

PAWS ^{FOR} *Thought*

SUMMER 2021

*Outdoor
Summer
Camp!*

*In Memory
of Moxie,
HSVC Alum
& Search Dog*

*Serving
Ventura
County
Since
1932*

*Puppy
Overload!*





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Oliver's Report

To all my bird-loving friends, remember that for the birds that fly free it is nesting season! So please, do not trim your trees right now. I have a lot of feathered friends that are losing their homes when you take their nests away. Talk to an expert like me! Another great tip is if you find baby wildlife, leave it alone. The moms will find and feed their babies or take them back home. They might be out hunting, and babies are curious and might wander around close to their nests. Always remember that we live in their backyard! Same with our slithering creatures! They like the hot weather and are out hunting. So be careful of your two-legged and four-legged critters. Some snake bites will cause serious injuries, so always stay alert!

Letter from the Director

Thank you Wayne and Pamela Eichele!



It takes a village to run a nonprofit animal shelter. The Humane Society of Ventura County is no exception. We are fortunate to have the support of so many individuals, businesses, and community partners. Wayne and Pam Eichele are two of them who recently announced a commitment to include the HSVC in their estate planning.

Thinking about their legacy, they started researching local non-profits and charities for their estate planning. Mr. and Mrs Eichele enlisted the help of The Ventura County Community Foundation to find a local nonprofit to support. Their desire was to keep their donations in the community where they live. Assistance League of Ventura County, Food Share, RAIN Project, the HSVC, and Wayne's alma mater, Tusculum University, will receive the Eichele's support.

"If you have a place in your heart for animals, as we do, please consider the HSVC in your Estate Planning. While you're at it, please don't forget to make a plan for the care of your four-legged animals, in case something tragic happens to you!"
- Pam Eichele, HSVC Donor

Long-time pet lovers, the Eicheles wanted one of their chosen charities to be animal-related. The HSVC came up in their research and after a visit to the Shelter, Wayne and Pam knew they had a good fit. "The mission of the HSVC is more in line with the values of the type of organization we want to support." They said that after they met the staff and toured the Shelter they were very impressed and grateful for the dedication that goes into caring for the animals (and people) of Ventura County. "The HSVC has done so much for our County, particularly during the wildfires. This is one of the most worthwhile organizations to support," said Pam.

These partnerships contribute in a meaningful way to our mission. The countless animals and their human companions that will benefit from their generosity will help the HSVC fulfill our Mission for years to come. "It also provides a way for us to leave a meaningful legacy. We are comforted in knowing our gift will live long after we are gone," said Wayne.

Thank you to all of our partners, supporters, and donors for helping us continue to make a difference in the lives of animals in need!

- Jolene Hoffman, Shelter Director



Wayne and Pam Eichele pose for a portrait with their dog Jake near a memorial paver recently installed at the Shelter in Ojai.



Humane Education

Introducing Outdoor Animal Adventure Camp!

Greetings, Animal Friends! It has been more than a year since education has seen a major shift in how we educate our learners. I've used this opportunity to add virtual learning to my educator toolbox. Not only did HSVC create a virtual summer school, but we also added virtual presentations, virtual field trips, and monthly virtual classes, all FREE to any inquiring school, organization, or family. As part of my own virtual learning, I completed coursework to become a National Geographic Certified Educator. I was inspired! I'm taking what I learned from NatGeo and incorporating these themes into our newest summer camp experience. I cannot wait to share with all my eager learners what we have in store this year!

For Summer of 2021, we recognize that learners might be virtually burnt out, and as a response, we are going to create an in-person Outdoor Animal Adventure Day Camp. Outdoor camp is a perfect way to see how the human and natural worlds connect. We will be exploring our Ojai property to observe animals big and small. Campers will be spending time outdoors exploring our property, learning about subjects such as sustainability, caring for the planet, exploration, observation, and of course, lots of animal learning!

We are aware that the pandemic has created hardships and we want to keep the cost of this camp low. We are going to be doing arts and crafts with sustainability in mind by creating projects that are repurposed, reused, or upcycled. Also, we are asking the public to help in our efforts to create a cost-effective summer camp experience. Please consider donating supplies that we need for summer camp by visiting our Amazon Wishlist or donating funds via our website at hsvc.org/donate. We appreciate all your generosity!

