

PAWS FOR *Thought*

FALL 2021

*HSVC Partners
with DoorDash!*

*Introducing
Officer Utter!*

*Serving
Ventura
County
Since
1932*





Letter from the Director



On behalf of everyone at the Humane Society of Ventura County, we want to give a heartfelt thank you for the support you have given to our staff and the animals in our care! Without your unwavering support, we would not be able to continue providing the animals at our shelter the care they need.

As you all know this has been a trying last few years, first with the fires and then with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these obstacles, our Shelter has continued to serve the animals

in need throughout our community. Our Shelter will continue to follow the OSHA and CDC guidelines to keep our staff, volunteers, and the public safe during the pandemic. We appreciate your understanding during this uncertain time.

A big thank you also goes out to our Board of Directors, Front Office Staff, Kennel Staff, Humane Officers, Clinic Staff, Community Outreach Team Bookkeeper and Caretaker. Things at the shelter are constantly changing, and you are all doing an amazing job, thank you!



Board of Directors

Cyndy Treutelaar, President
Sheila Kane McCollum, Vice President
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Ron Spaeth, Treasurer
Marianne Carl, Director
Joyce George, Director
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We have some exciting news! The HSVC is going green! We will be sending our next Newsletter digitally via email, social media and our website. Our staff is very excited about the new opportunities going digital will bring for the shelter. Going green will save the Shelter money, which will allow us to continue providing our vital services to those in need. We will be ordering a small amount of Newsletters to have on hand for those who wish to continue to have a copy mailed to you. Please notify the shelter your request by calling at 805-646-6505 or emailing us at animals@hsvc.org.
- Jolene Hoffman, Shelter Director

Humane Officers

Introducing Officer Utter and Senior Officer King!

The Humane Society of Ventura County is proud to introduce Humane Officer Jenna Utter. Utter was officially sworn in on June 10th by Judge Henry Walsh at the Ventura County Courthouse. A ceremony was later held at the shelter in Ojai where Officer Utter's badge was presented to her by Director of Investigations Jeff Hoffman, Senior Humane Officer King, and her father, Steven Utter. Utter's family, Vice President of the Board Sheila Kane McCollum, and the entire HSVC staff were present to celebrate her milestone.

Officer Utter began her journey with the HSVC as an Adoption Counselor in November of 2019. She exhibited all the outstanding qualities necessary to become a Humane Officer and was offered the chance to pursue her passion for animal welfare. Director of Investigations Jeff Hoffman spoke at the ceremony praising Officer Utter's perseverance

and commitment to the welfare of animals in need. "We are thrilled to welcome our newest Humane Officer, Jenna Utter. We are very pleased with her good nature and are confident she will be a great asset to our organization," said Jeff Hoffman.

To become a Humane Officer, trainees must complete hundreds of hours of training including an 80-hour Animal Law Enforcement Training Academy, an additional 40 hours of advanced officer training, and pass extensive background checks performed by outside agencies. Officers must also complete the 832 PC, pass search/seizure training courses, and receive continuous education through livestock, circus, and animal fighting courses.

Now badged, Officer Utter will continue field training with Senior Officer King where she will be able to investigate cases of animal abuse and neglect. In addition to enforcing California's anti-

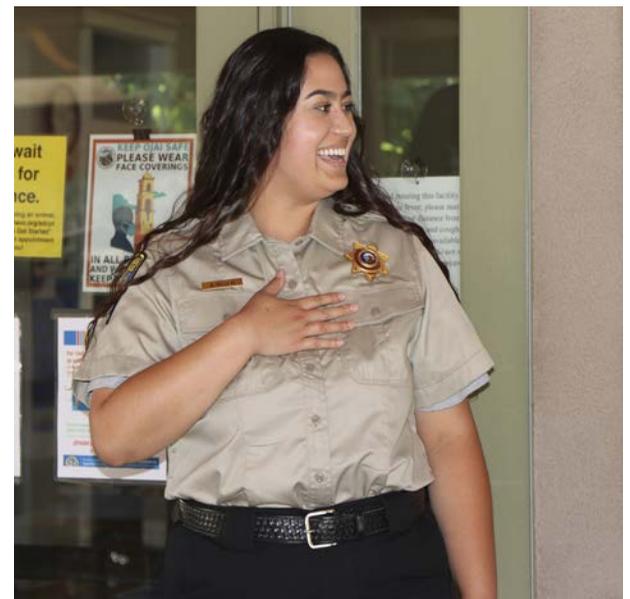




animal cruelty and neglect laws, Humane Officers educate the community about responsible pet ownership and offer resources to pet owners in need. Officer Utter has consistently proved her commitment to such duties and continues to represent the HSVC with class, kindness, and pride.

