

PAWS FOR *Thought*

A Publication of the Humane Society of Ventura County
A Compassionate Care Shelter

SPRING 2020

**SINCE
1932!**

**SPRING
INTO
KITTEN
SEASON!**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

SUCCESS STORIES
Ten Years in the Making



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Humane Society of Ventura County suffered two break-ins in 2019, both of which resulted in the disappearance of an animal under our care. Late in the evening of February 4th, 2019, unknown subjects cut through the exterior fence at the shelter, broke into the kennel and stole a dog that had come in as a stray.

We suffered two burglaries in the span of 11 months and the costs go far beyond the dollar amount of what was stolen.

On the evening of Sunday, December 1st, 2019, the Humane Society of Ventura County was broken in to and a kitten went missing, presumably stolen by the unidentified subject. The subject entered the Cat Lobby by throwing rocks through a plate glass window.

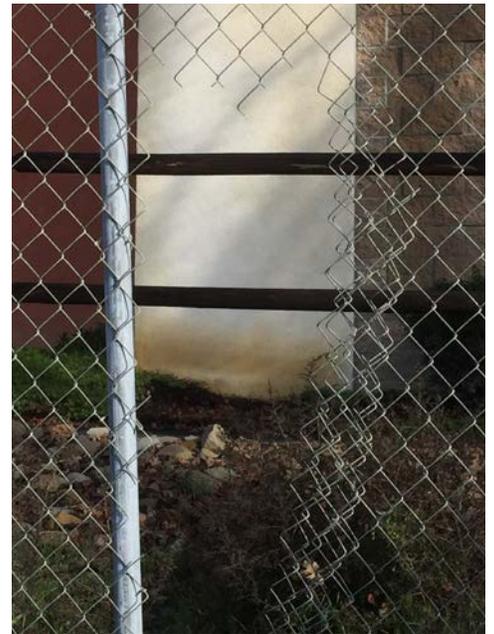
In both cases, HSVC security cameras captured likenesses of the perpetrators and information was supplied to the Ventura County

Sheriff's Department. With each instance of theft, vandalism, or trespassing at our Shelter, we evaluate our security system. When gaps in surveillance are discovered we upgrade our system – each time at a significant cost.

Any organization needs to carefully plan out their budget, especially for a nonprofit. The Humane Society of Ventura County relies 100 percent on private donations and support from community partners, grants and planned giving. Unexpected costs are problematic for us, as I am sure, for many nonprofits. We suffered two burglaries in the span of 11 months and the costs go far beyond the dollar amount of what was stolen.

We encourage anyone who may have information on the identity of either perpetrator to contact the Ojai Police Department (VCSO) at 805-646-1414.

The toll on the HSVC shelter, animals and staff is measured in emotional stress as well as the financial cost. Even the theft of



Cut fence to Shelter, Feb. 4th, 2019

low-value items takes away from our ability to provide services to those in most need. The money spent on repairing the shelter comes from funds that would otherwise provide for the animals under our care.

Knowing some people would vandalize and steal from a nonprofit animal welfare organization, such as the HSVC, will have no qualms of doing so to other businesses and individuals in our community. Please be diligent in your own neighborhoods as we are here.

We encourage anyone who may have information on the identity of either perpetrator to contact the Ojai Police Department (VCSO) at 805-646-1414.

Thank you all who support our Mission of compassionately caring for the animals of Ventura County.

-Jolene Hoffman
SHELTER DIRECTOR



The Humane Society of Ventura County recently suffered two burglaries. If you have any information relating to these cases, please contact the Ojai Police Dept.

SAVE THE DATE!

**88TH BIRTHDAY BASH
& OPEN HOUSE**

**JUNE 13, 2020
10:00-3:00**

HUMANE SOCIETY OF VENTURA COUNTY



**HUMANE SOCIETY
OF VENTURA COUNTY**

A COMPASSIONATE CARE SHELTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Cyndy Treutelaar, President
- Don Buffon, Vice President
- Debby Mooney, Secretary
 - Ron Spaeth, Treasurer
 - Marianne Carl, Director
- Barbara Connelly, Director
 - Joyce George, Director
- Sheila Kane McCollum, 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

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DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS
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GRANT ASSOCIATE
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MEDIA & MARKETING COORDINATOR
Amy King x. 119
Marketing@hsvc.org

SUCCESS STORY

A Loving Family for Tessie

Tessie adapted quickly to her new forever home after being adopted by Lynn from the Humane Society of Ventura County in February. Tessie, formerly Darla, came to the HSVC from a partner rescue earlier in the year. Tessie arrived along with her mother Delilah and sister Doris but have all since been adopted due to their adorable looks and charming personalities.

