

APRIL 9, 2016 WILLIAM LAND PARK

2K/5K WALK & PET FESTIVAL





LEASH UP YOUR DOG, DUST OFF YOUR WALKING SHOES

AND JOIN US FOR ONE OF SACRAMENTO'S BIGGEST AND MOST LOVED DOG WALKS AND PET FESTIVALS.

FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT SSPCA.ORG/DASH. Register online, mail in by 4/1, register in person at the Sacramento SPCA through 4/8, or register at the event 4/9. Individuals \$30 thru 4/2, \$35 thru 4/9; Children 12 and under \$15; Team registration \$40

SSPCA.ORG/DASH







ON MARCH 21, 2012 I FOUND MY BEST FRIEND. I entered the SPCA and walked right to his kennel. At this time his name was Jasper Clemons. Underweight, yet the happiest little puppy playing with toys. I knew the second I saw him, he was coming home with me. I had my meet and greet and everything went perfect. I signed my papers, and we were off to start our new life together. That day, Gunnar found his forever home.

Three years later, I couldn't be any happier that he is a part of my family. He brings us so much joy and happiness. He loves to bike ride, go kayaking, go camping and to the snow. But most of all he loves his family.

Gunnar has been a true gift in my life. He's happy, spoiled, and very loved. Buster (left) and Gunnar are brothers and best friends. Check out those smiles!

Thank you, Sacramento SPCA, for everything you do.



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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Dan Marple | (916) 504-2864

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Dee Dee Drake | (916) 504-2849

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Michael West | (916) 442-8118

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ON THE COVER ...

There's no place like home! | 16-yearold Daisy knows the true meaning of coming home again! This sweet gal is enjoying the good life with her original family (including her 15-year-old sister and best friend) after many years away. We're believers that home really is where the heart is. See Daisy's story on page 8.

IN THIS ISSUE ...

2 300 Dog Years

4 Join Us: Calendar of Events

5 A Window to Her Soul

6 Married on the Job

8 Home Again

9 Spring Training

10 Day Trippin' with Dogs

12 Thank You for Your Support

13 Heartbeats

300 DOG YEARS

... AND MANY CHANGES

Recently, I looked up the definition of the word change and found "to become something else" or "to undergo transition or substitution."





Rick Johnson (with Sydney) and animal-loving friend Betty White (with Phoebe) share a moment at the SPCA.

I FIND MYSELF now facing a very heart-felt and somewhat unsettling change. I am retiring as CEO of the Sacramento SPCA in April. It is not a decision made lightly, nor without some trepidation on my part. The SPCA has been a huge part of my life for more than 13 years, and I am extremely proud of what has been accomplished in our community for people and animals. However, I feel it is time to step back and make way for new energy, enthusiasm and vision for the SPCA's future.

My entire adult life has been spent in the animal welfare field. Starting in the early 70s as a "dog warden" in Colorado, I moved across the country in pursuit of my passion to protect and help animals. And the animals have never let me down or caused me to second-guess my career.

As many of us do, I find I talk to my dogs often. They always listen with great interest on any given subject and I find that comforting. At 11 years old, my golden retriever, Sydney, has a long-standing history listening to my ramblings. She has asked me to remind you of some of the great achievements and milestones the SPCA has realized over the past decade:

2006 | Tiger's Habitat, a large group housing area for adoptable cats, was created

2007 | Created a high-volume spay/ neuter clinic that has successfully altered more than 150,000 dogs and cats to date

2007 | The SPCA purchased a permanent building for our Thrift Shop in downtown Sacramento

2008 | Completely remodeled the animal receiving area





2009 | Installed a modular building to house cats, reducing upper respiratory disease by 70%

2010 | Replaced obsolete swamp coolers with new air conditioning units in the animal care areas

2011 | Created a new program to provide support and assistance to seniors and their companion animals

2012 | Purchased 10 acres adjacent to our current site to create an expanded SPCA Animal Care Campus

2013 | Installed a modular building for dog and cat behavior consultations and space for dog training classes

2014 | Completed a columbarium to provide a final resting place for beloved pets Over the years, I have been honored to serve on national committees with many talented individuals and chair numerous conferences, associations and training academies. But I am most proud of my work at the Sacramento SPCA. Together, with a dedicated Board of Directors, a compassionate staff and a cadre of more than 2,500 devoted volunteers, we have kept animals in the forefront of our community and continue to work tirelessly to ensure every animal has a safe and loving home.

