humane Society of the United States

in addition to legal efforts to prevent horse slaughter for human consumption and also to keep wild horses on the range. MHS Board member Bruce Wagman is an internationally-recognized legal expert on animal cruelty and was the driving force behind those efforts. He has been teaching Animal Law since 1996 and currently teaches at Hastings College of the Law, Berkeley Law, and Stanford Law School.

MHS was also a voice for animals in 1998, when CA Proposition 4 accomplished three important protections for animals:

- Prohibited the trapping of fur-bearing animals
- Outlawed the use of all leg-hold traps except when public safety is threatened and no alternative can be found
- Prohibited the use of Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide, two poisons generally considered effective for controlling predators

MHS Director of Animal Services Cindy Machado often serves as an expert witness in animal cruelty cases. She trains law enforcement to inspect circuses and travels internationally to train others on animal welfare.

"Advocating for all animals is the foundation of MHS's mission and purpose since it was first founded in 1907," said Cindy. "How a community views animals and the issues surrounding them is key to humane values, and MHS promotes positive changes for animals whenever possible."

Photos: pg. 4—Factory farm chickens are regularly debeaked, and when their combs become floppy and pale, it is an indicator of poor health; pg. 5—Pregnant sows confined to gestation pens (photo courtesy of the Humane Society of the United States); A healthy, happy pig (iStockPhoto.com); pg. 6—Fresh eggs from a local farm

Ask the Behaviorist

In October, we asked our Facebook followers for their canine queries and kitty concerns. We were inundated with great questions and called in our resident experts, Dawn Kovell, director of behavior and training, and Beth Weil, feline behavior coordinator, to answer a few of these calls for help!

Question: Why do cats always have to knock everything off where they're sitting? They rarely jump down on the floor to continue batting at the thing they just knocked off. I can put the thing back and he'll knock it off again.
Suzanne Bean

Dear Suzanne,
We know this is exasperating! Cats are very good at figuring out what behaviors get our attention, and will continue doing these behaviors as long as they are reinforced. So your cat is playing an interactive game with you. He knocks off the object and waits for you to put it back and knocks it off again. Playing with a wand toy with your cat a few times a day until he is exhausted will help prevent this behavior. In general, when training a cat, it's best to ignore behaviors you don't like and reward the behaviors you do like. *Learn more about this in our class "How Do I Train My Cat to...?" Visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses for details about this and other upcoming cat classes.*

Question: What's the best thing to do with a cat who goes to the bathroom outside the litter box? Even when it's clean?
Sarah Burkhart

Dear Sarah,
Cat behaviorists believe that most cat litter box issues can be resolved. The first step is to take your cat in for a veterinary check to rule out any medical concerns. If your vet gives your cat a clean bill of health, it's time to consider behavioral issues. *See our handout on Litter Box Issues (available at MarinHumaneSociety.org/cathandouts) for more information. A consult with a cat behavior consultant may be in order. The Marin Humane Society offers phone, office and home consults. Call 415.506.6284 for more information about these services.*

Question: My Chihuahua barks at every dog we encounter in any situation. What can I do to stop the barking?
Liesha Eberst

Dear Liesha,
Although barking is a ubiquitous behavior and it might seem like there should be a simple answer, it may be rather complex. Generally, a dog who barks at other dogs is considered to be reactive to other dogs, which is often mistakenly confused with being aggressive.

The first steps toward solving your problem would be to observe your dog very closely and note whether the barking occurs on leash, off leash or both. How close does your dog need to be before she starts barking? Does she need to see the other dog or just hear them? Is Ms. Chihuahua fearful of strange dogs? Does she have other doggie friends? Was she raised with dog parks and doggie day care centers? Well, you get the picture. You need to consider the environment, the situation, where, how and when the behaviors occur.

