



WINTER
2019

All Things Pawsible



TOP STORIES:

A Rare Gem

Bryson's Journey to
Find Love

Specialized Care
Saves Lives

Finding Love Again

A Network of Caring

HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

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Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

hssv.org

408-262-2133

Medical Services 408-262-2133 x108	Behavior & Training 408-262-2133 x352
Grooming 408-262-2133 x124	Lost & Found 408-262-2133 x110
Dog Park 408-262-2133 x164	Pet Surrender/ Euthanasia 408-262-2133 x110
Pet Store 408-262-2133 x164	Donations 408-262-2133 x132
Adoptions 408-262-2133 x150	

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A Holiday Reflection

Often, the holiday season is a time for reflection. For those of us at Humane Society Silicon Valley, this time of year makes us think upon all the things our community makes possible.

Time and time again, supporters like you have proven this is a community that cares about animals. From dogs who require special medical care to kittens who just need someone to love them, you have stepped up to make amazing things happen for homeless animals and the people who adopt them.

By supporting Humane Society Silicon Valley this holiday season, you're ensuring our community is a safe, compassionate place for animals, especially those needing extra care. With your support, we're saving and caring for animals that need us most.

As we finish out the year reflecting on all the animals whose lives have been changed, we are especially grateful for you. Thank you for helping us make a difference!



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

A Rare Gem

- INJURED STRAY
- TRAUMA
- SUSPECT PELVIC FRACTURES
- SCARED

These were the vet notes of the tiny, painfully shy, three-month-old Calico kitten. Gem, as she would later be named, had multiple pelvis fractures, fractures in both hind legs, and had a tail injury. She couldn't stand, and the severity of her internal injuries was unclear. When our Intake Team brought her in, they weren't sure Gem was going to make it.

But our Medical Team wasn't ready to give up on her. They set up an intensive schedule to monitor her food intake, ensure her internal



organs were working correctly, and check the movement in her legs and hips. Surgery wasn't an option to fix these injuries, so they would need to heal on their own.

Finding Her Sparkle

Over the next week, we were excited to see Gem start to improve. Once she gained more strength, we placed her in a foster home where she could continue to heal and overcome her shyness.

Just three weeks after Gem was first brought to our doorstep, she was a different kitten. She could walk, run, and climb. Her internal organs were functioning perfectly, and she was beginning to open up to people. She was gradually weaned off her pain medications, and a full six weeks after coming to us, Gem was finally ready to be placed up for adoption. Unsurprisingly, the beautiful, blossoming kitten was scooped up quickly and now has a feline big brother to teach her the ropes of cathood.

Without time, intensive care, and medical resources, Gem wouldn't be the kitten she is today. **But with your help, she is thriving, and has a bright future ahead of her.**

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



MEET YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND!

hssv.org/homeforholidays

Bryson's Journey to Find Love



Bryson had already been through a lot in his young life. After being found on his own and brought to a shelter in California's Central Valley, the shelter noticed that this small, golden-furred boy had a pronounced limp. **The shelter didn't have the resources needed to evaluate and care for a dog with potential injuries and reached out to us for help.**

Thanks to your support, Bryson's luck was about to turn around. We took Bryson in, along with 25 other dogs and puppies that needed a second chance. Our medical team assessed Bryson

shortly after his arrival — he could stand and walk, but couldn't fully use his back left leg. X-rays revealed a serious fracture in Bryson's leg, caused by an unknown trauma. Our team determined that if left untreated for much longer, Bryson could have had serious issues and a lot of pain in the future.

But luckily for Bryson, our team was prepared to help this adorable boy heal. He was given a cast to keep his leg stable and placed on strict activity restriction so he could heal properly and quickly. After just a few days, Bryson's leg

He was a healthy, happy dog who deserved a home as soon as possible.





Recognizing Members of Humane Society Silicon Valley's **Visionaries' Circle**

was already doing better. Still in a cast, he was willingly putting weight on his leg, and we had high hopes that Bryson would be a happy, bouncy pup in no time.

A Leg Up

We decided that although Bryson was still in a cast, we would place him up for adoption. He needed to keep the cast on for a few more days, but he didn't need additional treatment. He was a healthy, happy dog who deserved a home as soon as possible.

