

SACRAMENTO SPCA

# HEARTline

SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | [WWW.SSPCA.ORG](http://WWW.SSPCA.ORG) | SUMMER 2017



**GIVING & RECEIVING MORE**  
Volunteering at the Sacramento SPCA

**PEOPLE WHO LOVE ANIMALS**  
Honoring Those Who Give

**LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST**  
Introducing Fospice Care

# SAVE THE DATE



Food Tastings, Libations, Music,  
Silent and Live Auction and More!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2017

## ROARING 20'S PAWTY

A GALA TO BENEFIT THE ANIMALS



PRESENTED BY

**HUGHEY**  
LAW GROUP

[hugheylawgroup.com](http://hugheylawgroup.com)



5:00PM - 6:00PM VIP Reception  
6:00PM - 10:00PM Main Event



By Marnie Musser, Volunteer Manager



Barbara Kluender, a Sacramento SPCA volunteer since 2011, passed away on Friday, May 12th from ovarian cancer. According to her family, she often said she never had a bad day at the shelter. She looked forward to the Doggy Dash and the Spring & Fall Book Sales, as well as spending time with the shelter cats and dogs. During her time as a volunteer, Barbara adopted a kitten and a 14 year old dog from the Sacramento SPCA. She also was a founding member of the shelter's Senior Vaccine Clinic and was integral in constructing processes and procedures for the general flow of the clinic.

Barbara helped the Sacramento SPCA Adoption staff by screening potential adopters and also sorted newspapers one day a week. The last position she held at the shelter was as the phone operator, returning calls from the general public. Barbara logged thousands of hours and probably didn't log a thousand more.

The world is a little dimmer without her in it. Thank you, Barbara, for your spirit, energy and love.

## THE SACRAMENTO SPCA fosters a loving and compassionate community for animals and people by providing assistance, creating lifelong relationships and saving lives.

### 2017 Sacramento SPCA Board of Directors

Hallye Jordan, President  
 Susan Gray, Vice President  
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 Melody Healy  
 Zack Morgan, DVM  
 Nabil Musallam  
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 Susan Summers

### We are also most grateful to our advisory board members:

Fred Harrold  
 Shari LaForest Lasher, PsyD  
 Bill McGowan  
 Kitty O'Neal  
 Irene Campbell

### Project Manager & Designer

Dawn Foster  
 Director of Marketing & Communications,  
 Sacramento SPCA

### Designer

Karen Goff  
 Marketing Assistant, Sacramento SPCA

### Cover Photo

Patrick Storm  
 lemontreeagency.com

## MEET OUR STAFF...

**Chief Executive Officer**  
 Kenn Altine | (916) 504-2806

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**Director of Community Services**  
 Val Masters | (916) 504-2842

**Director of Marketing and Communications**  
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 Kristi Maryman | (916) 504-2802

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 Dan Marple | (916) 504-2864

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**Humane Education Coordinator**  
 Sue Banuelos | (916) 504-2849

**Chief of Shelter Medicine**  
 Laurie Siperstein-Cook, DVM  
 (916) 504-2815

**Chief of Surgery**  
 Giselle Chan, DVM | (916) 504-2814

**Social Media Associate/Foster Care Coordinator**  
 Sarah Varanini | (916) 504-2808

**Rescue Coordinator**  
 Nicole Cacy | (916) 504-2809

**Adoptable Goods Store Manager**  
 Michael West | (916) 442-8118

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## ON THE COVER

Nereo Rebellato, top fundraiser at the 2017 Doggy Dash poses in front of Gracie's Adoption Center with his three dogs, Angel (age 2), Ebony (age 11) and Coco (age 11).

Learn more about Nereo and some of the other dedicated Sacramento SPCA volunteers who donate their time and talents to help provide care for animals and support shelter staff. *Read the full story on page 4.*



# PEOPLE WHO LOVE ANIMALS

By Kenn Altine, Chief Executive Officer

**With apologies to Bill Nye: "It is my vision to change the world. I'm not kidding. Make no small plans. Dream mighty things. I believe if we can get enough people to engage in helping animals, we will get enough people to change the world."**

Each day, rain or shine, hot or cold, weekday or holiday, our volunteers show up. This past Memorial Day, the book barn team, which annually raises \$82,000, had seven volunteers sorting books and moving heavy boxes, all for the animals. Elsewhere that day, we had volunteers walking dogs, sorting newspapers and socializing cats.