Once you have the answers to these above questions, you can work to give her some alternative coping strategies. Generally, you increase her distance from other dogs and work with her at a level where she can remain calm and then decrease the distance over time. You

might also teach her to move away from other dogs when she sees them. Or, use a longer leash so that leash frustration doesn't play into her problem behavior. Sometimes a crate or small dog carrying case which limits her view of other dogs is part of the solution. In most cases, the ultimate solution is a combination of training, managing her environment, and behavior modification.

Interested in learning more about your animal's behavior? Visit MarinHumane Society.org/behavior. If you have a question of your own, call our free behavior hotlines:

Cat Behavior Hotline
415.506.6284

Dog Behavior Hotline
415.506.6281

Small Companion Behavior Hotline (rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, reptiles, birds)
415.506.6225

Kitty Corner is

New Adoption Center to Open in San Anselmo

MHS is excited to announce our first offsite adoption center, Kitty Corner, opening in early 2015 in the Red Hill Shopping Center in San Anselmo.

This summer, our friends at Pet Food Express invited us to open a location adjacent to their store, offering our adoption animals the purrfect exposure in Central Marin! Pet Food Express is generously donating the rent for the space for five years, with an option to renew.

Kitty Corner will primarily house kittens and cats who will comfortably live there and be cared for each day while they wait for their forever homes. In addition to about a dozen cats and kittens bounding about the center, there will be room for rabbits, guinea pigs, birds or dogs on occasion. Guests will be able to visit with animals, and when the match is right, complete the adoption process on site, allowing for new friends to become families more quickly.

Initially, Kitty Corner will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 12 to 6 p.m. These hours may be adjusted as we acclimate to the space and popularity grows. The center will be a great way to see adoption animals right in your Central Marin neighborhood.

MHS Board member and talented architect, Chip Smith of Verdigris in Sausalito, is providing pro bono architectural services for the project and bringing an attractive, modern, and highly functional design to the small space. We are starting with a bare bones, 300 square foot location measuring 30 feet by 10 feet. Several spacious and multi-tiered cat condos will flank the narrow room and be highly visible from inside and out while ensuring cats remain comfortable and safe. The condo area is partitioned by a sliding glass door and offers romping room for cats. A large TV monitor will showcase other current adoption animals and fun information about MHS. Part of the space will also be a welcoming area for guests to connect with MHS. Clean and stylish counters and cabinets will store our working supplies. A fun and inviting storefront and interior design is being created by Michael Rylander of Rylander Designs, who has generously donated his time and talent.

Kitty Corner is being supported by Pet Food Express and by friends like you in the community. The tenant improvements to the location are expected to cost just over $125,000 and MHS will incur ongoing staffing, utilities and overhead costs. Brian Kirchoff of San Rafael, the self-proclaimed "Cat Daddy," left a generous bequest to MHS that came to fruition this year. A portion of his estate will support the center. We are grateful for this initial support, but more is needed. *If you would like to support the adoption center, please contact Joe Lisella at 415.506.6257 or jlisella@MarinHumaneSociety.org*

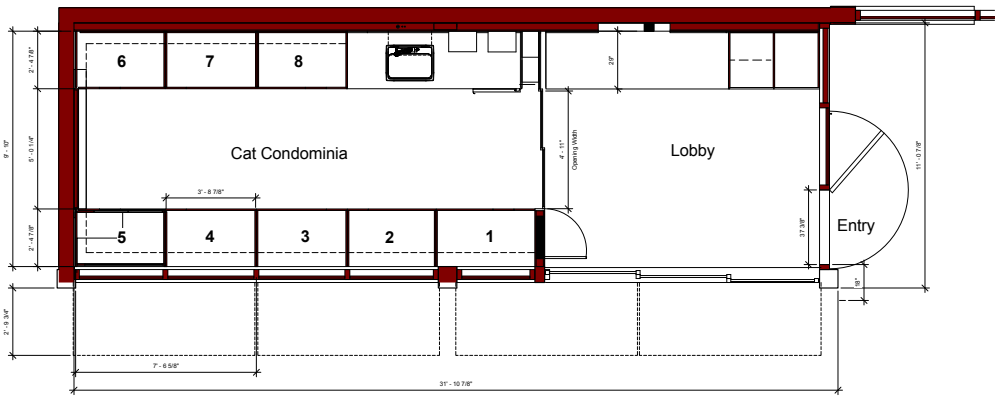
You can also help by volunteering! MHS is currently seeking dedicated volunteers to assist with adoptions, care, feeding and cleaning, and having fun socializing cats throughout the day at both Kitty Corner and our Novato campus. There are morning, afternoon and evening shifts available each day of the week. *Please contact our Volunteer Services Department at aboliver@MarinHumaneSociety.org or 415.506.6267.*