Lynn and her family chose Tessie because she looked a lot like her previous rescue dog Valle, who passed away last November. According to Lynn, Tessie has a long future to look forward to in a loving home amongst her forever family. Happy trails Lynn and Tessie.

Tessie arrived along with her mother Delilah and sister Doris but have all since been adopted due to their adorable looks and charming personalities.

If you are interested in adopting a dog from the Humane Society of Ventura County we recommend starting by looking at our animals on our website: hsvc.org/adopt. If you see one you like, stop by our Shelter for an in-person meet and greet.

If everything goes well you'll fill

out an application next. Then a yard check will be performed prior to adoption. In addition to adequate fencing and shelter, those wishing to adopt a pet must provide either proof of ownership of the residence or a rental agreement for that address indicating that pets are allowed.



Included in the fee with every dog adoption will be the first DHLPP shot of the series, a rabies vaccine if age allows, a medical exam good for up to three days from participating veterinarians, implanting an identification microchip (registration extra), spay or neuter surgery if necessary as well as a collar, ID tag, and a leash. Call the HSVC at 805-646-6505 for questions.

OPEN BOARD MEETING

We are pleased to announce this spring's Open Board Meeting will be held at the shelter on Wednesday, April 15th, at 6 pm. The meeting will take place at the Humane Society of Ventura County in front of the Harry Valentine Visitor's Center.

Each year, the Board of Directors conducts two open board meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the shelter, ask questions, and find out how to get involved with the nonprofit's animal rescue efforts. These meetings are the perfect opportunity for our community to learn more about the different services the shelter has to offer and how you can help.

If you have any questions about our upcoming Open Board Meeting, please feel free to call the shelter at 805-646-6505 or email animals@HSVC.org. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you all on April 15th.





OLIVER'S REPORT

I was recently inducted into the Animal Reading Friends club having completed reading my new favorite books about my colorful cousins. A local nonprofit, Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation, installed the Little Free Library in the front of the Visitor's Center at the Shelter a little over a year ago. A.R.F. is for kids of all ages who want to come read to the four-legged animals at the Shelter.

I'm told that reading to animals builds confidence in children and enhances their reading abilities, but if you want to come to sing with me, that's OK too.

"The Board of Directors" will have their semi-annual open meeting at the Shelter on Wednesday, April 15 @ 6pm. My fan club, otherwise known as the public, are encouraged to come, eat fresh cookies and learn about future plans for the HSVC. I keep asking them to make "Crackers" for the event but to no avail.

My friends at the HSVC have been busy preparing for kitten season... usually, I would say my favorite time of the year, but all that meowing drowns out my eloquent voice. Please help me keep my voice and spay and neuter your cats and dogs. Did you know that the HSVC has a low-cost spay and neuter clinic? Give my friends a call at 805-646-6505 to schedule an appointment.

I would be grateful if you could support me, I mean us, by shopping on our Amazon Wish List which includes Oliver's Favorite food as well as goods to help the kittens.

-Oliver the famous and most adorable bird you will ever meet

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Building Community Connections



Like many of you, we have been reflecting on the past decade – our triumphs and our short-comings. The past offers

no respite, however, we are always looking forward to seeing how we can make a greater difference for people and their pets in our community.

Since 2010 we have nearly doubled our need for services and intend to grow to meet those needs. We are offering additional outreach efforts so that the public can access HSVC services in alternate locations. These services include our new Pantry 4 Paws pet food bank currently available in eight locations throughout Ventura County.

Since 2010 we have nearly doubled our need for services and intend to grow to meet those needs.

