



Compassion

Summer 2019 News from the Palo Alto Humane Society



Jenny, one of the Bol Park donkeys, with winners of PAHS' Ambassadors of Compassion Story Writing Competition: (L-R) Amara Fernandes, Macy Li, and Vandana Ravi. Absent was Aaron Huang. Photograph by Carla Befera.

Creating the Future of Animal Compassion

We are pleased to report exciting developments in our initiative, Creating Compassionate Communities. In fulfilling its mission of advancing humane awareness, Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS) expanded its partnerships with veterinary clinics, rescue groups, organizations, schools, and neighborhoods. Last fall, PAHS collaborated with the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose to engage children and their families in an entire day of animal-themed activities (page 10). PAHS partnered with the San Mateo Library to host Senator Jerry Hill, who read to children from PAHS-published children's books (page 8). PAHS' education programs continue to flourish.

Our first-ever Ambassadors of Compassion story writing contest for middle-school students has been well received. Stories from students in four Bay Area counties illuminated the theme of animals and people helping each other. The winner of the contest, seventh grader Vandana Ravi, of Palo Alto, will have her story "Snapshot" professionally illustrated and published; her story will join PAHS' collection of original humane-themed books for young people. PAHS partnered with the Barron Park Donkey Project (barronparkdonkeys.org) in a special ceremony on May 28 in Bol Park to honor the winners of

the competition. Vandana and the three honorable mention recipients— Amara Fernandes, Aaron Huang, and Macy Li—will be recognized also at the Legacy Circle reception on June 26 (page 3).

PAHS' emergency veterinary programs have treated 129 animals so far this year. Keeping animals in the home and preventing their "economic euthanasia" is one of the most important things PAHS does. Ensuring that animals are spayed and neutered is another. In this newsletter you will read about Peanut, a dog saved by PAHS' emergency veterinary funding and a network of animal advocates (page 2).

Your support is at the heart of this work and ensures that PAHS continues to be a leader in animal compassion.

--Carole Hyde, Executive Director

"Mentoring young people to develop compassion is key to the future of animal welfare."



First place winner of PAHS' Ambassadors of Compassion Story Writing Competition, Vandana Ravi, 7th grader at Palo Alto's Fletcher Middle School, receives her award from PAHS executive director Carole Hyde. Find her winning story "Snapshot," about a lonely donkey, on the PAHS website. Photograph by Liudmila Kondakova.

A Rescue Story—It Takes a Village

The first we heard about Peanut (aka Peter) was an urgent call from San Jose Animal Hospital, one of our partner veterinary clinics, asking for help for a dog hit by a car. The owner had brought Peanut in but then refused to pay for the surgery needed to repair his shattered pelvis and other wounds. He asked, instead, to have the dog euthanized. San Jose Animal Hospital declined to do that and took legal ownership of the dog. PAHS agreed to pay the surgery bill from our Animal Rescue Fund that provides emergency veterinary help for un-owned animals in need.

Next, we needed a long-term foster home for Peanut where he could recover until he was well enough to find his forever home. PAHS reached out to Mick, one of our dog-rescue network friends, and he worked his magic to find fabulous foster mom Nan.



Dr. Kristen Pitsinger and Peter.

Peanut was not allowed to put any weight on his hind legs for at least six weeks while his bones healed, so Nan cared for him like a baby, coaxing him to eat, changing his bedding, entertaining him so he wouldn't get bored or depressed, and monitoring him day and night to make sure he didn't injure himself. It was truly a full-time job, and Nan did it unfailingly with humor and love.

A group able to find Peanut his forever home was needed. Again, networking worked its magic and produced Jenifer of All Animal Rescue & Friends. Jenifer's organization has assumed ownership of this big, lovable, gentle dog and will monitor his transition to a new life.

PAHS does so much more than paying medical bills for the animals we help—we coordinate among animals, owners, veterinarians, rescuers, and other nonprofits to save the lives of animals in need. PAHS thanks all who donated to save the life of this dog. You knew Peanut as Peter, and Peter is a very lucky and happy dog, indeed!