Kitty Corner will be located in the Red Hill Shopping Center, 876 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. We look forward to making new friends in San Anselmo in early 2015.

Photos: Rendering of design concepts for Kitty Corner provided by Chip Smith

Coming!

By John Reese



Over the years it has been our pleasure to work with MHS helping homeless pets, and now we have an opportunity to work even closer.

—Michael Levy, founder of Pet Food Express

Volunteers as Advocates

By Anne Oliver

Many people come to volunteer at the Marin Humane Society because of their love of animals. We work diligently to find the perfect job for new volunteers—one that meets a need we have as well as one that benefits from their enthusiasm and desire to support our work. As they are trained and become a valuable part of the MHS team, many volunteers want to do more. Their desire to advocate for

animals is strengthened by their interactions with them and seeing the positive results for both the animals and the people we serve.

When most people think of the word advocacy, they think of political or civic engagement. And indeed Marin Humane Society volunteers attend Humane Lobby Days at our state capitol and other events at the state and local governmental levels. Most of our volunteers, though, champion our cause more directly by their work with the shelter animals and by their interactions with people on our campus, as well as out in the community.

Within the daily work of shelter operations, volunteers advocate for animals in all areas of the shelter. From keeping animals fed and their housing clean to exercising and just plain "hanging out" with them, volunteers are protecting the physical and emotional well-being of the animals—morning, noon, and night.

Beginning with the initial medical and temperament assessments of the animals, volunteers are trained to note health issues or personality quirks that need further attention by our veterinary or behavioral staff.

Our adoption department volunteers are "front-line" advocates as they greet potential adopters and work with people to guide them toward adopting an animal that is a good match for their home situation. Adoption volunteers provide potential adopters with information to help them make the appropriate choice. Advocating in this way helps create forever homes for animals and can serve to establish long-lasting relationships with adopters.

Out in the community, MHS volunteers advocate for the well-being of people by bringing their own companion animals to facilities to visit with residents who don't have the opportunity to benefit from the loving gaze of a gentle dog or the soft purr of a sweet kitty. Volunteers also bring their canine companions to libraries and reading programs where children can experience the joy of reading out loud to an attentive and non-judgmental dog.

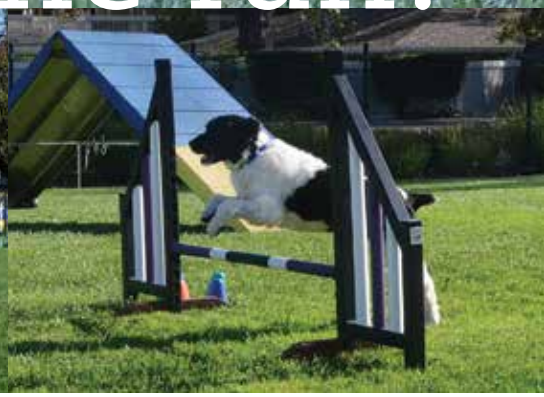
Advocacy also appears as we open our doors to volunteers with disabilities and special needs. We have created opportunities for people with limited abilities to become part of our volunteer program by training them, along with an aide, friend or family member, to work with some of our small companion animals. Guinea pigs, rabbits and rats, in particular, benefit from the extra attention these volunteer teams provide. And, the volunteers benefit from the unconditional love of even the smallest of critters here.

