

PA**S** FOR *Thought* WINTER 2022

*Support Animals
In Need This
Giving Season*

*Thank You,
Jolene Hoffman!*

*Serving
Ventura County
Since 1932*



Letter from

The Season of



As we approach the end of 2022, we are starting to reflect and forecast the objectives for the new year. We take time to be grateful not only for the things that have come our way that have benefited us, our loved ones, and our community, but also for the challenges that we have faced that we have learned from and made us wiser and stronger. We show gratitude not just for the things that were met with resonance, but also for those times that were difficult but allowed us to be of service to another's suffering.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be at an organization that employs Humane Officers that go out on calls of animal neglect and abuse. As difficult as it is, I'm also grateful and honored to be part of an organization that is trusted to be there at the end of the life of a loved pet. I'm humbled to be part of the pure joy between humans and animals when they find one another and create a new home together. And of course, I'm honored to have worked with Jolene Hoffman, who dedicated 40 years of her life to serving people and animals in need throughout Ventura County.

On the giving side, I know that we all are presented with a wealth of opportunities to donate money to make a difference, and that we all will give what we can. I encourage everyone to give in a meaningful way to the human and animal experience by adopting from the Humane Society of Ventura County when the time is right for you, and to tell others about the Humane Society of Ventura County. Give to the community by telling others about our low-cost spay and neuter and our offsite HSVC Cares clinics that offer free and low-cost vaccination clinics.

The HSVC has made a significant impact on our region over the years, and we're going to continue to do everything that we have been doing. We're also going to increase our capacity in the coming months, offer additional programming for the public and their animals, increase our education program reach, and more. We look to our mission to inform our operations, from long-term goals to daily operations. We're grateful for the opportunity to serve the animals and people of our region, and we're honored to have your support. Please consider a gift this giving season, in whatever amount you can. Thank you!

- Eric Knight, Executive Director, Humane Society of Ventura County

n the Executive Director f Gratitude, the Season of Giving



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OF VENTURA COUNTY**

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Thank you, Jolene Hoffman, for 40 Years of Service!

HSVC's Shelter Director Announces Her Retirement

After much thought with my family and friends, I have decided to retire from a job I have loved and devoted my life to for the past 40 years. It has been a great honor serving all of Ventura County and beyond. My career started as a volunteer at the Humane Society. After one year, I became a desk clerk, then an Office Manager and Dog Trainer. I was then transferred to the position of State Humane Officer investigating cases of cruelty and neglect to animals. From 1985 until October 21st, 2022, I held the position of Shelter Director serving all of Ventura County.

I have had an incredible journey working with the best of the best. To my mentor who trained me until her retirement, Joyce George, I will be forever grateful. To Board President, Cyndy Treutelaar, now retired, you have helped me tremendously. Thank you to Assistant Shelter Director, Arlene MacSween, for the past 20 years. We have been through it all and laughed and cried together.

I would also like to honor my staff. These men and women work so hard to care for the animals that are abused or no longer wanted. I can't tell you how much you all mean to me. You are truly the heroes and best people I have had the honor to work with. We have worked so hard together, sometimes living at the shelter for weeks during disasters, rescuing animals from fires, floods, and earthquakes. We saved so many lives. The dedication, compassionate care, and love you have given will be forever etched in my heart.

I am so honored to say I worked for an organization that gives back so much to our community. All of our services are because of the generosity of our donors. I will be forever grateful to HSVC as I have made so many lifelong friends, the two-legged and four-legged, and the feathered friend Oliver Bird! I will continue to support the Humane Society of Ventura County and its wonderful staff, volunteers, and donors. Thank you for all the memories!

- Jolene Hoffman





An Old(ish) Vet Learns New Tricks

My Trip to the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance

It's hard to believe it has been close to 20 years since I graduated from Veterinary School at the University of Illinois. When I graduated vet school, most students had performed exactly four surgeries: 1 dog and 1 cat spay, and 1 dog and 1 cat neuter. To say I needed more experience would be an understatement! I volunteered at many shelters and outreach organizations during my 4th year to improve my skills. After a decade in private practice, I found shelter medicine is my passion. Keeping up with changes in the profession is not only required but also essential. So, when an organization known as Neighborhood Cats put out a veterinary scholarship to attend the ASPCA Spay/Neuter advanced training clinic in Ashville, North Carolina, I thought it would be a great opportunity to refresh my skills and techniques.

