

SACRAMENTO SPCA

HEARTline

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



**HELPING MORE LARGE DOGS
STAY HEALTHY AND FIND HOMES**

LIFESAVING LEADERSHIP

Page 4

HUSKIES, SHEPHERDS, & PUPPIES!

Page 5

CAMP KINDNESS

Page 8



REGISTER AT SSPCA.ORG/DASH

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



FREE MICROCHIPS & MORE AT DOGGY DASH!

We are looking forward to lacing up our shoes and leashing up our pups for the 31st Annual Doggy Dash on April 20th at William Land Park. This event offers a fantastic venue for you to enjoy some fun in the sun with your canine companion, but it's also a great opportunity to learn more about the programs and services offered at the Sacramento SPCA.

Be sure to visit the Sacramento SPCA program tables during the pet festival portion of the event. Learn more about adoptions, fostering, behavior, spay & neuter, vaccines, and more.

Stop by the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center table to get a free microchip for your pup – it's the best form of identification if your dog gets lost.



SAVE THE DATE

Big Day of Giving MAY 2



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
- Bill Altavilla
- Kristin Beard King
- Heather Candy
- Maren Christie
- Janet Crooks
- Ryan Edean
- Nancy Field, MD
- Chris Wong, DVM

We are also most grateful for our advisory board members:

- Irene Campbell
- Bill McGowan
- Kitty O'Neal

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

Interim Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Haney | (916) 504-2805

Director of Marketing & Communications

Dawn Foster | (916) 504-2828

Director of Human Resources

Elizabeth Langan | (916) 504-2840

Controller

Kristina Sells | (916) 504-2801

Director of Animal Services

Jamie Larson | (916) 504-2825

Senior Manager, Corporate Relations & Events

Kristi Maryman | (916) 504-2802

Animal Welfare Manager

Dan Marple | (916) 504-2864

Intake Manager

Brandy Joseph | (916) 504-2829

Adoption Manager

Lisa Shemenski | (916) 504-2860

Spay/Neuter Clinic Manager

Lydia Caronna | (916) 504-2820

Chief of Shelter Medicine

Laurie Siperstein-Cook, DVM
(916) 504-2815

Chief of Surgery

Michelle Meyer, DVM | (916) 504-2814

Communications Manager

Sarah Varanini | (916) 504-2834

Community Engagement Specialist

Natalie Vergara | (916) 504-2847

Volunteer Supervisor

Rayla Maier-McMann | (916) 504-2807

Animal Release Supervisor

Palina Morgan | (916) 504-2813

Feline Release Coordinator

Emily Egle | (916) 504-2808

Canine Release Coordinator

Marissa Jennings | (916) 504-2809

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message From the President 3
- Lifesaving Leadership 4
- Huskies, Shepherds, and Puppies... Oh My! 5-6
- Upcoming Events 7
- Summer Camp Kindness 8
- Memorial/In Honor of 9
- Heartbeats 10



ON THE COVER

Helping large dogs like Penny stay healthy and get adopted at the Sacramento SPCA » Page 5

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As our widely admired Chief Executive Officer, Kenn Altine, leaves the Sacramento SPCA, it is important to pause and reflect on the legacy he leaves behind, and the bright future that lies ahead for us.

I read a quote once that seems very appropriate for this occasion; "Leadership is about making others better as a result of one's presence and making sure that impact lasts in one's absence" (author unknown). That aptly describes Kenn, who was profoundly successful in defining the values that distinguish our organization, and who built upon the premise that the Sacramento SPCA would always be a safe haven for animals and the people who love them.

Today, that vision and commitment are visible in the wide range of vital programs and services offered by the Sacramento SPCA, including low-cost spay/neuter surgeries (including community cats), low-cost vaccinations, free or low-cost services for senior citizens, and our free pet food program, "PAWPantry." I am extremely proud to tell you that \$.83 cents of every dollar you give to the Sacramento SPCA goes directly to these programs.

Additionally, the Sacramento SPCA has developed strong partnerships with other animal welfare groups, including rescue groups, and has built relationships with government officials that today, and in the future will benefit animals in our communities. This includes the recently passed SB 669, which expands the role of registered veterinary technicians (the RNs of the veterinary world) in order to increase access and lower costs of life-saving vaccinations. We were the sponsor of, and the driving force behind, this critical legislation that will result in greater access to animal vaccination services throughout California.

