

SACRAMENTO SPCA

# HEARTline

SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | WWW.SSPCA.ORG | FALL 2024



## A BEACON OF HOPE

Answering the Call For Animals  
With Special Medical Needs

**ANSWERING THE CALL**

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# TOTALLY PAWSOME 80'S PROM

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER  
FOR THE ANIMALS



Dust off those shoulder pads and tease up that hair as we rewind the clock back for an 80's inspired prom to help save lives!

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

Join us to bid on captivating auction items!

**The Totally Pawsome 80's Prom online silent auction will open on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>!** Guests will be able to bid online until the auction closes at 7:30 pm on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

[SSPCA.ORG/GALASILENTAUCTION](https://www.sspca.org/galasilentauktion)

Presented by



**DROBNY LAW OFFICES**

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



## DO YOU HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN?

The Sacramento SPCA invites you to join us for a complimentary estate planning seminar to learn more about providing for the care of your loved ones – both two- and four-legged.

Guest Speaker: Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, Master of Laws (L.L.M.) Taxation, of DROBNY LAW OFFICES, INC. Mr. Drobny is a California State Bar Certified Specialist, Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

- Saturday, November 23
- 10:00 am - 11:30 am
- Virtual seminar on Zoom

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT: [SSPCA.ORG/ESTATE](https://www.sspca.org/estate)





SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

6201 Florin Perkins Road  
Sacramento, CA 95828  
SSPCA.ORG | (916) 383-PETS

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

**2024 Sacramento SPCA Board of Directors**

- Susan Gray, President
- Jill Parish, Vice President
- Valerie Letch, Treasurer
- Zack Morgan, DVM, Secretary
- Raquel Altavilla
- Kristin Beard King
- David Bowen
- Heather Candy
- Maren Christie
- Janet Crooks
- Ryan Endean
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**We are also most grateful for our advisory board members:**

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- Kitty O’Neal

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- Sarah Varanini, Communications Manager
- Jessica Shijo, Marketing & Brand Specialist
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**Cover Photo**

Sarah Varanini

**MEET OUR STAFF**

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**Humane Educator**  
Aerial West | (916) 504-2847

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Palina Morgan | (916) 504-2813

**Feline Release Coordinator**  
Emily Salas | (916) 504-2808

**Canine Release Coordinator**  
Marissa Jennings | (916) 504-2809

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*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.*

**ON THE COVER**

Lending a helping paw for animals with special medical needs like Sawyer » Page 5



# ANSWERING THE CALL

I am reminded daily of how many pets and the people who love them rely on the Sacramento SPCA to say yes in times of need – and how often we answer that call.

When we began construction on the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center in 2020, our goals were to expand community access to low-cost spay/neuter and wellness services and become a beacon of hope for animals that arrive at the shelter with special medical needs.

We've achieved this and much more in our first three years of operation – annually performing more than 20,000 spay/neuter surgeries, administering more than 48,000 vaccines, and providing critical interventions for one in four animals coming through our doors, such as Minnie, an eight-year-old terrier who was surrendered by her owner. The shy senior, weighing just four pounds, had severe periodontal disease and needed our help.

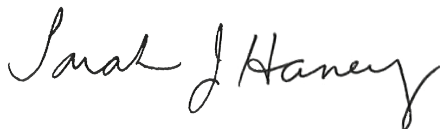
We have also taken on a vital role in supporting other shelters. The veterinary and support staff shortages affecting animal welfare have left many organizations unable to provide the care that some animals urgently need. In response, we have welcomed medical transfers from these shelters, providing a safe haven and the specialized care they require, like a fracture repair for 7-month-old Sawyer, featured on the cover of this issue.

This is made possible thanks to our generous community of individual supporters and donor-supported health funds: Paws for Health Fund, The Joe Willie Initiatives, The Feline Spay & Neuter Fund, and the Altavilla Family Community Care Fund.

Our corporate partners (listed on the next page) have also been instrumental in enabling us to continue our work through product donations, volunteer work, and program/event sponsorships. Philanthropic partners play a pivotal role in advancing our mission, such as Drobny Law Offices who has supported the Sacramento SPCA's fall gala as the presenting sponsor for five years and provided free estate planning seminars for our constituents for more than 15 years.

Because of our dedicated community, we continue to answer the call – and make a difference in the lives of those who need us most.

Gratefully,



Sarah J. Haney  
Interim Chief Executive Officer



Senior terrier Minnie with Sarah Haney

*P.S. I hope to see you on October 26th for this year's gala – an 80's prom inspired evening to benefit the animals. If you're unable to attend, be sure to check out our online silent auction, launching October 21st!*

# 2023-2024 PARTNERS & SPONSORS

## CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP. COMMITMENT. GENEROSITY.

A very sincere thank you to our wonderful business community...

