

SPRING  
2017

# All Things Pawsible



HUMANE  
SOCIETY  
SILICON  
VALLEY



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Friends in an Hour of Need





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# From the President

Sometimes going the extra mile isn't good enough — sometimes you need to forge an entirely new path. Innovation is a huge part of what we do. Every day we're finding new ways to save lives, enrich lives and make our community better and stronger both for animals and for people. We're on a mission to save and enhance lives — by any means necessary.

In this issue of *All Things Pawsible*, you'll hear about some exciting new programs and the expansion of some existing ones. When our existing programs weren't enough to help Frosty, we created an entirely new one, Doggy Day Out. And when a partner shelter found itself in a precarious situation, our Regional Rescue program was able to scale up enough to save 29 young lives — in one single day.

We're also being proactive to create a better future for animals and people. Our Compassion In Action program works with students to help ensure a more compassionate, humane future through innovative, hands-on programs that take into account both the needs of the students and the animals. Our Pet Pantry program keeps pets from entering shelters by assisting owners during rough times.

Of course, none of it would be possible without the support of our community. Thank you for being with us every step of the way.



With gratitude,

*Carol Novello*

Carol Novello  
President

### Humane Society Silicon Valley Animal Community Center

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

### Mountain View Neighborhood Adoption Center in PetSmart

408-425-1569  
2440 East Charleston Road  
Mountain View, CA 94043

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

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

# Britney's Long Road Home

**She was at death's door when she arrived. But thanks to compassionate animal lovers like you, Britney made a full recovery!**

*"She was 95% dead."*

That's how Dr. Andrea Berger described Britney — a tiny tabby kitten who came to us in a box. Suffering from significant head wounds and severe dehydration, the emaciated kitten was well past the point of being able to move . . .

*Until medical staff put a plate of food in front of her.*



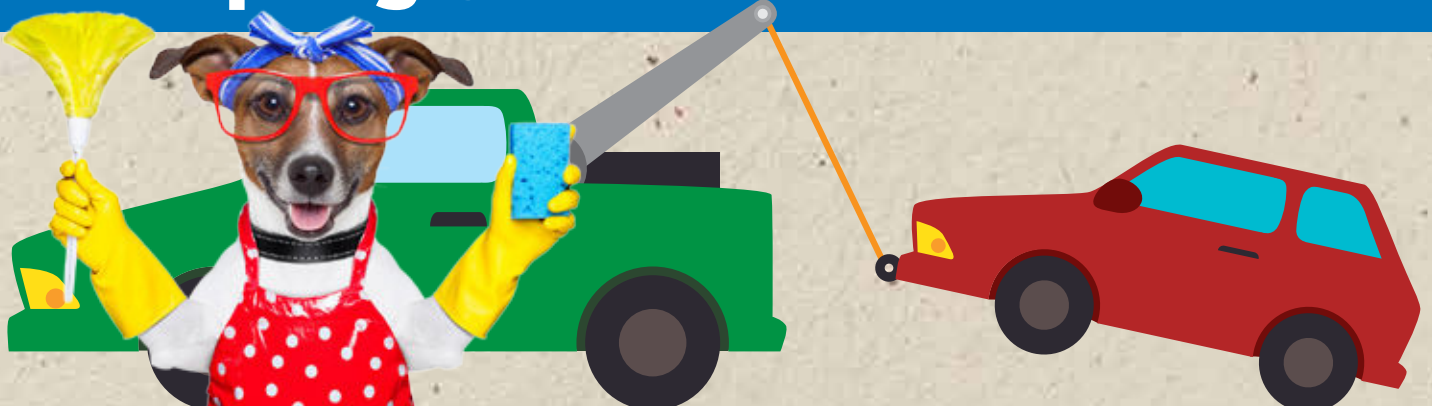
Volunteer photographer Malcolm Bramwell captured her journey in pictures.

With what little strength she had left, Britney picked up her head and dropped it in the food. A weak purr rose from her ruined body. "That was it," Dr. Berger said. "If she was going to try, we were going to give her all we had."

In the days ahead, vet tech Megan Duke became a foster parent to Britney, providing her with 24-hour care. Even so, it was a long journey back. It was several days before Britney could even stand up or walk.

Thanks to your support, there was never any doubt we would stick by her. Ten weeks after being brought in near death, a plump, gorgeous Britney was adopted, making her recovery journey complete.

## Spring Clean & Save Animals!



Donate your vehicle today! It's easy at [hssv.org/auto](https://hssv.org/auto)



# Restoring Frosty's Joy

**When a long stay in our shelter put a damper on Frosty's spirits, an innovative new program helped him make new friends — and gave other big dogs a chance for a happier life, too . . .**

Much like his snowman namesake, Frosty was a “jolly happy soul” — with short white fur, big amber eyes and an insatiable need to snuggle. He came to us when his heartbroken owner faced a housing crisis.

While Frosty won everyone's heart, finding an adoptive home in a world full of breed restricting HOAs and rentals was challenging. As the months ticked by, he had plenty of staff and volunteer friends . . . but no new family.