We have volunteers who answer phones, sort mail, stuff envelopes, wash windows, unload trucks, deliver dog food, visit seniors and help

educate children. They fold laundry. They attend community events. They sell raffle tickets. They make gift baskets. They even paint lines on the parking lot.

Some have been with us for decades. Some help once a year. Nereo Rebellato (pictured above with Willis, a Chinchilla rabbit) spent 15 of the first 17 days of May doing something at or for the Sacramento SPCA. Raynia is 103 and still works behind the jewelry counter at Adoptable Goods, our downtown thrift store on "E" Street.

Rosa always has a smile and a big "hello" for everyone she meets. Ward likes to listen to Big Band music while he works in the puppy room. Manina always checks to see if there is a foster dog in any of the administration offices when she makes her rounds for the Kong Brigade.

We rely on our wonderful volunteers to help with many aspects of our shelter operations; to enrich the lives of the animals, support the staff and connect with the community. They are woven into the fabric of the organization and we would not be able to carry out our mission without them: to give more than shelter.

**The values that our volunteers and staff share are what makes our organization strong. Each supports the other: sometimes working in tandem, sometimes completing seemingly unrelated tasks. But each knows that what they do - and why they do it - matters to the animals. And it matters to me.**

As an organization, we would be hard-pressed financially to replace the work these amazing volunteers do. Most importantly, we would be poorer in spirit if we did not have them. We truly are lucky to be in the company of so many people who love animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenn Altine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenn Altine  
Chief Executive Officer



**AUG 30**

**WET NOSE WEDNESDAY**

Raley Field @ 7:05pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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. Sign up for eTales, our electronic newsletter, by visiting us at [sspca.org](http://sspca.org). (Submit your e-mail address at the bottom of the home page to stay connected.)

7 13 17

JULY 13 | 6 P.M. | YAPPY HOUR  
**Dog Days of Summer @ Der Biergarten**

7 22 17

JULY 22 | 12 P.M.  
**New Foster Parent Orientation**

8 10 17

AUG 10 | 7 P.M.  
**Splashy Hour @ Animal Den**

9 13 17

SEPT 13 | 6 P.M. | YAPPY HOUR  
**@ New Helvetia**

9 16 17

SEPT 16 | 10 A.M.  
**Estate Planning Seminars**

10 26 17

OCT 26 | 6 P.M. | YAPPY HOUR  
**Howl-o-ween @ Track 7 Natomas**

10 28 17

OCT 28 | 6 P.M.  
**Roaring 20's Pawty - Fall Fundraising Gala**

# JOIN OUR TEAM



## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION DATES

**JULY 8**  
10 A.M - 12 P.M.

**AUGUST 9**  
10 A.M - 12 P.M.

**SEPTEMBER 9**  
6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

For more information or to register, visit [www.sspca.org/orientation](http://www.sspca.org/orientation)

BILL SANTOS



## DOGGY DASH RAISES OVER \$244,000 FOR ANIMALS IN NEED

Because of the generous support of our sponsors, team and individual fundraisers, donors, pet product vendors, food/beverage vendors, registrants and festival attendees, we are pleased to announce that the 2017 Doggy Dash raised more than \$244,000 to help animals in need. Despite a few soggy moments at William Land Park on April 8th, this year's 2k/5k dog walk and pet festival proved to be the most successful in Dash history and was enjoyed by all in attendance. If you missed out on this year's event, be sure to Save the Date for Saturday, April 28th, 2018 for the Doggy Dash's 25th Anniversary!

Thank you again to all the participants and supporters who made this year's Doggy Dash a huge success! We look forward to you joining our pack in 2018 for the 25th Anniversary Celebration!

**"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language." —MARTIN BUBER | 3**



Jenna & Foster

## FOSTER



Peggy & Jerry

## GROOMING



Chad & Frankie

## DOG TRAINING

## BOOK BARN



The Crew & Banana



Jean

## DATA ENTRY



Marieda

## MAILING



Carol

## LAUNDRY

## LOVE ON LOAN



Sean & Pixie



Madeleine & Kevin Bacon  
Joan & Mather

## DOG WALKING



Slu & Dr. Pepper

## MEDIA

# GIVING & RECEIVING MORE

By Dawn Foster, Director of Marketing & Communications

What is a volunteer? What is the value of volunteering? Volunteering is about giving, contributing and helping other individuals and the community. Volunteering means working with others to make a meaningful contribution to a better community.

