

PAWS ^{FOR} *Thought*

SPRING 2022

*Serving
Ventura
County
Since
1932*

*2021 in
Review*

*The Power of
Pack Walks*

*Welcome,
Cecelia &
Shyann!*





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Shelter & Adoption Center
402 Bryant St. • Ojai, CA 93023

Mailing Address
PO BOX 297 • Ojai, CA 93024
805-646-6505 or
805-656-5031

Shelter Director
Jolene Hoffman x.109
JoleneH@hsvc.org

Assistant Shelter Director
Arlene MacSween x.101
ArleneM@hsvc.org

Director of Investigations
R.J. Hoffman x.105
JeffH@hsvc.org

Office Manager
Betty Jo MacCaughtry x.117
BettyJoM@hsvc.org

Grants Associate
Ralph Saccomano x.115
RalphS@hsvc.org

Media & Marketing Coordinator
Amy King x.119
marketing@hsvc.org

Humane Education
Angie Sagliani • 805-364-1350
Education@hsvc.org

Volunteer Coordinator
Sarah Fraza x.110
SarahE@hsvc.org

Community Outreach Coordinator
Steve McCurry x.112
SteveM@hsvc.org



Oliver's Report

I am so excited about seeing my old and new friends again soon. I can't remember what they look like anymore since they have those things that look like muzzles covering their beaks! But it hasn't stopped them from talking. I miss my friends bringing me those crackers with peanut butter in the middle! Hopefully soon we can all laugh, sing, and play together again. And don't forget the most special day of the year, my BIRD-Day silly! On March 25th I will be 35-years-young! That means I have been with my big bird friends for 30 years. Wow, they do love me! It's also the Shelter's 90th birthday this year! What a big milestone. We are hoping to have our annual open house to celebrate, but it depends on the pandemic. Stay tuned and have a happy Spring!



Letter from the Director

Cheers to a new year! We're optimistic that 2022 will keep us healthy and happy. For the past two years, we have had to weigh the tough decision of whether we should open or shut our doors in response to COVID-19. Like most people, this uncertainty has taken a toll on us but the most important thing we can do is protect our staff, our animals, and the public.

Many of you are watching us on our website and social media channels. We are doing everything we can to keep you, our supporters, informed on what is happening at the Shelter. Our status may change day-to-day, and it's not easy for our staff to say we are open one day and closed the next. Please know we are all doing the best we can during these difficult times and we appreciate your patience.

Our incredible staff has been working hard caring for the animals, especially when our beloved volunteers were not able to help. We were thrilled to be able to welcome our Animal Ambassador volunteers back to the Shelter recently. Because of this dedicated group of volunteers, our animals are getting more socialization and going on pack walks

every day. It has been such a blessing having these special volunteers back so our staff has more free time to complete other duties around the Shelter.

Although we were closed more than we were open in the last two years, we were able to increase our number of spay and neuter surgeries and hold more vaccination clinics. We were also able to grow our outreach by partnering with more businesses in Ventura County to host our pet food banks and DoorDash services. Adoption services continued by appointment and our dedicated Humane Officers continued to investigate cruelty and neglect cases.

Our hope for the new year is to be able to open our doors for public walkthroughs, hold low to no-cost vaccine clinics throughout Ventura County, return to in-school Humane Education, and participate in more community events. Speaking of events, don't forget to join us for our **open board meeting on April 19th!** All of us here at HSVC would like to thank you for your understanding and kind words in these stressful times. It means the world to us!

- Jolene Hoffman, Shelter Director

Volunteer Spotlight

The Power of Pack Walks



Recently at HSVC, our Animal Ambassadors have been taking our adoptable dogs on pack walks around town! These pack walks allow our adoptable dogs to get out and see the world

outside our Shelter. It also allows them to build

bonds with other dogs in a safe, comfortable environment. Even our most nervous or anxious dogs benefit immensely from these pack walks because they can come out of their shell feeling the comradery of being with other dogs.

Dogs of all sizes, ages, and energy levels join pack walks a couple of times a week. This allows us to get to know them better! Do they love chasing squirrels? Are they excited to see kids at the playground? Are they gentle walkers? Giving each pup physical and mental stimulation outside our Shelter is an invaluable way to keep them happy while they're here and helps us find them the best fitting furever home!

If you see us on our pack walks around Ojai, please say hello but keep your distance! This is active training for our pups and we want them to focus on it as such. If you see a dog you might be interested in, ask an Ambassador or Staff member their name and stop by the Shelter for a meet and greet!

