



WINTER
2019

All Things Pawsible



TOP STORIES:

Saved by a Circle of
Friends

Doggy Day Out:
A "Win/Win/Win" Program

You Gave Dot a
Second Chance at Love

HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

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Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

hssv.org

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From the President

We all know the tremendous love and support that animals give us. And every day, we see the love and support our community gives right back to the animals who need it most. From our volunteers to our adopters to our donors like you, our community is engaged in finding ways to come together to benefit homeless animals.

In this issue of *All Things Pawsible*, you'll hear about some of the incredible ways our *whole community* has made a difference for homeless animals. Doggy Day Out volunteers like Kurt are doing more than just taking dogs out for the day – they're becoming advocates for the animals they meet. There's Buddy, a special dog whose life was changed forever by a special group of dedicated volunteers and staff. You'll read about Dot, a senior cat who was saved twice over by caring people, and Karma, an earless (and tail-less!) kitten who was given the gift of new knitted ears. You'll also read about how volunteering with animals brings joy to one family every week.

The work that happens at Humane Society Silicon Valley is truly a community effort. And none of our work would be possible without compassionate people like you. Thank you!

With gratitude,



Carol Novello
President



Humane Society Silicon Valley Animal Community Center

901 Ames Avenue, Milpitas, CA 95035
408-262-2133

West San Jose Neighborhood Adoption Center in PETCO

500 El Paseo de Saratoga, San Jose, CA 95130
408-370-2732

Sunnyvale Neighborhood Adoption Center in PETCO

160 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
408-720-1419

Saved by a Circle of Friends

Buddy hit the jackpot with his new family. And after everything he's been through, he deserves it.

Buddy's story was heartbreaking from the beginning. He'd spent months tied up in a backyard in the Central Valley before he was brought to a local shelter. In February 2018, when Buddy was just five months old, we transferred him to our care through our Regional Rescue program. He was a hot mess of behavioral challenges — but we were up for the task.

Buddy was suffering with an injury to his tail — an injury that came as a result of boredom from constantly being tied up before his rescue. Because he was in a lot of pain, he obsessively spun in circles in an attempt to gnaw his tail for relief. Our medical team amputated what remained of his tail to ease his pain and prevent his gnawing from continuing.

Unfortunately, Buddy continued to spin, barking and growling at his now-amputated tail. Our behavior team was worried he would reinjure himself and decided to seek help from a veterinary behaviorist. This specialist worked with us to create a behavior modification plan to help relieve Buddy's repetitive behavior and overall anxiety.



Day by day, Buddy got better. Supporters like you made it possible for him to get access to a dedicated core team of behavior staff and volunteers. Buddy's "circle of friends" taught him to relax, to focus, and gave him lots of exercise and mental stimulation. They also started to introduce him to new dogs and people, something that used to cause him too much anxiety. He built up a group of dog friends and became more comfortable with people.

Supporters like you made it possible for Buddy to get access to a dedicated core team of behavior staff and volunteers.

At HSSV, there are no time limits, and though it took six months of daily dedication by volunteers and staff in Buddy's circle of friends, he began to show real signs of improvement — enough that he was ready for a foster home. He was placed with an experienced foster family and it wasn't long before those loving people, Larry and Sheri, decided to become his forever family.

Now, Buddy goes on daily hikes with a group of dogs he loves, and is completely spoiled — in the best way possible. We're so grateful that Buddy got the happy ending he more than deserved, thanks to people like you.

Doggy Day Out: A “Win/Win/Win” Program

Kurt has always loved dogs. As the Chair of Humane Society Silicon Valley’s Board of Directors, he’s helped make decisions that have had lasting impacts on the animals here. But he wanted an experience beyond the boardroom where he could help the animals he was hearing about.



Our Doggy Day Out program was the perfect option for Kurt’s busy, unpredictable schedule. We paired Kurt and his wife Charu with a big dog who needed to get some energy out, and they were off on their first Doggy Day Out excursion. Immediately, Kurt and Charu were hooked.

Then, Kurt started coming in more frequently to take big dogs on walks, hikes or to parks. Sometimes he comes for Doggy Day Out with Charu, sometimes he comes without Charu. Regardless, he has been here for Doggy Day Out quite a lot!

▶ “The dogs LOVE getting out for an adventure. Their joy is contagious and adds so much fun to our day.” – Kurt

Kurt tells us he keeps coming back because he loves spending time with the dogs, but even more importantly, because he can see the impact.

**We love animals.
Every. Single. Day.**

Faithful Friends are at the heart of what we do at Humane Society Silicon Valley. By setting up an automatic gift each month, you ensure there are resources to help care for every homeless animal who comes through our doors.

Sign up to be a **Faithful Friend** today! Visit hssv.org/faithfulfriends



Thanks to 350 Doggy Day Out volunteers, like Kurt, and friends like you, over 200 dogs have benefited from this program.



“It’s great to see how much more relaxed the dogs are after a few hours out and about in the world,” Kurt said. “Getting these dogs out in the community also helps find them homes. We often get questions and compliments about the dogs, and a lot of people are surprised that such a variety of big dogs come through a local shelter.”

The impact of Kurt’s time with the dogs goes even further, thanks to his photography skills.

He’s able to capture each dog’s unique personality. Some dogs are active, sweet, cuddly, well-behaved or social with people. But all of them get the opportunity to shine outside a shelter setting. Kurt’s photos are so good that we began sharing them — and his witty captions — on our social media. They’ve quickly gained attention and have been so effective in helping dogs find forever families.

