

PAWS FOR *Thought* **SUMMER 2023**

***Thank You,
Cyndy Treutelaar!***

***Milo Finds
His Home!***

***Celebrating 91
Years of Serving
Our Community***

***Welcome Director of
Shelter Operations,
Karen Terpstra!***





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Thank You For Your Years of Service, Cyndy Treutelaar!

As HSVC approaches 91 years of service to animals of our region, we are proud to recognize past Board President Cyndy Treutelaar. The HSVC has benefitted from Cyndy's years of service. Cyndy was an integral part of creating the conditions for us to make a greater impact today.

Cyndy's journey with us began in 1989 when she showed up to adopt a kitten and left with two adult cats instead. From there, Cyndy became a volunteer and over the years served as a Humane Investigator, Grant Writer, and was involved in the Pet Assisted Therapy program with her dog. Cyndy also volunteered as a Humane Educator and was so moved by her experience that she chose to dedicate her career to education.

"I was so fortunate to find an organization where I could make a positive impact doing something I believe so strongly in. It has been my lifelong passion to help animals, to provide them with a 'voice' in what can be a harsh world. My sincere thanks to everyone who shared the HSVC vision with me throughout my over 30 years here. It has been an honor," said Cyndy. Cyndy's Board service began in the mid-1990s, and she retired as Board President in October 2022. Cyndy's care for the animals of our region and Cyndy's stewardship and cultivation of HSVC supporters still helps us today and will continue to help for many years to come.

"During Cyndy's tenure with the HSVC, she accomplished many things. Most notably in her turn as Board President was the transformation of our clinic into a state-of-the-art facility and overseeing the construction of the Harry Valentine Center. Before retiring, Cyndy also participated in hiring Executive Director, Eric Knight, and Director of Development, Amber Landis. As Cyndy's successor, I speak for the entire Board when I wish her happy travels, her shoes cannot be filled," said current Board President Sheila McCollum. Thank you, Cyndy, for all you have done for the Humane Society of Ventura County!





Letter from the Executive Director

Celebrate with 91 Years with HSVC!

With the first days of summer a few days away, the incredible bloom of trees and flowers from spring rains, and new animals finding homes daily, Fitzgerald's quote is beautifully appropriate for Summer 2023 at HSVC. Life begins over again when we find homes for the animals who come through our shelter, for the pet and the new owners.

On June 9th and 10th, we will be celebrating the 91st birthday of the Humane Society of Ventura County with two wonderful events. There is so much to celebrate about those many years, and also so much to celebrate about more recent times. Our foster program is up and running, and accelerating every month. Our education programs are reaching schoolchildren onsite and off-site, and in June our Summer Camps begin again.

In March, we welcomed Finance Director John Redmond. John has a wealth of experience in nonprofit financials, as well as private sector finance. Aside from his work-related expertise, John is a wonderful fit with the staff and culture of HSVC, and we're already seeing the benefits of having him with us. Welcome, John!

After a rigorous search for a Director of Shelter Operations, I'm proud to announce that Karen Terpstra has joined HSVC. Karen has an extensive track record of leading operations and shelter initiatives which lead to an increase in positive outcomes. Karen is already making a positive impact on adoptions, length of stay, and our foster program. Welcome, Karen!

Finally, as the weather turns warmer, take extra care to ensure the safety of your pets. Pets don't sweat the way we do, and they get much thirstier than humans do when it's hot. Provide them plenty of fresh water and keep paws cool and safe from the hot pavement. NEVER leave your pet in a car and know the signs of overheating: heavy panting; dry or bright red gums; thick drool; vomiting; diarrhea; wobbly legs. Thank you for your support, and I'll see you at our Birthday Bash!

- Eric Knight, Executive Director

*"And so with the sunshine
and the great bursts of
leaves growing on the trees,
just as things grow in fast
movies, I had that familiar
conviction that life was
beginning over again
with the summer."
- F. Scott Fitzgerald*



Welcome New Director of Shelter Operations, Karen Terpstra!

My career in animal welfare began at the Pasadena Humane Society, where I was the Asst. Executive Director for eight years. Since then, I have worked in shelters in Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, and New Jersey. Most recently, I was the Director of Operations at Santa Barbara Humane, then held an interim position at ASAP Cat Rescue. I was in the first group of Certified Animal Welfare Administrators and served on the Board of Directors of the Association for Animal Welfare Advancement for seven years. I also served as a board member of the Michigan Partnership for Animal Welfare and was on the HSUS Companion Animal Advisory Council.

