

SACRAMENTO SPCA

Heartline



SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | WWW.ASPCA.ORG | SUMMER 2015

INSIDE

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Saved from Certain Death

A Community Caring for Cats

Faces of Heartworm Disease

the Black & White FUR-BALL

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SUMMERTIME ... AND THE LIVING IS EASY
Twelve-year-old Sherman, adopted in 2006, is an SPCA Love on Loan therapy dog. Meet more shelter alumni in our Heartbeats section, beginning on page 16.

THE SACRAMENTO SPCA fosters a loving and compassionate community for animals and people by providing assistance, creating lifelong relationships and saving lives.

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ON THE COVER ...

ONE IN 150,000 | Kevin, one of 10 dogs rescued from a Korean dog meat farm, comes back to the SPCA for a visit after his recent adoption. *See story on page 3.*

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- 2 Directions: 120 Years and Counting
- 3 Saved from Certain Death
- 7 Fur Is in the Air
- 8 A Community Caring for Cats
- 10 The Scoop
- 13 Thank You for Your Support
- 14 The Faces of Heartworm Disease
- 16 Heartbeats

"Peace begins with a smile."—MOTHER THERESA | 1



DIRECTIONS

120 Years and Counting

IN THE FALL OF 1894, a small group of caring individuals in Sacramento joined forces to protect horses from neglect. Soon after, they initiated efforts to include protection for children as well. Three decades later, a much larger group formed one of the first nonprofits in the region and was called the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

Fast forward 120 years. The Sacramento SPCA has continued to grow, prosper and provide services to both animals and people. We currently have more than 100 dedicated staff, 2,500 enthusiastic volunteers and 15,000 generous donors and supporters. Passionate in their love of animals, this loyal group ensures the success of over 45 programs that keep pets in people's lives. Each and every year, thousands of animal companions find new loving homes because of this commitment.

Two years ago, we purchased 10 acres adjacent to the current shelter with a plan to expand numerous SPCA services currently offered.

- A full-service veterinary hospital will provide much-needed care for those pets that have human companions who are financially unable to afford services;
- An expanded education center will offer not just eight weekly summer camps, but four or five different camps running concurrently each week with an equine center for educational purposes;
- A behavior and training center will enhance the lives of dogs and cats facing challenges in their current living environments and/or help pets adjust to a new home;
- A more developed working relationship with the UC Davis Veterinary School will incorporate training and provide on-site dormitories for students;
- An enlarged and updated intake shelter will include holding areas for rescue groups, boarding for dogs and cats of seniors who are admitted to area hospitals, and emergency shelter for pets belonging to victims of domestic violence.

Future plans also call for a large space that would be available for agility and dog shows, as well as additional room to accommodate events of other animal nonprofit groups.