Most people know of the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) as a rescue organization, but they also do a significant amount of research and training in spay/neuter techniques to improve safety, tissue handling, and patient outcomes for veterinarians doing High Quality, High Volume Spay/Neuter Surgery (HQHVSN). The primary goal of HQHVSN organizations is to reduce pet overpopulation through spay and neuter. The HSVC spay/neuter clinic does, on average, 15 surgeries a day in a 3-hour

time frame. That is the typical number of surgeries most full-service clinics do in a week! To complete those surgeries, the clinic and I staff must be efficient, conscientious of staff and patient safety, and work well as a team. I am happy to say that my time at the ASPCA gave me more confidence in new techniques and my skills as a surgeon, as well as new medication applications and techniques for our technicians to bring back to HSVC. I also enjoyed exploring beautiful Ashville after my time at the clinic each day.

I am extremely grateful to the Neighborhood Cats Organization for awarding me this opportunity and to the ASPCA for being so welcoming, especially during COVID. I could not have attended without the support of the Humane Society of Ventura County.

- Dr. Christina Sisk, Director of Veterinary Medicine



Remembering Maso

HSVC's Beloved Shelter Mascot

The Humane Society of Ventura County is saddened to announce the passing of beloved shelter mascot, Maso, who crossed the rainbow bridge on September 29th, 2022. Many would recognize Maso as one of our longtime four-legged greeters in the office at the shelter. His large size and even larger heart will be greatly missed by our staff, volunteers, and visitors of the shelter.

Eleven-year-old Maso began his journey with the HSVC when he was adopted by a sweet couple in 2014. When his owner tragically passed away seven years later, the large German Shepherd was returned to the shelter to find a new forever home. Shelter Director Jolene Hoffman and Director of Investigations Jeff Hoffman instantly knew Maso was meant for their family and brought him home the same day he was returned. He was happily greeted by his two new siblings and fellow HSVC alums, Parker and Cooper.

"Maso loved going to work at the HSVC. Every morning Maso would chill on the drive to work, he knew exactly when we turned down Bryant St. He would sit up and talk to us then lean his head forward to get a good look at what was going on at the shelter. Once there, he would wait for us to unlock the door while pushing his head against it to open it for us. He made sure he was always the first one inside, always looking out for us, then he would go to his bed and lay down for his 'shift' at the shelter," said Assistant Shelter Director Arlene MacSween of the sweet pup. As shelter mascot, Maso often starred in social media posts and photoshoot opportunities on behalf of the shelter. He was always a good sport, no matter how ridiculous the outfit our staff made him wear. Maso also had a fascination with the young puppies and kittens who came through the shelter. His "motherly instincts" always came out any time a small animal was in the office.

From the entire HSVC community, we will all dearly miss Maso's friendly personality, quirky playfulness, and loving nature. Rest in peace, sweet boy!





We at the Humane Society of Ventura County have been fortunate to have a vast network of volunteers and donors. Our shelter could not perform vital services for Ventura County without ongoing support from the community. We are excited to be a part of the Giving Tuesday movement again this year and will be holding our 2nd annual Giving Tuesday alumni benefit event at Ojai Valley Brewery on Tuesday, November 29th, from 5 - 8 PM.

Giving Tuesday is a nationally recognized holiday in the nonprofit world that encourages people to give back to their favorite organizations in any way they can. It offers nonprofit organizations the chance to raise more money than they would on an average day of giving, which is why many organizations create special campaigns to participate in this day of giving.

Last year we had a great event with a large turnout of HSVC Alumni. The pet friendly venue and staff at Ojai Valley Brewery helped make the event a success. This year, we are hosting another fun time with a silent auction, photo booth, and other activities. Please save the date and join us! If you would like to donate to the HSVC, visit hsvc.org/donate.

- Steve McCurry, Community Outreach Coordinator



Join Us for Giving Tuesday 2022!
HSVC Hosts 2nd Annual Event at Ojai Valley Brewery



Shyann



Shyann's hooves, before



Cowboy

The HSVC is excited to share that Shyann and Cowboy have found their forever home together with Beverlee! We could not be happier for them! Our Humane Officers brought Cowboy and Shyann to the HSVC during separate abuse and neglect cases. Shyann, a 25-year-old miniature horse, arrived in mid-December with severely overgrown hooves and in need of immediate care. Cowboy, a 25-year-old pony, arrived in mid-August with several other animals also in need of immediate vet care. Thanks to Dr. April Armstrong, Farrier Stacy Hyatt, and our dedicated shelter staff, both Shyann and Cowboy were able to make a full recovery and find their happily ever after with Beverlee!