We knew we made the right decision when just two days later, Bryson's future family walked through our doors. They were a young, sweet couple who immediately fell in love with his sweet puppy personality and started to bond with him. They took him home that very day and were happy to take over Bryson's care.

Bryson is just one of the many animals thriving happily in the arms of a loving family this holiday season thanks to the support of friends like you.

Your generosity fuels our lifesaving work: from our shelter-to-shelter rescue transports in Santa Clara County and well beyond, to the vast and varied medical procedures our staff perform every day, all the way to the moment our animals discover their loving, forever families. Your gifts make all this a reality, and we simply couldn't do it without you. **Thank you for saving a homeless animal like Bryson, and thank you for saving thousands more throughout the year.**

Our Visionaries' Circle members deeply invest in our work while inspiring our community to join them in their aspirations for the future of HSSV.

Imagine spending a morning in our Medical Center watching lives being saved; or treating your colleagues to a "Kitten Cube" where you all are immersed in soft purrs; or triaging animals just rescued from another shelter, providing them with immediate comfort and security. With these experiences, we thank our Visionaries' Circle members for their transformational support, bringing them even closer to our mission.

To learn more, please visit hssv.org/visionariescircle.

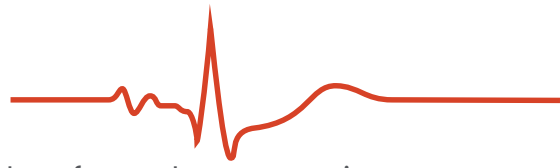
Diamond Paws \$50,000 And Above

Marilyn and Fred Anderson	Suzanne Maas
The Berg Family	Susan Jean Neely Memorial
The Nikki and Rich Beyer Family	Miao Lan Lee and Tu Nguyen
The Borch Family	Connett Ahart and Clinton Severson
In Memory of Cindy Cutts	Brenda Lynne and Frank Sloodman
Sue and John Diekman	Timi Sobrato and John M. Sobrato
Linda L. Lester	Diane B. Wilsey
Sue and Dick Levy	

Emerald Paws \$25,000 – \$49,999

Anonymous	Kathy and Dan McCranie
Alison and Joe Barta	Mary Orton-Mitchell and Gregory Mitchell
Ruth and Michael Cashion	Rebecca Ranninger and Marc Owen
Ranae DeSantis	Diane Christensen and Jean Pierret
Michelle Oates Detkin and Peter Detkin	Blythe Jack and Bob Rider
Dana Dymond Rutherford	In Honor of Santa Clara County's Community Cats
Robin and Bob Fox	Denise and Raymond Scheaffer
Audrey and Kenneth Gilbeau	Susan and Greg Sickal
Debbie Vander Zwaag and Bill Johanson	Susan and Steven Sordello
Charu Ramaprasad and Kurt Krukenberg	Elizabeth and Charles Travers
Jake Leschly	Elizabeth Laverty and Kevin Williamson
Jan Leschly	Pamela Crooke and Michelle Winner
Ruthann Quindlen and David Liddle	
Kate Mulligan and Dr. David Mack	

Specialized Care Saves Lives



On the surface, Rufio and Kama didn't appear to have much in common. Rufio was a five-month-old Terrier mix that came in from a local shelter. He had likely been hit by a car — he had multiple severe pelvic fractures and a broken left hip that needed delicate mending.

Kama was a two-year-old Chihuahua mix rescued from the Central Valley. She needed surgery to correct a torn ligament, but just as she was being prepped for surgery, Kama's heart rate dipped far below the normal rate. We diagnosed Kama with Sinus Nodal Dysfunction, a condition in which the heart is given signals that cause it to beat abnormally.

So, what do these two dogs have in common? Both Rufio and Kama had surgeries performed by Dr. Appel, a board-certified veterinary surgeon who volunteers her time and skills. She performs specialized surgeries on our animals and reviews orthopedic cases with our staff veterinarians, allowing us to use the money saved to help even more animals in other ways. **Your support of Humane Society Silicon Valley has elevated our organization to become a place where highly skilled veterinarians, like Dr. Appel, come to spend their time.**

In May, Dr. Appel performed two surgeries on Rufio — the first repaired his pelvis with a plate, and the second intended to prevent chronic pain caused by bone rubbing on bone after a hip injury. Both surgeries went extremely well, and with a few weeks of exercise restriction, Rufio was on his way to healing.



