The challenges our shelter staff go through on a daily basis are often hard for the public to understand. This can be a very difficult job with emotions running high and low. When you are dealing with shelter life, it becomes an emotional roller-coaster.

Our front desk staff are the first people that you will see and talk to at the shelter. For the most part, they are treated with kindness and understanding. They are the educators, appointment makers, adoption counsellors, and shoulders to cry on. They intake the animals that are no longer wanted and comfort them when the owners drive away.

When your lost dog or cat comes into the shelter, front desk staff are the ones who return them to you. If your animal does not have a collar, tag, or microchip, we have no way to find you. Sometimes the animals sit for days waiting for you to arrive. We often hear that the owner just took off the collar to give their pets a bath. So I guess we have the cleanest animals in the County. When we are short-staffed in the kennels, our desk clerks become the kennel attendants. I am proud to say that we have a great group of team players.

When disaster hits in Ventura County you will encounter our desk clerks answering the phones, dispatching our Humane Officers, or having our kennel staff prepare for incoming animals. They are dedicated to their jobs and have stayed at the shelter for days during disasters. When disasters are over they will be the ones returning the animals to their owners.

Now with another disaster called COVID-19, they are still here working to take your calls and help wherever is needed. We are closed to the public for walk-ins to view the animals, but we are taking in animals and performing adoptions by appointment only. The staff is working as they always have. We, the Shelter Directors and Board of Directors, want to thank you all for your dedication and service you provide to the people and animals of Ventura County. We can’t do this without you!

- Jolene Hoffman, Shelter Director
“The Humane Society of Ventura County is dedicated to promoting the health, safety, welfare, compassionate care and protection of all animals through education and community outreach programs.”

Oliver’s Report

I just want to say that these legs can only go so fast but I have managed to run, hop and get my exercise every day. Since we have been closed to our many visitors, I am out running laps with the staff in the lobby. They are calling it a great exercise routine with me chasing them around the desks. Oh, the laughter makes my day! It’s amazing the games we play. I love to throw the tennis ball and watch them chase it. Did you know that humans fetch really well? I would give them a treat if I could, but I am not going to give up my Peanut Butter Crackers! They said we are closed to the public and I really miss my human friends. So if you come by to say hi they will bring me to the window or sometimes I will come outside to say hello. Hope to see all my friends again soon. Need more Peanut Butter Crackers please!
The Humane Society of Ventura County wishes Volunteer Coordinator Amanda Volden the very best as she moves on in pursuit of newer opportunities. She leaves the HSVC after five years of service. Like many of the staff at the HSVC, Amanda started as a volunteer. As a student at California State University Channel Islands in 2015, Amanda was part of a program that required students to donate 90 hours of community service to a local non-profit. Amanda had always wanted to work with animals. She describes choosing to volunteer at an animal shelter because “my pets have always been there for me and I wanted to be there for other animals.”

In such a high-profile role, Amanda worked daily to keep the scores of HSVC volunteers busy and fulfilled. The majority of her time was devoted to the recruiting, training, scheduling, and managing the volunteers. Amanda also worked the majority of the community events, fairs, and festivals; representing the HSVC, showcasing the animals available for adoption and answering questions from the public. Amanda also worked frequently along with the kennel staff helping socialize the animals, particularly the cats.

“Amanda was a tremendous resource for our shelter and made a difference in every aspect of her job. We will miss her,” said Jolene Hoffman, Shelter Director for the HSVC. “I am so thankful to have been able to volunteer alongside her and get to know her as the Humane Society’s Volunteer Coordinator but also as a friend,” said Linda Duval, Animal Ambassador (volunteer) for the HSVC.

The staff, volunteers, and animals at the HSVC are sad to see Amanda go but know she is on to bigger and better things, making a difference in the lives of everyone she touches. We wish you the best!
After the success of HSVC’s Summer Camp, I emerged with amazing memories of campers connecting from all over the country. So what’s next for HSVC’s Humane Education Program? I asked that question repeatedly in my mind as I reflected, visualized, and researched global education trends. Some of those trends are worth exploring.