To that end, we all benefit—people and animals alike. Thank you for your endless support and your generosity on behalf of the animals that enrich our lives. I will miss you all.

Rick Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

MEMORIES & **MILESTONES**

from top left >

Planning the New Spay/Neuter Clinic

New Modular Cat Housing

Columbarium

Reception Area

SPCA Thrift Store

from bottom left >

Tiger's Habitat

Senior Services

Behavior and Training Modular

Spay/Neuter Clinic in Action

Dog Walking Path

Sacramento's Best Place to Volunteer

Coming Soon: Our New Campus





DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN! Keep current on the latest SPCA happenings—including special events, Yappy Hours, volunteer orientations and so much more!—by following us on Facebook and signing up for eTales, our electronic newsletter.



Doggy Dash | William Land Park

APRIL 23-MAY 1 **Spring Book Sale**

MAY 3 | 6-8 P.M.

Yappy Hour at Oak Park Brewing Company

MAY 16

Paws, Pals & Putts Golf Tournament

JUNE 10 | NOON

Estate Planning Seminar

SEPTEMBER 10 | 9 A.M. **Estate Planning Seminar**

OCTOBER 8

Black & White Fur Ball

NOVEMBER 10-13

Fall Book Sale

DECEMBER 6 | 6 P.M.

Estate Planning Seminar

DONATE your used car, truck, boat or RV to the Sacramento SPCA. You'll get a nice tax write-off AND you'll feel great knowing that your donation is helping animals in need.

For more information, call (877) 707.7722.

Our local partners at America's Car Donation Center will make the process quick and simple...And the animals will benefit from your generous donation.





HE CREAMY SIAMESE-MIX kitten naps on a soft fleece bed at the Sacramento SPCA's adoption center, waiting for the right person or family to claim her as their own. A young couple stops in front of her cage. "Q-Tip," the woman reads aloud. "Look, she's a Siamese! She'll have blue eyes." The kitten yawns and blinks sleepily at them.

"Eye," her partner finishes. "Not eyes, eye. She just has one."

Just three months old, Q-Tip is ready to take the world by its tail. And later that day, a different couple adopts the cuddly feline.

Q-Tip wouldn't have had the chance for happily ever after if not for the SPCA's Paws for Health Fund—donations devoted to animals in need of medical care above and beyond our regular protocol. Born to a feral mother, Q-Tip resided in a small backyard colony of cats overseen by a well-meaning local woman. When the kitten's left eye became infected, her caregiver delivered her to the SPCA.

Dr. Laurie Siperstein-Cook, the SPCA's Chief of Shelter Medicine, remembers that Q-Tip "came in very sick and very underweight. This wasn't just an infection that you could put a few eyedrops in and call it cured. It was very, very badly infected. She probably had had a

herpes ulcer that ruptured and caused damage to her cornea."

In her weakened state, Q-Tip wasn't an ideal candidate for surgery. "We didn't know if she could survive the operation," says Siperstein-Cook. "Her eye was not only infected, but it had made her systemically so ill. She would have died, because the infection was quite literally killing her. Our only choices were to remove the eye or to euthanize her."

Siperstein-Cook opted to try the surgery. "Our spay clinic team is always willing to rally around and pitch in for an animal in need," she says.

Though the eye was successfully removed, Q-Tip's future remained uncertain. The kitten was unstable and incredibly weak.

