



A BRIGHT FUTURE

Some days, it seems all the news is bad. No matter where you turn, or who you talk to, things seem hopeless.

But we know that isn't true.

We know that hope is always within us and help is always within reach. We just sometimes forget.

I believe that animals do better at forgetting those hopeless moments by living in the present and enjoying the love and joy they receive – no matter how large or small.

Blackie is one of those kids that reminds us that life can get better, that what we are feeling now is not what we will feel forever.

You see, this little guy was left alone in his home for several days after his owner was taken to the hospital and passed away. Family members didn't know there was a dog in the house until three days later, when they went to start settling the estate. By that time, I'm sure Blackie was hungry and thirsty, but the condition they found him in spoke more about his human's long-term health decline. He was heavily matted and chronic dry eyes had caused severe ulceration on both of his corneas. Unable to keep him, the grieving family brought him to us.

This little dog, who had no reason for hope, still found joy. He was so happy to be held, so eager to go on walks – even though his vision was non-existent.

We trimmed his matted hair, we started treating his dry eyes, although we weren't sure if he would eventually lose both of them. But what he wanted most, was to be with a human. So, he started spending his days in my office as a foster, then went into a foster home full time.

The transformation over the next few weeks was nothing short of miraculous. The ulcers healed, some of his vision returned, he started to run and play. The dark times were over, the days are sunny, the future is bright.

You made his future bright. You made his joy possible.

It is because of your support that we can always say "yes" to animals like Blackie.

And by helping us build a new center for animal health, you can secure a bright future for thousands more like him.

Sincerely,

Kenn Altine
Chief Executive Officer

Jem Attino





A FOREVER HOME FOR THE BONDED PAIR

They arrived with extensive medical issues both in the early stages of renal failure and pair (meaning they would need to be adopted together). Finding the right home for them

After about four months of making themselves cozy at our shelter and being featured



their new mom. After seeing them on one of

Thank you to The Joe Willie Initiatives for covering the costs associated with their extensive medical needs; including diagnostic testing and dental surgeries. And thanks to Mark M. Glickman for sponsoring their adoption fees.

THE SACRAMENTO SPCA

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

2020 Sacramento SPCA Board of Directors

Zack Morgan, DVM, President Bill Altavilla, Vice President Melody Healy, Treasurer Susan Gray, Secretary **Heather Candy** Maren Christie Tracy Fairchild Nancy Field, MD

Kathy Lelevier Jun Reina

We are also most grateful for our advisory board members:

Irene Campbell Fred Harrold Shari LaForest Lasher, PsyD Bill McGowan Kitty O'Neal

Project Management & Design

Dawn Foster, Director of Marketing & Communications Jessica Shijo, Content Marketing Coordinator

Cover Photo

Dawn Foster

The Sacramento SPCA is an independent, local non-profit organization that is solely dependent on donations to continue our work on behalf of the animals and the communities we serve. We are not affiliated in any way with the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) nor HSUS (Humane Society of the United States). All monies donated to us stay right here in Sacramento, helping animals - and the people who love them - in our own communities.

MEET OUR STAFF

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ON THE COVER where, when finished, will help more animals like Lucky (above) - Page 3



by Dawn Foster
Director of Marketing & Communications

It's 9:45 on the morning of August 19th and a skilled team of veterinary technicians, assistants, doctors and receptionists have been buzzing around the 3,700 square foot spay and neuter clinic for nearly 3 hours: checking in animals, administering vaccines, prepping for and performing surgeries, and monitoring animals on "the beach" recovery. For this thirteen-person team, it's just another day at the Sacramento SPCA. For the 35 animals dropped off by the City shelter on Front Street for surgery that day, it means they are now ready for adoption into loving new homes.

Next door, in the Gracie's Adoption Center, anticipation mounts as a small group of staff, special guests, adoptable animals and photographers gather for a press conference to publicly announce plans to build a top-level spay/neuter and animal health center at the Sacramento SPCA.

You might ask, "Why expand and build now" when our community is battling a health crisis, much of Northern California is on fire, and economic uncertainty and civil unrest grip the nation?