My goal at each organization has been to make a measurable positive impact on animal outcomes through expanding spay/neuter programs, behavior

enrichment and education, foster and adoption programs, and decreasing the animals' length of stay at the shelter. My hobby is caring for bottle baby kittens for several local organizations, and I have fostered more than 700 kittens, plus several dogs and puppies too! I share my home with Mini, an English Bulldog adopted from HSVC, and four cats who were former fosters.

As HSVC's Director of Shelter Operations, my first priorities are to build and improve programs, provide better behavior enrichment and training for the animals, and build a robust foster program. This will help to decrease the length of stay for animals at the shelter and increase adoptions. HSVC is a great organization, and I'm thrilled to be part of the team!

- Karen Terpstra, Director of Shelter Operations

"I am excited to join the HSVC team and have the opportunity to create a better environment for the animals in our care, our shelter staff, and the community members who love them!"

*- Karen Terpstra
Director of
Shelter Operations*





Humane Education

Newly Expanded Humane Education Youth Programming



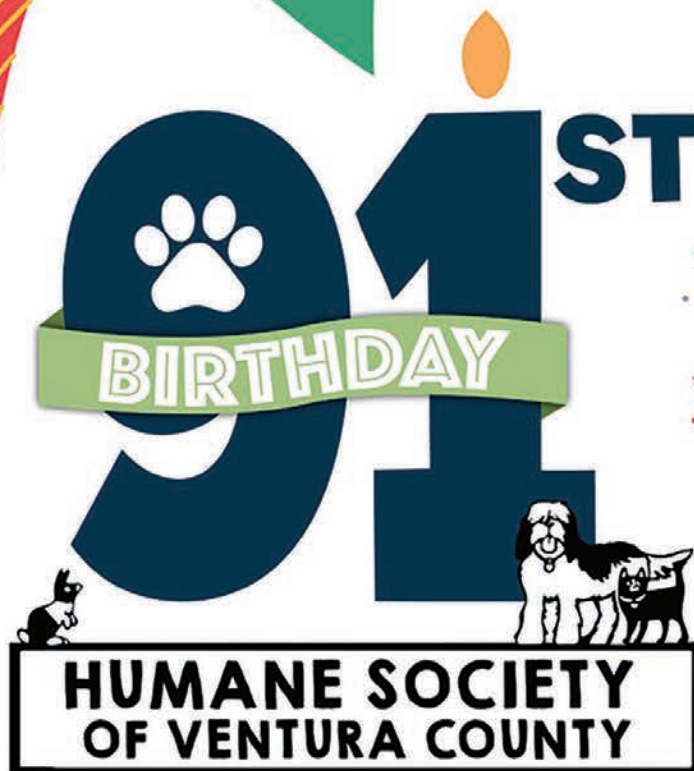
Hello HSVC Neighbors! Your neighborhood Humane Educator Angie, here. I wanted to update the community about HSVC's new educational programming. Our Humane Education Youth (HEY) Programs have recently been updated to include programs that are designed especially for the Girl Scouts. The program has already helped several scouts learn more about pet care and our collective responsibility as a community to care for animals in need. The HEY programs have piloted a few ideas with youth audiences these past few years and the new program hopes to inspire and empower the scouts to obtain their Brownie Pet Care Badge.

The shelter was grateful and excited to welcome local Brownie Troop 65031 to pilot the new Pet Care and Community program designed for Girl Scouts. Here is what the program looked like this past spring: The Girl Scouts experienced a tour of the beautiful 4.4-acre shelter and interacted with Oliver Bird, our beloved resident community cat Rose, and our shelter kittens that were available for adoption. They also engaged in a learning mystery box activity and used their creative thinking skills to design and create a comfy companion animal enclosure. The art activity uses sustainable arts and crafting practices to incorporate the importance of the preservation

of the beautiful environment that houses all of the animals in our community. I was super impressed by the scouts' creations. Their comfy companion animal rooms looked uniquely perfect for their pets. The scouts left with smiles on their faces.

If you are a troop leader and you are interested in this type of programming or have questions about how humane education can be part of your organization, please contact me, Angie Chupek Sagliani, directly at education@hsvc.org.





Join us in celebrating our 91st birthday!

This 2-day event features a fundraiser BBQ dinner (vegan & vegetarian options available) and a community gathering to celebrate the HSVC.

Scan the QR code below to join in on the fun!