The values and standards of excellence that Kenn instilled in the organization will continue under the leadership of Sarah Haney, recently named Interim Chief Executive Officer, and will be the foundation for the selection of and transition to the next CEO. Our next leader will carry Kenn's legacy forward and will be selected based on her/his ability to fit into our organizational culture of excellence and service.

This new leader will embrace and be committed to our promise to honor the bond between humans and animals. They will be a leader who continues our reputation of fiscal responsibility and who embodies our values of empathy and compassion. We will be announcing our new Chief Executive Officer soon.

The Sacramento SPCA thanks Kenn for his exemplary leadership for the last eight years and for making our organization better as a result of his presence and for leaving a lasting impact. In honor of this unwavering commitment, a longtime supporter and friend of the animals has made a \$100,000 gift to the Sacramento SPCA in Kenn's honor.

We wish Kenn all the joys of retirement. See you all at Doggy Dash on April 20th.

Sincerely,



Susan Gray
President, Board of Directors





by Kathy Lelevier, Sacramento SPCA Internal Affairs Committee Member & Former Board Member



Jamie with her two Sacramento SPCA alumni, Mosey & Roxi (photographed by Susan Platt)

Jamie Larson's commitment to animal welfare goes beyond mere enthusiasm; it embodies a profound passion.

Since January 2019, Jamie has served as the Director of Animal Services at the Sacramento SPCA, starting her journey at the shelter as the Animal Health Practice Manager in July 2017. Currently overseeing various departments, including the Spay & Neuter and Vaccine Clinics, Shelter Medicine, Animal Care Services, Foster/Rescue Services, Adoptions, and Intake, Jamie leads a team of 97 staff members, carrying out the shelter's mission.

Growing up, Jamie's love for animals fueled her desire to become a veterinarian. However, realizing the lengthy schooling and financial commitment required, she pursued her Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) license, graduating from Western Career College

in 2000. For eight years, Jamie worked in a private veterinary clinic in Stockton, solidifying her passion for the field.

Seeking a new challenge in 2007, Jamie joined Carrington College as an instructor, swiftly advancing to Program Director for the Veterinary Tech Program. During her tenure, she earned a BA and MBA from DeVry University, ultimately becoming the National Dean for RVT and Veterinary Assistance Care Programs. Despite her success, Jamie felt drawn back to direct interaction with animals and people, leading her to accept the Animal Health Manager position at the Sacramento SPCA.

Jamie embraces the leadership philosophy of "The Shadow of the Leader," emphasizing the significant influence leaders have on their teams through their daily actions, behaviors, and resiliency when challenges arise. "Jamie quickly identifies strengths and growth opportunities for staff, coaching them to be confident communicators and empathetic listeners, to address challenges head-on," explains Dr. Michelle Meyer, Sacramento SPCA Chief of Surgery. "Her mentorship has shaped me into the leader I am today, and I am grateful for her dedication to creating a supportive environment where all staff feel heard and valued."

Recognizing the current challenges facing animal shelters and the increasing demand for access to all animal care services, Jamie focuses on the importance of providing sustainable solutions and balancing the needs of the many groups we serve. "Demand will always exceed capacity," Larson states. "The goal is to prioritize programs and processes to help the greatest number of animals and people in our community." She advocates for clear and positive communication with the public regarding the capacity of programs.

Some of Jamie's many accomplishments at the Sacramento SPCA include the opening of a Wellness Clinic to provide medical care to animals at risk for surrender and being an integral partner in the construction and opening of the Zoe K. McCrea Animal Health Center, where more than 47,000 vaccines were administered and 20,000 spay and neuter surgeries were performed in 2023.

Looking ahead, Jamie aims to enhance the shelter's ability to help more animals while prioritizing their well-being and staff welfare. She is working with her department leads on processes to shorten an animal's length of stay by scheduling care prior to the pet's arrival, which will reduce stress for both the animals and humans.

Jamie's commitment to finding positive solutions and leading by example ensures that the Sacramento SPCA, the animals, and the people who love them in our community are in good hands (quite literally as seen in the photo below).



Jamie jumps in to bathe some of the many puppies who arrived at the shelter in March.



HUSKIES, SHEPHERDS, AND PUPPIES...OH MY!

Positive Ways to Address Large Dog Overpopulation

On this particular Tuesday morning, it's "all hands on deck" as the animal care team and volunteers work together to provide potty breaks and clean kennels for 57 adult dogs and another 18 large breed puppies before the adoption center opens at 10:30 am.

