

A SAFE Haven for Animals

GIVING 100 PERCENT Page 3 A LOVE OF ANIMALS AND TRAVEL Page 4 LEADING CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY Page 5

Whiskers in Wonderland

Sacramento SPCA's

↔ An Enchanting Evening For the Animals ↔ Saturday, October 22, 2022 ↓ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Presented by:

Man

DROBNY LAW OFFICES

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION SACRAMENTO. STOCKTON. MODESTO. RENO SAN RAMON. PALO ALTO. SAN DIEGO

The Sacramento SPCA is taking guests on a trip down the rabbit hole and hosting this year's Whiskers in Wonderland, an enchanting evening to support the animals and the people we serve.

Join us on October 17th to partake in the mobile silent auction to bid on captivating auction items!

Mobile Silent Auction

The Whiskers in Wonderland mobile silent auction will open on Monday, October 17th! Guests will be able to bid online for a variety of exciting auction items. The silent auction will close at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 22nd.

Learn more at sspca.org/gala

WHY TRADE YOUR OLD VEHICLE? Donate it to help animals in need

We accept vehicles whether they are running or not.

Free pick up is provided and donations are tax deductible.

(844) 700-GIVE | sspca.org/vehicle



THE SACRAMENTO SPCA

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

2022 Sacramento SPCA Board of Directors

Bill Altavilla, President Susan Gray, Secretary Valerie Letch, Treasurer Kristin Beard King Heather Candy Maren Christie Nancy Field, MD Zack Morgan, DVM

We are also most grateful for our advisory board members:

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Project Management & Design

Jessica Shijo, Marketing & Brand Specialist

Cover Photo

Sarah Varanini

The Sacramento SPCA is an independent, local non-profit organization that is solely dependent on donations to continue our work on behalf of the animals and the communities we serve. We are not affiliated in any way with the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) nor HSUS (Humane Society of the United States). All monies donated to us stay right here in Sacramento, helping animals – and the people who love them – in our own communities.

MEET OUR STAFF

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

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Chief Development Officer Sarah Haney | (916) 504-2805

Director of Marketing & Communications Dawn Foster | (916) 504-2828

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Intake Manager Brandy Joseph | (916) 504-2829

Adoption Manager Nicole Sullivan | (916) 504-2860

Spay/Neuter Clinic Manager Lydia Caronna | (916) 504-2820

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the CEO
A Love of Animals and Travel4
Leading Care in Our Community $\dots 5-6$
There's No Place Like Home7
Care For Community Cats8
Memorial/In Honor of9
Heartbeats10

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ON THE COVER Meet Cesar and check-in with the Anima Health Center on the lifesaving care he and others received this year. Pages 5-6

GIVING 100 PERCENT

By Kenn Altine

"Giving because we think we will get something back will not work. You must be 100 percent willing to give and never experience any return, or it will not work." - John Templeton

I was thinking about this quote after having a difficult day at work. Usually, I end these days by walking around the campus talking with our amazing staff and volunteers, having a quiet visit with a cat waiting to be adopted or – always a sure bet – being greeted with overwhelming love by my dogs when I walk in the front door at home. Talk about giving 100%!

But last week, I decided to end my day by reaching out to a couple of our donors. Two in particular are always a delight to talk to, because their only concern is that the animals are well and that we are here to help them. I've never had to ask them for support, and they have always given without asking for anything in return. Their joy in sharing their love for animals is infections and I always end our calls feeling grateful and humbled by their generosity.

In this issue of Heartline, I hope you will learn what giving without expectation of gain means to our volunteers, your fellow supporters, and to our animals. In the picture with me on this page is Dulce, a sweet young Doberman mix who loves to give



Kenn Altine with Dulce. See another lovely photo of Dulce on page 6!

kisses despite her physical pain from a fractured pelvis. She doesn't share this love in exchange for medical care – she gives it because it is her nature.

It is our nature to help. When the city shelter asked us to take in and care for this injured dog, we did not ask, nor expect, anything in return. We simply gave 100%, because of Zoe K. McCrea, who gave without asking for anything in return when we looked for funding for a new health clinic. And Zoe gave again when she and a group of passionate cat supporters wanted to make spay and neuter of our community's free-roaming cats 100% free to the public.

