



Pictured above is Mama Goose, a feral cat in Sacramento and the 300,000th animal to be altered at the Sacramento SPCA!

To learn more about this amazing milestone and how the Sacramento SPCA is altering the future for cats in our community, flip to page 5.

300.000

Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed Since 2007

50.000

Feral/Community Cat Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed Since 2007

4.000

Feral/Community Cat Surgeries
Performed in 2023 as of Aug 17th

Join the Online Silent Auction!

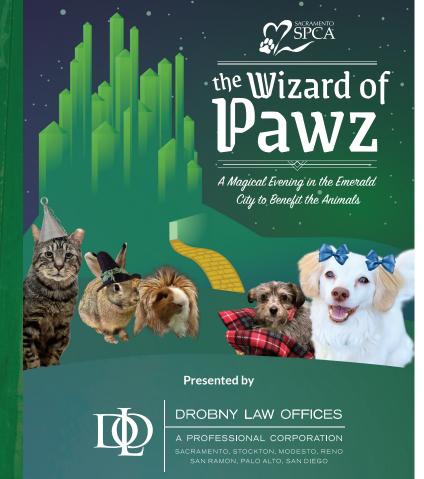
The Sacramento SPCA is guiding guests down the yellow brick road and hosting this year's Wizard of Pawz, a magical evening in the Emerald City to benefit the animals!

While the event is sold out, you can still support the animals through the mobile silent auction!

Join us on October 16th to bid on captivating auction items!

The Wizard of Pawz online silent auction will open on Monday, October 16th! Guests will be able to bid online until the auction closes at 7:30 pm on Saturday, October 21st.

SSPCA.ORG/GalaSilentAuction





THE SACRAMENTO SPCA

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

2023 Sacramento SPCA Board of Directors

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Project Management & Design

Dawn Foster, Marketing & Communications Director Sarah Varanini, Communications Manager 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

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1++

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Feline Release Coordinator Emily Egle | (916) 504-2808

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ON THE COVER

Read about Bruno's journey from our CEO on page 3 and how behavior enrichment programs are helping dogs like him on page 4.



"During a recent walk with Bruno, a 6-year-old Australian Cattle dog mix who has been at the shelter for more than two months, I'm reminded that what we do every day, is extraordinary."

COMPASSION IN ACTION

Recently, I had the opportunity to walk around the campus with Bruno, a 6-year-old Australian Cattle dog mix who has been at the shelter for more than two months. It gave me a chance to get to know him better as well as see the extraordinary work our team of staff and volunteers do every day.

I am so very fortunate to be part of such an incredible organization. Everywhere I look, I see compassion in action – compassion for animals, for people, and for one another.

A walk with Bruno wasn't an option when he first arrived at the Sacramento SPCA. He was extremely shut down and had to be carried to and from his kennel. Because he spent most of his life outside with little socialization, he has struggled in the shelter environment.

But we were committed to trying to find ways to make him feel more comfortable, more confident, and to learn more about him so we can find him the right home. Thanks to new enrichment programs developed by our Behavior team, Bruno has built a small circle of human friends that he trusts, which has helped him come out of his shell.

That, at its core, is what makes this organization so special: we try – no matter what – we always try to help the animals and people who come to us every day.

Whether it's a new treatment, a new process, or a new program – staying flexible and always being willing to try is what sets the Sacramento SPCA apart. That commitment, along with the unwavering generosity of our supporters, like those who launched and funded the Feline Spay and Neuter Fund, has propelled us to reach a milestone this year of the 300,000th spay and neuter surgery since we started offering this important public service in 2007.

And if that wasn't extraordinary enough, we are accomplishing all of this during a time when every facet of animal welfare in our region and across the nation is struggling to keep up with demand.

Why? Because compassion in action begins with you.

For animals like Bruno (who was adopted as this publication went to print), your support means we have the ability to try new approaches and programs – and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Kenn Altine Chief Executive Officer



by Dan Marple Animal Welfare Manager

Sit! Stay! Shake! These are three words every dog owner knows well and usually associate as the standard for "perfect" behavior in dogs. Since we are unsure what training (if any) many of the dogs receive prior to arriving at the Sacramento SPCA, we must start from the beginning with each dog.