June 9th & 10th



www.hsvc.org/events

Dear Donors

91 Years of Caring for Animals in Our Community!



This June, HSVC will celebrate 91 years of caring for animals in Ventura County, making us the oldest shelter in the county! What a great milestone! Our official anniversary is on June 9th and this year we will host a two-day celebration with our community. After all, we could not do our work without the generous support we receive from our friends and supporters in the community. You make our mission and work possible!

We invite you to join us and celebrate this milestone moment. On Friday, June 9th, we will host a ticketed dinner at the shelter where we'll offer a delicious BBQ dinner (vegan and vegetarian options available), beer, wine, live entertainment, and more. The fun will start at 6:00 pm and tickets start at \$75 per person. This fun evening of dining under the stars will be emceed by actor Anson Williams and will also feature a wine pull and auction to raise funding for our programs and services.

On Saturday, June 10th, we will have a festive community celebration at the shelter with a food vendors, beer, wine, live music, cake, and more. We are even bringing some furry friends to join in on the celebration, as they will strut their way to the stage in our very own Pooch Parade! A limited number of tickets for Friday's dinner are available on our website at hsvc.org/tickets, so get yours soon!

For our animal-lovers who cannot make it to the event but still want to support the shelter, we have a special opportunity for you! Visit our website to purchase an "in-kind ticket" for \$75 so a deserving shelter staff or volunteer can go in your place! This ticket includes all the same perks as a general ticket, plus you get to show appreciation for someone who helps us make a difference at the shelter every day! It's a win-win! We hope you will join us for a fun-filled weekend to raise funds and awareness about our programs and services.

- Amber Landis, Director of Development





Community Connections



The team at HSVC has been very busy so far this year hosting and attending many community events. Every opportunity to partner with another like-minded organization is a learning experience for our staff and volunteers. We listen to all the suggestions from our animal-loving partners to ensure we are providing animal welfare services that meet the needs of our community. It's always a great experience to hear an HSVC success story when attending these events.

Some of the events we've participated in are:

- Latino Business Expo
- Ventura Chamber Business Expo
- Ojai Chamber Puppy Love Concert in the Plaza
- Ventura Marathon
- Pints & Pups Adoption Event with Dogtown VTA & Ventura Coast Brewing Company
- HSVC Cares Vaccination Clinics (Santa Paula & Ventura)
- Rescuecon

As a private nonprofit organization, the HSVC doesn't receive funding from the government or any national animal welfare organization. Our shelter relies on the generosity of our supporters to continue providing its vital services to those in need. Community events play a key role in raising awareness about the shelter and generating funding for our programs and services. Shoutout to the staff and amazing volunteers who make each event such a success!

Our schedule is jam packed with exciting events happening throughout the rest of the year. We'd love to see you at one! Visit our website at hsvc.org/events or scan the QR code on this page to learn more. If you or your organization would like to partner with the HSVC, please reach out to me, Steve McCurry, Community Development Manager, at 805-299-6351 or email SteveM@hsvc.com.

- Steve McCurry,
Community Development Manager





HSVC Launches Revamped Foster Program

Foster care of animals saves lives, alleviates shelter stress, and allows us to learn more about the ones we serve, protect, and strive to match with their best mates. Thanks to the invaluable support and steadfast dedication of our 12 Foster Caregivers and HSVC Staff, just six weeks after launching our foster program, we placed 35 felines and 8 canines in safe loving foster homes!

Right as the clouds and atmospheric rivers ceased, litters of kittens began raining down on us. Several Queen mother cats were fortunate to nest, give birth, and recover with their kittens with wonderful fosters. A few Queens were humanely trapped, brought to us with their kittens and swiftly placed in the safety of homes where they currently reside and continue to thrive. Five litters of orphan kittens were delivered to us within a couple weeks; three groups were orphaned when their mothers died, and two litters of neonatal kittens were taken away from their mothers by people who surrendered or abandoned them at the shelter. Fortunately, we secured experienced caregivers who stayed vigilant, provided critical care and ensured they keep growing healthy and well!

The majority of our time and energy was spent providing support to care for kittens. However, one of our greatest successes was having an amazing foster family bring home our longest term feline resident, who arrived with Humane Officers in November of 2022. Our gorgeous, quirky, spook-easy seven-year-old cat is basking in the delights of her foster home, learning to trust and love humans, and confidently asserting herself to communicate her wishes with hilarious vocalizations. Granting her reprieve from shelter stressors and giving her love is the greatest gift for all, and helps immensely until we secure her purrrever home.