We are currently only allowing Animal Ambassadors back to the Shelter, but we are hoping to open back up to returning volunteers very soon! Ambassadors are volunteers that have been with HSVC for more than 3-years and have gone through extensive training with staff members and professional Dog Trainer and Behaviourist, Tracy Vail. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team in the future, check out hsvc.org/volunteer for more information!

- Sarah Frazz, Volunteer Coordinator

Tips for a Successful Pack Walk

Interested in going on a pack walk but not sure how to start? Check out these easy tips & tricks!

- 🐾 Meet at a neutral place. Dogs can be territorial, so meeting at a nearby park is your best bet!
- 🐾 Each dog in your group must be walking on a leash. We recommend a 6-ft. nonretractable one.
- 🐾 Maintain a good space between dogs so they can get acquainted with one another in a safe, controlled way.
- 🐾 Even reactive dogs can join for pack walks and will often be the ones to benefit most from them! Be sure to keep your distance from the other animals and people so everyone feels safe!
- 🐾 After each pack walk, be sure to praise your dog and give them a treat for a job well done!





Community Connections

HSVC Delivers 34,000 Pounds of Free Pet Food in 2021!

The Humane Society of Ventura County has had another great year of providing free pet food to those in need. In 2021, HSVC, along with DoorDash PetSmart Charities Partnership, delivered approximately 34,000 pounds of pet food to Ventura County residents through our combined pet food programs! That's more than 5x what we distributed last year!

Many pet owners have found themselves in a time of economic hardship due COVID-19. We strive to offer continuous assistance for these underserved communities to help keep pets in their homes and out of shelters. In addition to our on-site Pet Food Bank, HSVC distributed free pet food via our Pantry 4 Paws remote pet food bank program and our DoorDash Pet program.

Our Shelter is able to offer these services with support from our community partners such as United Way, DoorDash, and Interface Children and Family Services 211. We are also grateful to our remote host locations like Kirby Subaru of Ventura for helping us provide free pet food to a larger population within Ventura County.

As a private nonprofit organization, we do not receive funding from the government and we are not affiliated with any national animal welfare organizations. We rely 100% on the support of individual donors to continue the success of these programs. If you would like to join our cause, please visit our website at hsvc.org/donate to donate.

- Steve McCurry, Community Outreach Coordinator



"These programs have had such a positive impact. We are grateful to our community partners for helping us continue to serve those in need."

- Senior Officer King



Athena, 3-years-old, Female Siberian Husky



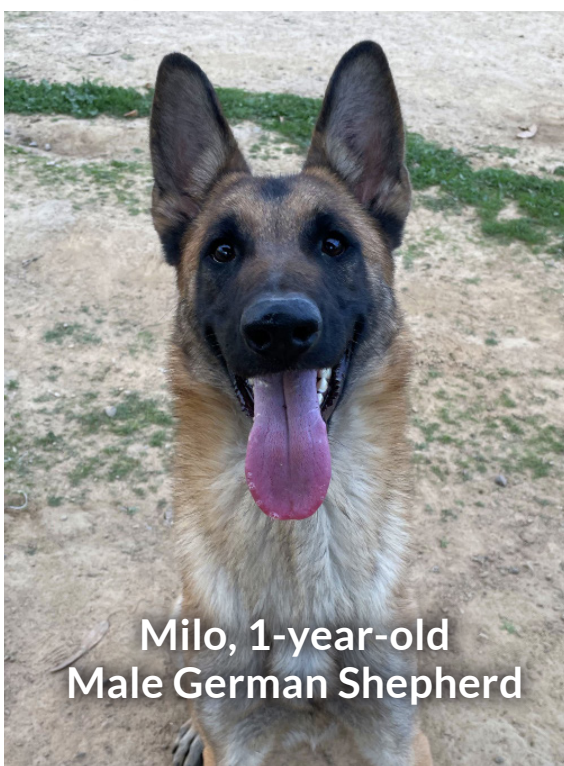
**Yum Yum, 5-years-old
Female Domestic Shorthair**



**Spock, 4-months-old
Male Domestic Shorthair**



**Patrick, 1-year-old
Male Guinea Pig**



**Milo, 1-year-old
Male German Shepherd**



**Wendy Nova, 14-years-old
Female American Quarter Horse & Arabian**

Humane Education

Fostering Compassionate Animal Care

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast (GSCCC) participated in two curated presentations on Pet Care and Responsibility and Living with Wildlife this February. Brownies and Juniors were in pursuit of their Girl Scout badges, and HSVC was there to answer the call. Twenty girls from various troops at GSCCC learned more about companion animal responsibility and care. They then explored more about the local animal habitats in Ventura County. They participated in imagination exercises, games and movement. It felt so amazing to get back into the community and educate youth about how they can be responsible animal stewards. The girls' enthusiastic and inquisitive minds created a buzz inside the Oxnard Girl Scout storefront at The Collection. I'm looking forward to future engagements such as this one.