Over the past few years, the population of dogs entering the Sacramento SPCA has shifted greatly.

Those needing the most help now are large, unsocialized young dogs, like Shepherds, Huskies, and Bully breeds. We have also seen an increase of large mixed breed puppies coming through every door of our shelter. There are many reasons for these increases, such as housing/rental

restrictions, rising cost of living, and people obtaining unaltered dogs from sources other than shelters and rescues.

With the needs of the animals entering our shelter and shelters across the nation changing, the Sacramento SPCA realized a change to our Behavior Departments direction was also needed.

For many years, the Sacramento SPCA focused on offering behavior and training classes to the public, but during the pandemic, we shifted gears to redirect our attention on the dogs in our care - to ensure their success while at the shelter and set them up for adoption.

The behavior team redesigned the internal behavior protocols to focus on more enrichment, like offering puzzle toys, snuffle mats, and scented toys, that reward the individual dog's needs. With this change, we educated our staff and volunteers on better ways to handle, walk, and interact with dogs daily. We have also trained and empowered our volunteers to do more in-kennel enrichment, like sitting in the kennel with the dogs or reading a book to them. In addition, we developed the new Active Adolescent program, which is a volunteer-based program that provides the young, active dogs mentally stimulating activities, like puzzle toys, to refocus some of their high energy into positive experiences.

In order to make all these changes possible, we had to hire a strong person to lead the evolution of behavioral change. That person is Vanessa Vaughn. Vanessa started her journey at the Sacramento SPCA in Animal Care, where she excelled to a Lead Animal Care Attendant during her seven-year tenure. During that time, she developed her skills in animal handling and gained a better understanding of what the dogs needed each day.

When it was time to select someone to lead the Behavior team, Vanessa was an easy choice to become the shelter's new Animal Behavior Supervisor.

In this new role and with her extensive Animal Care experience, Vanessa immediately began working closely with the dogs who were displaying high anxiety or stress in the shelter, and found ways to get them out of their kennels to experience positive interaction with people and increase their adoptability.

Working closely with Caitlin Brown, the shelter's Behavior Enrichment Coordinator, the Behavior team has created a pathway for many of our fearful or anxious dogs to find their way to the adoption floor and into successful loving homes. One of those dogs is named Pebbles, a 3-year-old Bully mix, who came to the Sacramento SPCA as part of a hoarding case. Pebbles was very stressed and did not trust people. She became a focus of the Behavior team - to see if they could build the trust needed to improve in the shelter. Working with staff and volunteers, and after a lot of treats and outside time, Pebbles created a "friend" group, started to come out of her shell and showcase her playful, silly side. With all that hard work, Pebbles (now Opal) was adopted and is adjusting well in her new home.

In addition to internal support at the shelter, the Behavior staff has also piloted a new program to provide customized take-home kits to support adopters and animals showing preexisting behavior conditions.

Thanks to a lifesaving grant from Petco Love, adopters will receive an "Adoption Success Kit" containing items such as a Sensi harness, Kong, clicker, snuffle mat, and a training manual. For dogs needing even further support, adopters will also receive training vouchers for either a digital or in-person session with Midtown Mutts — a local business that offers positive reinforcement-based training for dogs and their humans.

"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with the Petco Folsom store and Petco Love to support our lifesaving work," said Kenn Altine, Sacramento SPCA CEO. "With this \$25,000 grant investment, we can support new adopters, reduce the number of animals returned to our care for behavior reasons, and keep as many families together as possible."

With the right people, tools, and support, we continue to learn and apply new ways to ease the stress of dogs entering our care and set them up for success in their new homes. So, remember - treats, time, patience, and a lot of love will go a long way to helping a dog be happy, healthy, and comfortable in their new life. And a Sit! Stay! Shake! doesn't hurt either!



