



FALL
2019

All Things Pawsible



TOP STORIES:

You Saved Him: Darwin's Story

A Friend Makes All
the Difference

Kittens in the Middle

Cat Lover Turned Kitten Hero

Saving More Lives Across
California

HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

901 Ames Ave.
Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

hssv.org

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Our Future Starts with You

The lives of animals — and the people who love and care for them — are better when communities come together. At Humane Society Silicon Valley, we are extraordinarily lucky to have a community of givers. Our volunteers, donors and supporters give their time, money and effort to help us save the lives of thousands of animals.

Because of you, we're poised to change approaches to solving animal welfare issues. You make it possible to expand our lifesaving programs, including Regional Rescue, which allows us to go further afield to save the animals most at risk in California.

Your support helps us save animals with complicated challenges, both medical and behavioral. You also enable us to use creative ways to find homes for every animal, no matter the issues they face. We're doing it all because of you.

Thank you so much for being a part of this community, and for helping us save and enhance the lives of animals and animal lovers. We could not be more grateful for your incredible support.



With gratitude,

Carol Novello

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

You Saved Him: Darwin's Story

Darwin is a bit of an oddball. The eleven-year-old senior dog was often very aloof. He needed to meet people a few times before allowing them to pet him and would bark when he was scared.

He was also a bit of a medical mess.

Darwin was diagnosed with atopic dermatitis, otherwise known as skin allergies. They caused him to have extremely itchy skin, which occasionally progressed to secondary infections. To help relieve his itchiness, he needed to be on a daily oral medication, receive a monthly injection, get weekly medicated baths and be fed a prescription diet.

In addition to that, he had a ruptured ligament in his left knee. He received surgical repair, but arthritic changes continued to plague him, causing some discomfort and lameness. To manage the discomfort, he needed daily glucosamine supplements and an as-needed anti-inflammatory medication. Darwin also had to have 20 teeth extracted and will need ongoing dental care and cleanings to ensure the health of his remaining teeth.

Despite his health issues, our medical team determined that Darwin actually had a very good quality of life, and overall, most of his test results indicated a perfectly normal, healthy senior dog. His issues could be managed by an adopter who was willing to maintain the medications and other treatments he needed.



Finding a Forever Family

At first, Darwin was having trouble finding a loving family who could afford to care for him. He had been in our care for nearly a year and a half and was occasionally staying in foster homes to help decrease his stress.

To help Darwin find his forever home, we decided to hold a fundraiser to create a fund to pay for the cost-prohibitive medications for Darwin's future adopters. By easing some of the initial financial costs, we believed we could help get Darwin started on the right foot with his future family.

Within days, the fundraiser generated nearly \$3,500 — enough to pay for over a year's worth of Darwin's medications and prescription food. Soon after, good news came for Darwin. His short-term foster family decided to make him a permanent part of their family. They had been considering it for a while, but with the help of the fund, they felt ready to give Darwin a forever home.

Thanks to the generosity of donors who gave to Darwin's fund, the sweet, senior dog is now happy in a home where he can spend his golden years. We are so grateful to the many people who gave their time, energy and generous support to help Darwin.

A Friend Makes All the Difference

Coco Lee, a two-year-old Chihuahua mix was hiding in the corner under his bed in our intake area. He was shaking, just barely visible in the darkness. He refused to look at anyone and was so scared that he wouldn't let anyone close enough to touch him. Our behavior staff needed to create a plan to help the little dog get comfortable with people.

The team decided to try something that had worked with fearful dogs in the past. Our staff decided another dog might help Coco be brave, come out from under his bed and start to approach humans.

A friendly, more confident dog was brought into Coco Lee's room, and our staff waited and watched. Coco Lee's ears perked up. His nose came slowly out from under the bed, sniffing. The other dog approached him politely, and Coco Lee poked his head out, curious. His tail wagged ever so slightly.



Seeing Coco Lee's response, the team decided to give him a roommate. Just a day after Coco Lee was paired up with his companion, he became a new dog. He was completely out from under the bed, even when there were people around. He followed the other dog everywhere. Eventually, our staff was able to bring the two dogs outside to a playgroup with people and other dogs.

A New Coco Lee Is Born

Once Coco Lee was in the playgroup, he was suddenly willing to come up to people. He even allowed them to pet him. After just a few sessions outside with his new friends, he began to lie next to his favorite volunteers, seeking attention and occasionally lap time. It was then that our staff knew that Coco Lee was ready to find his forever home.

We made him available for adoption, and despite his shy and fearful past, it took almost no time for Coco Lee to find his new home. His





new parents fully understood his shy behavior and knew it might take a little time for him to come out of his shell in a new place. But they were committed to working with him. They even got in touch with a trainer who could help them make Coco Lee's transition into their home as smooth as possible.

After Coco Lee's adoption, his new family brought him back for a visit so he could see the Behavior team and show them how well he was doing. Coco Lee was wiggly, excited and happy to see his old friends. We are so grateful for the donors that make second chances possible for dogs — like Coco Lee — who need more time and an individual plan to help them find the perfect home.



**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!

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Kittens in the Middle



When the weather gets warmer, our staff gets ready in anticipation of the influx of kittens that always accompanies the spring boom.

During one warm spring afternoon, students from Leigh High School in San Jose were preparing to leave for the day. One student was on her way to catch a ride home when she heard a tiny mewling sound coming from a small spot between two of the school's buildings. The student crouched down to see if she could find the source of the sound.