And you'll read about Nancy Vise, a person who gives of her time and her money in supporting animals – and does so in a way that allows her to enjoy 100% of her love of travel.

You'll also see how our staff gave 100% in reuniting a dog and its family after – well, I won't spoil the story, but will warn you to have tissues nearby when you read it.

I'll end with another quote, this one from comedian Bill Murray: "Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood."

Gratefully,

Kenn Altine Chief Executive Officer

A PASSION FOR ANIMALS AND TRAVEL

In early 2011, while Nancy Vise was waiting to pick up a feral cat receiving surgery at the Sacramento SPCA's spay/neuter clinic, she wandered into Gracie's Adoption Center to look around. She never imagined the volunteer brochure that she discovered that day would launch the beginning of a wonderful journey at the Sacramento SPCA.

Until that moment, Nancy's interaction with the shelter was limited to utilizing the spay/neuter clinic to alter a colony of feral cats living in her neighborhood. She learned about the shelter's TNR program and began visiting the Sunday clinics in 2010.

Though she had volunteered for other organizations during the six years since her retirement, Nancy was looking for meaningful ways to help animals that also allowed her flexibility to focus on her other passion, traveling. She quickly signed up for the shelter's next volunteer orientation and was pleasantly surprised to learn about all the different jobs available to volunteers.

Nancy started her volunteer journey at the Sacramento SPCA as a photographer, taking photos of adoptable cats for the shelter's website. Helping the cats get adopted by replacing the intake photo with a new one was so rewarding that she completed the dog training and started taking pictures of the adoptable dogs.

Because Nancy enjoys variety and learning new things, she continued to look for other ways to help the animals and the people at the shelter. She began assisting the development team more than seven years ago by folding/stuffing/labeling thank you letters and was later trained on how to perform data entry of donations. This is one of her favorite and mostregular volunteer responsibilities – unless she is traveling, you are sure to see Nancy's smiling face in the administration office every Wednesday.

In addition to her weekly responsibilities in development, Nancy is also a foster volunteer. She routinely cares for kittens, helping them grow big and strong, and she has also cared for several litters of puppies. "I remember receiving a litter of five kittens that were only two days old they still had their umbilical cords, and I was up every two hours to feed them," Nancy said. "It was rewarding and a lot of work!"

Over the years, Nancy has cashiered for special events; the Fall Booksale, Gala, and Doggy Dash. She has helped with mobile adoption events, where she would take dogs out into the community to get a break from the shelter and meet potential adopters. One of the experiences that Nancy enjoys the most as a volunteer is being able to talk with people in the community about the Sacramento SPCA. "People are so friendly and appreciative of what the organization does," Nancy said.

Nancy has also helped with many short-term shelter projects as well. In 2018, she assisted animal care with cleaning kennels for three hundred rabbits temporarily housed at the shelter. She has helped pull voicemails, return client calls, and worked in adoptions, greeting guests and entering adopter info into Petpoint.

"That's what I love about working with the Sacramento SPCA," Nancy adds. "There are so many opportunities to give back – I enjoy the variety of tasks as well as the freedom in scheduling."



And scheduling is important because Nancy's other passion is traveling. This year alone, Nancy has traveled abroad with her close friends across Southern Europe and domestically to Hawaii and Alaska.

In addition to the numerous ways Nancy gives of her time at the Sacramento SPCA, she also supports the shelter's work through monetary gifts. "Being here and seeing how the staff works with one other and the animals, how the organization and staff are focused on the animal's welfare and care, makes it easy for me to support the shelter financially as well," said Nancy.

Today, you will often find Nancy and her 7-year-old Maltese pup, Lexi (adopted from the Sacramento SPCA in 2020), supporting the emotional needs of humans through participation in the shelter's pet therapy program, Love on Loan. "Lexi loves greeting people and going places – she is the sweetest dog, and I'm so grateful to have her," Nancy said. This summer, Nancy and Lexi enjoyed visiting more than 100 children who attended camp kindness over an eight-week period. Through the Love on Loan program, this dynamic duo also visits children and seniors in the community who are not able to have a pet of their own.