It's now 10:00 a.m. and Sacramento SPCA CEO Kenn Altine steps up to the podium to explain.

He begins by thanking everyone in attendance, including special guests Sacramento Mayor Darrel Steinberg and long-time supporter and lead gift contributor Zoe K. McCrea. Altine acknowledges the challenges facing our region and the many ways that the Sacramento SPCA has created solutions to support our community's emerging needs.

"We know that families are struggling to pay for pet food, we recognize that vet bills are becoming a challenge and that our tax-funded shelters have been overwhelmed with stray animals," Altine says.

"That is why in the middle of a pandemic, as our community's economy is trembling, the Sacramento SPCA is taking bold and positive steps to expand access to low-cost animal health care in our region."

Altine said the Sacramento SPCA is determined to fund and build the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center because it "will keep animals in their homes, reduce the number of animals entering our overcrowded shelters and it will help those animals in shelters get into homes faster."



Lucky during his medical examination.

Approximately 1 in 5 animals that enter the Sacramento SPCA require extended medical care before they can be adopted including diagnostic testing, dental cleaning and/or extractions, and specialized surgeries. In the past five months, the need for incoming animals to receive extended and emergency care has significantly increased.



Lucky getting his makeover.

That includes Lucky, an 8-yearold Poodle mix surrendered to the Sacramento SPCA in April when his owner faced eviction. When Lucky arrived, he was in rough shape – his coat was completely matted (to the point that we weren't sure what type of dog he was) and he was suffering from severe periodontal disease. During his neuter surgery, our clinic staff shaved his entire body and removed all but two of his teeth.

That day in the clinic will forever be his "lucky day," the moment he shed his uncomfortable coat and painful teeth and received a new lease on life. Like the 5,000 other animals who seek refuge at our doors each year, we were committed to saying "yes" to him regardless of his age, breed, health condition or behavior.

There are so many other animals like Lucky who need our help.

The Sacramento SPCA already operates one of the top 10 high-volume spay/neuter centers in the nation, performing 18,000+low-cost and no-cost procedures per year for animals waiting for new homes at the Sacramento SPCA, publicly owned animals and animals from other shelters and rescues, like the 35 animals from Front Street on the August 19 clinic schedule.

In addition, the shelter's weekly vaccine and wellness clinics provide low-cost preventative care to tens of thousands of animals annually, providing early detection and treatment of the kinds of high-cost illnesses that force many families to surrender their animal.

These services are offered at a significantly lower rate than private clinics, with additional discounts for seniors, students, veterans, and low-income residents. However, the space restrictions in our clinics and demand for affordable options mean that there are always more animals in need than there are available appointments. The wait can be 2-3 months for the next available opening, and appointments in our free spay/ neuter programs often book within minutes of becoming available.

"In a matter of hours, the appointment slots for the free We Pay to Spay pit bull and Chihuahua surgeries fill up for the entire month," said Sacramento SPCA volunteer and manager of the Chihuahua program, Manina Machemer. "These are low-income households, often with multiple dogs in the home." Nearly 1,000 animals and their families receive free access to these services each year, preventing thousands of unplanned pets from overwhelming our communities' shelters.

The Sacramento SPCA already impacts the lives of more than 35,000 animals each year - but the needs continue to grow in our community.

Sacramento Mayor, Darrell Steinberg agrees. During the press conference, the Mayor expressed his commitment to this project and appreciation of the Sacramento SPCA in supporting animals and



people in our community for the last 128 years. "The Sacramento SPCA plays the crucial role in helping pets who need homes in Sacramento and also people who are in need of free or low-cost veterinary services," said Steinberg.

Helping shelter animals and people in our region is not new for the Mayor. Since taking office, he and his team have featured a different shelter animal every month in the City Hall Pet of the Month program and have found homes for 44 animals at the City shelter on Front Street.

Steinberg added, "This health center could not be more timely... and it is important so that people, especially low-income people and seniors, don't have to choose between feeding themselves and caring for their beloved animal."

And thanks to a generous lead gift by Sacramento business leader Zoe K. McCrea, we intend to help prevent anyone from having to make that choice by creating an animal health center that will immediately increase our annual spay/neuter capacity and greatly expand the wellness clinic, providing affordable veterinary care to pet owners in the greater Sacramento region.