Wedged between the two buildings was a litter of tiny, hours-old kittens. Their eyes were closed, and she could just barely hear their faint cries. There was no mother cat in sight, and the student didn't want to leave the kittens all alone. She decided to try to get them out. The space between the buildings was tight, and she could just barely squeeze herself in. She picked up one of the palm-sized kittens and attempted to turn around when she realized she, too, was stuck. She tried to push herself out from between the buildings, but it was useless. The student called for help and someone called the fire department for assistance.

The fire department arrived, and fortunately, they were able to get the student and the kittens out from between the buildings in a matter of minutes. One of the firemen knew

about Humane Society Silicon Valley and our lifesaving kitten programs that donors like you make possible. He decided to bring the newborn animals to us. Our team quickly got to work, getting all four kittens into a foster home before the end of the day. The kittens spent two months with a foster family, receiving round-the-clock care and love.

When it was time for the kittens to find new homes, the foster family's young son couldn't part with the tiny black kitten he had named "Cuddles." The family agreed that Cuddles would become a permanent member of the family. Cuddles' three siblings also found perfect homes and are living happily with their new families.



Cat Lover Turned Kitten Hero

Mohican was the last remaining kitten in her litter. She and her four siblings were brought to us at only three days old, but unfortunately, Mohican was the only one able to be saved. Her siblings had “fading kitten syndrome” — a common term for kittens with a set of symptoms that can have many underlying causes. Still, Mohican was strong, and we wanted to give her a fighting chance. She was placed into foster care with one of our most experienced foster parents, Jean Wilder.

Jean has loved cats for as long as she can remember. In 2001, she signed up to become a Humane Society Silicon Valley kitten foster and became instantly hooked. She started with a litter of seven kittens and ended up adopting two kittens from that litter. But that didn't stop her from continuing to foster. Right away, she took another litter, and then another, and then another. Jean estimates that since 2001, she's fostered approximately 500 cats and kittens.

At some point, Jean realized she was capable of doing more. She had been fostering kittens for years. Many of those kittens were just weeks — sometimes days — old. Still, there were a group of kittens she hadn't yet worked with: kittens needing extra care.

Some kittens have difficulty eating from a bottle. To keep them from becoming malnourished, they require tube feeding, a specialized process that must be done carefully to ensure the tube goes to the kittens' stomach instead of their lungs.

Learning to Save Lives

Jean committed herself to learning this process to help save her new foster, Mohican, and many other kittens in the future. Our medical staff worked



with her to teach her how to gently feed these tiny kittens. From there, she learned to give IV fluids to dehydrated kittens. She even began volunteering with the medical team. Jean's new skills allowed her to do more to help save and care for animals than ever before.

Thanks to Jean's dedication and care, Mohican is now a sturdy eight-week-old kitten. Once Mohican was healthy and out of immediate danger, Jean decided she needed playmates, so she brought three more kittens into her care to give Mohican company. It won't be long before Mohican and her new “siblings” will be ready to find their forever homes.

As for Jean, she'll keep doing what she always does — saving the lives of vulnerable animals. After years of volunteering and fostering, she signed up to be a monthly donor as part of our Faithful Friends program. “How could I not?” she says of her decision to provide regular financial support.

“HSSV supports me. I've received so much support and guidance over the years.”

— JEAN

While fostering medically vulnerable kittens can be difficult at times, Jean continues to take the most fragile ones into her home. “Fostering is so rewarding. There are painful parts, but there are many more successes,” says Jean. Thanks to her hard work and persistence in learning new skills, kittens like Mohican get a chance to thrive.

Saving More Lives Across California

The first week of February, our rescue team was preparing for a trip down to the Central Valley. They planned to visit an overcrowded shelter and intended to return with at least 20 rescued animals.

This “rescue run” was just one of many we’ve done this year. The Regional Rescue program was created to save animals at risk for euthanasia due to a lack of resources, medical and behavioral issues, or overcrowding. Thanks to the help of our supporters, this program has become the source of nearly half the animals we bring in.

Because our county’s shelters save all healthy and treatable animals, we are able to expand our Regional Rescue program to go further afield, saving more animals in public shelters who need our help.



As our community gets better and better at saving animals, we anticipate Regional Rescue will continue to expand. This means more rescue trips to transport animals and to collaborate with shelters based on their needs by providing supplies, such as vaccines and deworming medication, offering shelter medicine consultations and other support. With the increased number of trips, we realized a more reliable vehicle was urgently needed to replace our old van.

In the second week of February, the Petco Foundation stepped up to fulfill that request. They arrived at Humane Society Silicon Valley early in the morning. One hundred seventy staff and volunteers gathered into a room, all to hear a surprise announcement. As part of their “Share the Love” campaign, Petco Foundation presented a check that enabled us to buy a brand-new transport van to support our Regional Rescue program.

“The Petco Foundation has been an absolutely phenomenal partner over the years,” says President Carol Novello. She adds, “The fact that they are helping us continue to grow and expand our work is just amazing, and we are so very, very grateful.”

Thanks to the support of Petco Foundation and the many donors who support Regional Rescue, we will be able to save more lives across California.

Can we crash on your couch?



Help save even more animals in our community!

Ready to get started? Visit hssv.org/foster