Nancy's 11-year journey as a volunteer at the Sacramento SPCA reminds us that there are many meaningful ways, large and small, that a person can make a difference in the lives of animals and people in our community. She added, "When I sat down to think about all the ways I've been involved with the organization over the years, I thought, wow, that's kind of amazing!"

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Sacramento SPCA, visit **sspca.org/volunteer** to sign up for the next orientation or contact Rayla Maier, Volunteer Supervisor, at rmaier@sspca.org or (916) 504-2807.

The Sacramento SPCA is also looking for volunteers to join the Love on Loan program. Like Nancy and Lexi, you and your beloved animal can bring pet companionship and joy to those who may otherwise not be able to experience it. To learn more about Love on Loan or to schedule an evaluation for your pet, visit **sspca.org/loveonloan** or contact Natalie Vergara, Community Engagement Specialist, at nvergara@sspca.org or (916) 504-2847.

LEADING CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY

By Dawn Foster, Director of Marketing ♂ Communications

When we began dreaming about creating a state-of-the-art clinic in 2018, we talked to a lot of other organizations and made site visits to other clinics. Each time, we heard the same two pieces of advice:

- If you build it, they will come (i.e. "The need is there")
- Build larger than you think you need (i.e. "The need is greater than you think.")

We listened, and set a vision to construct the animal health center that the community needs now and equip it to meet the needs of the animals and the people who love them in the future.

The Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center performed its first surgeries in January 2021, and within 4 months, we had a fully operational spay/neuter clinic, vaccine clinic, and shelter medicine wing.

What we did not plan on, likely could not have planned for, was becoming the largest provider of affordable veterinary care in Northern California, helping nearly 50,000 animals our first year alone.

By the end of 2021, the spay/ neuter clinic was operating 7 days a week, performing more than 1,700 surgeries monthly and exceeding pre-pandemic surgery totals for the year. At the same time, the vaccine clinic expanded to 4 days a week and was vaccinating more than 2,500 animals every month. Our shelter medicine team was also treating an increased number of animals entering our doors with extended medical care needs. Animals like Cesar.

Like many animals in crisis, Cesar was brought to the Sacramento SPCA when his owner could no longer care for him due to his own declining health. Saying yes to animals like Cesar, an 8-year-old French bulldog who arrived with a severely infected eye and had difficulty breathing, is what we do. After removing Cesar's painful eye and performing soft palate surgery – a surgery commonly needed by these smoosh-faced breeds - Cesar found a new home.

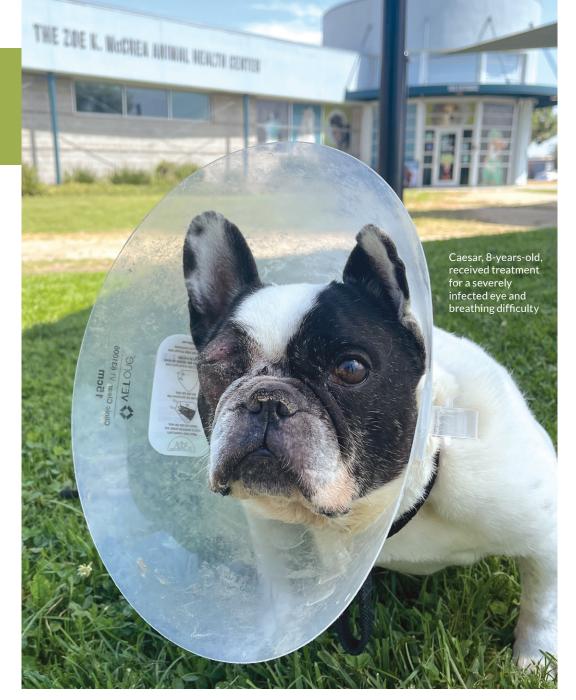
NEW CHALLENGES

The Sacramento SPCA has always been a safe haven for animals like Cesar. And, even though the McCrea Center expanded our community's access to low-cost veterinary services in the 20 months since it opened, demand for pet care during the pandemic increased exponentially in our region and across the nation.