Ventura County schools have decided not to go back into the classroom for the fall semester and will continue distance learning. Knowing this, I created a learning menu and a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program that will be available to schools, after school programs, homeschooled students, or any family with children who are interested in free enrichment programming in the fall of 2020.

During the developmental stages of creating an enrichment program for HSVC, I came across a brilliant quote by E.O. Wilson. “We are drowning in information while starving for wisdom.” As a Humane Educator for the HSVC, I wanted to stay true to our mission of “compassionate care and protection of all animals.” Can we teach compassion for animals within the constrains of general education, in the hopes of growing wisdom in our youth? Yes, we can! Si se puede! What a large undertaking that is!

This fall’s Humane Education program being developed will feature curricula such as Science Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM), SELs, Project-Based Learning (PBL), and the 5 C’s in a learning choice model. The lessons provided will teach us how to love and care for animals, which can grow our compassion for all living creatures. When many of us look at our companion pets, we develop love for them. We take that feeling of love and share with our communities to build a kinder, more compassionate world for all living creatures. I am hopeful that we’ll experience that world and it will emerge through the wisdom of our youth.

This program will be available free with registration. For more information on how to register, please contact me, Angie Sagliani at Education@hsvc.org. Please check the site www.hsvc.org for an updated Education Program page.

- Angie Sagliani, Humane Educator
1. Candy can be deadly to your pets. Keep candy far from your furry friends and educate children about the dangers of feeding candy to pets. If you suspect your animal has gotten into the candy bowl, contact your veterinarian immediately.

2. Do not force your pets to wear a costume unless you are sure they are comfortable. The costume should not block their sight, breathing, or constrict movement in any way. Watch out for loose bits that could be irritating or a potential choking hazard.

3. Keep your pets indoors. Pranksters have been known to tease animals, which could cause potential injury or even death. A cozy room inside your home is the safest place for your furry friend.

4. Take extra caution with your black cats, as they are especially at risk to injury and abuse during this spooky holiday. We recommend pet owners bring their black cats indoors several days before and after Halloween.

5. Make sure that all your pets are wearing current ID tags and if microchipped that all of their information is up to date. Both ID tags and microchipping are available at the Humane Society of Ventura County. ID tags are free for the month of October.

6. Keep candles, wires, and electrical cords out of reach of your curious four-legged friends. Keep your animals away from any candles as they can easily get burned or knock them over and start a fire.

Halloween can be a frightening time for your animals. Without taking the proper precautions, it could turn into a real nightmare for you and your pets. Check out these tips and tricks to prepare early and avoid any surprises this year!

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Open Board Meeting Canceled

Our upcoming Open Board Meeting has been canceled due to circumstances related to COVID-19. Twice a year the HSVC holds a meeting hosted by our board members as an opportunity for our community to meet the board and staff, ask questions, and learn all about the work we do to help animals in need. We are incredibly grateful to have the support of our community members, volunteers, and donors who make the work we do possible. We look forward to seeing you all in the near future!
Our Humane Officers see so much neglect and cruelty, it’s nice to be able to share with our readers a positive ending surrounded by so many negatives in our world these days.

Our office received a case of a neglected horse early May of this year. A concerned citizen informed us that an extremely thin mare located at a property in Oak View needed our help. Humane Officer King was dispatched to the location to do a health and safety check on the animal. Officer King discovered that the mare, Jazzy, was a three on the Henneke Body Condition Scale. The owner of the mare could no longer afford to care for her and decided it was best to sign her over to the shelter.

She contacted DVM April Armstrong of Shoreline Equine veterinarian clinic. Dr. Armstrong examined Jazzy and discovered a Rectovaginal Fistula, an opening or perforation through the wall or septum between the rectum and the vagina of a mare. Surgery was needed to repair the injury.