"I decided to foster her myself, so that if she crashed, I would be there to help," Siperstein-Cook says. "Q-Tip didn't do much for the first 12 to 18 hours," she remembers. "But then she saw my foster dog, Xee, outside her crate."

Although Q-Tip had likely never lived with dogs before, "she insisted on being let out of her crate to rub up against this very cat-friendly little dog," Siperstein-Cook says. "Next thing you know, the two were licking all over each other. I had to separate them when I couldn't keep an eye on what they were doing. Xee would grab Q-Tip by the leg and drag her across the room and she *loved* it."

The small Siamese's recovery astounded even Siperstein-Cook. "This supposedly semi-feral kitten was just a loverpants," she says. "She gained weight quickly, too, and it was so satisfying to bring her back a couple weeks later, fattened up and recovered, and show her off to the whole team." Because she had spent so much time with the feisty kitten, Siperstein-Cook knew that the adoptive home was an ideal match.

"Her new family has another cat and have a dog that they said are best buds. Q-Tip will fit right in." 🎇

To contribute to the SPCA's Paws for Health fund and help animals like Q-Tip who have special medical needs, please visit sspca.org/ give or call (916) 504-2803.





LABOR AND LOVE | (from left) Maurice and Ashley Elemrani, and Carolyn and Mike Vasquez MIKE VASQUEZ is a spay clinic receptionist. "I've been here for six years, and have held a variety of positions," he says. "I was working in the receiving department when I first started. I think I was the only guy in the department."

"I didn't like him at first," remembers Carolyn Vasquez, animal care receptionist. "I thought he was a know-it-all. I'd already been here for three years, and I didn't need some new guy telling me how to do things."

Despite a prickly start, the two coworkers gradually began to appreciate one another's strengths and quirks. "She just seemed nice, very easy to approach, but it wasn't like it was love at first sight or anything," says Mike. "She was just friendly, and she was always on top of her duties, always working, not at all a slacker. I was like, man, she's a hard worker!"

"Then our work schedules changed and we had the same days on and off," Carolyn says, "so



"Working at the shelter, I fell in love with many furry creatures. Little did I know that I was in for an even bigger treat. I found a twolegged creature that I fell in love with who is now my lifelong companion."

-MIKE VASQUEZ

we started eating lunch together, and that's when we actually became friends."

The newfound buddies tentatively began to spend time outside of work with one another. "We'd have coffee, and one time she started a conversation about how she had gone skydiving and loved it. She was going again, and she invited me to come," says Mike. "I don't know if that skydiving trip was the moment, but I was definitely, like, wow, she's fun."

"We went skydiving, and that's when he developed a crush on me," says Carolyn. "But when I realized he liked me, I got shy and started dodging him for lunch and stuff."

The pair eventually got their signals straight and became an official couple. "We got engaged in 2014," Mike says. "We were married in May of 2015, with a lot of our SPCA friends attending."

The couple of nearly a year, now employed in different departments per the SPCA's human resources guidelines, finds that living and working together is mostly wedded bliss, with a few little hiccups along the way.

"It's great to be together as much as we are," says Mike. "The only minus, really, is that if we have a rough day, we're venting to each other and because we're in the same line of work, it's like we're bringing it home with us. Sometimes we just say: No more work stuff! It's hard, because we're both so passionate about what we do."

The newlyweds can look to another married SPCA couple, Ashley and Maurice Elemrani, for inspiration. Ashley, an adoptions supervisor, has been with the organization for three years. Her husband, Maurice, now works in customer service. "We were both going to school and working, and I thought we could see more of each other if we got to go to the same place every day, so I suggested he come work here with me at the SPCA," says Ashley.

Married for almost seven years, the Elemranis are ardent animal lovers. "When it's foster season and we bring home a litter of kittens, neither of us gets mad," Ashley says. "We understand that we're saving lives, and we both know how to take care of foster animals and get the job done. Last year we fostered seven kittens."

