

PAWS FOR *Thought* **SPRING 2023**

*Serving
Ventura
County
Since
1932*

*Thank You
VCCF!*

*Goodbye 2022,
Hello 2023!*

*Remembering
Laurie Adams
& Don Buffon*



Letter from the Executive Director

Big Things Coming in 2023!



Where we've been is amazing, and where we're going is extraordinary. Since the Humane Society of Ventura County was founded in 1932, the dedicated volunteers and staff have made a tremendous impact. The animals saved, education offered, animals treated and cared for, cases of abuse and neglect responded to, and more, all add up to an immeasurable positive difference made in your backyard, the county, the region, and even the nation.

And because of you, we're on the verge of much more. In 2023, through strategic planning and increased capacity, we will be increasing animals adopted while also decreasing their average length of stay. We will be expanding our staff by bringing in a Finance Director and adding an adoption counselor and kennel staff. Our development team will be implementing a brand new annual fund plan, introducing a business supporter membership program, and building a new grants calendar. We will roll out a new foster program with a dedicated staff partner for fosters and increase our volunteer base. Additionally, Summer of 2023 will see brand new summer programs in Ojai and surrounding communities. These programs will be for the general public and include things like "Your First Year With Puppy" for people considering adopting a pup, "Rattlesnake Aversion", and more.

Recently, HSVC welcomed a new Humane Investigations Director, Kendra King, who has stepped into the position from her Sr. Humane Officer role. We're proud to have our Media and Marketing Manager Amy King now in a role that increases HSVC's reach and creates additional marketing initiatives to support the annual fund development plan. Steve McCurry is now our Community Development Manager, and his experience in stewarding and cultivating vital relationships will be

put to greater use as he works with new Director of Development Amber Landis to make sure our business engagement is meaningful to our stakeholders. We are thrilled to welcome Jennifer Grimm to the HSVC as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Her 17+ years of experience in animal welfare will surely help us reach our goals in the coming year.

The enthusiasm of the staff is contagious, and it's an honor to create these visions alongside them, and an honor to be helping create the conditions necessary for them to thrive. The support of the Board and the volunteers in all of our endeavors is priceless, and we couldn't do any of it without them. Finally, it's with a heavy heart we say goodbye to Volunteer Ambassador Laurie Adams. Laurie's dedication and love for HSVC was clear and she will be greatly missed.

- Eric Knight, Executive Director



Dear Donors

A Message from the Director of Development

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on the generous support of donors like you! Your support means the world to us and the animals we care for. Thank you for choosing to support HSVC. During my first months at HSVC as the Director of Development, I have had the joy of getting to know some of you. I'm touched and blown away by the amazing adoption stories shared with me so far. I would love to meet more of our supporters and hear more stories! I invite anyone who would like to connect to reach out to me for a tour or a chance to meet and share your favorite HSVC story. It is a joy to hear about your special furry friends!

Since I'm inviting you to share your stories with me, I would like to share mine. I'm a Ventura County local and when I was in middle school (many years ago) my family came up to HSVC to adopt a dog. This was a big deal, as my family had only ever had a pet cat. We ended up adopting a cute cocker spaniel named Max who brought so much joy to our family.



Now as an adult and mom to two amazing kids, we have our own family pets. Back in 2008, I adopted a stray kitten found in a parking lot with her three siblings. Miss Lily is a spoiled house cat who enjoys spending time with our house rabbit, Papaya. We adopted him from VCAS back in 2019 and both kitty and bunny are great pals. And most recently, we adopted this year a dwarf hamster named Flash (pictured above).

As the Director of Development, I'm working to expand our philanthropic outreach and to maximize donations we bring in, which will increase our ability to serve our community. Our goal is to get more animals adopted and to offer more low-cost and free services for animals and pet owners in need. Please feel free to connect with me via email at AmberL@hsvc.org or 805.646.6505 ext. 123, I look forward to connecting in the coming months!