- Angie Chupek Sagliani, Humane Educator

For more information about summer camp, please contact Angie Chupek Sagliani at education@hsvc.org.



We will miss you, Greg!

This will be my last column on behalf of the Humane Society of Ventura County. I have called the Ojai Valley home for the better part of 50 years, and now it is time for me to move on. Working with the HSVC has been one of the most rewarding opportunities in my career, but my true passion is teaching photography. I have accepted a full-time teaching position at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois.

Before working as the Director of Community Outreach, I taught in the Visual Journalism program at Brooks Institute in Ventura. Since their close in 2016, I have been fortunate enough to call the HSVC my home. There will always be a soft spot in my heart for animal welfare and I will investigate volunteer opportunities once I land on my feet in Illinois.

The HSVC continues to serve the community well, and I have

no doubts they will continue to promote the health, safety, welfare, compassionate care, and protection of all animals through education and community outreach.

Some highlights while serving in this role include assisting in disaster response, relief, and preparation during the Thomas, Hill, Woolsey, Easy, and Maria fires. The HSVC exceeds many expectations with their daily services but we all showed our true colors when called upon to serve those impacted by the wildfires that devastated our County three years in a row.

However, all those experiences pale in comparison to working alongside the most professional, experienced, and compassionate people working in animal welfare. I couldn't be more proud to call them all my colleagues and friends.



My wife Cláudia, our dogs Biskit, Cooper, and I wish everyone at the HSVC the very best. To all the friends and acquaintances I have met during my time in this position, I ask you to continue to support the HSVC as you have in the past and as we will, but from afar.

- Greg Cooper
Director of Community Outreach





Humane Officers Adjusting to a New Routine

For more than a year, many people have been working from home. They have spent a lot more time with their pets. In my quiet neighborhood, I have seen a big increase in people out walking their dogs.

Now that people are going back to work this means spending less time with our pets. Pets have a schedule of their own. When something changes in their routine, they can act out just like children. Dogs may be left outside more than they are accustomed to. Litter boxes may not get cleaned as often as they have been. We should never forget to provide basic care for them, such as shelter, fresh water, and clean-living spaces.

With summer comes hotter days. Dogs left outside unattended may start having a difficult time. Water bowls should never be kept in direct sunlight, as this can cause algae to

grow and leaves pets suffering from hot water. Like us humans, animals need shelter from the elements to keep them safe and healthy. Our pets deserve the same care that we need and want.

Failing to provide shelter, food, water, and basic veterinary care is considered neglect and abuse of an animal and is punishable by law.

So, before you start going back to work, remember that your animals depend on you for their care and attention. It may be challenging for your animal, but it is your responsibility as a pet owner to help them through the transition. Leave the television or radio on to distract them while you are at work and give them lots of attention when you come home. Help them get back into a new normal routine. In return, they will bestow upon you unconditional love and affection.

- Jeff Hoffman, Director of Investigations

Success Story: Max the Traveler

Max, formerly Gordon, was brought to the HSVC as a puppy in October of 2016 after being rescued in the field by Humane Officers during a neglect case. Despite his difficult upbringing, Max had a very friendly personality, not to mention his stunning good looks! It was those handsome looks that first attracted his future owners, Nathalie and Thomas, to the lovable Akita.



“Max makes our life better. He has inspired us to search for new adventures. We explored so many beautiful trails, had fun at the doggy beach, met so many nice puppy moms and dads at the park, improved our fitness with our multiple daily walks, and went on wonderful trips to the wilderness,” said Nathalie.

In early 2020, Max accompanied his furever family on his biggest adventure yet: moving to Germany! The couple relocated to Kühlungsborn, Germany, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and Max has been living the European dream ever since.

“As much as we were sad to leave, seeing Max so happy in his new home more than makes up for it. Max is loving the beach, forests, fields, wildlife, the new food and the cooler weather. He’s loving the cold and snow! Thank you Humane Society of Ventura County and the whole crew for rescuing Max and giving us the opportunity and privilege to give Max all our love. He is the most wonderful son!” said Nathalie.





Clinic Corner

It's Raining Puppies and Kittens at the HSVC!