According to the Chinese zodiac, 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. However, here at the Sacramento SPCA, it's definitely the year of the cat. Thanks to expanded programs, changes in housing,

and funding from generous supporters, the Sacramento SPCA has helped more cats in our community this year than ever before.

300,000 SURGERY MILESTONE!

When the Sacramento SPCA opened the only high-volume spay and neuter clinic in the region in 2007, the goal was very clear: offer high-quality, low-cost options for the community to reduce pet overpopulation and its impact on local shelters. At that time, the need was great and there were few resources in the area for pet owners.

Fast forward 16 years and a 10,000 square foot clinic expansion later, the goal remains unchanged. In late summer, the Sacramento SPCA hit a surgery milestone – altering the 300,000th animal in Sacramento since 2007. That's an average of nearly 19,000 animals a year – making the Sacramento SPCA one of the top clinics in the nation.

"Spaying and neutering is the most effective way of reducing pet overpopulation and the number of pets entering our region's shelters", said Kenn Altine, Sacramento SPCA CEO. "That's why the Sacramento SPCA opened the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center in 2021 – to immediately expand access to the public and our animal welfare partners in a time when all facets of animal welfare in our region and

across the nation are struggling to keep up with demand."

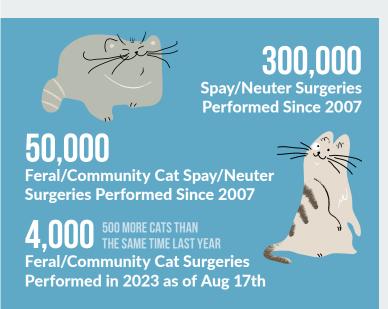
The 300,000th animal to receive surgery at the Sacramento SPCA was "Mama Goose" – a feral cat who had given birth and raised kittens in a yard in Sacramento. She was trapped and brought to the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center at the Sacramento SPCA through the weekday Community Cat Clinic. Thanks to the Feline Spay and Neuter Fund, she was spayed at no cost to her trapper, and returned home.

SUNDAY COMMUNITY CAT CLINICS

The Sacramento SPCA serves the Sacramento region and beyond as a premier provider of low-cost spay and neuter services, collaborating with local rescue groups, feral and community cat caregivers, those in need, and the public to alter more than 20,000 animals annually.

The shelter dedicates every Sunday to feral and community cats, providing free surgeries to more than 70 cats in Sacramento County each week. Thanks to dedicated community partners, individual supporters, and grant funding, more than 50,000 cats have been altered, vaccinated, and received flea/ear mite treatments through the shelter's trap, neuter, and return (TNR) program since 2007.





FELINE SPAY & NEUTER FUND

In addition to the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center dedicating every Sunday to the health and welfare of community cats, the shelter also offers 10 surgical slots for Sacramento County cats Monday through Saturday at no cost, thanks the Sacramento SPCA's Feline Spay and Neuter Fund. In collaboration with and funded by Zoe K. McCrea, Kathy Lelevier & Richard Rose, Dr. Nancy T. Field, and Mary & Kevin Clark, this new initiative was launched in August of

2022 to provide access to more spay/neuter surgery appointments for community cats outside of the Sunday clinics.

Thanks to this fund, the Sacramento SPCA has altered more than 4,000 community cats so far this year, 500 more cats than this time last year.

To join the lifesaving efforts and support the Feline Spay and Neuter Fund, you can return the donation slip enclosed, visit sspca.org/donate, or contact Sarah Haney, Chief Development Officer, at 916-504-2805 or shaney@sspca.org.

THE JOE WILLIE INITIATIVES

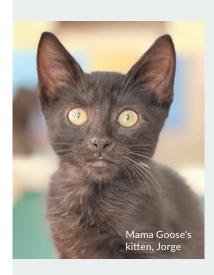
Senior cats and those requiring extra medical attention have received more second chances thanks to Mark M. Glickman and a special kitty named Joe Willie. As of September 1st, in just this year, 68 cats have received specialized care through The Joe Willie Initiatives.