### CHAMPION PARTNERS: \$20,000+

Drobny Law Offices  
Fluid Tech Hydraulics, Inc  
Moochie's Pals  
Subaru of America, Inc  
VCA Animal Hospitals

### EXECUTIVE PARTNERS: \$10,000 – \$14,999

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Pet Food Express  
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Target Circle  
Vista Veterinary Specialists

### SENIOR PARTNERS: \$5,000-\$9,999

River City Bank  
Summit Funding  
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Zoe's Cruises & Tours LLC

### STRATEGIC PARTNERS: \$2,500-\$4,999

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Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health  
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Pleasant Air Company  
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Shannon Law  
Stephanie Bjorge, Golden State Mortgage Group  
SMUD  
The YMCA, Sacramento Central & Rollingwood locations  
Western Health Advantage  
Whisker Warriors Animal Defense Fund

**Our partners are making a difference in the lives of animals and people in our community. Please keep them in mind when you are seeking products and services they provide!**

*Reflects contributions as of January 2023 - August 2024*

### JOIN US!

For Corporate Partnership inquiries, please contact, Kristi Maryman, Senior Manager, Corporate Relations and Events at [kmaryman@sspca.org](mailto:kmaryman@sspca.org) or 916-504-2802.



SAWYER

# LENDING A HELPING PAW

by Sarah Varanini,  
Communications Manager

## IN 2023, THE SACRAMENTO SPCA TRANSFERRED IN 487 ANIMALS FROM OTHER SHELTERS TO HELP SAVE LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.

Normally, these transfer animals are brought to the SPCA to immediately go up for adoption when our partner shelters are overcrowded, or in times of disaster relief, to provide space for other shelters to house animals affected by natural disasters.

With our state-of-the-art Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center in full operation, we are now seeing an increase in shelters contacting us for support with animals in need of above and beyond medical care. Adorable puppy Sawyer is just one of those animals!

In May of this year, the Napa County Animal Shelter received a stray 7-month-old “Doodle” puppy with a broken leg.

The expenses to treat his injury were too much for their shelter to take on, so they contacted the rescue team at the Sacramento SPCA so he could receive specialized care to save his leg.



When asked why she enjoys fostering, Angela replied, "It brings me a joy that is indescribable. When I see the joy on the forever family's faces, it brings me peace."



**736** ANIMALS HELPED THROUGH FOSTER CARE

**328** ANIMALS TRANSFERRED IN FROM OTHER SHELTERS



**1 IN 4** ANIMALS COME TO THE SACRAMENTO SPCA IN NEED OF EXTENDED MEDICAL CARE

Statistics as of August 31, 2024

We immediately said "yes!" and arranged for transport to Sacramento.

Imagine our surprise when Sawyer arrived and he was not a Doodle...but an Old English Sheepdog mix (a breed we do not see very often at shelters!)

Upon arrival, we performed x-rays to confirm the injury and develop a plan for treatment. We reached out to our friend and veterinary partner Dr. Le-Nguyen for advice and he confirmed that Sawyer needed surgery and agreed to assist.

**OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH DR. LE HAS HELPED SIX ANIMALS WITH FRACTURED LIMBS SO FAR IN 2024. EACH SURGERY COSTS APPROXIMATELY \$1,500 - AN EXPENSE WE CAN SAY YES TO THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT!**

In addition to a neuter, Sawyer received a plate and screws on

his femur and needed six to eight weeks of recuperation. Time to call upon our amazing foster parents!

Two passionate volunteers were interested in fostering this adorable muppet through recovery and he was sent to foster shortly after surgery. He spent about two weeks in foster care with volunteer Angela, who made sure to keep him calm and quiet as he recuperated.

While Sawyer recuperated in Angela's home, the other volunteer interested in fostering couldn't quite get him out of her mind.

Manina, who in addition to volunteering as a foster parent has also been part of our Kong Brigade and We Pay to Spay program, visited Sawyer while he was in foster with Angela and helped babysit him when needed.

After Sawyer's first recheck went well, we learned he wouldn't be heading back to the shelter for adoption - Manina wanted to adopt him!

Since Sawyer still needed additional follow-up visits, we

transferred the foster care over and continued to monitor his progress. After his recheck x-rays showed everything was healing well, Manina and her wife Cathy completed the adoption. Sawyer's new family includes Sacramento SPCA alumni Philly, the super senior Terrier, and Piper and Izzy, two

cats who declined to comment for this article.

Sawyer has already cemented his place in the family, and they hope to have him enrolled in our Love on Loan therapy program due to his calm, loving nature. It took a village to save this happy puppy and we cannot wait to see what's in store for him!