Before COVID warning bells were already sounding about a growing shortage of veterinarians across the country. In 2018, there were only 100,000 licensed vets practicing in the United States, with 11,000 of them in California. Demographers were anticipating a shortage of more than 10,000 vets by the year 2030.

Add in the rising cost of medical supplies, staff shortages across every industry, burnout in medical and veterinary fields, and the great resignation of seasoned veterinary professionals, and the crisis grew, with an estimated national shortage of 15,000 by 2030.

The real-time impact means extended wait times for appointments at private clinics and increased costs that have made it difficult for many pets and their people to access veterinary care in our region. And when pets are





in crisis, they often end up at the Sacramento SPCA.

This was the case with Dulce, a 9-month-old Doberman who was hit by a car and taken to the Sacramento City shelter on Front Street. Due to the nature of her injuries, and because municipal shelters across California have struggled to retain and hire their own vets, the City shelter reached out to us for veterinary support.

In 2022, we have taken in severely injured animals from Sacramento City, Sacramento County, Amador County, Alameda County, Stanislas County, and Shasta County.

That is because even though the Sacramento SPCA has experienced many of the same challenges facing veterinary practices in our community, specifically around the staffing of veterinarians and medical support staff, we took action to ensure we would always be able to help animals, like Dulce, whose health issues were life-threatening.

LEADING VETERINARY CARE

When Dr. Giselle Chan stepped away from her Chief of Surgery role this year to dedicate more time to family and personal health, we quickly began recruiting and interviewing candidates passionate about advancing surgery and veterinary medicine at the Sacramento SPCA.

We received applications from candidates far and wide with the desire to create more lifesaving opportunities for pets in our region.

This not only resulted in us hiring a new Chief of Surgery but also several other veterinarians and support staff to fill out the surgery and shelter medicine teams.

After joining the Sacramento SPCA clinic team as a part-time spay/neuter surgeon almost 2 years earlier, Dr. Michelle Meyer applied for and accepted the Chief of Surgery position this past June. Dr. Meyer has more than 15 years of experience in veterinary medicine and brought a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to the team. She is a gifted surgeon and brings a dedication to helping animals and people to this vital leadership role.

"I get to be a part of a team that is the lifeline for animals in our community," said Dr. Meyer. "I go home each night thinking about the animals that impacted my day, and I smile."

Dr. Meyer and Chief of Shelter Medicine Dr. Laurie Siperstein-Cook are leading the lifesaving team at the Sacramento SPCA to great new heights as we begin focusing on the emerging pet health needs of our community.



Dr. Laurie Siperstein-Cook (left) and Dr. Michelle Meyer (right) with Rick, a kitten who received an amputation following a traumatic leg injury.

"I've enjoyed working at the Sacramento SPCA for 15 years because we are continually innovating how we can help animals," said Dr. Siperstein-Cook. "Having amazing teams in every area allow us to save more lives, improve our quality of care, and keep pets in their homes."

WHAT'S NEXT?

In addition to continuing to expand access to our low-cost spay/neuter services, we are currently exploring ways to provide additional veterinary support in our community to those who can't access care elsewhere.

The Sacramento SPCA already partners with other overwhelmed shelters in our region to provide specialized care to animals in crisis (helping animals like Dulce); we hope to expand those resources to veterinary hospitals that are struggling to say yes to animals due to lack of resources or the cost of care.

By referring clients to other lowcost clinics and offering surgical options for low-income families at the Sacramento SPCA, we will help pets access the critical care they need, keep pets with their people, and support our veterinary community.

> "We are incredibly grateful for the 15-plus years that Dr. Chan has dedicated to the continual advancement of care and surgical capacity at the Sacramento SPCA"

> > - Jamie Larson, Director of Animal Services.



There's No Place Like [∨]Home∵"

by Mia Solis-Martinez, Lead Animal Intake Associate

We never forget the animals in our lives, but do they remember us?

A few months ago, a young man came into our Intake/Lost & Found lobby waving a piece of paper and saying "you found my dog!"