I also want to highlight Girl Scout Troop #65004 for finishing out their service-learning project. Last year, I presented a lesson on companion animal care and then decided to complete a service to help the animals at the Shelter. After they learned about the importance of providing your companion animals with mental and physical exercise, they wanted to create toys for our animals. I gave learners some ideas about what they can do to help and they decided to make handmade toys for the dogs to play with. Our animals loved them! I truly believe these service-learning opportunities foster compassionate animal lovers.

A big thank you to the Girl Scout of California's Central Coast for their continued support, donations, and eagerness to learn about how to care for the animals on this great planet, Earth. HSVC has education programming available for many types of settings. Interested in more information on Humane Education youth programs? Check out our website online at hsvc.org/education_programs or contact me, Angie Chupek Sagliani, directly via email at education@hsvc.org or by phone at (805) 364-1350.

- Angie Chupek Sagliani, Humane Educator

Every Animal Deserves a Loving Home

Bruce and Kira's Journey

Bruce and Kira's journey began in August of 2021 under very common circumstances. Our Humane Officers responded to a report to check the wellbeing of two dogs in Ventura County. During an investigation, our Humane Officers will provide resources and offer assistance rehoming animals if needed. In this case, the Officers worked with the owner and provided financial aid in the form of an Angel Fund Voucher to help with veterinary care for their animals. A couple of months after their initial visit, the animal owner contacted our Officers again and decided it was in Bruce and Kira's best interest that they be surrendered to the Shelter to find a new home.

Many factors can affect an individual's ability to care for their animal. Our Humane Officers enter

every situation with an open mind, understanding there are always two sides to every story. First, we strive to offer assistance and resources to try and help owners keep their pets in their homes and out of shelters. Oftentimes, a case that may sound egregious turns out to be an opportunity for animal welfare education.

In late December 2021, Bruce and Kira caught the attention of the Justiniani family via our social media. They were looking for an older bonded pair to adopt in hopes they could offer a home to two long-term Shelter residents. After multiple visits with sweet Bruce and Kira, the Justiniani family decided to officially make the duo part of their family. Congratulations Bruce and Kira on finding their perfect home with their furever family!



Clinic Corner

Combating Pet Overpopulation



Another year, another strain of Covid. Here in the HSVC Clinic, we keep pushing forward! Despite setbacks due to employee absences and appointment cancellations, we managed to meet our goal of spaying/neutering over 100 cats in January with our \$25 January Feline Fix Promo, Community Cat program, and spay/neuter fund! I am eternally grateful for my hardworking staff. Thank you to the generous members of our community who have donated to our “Spay it Forward” fund that support programs like these.

January is considered a very important month for getting cats into our clinic. This is often the time of year when female cats start going into heat, preparing to have litters in the spring. It is also a time when shelter and rescue groups are not full of kittens needing our services. Just think, 56 of the 100 cats we fixed in January were female. A female cat can have on average of 2-3 litters per year, with an average of 4-5 kittens per litter. That’s 560 kitten births that were potentially prevented in just 1 month! Think of how that can add up over the lifetime of a cat!

Did you know we will fix kittens as young as

2-months of age? Surgery on small kittens is fast, causes much less discomfort, and has a very quick recovery. This helps prevent hormone-related behavior issues like spraying in males, reduces risk of mammary cancer in females, decreases risk of complications, reduces recovery time, and most importantly, prevents unwanted pregnancies! Even if you think your cat is “indoor only” you might be surprised by their desire to find that open door or window when puberty hits!

At HSVC, we recommend scheduling a spay or neuter appointment for your kitten at 4-months of age, when they are finished with their series of kitten vaccinations. We provide vaccination services also and those last boosters can always be performed at the same time as surgery. If your cat does have kittens, give us a call and we can offer financial assistance to get mom fixed when she is done nursing and fix her kittens before you find a home for them. Remember community cats are always fixed and vaccinated for FREE at HSVC! For more information, visit felinefixbyfive.org or call us at 805-646-6505 to make an appointment.

- Dr. Christina Sisk, Director of Veterinary Services

Success Story: Mama Juliet

Mama Juliet is thriving in her furever home! According to her new mom, Janis, it only took a couple of weeks for the sweet German Shepherd to adjust to her new surroundings after being adopted in July of 2021. Juliet now spends her time going for morning and evening walks and being a faithful companion dog to Janis and Michael.