PAHS coordinates with owners, veterinarians, rescuers, and other nonprofits to save the lives of animals in need.

PAHS Awarded Grant from Latham Foundation

Palo Alto Humane Society is pleased to receive a grant from the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education. The grant will support PAHS' K-5 education programs that creatively engage students to become Ambassadors of Compassion. With the help of the grant, PAHS will expand its Critter Club program to additional schools in the mid-Peninsula and will create a video to provide a blueprint for organizations to develop their own humane education programs that align with their unique communities. PAHS thanks the Latham Foundation.

PAHS Legacy Circle Reception—Celebrating Those Who Give



Jamie Davis and Liudmila Kondakova.

Date: June 26, 2019

Time: 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Where: Sheraton Palo Alto

RSVP to: Carole.Hyde@paloaltohumane.org

Please join us for PAHS' 2019 Legacy Circle Reception, to honor donors who provide for a future gift to Palo Alto Humane Society through financial and estate plans and to salute PAHS' generous volunteers and community partners. The Sheraton Palo Alto, a PAHS business partner, will provide vegetarian fare and wine.

Legacy Circle Honorees 2019: Planning for the Future

This year's Legacy honorees are Liudmila Kondakova and Jamie Davis. Liudmila, a long-time supporter of Palo Alto Humane Society, is a creator of fine art. Her painting has been exclusively represented by Martin-Lawrence Galleries since 1995. A graduate of the Grabar Center in Moscow, she also attended Russia's School of Sacred Arts and the Moscow Art Institute. Liudmila's husband, Jamie, graduated from New York University in film and television and worked in advertising for television shows, including "Friends." Says Liudmila, "Over the millennia pets have given us help, joy, comfort, unconditional love, in exchange for as little as food and shelter. It is our responsibility to take care of

them, especially now when climate change and overpopulation put additional pressure on their wellbeing. We have great respect for Palo Alto Humane Society and want to contribute to their honorable efforts to help animals who were abandoned and/or mistreated. Being part of this work will make us feel good about ourselves, feel human in the best sense."

Jamie and Liudmila join Professor Virginia Walbot, Professors Caroline and Blair Hoxby, Maureen and David Allen, and Michele and Mark Hollar as members of the Legacy Circle. Please visit our website (www.paloaltohumane.org) for more information.

Also Honored: Our 2018–19 Community and Business Partners of the Year

Special Friend: Colleen Gerstner

Business Partner of the Year: San Jose Animal Hospital

Community Partner of the Year: Children's
Discovery Museum of San Jose

Lifetime Achievement: Ann Nussbaum

Volunteer of the Year: Miguel Allende

PAHS thanks the Sheraton for its sponsorship of the Legacy Circle event, and Gleim the Jeweler for producing PAHS' Legacy Circle membership pin. Please RSVP to Carole.Hyde@paloaltohumane.org if you would like to attend the reception on June 26, 2019.

Bequests Received

PAHS is pleased to acknowledge a bequest from the estate of Charles and Martha Nagy. Charles and Martha supported PAHS during their lifetime with annual donations, and their legacy gift will sustain PAHS in its future work for the wellbeing of animals. PAHS also acknowledges a substantial gift from the estate of Lenore C. Terry. PAHS is grateful as well for a gift from the estate of Doreen Joy Stewart, a faithful supporter of PAHS' work for more than 20 years. These generous gifts are an expression of great love and care for animals.

Bequests and planned gifts provide the stability needed for Palo Alto Humane Society's animal welfare work to continue into the future. For questions about leaving an estate gift or for planning for the future of your companion animals, contact the executive director at (650) 424-1901.

The Veterinarian Recommends

By Dr. Leigh Glerum



Pets and Mushroom Toxicity

Given the ample rain we received this winter and the arrival of warmer weather, mushrooms will become a relatively common site. It is a good idea to prevent your pet from eating wild mushrooms, as the consequences can be very serious.