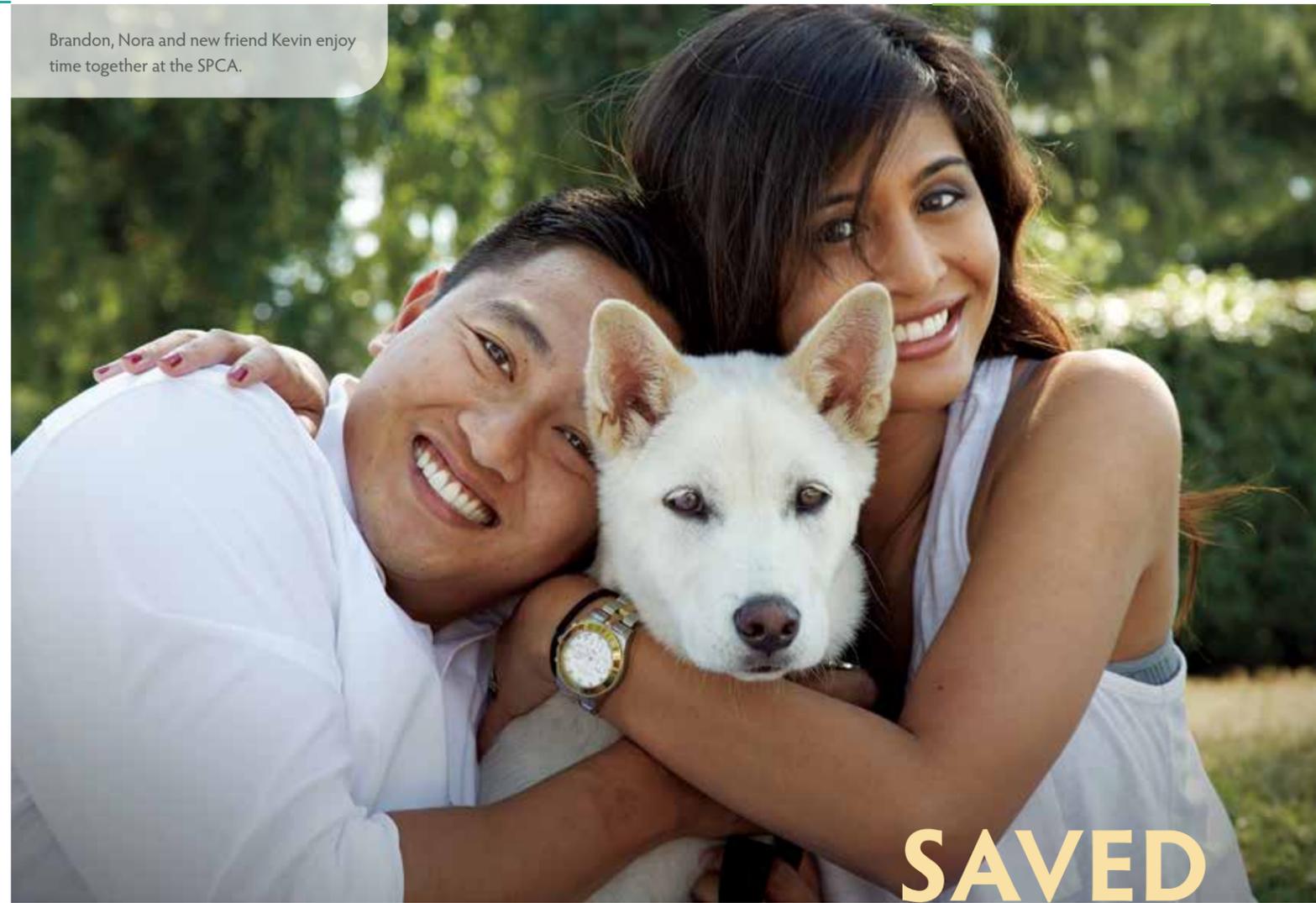
Your Sacramento SPCA is so much more than just an animal shelter. But we can't do it alone. Generous financial support combines with professional expertise to make it all possible. For the many lives that are changed forever by your kindness, thank you.

On behalf of the animals,

Rick Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

Above | Rick takes a timeout with Internet sensation Sauerkraut, whose Kraut and About 2015 tour made a stop at the SPCA in June.

Brandon, Nora and new friend Kevin enjoy time together at the SPCA.



SAVED

FROM CERTAIN DEATH

SPCA TAKES IN DOGS RESCUED FROM KOREAN MEAT TRADE

...by Dee Dee Drake
Humane Education Manager

The large, gangly Mastiff mix stands in the center of a yard, looking at the unfamiliar surface beneath his feet. It's only the second time Gibson has ever walked on grass.

Gibson arrived at the Sacramento SPCA in early March after a longer journey than most. He came from South Korea, where an estimated two million farm-raised

canines are killed for food annually. Gibson and 56 other dogs were rescued from future slaughter and human consumption by Humane Society International (HSI), which made arrangements with the farmer who kept them in small cages in a filthy, unheated outbuilding: In return for surrendering the animals to HSI, the farmer was given funding to grow chili peppers instead.

After a brief stopover in San Francisco, Gibson and nine other dogs, mostly Korean Jindos, made their way to the Sacramento SPCA. "We have always had a longstanding relationship with the Humane Society of the United States to provide assistance in situations where they have had to confiscate significant

Continued on next page

When they think of what Kevin's future might have been had he not been removed from his previous circumstances, the couple shudders. "I think about that every day," says Lopez. "We're just so happy to have him."

numbers of animals," says SPCA CEO Rick Johnson, "and we have provided support and housing for the animals that have had to be seized. The South Korean dogs are a little different in the sense that they were relinquished by their owner in South Korea and the Humane Society brought them to the U.S., and then contacted their partners for assistance. We are one of four shelters that provided support and housing."

The globetrotting canines were warmly received by Sacramento SPCA staff members, who quickly realized that the dogs lacked socialization with humans as well as a basic understanding of life as a typical pet. "We had to take a different approach with each of them," says Animal Services Supervisor Nichole Manley. "They were shaking, lifting their lips. They were just uncomfortable with having humans touch them."