EVERY DOG KENNEL ON THE ADOPTION FLOOR IS FULL

In recent years, the Sacramento SPCA has faced a significant rise in the number of large dogs surrendered or abandoned at the shelter. This surge, particularly

among Huskies, Shepherds, and other working dogs (like covergirl Penny), presents unique challenges for both the shelter and the dogs in our care.

Many factors have contributed to more large dogs finding their way to shelters, including

housing restrictions, economic hardships, and lack of training and socialization. With overcrowding becoming a pressing issue, the Sacramento SPCA has implemented and recently expanded innovative programs to ensure the well-being of these animals while also increasing their chances of finding forever homes.



Large dogs, with their additional space and exercise requirements, pose distinct challenges for shelters. Moreover, the influx of puppies, which has more than doubled at the Sacramento SPCA since 2021, often draws attention away from adult dogs, further prolonging their stay. To address these challenges, the Sacramento SPCA has prioritized not only finding homes for these dogs but also ensuring their mental and physical health during their time at the shelter.

One such program, Foster FURlough, offers a unique solution. This program allows

members of the community to take adoptable dogs on field trips, providing them with a break from the shelter environment and valuable socialization experiences. These outings range from grabbing a coffee at a dog-friendly café to going on hikes or simply relaxing at home.

By exposing dogs to different environments and activities, the program not only reduces kennel stress but also provides valuable insights into each dog's behavior and preferences, aiding in the adoption process. Nearly 80 dogs were helped through this program in 2023.

WE NEED FOSTER FURLOUGH VOLUNTEERS

While the Foster FURlough program was initially limited to Sacramento SPCA foster parents, staff, and K9 volunteers, it has now been opened to the broader community. By inviting community members to participate, the Sacramento SPCA hopes to increase the number of dogs benefitting from these enriching experiences.

“This is a great program for anyone who can't adopt a dog right now, but still wants to help the dogs waiting to be adopted,” mentions Marissa Jennings, Sacramento SPCA Release Coordinator.

READY TO BE A FURLOUGH FRIEND?



Interested individuals can sign up for Foster FURlough online at:

[SSPCA.ORG/FURLOUGH](https://www.sspca.org/furlough)

Complete a short online orientation and application, and immediately schedule the first field trip appointment!

SACRAMENTO'S TOP QUARTERBARK

How one puppy made it to the national stage and helped other dogs in need.



Last summer, producers of Puppy Bowl reached out to the Sacramento SPCA asking if we would have any puppies we would like to submit as players for the nationally televised show. We had recently transferred in a litter of puppies from a local overcrowded shelter who were growing up in foster care and would be ready around the time of filming. We sent off our application for the most outgoing puppies in the litter and crossed our paws.

One was chosen to be on the field for the game and in October, Bark Purdy and a staff member made the cross-country trip to New York for filming. Our involvement was a big secret, so when Bark was adopted shortly after filming, it was a surprise to his new family when we shared that he would be a big star in a few months. Luckily, they were more excited to find their new best friend was a superstar, so they didn't mind keeping the secret!

As the Puppy Bowl airdate approached, we were informed that out of more than 120 puppies, Bark Purdy was one of 16 chosen to be in the “Most PUPular” competition.

We started a campaign to win him the title. Both local and Bay Area media partners (and even businesses), joined in on the fun - it felt like all of Sacramento was pulling for him to win! While Bark did ultimately come in second place in the competition, his popularity helped other animals in need. We planned an adoption special in his honor and 23 dogs found new homes, including several longtime residents! Supporters from all over Sacramento tuned in to the Puppy Bowl and Bark was the FIRST dog featured during the game! We are thrilled that this little QuarterBARK helped spotlight Sacramento and helped other animals find their forever homes!



Expanding programs to help more large dogs at the shelter stay healthy and get adopted.

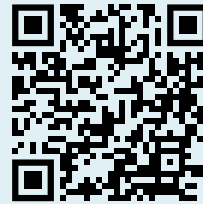


WE ARE THRILLED TO BE TEAMING UP WITH REI SACRAMENTO FOR THIS YEAR'S DOGGY DASH!

REI Sacramento believes that a life outdoors is a life well-lived, and what better way to embrace adventure than with our furry companions by our side? Whether you're traversing rugged trails, stargazing under the night sky, or simply enjoying a leisurely stroll in the park, the joy of exploration is magnified when shared with our four-legged friends.