Jazzy was taken to Humphrey Giacopuzzi & Associates Equine Hospital in Somis. Cori Youngblood, DVM performed Jazzy’s surgery on June 8th. The surgery went well but during a follow-up check, Dr. Armstrong found that Jazzy had an infection in her uterus that required specialized treatment. It was decided to transport Jazzy to Dr. Armstrong’s where she received five-days of treatment for her infection.

Jazzy is now ready to go to a forever home. She is a very strong-willed mare that is going to need an equally strong owner. She has some behavioral issues that will need an experienced handler. She is halter broke but still needs a lot of groundwork to learn respect for someone who is willing to take on a project horse and train her properly. The staff is confident Jazzy will make a great horse for the right owner.

- Jeff Hoffman, Director of Investigations
Harley is a 23-year-old Quarterhorse who came to the HSVC as an evacuee during the Maria fire. After several months in our care, Harley’s owner decided it would be in her best interest that she be signed over to the shelter. Harley has Navicular in both front legs, which means we will be adopting her out as a pasture only or companion horse. Our staff describe her personality as a bit on the sassy side, but she is an overall happy horse. She would do best with a handler who has experience with horses that have a strong personalities. If you are interested in welcoming Harley into your equine family, please visit our website and click the “Let’s Get Started” button to fill out an adoption appointment request to meet her!

To view all of our available animals, please visit our website at www.hsvc.org/adopt.
Meet Bagel, a handsome 2-year-old tabby with an amazing personality. Bagel was adopted from HSVC in 2018 as a kitten. He recently came back to the shelter as a stray and was unable to return to his original home due to unfortunate circumstances.

After a few days in the shelter, our staff noticed him favoring his right rear leg. He was sent to the Ojai Village Veterinary Hospital for an x-ray and was diagnosed with a fractured hip. HSVC Director of Veterinary Services Dr. Christina Sisk immediately consulted with the orthopedic specialists at VetSurg in Ventura to discuss the best action to take for Bagel’s health. It was determined he would need surgery to repair his fractured hip. Dr. Campbell of VetSurg performed Bagel's surgery and we are happy to report he is doing well and recovering in a loving foster home.

The cost for Bagel’s surgery was $2946. We are now calling on our community to help us cover the cost of Bagel’s medical expenses. Those wanting to donate in support of Bagel's care and recovery can do so by visiting our website and choosing Medical Fund from the dropdown menu. Any donations received beyond Bagel’s expenses will be rolled over into our medical fund to help future animals in need.

The Humane Society of Ventura County is a private nonprofit founded in 1932. We are not affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States or any national animal welfare organizations, nor do we receive any funding from the city, county or state. We are a private nonprofit that serves the people and animals of Ventura County. No amount is too small to make a difference! Thank you for your support!
Newly-weds Monika and Jon adopted Yoda from the HSVC in February of 2019. Formerly Lars, Yoda captured the hearts of his new owners with his sweet and dorky personality. He is now living the dream as an adventurer and explorer of all things outdoors with his forever family.

“Yoda has always been an incredibly independent, opinionated, and weird creature. He fits our house perfectly,” said Monika. She continued, “Yoda is happiest running free in the mountains, swimming in creeks and lakes, and especially loves taking long walks around Ojai.”

A pair of avid adventurers, Monika and Jon try to take Yoda on as many of their outdoor excursions as possible. According to Monika, the friendly pup is never aggressive, always getting other dogs to play with him, and constantly trying to figure out who his next best friend will be anywhere he goes.

Monika also credits Yoda as being an “equalizer” in her marriage. “He reminds us to be loving and even tempered. He reminds us of our connection to each other. He is teaching us how to be loving and considerate parents. He makes us both feel more alive and more purposeful. Most importantly, he makes us laugh every day. He’s the best decision we’ve ever made together,” Monika said of Yoda.
Houseplants are a wholesome addition to the ambiance of any room. They can provide several health benefits, including keeping carbon dioxide levels down, removing pollutants, and improving moisture levels in your home. However, there are some common houseplants that can be toxic to pets.