Seventy-five-pound Gibson soon earned a reputation as a gentle giant. "The first time I took Gibson out of his kennel, he was crawling on the ground," remembers Manley. "He didn't know how to walk on a leash and was so used to being inside that the outdoors was terrifying for him. Once I got him outside, he just pancaked. I had to sit there on the ground with him for 15 minutes just petting him, and then we had to carry him back in."

SPCA staff continues an intensive socialization program with the three adult dogs who are not yet ready for adoption (the others were adopted in mid-March). "We're working with them to get them more comfortable with people petting them, touching them, doing the things that people do with their

pets," says Val Masters, director of community services, who oversees the shelter's behavior and training programs. "They've got some environmental sensitivities because they haven't been exposed to everyday things. We're working on positive reinforcement in the presence of things that they're afraid of."

The SPCA's Behavior and Training Department is also doing complementary follow-up consultations with all adopters of the South Korea dogs and will offer support and guidance for the lifetime of the animals, if needed.

Although the adult dogs displayed emotional and behavioral issues, the three Jindo puppies fared much better. "They weren't nearly as fearful," says Masters. "They were easier to handle and manage. I talked to one of the puppies' adopters, who said that his puppy was acclimating beautifully. He got used to the home environment very easily."

The first of the puppies adopted, renamed Kevin by his new owners, bounds through the door of the training center. Kevin, now five months old, has been living with Elk Grove residents Nora Lopez and Brandon Lum for about eight weeks. He is here for a follow-up consultation, although it might not be necessary.

"Kevin's awesome and amazing," says Lopez. "He's loving and very loyal. He follows us around the house, and if we go into another room, you'll find him sitting right there when you open the door." Kevin flops down on the floor by Lum's feet and looks up, his mouth a panting smile. "It's been a blessing to have a dog this easy," Lum says. "He was potty trained in two or three days."

Lopez and Lum were captivated when they saw the South Korean dogs in the local media. "We had been talking for a while about adopting a dog, since our other two dogs had died," Lopez says. "We saw the article about the dogs from South Korea at the SPCA and we knew that was it. We said to each other, 'We have to try to rescue one.'"

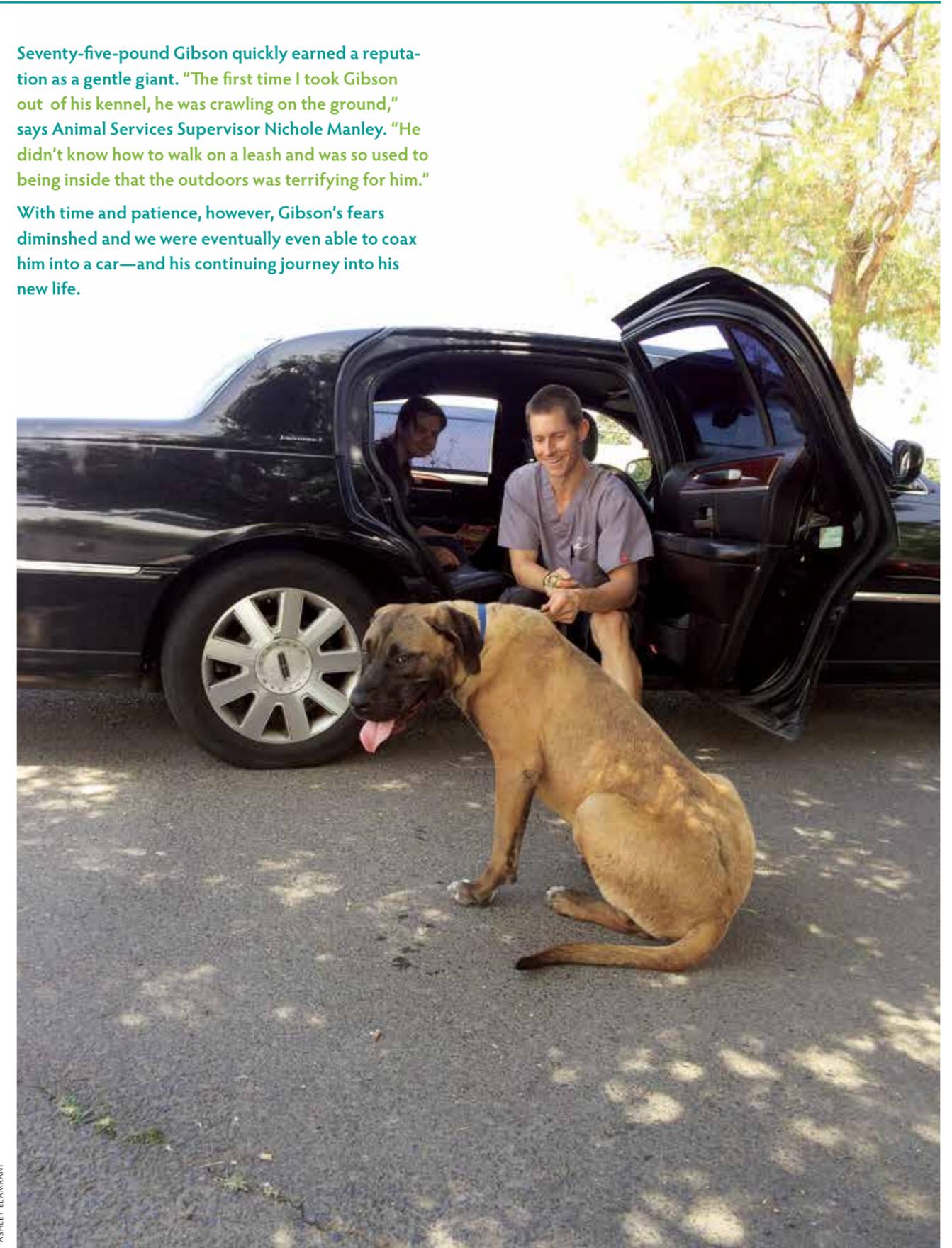
When they think of what Kevin's future might have been had he not been removed from his previous circumstances, the couple shudders. "I think about that every day," says Lopez. "We're just so happy to have him."