This Spring we will also launch our HSVC Cares outreach program providing preventative pet care throughout Ventura County to better serve those in need. The ultimate goal for this program is to purchase and outfit a mobile spay and neuter clinic to reach those pet owners who cannot travel to Ojai to get their pet altered.

We have some medium- and long-term goals to increase the level of services offered at the Humane Society of Ventura County. At the top of that list is to fund and construct a new dog kennel. Our current building has served us well since 1982 when originally opened at our current location on Bryant Street in Ojai, but it's time for an upgrade. We are exploring the opportunity to build a new facility in the same location as the old, which will increase the number of dogs sheltered and increase the comfort of visitors who come to look for a new member for their forever family. The Board of Directors has retained Netzel Grigsby Associates to launch a Capital Campaign Assessment to determine donor and volunteer interest in the project.

All of this is in addition to our providing the best service possible in completing our mission; promoting the health, safety, welfare, compassionate care and protection of all animals. Your continued support is essential for us to complete our work.

I can be reached at GregC@hsvc.org or 805-646-6505 x 112.

-Greg Cooper
DIR. OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Humane Society of Ventura County remains committed to its project to build a new state-of-the-art dog kennel at its location in Ojai.

CLINIC CORNER

Spring Into Kitten Season!



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

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.

What should I do if I find a kitten!? First: Watch and Wait. You might have come across the kittens while their mother is off searching for food, or is in the process of moving them to a different location. Try to determine if the mother is coming back for them, or if they are truly orphaned. To do this, stand far away from the kittens- 35 feet or more. If you stand too close, the mom will not approach her kittens. You might need to go away completely before the mother cat will return to attend to the kittens. It might be several hours before the mother cat returns – until she no longer senses the presence of humans near her litter.

If you need to leave before mom comes back, carefully evaluate whether the kittens are in immediate danger. Are the kittens located in an area with heavy foot or car traffic? Is it raining or are they damp? Kittens are much 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' the BEST chance for survival! So please, wait and watch as long as you can. The best food for the kittens is

their mother's milk. Remove the kittens ONLY if they are in immediate, grave danger.

Even if you have handled the kitten(s), 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 the food and shelter at a distance from each other. Mom does not 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. But it is 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 Humane Society offers FREE Trap/Neuter/Release services for feral cats in traps.

If the mother cat does not return... If you discover that for any reason the mother cat is not coming back, then you should remove the kittens. Please call the Humane Society of Ventura County or Ventura County Animal Services for information about foster care.

Starting this year, the Humane Society of Ventura County has a foster program for underage kittens! Want to be a part of this life-saving program? Visit our website for more information and to fill out an application. We offer training and necessary supplies.

Can't foster kittens? Offer to help the Community Cat Coalition in Ventura County trap the feral cats that contribute up to 80% of the kittens that enter our shelters every year!

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.

How about donating to our neonatal program? Check out our Amazon Kitten Wishlist!

-Dr. Christina Sisk
DIR. OF VETERINARY SERVICES



Pictured from left to right: Adoption Counselor, Josephine Maxson; Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Volden; Office Manager, Betty Jo MacCaughtery, VCAS Foster Coordinator, Jennifer Haskins; Director of Veterinary Services, Christina Sisk; Kennel Manager, Angela Hanline; & Foster Volunteer, Holly Bassett.



THANK YOU WW!

Thank you, WW (formally Weight Watchers) of Ojai, for sharing the love this season by donating several bags of new dog and cat food to the Humane Society of Ventura County. Group members Jill and Celeste were kind enough to call ahead of donating and to ask specifically what type of dog and cat food we give to our shelter animals. Together, along with the help of WW of Ojai, they were able to donate a total of eight bags of Artemis Fresh Mix food for animals in our care.

According to Jill and Celeste, WW of Ojai came up with the idea last year to donate pet food, "pound for pound." This meant that for every pound their WW group lost, they would donate a pound of pet food to our shelter. The total came out to \$500 worth of pet food, or \$2 per pound lost. "It was a group effort, but people in the community also pitched in," said Celeste, "The shelter does so much good for our community, we just wanted to give back in some way."