**People volunteer at the Sacramento SPCA for an endless variety of reasons. Many people want to interact with the animals, give back to their community, or help promote a cause near and dear to their heart. Others seek opportunities to create more life balance, offset work or family stress through selfless giving, meet new people or are simply looking to donate a specific skill set to support the staff and organization. The bottom line: they volunteer because it makes them feel good.**

In his two years as a Sacramento SPCA volunteer, Nereo Rellabato (*pictured upper right*) has served in a variety of important and meaningful capacities: Small Animal Team Leader, Pet of the Week Media Representative, Love on Loan Therapy Handler, Mobile Adoption Dog Walker and Doggy Dash fundraiser.



Nereo & Willis

As a passionate advocate for animals, Nereo's leadership and commitment have proven to be invaluable to the Sacramento SPCA; the animals, staff and fellow volunteers. During the 24th Annual Doggy Dash this April, Nereo led the pack in fundraising, personally raising more than \$7,200 in donations to help the Sacramento SPCA provide care for homeless animals. He attributes his fundraising success to having great connections with friends and family, believing completely in the cause, exercising persistence and following advice he received from his father: "There's always going to be hurdles, if you're not going to put your heart and soul into it, why do it at all?"

Nereo is not alone - he stands alongside so many others that are dedicated to contributing their time and talents to help a community of animals and the people who love them. At the Sacramento SPCA, volunteering is rich and diverse. It is not just about organizing volunteers for large events. It is thousands of volunteers committing to help animals and people through



PATRICK STORM

MEET THE SPCA VOLUNTEER STAFF  
Mackenzie Brittenham & Marnie Musser

various responsibilities both large and small. The Sacramento SPCA volunteer team is made up of people like Rosa (*pictured right*), who stops by each one of the small dog kennels upon arrival to drop off a soft treat and observe which dogs appear shy and need extra time preparing for a walk.

It is volunteers like Bob (*pictured right*), also known as "The Cat Man" who describes his 11-year volunteer experience at the Sacramento SPCA as "cheaper than therapy". Bob, who sought out a volunteer opportunity to help animals and offset work stress, found himself so content at the shelter one afternoon that he fell asleep with a cat in his arms.

**The value of volunteering is deeper, more fulfilling and more important in contributing to a healthy community than one can measure. It's giving more to the animals and those who volunteer to help them.**

Volunteering is fostering sick and underage animals, comforting children and nursing home patients through visits with therapy pets, laundering towels and blankets, assisting with humane education for children and helping with the weekly community cat spay/neuter clinics. It is acts of kindness such as helping seniors receive free vaccines for their pets, grooming animals with extreme matting, taking photos of adoptable animals for the website and delivering stuffed Kongs to dogs to reduce kennel stress. It is also less recognized tasks, such as sorting and mailing letters, organizing donated books and sorting through donations at the Adoptable Goods Store, answering phones, sorting newspapers and even assisting with planning large fundraising events.

These large and small acts, given freely, are what connect a community of people who love animals. It's easy to think about the positive impact that volunteering can have on the animals, but we don't often consider how rewarding it can be for the volunteer to reach out and make a difference. To learn more about current volunteer opportunities at the Sacramento SPCA and register for one of the upcoming Volunteer Orientation events shown on page 3, visit [www.sspca.org/orientation](http://www.sspca.org/orientation).



Rosa & Cookie



Bob & Baby Girl

PATRICK STORM



# FOSPICE CARE

To learn more about the new Fospice Program and how you can either become a foster volunteer or support the program in other ways, contact Sarah Varanini at [svaranini@sspca.org](mailto:svaranini@sspca.org)

## LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

By Sarah Varanini, Foster Care Coordinator/Social Media Associate

When you see Harry, you can't help but smile. Within seconds of meeting someone new, he will hop into your lap and smother you with kisses. Harry came to the Sacramento SPCA as a transfer from an overburdened shelter and immediately made an impression on all of the staff members. This happy-go-lucky pup with a silly hairdo was full of personality! We never imagined that such a joyful, bouncy dog was also in the late stages of renal failure.

**At the Sacramento SPCA, foster care is usually designed to help animals who are not yet ready for adoption - whether they are tiny, underage kittens or dogs who need a comfortable place to recover from surgery.** However, over the years, the SPCA has received more animals of an advanced age. Many of these dogs and cats have medical conditions typical of older animals, including dental disease, arthritis and more. While our shelter medicine team cares for many of these issues, some medical conditions go beyond treatment. How could we help these animals have the best quality of life for whatever time they have left? One answer: Fospice.