To celebrate outdoor exploration with our furry friends, REI is excited to announce the REI + Doggy Dash Sweepstakes, set to launch in mid-March. Win a carefully curated package valued at \$249, featuring essential gear for outdoor adventures with your pup including a \$100 REI Gift Card, dog treats, leashes, collars, and other goodies for an unforgettable outdoor experience.

Scan the QR code below to enter!!



Also visit REI's Doggy Dash booth on Saturday, April 20th.



UPCOMING EVENTS

To View All Sacramento SPCA 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.)

APRIL 20 SATURDAY	MAY 2 THURSDAY	MAY 4 SATURDAY	MAY 4 SATURDAY
Doggy Dash 10:00 am - 1:00 pm William Land Park sspca.org/Dash	Big Day of Giving sspca.org/BDOG	Virtual Estate Planning Seminar 10:00 am - 11:30 am sspca.org/Estate	Volunteer Orientation 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Sacramento SPCA sspca.org/Volunteer
MAY 14 - MAY 18	JUNE 1 SATURDAY	JUNE 8 SATURDAY	JULY 13 SATURDAY
Spring Book Sale 10:30 am - 5:30 pm Sacramento SPCA sspca.org/Booksale	Volunteer Orientation 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Sacramento SPCA sspca.org/Volunteer	Dutch Bros Giveback Day All Day Dutch Bros Antelope Location	Volunteer Orientation 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Sacramento SPCA sspca.org/Volunteer
JULY 17 WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 10 SATURDAY	AUGUST 14 WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 5 THURSDAY
Splashy Hour The Animal Den Pet Resort sspca.org/Events	Virtual Estate Planning Seminar 10:00 am - 11:30 am sspca.org/Estate	Splashy Hour The Animal Den Pet Resort sspca.org/Events	Drag Queen Bingo sspca.org/Events

SUMMER CAMP KINDNESS AT THE SACRAMENTO SPCA



As the temperatures rise and summer approaches, the Sacramento SPCA gears up for its highly anticipated summer Camp Kindness program, designed to educate and engage young animal enthusiasts in our community.

During the months of June to August, we extend a warm invitation to children and teens between the ages of 7 and 15 to participate in our 3-day camp held at the shelter. Here, they have the opportunity to delve deeper into topics such as pet care and safety. Through hands-on animal socialization experiences, our aim is to nurture empathy, responsibility, and compassion towards animals among our young participants.

Camp activities include shelter pet socialization, learning dog body language, service projects, and educational presentations from different Sacramento SPCA departments and outside organizations. This camp involves a lot of hands-on activities, team collaboration, and crafts.

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 23RD @ 11:00 AM

Registration for summer Camp Kindness will open on April 23, 2024, at 11:00 AM. Camp dates are listed below. To learn more about camp pricing and to register online, please visit sspca.org/camp. A limited number of scholarships will also be available for income-qualifying families – applications open online beginning April 23rd.

We can't wait for the community's future animal enthusiasts to join us this summer, including those who have never had a pet of their own. When completing your child's online registration, please inform us of any special accommodations (physical, behavioral, and sensory) that your child needs to ensure a positive experience during camp.

Date	Time	Ages
6/17 - 6/19	9:00am - 2:00pm	7 - 9 years old
6/24 - 6/26	9:00am - 2:00pm	10 - 12 years old
7/8 - 7/10	9:00am - 2:00pm	7 - 9 years old
7/15 - 7/17	9:00am - 2:00pm	10 - 12 years old
7/29 - 7/31	9:00am - 2:00pm	7 - 9 years old
8/5 - 8/7	9:00am - 2:00pm	10 - 12 years old
8/12 - 8/14	9:00am - 2:00pm	13 - 15 years old

WE NEED TEEN CAMP COUNSELORS

Does your teen love animals and children?

We are looking for teens between the ages of 14 - 17 to assist with summer camp and help enhance the experience for our young campers. To apply for a camp counselor position, visit sspca.org/camp.