All the members of the WW Ojai chapter live in the Ojai Valley, and several have adopted animals through the Humane Society of Ventura County. Greg Cooper, Director of Community Outreach for the Humane Society of Ventura County, was particularly proud of this donation. "Community support is what allows our nonprofit animal shelter to operate, so we cherish every opportunity to form a bond," said Cooper. "WW of Ojai and their members have long supported the HSVC either through donations or simply choosing to adopt their pets from a rescue," continued Cooper. Those who'd like to support the Humane Society of Ventura County can drop off unopened bags of dry dog or cat food at the Ojai shelter, at 402 Bryant St. Also, the HSVC Amazon Wish List has been updated to include examples of requested food.

MEET THE STAFF

Media & Marketing Coordinator

Amy King joined the staff at the Humane Society of Ventura County in January of 2020. A Camarillo native, Amy spent the previous six years living in Tacoma, WA. She attended Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) where she graduated in 2017 with a BFA in Graphic Design and a Business Marketing minor. Amy was also a four-year member of the PLU softball team and has continued her post-college athletic career as a coach and mentor.

The work the staff does at the shelter is so important and I'm honored they chose me to be a part of their team. It brings me so much joy knowing I will get to use my unique set of creative skills to help protect, care for, and ultimately find forever homes for these animals. I can't wait to get started!"

Following graduation, Amy secured a position as the Marketing Director with a small home furnishing company in Sumner, WA. She also pursued her creative passions by creating her own side business doing freelance photography, videography, and graphic design. In 2019, Amy caught the travel bug and ventured to Europe on a whim, which she says is one of the best decisions of her life.

After relocating back to Southern California, Amy was searching for a career where she could pursue her interest in design, marketing, and desire to do good in her community. As a lifelong animal lover, Amy has always had a passion for animals and their wellbeing. She stumbled upon the Media and Marketing Coordinator position with the Humane Society of Ventura County and knew it would be the perfect fit.

Amy had this to say about her

new role, "I was so excited when I got this position with the HSVC. I've lived in Ventura County my entire life, so I already knew how amazing of an organization they were. The work the staff does at the shelter is so important and I'm honored they chose me to be a part of their team. It brings me so much joy knowing I will get to use my unique set of creative skills to help protect, care for, and ultimately find forever homes for these animals. I can't wait to get started!"

In this position, Amy coordinates all aspects of branding, marketing, communication, and design for the shelter. She supervises daily content for the shelter's social media platforms as well as produces content for our website and newsletter.

If you would like to contact Amy in regards to any of media and marketing inquiries please send an email to marketing@hsvc.org.



SUMMER HOURS START MONDAY, MARCH 9TH!

MONDAY - SATURDAY 10-6

HUMANE SOCIETY OF VENTURA COUNTY



FEATURED PET: MEET KATE!

Sweet and energetic Kate is a 1-year-old spayed white German Shepherd mix. Kate arrived at the Humane Society of Ventura County in late October of 2019 after being transferred to the shelter through our rescue partners.

This gorgeous girl is shy at first, but don't let her fool you. Kate is extremely playful and very affectionate once she gets more comfortable. She loves to run around the agility yard at the shelter and play with chew toys.

Kate is extremely playful and very affectionate once she gets more comfortable. She loves to run around the agility yard at the shelter and play with chew toys.

Kate is still looking for her forever home. Her ideal environment is a house with a large backyard with lots of space for her to run and play. She would do well with a family that enjoys spending time outdoors and going on adventures. Kate's perfect home is with a family that can give her the love and attention she deserves. She would also benefit from some training and lots of exercise.

If you are looking for a sweet and playful family dog, stop by the shelter and meet Kate!

HUMANE OFFICERS

From Compassion to Action



Did you know that the Humane Society of Ventura is the only agency in Ventura County that employs Humane Officers?

Humane Officers are unique in law enforcement. They have the powers of a peace officer, can make arrests, and serve search warrants. Humane Officers protect animals from abusive or neglectful animal owners and strive to educate the public on how to care for them properly.

Humane Officers protect animals from abusive or neglectful animal owners and strive to educate the public on how to care for them properly.