"Sawyer was the missing puzzle piece that just fits perfectly into our family. We had been waiting for him for a long time."

- Manina



# LEARNING THROUGH CREATIVITY

by Aerial West, Humane Educator

As summer vacation came to an end and students returned to school, the Sacramento SPCA closed another heartfelt chapter of Summer Camp Kindness programming at the shelter.

Throughout the months of June to August, more than 130 students between the ages of 7 to 15 participated in our 3-day summer sessions of Camp Kindness, a program that invites the community's youth into the shelter to learn about and interact with the animals in our care.

This year, Camp Kindness revitalized its youth curriculum to focus on the utilization of storytelling as a creative method of education. The pairing of storytelling and instructional time allowed the program to emphasize each camper's creativity and enhance comprehension through the completion of The Shelter Story Project.

The Shelter Story Project is a seven-page storybook in which students describe and depict the journey of an animal through the shelter system. Students were tasked with using their imagination to create a story that utilizes the information they

learned about the various ways the Sacramento SPCA provides care for animals at the shelter.

Paired with the instruction campers received each day about intake, animal care, medical and behavior support, and adoption at the Sacramento SPCA, students were asked to complete the first two pages of their story on day one by detailing how the animal arrived at the shelter and how they were feeling.

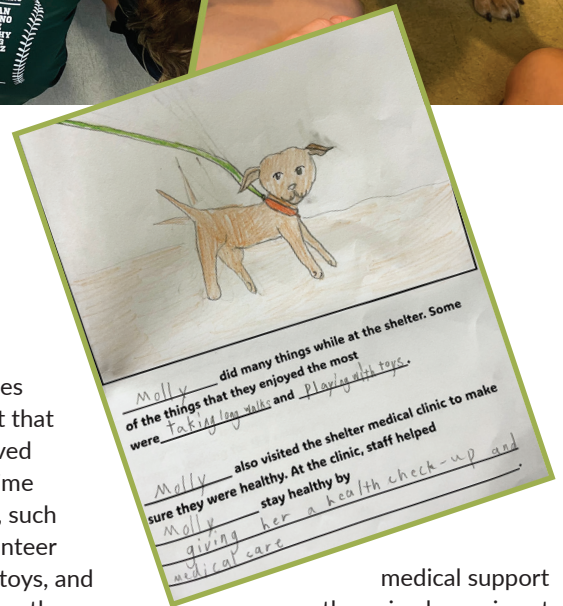
The next few pages discussed types of enrichment that animals received during their time at the shelter, such as walks, volunteer socialization, toys, and treats. Campers then chose which enrichment activities they wanted to include in their story. This was followed by a discussion of the variety of

medical support the animals receive at the shelter, including vaccines, medication, and surgeries.

On their final day of camp, students completed their Shelter Story with a description of their animal's adoption profile. Here, students explained what kind of family would be the best fit for their animal. The Shelter Story Project was a successful new tool used to reinforce what the campers learned each day about how the Sacramento SPCA helps animals in our community. Each unique story reminded the campers, teen volunteers, and staff of the heartfelt connections made with animals and people during their camp experience.

For more information about Camp Kindness and other youth programming, please contact our education staff at [education@sspca.org](mailto:education@sspca.org).

Check out our alternative Heartline cover image on the back!



Molly did many things while at the shelter. Some of the things that they enjoyed the most were taking long walks and playlight toys.  
Molly also visited the shelter medical clinic to make sure they were healthy. At the clinic, staff helped Molly stay healthy by giving her a health check-up and medical care.

## MEET OUR EDUCATORS

Aerial West joined the Sacramento SPCA this Spring as the new Humane Educator, and Natalie Vergara, the Community Engagement Specialist, celebrated her third year with the organization in August and her first year helping with camp programming.



Aerial West (left), Natalie Vergara (right), with SPCA alum, August (front)



# TIME TO CELEBRATE SACRAMENTO SPCA'S ANNUAL JINGLE BELL PUP CRAWL

by Gina Guerriere,  
Special Events Coordinator

It is that time again for the Sacramento SPCA and partnering Midtown businesses to celebrate the Paw'lidays by giving back to the animals at the 7th Annual Jingle Bell Pup Crawl on December 14th from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join more than 300 people and their pups for an afternoon of paw'liday cheer! The crawl starts at Truitt Bark Park where guests will receive a t-shirt, holiday jingle bells for their pup(s), photos with Santa Paws, and a Pup Crawl map.

Stops include local restaurants, breweries, wineries and cafes where attendees can enjoy vendor booths, giveaways, activities and food and beverage specials.