This in itself wasn't unusual. We daily reunited pets that got out of their yards and ended up as a stray in our kennels. But it quickly became evident that this wasn't someone whose dog jumped the fence over the weekend. The piece of paper was a letter from the Sacramento SPCA saying an animal's microchip had been traced back to the man's address.

Three days earlier, an elderly man had surrendered an 8-year-old dog that he could no longer care for. It had been his son's, and the man "inherited" the dog when his son entered the military. He didn't know much about Bruno, a gray Staffordshire Terrier mix, not even how his relative had acquired the dog.

Part of our standard practice is to check every animal that comes through our doors for a microchip. Bruno had a chip, but it didn't match the name or address of the family surrendering him. Additionally, the dog's file indicated

he had been listed as "lost" in 2016. A quick call to the registered owner showed the phone number on the chip was no longer accurate, so we sent a letter to the registered address. That letter is what the man was waving in the air – the written embodiment of his hope that we indeed had his dog, who had been missing for six years!

As a pet parent, there's nothing scarier than discovering that your four-legged friend is missing. For most families, their pet is often wandering close to home and will return on their own or receive help from a neighbor. But for those pets who don't make it home right away, their owners are left waiting and worrying.

The best and quickest way to be

reunited with your cherished pet is

Mac at the Sacramento SPCA

to have a microchip implanted. It's about the size of a grain of rice, but makes all the difference if your cat has been gone a week, your dog got out last night, or, in this case, your furry friend has been gone for years.

The young man waited patiently for his turn at the counter, then pulled out his phone to show pictures of Bruno (whose name was actually Mac) as a puppy. We showed him the photo of the dog from our database and his excitement grew. He called his mom and said "it's him! I think it's really him."

When Bruno/Mac was brought out, he approached the man cautiously. Our staff worried that he might be wary of a stranger. But after a few quick sniffs, Mac's caution turned to joy as his ears came up, his tail went into overdrive and his long-lost human knelt down to hug him.

At a place where connecting people and pets is our daily business, this moment still created a room of tearful eyes and wide smiles.

> To make an appointment to get a microchip for your pet, visit **sspca.org/microchip**





MORE CARE FOR COMMUNITY CATS

Working to protect and improve the lives of free-roaming cats has always been important at the Sacramento SPCA. Since 2007, more than 40,000 cats have been altered, vaccinated and received flea/ear mite treatments through the shelter's trap, neuter, and release (TNR) program.

While the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center dedicates every Sunday to the health of community cats, providing free surgeries to more than 85 cats in Sacramento County each week, we have continued to explore additional ways to save more lives through new initiatives.

Once such partnership was launched this September in collaboration with and funded by Zoe K. McCrea, Kathy Lelevier, Dr. Nancy Field, and Mary Clark. The Sacramento SPCA Feline Spay and Neuter Fund was created to directly support the need for access to more spay/ neuter surgery appointments for community cats outside of the Sunday clinics.

By covering all the fees associated with 10 surgical slots for cats in Sacramento County Monday through Saturday, this fund removes the financial barrier for individual trappers and will increase access to care for more than 2,800 community cats each year.

Thanks to this new fund and ongoing support of the Sacramento SPCA's community cat program, more free-roaming cats in our region will live happier, healthier lives.

Thank you to the following donors who have contributed to the Feline Spay and Neuter Fund:

Mary & Kevin Clark Dr. Nancy T. Field Mark M. Glickman Rick & Fran Kavooras Kathy Lelevier & Richard Rose Zoe K. McCrea

To make a gift in support of this fund, please contact Sarah Haney, Chief Development Officer, at 916-504-2805 or shaney@sspca.org.



Tuesday, 11/1 - Sunday, 11/6 11:00 am - 5:00 pm For more information, visit sspca.org/booksale

Come by the Sacramento SPCA to peruse our wide variety of books for sale and support the animals!

For questions, contact Jessica Miller, Special Events Coordinator, at jmiller@sspca.org or (916) 504-2868.