"It was important for the SPCA to do this so that the individuals in South Korea recognize that the animals they currently have can be adopted out," says Johnson. "We also did this because it was the right thing to do. As a bonus, bringing them here provided much-needed shelter recognition with the hopes that other animals would also find homes with the great turnout of people looking to adopt one of these dogs."

Manley formed a strong bond with Mastiff mix Gibson. "He just blossomed while he was here," she says. "He would finally walk on the leash in little tiny baby steps, then he'd take bigger and bigger steps. We put him in the bathtub because he was so filthy, and he just stood there for his bath. When we got him out, it was amazing. He was galloping, jumping on us, acting like a happy puppy. It was like we'd washed off all his problems, and now he was going to be okay." 🐾

Seventy-five-pound Gibson quickly earned a reputation as a gentle giant. "The first time I took Gibson out of his kennel, he was crawling on the ground," says Animal Services Supervisor Nichole Manley. "He didn't know how to walk on a leash and was so used to being inside that the outdoors was terrifying for him."

With time and patience, however, Gibson's fears diminished and we were eventually even able to coax him into a car—and his continuing journey into his new life.



ASHLEY ELAMIRANI



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Join us on the evening of Saturday, October 17 at the Sacramento SPCA for the Black and White Fur-Ball—a unique tented event featuring food and wine tastings, silent and live auctions, music and spectacular live entertainment by Circosphere.

The SPCA is bringing the Gala back in style...with a twist. And you're invited! This spectacular evening will take place on site at the SPCA, and is sure to dazzle, entertain and inform.

Come see why the Sacramento SPCA is so much more than a shelter! Meet the animals, enjoy tours of our facility and get a sneak peek at the future of your Sacramento SPCA. We have been a part of your community since 1894 and we have exciting plans for an expanded animal care campus right here on Florin Perkins Road.

Don your best black and white attire, and plan to join us for an elegant evening as we come together to raise funds for animals at the Sacramento SPCA. Don't miss the Fur-Ball presented by **Benefits Done Right**. General admission tickets are \$65, VIP tickets are \$125 and sponsorship packages start at just \$500.

Visit www.sspca.org/furball or email azablah@sspca.org for additional information and to purchase tickets.

FERAL CATS GET A BOOST FROM VOLUNTEERS



A COMMUNITY CARING FOR CATS

...by Dee Dee Drake
Humane Education Manager

IT IS JUST PAST DAWN IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA PARK.

Dew clings to the grass and passing cars are beginning to click off their headlights. The walkways are empty save for a lone jogger and a yawning maintenance employee, rake and shovel in hand.

