



PAWS FOR *Thought* FALL 2022

Serving
Ventura County
Since 1932

Join HSVC's
Capital Campaign

Welcome new
Executive Director,
Eric Knight!



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Letter from t

The first time I visited the Humane Society in 2022, a black cat swished my way and then offered me her belly for a pat. “That’s Rose,” the volunteer working that day told me, “it’s a trap, she probably won’t let you pet her,” she laughed. My wife and I and our two-year-old son then visited the kittens with a second friendly volunteer and walked the rest of the grounds saying hello to the sheltered dogs while looking an acre or so east to the horses in the stables. Now, 4 months later, Rose greets me every morning and is still just as fickle with her fluffy belly, but now I head to my office as the Executive Director of this wonderful institution, the Humane Society of Ventura County.

So far in 2022, HSVC has adopted out 317 animals. Our Humane Officers have had 315 humane investigation cases, nearly double the number of cases last year already. Our dedicated veterinarian and clinic staff have administered 558 free vaccines total during our low-cost vaccine clinics at the shelter and at locations offsite. These numbers are impressive, but the work is never done. We’re finding ways to make an even greater impact, to be of greater



With the Executive Director



service to the animals and people of the region. We're finding ways to reach more people in areas of the County that aren't yet aware of our programs and services, and we're finding new ways of educating children and adults, so that we may prevent animal suffering from ever even happening. HSVC marketing staff does such a fantastic job with these quarterly publications, and on these pages, we will illustrate with excitement and enthusiasm some of the great things we've accomplished since the last issue of Paws for Thought.

What we can't illustrate is the heart and soul of the dedicated volunteers, donors, community partners, and supporters from all over the region. The body of people who support HSVC are truly unlike any other. I'm honored to be the Executive Director for their organization, here to listen, learn, and serve them and the animals in new ways that allow the organization to flourish. HSVC is filled with huge-hearted, dedicated staff, some who have been here for decades, some for a couple of years or less. And they all do their jobs very well, effectively, with compassion, empathy, and a focused attention to the most important thing – the animals.

My job at the HSVC is to create the conditions for the staff and volunteers to do their best work, and to create the conditions for the organization to thrive now and well into the future. I'm excited to serve HSVC, the stakeholders and supporters, and the entire region through my work here. I can't wait to tell you about the great things that are just around the corner. Thank you for your support of the HSVC, and thank you for all that you do!

- Eric Knight, Executive Director



Humane Education

Combating Pet Overpopulation

For the 2022-2023 school year, Humane Education programming from HSVC will take on a wider lens. I recently gained certification as a Humane Education Practitioner through the University of Denver's Institute for Human-Animal Connection. Through that program, I was inspired to create a Humane Education program called, "Compassionate Animal Neighborhoods" (C.A.N). With the current direction of education and the need for schools to engage the disengaged, I am developing programming that takes a closer look at the connection of human actions to the health of animals (domestic and wild) living in our local communities. This pilot program will be available starting late August 2022 through May 20, 2023. These primary presentations are intended to engage your students to want to dive deeper into how they can empower themselves to treat animals with more compassion in their communities. For more information on Humane Education Programs contact me, Angie Chupek Sagliani at Education@hsvc.org.

Angie Chupek Sagliani, Humane Educator

Curiosity Inducing Presentations in:

"Pet Care and Responsibility" AND "Living with Wildlife" These 30-60 Minute presentations are ideal for large audience groups in a large indoor setting with a projector and screen for hookup to a laptop, microphone (optional).

Service-Learning Projects:

This presentation is based on the desire to learn how to help the shelter with the care of the animals. Virtual or live field trips are available for students to learn more about the day-to-day operations of the shelter. During the field trip, the needs of the shelter will be highlighted. The organizations or schools will decide on service projects intended to help the animals.

Red Rover Readers:

This interactive program is best for K-2nd grade audiences in a classroom or small indoor/outdoor setting to learn about animal empathy through books. There is a selection of books that can be read and includes a discussion with the audience.