Both originally from the Sacramento area, the couple met when Maurice was in the Marines and Ashley lived in Washington, D.C. "Ashley and I spend almost all our time together," says Maurice. "From the military, I got really good at being around really close friends all the time, and it comes pretty naturally to me." Ashley agrees that the extraordinary amount of time they spend together is a great thing. "We get to hang out on our way to work," she says. "Going to work together is our favorite part of the day. We don't work together on Wednesdays, so that's my quiet, sad day of driving to work. We have our lunches together most days, we get to go home together, but we don't talk about work once we're home."

Being employed in a field that emphasizes love and personal connections led naturally to romance for Mike and Carolyn, and helps to keep Ashley and Maurice's marriage strong. "If your significant other doesn't also work in a shelter, the good and bad things that can happen. But Maurice works here, so he gets it. He can relate to me like nobody else can," says Ashley.

"Working at the shelter, I fell in love with many furry creatures," says Mike. "Little did I know that I was in for an even bigger treat. I found a two-legged creature that I fell in love with who is now my lifelong companion." 📽



THE IMAGE on the phone screen literally took her breath away.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing," says Kristi M.* "There she was, our Daisy, on the SPCA's Facebook page."

According to her bio, 16-year-old Daisy, a miniature schnauzer, had been surrendered to the shelter by someone who'd only had her for a short time. But Kristi was certain that this was the same Daisy she'd adopted as a puppy long ago. "Those flyaway ears were the giveaway," she says. "We knew it was her."

Flash back more than a decade. The M.'s—Kristi and husband John—were head-over-heels in love with their first "baby."

"A year later, we were able to get Daisy's half-sister, Lilly, and the two of them were adorable together," says Kristi, thumbing through a photo album. "Look at this picture! They were so cute."

As time passed, the family grew with the arrival of son Zak and, two years later, daughter Blaire. "The dogs were fine with babies, but as the kids grew into toddlers, Daisy became more stressed," Kristi recalls. She began to bite, with John and young Blaire both receiving injuries, one serious enough to require stitches.

"We reached out to everyone," says Kristi. "We wanted to do whatever it would take to make things better. Our veterinarian convinced us that we had to find a new home for Daisy, both for our family's safety and Daisy's happiness."

A family friend offered to take Daisy, and, Kristi believes, kept her for the next eight to 10 years. "We lost touch, and I'm not exactly sure when they gave Daisy away to someone else," she says. A former coworker called when she spotted Daisy on the SPCA's Facebook page. "As soon as I saw that picture," says Kristi, "there was no question that we were going to go and get her."

Zak, now in seventh grade, has faint memories of Daisy from his early childhood. "I was in shock when my mom told me about seeing her online," he says. "And then when she said we were going to go get her, I thought, 'Cool.' But I was a little worried there wouldn't be enough time for me to bond with her again, because I really wanted her to feel like part of the family."

Fifth grader Blaire admits, "I don't even remember being bit. When our mom said we were adopting Daisy again, I was happy. We weren't worried about her biting anymore, because we're grown up now."

The M.'s excitedly brought Daisy home, where she had a joyous reunion with Lilly ("They absolutely remembered each other!" Kristi says) and was introduced to Franklin, a mixed breed the family adopted from the SPCA a couple years ago. "They all get along fine, but Franklin's the guy in charge," says Kristi. "They all seem happy with it."

Daisy recognized the comfortable home she'd last seen more than 10 years ago. "She knew where everything was," Kristi says, "where to go potty outside, and everything else. Every morning my husband shares a banana for breakfast with the dogs, and her first morning here, there was Daisy, lined up with the others, waiting for her piece. She hadn't forgotten."

*Last name withheld for reasons of privacy.



VHORAGOTOR BARHY



HE 2016 SPCA DOGGY DASH is just around the corner. Here are some things to consider to help make sure the walk and party in the park is an enjoyable experience.