When Debbie Jernigan's Volkswagen pulls into the deserted parking lot, the stillness evaporates. The landscape comes alive with cats, scuttling out from beneath dumpsters and picnic tables, emerging from bushes and shrubs. It is breakfast time for this segment of the Sacramento region's feral cat community.

Jernigan is a volunteer for Whisker Warriors, which is dedicated to reducing overpopulation of feral cats via TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) and maintenance of community cat colonies. The group stepped in to fill the void left after the passing of Scottie Moore, whose former feral advocacy organization had covered this

area. Whisker Warriors' work includes dogs, too, but this morning is all about the felines.

"Come on, babies," Jernigan calls softly as she unpacks plastic bins and totes from her trunk. A petite black cat races ahead of her. "Are you a hungry girl?" Jernigan croons. She stops first by a tennis court, producing trays and bowls from her bag. The trays are soon heaped with a combination of canned and dry cat food that Jernigan has prepared at home. The water bowl is filled from a jug. Jernigan's every move is followed by dozens of watchful eyes. The moment she steps back, the cats crowd in, jockeying for position at the buffet.

"That's a new one," says Jernigan, indicating a long-haired grey and white cat. "We call it Bruiser, because it likes to pick fights." Bruiser bolts down a few bites of the food mixture when a more senior cat, having had

its fill, vacates a spot at the trays. His eyes flicker to the nearby humans as he eats.

Bruiser's arrival in the colony has been duly noted by Jernigan and the other volunteers. If he sticks around, they will attempt to trap and transport him to the Sacramento SPCA for spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccines and ear tipping (removal of the distal one-quarter of a cat's left ear, an indicator to caregivers and others that the cat has been sterilized).

The SPCA has spayed and neutered almost 18,000 feral cats in the last eight years. "The shelters in our community have been tracking the number of neonatal kittens being taken into the sheltering system," says Dr. Laurie Siperstein-Cook, the SPCA's chief of shelter medicine. "That number has been going down steadily. If you fix them, they can't breed."

Hundreds of feral colonies exist in the greater Sacramento area. Some are overseen by organized groups like Whisker Warriors; others are fed by kind-hearted individuals, but if the cats are not spayed/neutered, the cats continue to reproduce. Many feral cats must fend for themselves. The average life span of urban feral cats in non-managed situations is only one to three years.

"If the public provides food for feral cats, then they have a responsibility to also spay or neuter them," says SPCA CEO Rick Johnson. "Simply feeding them is not enough. In fact, it can worsen the problem if proactive steps for the cats' health and well-being aren't taken."

Conflict between feral cat caregivers and the general public are not uncommon. "If things aren't

done correctly, you can end up with a huge mess," says Andrea Stretars, the SPCA's TNR coordinator. "Too many people put out food, or throw it directly on the ground. Other cats and wildlife can be attracted, it can smell and be unsanitary." In contrast, a well-managed colony—where the cats are altered, feedings are overseen by designated individuals, and newcomers and illnesses/injuries are noted and addressed—can have a minimal impact on its surroundings.

"It takes very little time to get everything under control and running smoothly," Stretars says.

The Sacramento SPCA holds feral spay/neuter clinics four Sundays per month. The price is \$17 per cat and includes spay/neuter, a mandatory ear tip, FVRCP and rabies vaccinations, and a flea treatment.

"Many people don't know that feral cats, once fixed and living in a well-managed colony, can have a long and healthy life in the community," says Siperstein-Cook.

As the sun inches higher into the sky, Debbie Jernigan returns to her car and reloads her trunk with the now-empty bins and totes. "Everyone wants to blame the cats (when it comes to ferals)," she muses. "But it's the human aspect that's the problem. These cats didn't ask to live out here. They're totally misunderstood."

A few cats can still be seen nibbling at the food Jernigan set out at the first feeding area. But when her car leaves the parking lot, the cats, too, disappear, as silently and miraculously as they materialized at her arrival.

But they won't be anxious, wherever they've gone. They know that their next meal will come tomorrow morning, just after dawn, when the cycle begins again. 🐾

A well-managed feral cat colony can have a minimal impact on its surroundings.

"It takes very little time to get everything under control and running smoothly."

—ANDREA STRETARS
TRAP/NEUTER/RETURN
COORDINATOR

"Feral cats, once fixed and living in a well-managed colony, can have a long and healthy life in the community."