"For the seniors and those not so mature, whose animals are a major component of their lives—for us to be able to assist them when they need it, so their partner in life can remain healthy—it is so important," said McCrea.

The new clinic will house four surgical suites each equipped with two operating tables, two dental surgery suites, and species-specific housing for up to 100 animals. By doubling the number of surgical suites, the Sacramento SPCA will be able to spay/neuter 23,000 animals in 2021 and have the capacity for 36,000 annual surgeries by 2026.

The addition of a second dental suite means that senior animals, like Lucky—who always receive a dental cleaning before being placed up for adoption—will be able to get their cleanings done more quickly, and therefore will get into a home sooner.

And for McCrea, who supports animal welfare projects across the globe, the expanded health center will support a program very near and dear to her heart: helping feral and community cats in the Sacramento region.

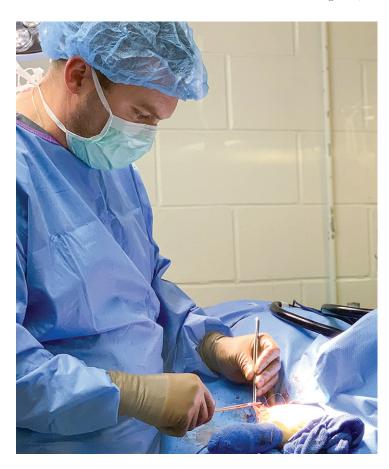
Since 2007, McCrea has supported the Sacramento SPCA's Community Cat program and the Sunday clinics, which provide free services to volunteers and community members who trap feral cats in Sacramento County



Lucky after his medical treatment and makeover.

for the purpose of having them spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their home environment.

This program has been especially important in managing the overpopulation of feral and community cats in our area; a problem that has been amplified by the recent health crisis, which "We have continued to adapt to the growing needs of our community over the years and we are committed to saving more lives and making the life-saving efforts of others possible now and into the future", states Altine. "We ask the entire Sacramento community—to join in this campaign to help build this new spay/neuter clinic and animal health center." Together,



forced a two-month hiatus of the program. The new clinic, which will be one of the largest of its kind in the nation, will increase the capacity of our feral and community cat clinic by 30-50%, helping us better respond to the recent influx of kittens and make a greater impact on the overpopulation of feral cats in our area.

"The Sacramento SPCA's spay/neuter clinic is essential in addressing the issue of overpopulation, disease, and suffering," says McCrea. Thanks to supporters like Zoe, the Sacramento SPCA has altered nearly 35,000 feral/community cats since 2007, and more than 246,000 companion animals in our region and beyond.

we can prevent homeless animals from entering all of our region's shelters and we can focus our resources on caring for the animals and people who truly need us most.

To watch the press conference held on August 19th visit:

sspca.org/expansionnews

To learn more about how you can join the campaign, please contact Sarah Haney, Director of Development at:

916-504-2805 or shaney@sspca.org

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR GIFT CONTRIBUTORS!

Their gift toward building an expanded spay/neuter clinic and health center at the Sacramento SPCA will help eliminate animal homelessness, save lives, and improve quality of life for our community's pets and the people who love them!

CHAMPIONS CIRCLE

• Zoe K. McCrea

GUARDIANS CIRCLE

• The Estate of Kristan Otto

PROTECTORS CIRCLE

- The Estate of Jeffrey P. Greene
- Richard Rose & Kathy Lelevier

RESCUERS CIRCLE

- Nancy T. Field, M.D.
- Bob & Rob Taketa

CAREGIVERS CIRCLE

- The Carlsen Muir Foundation
- Jerry & Sharon Haleva
- Mark & Melody Healy
- Valerie Letch & Ken Buttle

SUPPORTERS CIRCLE

- Bill & Raquel Altavilla
- Kenn Altine
- Heather Candy
- Janet Crooks
- Tracy Fairchild
- Mark M. Glickman & Lanette M. McClure
- Family of Don & Georgia Gray
- Susan Gray
- Kathryn & Bruce Maffia
- Zack Morgan
- Jun Reina

Gifts received as of September 15, 2020

WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME ON THE LIST ABOVE?