Thank You For Celebrating Our 90th Birthday With Us!

It's been a full three years since our last birthday bash, and we were thrilled to once again be able to celebrate our 90th birthday with our community! Thanks to all who came out to help us celebrate our milestone birthday on June 11th! Visitors were welcomed to the shelter to enjoy fun activities, refreshments, and learn more about the HSVC and many of our community partners.

Several of our partner organizations were in attendance at this year's celebration including the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation, Reins of HOPE, Ventura County Animal Services, Vet CBD, and more! Thank you to all our vendors for helping us celebrate! Mayor of Ojai Betsy Stix was also in attendance to speak and ceremoniously cut the cake during the event. Both cakes were generously donated by our friends at Walmart. Thank you, Walmart!

The HSVC would also like to give a huge shoutout to our many birthday bash sponsors! Our friends at Kirby Subaru presented the HSVC with a \$3000 check onsite at the event, and Mechanic's Bank Ojai and LIV Sotheby's also donated. We received nearly \$5000 in total from our sponsors! Not to mention a whopping nearly \$1300 in cash donations at the event from those in attendance. We are grateful for the support of our community!

Shelter Director Jolene Hoffman celebrated a milestone of her own at this year's birthday bash: 40 years working with the HSVC! HSVC's Board of Directors President Cyndy Treutelaar presented her with the award during the day's festivities. We are so proud of Jolene's dedication to the shelter over the years and we are honored to have her as our Shelter Director. Congratulations, Jolene!

Once again, thank you to all who helped us celebrate our milestone birthday! We cannot wait to celebrate with you all again next year!





Welcome Back, Animal Reading Friends!

The HSVC is proud to host programs that promote humane education and benefit both the animals and people of Ventura County. That's why this summer we are excited to reintroduce our Animal Reading Friends (ARF) program! ARF is a program open to children of all ages in which they can practice reading to our shelter animals in a judgment-free zone. We welcome you to join us every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:30-12:30 here at the shelter in Ojai, located at 402 Bryant St., and read to our adoptable animals!

Reading to animals is highly beneficial to kids because it is a judgment-free experience! Now that kids are getting back into the swing of things at school, this program can be a great way to encourage reading for pleasure. But let's not forget about the benefits to the animals! Studies indicate that spending just three minutes with a

shelter pet increases their Serotonin levels (happy hormones)! So, by spending time reading their favorite book to a cat or dog, the kids are helping shelter animals to be happier and healthier too!

Our ARF members may sit outside the dog kennels or inside the cat and kitten rooms and read to our animals. Please understand that the shelter can be a stressful environment for some animals so expect barking from some of our dogs. It is also important to respect their personal space and not touch the dogs without permission.

If you plan to join us, come prepared with some of your favorite books and a reusable water bottle, it can get very hot in Ojai! Readers may also borrow books from our Free Little Library. Please contact me, Sarah Frazz, Volunteer Coordinator, at SarahE@hsvc.org if you have any questions!

- Sarah Frazz, Volunteer Coordinator

A Message from the Board of Directors

Volunteer with us on our Capital Campaign!

The Board of Directors of the Humane Society of Ventura County is moving forward in their plans for building a much-needed dog kennel. This project, originally begun in 2020, was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward with our plans, we see the need for dedicated volunteers to work on the following committees tasked with developing a Capital Campaign: Community Gifts Committee, Steering Committee, Communications and Cultivation Committee, and Major Gifts Committee.

We are looking for volunteers who are committed to the compassionate care of animals, who are enthusiastic about HSVC's mission, cause, and values; people who are willing to give the

time and energy necessary to ensure a successful campaign. If you previously volunteered on our capital campaign, we hope you will join us again. If you are interested in joining our efforts, please complete the application found on our website at hsvc.org. Locate the tab titled, "About Us" and go to the "Board of Directors" page. Scroll down to "click here" to view the application. If you would like to talk to a Board member, please feel free to contact us at sheilam@hsvc.org. We sincerely hope to hear from you and to have you join us in this endeavor! Don't forget to join us at our Fall Open Board Meeting at the shelter, located at 402 Bryant St. in Ojai, on Tuesday, October 18th, at 5:00 pm!