Cats like Toasty Marshmallow, a 5-year-old Persian, who was transferred to the Sacramento SPCA in early February with itchy skin, flea allergy dermatitis, and mange. After almost 4 months of treatment and monitoring (including antibiotics, steroids, and diagnostic testing), this sweet, kitty found his new family.

Since this partnership began in 2019, more than 260 cats and kittens have received lifesaving care. To learn more about The Joe Willie Initiatives, visit sspca.org/joewillie.

To make a gift to support this work, return the donation slip enclosed or visit sspca.org/donate.





FOSTERING & FOSTER DEFERMENT

Our Foster Care Program continues to help hundreds of cats and kittens each year who need assistance prior to finding their new families. Adult cats in need of socialization or medical care may stay in a foster family for a few weeks until cleared for adoption. Kittens, some as young as a few hours old, are sent to loving foster families who will raise them until they

are old and healthy enough for spay/neuter and adoption.

Our foster deferment program assists kittens found in the community by asking the finder to help care for them until they are old enough to be placed up for adoption. We support these finders by supplying food, vaccinations and more for the kittens, and ensure they can find loving homes when returned to the shelter. All of Mama Goose's kittens were cared for through the foster

deferment program and when old enough, were spayed and neutered, and adopted through the Sacramento SPCA.

For more information about fostering animals in need, visit sspca.org/foster.





How Sarah Haney quite literally brings her work home and lives her purpose through the work she does at the Sacramento SPCA.



by Maren Christie, Sacramento SPCA Board of Directors

Mark Twain said, "find your passion and you'll never work a day in your life". Sarah Haney, the Sacramento SPCA's Chief Development Officer, certainly is embracing her passion in the work that she does at Sacramento's only full-service nonprofit animal shelter.

Many of the small senior dogs in the shelter will spend time in Sarah's office during their stay, and several she has fostered have also become permanent members of her family. She has created a sanctuary for dogs in their golden years by giving them the love and attention they so deserve. Her current pack includes five senior dogs, four of which are SPCA alumni. Sarah's enthusiasm and desire to care for these often-overlooked animals drives the work that she does for the Sacramento SPCA.

Sarah is a Sacramento native with more than 20 years of fundraising, event management, and marketing experience. When she joined the Sacramento SPCA in 2017, she quickly understood the impact that fundraising could have on the lives of animals in our community.

The Sacramento SPCA is a national leader in performing low-cost, high-volume spay and neuter surgeries, but the organization was unable to keep up with community demand due to limited clinic space. Sarah embraced the challenging task of leading development efforts to expand capacity and was a driving force in the successful completion of the capital campaign, raising more than \$4 million to construct the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center.

With a new lifesaving medical center completed and supporters deeply connected to the mission, Sarah's primary focus today is dedicated to the stewardship of our generous donors and growing new relationships. Sarah is always looking for opportunities to meaningfully connect one's desire to help animals with our mission and organization.

Mark Drobny, Sacramento SPCA partner and presenting sponsor of our 2023 Fall Gala reflects, "Over the last 40 plus years, I've worked with almost every major charity in the Greater Sacramento area and had the privilege to work with many qualified dedicated Development Officers. Without question, Sarah Haney has been the most impressive. She works tirelessly 24/7 juggling to perfection a multitude of tasks that would normally take 3 people from organizing and staffing special events, coordinating my Estate Planning seminars, meeting with potential donors, coordinating the Pet Guardianship program, personally adopting special needs pets and so much more. Even more impressive is that it's always done with a smile, enthusiasm, compassion, a can-do attitude and class."

You can also find Sarah speaking on nonprofit leader panels to young professionals, engaging with students about working in the nonprofit sector as an alumna of St. Francis High School (which yielded us a fantastic department intern), networking with current supporters through various events, and collaborating with other area nonprofits to expand our reach in the region.

In Sarah's words, "This is not a job, it is my purpose and I live it 24/7."

Sarah is a true ambassador of the organization and is most proud of the team that she has built that successfully communicates our mission and builds the support base to fund the Sacramento SPCA's incredible programs.