On Friday, September 30th, HSVC received a call from long-time supporter and animal advocate Beverlee McGrath inquiring about Shyann and Cowboy. After hearing their story, Beverlee quickly decided she wanted to make the two petite horses a part of her family. HSVC Equine Specialist Christina Malleck and Senior Humane Officer King arranged to transport the two miniature horses to Beverlee's farm on October 1st.

Humane Officers

Shyann and Cowboy Find Their Home!



In 2017, Beverlee adopted four nursing baby Nubian goats from our shelter. She hand-reared them in her kitchen until they were strong enough to move outside. Our staff got to see the now adult goats when they transported Shyann and Cowboy to their new home (right). According to Officer King, each goat is happy, healthy, and enjoying an outside enclosure with their very own treehouse (below, right). Thank you for taking such good care of our HSVC alums, Beverlee!

Beverlee also runs a kids program, Crops and Critters, from her home where kids can visit her ranch and learn about animals and agriculture in

Ventura County. We're grateful to have amazing community members like Beverlee supporting our shelter and being a friend to the animals!

- Jeff Hoffman, Director of Investigations





The shelter is buzzing with inquiries about youth service participation. Humane Education presentations began for the 2022-2023 school year and have been updated to include service-learning opportunities. Students will learn about the ways that HSVC provides mission-driven programs to the community and how the shelter helps animals find their furever homes.

St. Patrick's Day School in Thousand Oaks was the first school to experience a field trip onsite since the start of the pandemic. The students, teacher, and parents toured the shelter grounds and visited the animals. After the tour was over, students participated in a student-centered learning opportunity focused on pet food and the different life stages of cats. It was fun seeing how engaged the students were and how happy they were by the time they left. The 2nd-grade students didn't leave the shelter without providing the HSVC with some in-kind donations. It warms my heart to see how dedicated these youth are to helping out the community with their generous donations.

The next day, I traveled to Thousand Oaks to talk more with the school congregation about HSVC services and to visit the 2nd graders one last time. I loved hearing and answering their many questions about the animals. A great big thank you to St. Patrick's Day School for another year of service. Your lights are truly shining bright!

If you would like more information about service-learning opportunities with the HSVC, please email me, Angie Chupek Sagliani, at education@hsvc.org or visit hsvc.org/education and fill out the presentation request form. I would love to hear from you!

- Angie Chupek Sagliani, Humane Educator



Humane Education

Service-Learning with St. Patrick's School



Success Story:

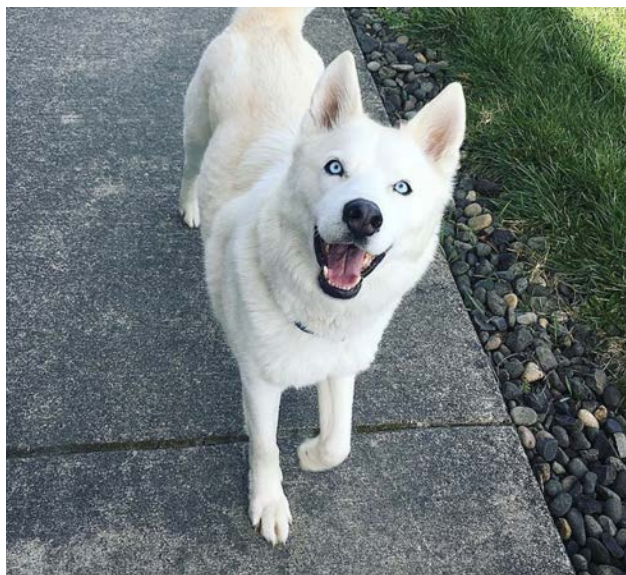
Kona Takes the PNW!

It was love at first site for Katy and Kona! Formerly Shiloh, Katy first laid eyes on Kona at the shelter in August of 2015. According to Katy, the handsome Husky's piercing blue eyes and engaging personality made him stand out to her. The pair now spends their days exploring the great outdoors!



"I thought I couldn't afford him or that surely someone else had adopted him already because he was so beautiful but that wasn't the case! I was there the day he became available, it was meant to be!" said Katy.

Katy and Kona lived together in California for four months before deciding to relocate back to her hometown in Oregon. As a Siberian Husky, it's safe to say Kona didn't mind trading the heat for the gloomy Pacific Northwest! Thank you, Katy, for choosing to adopt not shop and giving this handsome boy the life he deserves!