—DR. LAURIE
SIPERSTEIN-COOK
CHIEF OF
SHELTER MEDICINE

What You Need to Know about Feral Cats

What should I do about my local feral cats?

The most effective way of managing feral cats is through TNR, or Trap-Neuter-Return. Cats in a colony are trapped in a humane trap, taken to a clinic where they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and then returned to their colony. Very young kittens who are found in a colony can be removed, tamed and adopted into homes.

Why shouldn't I just trap and remove the cats from an area?

Simply trapping and removing cats rarely works to reduce a feral cat colony population. Feral cats live in a certain location because they have found the food and shelter they need. If feral cats are removed from an area, cats from surrounding colonies move in to take advantage of the newly available resources and start the cycle of reproducing and nuisance behavior all over again. The remaining cats in a colony tend to have more kittens that survive to adulthood

because of the reduced competition, and the population rapidly regains its former size, or may actually increase.

Can't I just move the cats to a different location?

Relocating feral cats is difficult and time consuming. Moving cats from one colony to another is very stressful to the cats, is rarely successful—and is considered abandonment and, is therefore illegal, unless it is to your own property or you have permission from the property owner. Allowing cats to remain in their home colony through a TNR program is the most humane and simple approach, and enables care for the largest number of cats with the fewest resources.

For information on the Sacramento SPCA's Trap Loan Program, or for questions about local feral cats, please visit sspca.org, email feralcats@sspca.org or call (916) 504-2818.

THE SCOOP ...



EMILY CHENG

Jillie Kate Randle, a freshman at St. Francis High School, started her annual SPCA fund/supply drive three years ago. During a tour of our shelter, she noticed a dwindling pile of donated bedding and other supplies for the animals. That was enough to put Jillie in motion, and she decided to start a drive to gather these necessary supplies.

This year Jillie recruited her friend Erin Tooley, an eighth-grader at Our Lady of Assumption, to carry on the SPCA drive at the elementary school level after Jillie moved on to high school. The girls have a succession plan so that



the annual drive for the SPCA will continue at both schools.

Thank you for helping your community—especially the animals! 🐾

"Love is love whether it goes on two legs or four."

—GWEN COOPER

Dogs and cats may take center stage as America's most popular pets, but the SPCA wants to remind everyone that the little guys need love, too.

CASHEW, A DILUTE TORTOISE-SHELL ABYSSINIAN GUINEA PIG, was surrendered to the SPCA in 2014. "She was brought in with a male guinea pig, and you know what that means," says Volunteer Manager Marnie Musser. "I offered to foster her until we knew if she was pregnant or not. We didn't want to put her directly up for adoption and have someone potentially overrun with guinea pig babies."

Musser, a dedicated lover of small animals, has fostered countless litters of bunnies and is the proud caretaker of Toupee, a longhaired Peruvian guinea pig who accompanies her to the shelter each day and serves as the SPCA's official small animal ambassador. "But

I'd never had a guinea pig give birth before," she says. "I was excited and nervous when our shelter vet confirmed that Cashew was indeed expecting."

Cashew's large—by guinea pig standards—litter of six was born in Musser's office. "It was the quietest birth I've ever heard," she remembers. "Shortly after they were born, they were eating hay and chirping."

Finding homes for Cashew's offspring proved easier than Musser had expected. A small animal volunteer took two, and two more—brothers Peanut and Filbert—were adopted by a family who met them while on a tour of the SPCA.



"I brought my daughter and her Girl Scout troop to the SPCA, and while we were there, Marnie introduced us to five-week-old guinea pig babies who were born at the shelter," they wrote on their adoption follow-up report.

"The next day, we got all the supplies we needed and headed back to adopt not one, but two guinea pigs. ... We simply adore them!" !

Paw It Forward

Mimi and Buddy were two senior dogs who had been waiting patiently at the SPCA for quite a while to find a new adoptive home. "They were a mandatory dual adoption," says adoption counselor Taylor Marzigliano, "and finding someone who wants to adopt not just one, but two senior dogs is a challenge."

That special someone came along in the form of a Sacramento woman who decided Mimi and Buddy were exactly the right fit for her and her home. She was even more delighted when she was told that her adoption had been pre-paid. "A gentleman who visits our adoption center regularly was really taken by these two dogs," says Marzigliano. "Apparently he's also paid for other adoptions in the past."

In turn, Mimi and Buddy's new caretaker offered to pre-pay for someone else's

future adoption. "She asked us to apply the amount toward the hardest-to-place dog we had," Marzigliano remembers. "We chose Nala."