The spirit of advocacy is alive and flourishing in the volunteer programs at the Marin Humane Society. Our volunteer support ensures that we provide the highest possible service for both animals and people. *To learn more about volunteering at MHS, please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/volunteer.*

Photos: Volunteer Saundra Efron cuddles a rooster in the MHS barn; Lori Smith and her SHARE dog, Isabelle, spread joy to seniors and school kids

Our volunteer "pet pals" are keen observers, reporting to the staff important details about health and behavioral changes. This information fine-tunes our ability to make the best decisions about an animal's future.

Wanna have some fun?



Do you have an active dog who loves to jump and run? How about a smart pooch who's craving a fun activity to channel her energies? Are you looking for a great way to bond with your dog and get some exercise at the same time? You should check out the Marin Humane Society's agility program!

Agility is an exciting sport where you teach your dog to run an obstacle course, which includes jumps, tunnels, weave poles, a teeter-totter and more. We have classes available for dogs of any age, size and breed.

Made possible by generous donations, we now have a dedicated field for our agility program with all up-to-date equipment, including rubberized contact obstacles and jumps with moveable jump cups for safety. The field is also available for rental to handlers with dogs who have some agility experience.

To learn more about our agility program, please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/classes or call 415.506.6280.

Photos: Counterclockwise from top—Eclipse blasts out of a tunnel; Kimba excels at the weave poles; a view of the Marin Humane Society agility field; Hannah thinks jumping is fun!

Alibi

Coco

Oxford

Bea

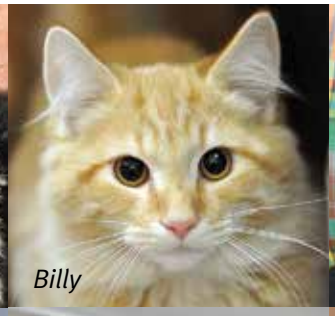
Leilani

Just a few of the animals that have found new homes...

Letty

Binky

Dottie


Billy

Rex

Mikey

Ernie

Clover

Dan Rubin

Sprite

Dahlia

Quacker

Trisha

Randal

Aimee

Freckles

Layla

Speck

Bo

Butternut

Emerald

Melina

Cap'N America

Jewel

Oreo

Diesel

Fletcher

Jenny

Lexie

HOME SWEET HOME

By Nancy Weiler

Blackie

When Blackie, who is blind, came to MHS we realized he would need a very special home. Happy, curious and ready to explore, we also knew it wouldn't take long...and we were right! The minute the Swan family from Windsor saw Blackie's picture online, they knew he was the one. Brec Swan warned his wife Nancy and teenage son Jack not to get too attached, but it was too late. When Jack, who is also blind, met Blackie they had an instant connection. Asked why, Jack said "he's just like me...he takes time to adapt." Now happily at home, Blackie, affectionately called "Dog-Dog," enjoys his daily walks, often with Jack. Nancy says "Blackie loves his squeaky toys, playing tug-of-war with Jack and just lying in our laps." When he flings a toy across the room and sniffs around to find it, they direct him by saying "cold, cold, warm, warm, HOT" to help guide him. She says that "Blackie gets along just fine using his sense of smell and hearing to compensate for his lack of vision. He's definitely become a part of the family."

Bill and Ted

Bill and Ted came from a home that had too many pet rats. After being evaluated, these two buddies were put up for adoption hoping to find a new home together. Rats need a variety of things to keep them busy like climbing structures, fun things to chew on and small boxes to play with, so we were thrilled when the Ladd family of Novato, who had experience with rats, came in to meet them. They decided to take them home, designating their daughter Zoe as the primary caregiver. Zoe tells us "I wanted to adopt Bill and Ted because my sister had pet rats and it looked like fun. I adopted them on Easter weekend. I picked Bill and Ted because they looked sweet and nice. We went to the Marin Humane Society because they help you find great pets. We got our dog Jasper and our cat Tucker there, too. My favorite thing to do with Bill and Ted is to play with them, hold them, and make mazes for them." It looks like Bill and Ted are living an "excellent adventure!"