**Wendy Nova, 15-year-old
Female Quarterhorse and Arabian**



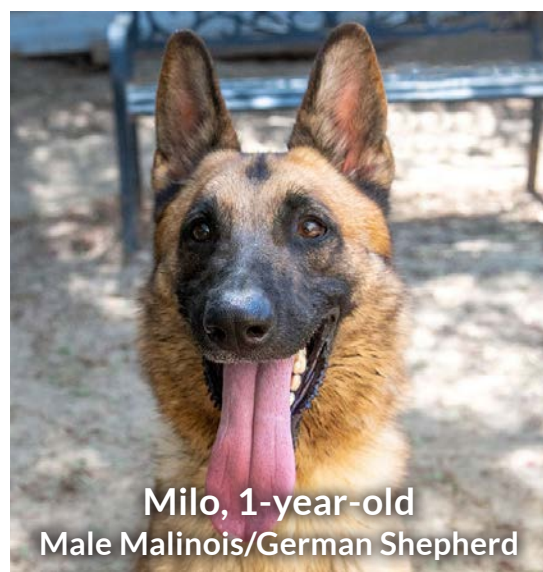
**Saffron, 1-year-old
Female Domestic Mediumhair**



**Bertha, 4-years-old
Female Bulldog Mix**

Pet Gallery

**Check out some
of our adoptable
furry friends!**



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



**Layla, 2-years-old
Female Domestic Longhair**



**Blake, 1-year-old
Male Alaskan Husky Mix**

Donate Used Vehicles to Benefit Animals in Need!

Do you have a vehicle you would like to donate to help animals in need? The Humane Society of Ventura County accepts most used automobiles, trailers, RVs, boats, motorcycles, and other motor vehicles as a tax-deductible donation. After passing a safety check and smog test, donated vehicles will be sold to benefit the animals at the HSVC!

"We have been doing this program for decades and have raised a significant amount of funds for the shelter over the years," said Jeff Kroll, who has been running the program since 2003. To date, we have processed over 500 used vehicles with proceeds benefiting the shelter and its animals.

We encourage those interested in donating a vehicle to benefit our shelter to do so before December 31st of this tax year. Donors can write

off the sale price of the vehicle after it is sold. If the car or truck sells after December 31st, donors can still write off the selling price, but it will have to be on the following year's tax return.

Any donation accepted after inspection by Jeff Kroll receives a receipt from HSVC that allows a \$500 credit on your taxes. However, if the donated vehicle sells for more than \$500, you may write off the higher amount. Please call us at 805-646-6505 to arrange an inspection for the vehicle you are interested in donating or contact Interim Shelter Director Arlene MacSween via email at ArleneM@hsvc.org for more information about how the donation program works. Please note the HSVC reserves the right to decline any car, truck, or vehicle at any time.



Volunteer Spotlight


Thank you past, present, and current volunteers!

The staff at HSVC would like to recognize the positive impact our volunteers bring to the shelter. Their consistent dedication and hard work help lessen the workload on our kennel staff and management. We consider them to be a vital part of our HSVC family and we are grateful to have them!

Volunteers at HSVC can be found doing many different tasks at the shelter: socializing animals, helping HSVC's community outreach efforts, and even shelter maintenance to name a few. We have a great group of long-term volunteers known as our Animal Ambassadors. This special team has collectively logged hundreds of volunteer hours and has had extensive training to help our staff provide

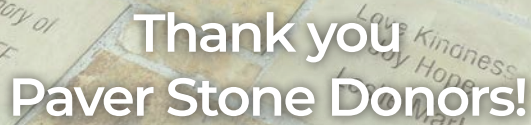
essential care for our shelter animals in need.

Volunteering with the HSVC has never been easier. Those interested in volunteering with us can visit our website at hsvc.org/volunteer to fill out a volunteer interest form or contact the shelter at (805) 646-6505 or at volunteer@hsvc.org for more information. The Humane Society of Ventura County's volunteer program welcomes any organization to contact us about group volunteer opportunities. Our junior volunteer program is for children ages 10 to 15 with an adult present, and those 16 and older may join our general volunteer program. Thank you to our volunteers who lend their time to make a difference in our community!



"Volunteering to me is like a bag of feelings and emotions from unconditional love, compassion, satisfaction, peace happiness, fulfillment, joy, and working with amazing animals,"
- Linda Duval
Animal Ambassador

Signature_____



Terri Davis
Dennis Charles
Andrea Leal

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. For more information, please contact BettyJo MacCaughtry via email at BettyJoM@hsvc.org or call 805-646-6505.

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NOW!

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complete and mail to:

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PO Box 297 Ojai, CA 93024

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natural stone pavers may vary slightly in size

- ☐ Small (65 sq. inch) \$200
- ☐ 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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ACCOUNT NUMBER

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NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

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