For more information about how you can make a significant contribution to this life-saving project, please contact Sarah Haney, Director of Development, at 916-504-2805 or shaney@sspca.org.





As many places in Sacramento County halted services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sacramento SPCA looked for opportunities to continue to say, "yes" to animals and those in need in our community.

Our shelter family of staff, volunteers, and supporters never stopped moving and taking action to make sure the needs of the local animals and community were met.

We reduced the number of staff on campus through cohort/remote scheduling and focused on getting the animals in the shelter into foster homes. We were amazed at how quickly the community stepped up to open their homes to 138 animals in only three days. In the first 100 days of the health crisis, nearly 500 animals from our shelter went into foster homes.

With most of the animals in foster homes, we prepared for the emerging needs of our community and caring for the remaining animals at the Sacramento SPCA. Our staff developed

new enrichment plans and also provided specialized care for those receiving treatment for behavioral and medical conditions.

During modified operations, we said "yes" to 1,249 stray or surrendered animals between March 19 and September 5, many of which required urgent medical care, and we reunited 53 lost animals with their families.

As we saw many people in our region become affected by financial and logistical hardships due to shelter-in-place orders, we assembled the Paw Pantry drivethru pet food distribution to ensure no one had to make the decision to surrender a pet because they could not afford or access food.

Through the Paw Pantry, we have come across many stories validating the need for the program. One of our volunteers, Joshua DePeel, interviewed a Paw Pantry participant who shared, "It's a very valuable resource for me considering the fact I have animals and children to care for and have



not been properly compensated yet. So, this really comes in handy and helps out a lot."

The Paw Pantry has been a consistent lifeline for pet owners, providing to date more than 2,000 households with free food for 11,000 animals, keeping families and pets together.

The Sacramento SPCA continues to be a constant resource for our community, providing low-cost

pet spay/neuter, vaccination, and adoption services while still operating under protocols to keep staff, volunteers and the community safe.

During all the changes our community has experienced over the last six months, the Sacramento SPCA has found ways to adapt – and always keep our doors open to care for the animals who need us most and provide support to our community.





GET YOUR FALL SUPPLY OF BOOKS & SAVE ANIMALS' LIVES



Even though we can't host a "store-front" Fall Book Sale this year, you can still stock up on fall books and help animals in need. Visit sspca.org/amazonbooks to view our current inventory.



2020 Online Benefit Auction

Save the Date For the 2nd Annual Sacramento SPCA Online Benefit Auction!

November 19, 2020 - December 3, 2020 sspca.org/benefitauction





by Kristi Maryman, Senior Manager, Corporate Relations & Events

In March of this year, the coronavirus stopped in-person events in their tracks overnight. The Sacramento SPCA annually coordinates more than 120 community events; hosts the Doggy Dash, the largest 2k/5k walk and pet festival in Northern California; and produces an additional 15 fundraisers, collectively raising more than \$500,000 for the animals on an annual basis.

We knew canceling our fundraising events was not the answer. We had to think outside of the box and design our events differently so that we could continue to carry out our mission of saving lives.

On June 27th, our first ever Virtual Doggy Dash was broadcasted live online through our social media channels, Facebook and Instagram. Over 1,500 virtual walkers joined us to walk in their

own neighborhoods with their dogs to support the shelter. Even though we weren't able to gather at the traditional venue, William Land Park, we received an overwhelmingly positive response from community members wanting to still donate and walk for the animals. Traditionally our Doggy Dash raises \$170,000, and with this new virtual event platform we were able to still raise an astonishing \$140,000! Kenn Altine, CEO of the Sacramento SPCA, spoke to the virtual audience highlighting adoptable animals at the shelter, shared information about our current COVID-19 response efforts and facilitated a live adoption to kick-off the event. Contests for best trick and best costume were shared on social media and we even had a few cats give our dogs a run for their money. What we learned from this experience is that, no matter what life throws our way, the community will stand beside us to help save more lives - whether that is in-person or through a computer screen!