- Amber Landis, Director of Development



Board of Directors

Sheila Kane McCollum, President
Judy Diaz, Vice President
Debby Mooney, Secretary
Ron Spaeth, Treasurer
Marianne Carl, Director
Jane Akune, Director
Michelle Murphy, Director

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

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

Executive Director
Eric Knight x.111
EricK@hsvc.org

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

Director of Development
Amber Landis x. 123
AmberL@hsvc.org

Humane Investigations Director
K. King x.106
OfficerKing@hsvc.org

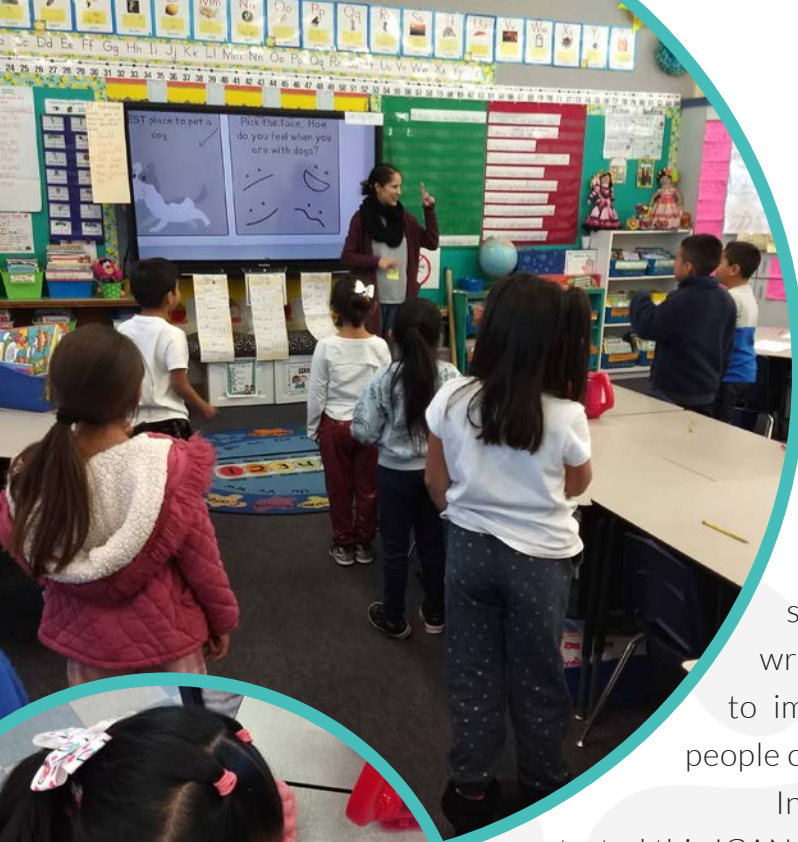
Office Manager
Betty Jo MacCaughtry x.117
BettyJoM@hsvc.org

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

Community Development Manager
Steve McCurry x.112
SteveM@hsvc.org

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

Volunteer Coordinator
Jennifer Grimm x. 110
JenniferG@hsvc.org



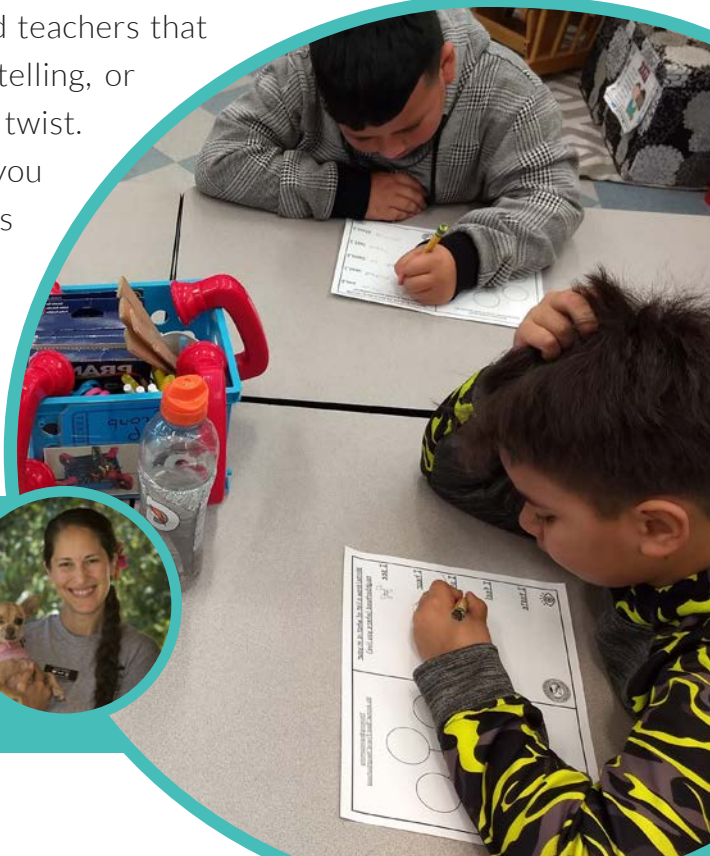
Hello HSVC Neighbors!

