

# News Release



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## Humane Society Silicon Valley Elects Two New Board Members

**SANTA CLARA, Calif., Aug. 5, 2008** - - The Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) board of directors announces the election of Susan P. Diekman and Michael Dearing to the board. The board also elected the following officers: Kate Mulligan, chair; Melissa Dyr Dahl, vice chair; Geoff Powell, treasurer; Sue Levy, secretary. The recent board elections come at a time when HSSV enters a new stage of growth with the construction of its new Animal Community Center in Milpitas.

Sue Diekman is chair of the Director's Advisory Council at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University and is a past chair of the Center's Membership Board of Governors. Sue also serves on the Advisory Board of the East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring program at Stanford. Past affiliations include the boards of Menlo School in Atherton, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in Woodside, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Business Arts Council in San Francisco and Northern California Grantmakers.

Until she retired in August of 1998, Sue was employed by AirTouch Communications, where she was director of the AirTouch Communications Foundation. Prior to joining AirTouch, Sue was cultural program director of Pacific Telesis Foundation, with responsibility for the foundation's cultural grantmaking as well as national and international exhibitions of the corporation's Ansel Adams collection.

Sue holds a BA degree in English Literature and an MA degree in Education from Stanford University. She and her husband John are passionate about animals and have two dogs, Rosie and Lucky, and enjoy traveling, the arts, and sports.

"Humane Society Silicon Valley is a leader in saving animals' lives and the new Animal Community Center represents an extraordinary breakthrough in how animals can be successfully placed in new homes," said Sue Diekman. "It was hard to resist the opportunity to participate in such a unique and effective organization."

Michael Dearing is an investor in early stage companies in Silicon Valley and a consulting associate professor at Stanford University where he teaches product design, product marketing and entrepreneurial finance to undergraduates and graduate students.

Before joining Stanford, Michael spent nearly seven years at eBay (NASDAQ - EBAY) serving most recently as senior vice president and general merchandise manager. In that role, he led category management, product marketing, seller development, eBay Stores, and direct-to-consumer marketing for eBay North America.

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Michael holds an AB in Economics, with a focus in economic history, from Brown University, and an MBA with Distinction from Harvard Business School. He is a member of the Economic History Association and the Business History Conference.

When he's not at Stanford, Michael enjoys working with small companies in Silicon Valley and spending time with his three dogs -- Graycie, Clifford, and Puppy -- and two cats -- Trixie and Cat. "HSSV made my family possible. I'm honored to join the team that's fundamentally changing the way animals and people live together in our community," said Dearing.

"The talent and diverse expertise of our board of directors has always been one of HSSV's key assets, and we are thrilled to have Michael and Sue join our experienced team," said Christine Benninger, HSSV president.

"We are pleased to welcome Michael and Sue to the board," said Kate Mulligan, HSSV board chair. "Their love for animals, combined with their strong leadership skills and philanthropic commitment to our life-saving work will be invaluable as we complete our new Animal Community Center in Milpitas and make major changes in how we shelter animals and change community perceptions about adopting pets."

### **About the Animal Community Center**

HSSV's 48,000 square foot Animal Community Center will feature an adoption galleria with home-like habitats for dogs, cats and rabbits. The one-of-a-kind center will also offer doggie daycare, boarding and grooming, a community dog park and training center, pet store, pet-friendly café, education center, live performance center, affordable spay/neuter medical center, and a veterinary hospital with a public viewing room.

The goal of the new center is to strengthen the very foundation of human-animal relationships by teaching people about animals, their needs, and the important contributions they make to society.

The Animal Community Center will be a "green" building that meets criteria for LEED Certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council. HSSV has raised nearly \$19 million toward the \$25 million project and will continue discussions with early major supporters to ensure the successful funding of the new building while it appeals to the general public for additional funds. The center is expected to open to the public in the spring of 2009.

### **About Humane Society Silicon Valley**

Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) is an independent, non-profit agency offering quality adoptions, medical care and education programs to enhance the human-animal bond. Established in 1929, HSSV has served Silicon Valley for 79 years and has adopted more than 500,000 animals into permanent, loving homes. HSSV is an "open door" shelter and accepts animals 24-hours a day, seven days a week. HSSV's medical center offers affordable spaying/neutering, vaccinations and microchips to the public. More information about HSSV can be found at [www.hssv.org](http://www.hssv.org) or call 408.727.3383.

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