"Fospice" -- a combination of foster and hospice care -- is a brand new component of our Foster Care program. Thanks to a grant from Maddie's Fund, we spent a weekend with a senior dog rescue group learning the specifics about how to successfully manage this endeavor. But another question remained: How would we find people with loving homes willing to volunteer? These fospice families would need to provide love and care, but also be able to say goodbye when the time comes. So we turned to our supporters for help! We created an adorable video

of Harry and asked our social media community for volunteers. The response was surprising -- and overwhelming! Volunteers jumped at the chance to help Harry carry out his 'bucket list.'

Beatriz Gomez immediately contacted us and took Harry home to foster a few days later. Why did she volunteer? It just felt right. "I had toyed with the idea of fostering a dog for years but kept putting it off and procrastinating. When I saw Harry on Facebook, though, I knew this was the moment - I needed Harry just as much as he needed me!" says Gomez. After going through hospice care with both of her parents, Gomez wanted to honor her mother by giving another creature a chance to live life with no regrets. She discovered that helping Harry live life to the fullest has also changed her outlook on life. **"I've also found more value in my little moments as well. When I see Harry and Alfons (my adopted dog) staring at me with tails wagging, I'll put that laundry down and play with them,"** she explains. Gomez (pictured with Harry below) started an Instagram account for Harry (@harrys\_big\_adventures) documenting his experiences out in the world, including attending one of our own Yappy Hours!



Beatriz & Harry

When the time comes for Harry to cross the rainbow bridge, the Sacramento SPCA will be with them every step of the way. When asked how she prepares herself for the difficult moment, Gomez responds **"You have to take it moment by moment...I was drawn to the idea of fostering because I wanted to help a dog get ready for his forever family; with Harry, it was the idea of making sure he HAD his forever family, if only for a short time."**

# A CALMING TOUCH

By Dawn Foster, Director of Marketing & Communications

Each morning before we open our doors to the public at 11am, you'll find the Sacramento SPCA adoption center buzzing with staff and volunteers, tirelessly tending to the animals' needs; cleaning, caring, cuddling and walking the grounds.

On this Saturday morning, we find James and Joseph Scheil sitting just outside the Small Animal room with two bunnies on their laps, Willis and Cosmo. Robin, their mother, is nearby to assist with the animals.

James and Joseph are brothers, twin brothers to be exact; and for longer than they can remember, their family has loved the company of rabbits. In addition to growing up with rabbits as family pets, the Scheils also rescued and cared for homeless and abused rabbits on their large property until the animals could be rehomed.

So when the brothers were tasked to complete an Eagle Scout project, the Sacramento SPCA was a perfect place to start. They wanted to make an impact for the animals and the people who care for them, which they did through the construction of shelves for a document storage unit and "hidey hole" compartments for cats. Their work did not end there. The brothers wanted to give more to the Sacramento SPCA animals after their experience, so they joined the volunteer team.

James and Joseph can be found visiting the shelter once or twice per week, where they socialize with the rabbits and guinea pigs, helping the animals feel comfortable with being handled by people and increasing their likelihood for adoption. James explained, "People often call us the bunny whisperers because we've worked with rabbits all our life." Joseph added, "It's like therapy; petting and brushing them calms us and we enjoy talking to people and other volunteers while we are here."

In 2016, the 23-year-old brothers received their Sacramento SPCA Volunteer Gold Paw for contributing over 20 hours per week to the shelter during one year. Their work at the shelter has not only made a difference in the lives of the animals they care for, James and Joseph have acquired essential skills to assist them in finding employment through programs such as INALLIANCE.

INALLIANCE is a non-profit organization that connects people with developmental disabilities to volunteer opportunities that can improve their health, well-being and quality of life. Much like James and Joseph, Courtney (pictured below, right) also enjoys spending time with the small animals at the Sacramento SPCA. She visits the shelter several times per week through a volunteer partnership with INALLIANCE.

During her visits to the shelter, Courtney socializes with the small animals and finds that her time with Apple (a small Lionhead bunny pictured below) makes her feel calm. Using an application on her phone to assist with communication, Courtney types, "I love the rabbits, they calm my mind." Her coach, Ashmita, who assists Courtney during visits adds, "This opportunity is so great for our clients. Courtney looks forward to coming each week and seeing which animals were adopted since her last visit."