The mushroom of most concern is Amanita phalloides—a white-to-tan mushroom that tends to grow near the base of oak trees. Even one of these mushrooms contains enough toxins to cause a 50-pound dog to become severely ill. The visible onset of illness—gastrointestinal distress (vomiting and diarrhea)—usually occurs within 6 to 12 hours of ingestion. The illness can rapidly progress to liver failure and death. Aggressive emergency treatment is essential to give these pets a chance at recovery.

It is ideal to survey your pet's environment for wild mushrooms. If identified, the mushrooms should be removed or your pet should be prevented from accessing them.

If your pet is observed eating a wild mushroom, take him/her to the veterinarian immediately for initiation of treatment. Bring along a sample of the mushroom ingested if more are present in the yard, as identifying the mushroom can help guide treatment.

If your pet becomes acutely ill with gastrointestinal upset and you know or are suspicious that he or she has had access to wild mushrooms, it is highly recommended that you contact your vet or an emergency clinic for advice.

Don't Delay! Emergency Pet Tips

The following are signs that your pet may require urgent or emergency veterinary care:

- Changes to oral gum color
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Allergic reaction (hives, facial swelling, severe itching, or red eyes)
 - Exposure to any chemicals
 - Ingestion of toxins, poisonous plants, or household medications
 - Ingestion of a foreign material
 - Weakness and/or changes in alertness
 - Seizures, loss of balance, and inability to walk
 - Trembling or shaking
 - Pain, discomfort, or lameness
 - Straining to urinate
 - Distended or bloated abdomen
 - Persistent vomiting, diarrhea, or non-productive retching
 - Difficulty delivering kittens or puppies
 - Exposure to high temperatures
 - Bleeding
 - Hit by car
 - Fall from height
 - Bite wounds from other animals
 - Broken bones
 - Changes in behavior or actions that just don't feel right in your mind
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PAHS Talks with Board President Sue Klapholz

Sue was asked about her vision for the Palo Alto Humane Society and what keeps her motivated in her important work as President of the Board of Directors. Here are her responses:

What attracted you to serving on the PAHS Board?

I first encountered PAHS about 10 years ago when its office and gift shop were located on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park. I was attracted to the colorful, welcoming atmosphere and was impressed by the friendly knowledgeable employees and volunteers who worked there. Animal welfare has always been extremely important to me, and what PAHS does through its humane education and animal help programs to foster compassion and kindness in our community is truly unique. When our beloved dog Daisy died, I wanted to honor her memory with a fund to help animals in need of urgent veterinary care. I knew that PAHS would be the perfect organization to partner with. Working closely with PAHS staff, board members, and volunteers on our first Daisy's Day fundraiser in 2017 increased my desire to do even more to support this wonderful organization. I was honored to join its Board of Directors a year ago, and then to be elected Board President this year.

What is your vision for the organization this year?

PAHS has two major areas in which it provides invaluable services to our community. One area is "animal help," which encompasses veterinary assistance for strays, urgent veterinary care for pets, and spay and neuter assistance. The other area is "humane education," which teaches compassion for animals to young people in our community. Compassion for people, animals, and the planet are all intricately interconnected. This year, I would love to increase the visibility of these important programs as well as strengthen PAHS' infrastructure to support the continued development and growth of these programs.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

My job as Vice President of Nutrition and Health at Impossible Foods keeps me very busy and engaged. Our goal at Impossible Foods is to create delicious and nutritious plant-based foods to replace foods that are currently created from animals. More than anything, I love spending time with my family, friends, our sweet senior dog, Sebastian, and our two grand-dogs. I enjoy being out in nature, taking photographs of birds, critters, and scenery. I'm also a big crossword puzzle buff and enjoy art museums, watching good movies, and creating jewelry. I have a nature photography and jewelry shop on Etsy that donates 100% of its earnings to humane causes, including PAHS' Daisy Fund for animals in need of crisis veterinary care.



Sue established the Palo Alto Humane Society's Daisy Fund with a generous donation. The Daisy Fund supports PAHS' veterinary help programs, Pet Help and Animal Rescue Fund.