Humane Education youth programs have recently been updated to include an early elementary program for the K-2 audience. I am pleased to announce that after two years of planning, designing, and curating research and after many hours of professional development, Imagining Compassionate Animal Neighborhood (ICAN) made its debut at Richard Bard Elementary School. The new program invites students to interact with a humane educator in a classroom setting. The program focuses on animal storytelling, writing, movement, and creates opportunities for students to imagine a compassionate animal neighborhood where people come together to help the animals in their communities.

In the Fall of 2022, Ms. Katya Acuna's 2nd-grade class started this ICAN journey by first participating in a humane educator-led presentation called, "Pet Care and Responsibility". This type of presentation gives students a glimpse into learning about the different ways people can care for animal companions. She later requested ICAN to be part of her dual immersion language curriculum. And I couldn't have been more excited to answer the call.

Part of HSVC's youth program goals is to learn more about what resources teachers need and what ways humane education programming can help to engage youth to learn about how to create more compassionate loving neighborhoods and communities. As a humane educator, I have a passion for helping animals and I want to partner with more schools and teachers that may be interested in enriching their literacy, writing, storytelling, or social studies curriculum with an animal and a movement twist. If you are a K-2 elementary teacher or administrator and you are interested in this type of programming or have questions about how humane education can partner with your organization, please contact me, Angie Chupek Sagliani directly via email at education@hsvc.org.

- Angie Chupek Sagliani, Humane Educator



Humane Education Presents ICAN in the Classroom



Clinic Corner

HSVC Partnerships Help Grow the Future of our Veterinary Community

There is a staffing crisis in the veterinary field. It started well before COVID, but the stress of curb-side appointments, quarantine requirements, and an influx of new clients acquiring pets during the pandemic caused many to leave the profession. When Ventura College shared they were starting a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) Certification program, our veterinary community rejoiced! RVTs are like nurse practitioners; they receive advanced training, pass a difficult board exam, and can then legally perform many tasks delegated by the veterinarian that an unlicensed technician can't. Before VC college started its program, the closest colleges with RVT programs were over two hours away.

Despite COVID setbacks and construction delays, VC's RVT program achieved accreditation and was set to graduate their first set of students last month. However, their on-site teaching lab was still under construction and their students needed hands-on experience. HSVC stepped in and hosted their senior students on three separate days. They practiced IV catheter placement, calculating drug dosages, medication administration, anesthesia, surgery prep, and more. It was fun to have the energetic students in our clinic, and we even got interviewed by NPR! HSVC will continue our partnership with the VC program

in the clinic and with other shelter resources. We will continue letting students "borrow" our friendly adult cats for animal handling classes and having an animal behavior experts demonstrate proper canine handling techniques and behavior at our shelter.

This year, we're extending our community partnerships to the Charter College Veterinary Assistant Program and Ventura County Office of Education Community Classroom Internship Program. The latter is a program for high school students to gain experience in the veterinary field. We are excited to help the next generation with a passion for helping pets and their community do what they love. For more information about the VC College RVT program, visit www.venturacollege.edu.

