



# Compassion

Spring 2020 News from the Palo Alto Humane Society



*PAHS education program introduces students to animal care at Jasper Ridge Farm. Photograph by Steven Shpall.*

## PAHS Education Team Introduces Students to Unique Support Animals

As part of a school project, fifth graders at Beechwood School in Menlo Park voted to learn about unique ways animals can provide emotional support to people. To assist in the learning program, PAHS education team members Patty Hurley and Leonor Delgado enlisted a wide variety of visiting volunteers to engage with the students.

Psychologist Julie Forbes visited the classroom with her rescued greyhound Kermit. Ms. Forbes explained the role that animals play in helping people learn to de-stress and manage emotions. Other guest speakers included

Alex Tomono Rabenstein, who specializes in the study and care of hamsters, bearded dragons, and a host of other reptiles and amphibians; and Jenny Kiratli, who oversees the Palo Alto Bol Park Donkeys, Perry and Jenny. These guests provided insight into how animals we might not consider common pets also can provide comfort and support.

The students spent their final session on a visit to one of our new partners in education, Jasper Ridge Farm, which helps children and adults facing physical and emotional challenges through therapeutic interaction with gentle farm animals.

Said Konstance Kirkendoll, Service Learning Coordinator at Beechwood, “Thanks so much, PAHS, for the awesome experiences you all have given our students. They truly are immeasurable. I hope to work with you all again soon!”



## Pets and the Coronavirus

The Center for Disease Control offers advice on pets and the coronavirus as information develops. The CDC advises that because all animals can carry germs that make people sick, it's always a good idea to practice good health habits around pets and other animals:

- Wash your hands after handling animals, or their food, waste, or supplies.
- Practice good pet hygiene and clean up after pets properly.
- Talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health.
- Be aware that children 5 years of age and younger, people with weakened immune systems, and people 65 years of age and older are more likely to get sick from germs some animals can carry.

For more information, visit CDC's *Healthy Pets, Healthy People* website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).



## From the Executive Director Carole Hyde

Our companion animals give us comfort, and we provide that to them in return. This seems to me to be one of life's gifts and a special responsibility and privilege for us humans. A priority of Palo Alto Humane Society is to help animals receive the care and comfort they need. Veterinary costs and growing joblessness mean that some animals—sick or injured—might face surrender to a shelter or clinic for “economic euthanasia.” Shelters frequently cannot afford to administer lifesaving care. This is why PAHS applauds Governor Newsom's proposal to provide under-resourced shelters in California with funding for rehabilitative care (more on page 6).

Palo Alto Humane Society devotes many of its resources at the local level to offering financial assistance for animals in need. Through its Pet Help, Animal Rescue Fund, and Spay/Neuter programs, PAHS saves lives and prevents shelter surrenders. Low-income pet owners and rescuers have expressed appreciation for the relief that these programs provide. PAHS' veterinary programs are supported entirely by donors like you, and we are grateful to you. In 2019, our programs helped an approximate 350 pets. In this newsletter, we are bringing you a few of the stories of the animals' lives we have saved so far this year.

*PAHS' exciting new kid-friendly, online humane education programs respond to this ongoing time of closed classrooms and community quiet.*

During this exceptional time of closed classrooms and community quiet, PAHS is pleased to offer free, kid-friendly education programs. We have rolled out a series of video mini-lessons on animal care, called *Touchy-Feely Talks: Fur, Feathers, Scales & Scutes*, that are both entertaining and informative. Our beautifully designed curriculum in humane education, *Mow Wow Animals*, is available in English and Spanish for teachers and parents to assist in children's learning about our animal friends. Our three original children's books will be available soon for purchase from Amazon. Accompanying lessons and activities for the books can be found on our website at: <https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/>.

I hope you enjoy browsing through our newsletter and that you will respond with your most generous support for Palo Alto Humane Society.

## Bequests Received

PAHS is pleased to acknowledge a bequest from the estate of Ruth L. Mosunic. Ruth's legacy gift will sustain PAHS in its future work for the support and wellbeing of our animal friends. This generous gift is an expression of great love and care for animals and in the trust of PAHS' stewardship. 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.

## PAHS Legacy Circle Ceremony

PAHS Legacy Circle ceremony, which honors PAHS' exceptional donors, volunteers, and community partners, will be rescheduled to a future date due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home restrictions.