Our first canine placed in foster care arrived to HSVC with Humane Officers late in her pregnancy. Thanks to her foster's rapid response and dedication to momma dog and her impawssibly precious pups, she was able to nest, birth five healthy puppies and is currently recovering well. One stunning Malinois puppy was demonstrating resource guarding issues. After being placed with an experienced breed-specific foster, who partnered with Canine Behaviorist Tracy Vail, he progressed light years in weeks. A gorgeous German Shepherd pup with the sweetest demeanor was surrendered to HSVC and was fortunate to be placed in foster immediately.

No words suffice to express our gratitude, appreciation, and respect for HSVC foster caregivers. Some are first time fosters and others have decades worth of experience, and every one has inspired, humbled and helped us in their commitment to our critters. Evidently it does take a village, and we are grateful for the array of support from so many wonderful humans for our precious animal kin. Please contact me, Cheney, at CheneyC@hsvc.org if you would like to join our foster team!

- Cheney C., Foster Coordinator

Success Story: Milo Finally Finds His Happily Ever After!

After 464 days at the shelter, we are thrilled to share that Milo has found his forever home! Our boy is living happily ever after with Dane and Marcela, and we couldn't be more excited for him!

Many have followed Milo's journey over the past year. He first arrived at the shelter just before Christmas in 2021 as a result of an abuse and neglect case. The Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd was severely underweight when he first came under our care and was in need of major TLC. Thanks to our dedicated staff, Milo slowly began putting on weight and regaining his strength.

However, Milo's slightly rambunctious personality and high-energy breed proved tricky when search-

ing for his furever home. Many potential adopters mistook Milo's loud voice and kennel stress for aggression and unfriendliness. This misconception caused him to be overlooked time and time again.

Despite his setbacks, our staff was determined to find Milo a perfect home. They worked with him daily to alleviate his anxiety and get him more comfortable around people. Staff and volunteers taught him how to walk on a leash and practiced his basic commands. He was even able to go offsite for walks and attend community events!

Shelter staff were so proud of Milo's progress, but we couldn't figure out why he was still at the shelter.





Dane and his girlfriend Marcela visited the shelter in March of 2023 looking for a friendly companion pup to be their adventure buddy. After fostering Milo, now Malo, the pair quickly knew he was the dog for their family. They returned to the shelter to finalize his adoption in early April!

"Marcela and I chose Malo because he had been at the shelter for so long. We thought we could change his life for the better. He seemed very sweet and playful when we visited but we were a little worried because he didn't seem super connected to us. But we decided to foster him for a week to see if there was a connection. And from the second he got into the truck with us he was fully attached. He took a couple days to settle into his new home but he hasn't left our sides since. He's smart, loyal and gets along with all people and dogs. He is perfect and has found his forever home. We've gone on boats, to the beach, long car drives, runs, the river bottom and we have many more adventures planned!" said Dane when asked about his new best friend.

We're so grateful to Dane and Marcela for giving Milo a chance and allowing him to be the best pup we knew he could be. Thank you to everyone who supported Milo's journey to find his furever home! Congratulations and happy tails, Milo!





Volunteer Opportunities

Coming Soon: Animal Enrichment Program at HSVC!

What is Animal Enrichment? Life in an animal shelter is very stressful for any animal, and when animals are living in a constant state of stress they become likely to develop illnesses and behavioral issues. By providing enrichment, animals are mentally and physically stimulated, and they exhibit normal, healthy behaviors. We will be offering several types of enrichment at our shelter: Olfactory, Auditory, Visual, and Gustatory.

Olfactory enrichment is utilizing the sense of smell. Volunteers will be given stuffed animals and towels to spray with a scent to offer to the animal. We will have several scents to choose from, from sweet smells like vanilla to smells of prey like pheasants.

This type of enrichment can be calming or stimulating based on the scent chosen. It works well with both dogs and cats, who are both predatory species.

Auditory enrichment is performed by playing different auditory options from your phone. Auditory options include classical music, white noise, and audiobooks. These sounds can be calming and offer normal environmental sounds for both dogs and cats.

Visual enrichment for dogs and cats can be as simple as playing YouTube videos for cats and taking dogs on walks. This will pique their interest and help to encourage normal behaviors. Shelter life can be overstimulating for both species, given the close proximity of other animals. If an animal is too stressed by other animals, we can offer cage/kennel shades.

Gustatory enrichment is enrichment via food. Utilizing food puzzles and toys allows animals to work for their food, which stimulates their brains and prevents animals from eating too quickly.