Along with the popular breweries, wineries and pubs on the list of stops, guests will notice Leash and Collar, a

NEW SHIRT DESIGN!



dog boutique filled with your pooch's favorite toys and treats. Leash and Collar donates a portion of all sales from the event back to the SPCA, so stop by and pick out a unique present for your pup and help out the shelter animals!

**So dress your pups in their holiday best and celebrate this festive season with us!**

**VISIT [SSPCA.ORG/PUPCRAWL](http://SSPCA.ORG/PUPCRAWL) TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### To View All Sacramento SPCA Events

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SacSPCA](https://facebook.com/SacSPCA) or visit our events page at [sspca.org/events](http://sspca.org/events)

### Keep Current on the Latest Sacramento SPCA Happenings

Sign up for eTales, our electronic newsletter, by going to [sspca.org](http://sspca.org). (Submit your email address at the bottom of the page.)

<b>OCTOBER 19   SATURDAY</b>	<b>OCTOBER 26   SATURDAY</b>	<b>OCTOBER 30   WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 2   SATURDAY</b>
<b>Pawsome Pupkin Party</b> 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sacramento SPCA <a href="http://sspca.org/PupkinParty">sspca.org/PupkinParty</a>	<b>Totally Pawsome 80's Prom</b> 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Sacramento SPCA <a href="http://sspca.org/Gala">sspca.org/Gala</a>	<b>Howl-O-Ween Yappy Hour</b> 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm LogOff Brewing <a href="http://sspca.org/Events">sspca.org/Events</a>	<b>Volunteer Orientation</b> 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Sacramento SPCA <a href="http://sspca.org/Volunteer">sspca.org/Volunteer</a>
<b>NOVEMBER 5 - NOVEMBER 9</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 23   SATURDAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 27   WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 3   TUESDAY</b>
<b>Fall Book Sale</b> 10:30 am - 5:30 pm Sacramento SPCA <a href="http://sspca.org/Booksale">sspca.org/Booksale</a>	<b>Virtual Estate Planning Seminar</b> 10:00 am - 11:30 am <a href="http://sspca.org/Estate">sspca.org/Estate</a>	<b>Teen Pawsgiving Camp</b> The Sacramento SPCA <a href="http://sspca.org/Camp">sspca.org/Camp</a>	<b>Giving Tuesday</b> All Day <a href="http://sspca.org/GivingTuesday">sspca.org/GivingTuesday</a>
<b>DECEMBER 14   SATURDAY</b>  <b>Pup Crawl</b> 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm <a href="http://sspca.org/PupCrawl">sspca.org/PupCrawl</a>	 <div data-bbox="893 1780 1529 1995"> <h2>SACRAMENTO SPCA FALL BOOK SALE</h2> <p>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9</p> <p><a href="http://SSPCA.ORG/BOOKSALE">SSPCA.ORG/BOOKSALE</a></p> </div>		

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

## IN MEMORY OF

**Zita Neely**  
Marcia Davis

**Daniel Davis**  
Marcia Davis

**Marnell Poll**  
Marcia Davis

**Joan Delfin**  
Courtenay Delfin

**James Field**  
Douglas Field

**Barbara Kluender**  
Robert Florence

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Paula Hegner

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**Dr. Kari Moore**  
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**James Kessler**  
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**Casper**  
Roy and Robin Wesley

**Wendy Wood Kjelvik**  
Evelyn Williams

**Jackie Wong**  
William Wong

**Carol McHugh**  
Susan Zunino

## IN HONOR OF

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Marsha Adams

**Mark Drobny**  
Julie Bugatto

**Joey, Sophie, Farley and Zoe**  
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**Kenn Altine**  
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## Gifts received February 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024

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



CLARENCE



GRETA



NELLIE



ABBY



TAI



ROXY



SPENSER

# Heart Beats

## 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](http://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.



### ADOPTION HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday  
10:30 am - 5:30 pm  
[sspca.org/adoptable](http://sspca.org/adoptable)

### SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC HOURS

By Appointment Only  
[sspca.org/spayneuter](http://sspca.org/spayneuter)




### VACCINATION CLINIC HOURS

By Appointment Only  
[sspca.org/vaccinations](http://sspca.org/vaccinations)

### PET SURRENDER & ANIMAL SUPPORT HOURS

By Appointment  
[sspca.org/intake](http://sspca.org/intake)  
Monday - Sunday  
11:00 am - 6:00 pm

### FOLLOW US!

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-  @sacramento\_spc
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SACRAMENTO SPCA

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SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | WWW.SSPCA.ORG | FALL 2024



we keep the  
animals safe  
and help to  
♥ Adopt. ♥