Natasha Rose

When Marcie Miller heard the news report that 24 black and white tuxedo cats were abandoned at MHS in the middle of the night, she and her husband Tom knew that one of those kitties was meant for them. They were still grieving the passing of Gracie, their beloved 17 year old tuxedo cat, and their home felt empty and sad. When they met Natasha she was a tiny "scaredy kitten" who was extremely shy and not interested in toys. They immediately knew she needed the love and nurturing that she and Tom could provide. Marcie says that "within two days, Natasha was outgrowing her safe little nest in the bathroom and had full run of the house. She only wanted to play, play, play—especially with her 'mouse on a fishing line' toy that I bought at the store there (Animal Outfitters). 'Rosie' loves to hide my lipstick or grab the eraser when I'm doing a crossword puzzle." And she loves her treats! Natasha Rose now has a wonderful home in the Sierra Foothills and Marcie and Tom have a new kitty to fill their hearts.

Bandi

Bandi was one of two dogs who found their way to MHS from halfway around the world in Saudi Arabia. Christopher Salisbury of Mill Valley was teaching English there when he first met Bandi, a young dog living on the streets. Two men were putting a rope around his neck and when they started to drag him off, Christopher jumped in to save him. Unable to find a home for Bandi, whose ears had been cruelly cut off, and another street dog he had rescued, he saved up enough money to transport them to the US. Christopher's parents cared for them for a while but were unable to keep them and brought the dogs to us. Bandi had an infected tooth that needed specialized care, so we took him to South Novato Animal Hospital, one of several local hospitals who donate their services to MHS. One of their veterinarians, Dr. Tiffany Newman, saw him and thought he would make the perfect addition to her household. The entire family came in to meet him—dad Gordon, kids Charly and Benny, and resident dog Coco—and off Bandi went to his new home!

Millie

Millie was brought to MHS by a Good Samaritan who found her scratching and pecking around El Cerrito. It turns out Millie is a very unique chicken—a purebred Mille Fleur d'Uccle Bantam. In French, "Mille Fleur" translates as "Thousand Flowers" because holding one with their beautiful plumage gives the effect that you are bearing a tiny bouquet of flowers. The breed is known for their sweet disposition, something Jessica Osier of Fairfax can attest to. When no one came looking for Millie, Jessica adopted her and took her home to join her current flock of seven hens. While the other hens weren't too sure at first about the new addition, Jessica says Millie "instantly worked her way into our hearts." She says that Millie was obviously hand-raised and she plans to spoil her as much as possible! She tells us "Millie comes when she's called, often making her way inside the house where she will stand next to the dogs waiting for her treats. She jumps on our laps and shoulders and knows how to work her charm. We love Millie!"