If you would like to donate items for enrichment, please email volunteer@hsvc.org. Are you interested in becoming a volunteer? Head to our website and fill out an interest form, complete the online training, and we will contact you to schedule an orientation.



- Jennifer Grimm, Volunteer Coordinator



Humane Investigations

J. Utter Promoted to Senior Humane Officer!

I will take this chance to officially say hello and introduce myself. My name is Kendra King, and I am the Humane Investigations Director. For many, I am not a new face at the shelter. I started at HSVC as an Adoption Counselor in August 2014 and became a Humane Officer in July 2016. I am thrilled to pick up the mantle as HSVC's Humane Investigations Director. I look forward to fostering a community and education-based response to animal welfare issues in Ventura County. I have strong ties with local agencies and look forward to building these relationships even more in the future. My passion has always been animals. I could not think of a better way to serve my community.

On a second and just as important note, I am proud to announce J. Utter was promoted to Senior Humane Officer in May 2023. Throughout her life, J. Utter has maintained a strong love for animals. At UC Santa Barbara, she focused her studies in human-wildlife relationships and graduated with a B.A. in Biological Anthropology in June 2019.

Utter began her journey with the HSVC as an Adoption Counselor in November 2019. She was offered the chance to pursue her passion for animal welfare after exhibiting all the outstanding qualities necessary to become a Humane Officer. In October of 2020, Utter completed the San Diego Humane Society Basic Animal Law Enforcement Academy. Following extensive training and fulfillment of addi-

tional requirements, Utter was officially sworn into office in June of 2021 by Judge Henry Walsh at the Ventura County Courthouse. She brings exemplary leadership skills and investigation expertise to the department. Utter will also act as the field training officer for A. Derringer and R. Gonzalez through their journey to become humane officers. I am excited to welcome her as the Senior Humane Officer and to watch her grow in her career.

If you're at the shelter for a visit, please feel free to say hello. We are here to serve you and the animals across the various communities in Ventura County.

- Kendra King, Humane Investigations Director



Senior Officer J. Utter pictured with Ladybug, a 10-month-old Pitbull Terrier who came to the HSVC in November of 2022 as part of a humane investigation case.

Clinic Corner: Spring into Kitten Season!



It's that time of year again! Days are getting warmer, which means kitten season is right around the corner! During kitten season, it is not unusual to find unattended kittens or a single kitten seemingly abandoned by the mother. Each year, HSVC and Ventura County Animal Services get underage kittens brought into our shelters. Unfortunately, the shelter is NOT an appropriate place for baby kittens that often need around-the-clock care. So before jumping to the rescue, consider these recommendations.



What should I do if I find a kitten?

1. Watch and wait: You might have come across kittens while their mother is searching for food, or is in the process of moving them to a different location. To determine if the mother is coming back for them, stand far away from the kittens (35 feet or more) and observe them for several hours. Note, she will not return if you are too close and she feels threatened.

2. Evaluate for danger: Kittens are more at risk of hypothermia than they are of starvation. It is important to know that it might take several hours for the mother cat to return, and healthy kittens can survive this period without food as long as they are warm. The mother cat offers her kittens' BEST chance for survival! Remove the kittens ONLY if they are in immediate, grave danger. Even if you have handled the kittens, you can put them back where you found them and mom will still take care of them. Thinking that once a kitten has your scent, the mom will not care for it is a MYTH.

If the mother cat returns...

Leave the kittens alone with mom until they are weaned. You can offer shelter and regular food to mom, but keep them at a distance from other cats. Mom doesn't want to attract other animals to her kittens. Four to six weeks of age is the optimal age to take the kittens from the mother for socialization and adoption placement. It's critically important that mom gets fixed so the cycle does not repeat! Mom can get pregnant with another litter while nursing! You can use the kittens to help trap mom. The HSVC offers free TNR services for feral cats in traps. Call us at 805-646-6505 if you are in need of this service.

If the mother cat doesn't return...

If you discover that mom is not coming back for any reason, you should remove the kittens. Please call the HSVC or VCAS for information about foster care. Starting this year, the HSVC has a foster program for underage kittens! Want to be a part of this life-saving program? Visit our website at hsvc.org/foster to learn more. We offer training and the necessary supplies.

Those looking to help can donate supplies to our foster program via our kitten foster Amazon Wishlist. Talk to your friends and neighbors about fixing their free-roaming cats. HSVC has programs to help subsidize the cost of spay/neuter for low-income families and for feral cats! Visit hsvc.org/feral to learn more.





