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## **ONLINE GAMER RAISES MORE THAN \$38K IN ONE WEEKEND FOR MARIN HUMANE**

Combining his love of gaming with his love of animals, Marin County resident Jake Straus raised more than \$38,000 over one weekend for Marin Humane in the first-of-its-kind fundraiser.

Straus, a full-time video game streamer who grew up in Marin, has 140,000 followers on Twitch, a popular streaming video playing site. Over the course of one weekend, he donated all the money he'd normally earn in "tips" playing Destiny, a multiplayer online game.

Straus, known online as GernaderJake, not only set out to raise money for animals but to prove that the gaming community can be altruistic. "Humbling and inspiring are the words that come to mind after this weekend's events. This gaming community demonstrated so much love and care for the well-being of animals, and I could not be more proud," said Straus.

Followers and fans (gamers and non-gamers alike) got to watch the action all weekend on Twitch and donations ranging in amounts from \$1 to \$4,000 poured in from across the globe.

"We're totally in awe of Jake and his followers – and so very grateful," said Nancy McKenney, CEO of Marin Humane. "This is, by far, the highest-grossing peer-to-peer fundraiser we've ever had at Marin Humane. It'll go a long way in helping the animals in our care."

"I've always had a soft spot for animals," added Straus. "I was given a pet rat at the age of three and except for the time I spent in college, I've had rats ever since, along with dogs and cats."

Marin Humane relies on donations to care for the more than 10,000 animals that come through its doors each year. It's the only open-door animal shelter in Marin and provides 24/7 animal services for the county. Its programs place homeless animals in loving homes, provide humane education to kids, teach people to be good pet parents, help low-income seniors care for—and keep—their beloved pets, and much more.

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