- HSVC Board of Directors



Mission: The Humane Society of Ventura County, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to promoting the health, safety, welfare, compassionate care, and protection of all animals through education and community outreach programs.



Clinic Corner

The other side of kitten season



It's that time of year once again, when our local animal shelters and rescues are seeing kittens flooding through their doors. Have you ever stopped to wonder where all those kittens come from? While some are brought in by their owners when they can no longer care for them, 80% of kittens born in the US are born outdoors. These are kittens born to "Community Cats" or cats without a home. If a community cat is lucky, a trapper will find it and its kittens and bring it to a TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) program, such as the one we have at HSVC. Kittens that are between 6-8 weeks of age, when they are weaning from nursing from the mother and transitioning to solid food, are usually easily socialized and

able to go into an adoption program. However, after this brief window, kittens will often start to pick up on the behavior of their mother and become shyer and more fearful of humans. While some of these kittens can still become wonderful pets, sometimes the only solution is to TNR the kitten and return it to its colony.

We are lucky to have some amazing volunteers in Ventura County that are passionate about helping community cats through TNR. More help is always needed with trapping, transporting, recovering and even fostering kittens that are too small to go into an adoption program. If you're interested in more information, visit communitycatscharity.mystrikingly.com/.

Most importantly, please do not contribute to the problem! If you haven't had your cat spayed or neutered, don't let it outside until you do so! Female cats can get pregnant as young as 6-months-old and male cats tend to fight, which can cause serious injuries and spread disease. If you do find yourself with some kittens at your home, please consider spaying or neutering them before adoption. The Humane Society of Ventura County will spay or neuter kittens as young as 8-weeks-old and can also offer financial assistance.

- Dr. Christina Sisk, Director of Veterinary Services



Mila came to the HSVC as a stray after longtime HSVC Farrier Stacy Hyatt found her wandering a busy street. After completing a 9-day stray hold unclaimed, Mila, was spayed and put up for adoption. Staff noticed Mila loved toys and playing fetch. Her interest in toys was mentioned to Humane Officer King.

In mid-April, Katie Brennan and Sylvia Stoney with National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF) came for a visit to the shelter to evaluate some of our dogs. Remembering Mila's love for toys and fetch, Officer King asked if Katie and Sylvia wanted to view Mila as a potential candidate for their program. During the interaction, Katie and Sylvia noticed some of Mila's characteristics were indicators for their Search Dog Program. They asked if Officer King would be willing to bring Mila to the Search Dog Foundation's training grounds to further tests Mila's Search Dog candidacy.

A couple of days later, Officer King and Media & Marketing Coordinator Amy King brought Mila to the Search Dog Training Facility in Santa Paula. Mila was further tested for the behaviors SDF looks for in ideal program candidates. Ultimately, Mila did not display enough of the behaviors and characteristics they were looking for. The visit ended with Officer King, Amy, and Mila getting a tour of their vast facility.

Although Mila was not the ideal candidate for SDF's program, Katie and Sylvia introduced Officer King via email to Malinois and Dutch Shepherd Rescue's State Representative Nicole Poell. Through email correspondence, Officer King introduced Nicole to Mila and her story. Nicole gained permission to have Mila evaluated by Dog Trainer

Jackee Ermansons. After her evaluation, Nicole was able to gain permission to accept Mila into their foster program. Officer King was put in touch with foster Meryl Cohen, who is a dog trainer with Bay Area Balanced Dog Training. We are thrilled to share that Mila has found her forever home thanks to our friends at Bay Area Balanced Dog Training! She was adopted by a lovely family and will even be gaining a fellow Malinois big brother in her new home! We are blessed to not only be a K9 recruitment partner with SDF, but now also to have a strong partnership with Malinois and Dutch Shepherd Rescue. Thank you to all involved in Mila's journey!