Dr. Appel

Just days before Rufio's surgery, Dr. Appel also performed surgery on Kama to correct the ruptured ligament in her left knee. Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to get a pacemaker for Kama, which kept her heart stable while she was under the anesthesia. The surgery went great, and Kama was on her way to a full recovery just weeks later.

Rufio and Kama both found homes with loving families who are dedicated to helping them finish their road to recovery. **These two little dogs ended up having a lot in common — both will go on to live better lives thanks to Dr. Appel and your support that aided in their journey.**



Kama

Rufio

Finding Love Again

By Kate Giles, HSSV Adopter

“You’ll end up loving whichever cat you choose,” the volunteer reassured me as she saw me struggling over which kitten to adopt. Four months earlier, my husband and I lost our young cat. I loved our cat so much that my heart felt starved for air by his death, and I longed for another cat who would remind me of ours we had lost.

Over the course of a weekend, I’d spent time with six different kitties at HSSV adoption locations. I wanted one to stand out to me as “The One,” but I mostly saw all the ways they were not the cat we lost. But, at my husband’s urging, I chose Arden, a skinny, shy, four-month-old kitten who devotedly snuggled with his littermates. He seemed like he would have gotten along with the cat we lost.

As I was getting ready to finish the adoption, a woman came into the room. She had fallen in love with Arden’s sisters, Nugget and Honey, but she was about to move and couldn’t take them yet. She asked, “Is there any way you could foster the two sisters for a few months until I’m ready to take them?” I didn’t hesitate. “Yes.”

It turns out it was impossible not to feel cheerful with twelve paws underfoot. They raced throughout the house neck and neck like competitive cat-hletes. They lined up three in a



row for wet food, faces alight with anticipation. Sometimes they slept on top of us all at once.

When it was time for Arden’s sisters to go to their new home, one thing was clear: Arden needed a sibling. Though I still grieved at times, the kittens breathed joy back into my life, and we knew we could give Arden the chance for a new loving bond.

We adopted six-month-old Gabriel from HSSV and when we officially introduced him to Arden, they took one sniff and were off. They climbed up the cat tree one after the other, sunbathed in the catio side by side, and snuggled on the couch together nose to nose. The happier they were together, the happier they made us.

Sometimes, in the year and a half since, with a languid stretch, a shoulder snuggle, or a squawky meow, they remind us of the cat we lost, that love still present in the delight of sharing these two new lives together.

Editor’s Note: At Humane Society Silicon Valley, we often hear stories of beloved pets from grieving owners. Thank you for helping these families grow and for healing hearts with your support.



A Network of Caring

How the **WeCARE Alliance** works to find homes for every homeless animal in Silicon Valley

The van was loaded up with all the crates we would need. We had a full list of animals we were prepared to bring with us. We had empty kennels ready with fresh blankets and toys and foster homes ready to come pick up their new foster pets. It felt like a typical Monday, as every Monday we take a trip to the Central Valley to visit our partner shelters and take as many animals as we can.

This Monday was different, though. As we were ready to head out on the long drive, we received a message: the shelter we were about to visit had just received two mama dogs with large litters of puppies. A crowded shelter is no place for young, vulnerable puppies and the shelter needed help getting them out.

While we have taken in mamas and pups many times, we didn't have the resources available at that moment to take in this many extra animals. But we couldn't leave them there either, so we reached out to our partner shelters in Santa Clara County.



JOIN US AT THE FUR BALL!

Levi's Stadium

MARCH 28 • 2020

Learn what's **NEW** & get your tickets at

hssv.org/thefurball



In It Together

Whenever possible, the shelters in this county — known as the WeCARE Alliance — support each other by taking in animals when one shelter needs assistance, sharing resources, and giving advice. This time we had an unusual request: could they take in the moms and puppies?

Our partners said yes! They evaluated their own resources, ensuring they would be able to care for the tiny pups for months before they would be old enough for adoption.

Just like that, we used our connections to make sure that all those dogs would be saved. **Know that when you're supporting Humane Society Silicon Valley, you're also supporting a whole network and community of shelters that do everything they can to work together and help animals in need.**