When disasters such as fires, floods, or earthquakes occur, our Officers are there to rescue animals from harm's way. Humane Officers are provided with extensive training in animal husbandry along with proper animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect investigations. Humane Officers uphold Penal and Health and Safety Codes that pertain to abuse, neglect, and cruelty to animals. It is also their responsibility to inspect retail establishments that sell animals. Humane Officers have to follow the law like any other law enforce-

ment officer or investigator and are taught to address the spirit of the law, not the letter of the law.

Humane Officers not only do investigations into animal crimes but also work with gathering evidence to support a case. They may write arrest and search warrants, prepare affidavits and exhibits to help prove a crime has been committed. Humane Officers offer assistance to other enforcement agencies and may testify in court cases when called upon. All of this is provided without monetary support from city, county, or state governments.

Our goal is to eliminate all animal suffering in Ventura County. Our Officers do not enforce county ordinances like barking, biting, or stray animals; rather, those cases are investigated by local Animal Service agencies. Humane Officers must remain unbiased when conducting an investigation. They have a challenging job. They cover all of Ventura County and are based in Ojai.

The Humane Society of Ventura County has been investigating animal cruelty since 1932. We would all like to thank Senior Officer Vail and Officer King for a job well done.

-Jeff Hoffman
DIR. OF INVESTIGATIONS



Senior Humane Officer Vail and Humane Officer King with four goats rescued in the field.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Big and Small, Carol Loves Them All

Being a volunteer at a shelter can be an eye-opening experience. Many of our volunteers learn the various day-to-day needs of the animals in our care and others learn new things about themselves. One such volunteer is Carol. Carol started volunteering at the Humane Society of Ventura County in June 2019 after wanting to spend her new found free time with the animals.

“There is no problem that petting a puppy can’t solve and nothing feels better than a smiling puppy’s face.”

When Carol first started volunteering, she had a fondness for larger dogs. She wanted to focus her time on them. However, over time, she found that the smaller dogs were catching her attention more and more, “I just want to snuggle with them and help them.” She soon fell head over heels for the smaller dogs and ended up adopting one of her own! Wendy, a rather shy 5-year-old Chihuahua, was very anxious when she first ar-

rived. Carol knew that Wendy was the dog for her.

Carol loves to talk to the dogs. She tells them about her day, the world around them, and many other things. She also, of course, enjoys walking them to help manage their stress and anxiety. Many dogs that come into our care become overwhelmed and stressed, and Carol is there to help them. When asked about her favorite dogs, Carol says she tries not to play favorites, “Once they become my favorite, I want to bring them home.”

Carol had this to say for those who may be interested in volunteering at the HSVC, “There is no problem that petting a puppy can’t solve and nothing feels better than a smiling puppy’s face.” She comes up to the shelter as often as she can and is always excited to see new faces in the kennels, as that means the dogs she saw before have been adopted.

Volunteering with the HSVC has never been easier. Those interested are welcome to call the shelter at (805)646-6505, email our volunteer coordinator at Volunteer@



hsvc.org, or visit our website at hsvc.org/volunteer. New volunteers sign up for a General Orientation, which happen twice a month, and learn how they can make a difference in the community by helping homeless animals.

PET GALLERY

To view our available animals please visit us on the web at www.hsvc.org/adopt.



TODD
5 year old, neutered male,
Pug mix



WINNIE
6 year old, spayed female,
Labrador Retriever mix



STARBRIGHT
6 year old, spayed female,
Queensland Heeler mix



RUFFLES
5 month old, spayed female,
Domestic long hair



PORTIA
9 year old, spayed female,
Domestic shorthair



PETUNIA
unknown age, female
Potbelly Pig

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

	CATS	DOGS	OTHER	TOTAL
All Animal Intake	417	886	0	1,303
Adopted	215	608	12	835
Return to Owner - Lost	22	131	0	153
Return to Owner - Other	0	0	9	9
Transferred	0	0	93	93
Emergency Evacuations	0	0	284	284
Veterinarian Euthanasia	12	6	2	20
Committee Euthanasia	1	1	0	2
Owner Request Euthanasia	52	198	62	312
Spay and Neuter				1,217
Humane Officer Cases				348
Humane Education Presentations				371

Thank you all for supporting the Humane Society of Ventura County! Our team of dedicated employees and volunteers work hard to provide the best outcome for needy animals throughout our area. As a registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization with over 87 years of service to Ventura County, we owe our many successes to the support we have received from our community. The HSVC has functioned as an independent organization and is not a chapter of, nor affiliated with, any other organizations either locally or on the national level. Our ability to serve our community is a direct reflection of the support we receive from our neighbors and friends. People just like you, who care deeply about animal welfare issues right here in your backyards.