When Nala was adopted a week later, her adopter, in turn, paid for another hard-to-place animal—Kara.

"In all my experience here, this was the first time I've run into something like this," says Margiziano. "You never expect someone to pay it forward when you tell them they got a free adoption. One person even said, 'I want to do this for another hard-to-place dog so the family that gets her can save their money for anything the dog might need.' It was really pretty special." 🐾



KARA



NALA

ON THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS



On a sunny Saturday in May, the line of interested adopters formed early and eventually wound around the Sacramento SPCA adoption center as people waited to bring home a new companion. On this particular day, the SPCA was offering fee-waived adoptions thanks to Animal Planet and the ASPCA.

A generous grant from the two organizations paid the fees for 68 lucky animals as part of Animal Planet's Road to Puppy Bowl national adoption tour. Our shelter was one of 17 nationwide chosen to participate in the promotion.

"We couldn't have had better partners on our Road to Puppy Bowl Sacramento tour stop than the SPCA and the people of Sacramento," says Chris Finnegan, senior vice president of communications at Animal Planet.

"From start to finish the event was an overwhelming success, with some of the highest one-day adoption totals and unparalleled excitement and support for Animal Planet's ongoing mission to highlight the importance of animal adoption and responsible pet ownership." 🐾

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MAVERICK, adopted 2015

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THE FACES OF HEARTWORM DISEASE

...by Lesley Kirrene
Communications Director

At the SPCA, we fall in love with faces—all kinds of faces. These are the faces of a scary, serious, preventable, potentially fatal and treatable disease that strikes fear into the hearts of pet owners. These are the faces of heartworm disease.

Heartworm disease is spread when a mosquito bites an infected animal, picks up microscopic baby heartworms that live in the infected animal's bloodstream and then bites another animal, thereby depositing the

baby worms. Once mature, the foot-long adult worms that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets cause severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body.

Dogs at highest risk for the disease

According to the American Heartworm Society website: The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults, mate and produce offspring. If

untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, prevention is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible.

"All it takes is the bite of one infected mosquito to transmit dog heartworm disease," says Luz Maria Rodriguez, public information officer for the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District.

"Every year we see dozens of cases in the Sacramento area, so it's very important to take the proper precautions and protect your dog."

Because there are few early signs of this potentially deadly disease, all dogs should be tested annually by a veterinarian and kept on monthly preventive medication.

Cases of heartworm disease increasing?

"Heartworm in our area is real, and very possibly growing," says Sacramento SPCA Chief of Shelter Medi-

cine Dr. Laurie Siperstein-Cook. "I'm not quite sure why, but we've seen the number of heartworm positive dogs entering our shelter more than double over the past two years."

Goliath, one of 17 heartworm positive dogs received by the SPCA during the first six months of 2015, is now healthy, happy and living large—but his treatment carried quite a price tag. Heartworm treatment for large dogs like Goliath spans several months and costs the SPCA more than \$500 in medication alone.

"Heartworm treatment is an expensive and intensive commitment," said Siperstein-Cook. "But, when you see the faces of these success stories, it makes everything so worthwhile."

Help us to treat more dogs like Goliath, Cesar and Nana—giving them a second chance at a healthy life. Please make a donation to the Sacramento SPCA today, and please test your dog annually and provide him or her with monthly heartworm preventative treatment. 🐾

To make a donation to our Paws for Health Fund, visit spca.org/how-you-can-help/paws-for-health

"Heartworm treatment is an expensive and intensive commitment. But when you see the faces of these success stories, it makes everything so worthwhile."

—DR. LAURIE SIPERSTEIN-COOK
CHIEF OF SHELTER MEDICINE



Nana tested positive for heartworm and, thanks to our generous donors, we were able to start treatment. Recently, she found her forever home and will be able to live up to her name with these two darling girls.

Opposite page | **Cesar** is not only a shelter graduate, but a survivor of heartworm! His family reports that he is the biggest snuggle bug ever. Cesar has also paid it forward by helping to raise an abandoned, bottle baby pit bull puppy.



Goliath, a seven-year-old gentle giant weighing in at more than 125 pounds, was brought to the SPCA with multiple lacerations that required immediate treatment. We soon discovered that he was also heartworm positive. Heartworm treatment on large dogs like Goliath is especially expensive—and time intensive as well.