It is important to have an emergency plan in place if/when your animal is exposed to a toxic plant. Have emergency vet numbers easily accessible including your own vet and a poison control hotline. If symptoms are severe and you need to take your pet in for veterinary assistance, it may be helpful to bring a picture of the plant so your vet knows exactly what was consumed.

In most cases, it is best to contact your vet if your pet is exposed to a large number of these plants. You can also contact ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) at 888-426-4435.

If you currently own any of these indoor plants, be sure they are placed on a high shelf or counter out of reach of your animal. If your pet likes to roam your fenced yard, avoid these types of toxic plants in your landscaping. Pet owners should contact their vet immediately if their pets have been exposed. According to the APCC, the following houseplants could be dangerous to the well-being of your pets. Visit www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control for more information.

**Peace Lily**
Mildly Toxic

**Pothos**
Mildly Toxic

**Jade Plant**
Moderately Toxic

**Ribbon Plant**
Moderately Toxic

**Sago Palm**
Severely Toxic

**Easter Lily**
Severely Toxic
As summer comes to a close, we have received many inquiries about our fall fundraising event SPAY’ghetti & No Balls. After our tremendous success last year we had been excited about planning it again for this year.

However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to cancel SPAY’ghetti. Although it pains us to make this decision, we have to prioritize our staffing and resources to provide for the animals under our care.

The participation of our community is crucial to fulfilling our mission and while we may not be celebrating this year together, you can still show your support. Our regular operating expenses have not changed and with this year’s COVID-19 pandemic, we need your help now more than ever.

We know that animal welfare is an important cause to you and your continued support is invaluable to the success and growth of the HSVC. This year we are inviting our honored patrons to make a donation in lieu of our annual event and help create a brighter future for those in need.

From everyone at the Humane Society of Ventura County, we thank you for your continued support and wish you all a safe transition out of the eventual lifting of the fog that is COVID-19. I may be reached by phone at 805-646-6505 or by email at GregC@hsvc.org.

- Greg Cooper
Director of Community Outreach

Thank You Kirby Subaru of Ventura!

The HSVC would like to extend a big thank you to Kirby Subaru of Ventura for donating food and funds to our shelter as part of the Subaru Loves Pets program! Bruce Holley (left) from Kirby Subaru of Ventura stopped by the shelter to drop off the truckload of goods, which included Pedigree wet and dry dog food, treats, and a large monetary donation. Assistant Shelter Director Arlene MacSween (middle), Director of Community Outreach Greg Cooper (right), and shelter dog Maso were on hand to receive the generous donation. Bruce Holley, Jeff Sukay (not pictured), and the Kirby Subaru of Ventura team have been long time supporters of the HSVC. This donation was made in honor of what would have been our 88th birthday Open House, which we were unable to put on due to COVID-19. The food and funds will be used to help feed the animals under our care and help pet owners in need throughout our community. Thank you to Bruce and all our friends at Kirby Subaru for your continuous support over the years!
Disaster Preparedness
Have an Evacuation Plan for Barn Animals

Horses and livestock require special considerations when planning for the event of a disaster. Fortunately, there are a number of things large animal owners can do to prepare in case of an emergency or evacuation. Do not leave your animals behind. A situation that isn’t safe for you won’t be safe for your animal companions. Evacuate immediately and remember once you have evacuated you may not be able to return. Here are some tips to consider when creating your evacuation plan.

1. Identification
Keep halters ready for your animals with an identification tag fastened to it including the horse’s name, your name, email address, and important emergency phone numbers.

2. Medical Records
Place your animals’ veterinary papers and vital information, such as medical history, allergies and emergency phone numbers, in a water tight envelope in a safe place where it can be easily accessed and shared.