“Doggy Day Out is a total win/win/win — for HSSV, for the dogs and for the volunteers,” Kurt said. “It provides a meaningful way to spend time with these animals and make a huge difference in their lives.”





Karma at 6 weeks old



Karma's adoption day

Karma's Happy Ending

Karma needed a second chance. Luckily for her, she had friends like you who were able to give her one.

At only 6 weeks old, Karma was brought to us after her ears and tail had been cruelly cut off. One of our staff members, Melissa, decided to take her home and foster her until she was ready for adoption. Because of this poor kitten's trauma, she was terrified of everything — people, noises, other animals. Although her physical wounds were healed, it was clear that she had a lot to overcome.

After just a few days with Melissa, Karma started to come out of hiding more often. Melissa decided to try something new. She brought out a wand toy, and it was like something clicked for Karma. Through play, Melissa and Karma's relationship began to grow. Karma was becoming more confident and even started to enjoy being around Melissa's cats. She even started to tolerate the dog!

Karma quickly became a favorite among our staff and volunteers. In fact, one of our caring volunteers, Carla, knitted her a pair of pink ears, and Karma wore them proudly and became a social media darling. Staff, volunteers and social media followers cheered on her progress and celebrated her resilience.

After a few months in Melissa's care, it was time for Karma to find a home of her own. Less than one day after being made available for adoption, Karma found the perfect mom to love her just as she is. Now, she has a bright future, complete with her very own cat sister. Friends like you helped give this very special kitten a very special ending.

Can we crash on your couch?



Foster an animal and help save more lives.
hssv.org/foster

Volunteering: A New Family Tradition

By Andrea Borch



Editor's Note: *This special article was written by one of our beloved supporters and volunteers. Read on to hear how volunteering has helped Andrea and her dad find joy in helping animals.*

Every Sunday afternoon my dad asks if we have received “our assignment for tomorrow.” The assignment is transporting animals and supplies for HSSV. Dad and I pick up our passengers from the Animal Community Center and head to the Neighborhood Adoption Centers (NACs) at Petco West San Jose or Petco Sunnyvale. This adventure — usually followed by lunch — has become a standing and welcome date on our calendars.

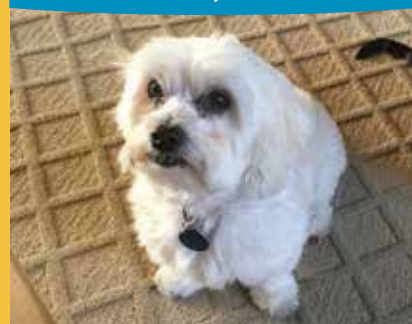
When my parents moved to California three years ago to be closer to family, my mom started attending daily exercise classes at the Y. Dad, meanwhile, read papers, watched the news and walked their rescue dog, Heather, five times a day. I wanted to find a meaningful activity to help Dad get out of the house more. Since we love animals and support HSSV, volunteering there made sense.

Our driving duties for HSSV started in October 2017, and we have moved kittens, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, office and medical supplies, and donations. Dad has become a “fan favorite” with the Adoptions supervisors and NAC staff because he talks with everyone.

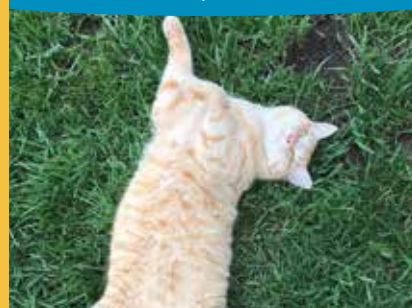
Most weeks our drives are uneventful and our passengers behave. One ride, however, two kittens escaped from their cardboard carriers. The gray kitten — who clearly did not like being confined — climbed from the middle seat and sat on Dad’s shoulder until we got to the NAC. The other escapee found the controls for the driver’s seat, and I began tilting backwards! Eventually, we got the kittens back into their carriers and safely into the NAC. That day definitely was one of the most exciting! Days like that are what make volunteering with HSSV so special.

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2018 Tails & Ales Photo Contest!

WINNIE - 5,680 VOTES



ROBIN - 1,250 VOTES



HARRY - 1,093 VOTES



Thank you for supporting HSSV!

You Gave Dot a Second Chance at Love



Dot at intake

When Dot, Phantom and Fanta's owner passed away, these sweet cats had no one to look after them. That is, until the neighbor who was caring for the cats reached out to us to help her find a permanent home for the trio. When we agreed to take in Dot, Phantom and Fanta, the wonderful neighbor not only brought the cats to us, but gave a generous donation for their care.

Phantom and Fanta were young and healthy and were adopted quickly. But Dot was 14 years old, underweight and had elevated liver values – a sign that she could have underlying liver disease or even cancer. But despite her health issues, Dot was a sweet, sensitive girl. And though we weren't sure how much longer she would live, we were determined to find a safe, loving place for her to spend the time she had left.

Supporters like you made it possible for our team to work tirelessly on finding Dot a home. Because of her sweet personality, it didn't take long for Dot to catch the eye of Anneliese, who was looking for an older cat to add to her home. When she met Dot, she knew they were meant for each other.

Thanks to a kind neighbor, a willing adopter and incredible friends like you who support our work, Dot will live out the rest of her life being loved and cared for.



Dot after adoption



Want to plan for your pet's future? By enrolling in our Pet Guardianship Program, you can ensure we'll be there for your pets when they need us most. For more information about the Pet Guardianship Program, visit hssv.org/guardianship.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

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