Animal Rescue and Recovery During the California Wildfires: A Field Report

By Susan Stienstra

Last year, during the deadly and destructive wildfires in California, the PAHS staff, directors, and community moved quickly to help the injured and helpless animals in Butte and Shasta counties. PAHS, with contributions by donors as well, made a sizeable financial donation to two organizations doing hands-on rescue and care, Center for Animal Protection and Education (CAPE) and North Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVADG). Additionally, Susan Stienstra, former PAHS office manager and current volunteer, worked on PAHS' behalf as an official animal rescue volunteer for Butte County.

Read Susan's account below of a community coming together for animal rescue in one of California's worst wildfires.

In July, during the raging Carr Fire in Shasta County, my husband and I were on high alert and spent fearful nights sleeping on our couch. Temperatures soared above 100 degrees, electricity and phone lines were down, and we were ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. Our vehicles were loaded with water and supplies, and the animal carriers for our rabbits and cat were lined up and ready to go. Every day for several weeks, the air was dark and filled with smoke. The National Guard patrolled the streets. 1100 homes were destroyed.

Soon after, two other wildfires started up within an hour of our house. I-5, the major regional highway, was closed in both directions, but we were still reasonably safe. The weeks crawled by, the fires burned out, and then it was fall... cooler, clearer days. We all started to breathe a little easier.

Then, on my way to work on November 8, I saw a large plume of smoke rising into the blue sky, to the southeast. I knew right away it was a fire. What I couldn't know then is that an entire community would be swept away within hours, leaving a wake of destruction. The town of Paradise and the neighboring areas of Magalia and Concow were devastated. Along with the thousands of



people affected and displaced by the wildfire were the animals. Every day more animals were rescued and taken to designated clinics where veterinarians and staff worked extra hours for injured animals. The fairgrounds were set up to receive and house larger animals. CAPE delivered loads of hay and feed. North Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVADG) and Butte County Animal Control organized an emergency shelter in Oroville for cats, dogs, and small animals in a large facility that was formerly a county hospital.

I felt a strong desire to support Butte County, so I reached out to find out how I could help with the animals. Once I received the instructions of what was required to volunteer, I reported to Butte County that I would arrive that upcoming Saturday. After the 100-mile plus drive to Oroville, I arrived at the Emergency Operations Center, registered, took the disaster service oath, and was sworn in to assist Butte County. I then drove to the emergency shelter.

“Your donation to help animals affected by the Camp Fire went towards high quality hay for horses, cows, donkeys, pig and goat chow, equipment such as wheelbarrows and shovels. We could not have assisted them without the help of donors such as PAHS. Thank you so much!!!”

– Center for Animal Protection and Education (CAPE)

I could see large ASPCA emergency mobile units parked on the grounds as I approached. Only official volunteers, staff, and escorted members of the public were allowed inside the buildings. I was assigned to check on the rabbits, exotic birds, and guinea pigs. They had their own room and were well supplied with food and water. Then I helped with the cats, checking four rows of three crates high along each wall, charting crate numbers and listing where each cat was located. When I finished that task, I helped ready a separate room and made a new chart for incoming cats.

Already onsite was staff from many veterinary clinics including SAGE from the Bay Area, as well as staff from Oregon Humane Society. One woman had traveled all the way from Washington State to help trap cats. Every animal received the necessary veterinary care, and each one had a blanket and a clean crate covered with a towel. Charts hung on every crate with detailed notes and instructions. Many animals were claimed by their owners, but because their owners were displaced, these pets continued to be sheltered.

Because of the nature of the emergency, I wasn't allowed to take photos of people or animals. However, I did photograph the grounds and facilities.

The best moment for me was ushering a family in to check the cats, not knowing if their cats had survived the fire... and there were their two kitties, whose whereabouts were unknown for more than two weeks! The cats were fine. We all cried buckets!

Even in the aftermath of this horrible disaster, people came together in droves to help the animals. I will never forget my experience working with all those amazing folks, to make sure each cat, dog, rabbit, chicken, horse, etc., was safe, warm, and fed.