Besides our shelter and adoption center, the Humane Society of Ventura County has steadily grown with a focus on expanding its spay and neuter program, humane education, and animal rescue efforts. The HSVC prides itself as a destination for those interested in being involved in animal welfare issues. Your involvement, whether it be through adopting a new family member, volunteering your time and skills, or making a financial donation, has a direct and immediate impact on the lives of less fortunate animals in our community. We thank you all for your continued support and look forward to working with you all in the future creating a better life for all!



SUCCESS STORIES

Ten Years in the Making

Like many of you, we have been reflecting on the past decade – our triumphs and our short-comings. We've compiled what we feel are the top 10 stories from the past 10 years that have had the greatest impact on the Humane Society of Ventura County and our services.

Harry Valentine Visitor's Center Groundbreaking Ceremony

2010

Shovel and dirt met at the Humane Society of Ventura County August 18, 2010, as work began on the building of a new Visitors Center with the goal of expanding the spay/neuter clinic.

Once renovated, the Visitors Center will include much-needed office and storage space, an expanded adoption center and a conference room. Also added to the new Visitors Center will be a Humane Society Gift Shop.



Spay and Neuter Clinic Grand Re-Opening



Beginning with the dream and tenacity of the late Claire Ladigin to make a difference for animals in Ventura County, the HSVC spay and neuter clinic opened in 1986.

2012

The renovated space re-opened July 21, 2012, with two surgery suites will double the capacity of HSVC veterinarians to offer low- to no-cost alteration surgeries.

Moxie and the National Search Dog Foundation

2013

Originally named Roxy she was surrendered to the HSVC in the hopes that a suitable home would be found. The Search Dog Foundation was notified of a potential trainee and she was promptly assessed. Moxie passed with flying colors and was assigned to Brent Koeninger of the Oklahoma City Fire Task Force 1.

In June of 2013, Moxie and Brent achieved their basic SUSAR Type II Certification in order to formally be deployable in Oklahoma and the surrounding areas.



After Two Years at the Shelter Sequoia is Adopted

2016

Sequoia – 5-year-old Great Dane and Shepherd mix, who after nearly two years at the Humane Society of Ventura County was adopted May 23, 2016.

Sequoia was originally brought to us by a kind citizen who found her running down a road in Matilija Canyon. Sequoia encountered a setback that required surgery on her hind leg during her stay at the Shelter. After months of rehabilitation, Sequoia was granted a clean bill of health.

Soon after Sequoia went into foster with a volunteer who already had established a relationship with her. Sequoia did extremely well and after two weeks her foster home became her forever home.



Thomas Fire Rages Through Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



December 4, 2017 reports came in that a fire had broken out outside of the Upper Ojai/Santa Paula area.

The Humane Society of Ventura County immediately opened its doors to those being affected by the fast-moving fire.

In the first 48 hours after the flames ignited, the shelter nearly quadrupled its residents. At the peak of the disaster, the shelter was home to nearly 400 animals, including the 81 animals already in our care.

2017

Horses Find Refuge at the HSVC after Hill & Woolsey Fires Displaces Thousands

2018

On November 8, 2018, The Hill and Woolsey Fires scorched a wide path of destruction through Eastern Ventura County and portions of LA County. Once again we opened our

Shelter 24/7 to provide relief and sanctuary for those families impacted by the fires.

Our Equine Rescue Teams went into the field that first night and didn't stop working until the disaster abated a week later. Many sought refuge at the edge of the Pacific at Zuma Beach. The HSVC was there helping those in need. We took in 277 animals at our property free to those in need.



Horse Found as a Stray After Thomas Fire Finds A Home

2018

The Humane Society of Ventura County staff shed tears while saying farewell to Tommy as he was loaded into a trailer to be taken to his new forever home with Anne Scoscia on April 27, 2018.