## Target Giving Circle Supports PAHS

PAHS is grateful to the Target Circle Guest-Directed Giving Program for a generous donation of \$2,013.45. We thank Target and its shoppers.

## Watch for Daisy's Day 2020!

We are excited to announce that Daisy's Day, PAHS' most impactful fundraiser for our veterinary help programs, will be virtual this year. Watch for announcements in the coming months.

## PAHS Saves the Lives of Animals

Palo Alto Humane Society has assisted pet owners experiencing financial challenges for 87 years, commencing with the creation of a fund for the care of cats—the Belle Haven Coester Cat Memorial Fund in 1933—and the Worn Out Horse Fund in 1940, and continuing today with our Pet Help, Animal Rescue Fund, and spay/neuter programs. Meeting community needs, PAHS’ veterinary assistance allows pets to stay with their families at times of financial stress and helps stray animals in need of urgent medical care. 90 animals have received veterinary care through PAHS’ programs to date in 2020. Here are stories of three of the many animals PAHS has recently helped.

### Bella the Puppy Gets a New Life

Bella, an eight-week old puppy taken into a loving home, became ill and was rushed by her new family to a clinic for treatment. The diagnosis at Midtown Veterinary Hospital was Parvovirus, a disease that is highly dangerous to puppies. The unemployed owner reached out to PAHS for financial assistance. Extensive care was needed in an effort to save the puppy’s life. With PAHS’ Pet Help funding, the puppy was hospitalized for three days, receiving IV fluids and medications. She is home now with a grateful family and is growing into a happy puppyhood.

*PAHS’ veterinary assistance allows pets to stay with their families in times of financial stress.*



*Bella, all healed, thanks to PAHS.*

## VCA Los Gatos and PAHS Save Jelly

When Jelly, a two-year old cat, arrived with her rescuer at VCA Animal Hospital of Los Gatos, she had a life-threatening infection. The staff at VCA, one of PAHS’ veterinary partners, recognized that Jelly needed much more care than her rescuer could afford. The rescuer contacted PAHS for assistance. When PAHS sponsored a GoFundMe campaign for Jelly, the VCA team also sprang into action, holding its own fundraiser, “Paws for a Cause—Pet Photos with Santa.” With clients’ donations added in, the clinic raised \$1,425 for PAHS. This generous sum contributed to Jelly’s rehabilitation and to sponsoring other animals helped through PAHS’ veterinary funds. Jelly has recuperated and is doing well in the care of the kind person who helped save her life.

### Boo Boo the Happy Cat



*Boo Boo, enjoying life again, thanks to PAHS.*

Boo Boo is a 16-year old cat who was left on a doorstep as a kitten. She was immediately welcomed into the home to live with three other cats. Recently, Boo Boo developed neurological issues. Facing financial difficulty, her owner Rob reached out to PAHS. Boo Boo was seen at VCA Palo Alto and was prescribed medications to help her live a more comfortable life. Rob is so thankful that his best girl is still around to snuggle with him.

# The Veterinarian Recommends

By Dr. Leigh Glerum



## Spring and Summertime Caution for Canines and Cats: Foxtails

The weather is getting warmer, we live in a beautiful region, and there are many places for our dogs to roam outdoors beside us. These are all good things, but there is at least one doggie danger of which we should remain mindful—“foxtails.”

Foxtails are ubiquitous plants in our region. They grow on the side of the road, on the side of the trail, in grassy fields, and even in our own backyards. The relatively small, dry seed heads break off of these plants and can become a relatively large problem for our furry friends if they become embedded in our dogs’ fur, urogenital tract, between the toes, inhaled through the nose or mouth, or even eaten. Due to nature’s clever design for this plant’s propagation, one-way barbs on the seed heads allow them to quickly burrow forward with the natural motion of a dog’s body. If they penetrate a dog’s body, they will cause discomfort and inflammation or infection. When foxtails are embedded, veterinary care is frequently required to alleviate the issue.