But rabbits aren't the only animals receiving attention. Ernie (pictured with Cooper below, left), who has been volunteering at the Sacramento SPCA for five years through INALLIANCE, is also trained to work with cats. Every Wednesday, Ernie visits the shelter with his coach to play with, cats, kittens and rabbits. "I like to come and look at all the cats, dogs and rabbits", Ernie says. "I don't have pets at home and it feels good to spend time with the animals."



James & Willis  
Joseph & Cosmo



Ernie & Cooper

For Courtney and Ernie, volunteering at the SPCA has encouraged better community involvement, improved health and wellbeing, building pre-vocational skills. "The SPCA has opened the door to new learning vocational skills that our participants may not have not previously considered or thought they were capable of doing," says Alonso Garcia, Community Engagement Coordinator at INALLIANCE. Volunteering gave Courtney and Ernie the opportunity to work with the animals by learning how to bathe, feed and nurse animals back to health, having an overall impact on the quality life of the animals in the shelter every day. The power of volunteering at the Sacramento SPCA for the participants of INALLIANCE is an invaluable experience.



Courtney & Apple

# GIVING MORE THAN SHELTER. SAVING ANIMALS ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

## IN HONOR OF

**Kenn Altine and his beloved furry darlings, Zed and Max**  
Joy Olson

**Smudge Marr**  
Veronica Gennai & Frank Marr

**"Bubba"**  
Cynthia A. Teixeira

**"The cats!"**  
Autumn Caesar-Walker

**"Sadie"**  
Rhonda E. Gage

## IN MEMORY OF

**Sumiko Esposito**  
Anthony J. Esposito

**Mr. Taylor (Nick) Finley**  
Tambour Eller

**Kathleen Gee**  
J. Steven Carrillo  
Susan Klein  
Craig Mogielnicki

**Barbara Kluender**  
Robert Florence  
Trish Pease  
Marisa Spar

**Geraldine Paulson**  
James Paulson

**Buddy Petersen**  
Melvin & Dawn Petersen

**Bob Young**  
Madeleine Scheiman

**"Blitz"**  
Brian & Doreen Lear

**"Fiona"**  
Susan & Gordon Scott

**"Le Tigre"**  
Graham Brownstein & Dana Gray

**"Midnight & Socks"**  
Edward & Ruth Street

**"Molly, Dobbie & Bandit"**  
Stephanie Shontz

**"Norah"**  
Marguerite R. Roth

**"Obi-One"**  
Susie Lopez

**"Wundermutt"**  
Joanne M. Ellis



Gifts received February 1 - May 31, 2017

Memorial and honorarium contributions totaling \$250 or more are listed in Heartline. Individual names reflect individual gifts.



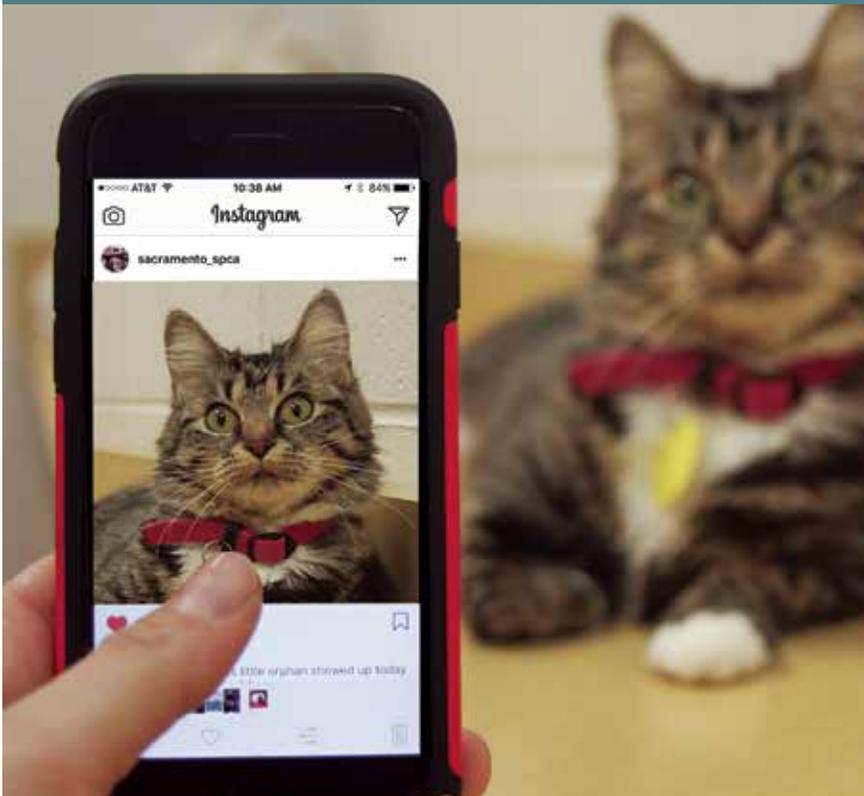
*Leaving Behind a Lifeline...*

**ATTEND THE NEXT FREE ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 FROM 10:00 - 11:30AM**

[www.sspca.org/estateplanning](http://www.sspca.org/estateplanning)

Follow the Sacramento SPCA on social media and be among the first to know. Join us today!