Spring is here and while it might not actually be raining, it has been raining puppies and kittens here at HSVC! In early April, we took in 5 adorable chihuahua pups, just shy of 8-weeks from a family in Oxnard that could no longer care for them. And while dad has skipped town, mom is scheduled to be spayed in a few weeks. A few weeks later, we got in a sweet mama cat who invited herself into someone's home in Santa Paula. We will be caring for her and her 4, 2-week-old kittens until they are ready for adoption. We have many additional neonatal kittens in foster care and one of our rescue partners, the Foundling Kitten Society, has taken in over 90 cats and kittens in April alone!

And then there is Juliet... this sweet German Shepherd was transferred to us from Kern County where she was picked up as a stray a week prior. It was obvious she was very pregnant, so we sent

her up the street to our friends at Matilija Animal Hospital for an x-ray to see how far along she was. Dr. Bailey counted at least 12 pups, due in the next week or two. Thankfully, we quickly found a wonderful, experienced foster home for Juliet to give birth. Sure enough, 11 days later at 9 pm she had her first puppy. Everything was going smoothly until she birthed a puppy with a serious complication known as placental abruption at 3 am on Easter Sunday.

After a frantic call from the foster, I arrived at their house to examine the puppy and attend to mom, who was getting tired after birthing 10 puppies. After some medical attention was given to mom, she birthed another healthy pup (number 10). Puppies 11 and 12 followed a few hours later... but the foster could tell she wasn't done yet and mom was running out of steam. Then an x-ray at Matilija showed two more puppies!





HSVC staff then transferred Juliet to Horizon Veterinary Specialists for continued care. She had another puppy just before transfer, but Juliet still had one more to go! Despite further medical treatment at Horizon, mom was too tired to push and the puppy's heart rate was dropping. The decision was made to go to c-section to save the puppy, but just as I called Horizon, mom gave one last big push, and lucky number 13 puppy was born. Mom was picked up from Horizon by the HSVC staff at 8 pm that Sunday night, almost 24 hours after she started labor and went happily back to her foster home.

While puppies and kittens are adorable and fun, Juliet's difficult labor is a reminder that things don't always go as planned. And when they don't, expensive emergency medical care is often necessary. Please consider this if you plan to breed your dog or cat, or even if you don't intend to breed, accidents happen! Our mission at the HSVC Spay and Neuter clinic is to provide a low-cost option to fix your pet and prevent pet overpopulation in our community. Give us a call today!

- Dr. Christina Sisk, Director of Veterinary Services





It is with a heavy heart we announce that Veteran Search Dog Moxie passed away recently with her handler, Brent Koeninger, at her side. Moxie was surrendered to the Humane Society of Ventura County when her original owner was deployed overseas. Within a day, the Search Dog Foundation had received numerous calls about the petite black Lab that loved her toys! She did a wonderful job on her search dog candidate evaluation and was soon on her way to SDF's training kennel to learn the skills she would need for a career in disaster search.

In October 2012, Moxie was partnered with Brent, a firefighter with Oklahoma City Fire and veteran handler with Oklahoma Task Force 1. Shortly after, they were deployed to Moore, OK, in May 2013, for one of the most destructive tornado weather ever seen in the region, including one more than a mile wide.

Moxie lived up to her name throughout her life, but her determination was on full display in 2019 when she was diagnosed with cancer in her leg, forcing the limb to be amputated. While that may have been career-ending for some, Moxie and Brent trained diligently and she was soon back to full duty, successfully and cheerfully searching the rubble with three-paw drive instead of the usual four.

This incredible little girl enjoyed the last couple of years training with Brent and enjoying time at home with his family. Unfortunately, Brent began noting that Moxie was getting winded more easily during searches and began coughing in recent weeks. X-rays revealed something in her lungs and though Brent hoped it was treatable pneumonia, it was determined that the had cancer returned. Moxie's health rapidly declined, and Brent had to make the difficult decision to say goodbye to his partner.

Thank you all who have supported the SDF and the HSVC in their ongoing efforts to make a difference in our community. For more information about the Search Dog Foundation or to make a donation in honor of Moxie, please visit searchdogfoundation.org or hsvc.org/donate.



In Loving Memory of HSVC Alum Moxie



Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteering, it Benefits More Than Just the Animals!