Consider the following tips to potentially avoid a summertime trip to the vet:

- Keep your dog on leash when walking/hiking in areas known to contain foxtails. This will prevent your dog from running through fields of dry grass and allow you to limit his immediate roadside or trailside access to the plants.
- Do not allow your dog to chew on or eat dried grass.
- Brush, comb, or manually inspect your dog’s coat for foxtails when you return from a walk. Remove any plant material identified. Be sure to take a look under his armpits, in between his toes, and in his ears.
- Eradicate foxtails in your home environment. It is ideal to pull up the plants and discard them before the dry season. Mowing the plants and discarding the clippings is also a reasonable alternative. It is not ideal to use a string trimmer, as this is more likely to disperse the seed heads. It is certainly not recommended to burn the foxtails, as initiating a wildfire is much too big of a risk for all concerned.
- Consider the use of protective gear for your dog. Booties can keep foxtails out of paws. There are even hairnet-like garments that can protect eyes, ears, mouths, and noses from foxtail penetration.



*In the warm seasons there is at least one doggie danger of which we should remain mindful—“foxtails.”*

Signs that your dog might have acquired a foxtail include excessive sneezing, gagging, ocular discharge or squinting, head-shaking, excessive licking at the paws or urogenital region, or skin swelling with possible draining tracts (particularly on the paws). Please contact your veterinarian’s office for advice if any of these signs are observed, but most likely a vet examination will be recommended.

Cats are certainly not immune to the potential harm of foxtails, but cats do not tend to require veterinary care nearly as often as do dogs. Signs of an embedded foxtail in a cat are similar to those mentioned above for dogs.

## PAHS' Online Kids Programs

### Touchy-Feely Talks Learning Videos Available on PAHS' Ewe Tube Channel

In response to school closures and stay at home restrictions, PAHS has created a series of mini-learning videos called *Touchy-Feely Talks: Fur, Feathers, Scales & Scutes*, featuring pets and their care: a virtual classroom filled with animals. Watch the videos at: <https://bit.ly/ewe-tube>. Animal specialists are welcome to contact PAHS about creating new video material; contact Leonor Delgado, PAHS' Education Manager, at: [leonor.delgado@paloaltohumane.org](mailto:leonor.delgado@paloaltohumane.org).

- Children will enjoy finding out what a scute is, along with learning more about dogs, cats, rabbits, bearded dragons, and other companion animals.
- Animal specialists share their expertise via live animal interaction.
- The specialists give practical tips on animal care for kids and parents.



Barbara Polk (l) and Diane Wasnak (r) of Bonzer Productions have created videos for Palo Alto Humane Society's new online learning program, *Touchy-Feely Talks*.



### Mow Wow Animals Teaching and Learning Curriculum Grades K-5

This multicultural, bilingual curriculum offers young people the opportunity to learn in a way that engages their empathy, imagination, and sense of excitement. Highlights include:

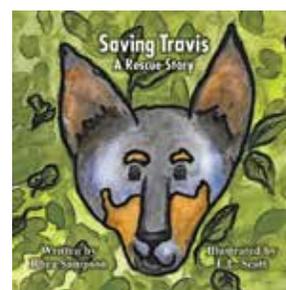
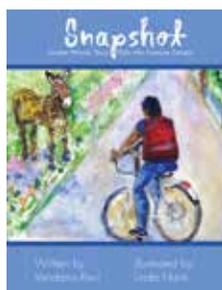
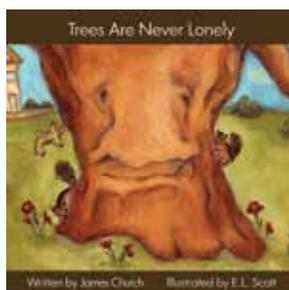
- Lessons on *Animals in the Natural World*, *Who Lives in the Backyard?*, and *Animals We Call Pets*
- Award-winning short film *It's a Dog's Day* and audio book *Trees Are Never Lonely*
- Interactive enrichment activities, glossary, and online and print resources
- Alignment with California teaching standards

Mow Wow Animals is great for classroom and at-home learning.

Visit [www.mowwow.org](http://www.mowwow.org).

## PAHS-Produced Children's Books

Coming Soon on Amazon and Available Now Through the PAHS Office



## PAHS Talks with Board Treasurer David Dang

### What attracted you to serving on the PAHS Board?

Whether it is volunteering at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, for ten years or as an alumnus starting a scholarship at my local high school, I've always enjoyed volunteer work and giving back to the community. Animal welfare has always been a big deal for me and coincidentally, while browsing online, I came across a job advertisement from Palo Alto Humane Society searching for board members, specifically a treasurer, that piqued my attention. As a finance executive, I figured and hoped my finance experience would be useful to PAHS. So I reached out, and fortunately, they said "yes" and elected me Treasurer. Four years later, the rest is history.