Dixie

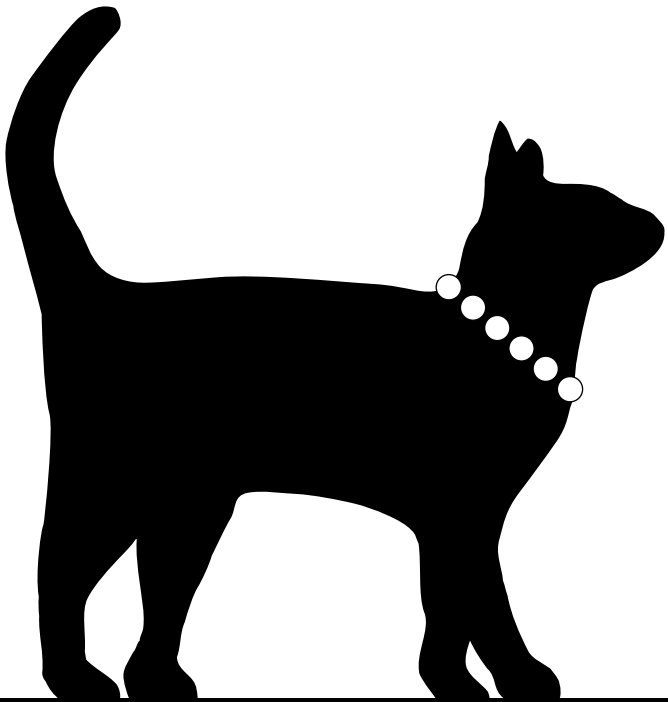
Poppy (now Dixie) was found as a stray kitten in San Rafael. Only about 20% of orange cats are female, so she was very special indeed. She was also what we call an "extreme kitten," meaning one with LOTS of energy and in need of a very active home. Luckily for Dixie, Wonder Bread 5 band member John McDill and his wife Kristie had such a home. After the band finished playing at our annual Woofstock fundraiser, John and Kristie were walking through the shelter when Dixie literally grabbed their attention by reaching out for them through her cage. (Good job, Dixie!) Vocal and playful, she was soon on her way home to Petaluma to join their children Payton, Carson and Ben, along with their other three cats, a dog, two pygmy goats and a rabbit! (Did we mention they were animal lovers?) Kristie says "Dixie has a very energetic character but loves to snuggle at the end of her adventures for the day. She is very happy and was at home the minute she arrived here with our family."

for the Love *of* Animals

Saturday, March 7
6–10 p.m.

Cocktail Attire

Tickets are $150 per person



On Saturday, March 7, 2015 the Marin Humane Society will hold our 9th Annual ***For the Love of Animals*** gala. This year we are excited to announce a new venue and look forward to welcoming everyone to The Clubhouse at Peacock Gap in San Rafael.

Over three hundred Bay Area residents and animal enthusiasts attend this anticipated event every year. This special evening will include live and silent auctions, a gourmet vegetarian dinner, fine wine, a touching program celebrating the animals and services of MHS—and ambassadors to greet you with wagging tails!

We hope you will join our efforts to raise much needed funds to improve the lives of animals and people in our community. If you are interested in learning more about Corporate Sponsorship, Individual Sponsorship or tickets, please contact our Special Events Manager Sonja Bohannon at sbohannon@MarinHumaneSociety.org.

Last year, wining bidders went home with...

A weekend luxury drive in a Tesla

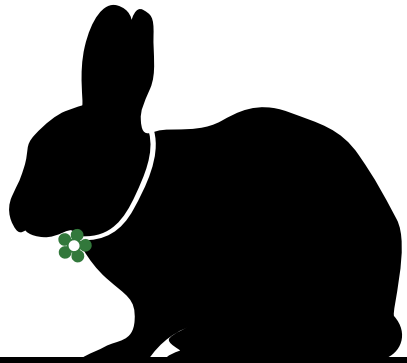
Their pet's photo on the cover of the Marin Humane Society Calendar

Helicopter Tour of The Bay Area

Safari in Africa

...just to name just a few!

Together we raised $140,000 to make a world of a difference for the shelter animals in Marin!



Photos: Adoption dog and gala guest Bonnie found her forever home in May, 2014; Fund-A-Need supporter Mark Glickman; MHS Board member Leilani Borenstein and her husband Rick at the popular Puppy & Kitty Photo Booth; 2015 venue The Clubhouse at Peacock Gap

MHS in the Spotlight

By Emily Robledo

Mill Valley Film Festival

They didn't actually walk the red carpet but the SHARE dogs were definitely stars during this year's Mill Valley Film Festival!

This past October, not one, but two short documentaries about lives touched by animals through MHS programs were featured at the internationally-acclaimed festival, which always draws big name movie stars.