- Jeff Hoffman, Director of Investigations



Humane Officers
Mila's Journey to her Furever Home!



Success Story:

Zeus and Hera

Bruce and Kira, now Zeus and Hera, are thriving together in their forever home! The pair of gorgeous Dogo Argentinos were adopted in January by the Justiniani family and have been living the good life ever since. They even have their own Instagram account, The Greek Dogs! Give them a follow!



Zeus and Hera's journey began in August of 2021 after Humane Officers responded to a report to check the well-being of two dogs. Our Officers provided financial aid resources to the owner for the pups to receive veterinary care. A couple of months after their initial visit, the animal's owner contacted our Officers again and decided to surrender Zeus and Hera to the Shelter to find a new home.

Our staff quickly got to work trying to find them each their perfect home. Lucky for Hera and Zeus, the Justiniani family was looking for an older bonded pair to join their family. They adopted both adorable pups in January of 2022, and we are so grateful they did! Both Zeus and Hera have adjusted to life in their new home well and are enjoying all their new adventures!

We want to extend a big thank you to the Justiniani family for choosing to rescue not one, but two animals in need! It's because of loving people like them that dogs like Zeus and Hera get the happily ever after they deserve.

The Humane Society of Ventura County team would like to thank Kirby Subaru and Subaru Loves Pets for generously donating a brand new surgical lift table to our shelter! This new table (below) will help us to provide essential procedures for animals in need throughout our community. Thank you, Kirby!

Bruce Holley of Kirby Subaru recently visited the shelter in Ojai to present a check in the amount of \$2000 to our staff members. Eric Knight, Executive Director of HSVC, stated, "The Board, staff, volunteers, and animals at the HSVC are grateful for the continued support of Kirby Subaru. Bruce Holley and the entire team at Kirby go above and beyond in the actions they take to support our shelter in achieving its mission and increasing the positive impact we make in our community. Kirby Subaru helps us make a difference, and we're thankful for all that they do!" said Knight. HSVC and Kirby look forward to co-hosting an adoption event and HSVC Cares free vaccination clinic at their location in this October!

HSVC has also been fortunate to be a recipient of



surplus pet food from The Wharf in Ventura (above). Doug Dannevik and his team have been a great partner of our organization for several years. The Wharf hosted an HSVC Cares free vaccination event in the Spring and continues to provide support to animals in our care through their generosity. If you are interested in making large scale donation, please contact me at SteveM@hsvc.org or 805-910-6240.

- Steve McCurry, Community Outreach Coordinator



Community Connections
Thank you Kirby Subaru and The Wharf Ventura

Shelter Director Jolene Hoffman Celebrates 40 Years with the HSVC!

We would like to extend a big congratulations to our beloved Shelter Director, Jolene Hoffman, on celebrating her 40th anniversary working with the Humane Society of Ventura County! Jolene has worked for the shelter in several roles over the years, and we are so grateful for her dedication to helping animals in need!

Jolene began her journey with the HSVC as a volunteer in 1982. Shortly after, she was hired full-time as a front office staff member and then promoted to Office Manager. She also spent time serving animals in need as a Humane Officer. From working in the kennels to humane education, Jolene has done it all! It was only fitting that after so many years of experience at the shelter she was named as HSVC's Shelter Director. We are so proud of all she has accomplished over the years!

Jolene was also honored at our 90th birthday bash and open house on June 11th. President of the Board of Directors, Cyndy Treutelaar, presented her with an award recognizing her 40 years of dedication and service to the shelter (below). Congratulations, Jolene, on your milestone accomplishment with the HSVC!

"Jolene and I have worked together for nearly 20 years. She loves the shelter more than anything and is one of the most kind, hardworking people I know. She has dedicated a huge part of her life to the staff and animals here and we are so proud of her accomplishments!"

*- Arlene MacSween,
Assistant Shelter Director*



Jolene's milestone work anniversary was celebrated at the shelter with a surprise party with all HSVC staff and friends of the shelter in attendance. We love you, Jolene!





