



Compassion

Holiday 2019

News from the Palo Alto Humane Society



A puppy named Love received crisis care and returned to her family, with help from the Daisy Fund.

A Love Story

Shortly after the Daisy's Day fundraising event, a very ill puppy in need came to Palo Alto Humane Society's attention. This puppy, aptly named Love, is an example of why the Daisy Fund exists.

The puppy, dehydrated and very depressed, needed advanced diagnostics and ongoing care for several chronic illnesses. She had been to the veterinarian, but the cost of care that she needed was well beyond the means of Love's family, an elderly man caring for a disabled daughter. With crisis funding from Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS) and excellent care at SAGE Veterinary Center in Redwood City, this sweet puppy has now returned to her family. PAHS will continue to help until she is stabilized and her future health is clear.

Our veterinary assistance program that helps sick and injured animals is unique, serving pets in need from Redwood City to San Jose. PAHS' veterinary programs have treated 319 animals so far this year. Keeping animals in the home and preventing their euthanasia for lack of means is one of the most important things PAHS does.

Since PAHS' founding more than a century ago, it has served as an indispensable resource for helping animals who have no other source of rescue and care. Your support is at the heart of this work.

Daisy's Day Success



PAHS volunteer Kasper Halevy was on hand to greet guests and help out at the third annual Daisy's Day fundraiser. Halevy is a middle school student who writes on animal issues for PAHS and organizes his school animal advocacy club. This year's Daisy's Day was a big success, bringing in \$80,000 to fund veterinary care of pets in need. (See story, p. 3)



From the Executive Director



Carole Hyde holding Bronze Telly Award for creativity in education. PAHS won the award for *It's A Dog's Day* short film for children. Photograph by Susan Stienstra

What Is a Humane Society Without an Animal Shelter?

The mission of humane societies is to stop animal suffering and prevent cruelty. This is usually understood to mean operating shelters and providing animal control services. Animal shelters in the United States take in between 6 and 7 million unwanted, abused, and excess pets every year.

What does a humane society without a shelter do to stop suffering?

The answer—plenty.

One of a small percentage of non-shelter humane societies nationwide, Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS) has developed programs to keep animals out of the shelters. Shelters are important places, to be sure. They provide haven for animals suffering terrible circumstances. But they cannot find homes for every abandoned, unwanted, uncared-for pet; there are just too many strays for the number of homes available. Close to 3 million animals are euthanized every year in our country's shelters.

Addressing this immoral disposal of living beings means addressing root problems that leave so many domestic animals homeless: animal overpopulation, unaffordable veterinary care, and lack of information about animal safety and care.

Palo Alto Humane Society tackles these issues at the local level through a three-pronged mission that has guided its work since its founding 111 years ago: humane intervention, education, and advocacy. PAHS provides spay-neuter programs for feral cats and pets of low-income mid-Peninsula residents. It provides aid for people facing unmanageable veterinary costs. It educates through school programs and community outreach. And it advocates for good public and shelter policies.

“With its program of education, advocacy, and veterinary intervention, PAHS is a first line of defense for many animals in our community.”

These actions help prevent the birth of unwanted litters of kittens, puppies, and rabbits. They help to stop so-called economic euthanasia. They address causes of animal abandonment on the streets or at the shelter doorsteps—causes that stem from wrong-headed policies, misguided shelter practices, or public lack of information. With this approach, PAHS is a first line of defense for many animals in our community. We invite you to join us as a donor or as a volunteer in our initiative *Creating Compassionate Communities* to ensure that kindness and care are extended to all our neighbors.

Carole Hyde is executive director of Palo Alto Humane Society.



Daisy's Day a Howling Success



Palo Alto Humane Society's third annual Daisy's Day fundraiser brought in \$80,000 to fund urgent veterinary care of pets in need throughout the mid-Peninsula. More than 100 guests enjoyed an appetizing lunch featuring the Impossible Burger and wine donated by Mutt Lynch Winery. Bob Sarlatte, comedian and former San Francisco 49'ers announcer, entertained guests as the event's emcee. PAHS board members Meghan Duff and Andrea Gandolfo, organizers and co-chairs, graciously brought their corporate and non-profit acumen to achieve overwhelming success for PAHS' major fundraiser of the year. The event, held at the Quadrus Conference Center, featured donated auction and raffle items and a fund-a-need campaign. Proceeds support PAHS'



Cathy Fenn (l) and Virginia Walbot enjoy time to mingle outdoors at Quadrus Conference Center in Menlo Park.