"Page Turners" tells the story of one girl's struggle learning to read and how some friendly dogs helped her through that trying time. The dogs are part of the Special Human Animal Relationships (SHARE) program which works closely with local teachers, reading specialists and librarians to help children improve literacy skills while offering them an opportunity to have fun reading—to dogs! SHARE A Book's human/dog volunteer teams visit schools, libraries, book fairs, after school programs, reading labs, and bilingual reading programs.

Dogs are ideal reading companions because they offer unconditional love and acceptance. As opposed to an audience of their peers, children feel comfortable reading to dogs because their fears and limitations dissolve in the process. Additionally, a child who previously lacked self-esteem as a remedial reader is presented with an opportunity to become a "teacher" by explaining what they are reading to their canine partner.

"The Rabbit Whisperer" tells the story of Jeff Kissel, a man whose life was severely altered after a massive stroke. Jeff was unable to communicate and was becoming increasingly isolated. But after a few visits to MHS, Jeff began to respond to the rabbits available for adoption. His gentle nature seemed to reassure these small creatures and their presence seemed to renew hope for Jeff. He has become a regular volunteer at MHS, focusing on the bunnies and is now known as "The Rabbit Whisperer."

It's been widely documented that even just being in the presence of animals has tremendous healing benefits for those suffering the effects of trauma, battling disease or even in palliative care. The Marin Humane Society's Animal-Assisted Therapy program brings pets and their guardians to visit people in 58 different care facilities in Marin, including hospitals, senior communities, and special day classes in Marin public schools. Volunteers and their pets work with staff to assist with therapy, bringing joy and companionship to people who often spend their days feeling alone.

The short films were directed by local filmmaker Joe Kayser, who generously donated his time and talent to MHS. Sign up for our e-news for the opportunity to view these short films early next year!

Rubbing Elbows with Rachael Ray

The Marin Humane Society regularly participates in a special ABC7 TV segment called "Perfect Pet." The station's meteorologist Mike Nicco showcases different animals that are available for adoption. But in early August, the folks from ABC7 contacted us to ask if we'd take part in a special Perfect Pet segment that would feature a "special guest." We decided to bring a sweet pit bull puppy named Parcela with us, still not knowing who this special guest would be.

Parcela and her entourage, including MHS CEO Nancy McKenney, Director of Marketing and Communications Lisa Bloch, and Marketing and Communications Coordinator Emily Robledo, arrived at the ABC7 studio in San Francisco. As the doors to the studio opened, Ms. Yummo-EVOO herself, Rachael Ray, entered the studio! She instantly connected with Parcela with head rubs and ear scratches. Rachael joined our segment to talk about Parcela and animal adoption.

Rachael was at the station to promote a new show and specifically requested she use her time there to promote two of her favorite causes—animal adoption and specifically, pit bull rescue. After taking advantage of some "photo ops" with her, we headed back to the shelter where the phone calls were pouring in about Parcela. After her brush with stardom, Parcela was adopted in to her forever home and now lives in San Rafael.

Photos: The stars of "Page Turners" Niamph and SHARE dog Remy; Emily Robledo and Parcela pose in studio with Rachael Ray

Planned Giving

By Joe Lisella

Happy is the person who knows what to remember of the past, what to enjoy in the present, and what to plan for in the future. –Arnold H. Glasow

We are excited to share a new resource for individuals and families to explore ways that they can give in the future—and even today—that may present tax advantages or other benefits to donors and their heirs. Whether it is donating appreciated securities—i.e. stocks, bonds or mutual fund or naming MHS as the beneficiary of your IRA, will or trust, it is easy to explore options at Marin HumaneSociety.org/legacy.

Whether your means are modest or significant, one of the greatest sources of hope for animals that will depend on Marin Humane Society in the future are the members of our Legacy Society. These inspiring individuals have included MHS in their estate and financial planning to ensure we have the resources necessary to continue our work for another 100 years!