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

IN MEMORY OF

Mrs. Leona Ward
Marsha Adams

Alten Ezell
Samira Al-Qazzaz

Linda McCurdy
Suzanne Bowers

Katie
Linda Brandenburger

Tucker
Karen L. Copple

Bindi and Chi Cragg
Carol A. Cragg

Lisa Britton
Tricia Dally

Pam Dimand
Alan Dimand

Sniper
Tamara Dow

Bitsy
Robert Felts

Luca and Sizi Marr
Veronica Gennai

Toula
Mark M. Glickman

Bandit
Mark M. Glickman

William E. and Joyce M. Haake
Susan J. Haake

**Edward Hiramoto, Samantha,
Tippy, Bitsy**
Amy Hiramoto

Corleen Jensen
Redonda Honey

Barbara Lagomarsino
Bart Lagomarsino

Lisa Kay Britton
Thomas McGurn

Bob Morris
Richard Mehigan

Janice Metsker
Darcie Metsker

**Xander the Best Mini Panther
Ever**
Meridith Meraz

Nancy Harmor
Tony Miller

Rosie Panush
Eve Panush

Soto y Mayor Preciado
Daniel Preciado

Sam
Kristine N. Raatz

Captain Dynamo
Randolph Robin

Josette Roth Bishop
Marguerite R. Roth

Eddie (Edda) Sieren
John W. Sieren

Nellie Peacock
Sandra L Silberstien

Bandit Vestal
Kathryn Vestal

Buster, Bubba, and Cisco
Colin Weiner

Prince
Charles A. Whitney

IN HONOR OF

Lala
Wendy Bright

Arlene M. Getz
Randy Getz

Gunner and Geo
Rhonda E. Gage

Dr. Williams
Mark M. Glickman

Kalina, Sarah, and Jamie
Mark M. Glickman

Jerry Jones
David W. Gordon

Sharon Brough
Amy Loring

Carol Peterson
Amy Loring

Fran Coughlin
Amy Loring

Jenny Devine
Amy Loring

Lori Smith
Amy Loring

Molly Frederick
Amy Loring

Patti Chorn
Amy Loring

Janet Spilman
Amy Loring

Sheri Brown
Amy Loring

Bambi Rethford
Amy Loring

Lynn Matsuda
Amy Loring

Amanda Bond
Amy Loring

Laura Paige
Amy Loring

Joyce Radke
Amy Loring

Darcey Bohanna Hall
Amy Loring

Mignon Nance
Amy Loring

Sunday Clinic Team
Reiko Orozco

Stephanie Boe Black
Reiko Orozco

Emily Salas
Reiko Orozco

**Stephanie, Sunday Clinic Staff
and Volunteers and the Intake
Team.**
Reiko Orozco

Girl Scouts Troop #228
Karen Padilla

Judy Stanbury
Sandra L Silberstien

Megan Ellis
The Thatcher-Routt Family Fund

Gifts received August 1, 2023 - January 29, 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



ROCKY

We adopted our sweet Rocky, a Catahoula mix, from the SPCA in 2010. Shy at first, he soon settled in and was a perfect gentleman for the 13 years we shared. He never missed a chance to bring home a stray tennis ball, loved his walks and his kitty, and most of all, the SPCA Doggy Dash! We miss him.



FERGIE



OSCAR

Love on
loan
Alumni

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

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.



TINKERBELL, ADOPTED 2022

We adopted Tinkerbelle two years ago. She brings so much joy in our little family. She is the only dog we saw and we were determined to take her home that day. Tinker has been in so many places with us. She absolutely loves her car rides. She has been in the snow, she has been in Truckee and enjoyed the cabin life and the scenic drive along the Donner Lake. Tinker loves to go on a small walk at Sutter's Fort as well. Adopting Tinkerbelle is the best decision our family ever made and she completes our family of three. She is the daughter we never had. Tinkerbelle is living her best glam only daughter life.



**BRADLEY
ADOPTED 2024**



**HENRY
ADOPTED 2023**



**CUPCAKE
ADOPTED 2024**



**ATTI
ADOPTED 2022**



ON FEBRUARY 25TH, WE CELEBRATED 5 YEARS OF THE JOE WILLIE INITIATIVES

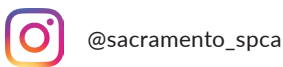
Thanks to Mark M. Glickman and a very special kitty named Joe Willie, more than 300 cats have received additional medical care at the Sacramento SPCA. For more information, visit sspca.org/joewillie.



SACRAMENTO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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

www.sspca.org



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



WHY TRADE YOUR OLD VEHICLE?

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE 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

SACRAMENTO SPCA'S 2024 SPRING BOOK SALE

Come by the Sacramento SPCA to peruse our wide variety of books (over 30+ genres) for sale and support the animals!

- Tuesday, May 14, 2024 - Saturday, May 18, 2024
- 10:30 am - 5:30 pm
- The Sacramento SPCA
6201 Florin Perkins Rd, Sacramento, CA 95828