Comedian Bob Sarlatte emceed, for a lively and successful afternoon of fundraising.

Photographs by Rachael Denzel

Pet Help and Animal Rescue funds. PAHS thanks our sponsors, in-kind donors, and auction and raffle donors; for more information on Daisy's Day, check out PAHS' website and Facebook page.

If you missed Daisy's Day, we hope you will plan to attend next year. Meanwhile you can still contribute. "Donations to the Daisy Fund are always welcome," said Carole Hyde, executive director of PAHS. "We rely solely on our donors and volunteers to provide our vital services."

"Donations to the Daisy Fund are always welcome."

Pat Brown, CEO of Impossible Foods which donated the Impossible Burger to the event, described Daisy's Day as "an inspiring moment when the intense, ambitious world of Silicon Valley pauses to connect with their humanity." He added, "It's a happy, fun event for everyone."



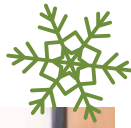
Palo Alto Animal Services officer William Warrior and Pam Warrior (l) enjoy conversation with other Daisy's Day guests.



Gloria Marchi and Rhea Sampson

The Veterinarian Recommends

By Dr. Leigh Glerum



Keep the Holidays Happy for Your Furry Family

The holiday season is fast approaching, and with it come decorations, tasty food, and visitors. All of these things can bring us, our dogs, and our cats much joy. However, there are a few things of which we humans should be mindful to keep our pets safe.

Decorated trees pose several potential hazards. Tinsel and ribbon are incredibly enticing for cats. Neither is toxic, but both can cause blockages or perforations in the intestinal tract that can necessitate surgery for relief. Live trees require water, and that is usually provided in a reservoir at the base of the tree. Plain water itself is not necessarily toxic, but any added chemicals might be. Trees can also be toppled over by a curious cat (or dog), and this could result in injury to your pet. Stabilizing your tree via a sturdy stand or other device should be considered. Candles with live flames and heated liquid potpourri pose burn risks.

Holiday plants carry some risk for your pets. Again, cats seem to be more prone to exploring these decorations and more sensitive to their toxicity. Lilies are of primary concern. Ingestion of even just the pollen of a lily can cause a cat to suffer kidney failure. Holly berries can cause gastrointestinal (GI) upset. Mistletoe can cause GI upset and abnormal heart rhythms. Poinsettias are also a mild toxin.

Visitors will likely be a welcome temporary addition to your holiday home, but visitors can also introduce stress and distractions into your pet's environment. Be mindful that foot traffic in and out of doors will be increased, so this means there will be more opportunities for a dog or cat to scoot through said doorway and into the great outdoors unattended. A larger group of visitors can bring higher noise levels into the home and could stress more shy pets, so consider providing a safe space for your pet that is distant to the main party. Overnight visitors also bring medications and tempting laundry (think about some dogs and their love for socks) onto the scene, so encourage visitors to place these items behind closed doors or well out of your pet's reach.

It is best to stick to the policy that pets receive only pet food and treats.

When it comes to food, it is best to stick to the policy that pets receive only pet food and treats. Chocolate is probably the most common problematic holiday food. Chocolate contains methylxanthines, and these substances can cause GI upset, agitation, abnormal heart rhythms, and even seizures. Generally, the darker and more bitter the chocolate, the more dangerous. A 50-pound dog can exhibit signs of toxicity after ingesting just one ounce of baker's chocolate. Dogs can be pretty savvy about picking out and then opening the wrapped box of chocolate candies from under the tree... particularly when you are not watching. Grapes, raisins, and currants can cause kidney damage. A particular pet's tolerance for these items varies (toxicity is not dose dependent), so ingestion of even one grape or raisin could have serious consequences. Sugarless gum and candy might contain xylitol (an artificial sweetener).

Dogs can be savvy about picking out and opening the wrapped box of chocolates from under the tree, particularly when you are not watching.

Xylitol can cause dangerous drops in blood sugar levels and even liver failure. Onions and garlic can cause damage to red blood cells, leading to anemia. Fatty food, whether offered under the table by a human or foraged from the trashcan, can cause GI upset due to pancreatitis.

Please know that this article was not intended to take all of the fun out of the holidays. Awareness of the potential hazards to your furry family is over half of the battle and will go a long way toward preventing a trip to the vet. Should one of your pets become exposed to one of the aforementioned dangers, please don't hesitate to contact your vet, local emergency clinic, or animal poison control for advice (ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center number: 888-426-4435).