“As Humane Officers, we have to be compassionate for not only the animal but for people as well. Jenna has demonstrated the skills necessary to know when an investigation turns into an educational visit or if someone may need a little push in the right direction. I believe Jenna has what it takes to meet this standard and make the Investigations Unit here at HSVC proud,” said Senior Humane Officer King.

The HSVC is the only organization in Ventura County to employ Humane Officers. We are pleased to announce a promotion for Humane Officer King to Senior Humane Officer. “Kendra has proven to be a fine Officer and displays good leadership skills. She has set up a training program for the Emergency Response Team (ERT) volunteers to assist with disasters. We are proud of the great work King and Utter provide for the Ventura County,” said Jeff Hoffman.



PURRS & PAWS

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, DEC. 4 🐾 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
CHAPARRAL AUDITORIUM 🐾 414 E. OJAI AVE. OJAI, CA

The 10th Annual Purrs & Paws Holiday Boutique and Marketplace is returning! Join us for a day filled with holiday spirit, shopping, and fun! Proceeds from this event will benefit the Humane Society of Ventura County. Admission and parking are free!

If you are interested in being a vendor, please email hsvcpurrsandpaws@gmail.com.



Is it just me, or did we just have the holidays? It's already time to save the date for Purrs and Paws! Where does the time go? Sadly I can't go because I need to stay and supervise the shelter, but I hope all my furiends can attend to help raise money for animals in need! I also hope everyone is staying cool during these warm months! Remember, not all pets are indoor pets like me, so make sure your furry friends have access to lots of shade and water when playing outdoors. It's been so much fun having my young friends visit during summer camp. I wish it didn't have to end! I guess I'll just have to enjoy the dance parties and peanut butter crackers while they last!

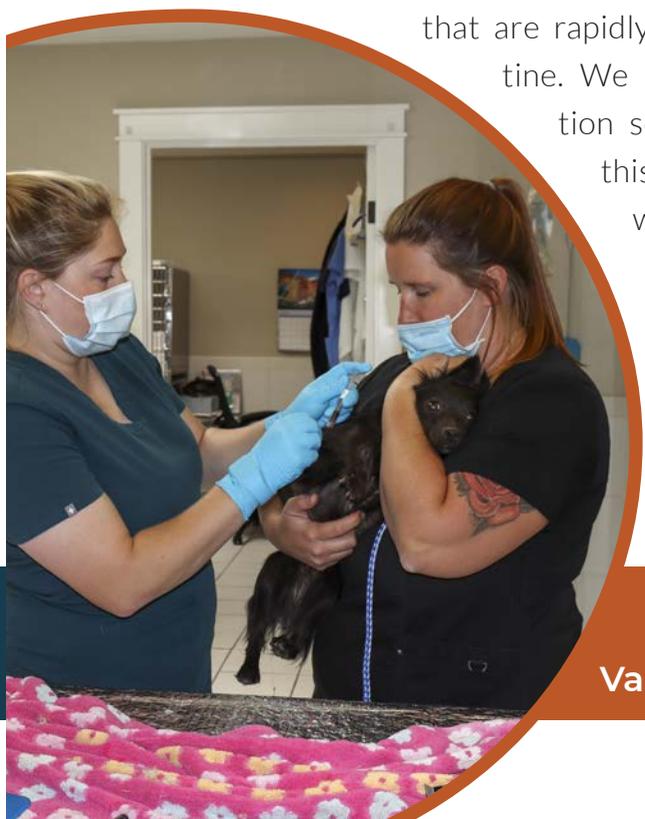
Oliver's Report

Vaccination seems to be a hot topic of conversation lately, at least when it comes to Covid-19. Thankfully, that is not a vaccine we need to worry about for our dogs and cats! However, I find it frustrating when pet owners come to our vaccination clinics asking only for the Rabies vaccine. While Rabies is an important vaccination in terms of public health and licensing, I am much more concerned about the risk of your dog contracting the parvo or distemper virus, or your cat getting an upper respiratory infection or panleukopenia, which could have been prevented by vaccination.