...by Dr. Bob Wippman VCA Animal Hospitals

- Your dog should have a physical exam to help make sure he/she is healthy enough to "go the distance" or identify any health concerns that need to be addressed. At the same visit, make sure vaccinations and preventive health care medications are current.
- Your dog may not be getting as much exercise over the winter as you would like. Start taking walks once or twice a day, gradually building up to at least the distance you plan to walk in the Doggy Dash. If your dog is not used to being on a leash or being around other dogs, you may want to consult a trainer for recommendations.
- Evaluate your dog's weight. Being under or over ideal weight may indicate many diseases and can affect overall well-being and longevity. Keeping your dog lean can increase life span and decrease the incidence or delay the onset of arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and other health concerns. Excess fat increasesthe weight and stress on joints and produces inflammatory mediators that damage joint tissue. When obese dogs with lameness from arthritis lose weight they become more comfortable and active.
- Exercise is especially important for our older pets. Pre-

paring for and participating in events such as the Doggy Dash can be mentally stimulating as well as physically beneficial. Strong muscles help support joints and can decrease clinical signs of joint disease. Keeping active helps the nervous system as well. Balance and stability may decline with age. Staying active and strong helps prevent this decline. If necessary, a rehabilitation therapist can recommend specific exercises to add to regular activity.

Appropriate exercise, proper diet, supplements, an enriched environment, low-key training and learning new tasks can improve cognition in some older dogs. Your veterinarian can recommend supplements and medications that can help with age-related ailments such as arthritis and cognitive decline to keep your dog comfortable and active. When exercising geriatric dogs watch for slowing down, limping, weakness, dragging feet, coughing or excessive panting.

If you have any questions, please talk with your veterinarian. Be active and have fun!

Our 2016 Doggy Dash will take place on Saturday, April 9 at William Land Park in Sacramento. Don't miss the fun! Register today at sspca.org/dash.



SACRAMENTO IS OFTEN REFERRED TO as the city that's "close to everything." An hour to the ocean! Mere miles to the Sierra's snowy slopes! The spoils of San Francisco practically at your doorstep! The world's finest wineries in nearby Napa! Hey, we have a lot going on in the capital city, but you can also get to where the other action is pretty darn quick.

What you might not realize is how eager your dog may be to accompany you on your journeys—and how many destinations actually welcome your four-legged friends. As spring peeks at us from behind curtains of rain, consider one of these day trips for you and your canine companion once the sunshine takes hold again.

Fort Funston

On Skyline Boulevard | San Francisco

Part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Funston is, in short, heaven on earth for dogs. Explore trails, beach areas, and meet oodles of other dog lovers. Watch hang gliders leap from the cliffs in the parking lot. Free. Note: A leash is required in some areas.

Ocean Beach

1095 Great Highway | San Francisco

Beloved by dog aficionados everywhere, as canines are allowed offleash from stairwell 1 to stairwell 21. South of stairwell 21, dogs must be leashed. Marvel at the intrepid surfers when it's 50 degrees.

Bone Appetit!

While in San Francisco, visit one of the many pet-friendly dining establishments. (You and your dog will be required to sit on the patio, so be sure to have a coat on hand for that changeable city weather!) Our favorites include Zuni Café (1658 Market Street), Park Chow (1240 9th Avenue), and Tartine Bakery (600 Guerrero Street).

Chimney Beach

Incline Village, Nevada (Lake Tahoe)

Six miles south of Incline Village and three miles north of Glenbrook Bay, this secluded and idyllic beach on Lake Tahoe's Nevada side is easily accessible from Highway 28. Your pal can do some freshwater frolicking among friends!

Tunnel Creek Café

1115 Tunnel Creek Road | Incline Village | Nevada

Exceptional espresso, coffee, tea and pastries to start your day. At the end of the day, enjoy panini, salads, and cold beverages to round out your Lake Tahoe day. Extremely dog friendly!