**LIKE US.  
FOLLOW US.  
TWEET US.  
JOIN US.**



[facebook.com/SacSPCA](https://facebook.com/SacSPCA)



[@SacramentoSPCA](https://twitter.com/SacramentoSPCA)



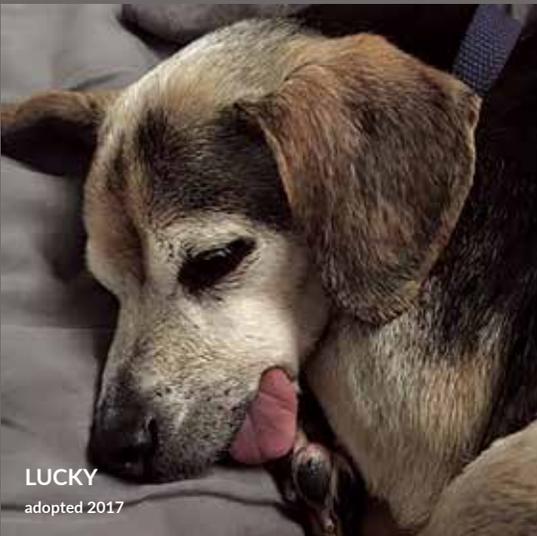
[sacramento\\_spca](https://instagram.com/sacramento_spca)

DARLA  
adopted 2017



SARGE  
adopted 2015

GOLDIE  
adopted 2016



LUCKY  
adopted 2017



BUCKY  
adopted 2017

“ Too often older dogs are overlooked and while they do come with special needs, they return love in large quantities. How lucky am I to have Bucky? Very lucky. ”

- Bucky's New Mom



BONBON  
adopted 2017

## HEARTBEATS celebrates Sacramento SPCA alums!

To have your companion considered for our next issue, submit a high-resolution, close-up photo of your Sacramento SPCA alum to [www.sspca.org/happy-tale](http://www.sspca.org/happy-tale). 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 and/or on our social media pages.



SACRAMENTO  
SPCA

SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

6201 Florin Perkins Road  
Sacramento, CA 95828  
(916) 383-PETS | [www.sspca.org](http://www.sspca.org)

**Adoption Center Hours**

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

**Vaccination Clinic Hours**

Mon-Tues, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Closed Wed-Sun

**Spay/Neuter Clinic Hours**

By appointment only - (916) 504-2810

**Animal Intake Hours**

Wed-Sun, by appointment only  
(916) 504-2851

**Adoptable Goods SPCA Store Hours**

1517 E Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tues-Wed, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Thurs-Sat, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Closed Monday

Did you know Sacramento SPCA accepts vehicle donations?



Our furry friends  
could use your  
four wheels

Running or Not.

Free Pick Up.

Tax Deductible.

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TO SACRAMENTO SPCA!**

The Sacramento SPCA believes in saving and helping the greatest number of animals with as many of our resources as possible. Your gift of a vehicle donation will help us continue to provide quality care, pet services and a safe refuge to thousands of animals. Help us create a more loving and compassionate community for animals and people alike. Donate your vehicle today!

Give a helping paw - donate your vehicle today!  
**844-700-GIVE | [sspca.org/vehicle](http://sspca.org/vehicle)**



**STUFFED KONG RECIPE**

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Equal parts of ground/canned wet dog food and 100% Pumpkin
- Add creamy peanut butter for consistency (avoid brands containing Xylitol\*)
- Add some banana
- Sprinkle a little cinnamon

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Squoosh all ingredients together
- Fill Kong about 1/3 at the wide opening
- Seal wide and small openings with PB
- Stick a dog cookie in the wide end
- Place in freezer (you can also freeze balance of mixture)

For easy clean up, it's best to give the Kong to pups outside or on a hard surface.

Courtesy of the Kong Brigade Volunteers



Manina, Trish & Rachael