GIVING MORE THAN SHELTER.[®] SAVING ANIMALS ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

IN HONOR OF

Christina Cano Luna

Harold Ginsberg Leland

Mark M. Glickman Dr. Mever & Dr. Williams

Andrea Haverland Bueller the Bulldog

Deborah Millais Charlotte Millais

W Myers Bella

Michele Nilsen Edwin Balli & Andrea Ayala

Olaya Slaughterback Stu-Man

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IN MEMORY OF

Sears Beth Cecil Melvin

Suzanne Caruso Kate

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John Silici

Mark M. Glickman Tabitha

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Tamara Rodriguez Lauri Nicolosi

Jane Rosario Robert H. Graham MD

Myrna Rudman Daisy and Goldie

Edgardo Salcedo Isaac

Gifts received February 1, 2022 -July 31, 2022

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

Jodi Samuels

Captain Jack

Jennifer Truhett

Susan K. Reece

Linda K. Wark

Linda K. Wark

Larry Patterson

Steve Woodward

Beverly Woodward

Sadie



IN LOVING MEMORY OF SACRAMENTO SPCA ALUMNI WHO CROSSED OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE



Richard E. Friel

Mary Joanna

Veronica Gennai Grevstoke Marr

Veronica Gennai Mini Marr

Mark M. Glickman



SACRAMENTO SPCA ALUMS THAT HAVE FILLED THE HEARTS OF THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS To have your companion considered for our next issue of *Heartline*, submit a high-resolution close-up photo of your Sacramento SPCA alum to:

www.sspca.org/happy-tale

Please include his/her name, age, photo and adoption date. You can even include a little blurb about how much you love your pet!

We will feature some top photos based on quality in Heartbeats and on our social media pages.



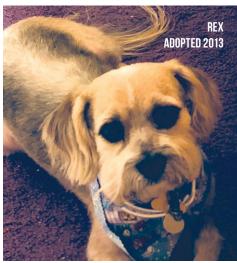
FINN, ADOPTED 2022

When Finn came home he was very scared & under socialized. After a couple days he really warmed up to me. He started playing with toys and going on very short walks. He met our resident dog Oliver and they are best friends. They LOVE to play in our dog play yard. He has been a wonderful addition, and I'm so glad we were able to take him home. Finn is on the left & Oliver on the right in the photo!













EMMY, ADOPTED 2021

When I adopted Emmy, she was in a foster home due to self-inflicted injuries on her head/face. She was itchy, anxious, and so so little. Now, her injuries have healed up thanks to some TLC and a grain-free diet! She gets along perfectly with my other Persian kitty and is free to be her silly, goofy self. I'm so happy the Sacramento SPCA took a chance and helped her in every way they could. She's perfect!



SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

6201 Florin Perkins Road Sacramento, CA 95828 (916) 383-PETS

www.sspca.org



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ADOPTION HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

sspca.org/adoptable

VACCINATION CLINIC HOURS

By Appointment Only

sspca.org/vaccinations

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC HOURS

By Appointment Only

sspca.org/spayneuter

PET SURRENDER & **ANIMAL SUPPORT HOURS**

By Appointment

sspca.org/intake

Monday - Sunday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

FREE ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

Saturday, November 5, 2022 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Via Zoom

Providing for the care of your loved ones - both two- and four-legged - in your estate plan is important.

We would like to invite you to join us for a complimentary Estate Planning Seminar. Special Guest Speaker: Mark S. Drobny, Attorney, Drobny Law Offices, Inc.

For more information or to reserve your seat, visit sspca.org/estate or call Sarah Haney, Director of Development at (916) 504-2805.



To View All Events Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/SacSPCA or visit our events page at sspca.org/events

Keep Current on the Latest Sacramento SPCA Happenings Sign up for eTales, our electronic newsletter, by going to sspca.org. (Submit your email address at the bottom of the page.)

OCTOBER 22 SATURDAY	OCTOBER 28 FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 6
Whiskers in Wonderland, an Enchanting Evening 6:00pm - 10:00pm sspca.org/gala	Howl-O-Ween Yappy Hour Bike Dog Brewing & Baker Family Wines sspca.org/yappy-hour	Fall Booksale 11:00am - 5:00pm sspca.org/booksale
NOVEMBER 5 SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 29 TUESDAY	DECEMBER 10 SATURDAY



SAVE THE DATE NOV 29, 2022

#GIVINGTUESDAY