### What is your vision for the organization this year?

PAHS offers so many programs, and unfortunately the public is only aware of a fraction of all the great initiatives we provide and support. One of our major programs is "animal help," which encompasses more than just your regular spay and neuters. It also includes a wide range of help from veterinary assistance for strays to urgent veterinary care for pets. Another great program is "humane education" for the next generation of pet owners. We send volunteers to local schools in our community and teach young current/future pet owners about compassion for all animals. Teaching compassion for animals naturally bridges the gap in having compassion toward people, which hopefully makes the world a better place for everyone.

In the past few years, PAHS has received many generous donations which, in turn, have given us an increase in financial flexibility to invest back into our infrastructure and program development. You would be surprised how much PAHS has accomplished through the years with a very limited staff and volunteers. This year, I would like to invest more in our staff, provide training programs, and build overall infrastructure to allow us to expand our reach to more pets in need.



### What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

My day job as Vice President of Finance and Strategy at Zendesk keeps me pretty busy. I am a finance executive

by trade but an entrepreneur at heart, so working at Zendesk naturally makes a lot of sense. Here at Zendesk our goal is to provide service-first CRM software designed to help businesses of all sizes improve their customer relations.

However, my most rewarding job is being a dad to my one-year old little boy, Alexander. Finally, in whatever is left of "free" time, I'm an avid tennis player and love watching movies. But for now, spending time with my wife and son is more than enough fun for me.

## PAHS Supports No-Kill California

Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed a \$50 million addition to the California budget to equip the state's animal shelters with the resources to stop euthanizing healthy dogs and cats. This is truly welcome news to all who care about animals. PAHS has been a long-standing advocate for a no-kill policy. Newsom's proposed program "will provide expertise, support and local assistance to help local communities achieve the state's longstanding policy goal that no adoptable or treatable cat or dog is euthanized." This funding would give California's animal shelters more resources so that they would not be forced to euthanize healthy and treatable animals. California currently euthanizes more than 100,000 animals annually, making it the second-highest state, just behind Texas. Passage of Governor Newsom's proposal and its incorporation into the budget, to be decided in June, would create a much kinder and more caring, animal-friendly California.

Contact your State Senator and Assembly Member to voice your support for the proposal. To reach your State Senator, go to: <https://www.senate.ca.gov/senators>. To reach your Assembly Member, go to: <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers>.

## PAHS Board of Directors

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## Veterinary Program Managers

Megan McHugh  
Ann Nussbaum



## PAHS Welcomes New Board Member Jay Carter

PAHS is pleased to welcome Jay Carter to the Board of Directors. Jay is a corporate associate at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, and has represented PAHS as outside general counsel since March 2019. In addition to PAHS, Jay represents several Bay Area non-profit organizations and individuals on a pro bono basis. Jay was raised in the Bay Area and has been involved in animal rescue from a young age. He brings experience representing non-profit organizations in a variety of legal matters and a passion for animal rescue, rehabilitation, and education. We are grateful to Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati for providing pro bono legal services for Palo Alto Humane Society.

## PAHS on the Air—Sharing the Interview

KSCO Pet Radio interviewed PAHS Education Manager Leonor Delgado on Sunday, March 29. Pet Radio, out of Santa Cruz (KSCO 1080 AM), is broadcast every Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. Co-host Josh Stevens asked Leonor questions about all the exciting things happening at PAHS, with special emphasis on PAHS' community and education outreach. We hope you'll listen to the podcast of this interview by visiting the PAHS website.

## New Partnership with Andy's Pet Shop in San Jose

Andy's has a long history of community outreach with local groups rescuing a wide variety of pets including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, and different kinds of reptiles. Employees from Andy's promote education about the care of animals. They are now collaborating with us at PAHS in creating educational materials and participating in presentations to young people participating in our Critter Club and other programs.



*(L-R) Alex Tomono Rabenstein, volunteer with Andy's Pet Shop, and Leonor Delgado, Education Manager at PAHS. Photograph by Gerard T. Lum.*



**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](http://www.paloaltohumane.org)**