**Frosty was indeed a “jolly happy soul,” but he was eager for adoption into a loving forever home. Your compassion made his wishes come true.**

While our shelter is a wonderful place filled with love, it is not a home — and Frosty knew it. The situation began to wear on him. As he became depressed and frustrated, our hearts were troubled, too.

## A Very Frosty Collaboration

To give this boy a brighter future, Humane Society Silicon Valley's behavior, adoptions and marketing teams sat down to brainstorm. We decided to ask the public to give Frosty something his life had been sorely lacking: a few hours of normalcy.

"A Furlough for Frosty" was announced on Facebook. People were invited to come take him out for a hike or a car ride. We anticipated a few responses, but within days, we had *over 30 friends* lined up for a date with this sweet boy.

Soon he was going everywhere: the beach, hiking, car rides . . . and his demeanor began to change. Little by little, Frosty's joy returned. He didn't have a new family yet, but at least he was happy again.

**Celebrate a special occasion with a special gift**



**Give a tribute card. [hssv.org/tribute](https://hssv.org/tribute)**



## Frosty's Furlough Inspires Doggy Day Out Program

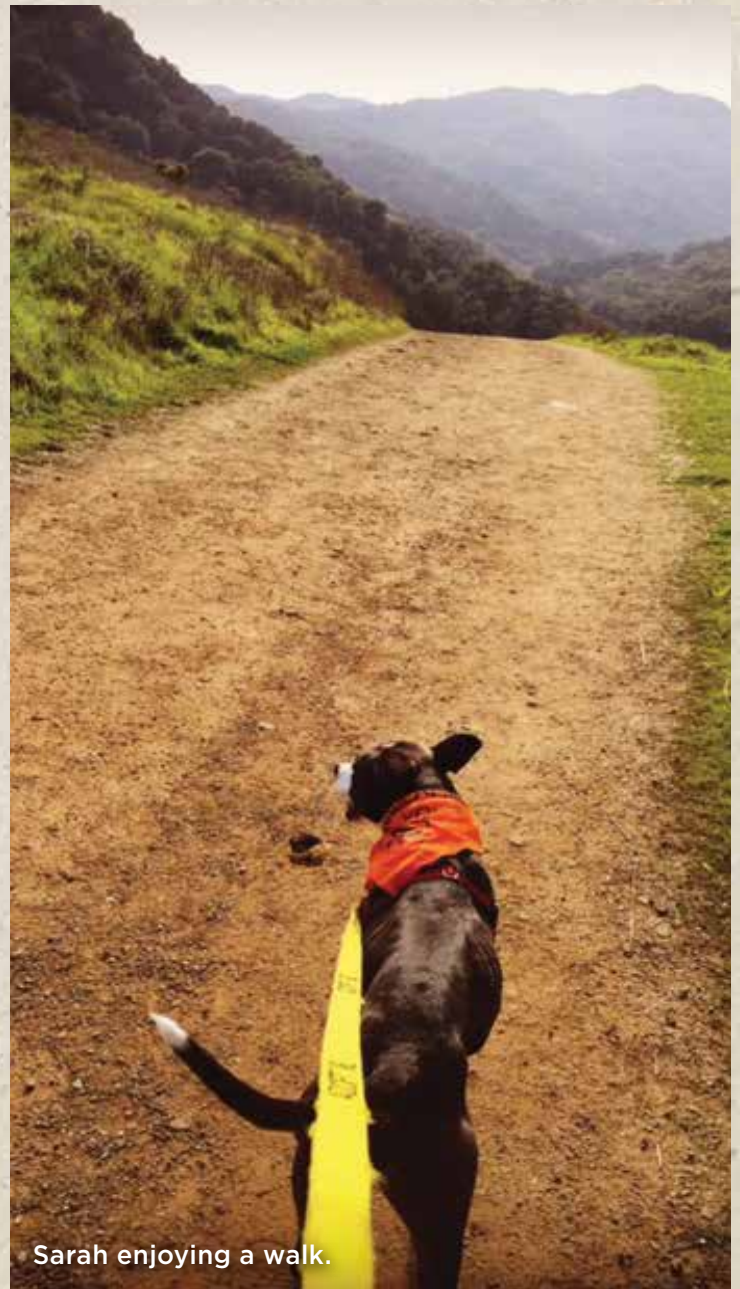
With so many people wanting to help, we decided to share the love with some of the other big dogs that had been with us for a while. Layla spent a few hours playing with the hose and chasing squirrels in a volunteer's backyard. Skilo went for a hike and dinner at a dog-friendly restaurant. And then, a most wonderful thing began to happen . . .

Dogs that went out frustrated came back calmer and happier. The public loved seeing the videos and pictures of these dogs outside of the shelter, too. When one family saw a video of Layla playing during her day out, they rushed to our Animal Community Center to adopt her!

The Doggy Day Out program was a huge win for everyone. The dogs had new friends and advocates. The photos captured the community's imagination. Within weeks, the program had swelled to 91 volunteers.



Rex taking a break from a hike.



Sarah enjoying a walk.