EMBER, adopted 2012



TOUPEE, adopted 2010



FRED AND FLYNN, adopted 2012



ROCCO, adopted 2010



MAX, adopted 2006



KIMIKO, adopted 2015

HEARTBEATS

Heartbeats features Sacramento SPCA alumni. To be considered for the fall/winter issue of Heartline, email a close-up picture of your senior pet to mktgcomm@sspca.org. Please include his or her name, age and adoption date and email by September 15, 2015. We'll pick the top photos based on quality and include them in Heartbeats.



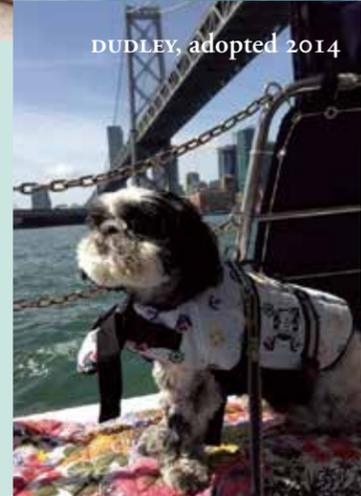
LUCY, adopted 2011
BELLA, adopted 2010



ADDY, adopted 2007
TILLY, adopted 2011



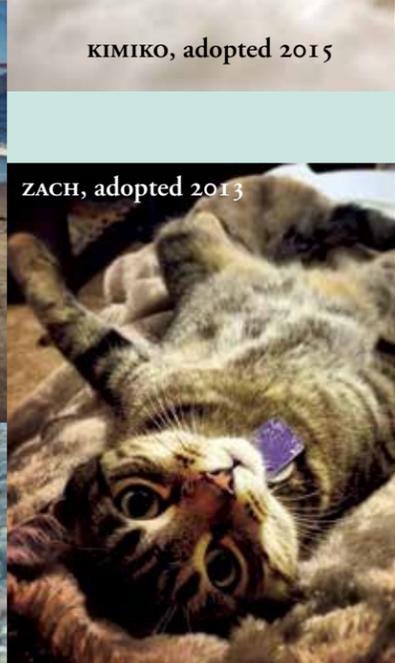
GYMPIE, adopted 2013



DUDLEY, adopted 2014



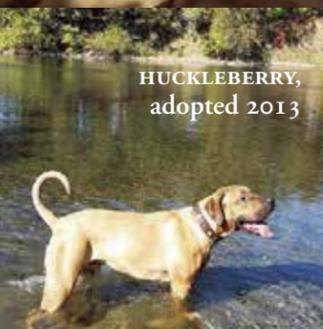
NOAH, adopted 2012



ZACH, adopted 2013



COCO, adopted 2014



HUCKLEBERRY,
adopted 2013



PIPER, adopted 2015



MOLLY, adopted 2008



FRANK, adopted 2003



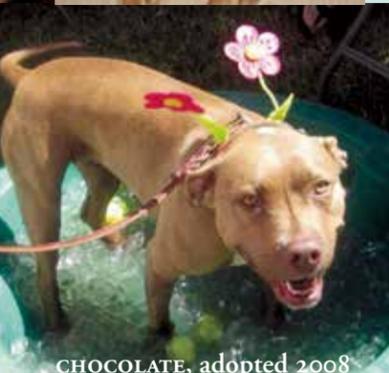
DAISY, adopted 2015



SQUIRT, adopted 2013



BUTTERSCOTCH, adopted 2014



CHOCOLATE, adopted 2008



TIGERLILLY, adopted 2013



ZEUS, adopted 2011



BRIDGET, adopted 2014



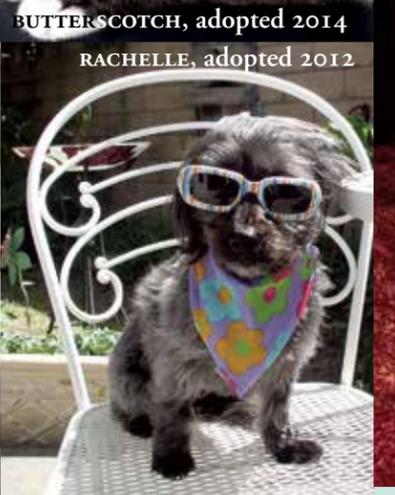
JESSICA, adopted 2013



PETUNIA, adopted 2012



LUCY, adopted 2012



RACHELLE, adopted 2012



BATMAN, adopted 2009



**SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE
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