HSVC Cares hosted its most successful remote vaccine clinic yet on July 30th in El Rio! We were able to service 198 animals and administer 325 vaccines! Thank you to First Baptist Church of El Rio for allowing us to use their space and thank you to all those who came out to get your furry friends vaccinated!

Thanks to our friends at Petco Love, HSVC Cares was able to offer free DHPP vaccines for dogs and free FVRCP vaccines for cats at this event. We also offered Rabies vaccines for \$5 and licensing through Ventura County Animal Services.

We also want to give a huge shoutout to our amazing volunteers for helping with this event! The volunteers assisted with checking pet owners in as they arrived and directing the public where to go while on site. Volunteer students from Ventura College's Vet Tech program even helped administer vaccines. We love you, volunteers! HSVC Cares will be hosting additional remote vaccine clinics very soon, stay tuned for a location near you! Please visit hsvc.org for more information!



Making a Difference in our Community
HSVC Cares Services Nearly 200 Animals in El Rio!



Saffron, 10-months-old
Female Domestic Mediumhair



Wendy Nova, 15-years-old
Female Quarterhorse & Arabian



Kiki, 8-years-old
Female Chihuahua

Pet Gallery

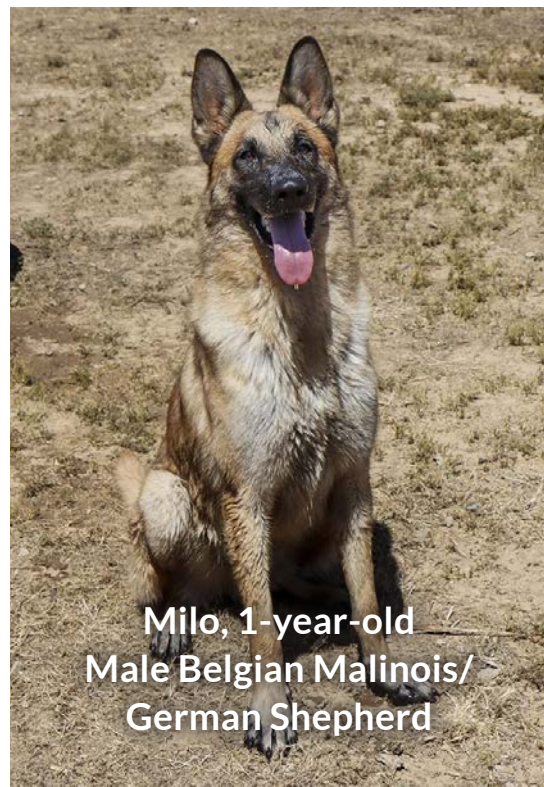
Check out some
of our adoptable
furry friends!



Layla, 2-years-old
Female Domestic Longhair



Cowboy, 25-years-old
Male Pony



Milo, 1-year-old
Male Belgian Malinois/
German Shepherd

Signature _____



**Thank You
Paver Stone Donors!**

Lynn Kelly

Give a gift of love to the animals of the Humane Society with a timeless paver stone in the HSVC Memory Garden. Fill out the form below and bring it in or mail it to us with your payment. We will send a card to the recipient acknowledging your gift in their honor. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a paver stone in the past. We appreciate your continual support and look forward to when we can welcome you back to the Shelter again. For more information, please contact BettyJo MacCaughtry via email at BettyJoM@hsvc.org or call 805-646-6505.

YOUR NAME HERE
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Humane Society of Ventura County
PO Box 297 Ojai, CA 93024

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natural stone pavers may vary slightly in size

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 - ☐ Medium (95 sq. inch) \$350
 - ☐ Large (120 sq. inch) \$500
- (*includes an extra line of text)*

SMALL & MEDIUM PAVERS - you may use up to two lines

[illegible]

*LARGE PAVERS - you may use a third line

[illegible]☐ MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED

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EXPIRATION

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

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