## Another Happy Ending . . . Thanks to You!

As for Frosty, he now spends his days lazing by a pool and taking long walks in his new hometown of Tucson, Arizona. He was adopted by a former employee of Humane Society Silicon Valley named Sue, and her husband Sven after they learned about Frosty on our Facebook page.

*Thank you for giving larger dogs like Frosty the chance to regain their joy in our Doggy Day Out program. To read about his adventures on our blog, go to <http://www.hssv.org/frostyblog>.*



# Small Animals, Big Lessons

Director of Education and Volunteer Programs, Jaime Allen, remembers fondly a recent school group that participated in Humane Society Silicon Valley's Compassion In Action (CIA) program. "You would see them in the kitten nursery working with undersocialized cats," she said. "Cleaning them, caring for them, feeding them. These middle school boys were holding the kittens like babies — being soft and patient."

**Our Compassion In Action program is teaching children from difficult situations to create a more humane society — and they're learning powerful life lessons along the way!**

For six weeks, these students in the CIA program come in once a week to help with basic animal care. Under the supervision of volunteers and staff, they learn about animal behavior and how to interact with the pets. "While the program has been wonderful for the animals, it has also been amazing for the students," Jaime said. "Their behavior and confidence changed dramatically during their time here."

The CIA program reaches out to students and teachers from underserved communities, teaching them about animals and bigger lessons, too. "Many of the students have chaotic home lives, and some have struggled with their behavior and self-esteem in traditional schools. So we designed this program to meet their unique needs. And the results are tremendous."

## Life Lessons

One of the teachers confirmed the program's impact, saying, "As the kids began to make connections with the animals, Jaime explained to them that animals are not born with manners. You need to socialize them so they can be adopted."

"That simple lesson helped some students begin to understand that they were not 'bad kids' either," the teacher added. "They learned that they needed to learn different ways of handling different situations, just like the animals did. This type of self-reflection was extremely powerful . . . more so than a lecture by a human teacher could ever be."



Animals can indeed be wonderful teachers, and our CIA program is one more way we're enriching lives in our community, and building a more compassionate, humane future. Thank you for making this important work possible!

**When Cathy and Alex Mendez adopted their first puppy from a shelter, they knew from that moment on that helping unwanted animals would always be part of their lives. They chose to support HSSV's mission by funding the Compassion In Action program. "We felt investing dollars in our youth would help paint a better future for the sheltered animals and help create a more empathetic generation of animal lovers. It felt like a double win," Cathy said. Their generosity has made an enormous impact on both the pets and children in this program.**

# Emergency Puppy Delivery

**Thanks to your support, 29 puppies and a handful of larger dogs from out of town received urgently needed care at Humane Society Silicon Valley. Now, they've all been adopted into loving homes in our community!**

When a rural Northern California shelter seized 11 puppies and several adult dogs from a man living out of a van, they feared the dogs would not be safe in their small community. So they called Humane Society Silicon Valley to see if we could take the animals. Of course, we said, "Yes." Since this shelter also had 18 other pups and a few adult dogs in need of homes, we committed to taking them in as well. So our friends packed their vehicle with 29 puppies and several larger dogs for the long ride to Milpitas.



## Meanwhile, at HSSV . . .

Our vet techs, animal care technicians and behavior staff raced to get everything ready: A triage area was set up for medical checks, foster homes were called, rooms were cleaned and prepped.

We were confident there would be forever homes for each animal. But even we couldn't have predicted just how fast the adoptions would take place. Within two days, all 11 of the puppies seized from the van had new loving families. Meanwhile, the remaining dogs — two litters of shepherd babies, seven spaniel mixes, two tiny terrier mixes, and one mom and baby pup — spent varying amounts of time in foster care before being quickly adopted, too. All this was made possible by our Regional Rescue program, and the generosity of donors like you.



## We love animals. Every. Single. Day.

Faithful Friends are 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](https://hssv.org/faithfulfriends)



# Friends in an Hour of Need

Becky was trapped in a vicious cycle of domestic violence. Once she made her escape to a women's shelter, we housed her dog for free, as part of our Ani-Safe program. When she was secure in a new home, we provided her with several months' worth of dog food.

This critical service is a part of our Pet Pantry program. It's designed to help people going through financial difficulty by providing them with pet food, litter and other basic pet supplies for a period of up to a year. That way, pets can stay where they belong — with the people who love them.

**Our Pet Pantry program provides critical pet food and supplies that help keep animals where they belong — with the people who love them.**

Because we helped Becky with pet food, she was able to save every cent she could. Six months after enrolling in our Pet Pantry program, she and her family moved to a new job in a new state. It was a well-deserved and much-needed fresh start.



## Community Allies for Neighbors in Need

Last year, more than 140 people took advantage of our Pet Pantry program. The majority of the food they received was donated. Every year, Lexus of Stevens Creek hosts a food drive specifically for the program. In 2016, they brought in over a truckload of supplies and \$800 in cash.

Thank you to all of our allies, including you, for helping people care for their animals during crises. Pets provide enormous love and comfort, and your support makes a powerful difference for many struggling families.