STAY TUNED FOR MORE VIRTUAL AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED EVENT EXPERIENCES TO HELP THE ANIMALS, INCLUDING:

- » Amazon Book Sales
- » Special live broadcast to highlight our Spay & Neuter Clinic Project and how you can help
- » Yappy Hour 'At-Home' monthly partnerships with local restaurants, wineries and breweries
- » Virtual arts & crafts events to benefit the Sacramento SPCA
- » Pup Crawl, Virtual Edition
- » Camp Kindness 'In a Box' for our young shelter supporters and future animal advocates

Keep up-to-date with all events here: SSPCA.ORG/EVENTS

Would you like to host your own virtual event or socially distanced fundraiser for the shelter?

Contact Kristi Maryman, Senior Manager, Corporate Relations & Events at kmaryman@sspca.org or 916-504-2802.

CORPORATE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: SIERRA OAKS DENTAL

Shaggy, Roxy, Lilya and Buffy - just a few of the animals who found their forever home with adoption fees fully sponsored by Sierra Oaks Dental. The local Sacramento dental office began partnering with the Sacramento SPCA in 2018 with the goal to sponsor adoption fees for special needs and senior animals who may find it harder to get placed into homes quickly. As the partnership grew, Sierra Oaks Dental has also sponsored our monthly Yappy Hour events and has been a two-year sponsor of the annual Pup Crawl and Doggy Dash – with this year becoming a virtual Doggy Dash event sponso and vendor for the first time in the events history.

Here's what the staff at Sierra Oaks Dental had to say about their partnership with us:

"We decided to partner with the SSPCA because we are animal advocates and many of us are pet owners ourselves, so the partnership is very motivating and personal for the staff.

The partnership has benefited our practice because we treat a lot of families and sharing the photos from SSPCA events or recently sponsored adoptions is fun for our patients to see while they are in our office. Also, animals help us empathize and seeing the animals that need to be adopted gives us a greater appreciation for our own pet companions.



We like spreading the message of the SSPCA because it's been proven that people who have pets live longer than non-owners and we want to connect families and animals without adoption fees being a barrier.

If we could highlight one element of our partnership it would be that we love seeing the photos of the adopted animals we've had the privilege of sponsoring. Their adorable faces bring us lots of joy especially when they've found their forever family".



Thank you Sierra Oaks Dental for being a champion for the animals and a great corporate partner. Visit their community page for who they are sponsoring next:

about/our-community/



GIVING MORE THAN SHELTER®. SAVING ANIMALS ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

IN HONOR OF

PAWPantry Laura Atkinson

Dumbledore

Robert and Margie Brach

Sean WiedemanJennifer Brown

Grey Kitty Cheryl Closson

WondermuttJoanne M. Ellis

Melody Healy's Birthday Kate Espinosa

CharlieMichelle Flicht-McDonough

Employees Who Care Christina Foster

Character "Charlie" Marr Veronica Gennai and Frank Marr

Hollie HertegDaniel and Diane Herteg

The Dedicated Volunteers at the Sacramento SPCA

Paula J. Lindquist

PAWPantry Carla and Brian Martin

All Vets and Vet Techs Who Care for Our Animals Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic