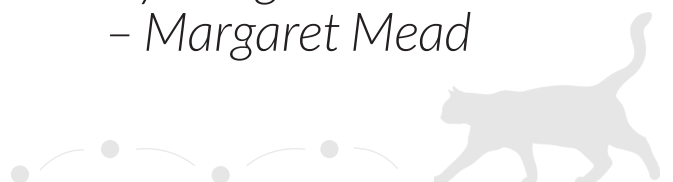
Volunteers at HSVC don't just help the animals, they literally help themselves! Did you know volunteering can improve your health? Stephanie Watson, Executive Editor at Harvard Women's Health Watch, believes health & mental health benefits can be expected. "A growing body of evidence suggests that people who give their time to others might also be rewarded with better physical health—including lower blood pressure and a longer lifespan." Who doesn't want to help animals and have these awesome personal gains? While we are recovering from a worldwide pandemic, this sounds like an added bonus! Along with mental health & physical wellbeing benefits, there are also professional benefits such as building your resume and professional network, discovering new opportunities and learning valuable skills related to animal welfare and more.

At the HSVC, we are trying to create a healthier community and help lead the way back to normal life after the pandemic. As the Volunteer Coordinator, I have been creating more volunteer positions and structures to help establish a well-organized and

safe volunteer environment. I would like to thank everyone who has remained supportive, patient, and encouraging while we have been working out a safe reopening plan. Starting May 3rd we welcomed back our most experienced Volunteers, known as Animal Ambassadors, to assist us in preparing to open our robust Volunteer Program. We are excited about having our volunteers back on-site! Please visit our website and Facebook page for details and updates on when we re-open to all Volunteers. Please check your email for virtual volunteering and training opportunities. If you have any questions please email volunteer@hsvc.org, I would love to hear from you. -Audra Lucas, Volunteer Coordinator

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead



Featured Pet: Demi



Say hello to Demi! This pretty girl was recently transferred to the HSVC through our rescue partners at Kern County Animal Services. She is now ready for a furever home of her own! Three-year-old Demi was very shy when she first arrived at our shelter in March, but she quickly opened up and became such a friendly girl! She loves running around in our agility yard and will sit by your side for hours. Demi will also do just about anything for a good head scratch! Though we don't know Demi's full medical history, we do know she has previously had at least one or more litters of puppies in her life.

If you are intersted in Demi, visit our website at hsvc.org/adopt and click the big orange "Let's Get Started" button to fill out an adoption appointment request to come and meet her!

Join Us For Our Virtual Open House!

The Humane Society of Ventura County is excited to invite you to our first ever Virtual Open House! This online event will take place on Wednesday, June 9th, in honor of our Shelter's 89th birthday. Though we are disappointed that we cannot celebrate with our community in person, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to share a glimpse of the hard work and dedication that has been happening behind closed doors since the COVID-19 shutdown last March.

During this online event, attendees will be treated to a virtual tour of the Shelter hosted by HSVC Staff. Guests will interact with Staff and Volunteers along their journey of the 4.4 acre property while learning more about our Shelter and the services we offer. Plus, of course, special apperances by our furry friends! More details coming soon, stay tuned!



Hero's Transformation

A True Adoption Success Story

Hero has come a long way since he was first brought to the Humane Society of Ventura County as part of an abuse & neglect case in October of 2018. When Humane Officers first met the 5-year-old Thoroughbred, he was about 500 pounds underweight with a score of 1 (the worst) on the Henneke scale. He was living in a filthy corral caked with manure and every piece of wood in reach was chewed.

The skeletal horse, along with another emaciated horse named Archer, was impounded and taken to the HSVC to begin his rehabilitation journey. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Staff and Humane Officers, Hero was able to make a full recovery to become a happy and healthy horse! We could not be more proud!



Flash-forward to May of 2020, our boy finally got the forever home he deserved! Hero, along with fellow HSVC residents Taz and Tobin, was adopted by Lisa Baca and has been residing at MonteVerde Ranch ever since! HSVC staff members Officer King, Christina Malleck, and Amy King recently got to visit the horses in their new home. In addition to touring the gorgeous facility, the trio also got to enjoy a trail ride led by Lisa herself. Officer King was even able to ride Hero, making it a true full-circle moment. Thank you, Lisa, for taking a chance on Hero and giving him the life he deserves! Stay tuned for Taz and Tobin's full adoption update, coming soon!





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Madden, 1-year-old, Male Australian Cattle Dog



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