Max, 4-years-old
Male Belgian Malinois



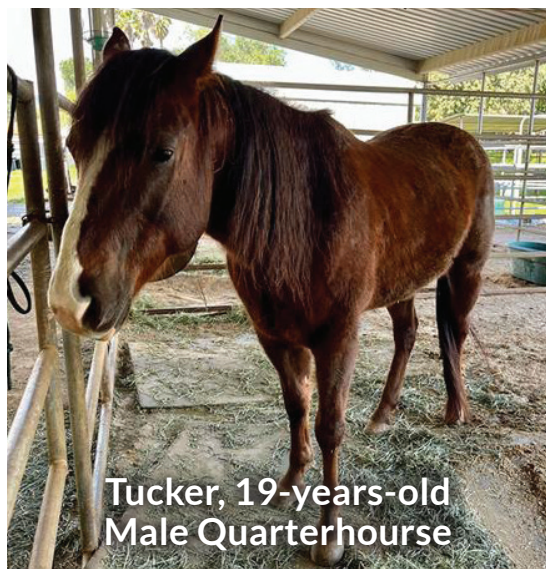
Tinsel, 7-years-old
Female Domestic Shorthair



Baby, 2-years-old
Female, Domestic Shorthair

Pet Gallery

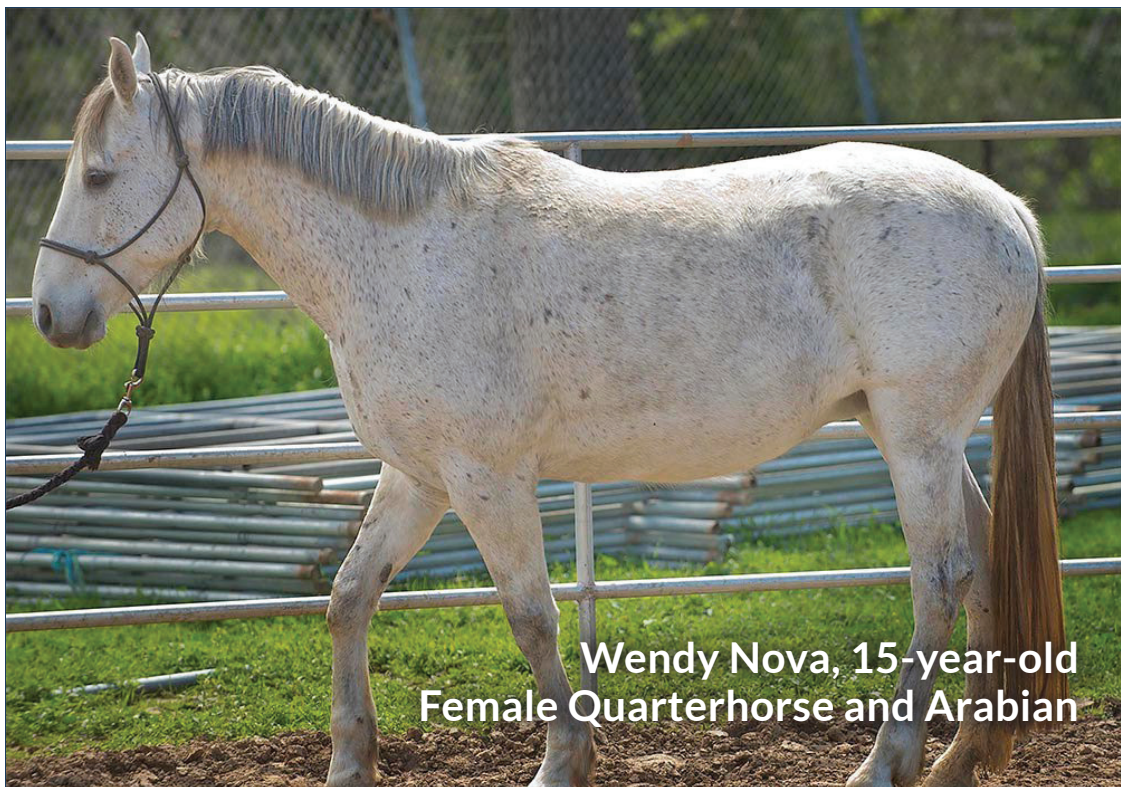
Check out some
of our adoptable
furry friends!



Tucker, 19-years-old
Male Quarterhorse



Blake, 1-year-old
Male Alaskan Husky



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



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