Lisa McClung

Pam Segien Kim Rawson

Dr. Signe BeebeAnne and Ned Strong

Sharon PetersFrederick and Nancy Teichert

Kingsley Lee Umpqua Bank

Sacramento SPCA's Amazing Service to Animals During COVID

Julie Virga

IN MEMORY OF

Bailey

Jeanne and William Barkley

Sean Wiedeman Edith Bautista

Sean WiedemanDean Blomberg

Baron and Jasper Jennifer Brown

Jasper, Baron, Solomon Jennifer Brown

Sophie Deborah M. Carter

William Leighton Cody Sharon Cody

Joanna Jensen Kenneth Coulter

Bindi Cragg Carol A. Cragg

Mao Katherine Dashiell

Yoshi, The Golden Nugget Fina Dempsey

Alice Cook Jeremy Dial

HuckieNancy T. Field, M.D. and David
Eichinger

Sumiko Esposito Anthony J. Esposito

Mildred Tullis Janet E. Feil

Elena Corona
Gail Fernandez

Gail Fernandez

Mark Nahin Michelle Flicht-McDonough

Nacho & Special John Foote

Tilly Mark M. Glickman

Candy Alexis Gobern



Terri StantonDebra Hamilton

Dolores Gatheru Roxene M. Harrison

Sandie Greta Suzi Haywood

Michael James CaronJeff Hinchman

Rick Barnard His Friends

Steven J. Sherman Kathleen E. Kinney

Emmy Anita Lara

Teddy Robert Lovesee

Liam and Hana Tatsunari Maeno

Valerie Chaudhry Sharon L. Main

Arleen (Lee) Welsch Rose M. Marks

SableKenneth Martinez

The Best Kitten Ruth J. McDonald

Mugsy the Dog Bryan Merica

PumpkinJill Nunes

Chloe, Chinook, and Denali Beth and Scott Palmieri

Lynette Sevison Virginia Panossian **Doris M. Perry** Attorney at Law Gary G. Perry

Melisa Plessas Dennis Plessas

Lee Welsch David J. Rater

Peter Robinson and Bob the Dog
Ellen Robinson

Thor Jennifer Ross

Keith D. Stewart Tera Rudkosky

Rocky Carla F. Testi

Kingsley Lee Michael Tooley

Biggie & Junior Gloria Vassaka

Bordeau James Vassar and Joseph Patrick Vassar James Vassar

Bentley Elizabeth Vigil

Spooky YarnotJan and Richard Yarnot

Sean Wiedeman Lesa and Thomas Whetzel

Gifts received February 1, 2020 - July 31, 2020

Memorial and in honor of contributions totaling \$250 or more are listed in Heartline.

Individual names reflect individual gifts.

SACRAMENTO SPCA ALUMS THAT HAVE FILLED THE HEARTS OF THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

To have your companion considered for our next issue, submit a highresolution close-up photo of your Sacramento SPCA alum to:

www.sspca.org/happy-tale

Please include his/her name, age and adoption date. You can even include a little blurb about how much you love your pet! We will feature some top photos based on quality in Heartbeats and on our social media pages.

BERNADETTE, ADOPTED 2020

"No one warned me that I could find another perfect fur baby a second time in my life! Bernadette is such an amazing princess that I could not ever ask for more! My husband and I are in wonder at how well behaved and how quickly she is adjusting to life with us.

Her nickname is Wiggle Butt, her tail never stops. It's like she was made for our family! I'm so excited she gets to spend the rest of her adorable life with us!"











IN LOVING MEMORY OF SACRAMENTO SPCA ALUMNI WHO CROSSED OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE













SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

6201 Florin Perkins Road Sacramento, CA 95828 (916) 383-PETS

www.sspca.org



Sacramento SPCA @SacSPCA



@SacramentoSPCA



@sacramento_spca

ADOPTION HOURS

Wednesday - Sunday by Appointment Only

sspca.org/adopt

Closed Monday & Tuesday

VACCINATION CLINIC HOURS

Sunday - Wednesday by Appointment Only

sspca.org/vaccinations

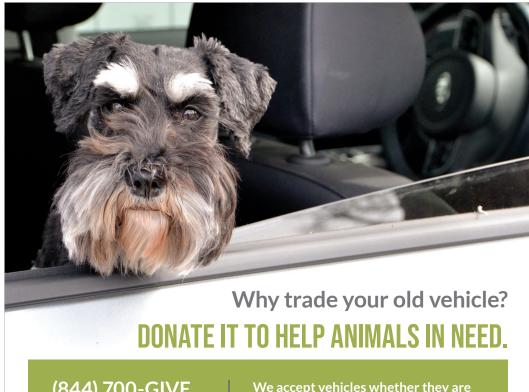
Closed Thursday - Saturday

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC HOURS

By Appointment Only sspca.org/spayneuter

ANIMAL INTAKE HOURS

by Appointment Only sspca.org/surrender



(844) 700-GIVE sspca.org/vehicle

We accept vehicles whether they are running or not. Free pick up is provided and donations are tax deductible.





SAVE THE DATE DECEMBER 1, 2020