Canine parvo and distemper virus are found in the environment, such as yards, dog parks, and even beaches. It can also be spread by dog-to-dog contact. The viruses can be carried home on our dogs' paws and fur or our shoes, hands, or clothing. These are serious diseases that can cause diarrhea and vomiting, in the case of parvo, but also respiratory and neurologic disease in the case of distemper. Sometimes even with treatment, dogs can die from the condition. Fortunately, we have safe and effective vaccinations for both viruses, usually known as a "DAPP". The vaccines are given in a series when dogs are puppies, and it is very important not to miss any as this can leave your puppy susceptible during the time period when they are most vulnerable to infection. Adult dogs get boosters every one to three years.

It is very important that cats, especially kittens, maintain their protection from upper respiratory viruses such as the feline herpes and calici virus and even more importantly, an often-fatal virus known as Feline Panleukopenia. The panleukopenia virus destroys cells that are rapidly growing and dividing, such as in the bone marrow and intestine. We recommend kitten owners stay on top of their pet's vaccination schedule for their "FVRCP" vaccine, which protects them from this virus as well as some that cause upper respiratory infection, which even indoor cats are susceptible to due to open windows. Adult cats typically only need this vaccine every three years.

The Humane Society is happy to offer the DAPP, FVRCP, and Rabies vaccinations at a very low-cost at our vaccination clinics or at the time of spay/neuter. Call 805-646-6505 to make an appointment or for more information!
- Dr. Christina Sisk, Director of Veterinary Services



Clinic Corner
Vaccinations – it's not just about the Rabies!

Success Story: Winnie's Happily Ever After

Just over one year later and good girl Winnie is still loving life in her forever home with Jack and Fern! The adorable red Labrador/Retriever mix was adopted from the HSVC in late May of 2020 and it has been nonstop fun ever since!



According to her parents, 7-year-old Winnie was a little anxious when she was first brought home. However, with time and training, she grew more comfortable and has blossomed into a lovable, goofy dog. Her hobbies include hiking, watching squirrels through the front window, laying on the bed for morning cuddles, and giving high fives in exchange for treats. "I have discovered that I don't like the ocean (way too cold) or dressing up for Halloween (so embarrassing) or being picked up, but my humans seem to enjoy those things, so I try to be a good sport. I still like to greet other dogs very carefully but have made a few furry friends who I play with on my morning walks. My favorite walk is the one we do on Saturday mornings up to the grassy field so I can get some sun on my belly!" said Winnie via her parents. Thank you, Jack and Fern, for choosing Winnie and giving her all the attention, care, and love she deserves!



HSVC Education is Longing to Be Your Neighbor

Exciting opportunities are coming to HSVC Education! I am so happy to announce that I am participating in the Fred Rogers Center Educator's Neighborhood cohort for the 2021-2022 school year. It's been a dream of mine to work with the Fred Rogers Center and the door has opened to this opportunity this Fall. I have been thinking about expanding our educational programming that has been available to Ventura County in the past few years. We have had great educators in the past create exciting animal interaction programs for schools around our community. These programs have inspired children to become better companion animal caretakers.

Education in our country is constantly changing to meet the demands of student populations, so I'd like to explore more of an emphasis on social and emotional learning (SEL). I will be expanding our focus on perspective-taking and compassion for all creatures and living things.

As educators, we recognize that both our student's and our emotional states are very important to the learning process. This is one of the many reasons why learning about Fred Rogers and his teachings will be an integral part of learning about animals. Why not expand that thinking to animals and people in our neighborhoods? I'm creating some educational programs that focus on early elementary education, perspective-taking and empathy for both our human and animal neighbors.

HSVC will continue offering in-person presentations and virtual programming throughout the school year. If you are interested in learning more about this pilot early elementary programming in collaboration with the Fred Rogers Center or any other programs, please contact Angie Chupek Sagliani at education@hsvc.org.

- Angie Sagliani, Humane Educator



Featured Pet

Help Us Find Wendy Nova A Forever Home!