Many people became familiar with Juliet's story after she was transferred to the HSVC from Kern County Animal Services. She was very pregnant at the time and gave birth to 13 puppies after arriving at our Shelter on Easter. Our animal-loving community got to see her blossom into a loving mom and follow each of her puppies as they got adopted into their own furever homes.

Sweet Juliet was adopted by Janis and Michael in early July after she was done nursing her 13 pups. "She is always happy to see her neighborhood buddies Howie, Jasper, and Lola. She is smart and obedient, especially when there is a treat involved. She also has a little bit of a bossy streak-this involves "talking" to us and attempting to herd us around. We try not to let her see us laughing! Thank you again for the time and effort you put into rescuing these wonderful creatures and for allowing us to have this wonderful soul in our lives," said Michael and Janis.



Humane Officers

Welcome, Cecelia and Shyann

In December of 2021, right before Christmas, Humane Officers brought in two miniature horses from separate cases that each had severely overgrown hooves. They have been undergoing medical treatment since arriving at the Shelter. Over the past month and a half, we have gotten to know their personalities and quirks. Their care is ongoing and, unfortunately, long-lasting.

Shyann, our 25-year-old Palomino, was the first to come in. Her hooves were trimmed by farrier Stacy Hyatt, and she was put on a strict diet by veterinarian Dr. April Armstrong (below, left) due to a suspicion of her having Cushing's. This disease

presents physical characteristics such as increased coat length and delayed shedding of their winter coat. The pituitary gland is damaged in those with Cushing's, causing excessive production of hormones from the pituitary. As a result, Shyann will need to be on medication for the rest of her life.

Sadly, the prolonged neglect of her front hooves has caused Shyann's coffin bone to rotate within the hoof to the point where it started to structurally degrade. There is no cure, but if caught in time, it can be maintained with frequent and regular hoof trimming. Our staff is hopeful we will be able to help Shyann become healthy once again.



Pictured: Dr. Armstrong x-rays Shyann



Pictured: Senior Officer King with Cecelia



Pictured: Cecelia at the Shelter

Cecilia is our 13-year-old white miniature horse. She is much younger than Shyann, but has very similar issues with her front hooves. With her hooves in slightly better condition, we are very hopeful to get her to a comfortable place soon. Overall, Cecilia is a healthy, sassy, spunky girl that always makes us laugh and smile with her antics.

Proper hoof care is essential for a happy and healthy life for all equines. Normally a horse's hooves are trimmed every 6-8 weeks by a farrier. Without this regular trimming, a horse's hooves can start to develop many health issues. These ailments, if left untreated, can cause the animal a lot of pain and suffering. Thank you to Dr. April Armstrong and Farrier Stacy Hyatt for continuously providing care for the countless case animals that come through our doors. We also want to thank our Humane Officers for their hard work and compassion during each case. Without them, Cecilia and Shyann would not have been able to receive the attention and care they so desperately needed. Please consider visiting our website at hsvc.org and donating to our Shelter so we may continue to make a difference in the lives of animals in need like Shyann and Cecilia.

- Jeff Hoffman, Director of Investigations



Pictured: Cecilia's hooves (before)



Pictured: Shyann's hooves (before)



Signature _____

Susan Pollack

Annual Report 2021

	Cats	Dogs	Other	Total
All animal intake	310	513	55	878
Adopted	183	160	7	350
Return to Owner - Lost	10	87	2	99
Return to Owner - Other	13	10	0	23
Transferred	11	24	1	36
Emergency Evacuations	0	0	0	0
Veterinarian Euthanasia	7	2	2	11
Committee Euthanasia	0	2	0	2
Owner Request Euthanasia	61	164	7	232
Spay and Neuter	1,326	568	0	1,894
Humane Officer Cases				389
Humane Education Outreach		263 learners	40 presentations	303
Free Pet Food Programs Estimated			34,000 pounds	34,000

This year was full of challenges, but we are proud of our staff for their continuous perseverance and dedication to helping animals in need. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with nearly 90 years of service to Ventura County, we owe our success to the support we have received from our community. Over the years, we have been able to expand our programs and services to help more people and pets in need. Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout our journey!

- The staff and animals of the Humane Society of Ventura County





PO Box 297
Ojai, CA 93024

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Oxnard, CA 93030
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Mailing Address
PO Box 297 Ojai, CA 93024

Shelter & Adoption Center
402 Bryant St. Ojai, CA 93023
805-646-6505 • 805-656-5031

COVID-19 Hours:
Monday-Saturday: 10-5
Spring Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10-5