Found wandering in a field in Santa Paula nine days after the start of the Thomas Fire, Tommy was emaciated, covered with ash and dirt and without identification. The staff at the HSVC and veterinarians provided Tommy with his medical care and proper diet for his recovery. In the four months that Tommy had been in the care of the HSVC, he had gained over 350 lbs. Anne expressed her admiration for Tommy while picking him up, "He's the phoenix that came out of the Thomas Fire."



Camarillo Three Humane Case Convictions



On May 29, 2019, The Humane Society of Ventura County resolved the last of three legal cases involving animal neglect from one property in Camarillo.

2019

The cases dated back to Oct. 17, 2018, when staff responded to a call of neglected horses at a rural property in Camarillo. The horses were seized that day.

All three defendants received jail time, were fined, cannot own or possess an animal for five years, must participate in the Benchmark Animal Rehabilitative Curriculum (BARC), and will be court-ordered

to pay restitution fees to the HSVC to cover the costs of the horses' care.

Shelter Celebrates 80,000 Spay and Neuter Surgeries

2019

The Humane Society of Ventura County celebrated Curtis Lewis, DVM and his 33 years of service to the shelter at his retirement party on December 9, 2019. Dr. Lewis performed an estimated 80,000 alterations as well as hosting the low-cost shot clinics at the Shelter.

Creative Rescue Parrot Spreads Holiday Cheer



An African grey parrot under protective custody at the Humane Society of Ventura County, Smokey is a rare bird indeed, with a unique talent: making beautiful, custom paper snowflakes with his beak.

2019

According to HSVC adoption counselor Josephine Maxson, it takes Smokey just a few minutes to chew through one of his custom designs. True to their natural inspiration, all of Smokey's snowflakes are one-of-a-kind.

Maxson said she discovered Smokey's special talent as she was cleaning out his cage and noticed the artistic look to the shredded paper in there.

She was helping decorate the HSVC lobby for the holidays at the time and decided to put his paper-shredding skills to work.

HUMANE EDUCATION

Teaching Compassion for All Living Things

By the time you are reading this, Syrah, the humane education dog, and I will be retired from our post as Humane Educators. We both have so many wonderful memories working with students in the schools and campers at the Shelter.

It is an honor to introduce the Humane Society of Ventura County's new Humane Educator, Angie Sagliani. Angie comes to us with years of teaching experience, eagerness and enthusiasm to continue the school visits and camps.

In February, I visited Richard Bard Elementary School in Port Hueneme for the last time. I was greeted with such genuine warmth and appreciation that I started to tear up. One student, unable to contain himself, ran up and gave me a hug. In all honesty, I truly felt like a celebrity. Leila Faber, a third grade teacher at the school, heard of our recent break-ins and encouraged the students to donate supplies from our wish list. I left the school with a heart full of love and a car full of needed Shelter supplies. I truly am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Humane Society of Ventura County.

"Robin has done an incredible job as Humane Educator for the Humane Society of Ventura County," said HSVC Shelter Director Jolene Hoffman. "The number of children and adults she's touched during her time with us is immeasurable and



I know we are all grateful for her contribution," continued Hoffman.

It is an honor to introduce the Humane Society of Ventura County's new Humane Educator, Angie Sagliani. Angie comes to us with years of teaching experience, eagerness and enthusiasm to continue the school visits and camps. I am thrilled that she is bilingual and loves animals and crafting! She has been shadowing me for a few weeks, meeting many of you and learning our educational programs. We have also started the planning for the HSVC Summer Kids Camp which will be scheduled to run later this year. I have no doubt that she will carry on the HSVC mission of strengthening the bond between people and their pets through her educational efforts and can hardly wait to see all the creative projects she comes up with.

-Robin Satnick
HUMANE EDUCATION



PAWS FOR THOUGHT • SPRING 2020



LOW-COST SHOT CLINIC

The Humane Society of Ventura County offers low-cost shot clinics for dogs and cats at their shelter in Ojai on the first and third Thursday of every month from 2 pm – 4 pm. Dr. Christina Sisk, Director of Veterinarian Services for the HSVC rebooted the very popular shot clinic after a one-month hiatus following Dr. Curtis Lewis' retirement.