- Dr. Christina Sisk, Director of Veterinary Medicine



Remembering Don Buffon and Laurie Adams

Treasured Members of the HSVC Family

On December 8, 2022, we lost a dear friend and supporter of HSVC. Don Buffon, a beloved Board member and long-time volunteer, passed away at his home in Ventura after struggling with Parkinson's Disease over the past few years. After retiring from a career in education, Don kept busy with volunteer work. We were so lucky to have his support and commitment to helping animals all across Ventura County.

Don first joined the HSVC family as a dedicated volunteer with over 20 years of service. He would frequently volunteer at the shelter helping with gardening, handyman work, and sorting walnuts that were donated to us from a local ranch for a fundraising event. Don was such a supportive and sweet person, always cheering on the staff and volunteers. He helped create a large fundraising event: Cats in the Canyon and Hounds in the Hollow, which ran for several years and raised some much-needed funding for HSVC. It was that commitment to helping animals in need that prompted an invitation to become a member of HSVC's Board of Directors, which Don proudly served on for over 15 years.

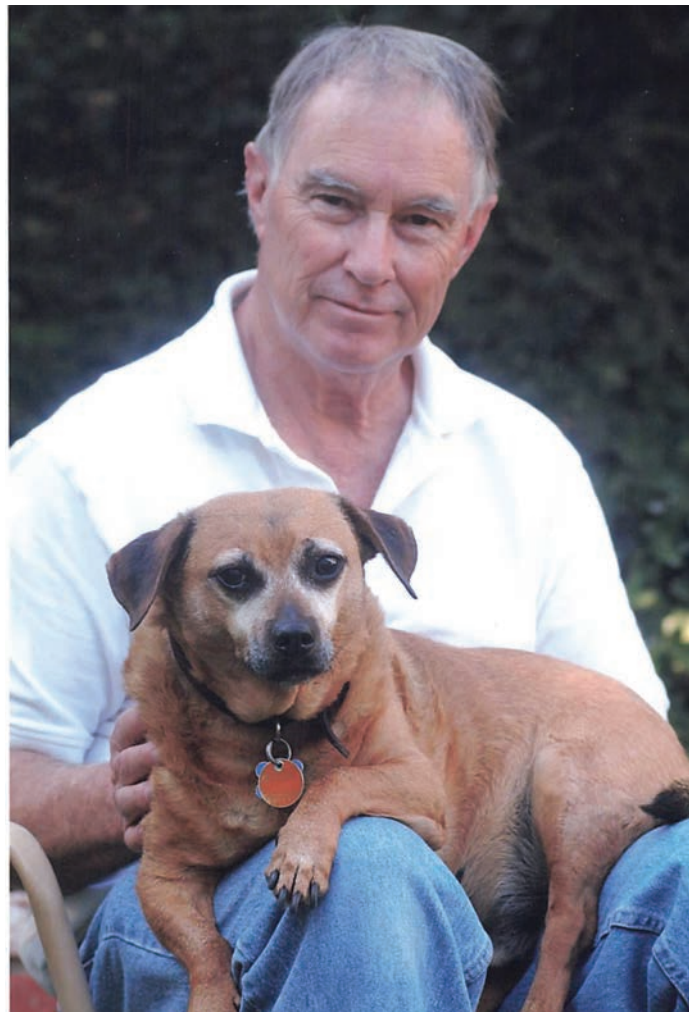
"Don was an amazing volunteer and Board member. He would spend hours on site helping out gardening and sorting walnuts that were donated for us to sell. Anything that needed to get done, Don was happy to lend a hand," said Interim Shelter Director Arlene MacSween.

Don pictured with his rescue dog Oliver, who was adopted from the shelter many years ago. The photo was shared by Don's beloved wife, Kathy Buffon.

"I had to honor of working beside Don on the Board of Directors for HSVC for several years. Don was a humble man with a quick wit. We shared duties proofreading the newsletters for the Humane Society, and we often went back and forth about proper punctuation and grammar.

