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Korean Dogs: Saved from Certain Death
A Community Caring for Cats
Faces of Heartworm Disease
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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Cover Photo:
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MEET OUR STAFF …
Chief Executive Officer
Rick Johnson | (916) 504-2806
Chief Financial Officer
Michael Oei | (916) 504-2801
Chief Operations Officer
Jeanie Bokup | (916) 504-2869
Director of Community Services
Val Masters | (916) 504-2842
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Wendy Meyer | (916) 504-2887
Animal Services Manager
Suzanne Waters | (916) 504-2826
Animal Care Manager
Dan Marple | (916) 504-2864
Volunteer Program Manager
Marnie Musser | (916) 504-2849
Human Education Manager
Dor Dee Drake | (916) 504-2849
Chief of Shelter Medicine
Laurie Siperstein-Cook, DVM
(916) 504-2815
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Giselle Chan, DVM
(916) 504-2804
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Sarah Vasquez | (916) 504-2808
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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.

“Peace begins with a smile.”—MOTHER TERESA

PRESENTED BY

For more information please call (916) 504-2802 or email events@sspca.org
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

Continued on next page

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 quantities of animals,” says Bill Santos, Human Education Manager.

“A large number of the dogs were untrained and unsocialized,” Santos notes.

Santos and his team worked to socialize Gibson and teach him basic obedience.

“Gibson is huge, but not aggressive. He’s a bit nervous when he first meets people, but he warms up quickly,” says Santos.

On April 17, 2015, Gibson and his new canine friends were suddenly thrust into the spotlight as the Internet sensation Sauerkraut and About 2015’s Kraut and About tour made a stop at the SPCA.

“I had no idea we’d get this much interest,” Santos says. “It’s really exciting.”

Upon departure, the dogs were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd.

“Wow! That was the best!” comments a cheerful spectator.}

SAVED FROM CERTAIN DEATH
SPCA TAKES IN DOGS RESCUED FROM KOREAN MEAT TRADE

...by Dee Dee Drake
Humane Education Manager

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

Lum and Loy 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 it was. 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 Maxxiff 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.”

“Dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen.” —ORHAN PAMUK

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 able to coax him into a car—and his continuing journey into his new life.
Some things are just a natural fit. Like the proud partnership between Lasher’s Elk Grove Subaru and Sacramento SPCA. Because anyone willing to give pets a little love, deserves some back. Love. It’s what makes a Subaru, a Subaru.

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Fur Is In The Air

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 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 STREITARS  

“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

When Debbie Jernigan’s Volkswagen pulls into the deserted parking lot, the stillness evaporates. The landscape comes alive with cats, scurrying 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 newborn 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 Streitars, 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,” Streitars 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.

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.

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 cat, rarely successful—and is considered abandonment and, therefore, illegal, unless it is to its 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.

“By associating with the cat one only risks becoming richer.” —COLETTE

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.

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“By associating with the cat one only risks becoming richer.” —COLETTE
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.

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!

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 Marzigliano. “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.”

“Love is love whether it goes on two legs or four.”
—GWEN COOPER

“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 Finneghan, 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.”

“Honor every being, for each is needed to complete the tapestry of life on earth.”—PENELOPE SMITH

“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”—GEORGE ORWELL
“Like all pure creatures, cats are practical.” —WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS

“All of the animals except for man know that the principal business of life is to enjoy it.” —SAMUEL BUTLER

THERE’S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE SACRAMENTO SPCA THRIFT STORE

SHOP WITH US AND SAVE!

- Hipster room
- Pet supply room
- Vintage boutique
- Summer ( Burning Man ) room
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- Jewelry
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“Like all pure creatures, cats are practical.” —WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS
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 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 Medicine 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 sspca.org/how-you-can-help/paws-for-health
“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” — C. S. Lewis

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.

 Ember, adopted 2012

 Double, adopted 2012

 Fred and Flynn, adopted 2012

 Rocco, adopted 2014

 Max, adopted 2006

 Kimiko, adopted 2015

 Lucy, adopted 2013

 Bella, adopted 2010

 Gunpie, adopted 2013

 Addy, adopted 2007

 Tilly, adopted 2013

 Frank, adopted 2003

 Molly, adopted 2008

 Bridget, adopted 2014

 Zeus, adopted 2011

 Tigerlily, adopted 2013

 Huckleberry, adopted 2013

 Lucy, adopted 2012

 Zach, adopted 2013

 Coco, adopted 2014

 Romeo, adopted 2005

 Chocolate, adopted 2008

 Butterscotch, adopted 2014

 Rachelle, adopted 2012

 Batman, adopted 2009

 Lucie, adopted 2012

 Petunia, adopted 2012

 Kimiko, adopted 2015
2015 LASHER POLO CLASSIC

All proceeds benefit the Sacramento SPCA

The Lasher Family Foundation cordially invites you to a spectacular afternoon of polo at one of Sacramento’s most prestigious social events.

Don your best hat, dine and sip champagne, shop, mingle and marvel at the excitement and elegance of an exhibition polo match.

September 12, 2015
Noon to 4 p.m.

Chamberlain Ranch | Wilton

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