If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Sarah and her team or experience her passion for helping animals and the people who love them, please contact Sarah at shaney@sspca.org or 916-504-2805, to schedule a tour of the shelter or learn more about how you can make a difference in the lives of animals in our community.

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE ANIMALS

by Stephanie Greco-Carter, Development Coordinator

The Development Department creates a solid foundation for the Sacramento SPCA by raising much-needed funds. We cultivate relationships with donors, plan and execute fundraising events, and promote the Sacramento SPCA's mission through stewardship and storytelling. Here are a few of the many ways we garner support for the animals.

Constant Companions and Members

As a nonprofit organization that relies heavily on monetary contributions, recurring donations are vital because they provide a reliable source of funding. With operating costs, including pet food, medical care, and emergency pet response, recurring donations help our organization's long term funding success. From our Sacramento SPCA Member group who pledge their support annually to the Constant Companions group who donate monthly, we are able to provide animals the care they need.

Events

We love to engage with our community through our signature events: the Doggy Dash, Fall Gala and Jingle Bell Pup Crawl. The Doggy Dash is a family friendly fun run/walk event in William Land Park where participants can bring their furry friends and enjoy a day out while raising awareness and funds to support our mission. The Gala is a formal event where guests enjoy an evening of food, auctions, and tours at the shelter. The Jingle Bell Pup Crawl is a petfriendly stroll around Midtown Sacramento with stops along the way offering food, drinks, and holiday shopping. Organizing fundraisers like these requires teamwork and creativity. We want our attendees to feel the same passion and excitement of saving lives that we do every day!





Fstates

Estate or planned gifts are excellent opportunities to support the Sacramento SPCA during and following your lifetime. Examples of estate and planned giving instruments include wills and living trusts, life insurance or retirement beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable lead trusts. The Sacramento SPCA partners with Drobny Law Offices to offer free quarterly estate planning seminars to our constituents to help people plan for their legacy, and for their pets through the Pet Guardian Care Program.

Grants

While the majority of our contributions come from individuals, grants are an important funding source for our programs, such as We Pay to Spay, the Feline Spay and Neuter Fund, and Paw Pantry. Our team identifies funding sources through prospect research and writes proposals detailing in clear and measurable terms how grant money will result in benefits for animals and the people who love them. Working with grant funders includes working on tight timelines, submitting progress reports on how funds are being used, and continuous stewardship.

Stewardship

Sharing how ones gift has positively impacted the life of an animal is an important part of the donor relationship. We are able to do so through various stewardship pieces such as our acknowledgment letters which include adoption updates and detailed information on how an animal was cared for while they were with us. Other ways we express gratitude are through postcards, phone calls, and donor thank you events. Taking the time to add personal touches allows us to get to know our supporters better and create long lasting relationships.

The Development team works hard to secure financial support for the organization, thanks to the generosity of our constituents. To learn more please contact the Development Department at 916-504-2803 or info@sspca.org.

SACRAMENTO SPCA'S 2023 FALL BOOK SALE

- » Tuesday, November 7th Saturday, November 11th
- » 10:30 am 5:30 pm
- » 6201 Florin Perkins Rd., Sacramento, CA

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

IN HONOR OF

Patricia Curia

in honor of Janet Curia Sekany

Rhonda E. Gage

in honor of Gunner and Geo

Tony Julian

in honor of Sage

Naoko and Charles Lundberg

in honor of Zoe

John Pfeffer

in honor of John Robino

Stephanie J. Riley

in honor of Raymond Riley

Siobhan Rios

in honor of Sacramento SPCA. Thank you for all of your hard work! I hope this donation helps.