As Vice President of the Board, Don's calm demeanor was respected and appreciated. He is missed,"

*- Sheila McCollum,
President, HSVC Board of Directors*





The HSVC is also mourning the loss of another beloved member of our team, volunteer Animal Ambassador Laurie Adams. Laurie passed away peacefully on February 2nd, 2023, at the age of 70 from complications caused by cryptococcal meningitis. A longtime educator and lover of the outdoors, Laurie began her journey with the HSVC after retiring from teaching first grade in 2018. She had a special place in her heart for “underdogs”, which led her to begin volunteering with the HSVC. Her passion for helping these special animals also led her to welcome a new addition into her family, 3-year-old Beau, whom she fell in love with during her time volunteering at the shelter. She and her husband Roger frequently took Beau and their other four-legged son, Luke, on crosscountry adventures (pictured below).

After several years as a volunteer, Laurie was promoted to the role of an Animal Ambassador. She, along with her fellow Animal Ambassadors, enjoyed taking dogs for pack walks, attending offsite events, and hosting play dates with dogs in our agility yard. Laurie was also one of the first members of HSVC’s Emergency Response Team, a special group of volunteers who assist the shelter during emergencies.

Laurie also deeply cared for our kennel staff. She always made sure they felt supported, valued, and appreciated. “Laurie was an all encompassing volunteer. She always tried to work with the dogs that were having the hardest time at the shelter. She was supportive not only of the animals, but also of the kennel staff and was always there to offer emotional support during tough times. She was such a sweet person and will be very missed down in the kennel,” said Kennel Attendant Jessica Tucker.

*Laurie was the friendliest person
that once you met her, you were friends
for life. She was the biggest advocate for
dogs. Always putting their best interest first.
She would do whatever it took to find the
right home and the right adopter for the
right dog. She cared for every dog at
the shelter like it was her own.*

*- Linda Duval,
Animal Ambassador*



Volunteer Spotlight

You too can be a volunteer!



First off, allow me to introduce myself! My name is Jennifer Grimm, and I am the new Volunteer Coordinator at HSVC. I'm a Ventura native and recently moved back from San Francisco after spending 17 years working in animal welfare at the San Francisco SPCA. I am a cat lady, and I am very excited to work with dogs in this new opportunity.

Have you thought about becoming a volunteer at HSVC, but weren't sure it was for you? Here is a spotlight on one of our most frequent volunteers, John Chille, whom I have had the pleasure of getting to know during my time so far as Volunteer Coordinator. John started volunteering at HSVC back in July of 2022 and regularly comes in 2-3 times a week to help. I recently spoke with John to find out what brought him to the HSVC, and he

started thinking about it after he adopted his dog, Buddy, from us about five years ago. Then, when he turned 75, John felt like he needed to have more purpose. Working with "underdogs" at the HSVC helps fulfill that purpose. His goal for the future? To go on a pack walk!

Becoming an HSVC volunteer is easy! Simply visit hsvc.org/volunteer to first fill out an interest form. You'll receive an instant reply with a link to online training, and you will be added to the waitlist for an orientation. After completing orientation, you will do hands-on training with me, and then you are ready to work with the animals. There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, we can't wait for you to join us!

- Jennifer Grimm, Volunteer Coordinator

"The more I read the news, the more I like hanging with the dogs instead. I have a big heart for the underdogs and the rewards that come with it are well worth the effort. It's a win-win!"