Our resident “unicorn”, gorgeous Wendy Nova is a Quarterhorse and Arabian mix. The 14-year-old mare was first brought to the shelter in 2008 as a result of an abuse and neglect case. After being adopted out briefly, Wendy Nova was returned to the shelter in 2018 through no fault of her own. She can be a shy girl at times, but overall the sweet mare is eager to meet anyone that approaches her.

As you can see, Wendy Nova is such a good girl that she even allows our staff to braid her stunning mane. Ooh la la Wendy Nova!

Though she is not broke to ride, Wendy Nova has a great foundation of groundwork. She would make a great pasture horse for anyone looking for a sweet and friendly companion. Our girl recently participated in HSVC’s annual summer kids camp, where she allowed young campers to pet her and even paint on her body. Don’t worry, the paint was toxic-free and horse-friendly! Not only did they campers have a blast, but our staff got to see how well Wendy Nova does with young kids. We think she would also make an excellent therapy horse!

This pretty girl is still patiently waiting for her forever home! If you are interested in bringing sweet Wendy Nova into your equine family, please call the shelter at 805-646-6505 to speak with our equine specialists and learn more about her. Help us find Wendy Nova a loving home for the holidays!



Volunteer Highlight

Introducing DoorDash



Fall is the season to celebrate abundance and to share with the community. We couldn't be more proud to highlight our newest service to help those in need, DoorDash PET (Pets Eat Too). The HSVC has partnered with DoorDash, Interface Children and Family Services and United Way International to deliver free dog and cat food to underserved communities across Ventura County.

With this new pilot program, pet owners in need will be able to order free pet food through DoorDash from one of our many host locations. Each host location serves as a hub for DoorDash to deliver within a 10-mile radius on a regular basis. Our Volunteers have been hard at work helping us add new DoorDash hosts, allowing us to reach all

over the county! We would like to highlight United Way International and Interface Children and Family Services and for making this partnership so successful. We ask for your thanks to our new host locations: Kirby Subaru in Ventura, Cassie's Cats in Ventura, Full Throttle Kustomz in Fillmore, and Underdog Pet Stylist in Oxnard. Check out the QR Code below for a full up-to-date list of our host locations or call 844-984-0946 for information on how to enroll in this easy and free public service.

- Audra Lucas, Volunteer Coordinator

Humane Society of Ventura County
402 Bryant St. Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-6505

Full Throttle Kustomz
220 E Telegraph Rd Fillmore. 93015
805-200-5500

Cassie's Cats
1744 E. Main St. Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 232-4228

Underdog Pet Stylist
421 S. Ventura Rd. #70
Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 985-3800

Kirby Subaru of Ventura
6404 Auto Center Dr.
Ventura, CA 93003 • 855-700-9197

QR Code: FLOWCODE PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM

Microchipping and ID Tags Can Save Lives!

Layla's Inspiring Survival Story

After five long weeks, we are happy to report that Layla has been returned home safely! Sweet Layla went missing from her Ventura home in mid-April after the gate to the backyard was not closed properly. The 5-year-old dog was on her own for several weeks until a good Samaritan found her about seven miles away from her home. She was severely emaciated when she was found with two open wounds on her body. Luckily, Layla was still wearing her collar with ID tags and the good Samaritan was able to reunite her with her owners.

Though Layla has a long road to recovery, her story is one of a true survivor. It is also a tale that demonstrates the importance of keeping up-to-date ID tags on your pets' collars. An HSVC alum herself, Layla was also microchipped, which is another way

"We always say having up-to-date ID tags and microchip information can potentially save your animal's life, and Layla's story is a perfect example of that. It's truly a miracle she was found and returned safely to her loving family!"

- Jolene Hoffman, Shelter Director

pet owners can help ensure their animals' safe return in the event they get lost.

A microchip is a small identification device injected under the skin of a dog or cat. Each microchip has a unique ID number registered with the pet and owner's information, making it a permanent way to identify that animal if it were to get lost. On September 18th, 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill No. 573 into law for the state of California. Effective January 1, 2021, this law states any public animal control agency, shelter, or rescue group like the HSVC may not release a dog or cat to an owner seeking to reclaim or adopt that animal unless it is or will be microchipped.