Vaccinating your pet is the best way to keep them safe from serious and potentially fatal diseases such as rabies, distemper, parvovirus, infectious hepatitis, Bordetella, feline leukemia and more. Vaccinating your pets protects them from diseases that can be very expensive and difficult to treat.

Rabies vaccines will be \$5, DHPP \$15, bordetella \$15, FVRCP \$15 and microchipping for \$15.

Dog licenses are also available through the front office, licenses start at \$25 with a spay/neuter certificate or \$105 without. Senior pricing is available. Make sure to bring proof of rabies vaccination and cash or check made out to Ventura County Animal Services.

All animals MUST be on a leash or in a carrier. For information on pricing, please call the shelter at 805-646-6505.

Humane Society of Ventura County is located at 402 Bryant St. in Ojai, CA. 805-646-6505.

In the near future, HSVC Cares will begin low-cost vaccination clinics in remote locations throughout Ventura County to better serve those in need. HSVC Cares is a new initiative from the Humane Society of Ventura County to increase its outreach efforts with preventative pet care for under-served communities.

**Always discuss your pet's health and particular medical needs with your veterinarian.*

EASTER PET SAFETY

Celebrate Responsibly

Many people are looking forward to spending quality time with friends and family during the Easter Holiday. Some families have little ones that are excited to go hunting for Easter eggs and maybe even receive some gifts!

However, some presents that people give to their young loved ones are living animals such as bunnies, ducks, and chicks. These cute animals may sound like great gift ideas to many people, but are they really?

Instead of bringing home a new pet, consider visiting your local animal shelter. This is a great opportunity to teach young children how to humanely treat animals and the responsibilities of one day becoming a pet parent.

Instead of bringing home a new pet, consider visiting your local animal shelter. This is a great opportunity to teach young children how to humanely treat animals and the responsibilities of one day becoming a pet parent. If that is not an option, a simple stuffed animal or chocolate version of these animals



can always be a great choice.

Following are a few of the items that may put your pets at risk:

- Easter candy: All candies and wrappers, and sugar products, should be kept away from pets as they are potential hazards. Theobromine, a chemical found in most chocolate, is poisonous to pets. If you suspect your pet has ingested any of these items, contact your veterinarian immediately.

- Easter eggs (plastic and real): Plastic eggs can both be a choking hazard and cause serious risk if consumed as they cannot be

digested. Boiled eggs, especially those still in the shell, can cause an upset stomach or constipation. If you are celebrating with an egg hunt make sure to keep track of how many eggs are used in the hunt and make sure they are collected when the hunt is over.

- Synthetic grass & tinsel: Both synthetic grass and tinsel, when ingested, can become entangled in the intestines and if not caught in time, maybe fatal.

- Easter lilies: Lilies, while beautiful, are extremely dangerous to pets, especially cats. Every part of the lily is highly toxic and even eating just one leaf can result in kidney failure and even death.

- Raw dough: Keep any items containing yeast or uncooked dough away from your pets as it can ferment and become poisonous in their stomachs.

- Bunnies, chicks, and ducks are huge lifetime commitments that must not be treated as toys. These living creatures should not be looked at as a practice pet of some kind-they require the same daily attention and care as a cat or dog.



Special thanks to our pet sponsors:

Marianne & Jazzy Carl

Heather Seaton

Robert Seaton

Patricia Valenzuela

PET SPONSORSHIP

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

- Pet Friend - \$30 for 3 months Pet Caretaker - \$55 for 6 months
 Pet Guardian - \$100 for up to 1 year

Name(s) _____

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Email _____ Phone _____

We would like to sponsor _____

This is a gift for _____

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

Name on card _____

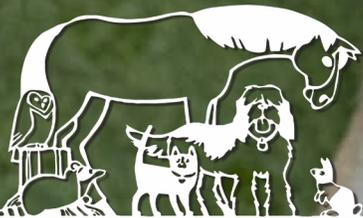
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OF VENTURA COUNTY**
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Monday-Saturday 10-6

WINTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10-5

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