3. Supplies
Prepare a basic first aid kit that is portable and easily accessible along with medications and vital information in a secure and tight envelope. Be sure to have enough food and water (20-40 gallons) for each horse for several days.

4. Transportation
Make arrangements in advance to have your horse trailered in case of an emergency. If you don't have your own trailer, be sure to have several people on standby to help you.

5. Use the Buddy System
Make a back-up plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives in case an emergency happens while you are not home. Contact your local animal care and control agency for information about shelters in your area.

6. Have a Back Up Plan
Have a back-up plan in case it’s impossible to take your large animals with you when you evacuate. Your local emergency management agency may be able to provide you with information about your community’s disaster response plans.
Give a gift of love to the animals of the Humane Society and to someone who loves animals as much as you do. A paver stone in the HSVC Memory Garden is a gift that will last a lifetime. Honor someone special or, show your support by naming a paver stone for your own family. Just fill out the form below and bring it in or mail it to us with your payment. We’ll send a card to the recipient acknowledging your gift.

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a paver stone. We hope you agree that this is a wonderfully meaningful way to support Humane Society animals and to leave a lasting legacy. For more information on purchasing a Paver, please contact Betty Jo MacCaughtery at Betty-JoM@hsvc.org, or call 805-646-6505.

To have your paver stone engraved, please complete and mail to:
Humane Society of Ventura County
PO Box 297     Ojai, CA 93024

I would like to reserve a paver: 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)

Here’s my/our gift to sponsor an animal for adoption
☐ Pet Friend - $50

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 _______________________________________

MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED

Pet Sponsorship
Help an Animal in Need

Pet Sponsorship
from May 15, 2020 to August 15, 2020

Doris Weinert
Libby & Jeff Bergman
Arlene MacSween

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

*LARGE PAVERS - you may use a third line

EMAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER

Accountant Name

EXPIRATION

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)
The Humane Society of Ventura County would like to extend a big thank you to siblings Riely and Isabelle for donating $942 to our shelter in honor of their beloved dog who recently passed away after consuming a poisonous mushroom.

Riely and Isabelle recently went camping with their family and two dogs in Northern California. While on the trip, both dogs consumed a poisonous Amanita mushroom, more commonly known as a death cap or death angel. According to the VCA, this type of mushroom is extremely toxic to dogs and can cause life-threatening liver failure. Owners may be fooled by their pet’s lack of immediate distress, but severe gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms will start to occur within 6-24 hours after consumption. The animal will become jaundice, weak, lethargic, and even comatose. Mild GI symptoms can quickly progress into deadly liver failure in a matter of days if left untreated.

Unfortunately, one of their two dogs passed away after ingesting the poisonous fungi, while the other was hospitalized for five days and made a full recovery. To process their grief, Riely and Isabelle raised money for the HSVC to help other animals in need. With the assistance of their mother, the siblings held a fundraiser in their neighborhood asking for pocket change in honor of their lost loved one. Many neighbors, friends, and family members showed support and donated to the cause. In less than a week, Riely and Isabelle were able to raise a total of $942 to donate to the shelter.

In addition to their donation, Riely, Isabelle, and their family are hoping to raise awareness about the dangers of mushroom poisoning. Mushrooms can grow in wooded areas, grassy parks, and even your own backyard. It is very difficult to identify if a species of mushroom is poisonous. For the safety of your animals, it is best to presume that any wild mushroom you find could be poisonous. Patrolling your yard regularly and removing all mushrooms will help keep your curious pet safe at home. If your animal does consume a potentially poisonous mushroom, prompt treatment is critical. Immediately take your pet to your local veterinarian for assistance. For more information on mushroom toxicity and treatment options, please visit the VCA’s website at www.vcahospitals.com or the ASPCA’s website at www.aspca.org.
Shelter & Adoption Center
402 Bryant St. • Ojai, CA 93023
805-646-6505 • 805-656-5031
COVID-19 Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-5
Winter Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-5
Mailing Address
PO Box 297 • Ojai, CA 93024