IN MEMORY OF

Carol and Richard Baker

in memory of Ellie Baker

Cinda L. Christensen in memory of Jennifer Brown

Cornelia Clapper

in memory of Tony Martino

Cheryl Eason

in memory of Jackson and Tanque

Robert L. Florence

in memory of Barbara Kluender

Mark M. Glickman

in memory of Amy

Mark M. Glickman

in memory of Bailey

Mark M. Glickman

in memory of Cookie

Mark M. Glickman

in memory of Sophia

Jerry and Sharon Haleva in memory of Robin Blair

Paula E. Hegner

in memory of Max Hwang

Marcia Hillary

in memory of Nicky

Tim and Alice Jarboe

in memory of Romeo

Melissa Keeler

in memory of Patricia Darlene Allison Robert and Marsha Keen

in memory of Lilly Kollen

Tanner Kinkead

in memory of Xena and Albus

Bryan Krofchok

in memory of John Smashey

Anita Lara

in memory of Emmy and Sesame

Janet Lewis

in memory of Mary Anne Rowen Fleming aka Mom

Tim Murphy

in memory of Anthony Martino

Sanjaya Nath

in memory of Cali

Jennifer and Josh Pulliam

in memory of Coco

Kristine N. Raatz in memory of Ken Wigglesworth

Rebecca Radisic

in memory of Lane Johnson, DVM

Kati Reagor

in memory of Judy Herek

Marguerite R. Roth

in memory of Scruffy

Janice Traversi

in memory of Lori Traversi-Gleason

Katren Tyler

in memory of Jennifer Brown

Ms. Catherine Smith

in memory of Joyce Kayser

Elaine J. Verbarg

in memory of Karlene Curtright

Karen and Wally Weiss

in memory of Anthony Martino

Sharon Whiteley

in memory of Captain Kevin Whiteley

Beverly Woodward

in memory of Steve Woodward

Gifts received February 1, 2023 - July 31, 2023

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

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



handler Marshia deployed together nine times - including missing person searches and rescue efforts following six hurricanes.











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.



BOOKER, ADOPTED 2023

We were looking for a new dog because there was a hole in our hearts that only a dog could fill. It wasn't on the itinerary to look at Booker. But at the last minute Dad chimed in and mentioned him. Little did we know that would be one of the best things to happen to us. We brought him home and he fit in almost instantly. The family dynamic was complete. He still to this day loves stuffed animals, coming on car rides, and napping. He's been on so many fun outings like an in-n-out trip where he got a pup pattie, or coldstone where we got him a version of a pup cup! Overall, I'd say he has greatly impacted all of us and will continue to do so.











MARY JANE, ADOPTED 2022

We came in to see MJ and she wasn't available yet, but we hit it off with her right away. I checked the website every single day (multiple times a day) to see if she was available yet. When we came back to adopt her she recognized us and was so excited to see us. She's so happy and we love her to bits. She loves cuddling with us, hanging out in the backyard, and bird-watching. She's still got a little bit to go on her weight loss journey but she's getting there. She is the perfect cat and we're so glad we





SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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

www.sspca.org



Sacramento SPCA @SacSPCA



@SacramentoSPCA



@sacramento_spca

ADOPTION HOURS

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

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 11:00am - 6:00pm



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 HappeningsSign up for eTales, our electronic newsletter, by going to sspca.org. (Submit your email address at the bottom of the page.)

OCTOBER 16 MONDAY	OCTOBER 26 THURSDAY	OCTOBER 29 SUNDAY
Wizard of Pawz Mobile Silent Auction October 16 - October 21 sspca.org/GalaSilentAuction	Howl-O-Ween Yappy Hour 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Bike Dog West Sacramento	Pawsome Pupkin Party 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sacramento SPCA sspca.org/PupkinParty
NOVEMBER 4 SATUDAY	NOVEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18 SATURDAY
Volunteer Orientation 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sacramento SPCA sspca.org/Volunteer	Fall Book Sale 10:30 am - 5:30 pm Sacramento SPCA sspca.org/Booksale	Virtual Estate Planning Seminar 10:00 am - 11:30 am sspca.org/Estate
NOVEMBER 28 TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 28 TUESDAY	DECEMBER 9 SATURDAY
Giving Tuesday All Day sspca.org/GivingTuesday	Kids' Pajama Party Sacramento SPCA	Pup Crawl 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Start at Truitt Bark Park sspca.org/PupCrawl

WITH YOU ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!



Start a Facebook fundraiser for the Sacramento SPCA to help care for animals in the community!