Susan Stienstra helps with social media and media campaigns for PAHS. She has more than 20 years of experience working for nonprofit organizations. She is also a licensed humane educator with House Rabbit Society, and in that capacity, has taught children and adults about rabbits and how to care for them. Her special passions are horses, rabbits, and wildlife.

“Susan,

Thanks for your e-mail. The North Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVADG) very much appreciates your support - and more importantly - your time that you spent in Oroville. We were the primary animal rescue group working with Butte County Animal Control during the animal rescue and sheltering components of the disaster response. We (along with your help) sheltered over 2000 large and small animals in three emergency shelters at the peak of the response. The generous funding that we have received has been used to purchase animal food, crates, pay for Veterinary care, etc. The last several months we have been assisting the local shelters maintaining their brick and mortar facilities, including spay and neuter programs. It has been a difficult time, but with help from a lot of folk, we are making progress.

Thank you again for your help.”

*– John Maretti, Executive Director
North Valley Animal Disaster Group*



Rescue photographs by North Valley Animal Disaster Group. More photos are on the PAHS website.

PAHS in the Community

Reading Adventures at the San Mateo Public Library

As part of the Palo Alto Humane Society education program for the community's youngest residents, California State Senator Jerry Hill read to children and their parents in the San Mateo Library's Book Bubble room. The featured story was a true children's tale, *Saving Travis, A Rescue Story*, written for PAHS by Rhea Sampson. The presentation featured the canine stars of the story, Travis and Shannon. The children learned about dogs and had the chance to talk with Senator Hill. The author autographed copies of her book. *Saving Travis*, with illustrations by local artist Erin Scott, is available for sale at Cheeky Monkey, Pet Place, and Zoe's Café.



Senator Jerry Hill (left) with author Rhea Sampson, library director Ben Ocon, and Travis and Shannon. Photograph by Leonor Delgado.

Pet Painters at Work—PAHS Adoptables Art Program in the Menlo Park Schools

PAHS is partnering with Hillview Middle School, La Entrada Middle School, and Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority to connect students with shelter animals through art. Under the guidance of their school art teacher, students learn how to recognize the essence of another being. Their soulful paintings help make the public aware of the shelter dogs and cats waiting for a home. The students' art and their accompanying stories of the shelter and adoption process, written from the animals' point of view, reflect a true affinity with the animals.



Paintings by students at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park, courtesy of their teacher Anna Kogan. Photographs of the artwork by Steven Shpall.



PAHS Partners with Pinewood School

Every fall Pinewood's fourth-grade students engage in a service learning project to help animals, and in 2018, the school reached out to PAHS. The first big event for the project was an all-upper school assembly attended by students in grades 3, 4, and 5. After addressing the assembly, Education Manager Leonor Delgado teamed up with long-term education volunteers Kathy Merkel-Raymond and Sarah Clementson and their dogs Cody and Ani to teach the fourth graders the ways therapy and service dogs help people. The second big event was a school-wide bake sale, with money made going to PAHS. Then, for our third event, PAHS was invited to a gathering of all the fourth graders, their teachers, and the school administration to present the earnings from the bake sale and beautiful hand-made blankets for homeless local pets and pets saved from the Camp Fire. More good news—PAHS has been invited back to Pinewood for next year's service learning project about animals!

Volunteers Make It Happen

Volunteers are essential to extending the work of the Palo Alto Humane Society into the community. Volunteers help with PAHS' education programs, events, and behind-the-scenes work of the organization. We were pleased to honor them at a reception donated by the Garden Court Hotel on Friday, October 19, 2018. Our thanks go to Jesse Bresnahan and Ella Herman of the Garden Court Hotel and their great staff, and our gratitude to the volunteers who make our community work possible.



Left to Right: Maurice Barnum and Dawn Perchik, farm animal advocates and PAHS education volunteers; Jim Zuegel, PAHS education volunteer; Isabelle Cnudde, founder of Clorofil, a nonprofit micro-sanctuary, and farm animal advocate and PAHS education volunteer. Photograph by Leonor Delgado.

Poolside Dining Supports PAHS

Yappy Hour 2019

- Thursday, June 6,
- Thursday, July 11,
- Thursday, August 1

5:00–8:00 p.m.