*- John Chille,
HSVC Volunteer*

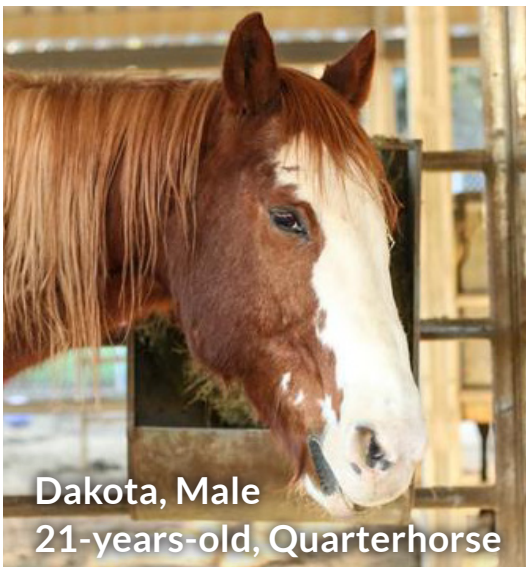




**Smokey, 9-years-old
Male Domestic Shorthair**



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



**Dakota, Male
21-years-old, Quarterhorse**

Pet Gallery

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



**Milo, 2-years-old
Male Malinois/German Shepherd**



**Chelsea, 6-years-old
Female German Shepherd**



**Bobtail, 9-years-old
Male Domestic Shorthair**



We're grateful for the years of dedication from Jeff Hoffman, our previous Director of Investigations. Over his many years of service, Jeff was part of saving countless animal lives, both directly and because of his work in the field that spread beyond HSVC. Jeff, along with Jolene Hoffman, made a meaningful, significant contribution to animal welfare not just in this county or region, but also statewide and nationwide. In a time when cases of neglect and abuse were regarded as "normal", both Jeff and Jolene bravely took the fight to individuals and organizations that were hurting animals. The changes they made are reflected today in animal shelters and other animal-based organizations across the county. We wish Jeff all the best in this next chapter.



Kendra King has stepped into the role of Humane Investigations Director and will continue to use all that she learned working with Jeff. She has already begun by leading the HSVC Investigations Department as we take on new cases and answer calls around the County, and she will soon be building out a revised cross-agency disaster plan designed to meet the needs of the community and region in any kind of disaster/emergency scenario. Kendra has been in touch with the City Manager for the City of Ojai, and we have spoken with the Mayor and the Chief of Police to schedule visits and discuss effective cross-agency and governmental communications.

Department of Investigations Announces New Leadership

Thank You, Jeff Hoffman and Congratulations, Kendra King!

Kendra joined the HSVC staff in January 2014 as an adoption counselor. After studying criminal justice and anthropology at Ventura College, she began extensive training to become a Humane Officer, completing the Animal Law Enforcement Academy at the San Diego Humane in October 2015. Kendra was officially sworn in as a Humane Officer in July 2016 at the Ventura County Court-house. Since then, she's completed many courses on California animal laws, investigation techniques, disaster response, and animal abuse and neglect. In March 2020, King used her experience in disaster preparedness to form the shelter's Emergency



Response Team (E.R.T.), composed of a group of dedicated volunteers that provide support at the shelter during times of emergency. Kendra was also recognized for her accomplishments and excellent leadership skills as a Humane Officer and was promoted to Senior Humane Officer in June of 2021.

In addition to new leadership, the Investigations department also added two new officers-in-training. A. Derringer and R. Gonzalez have demonstrated the values, drive, and passion that is so important to Humane Investigations. We look forward to nurturing their careers and watching them grow. Humane Officer J. Utter has been serving our community since 2021. Her exemplary skills and attitude are a huge asset to the Investigations department. If you're at the shelter for a visit, please feel free to say hello!



"I will forever be grateful for the years I spent learning from Jeff Hoffman. His contributions to animal welfare are numerous. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. I'm very excited to take up the mantle in this new role and look forward to fostering a community and education-based response to the issues of animal welfare."

*- Kendra King,
Humane Investigations Director*



Community Connections

HSVC Receives Generous Support from VCCF



In 2022, the Humane Society of Ventura County was fortunate to be among the recipients of the Ventura County Community Foundation’s Animal Welfare Fund Grant. Since 1987, VCCF has been at the forefront of connecting philanthropic resources with community needs. VCCF understands how important the services HSVC and other animal welfare organizations provide to the residents of Ventura County. As we move into the Spring of 2023, we’ve put VCCF’s funding to work at the shelter and throughout Ventura County. With the generous funding, we’ve been able to:

- Maintain and grow our Pet Food Pantry, which serves all of Ventura County
- Purchase two new Kohler Natural Gas Generators to keep HSVC operational during disasters
- Replace outdated computer servers, hardware, and wi-fi equipment
- Purchase state-of-the-art equipment for our onsite Spay and Neuter Clinic
- Provide free HSVC Cares vaccination events to communities across Ventura County
- Collaborate with animal welfare organizations to create a stronger community

As a private non-profit organization, HSVC is not affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States or any other national animal welfare organizations. We rely solely on the generosity of our donors and supporters such as VCCF to continue providing our vital services to those in need. We at HSVC are honored to be recipients of the VCCF Animal Welfare Grant and gratefully appreciate the opportunity to continue partnering with a compassionate organization that shares our values.

If you’re an animal-loving individual or organization who understands how vital our services are to the community, we want you! Those interested in getting involved by volunteering, or fostering, donating should contact one of our staff members:

Steve McCurry, Community Development Manager
SteveM@hsvc.org, 805-910-6240

Jennifer Grimm, Volunteer Coordinator
JenniferG@hsvc.org, 805-586-5630

Cheney Caldwell, Foster Coordinator
CheneyC@hsvc.org, 805-816-5657

Success Story: Franky Feels the Love

Five months post-adoption and Franky, formerly Meaty, is thriving in his new home with Rachel! A handsome Bull-dog mix, 2-year-old Franky was bought to the shelter by our Humane Officers in mid-July as part of a humane investigation with several other dogs. Despite the environment he came from, Franky was the sweetest, most friendly boy.



His quirky personality and adorable snort immediately captured the hearts of our staff, and quickly caught the attention of his future mama, Rachel. She officially made him a part of her family in early September and it has been nonstop fun ever since!

"He gets to go to work once a week, found his comfy spot on the couch, loves car rides and walks and has to be on top of me any chance he gets - HUGE fan of cuddles. He's my favorite!" said Rachel. Thank you, Rachel, for giving Franky the loving home he deserves!



Annual Report 2022

	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
All animal intake	376	655	37	1,086
Adopted	201	275	17	493
Return to Owner - Lost	62	11	0	73
Return to Owner - Other	27	14	0	41
Transferred	20	12	1	33
Emergency Evacuations	0	0	0	0
Veterinarian Euthanasia	11	7	1	19
Committee Euthanasia	2	0	0	2
Owner Request Euthanasia	171	62	6	239
Spay and Neuter	1,617	655	0	2,272
Humane Officer Cases				572
Humane Education Outreach		550 learners	17 presentations	

2022 was a year of growth for our shelter. While we still have work to do, we are proud to have such a hardworking staff who are dedicated to accomplishing our mission of helping the animals of Ventura County and beyond. As a private nonprofit organization, we owe our success to the support we've received from our community. We are excited to continue expanding our programs and services to better serve those in need in the coming years, and we want to thank everyone who has supported us and continues to support us throughout our journey! Here's to 2023 being another fantastic year at the Humane Society of Ventura County!



Monthly Giving - Join Animal Angels Today!

Calling all animal lovers, we invite YOU to join Animal Angels! Animal Angels is a passionate and dedicated group of monthly givers on a mission to help the animals at HSVC. As a private nonprofit compassionate care shelter, we receive no funding from the government and rely entirely on the generosity of our community. We hope you will consider supporting our cause by scanning the QR code below and joining Animal Angels, and thank you for your continued support!



- Adoption services
- Humane Investigation
- Low-cost spay/neuter
- Vaccination clinics
- Humane Education

Thank you Pet Sponsors & Paver Donors:
Patricia Valenzuela • HSVC Board of Directors



Pet Sponsorship Help an Animal in Need



Here's my/our gift to sponsor an animal for adoption

☐ Pet Friend - \$30

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

We would like to sponsor _____

This is a gift for _____

Address _____

☐ Check OR Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

In the amount of \$ _____ Card # _____ Exp. _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____





PO Box 297
Ojai, CA 93024

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Oxnard, CA 93030
PERMIT # 817

Shelter Hours
Monday-Saturday 10-5

Mailing Address
PO Box 297
Ojai, CA 93024

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