Luckily, the HSVC offers both ID tag (\$5) and microchipping services (\$15) at the shelter. Those in need of an ID tag can stop by the shelter at any time during business hours Monday – Saturday from 10 am – 5 pm. We are located at 402 Bryant St. in Ojai. To make a microchipping appointment for your animal, please call the shelter at 805-646-6505 or for more information.



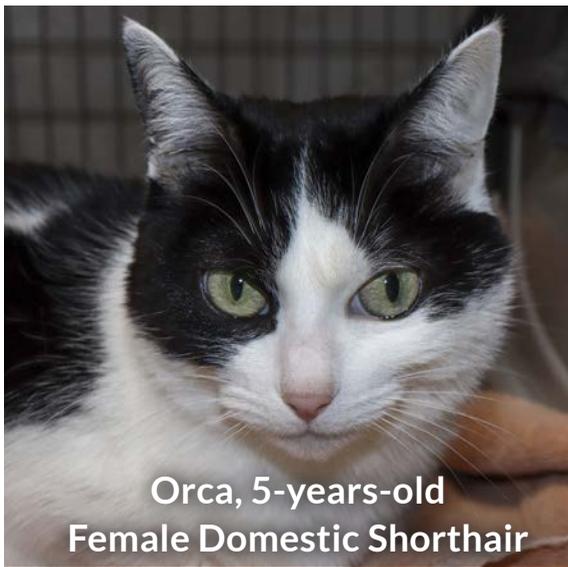
Layla pictured one week after her rescue. Despite her emaciated appearance, the sweet Chihuahua mix pup seemed to be in good spirits and happy to be back home!



Mac, 1-year-old, Male Domestic Shorthair



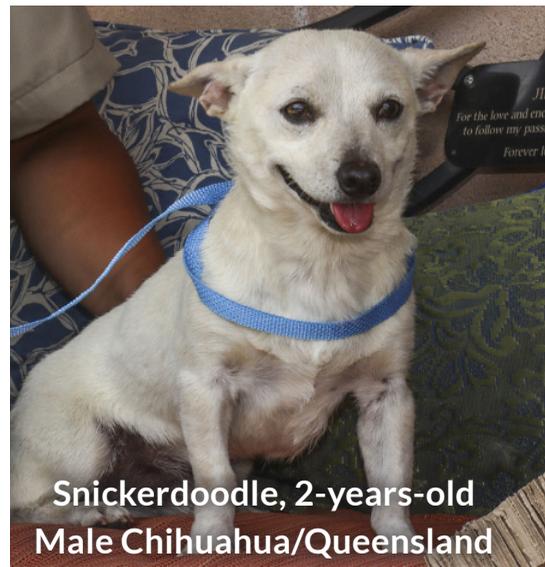
Sparky, 7-years-old
Male Border Collie & Boxer



Orca, 5-years-old
Female Domestic Shorthair

Pet Gallery

Check out some of our adoptable furry friends!



Snickerdoodle, 2-years-old
Male Chihuahua/Queensland



Chico, 2-years-old
Male Chihuahua



Wendy Nova, 14-years-old
Female Quarterhorse & Arabian

As a private nonprofit, the HSVC relies entirely on the generosity of donors and supporters to continue providing our vital services. Two of such donors are Ernest and Carolyn Siracusa, a couple who have been long-time supporters of the Shelter. The pair have donated largely over the years through pet sponsorships, in-kind donations, and more. Ernest even donates his gardening services for the upkeep of the Memory Garden located in front of the office on our property.

When considering their next big donation, the Siracusa's consulted HSVC staff for recommendations of items that were much needed at the shelter. Temperatures around the Ojai Valley can often get into the 100s during the warmer months. Knowing this, the couple decided to donate the funds to purchase shades that would hang over our large outdoor dog play yards. The shades were recently installed over each of our seven play yards and have been a huge help in keeping our shelter dogs cool this season! All thanks to the Siracusa's!



“Our daughter had just lost her beloved rescue dog, Jasper (above), so we made this donation in honor of him. Jasper would’ve wanted his fellow furry friends to enjoy the shade while they wait for their own forever homes,” said Ernest. We are grateful to both Ernest and Carolyn Siracusa for always going above and beyond to help animals in need and continuously supporting the HSVC!



Thank You Ernest & Carolyn Siracusa!



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Ojai, CA 93024

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COVID-19 Hours
Monday-Saturday 10-5

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