Sheraton Palo Alto - 625 El Camino Real

Call for reservations: (650) 328-2800 x7287

Bring your two-legged and four-legged friends to the Sheraton Palo Alto and enjoy delicious California Cuisine and live music at the newly renovated Poolside Grill and support the Palo Alto Humane Society. 20% of all dinner and bar revenues will be donated to help the animals. You could win a certificate for two at the Poolside Grill.



Shannon loves Yappy Hour at the Sheraton. Photograph by Leonor Delgado.

Children's Discovery Museum and PAHS

In collaboration last August with the Palo Alto Humane Society, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose hosted its first annual all-day museum-wide educational event "All About Dogs! And other pets too!"

PAHS provided dynamic performances and storytelling, meet and greets with animal companions, and extremely generous and invested volunteers. Together PAHS and the Museum staff created a well-received, well-branded, and dynamic day of programming for 1,300 visitors. The Museum's auditorium was rocking to world-renowned circus artist Pino and her animal mime act, and PAHS volunteer Marilyn Kaness from *A Mystery by Design* painted artistic animal features on little children's faces. Children met and learned about chickens, pigs, and dogs, and listened to the true tale *Saving Travis*, in English and Spanish. The entire gallery at the Museum was filled with paintings of shelter animals created by young students in PAHS' Adoptables Art program.

Animals excite the interest of children in learning, and the program developed by PAHS was a perfect match with the goals of the Museum.



Photographs by Rachael Denzel.



The Museum seeks to inspire children to appreciate and engage with the world around them, developing values of inclusivity and an interest in learning. The education programs and philosophy of the Palo Alto Humane Society fit with the values and mission of the Museum; animals excite the interest of children in learning, and the program developed by PAHS was a perfect match with the goals of the Museum.

PAHS thanks Heidi Lubin, Visual Arts Program Director at the Museum, for her enthusiastic and visionary partnership. Said Heidi, "PAHS was a wonderful community partner to work with!"

We thank volunteers Sarah Clementson, Isabelle Cnudde, Chris Corvetti, Patty Hurley, Marilyn Kaness, Kathy Merkle-Raymond, Dawn Perchik, Rhea Sampson, and Katherine Sepulveda for their contributions to this wonderful program.



**Sunday,
October 13,
1:00–4:00 p.m.**

Mark Your Calendar for Daisy's Day 2019

Please join the Palo Alto Humane Society to celebrate the Daisy Fund and help provide care for animals in need. The Daisy Fund at the Palo Alto Humane Society provides assistance for sick and injured stray animals and animals whose owners cannot afford their pets' urgent care. In this way, sick or injured animals will not have to be surrendered to animal shelters or euthanized for lack of means. Watch for details this summer!

PAHS Board of Directors

Sue Klapholz
David Dang
Meghan Duff
Andrea Gandolfo
Leigh Glerum
Carole Hyde
Jaci Kassmeier
David Rutan
Steven Shpall
Teeda Stiles

Office and Education Staff

Leonor Delgado
Arlene Esquivias
Margaret Minto

Volunteer Veterinary Program Manager

Ann Nussbaum



Interning with PAHS

PAHS is pleased to have as intern this year Olga Lenczewska. Olga is a PhD candidate in the Philosophy Department at Stanford University. Before coming to the United States, she did her Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Italian at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on historical and contemporary political philosophy. Olga is interested in animal ethics and tries to apply her research experience to issues in animal welfare. In addition to working with PAHS, she collaborates with two local shelters, the Peninsula Humane Society and Rattie Ratz. Her essays on animal rights can be found in our Humane Library, in the Resource section of the PAHS website: <https://www.paloaltohumane.org/resources>.



Palo Alto Humane Society
P.O. Box 60715,
Palo Alto, CA 94306

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The mission of the Palo Alto Humane Society is to alleviate the suffering of animals, increase public sensitivity to animal issues, and elevate the status of animals in our society.

To find out more about the Palo Alto Humane Society's programs and to donate online, please visit our website at:
www.paloaltohumane.org