By entering a single detail—age, giving amount, or assets—the site will provide information about the most promising options for you. For example:

Age: A 50-year-old may choose to make an outright gift of a stock that has appreciated over the years. By doing this, stock worth $500 post-tax to the donor could be worth hundreds more to MHS because there would not be any tax on the capital gains.

Amount: Non-traditional gifts can really add up! Even if you have modest means, including MHS as a beneficiary in your will or living trust, or just making an outright gift is a great way to support the animals.

Assets: Real estate, life insurance, and other assets are also great ways to include MHS in your plans.

Visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/legacy or contact Joe Lisella, director of development, at 415.506.6257 or jlisella@MarinHumaneSociety.org for more information on including MHS in your giving plans and joining the Legacy Society.

CALENDAR

Stay current at MarinHumaneSociety.org/eventcalendar

December/January

Fee-waived Adoptions
Friday, December 26 through
Sunday, January 4
Celebrate the New Year with the beginning of a special relationship! Search adoptable animals at MarinHumaneSociety.org/adoptapet.

Feline Environment Enrichment
Sunday, January 11
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Registration: $25
Do you have a bored kitty at home? Learn how to provide safe, fun entertainment for your feline friend. For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses.

Mickaboo Bird Basics with Maggie Rufo
Saturday, January 17
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
This FREE workshop is perfect for new and experienced bird guardians. For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/eventcalendar.

February

Cats 101
Sunday, February 8
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Registration: $25
Get tips and tricks to PURR-fect your relationship with your resident feline. For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses.

Animal Care Summer Camp
Registration Opens
Tuesday, February 10
12 p.m. (Noon)
For more information visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/summercamp.

Fee-waived Adoptions
Friday, February 13 through
Sunday, February 15
Fall in love this weekend and adopt a new friend! Search adoptable animals at MarinHumaneSociety.org/adoptapet.

Pet First Aid & CPR with Peter Pay
Saturday, February 21
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Registration: $75
For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/eventcalendar.

How Do I Train My Cat To...?
Sunday, February 22
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Registration: $25
For more information and registration visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/catclasses.

March

Humane Education Poster Contest
Sunday, March 1 through April 10
Please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/education for more information.

For The Love of Animals
Saturday, March 7
6 to 10 p.m.
Tickets: $150
Join us at The Clubhouse at Peacock Gap in San Rafael for this fabulous fundraiser. Please visit MarinHumane Society.org for more information.

Cats and Dogs Living in Harmony
Sunday, March 15
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Registration: $25
Living with both a cat and dog peacefully is possible! For more information and registration visit MarinHumane Society.org/catclasses.

Animal Chronicles

Our Mission
We improve the lives of animals and people through advocacy, education, and support.

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Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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Animal Emergencies
415.309.6339
The Marin Humane Society responds to animal emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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Brayton Purcell is honored to support the efforts of the Marin Humane Society on behalf of animals who are dependent on their human companions. Committed to the communities in which we practice, we support organizations that reach out to those in need within Marin County and all of Northern California.

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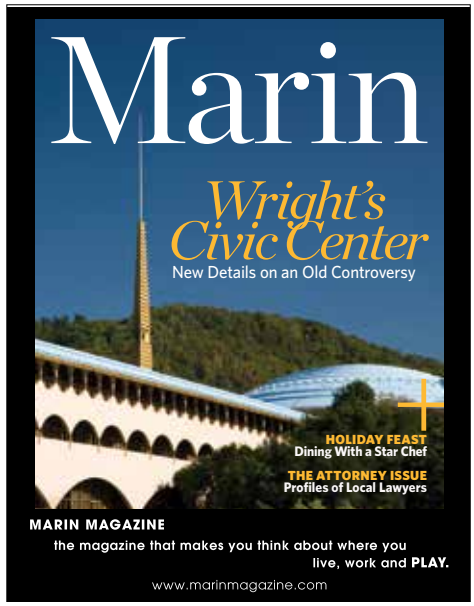

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