Sebastiani Vineyards and Winery

389 4th Street East | Sonoma

Dogs are welcome and encouraged at this favorite location in Sonoma Wine Country. Stop by the deli on nearby Sonoma Plaza for picnic goodies, or enjoy the dog-friendly summer music series. Sebastiani allows dogs in the tasting room, picnic area, and patio. Wine tastings (\$10-\$20 for a flight) available from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall

110 Walnut Avenue | Santa Cruz

If craft beer is more your style, stop by 99 Bottles in the heart of Santa Cruz and sample their gigantic assortment of libations both in bottle and on tap. Dogs are welcome at their outdoor seating, and all food is 10% off on Mondays.

FOR MORE CANINE-FRIENDLY ADVENTURE AND LODGING IDEAS, VISIT:

- dogtrekker.com
- bringfido.com
- dogfriendly.com
- petswelcome.com



IN HONOR OF

"Dexter" Elaine and

Desmond Bonnington

"Sadie"

Rhonda E. Gage

Jerry and Lauren Bailey

Lauren and Gerald Bailey

Gwynn and Jim Campbell Merry E. Benard

Arlene Getz Randy and Patricia Getz

Rick Johnson's 42 Years of Service

Matteo Reilly Matthew and Tahiza Reilly Family and friends

Jean Schlenker Eva Schlenker

Dr. Ziedens Linda Tell RN. MFT

IN MEMORY OF

"Allie" Robin B. Springer

"Comet," the best kitty in the world Jolie Baron

"Cori BooBoo" Lee Edward and Lily Lee

Our kitties "Stella and Blanche" Kenji and Liz Ota

"Teddy" Jeanette and Terry Quashnick

Barbara A. Bartley MLisse Rich Family and friends

Shannon Lee Brady Barbara Howard Patricia and Alonzo Moore Family and friends

Chuck Brodie Edward and Barbara Brodie

Merrilyn Carson Betty D. Johnson Family and friends

Mommy-

Rosemarie Dausey Michelle Mahan

Betty Drakeley Lorrene Stone

Theresa (Terry) Marie Mirarchi Heater Karim Hirani

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James (Jimmy) Vine Family and friends

Paul Walters Scott Walters Memorial and totaling \$250 or more are listed in Heartline. names reflect individual gifts.



SPEND YOUR SECOND SATURDAY

WITH US!



isit the Sacramento SPCA's Thrift Store on Second Saturdays March through August and save big with store-wide sales of 30%-50% off.

Doing some spring cleaning and need a pickup? We can help. We now offer donation pick-up service on Tues-Wed-Thurs.

SACRAMENTO SPCA THRIFT STORE

1517 E Street **Midtown Sacramento** (916) 442-8118







SPCA alumni! To have your companion considered for our next issue, email a high-resolution, close-up photo of your SPCA alum to mktgcomm@sspca.org. Please include his/her name, age and adoption date. You can even include a little blurb about how much you love your pet! We'll feature some top photos, based on quality, in Heartbeats.



SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

6201 Florin Perkins Road Sacramento, CA 95828 (916) 383-PETS | www.sspca.org

Shelter Hours

Wed-Sun, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Mon-Tues





Join the Sacramento SPCA for the 7th annual **PAWS**, **PALS AND PUTTS GOLF TOURNAMENT** at beautiful Del Paso Country Club on Monday, May 16, 2016.

PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT! Paws, Pals & Putts features an incredible championship golf course, lunch, a caddie per foursome, contests, a 19th-hole reception, delicious awards dinner and live auction. Registration is \$350 per player; \$1,400 per foursome.

NOT A GOLFER? Tickets for non-golfing dinner guests are \$75 each and include a delicious three-course dinner, great wine, live auction and fun with friends of the Sacramento SPCA.

REGISTER TODAY! This event will sell out! Register now at www.sspca.org. For additional information call (916) 504-2802 or email events@sspca.org.