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Legacy Circle Member Contributes Art to PAHS

We are pleased to thank Liudmila Kondakova for creating and donating the artwork for Palo Alto Humane Society's beautiful 2019 holiday card. Liudmila is the 2019 inductee into PAHS' Legacy Circle and a long-time supporter of the work that PAHS does for animal welfare. "I 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," she said. Liudmila's art 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. We hope you will enjoy the card, which will be arriving in your mailbox soon.



PAHS in the Community



*MoShow the Cat Rapper on stage at the Museum
Photograph by Steven Shpall*

A Day at the Museum

San Jose Children's Museum and PAHS

In its ongoing collaboration with Palo Alto Humane Society, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose hosted its second annual museum-wide event "Animals Inspire Us."

The dynamic event of July 27 featured MoShow the Cat Rapper, who entertained several hundred children and their parents with songs about cats, caring for cats, and adopting cats from shelters. PAHS volunteer Rhea Sampson, accompanied by her dog Shannon, provided a dynamic sing-along and storytelling. Marilyn Kaneshiro from A Mystery by Design, also a longtime PAHS volunteer, painted artistic animal features on children's faces. Children listened to the true tale *Saving Travis* in English and Spanish and learned how to care for a dog. A slide show featured paintings of shelter animals created by young students in PAHS' Adoptables Art program. San Jose Animal Care and Control was also present with information for the attendees on shelter animals and shelter adoptions.

Palo Alto Humane Society and the Museum share an educational mission—to inspire children to care about the world around them.

Palo Alto Humane Society and the Museum share an educational mission—to inspire children to care about the world around them. Animals excite the interest of children in learning, and the program developed by PAHS was a perfect match with goals that the Museum promotes. PAHS thanks Heidi Lubin and Linda Fischetti for their enthusiastic and visionary partnership.

PAHS thanks volunteers Patty Hurley, Marilyn Kaneshiro, Rhea Sampson, and Susan Stienstra for their contributions to this delightful program. Look for "Animals Inspire Us" again next summer.



*PAHS' Rhea Sampson and Shannon
Photograph by Steven Shpall*



*Facepainting and fun at the Museum
Photographs by Steven Shpall and Susan Stienstra*

Youth Service Partners with PAHS for Humane Awareness

Over the years Youth Community Service (YCS) has been an active Palo Alto Humane Society partner by engaging middle and high school students in PAHS' humane education programs and special events across the mid-Peninsula.

Among the students' favorite activities are the Kiddies 2 Kitties sessions organized especially for YCS. Kiddies 2 Kitties is PAHS' shelter-based reading and cat socialization program offered in conjunction with Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority. YCS students learn about the role of animal shelters in the community and work on a one-to-one basis with shy kittens, building the felines' trust with people.

PAHS has introduced YCS students to community issues around animals by taking service and therapy animals to YCS-sponsored events. Students help in turn by conducting food drives for needy animals and making blankets and toys for shelter and rescue pets, developing a sense of caring for the community's animal residents.

YCS students participate in many activities about animals, including the creation of engaging and appealing animal portraits. 



Paintings by Katie Capio and Asley Qui of Palo Alto High School



PAHS' New Program Provides Therapy with Paws

The newest addition to Palo Alto Humane Society's community programs is Therapy Paws, a program designed to de-stress workers in Silicon Valley companies, provide cheer to patients in hospitals and residents in assisted living, and help reduce anxiety in college students at exam time. Therapy Paws visits all these places and more with a cadre of gentle and friendly dogs who help people relax and find renewed creative energy after playing and bonding with the dogs and enjoying the experience with colleagues and fellow residents or patients.

Therapy Paws is the brainchild of PAHS staff member Arlene Esquivias. Her canine companion Minnie is a mainstay of the program. Therapy Paws has been featured in *Silicon Valley Business Journal* and *Mountain View Voice*. Therapy Paws has visited companies such as Caffeine TV, eightfold a.i., Maxar Space Solutions, and Culture Fun, and organizations such as Stanford University and Avenidas. Says Arlene, "Our therapy dogs are trained to give the utmost care and joy and are sure to alleviate stress. It is great to see the impact our dogs have, and to meet the people using our therapeutic service."

To schedule a Therapy Paws session, contact Arlene at PAHS (arlene@paloaltohumane.org or 650-424-1901).



Palo Alto Humane Society
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The mission of 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 Palo Alto Humane Society's programs and to donate online, please visit our website at:
www.paloaltohumane.org



PAHS' education ambassador Livy visiting Palo Alto Friends Nursery School

Photograph by Steven Shpall