



WINTER
2020

All Things Pawsible



TOP STORIES:

A Little Help from a Friend
Saving Our Community's
Most Vulnerable

A Small Fix and a
Big Difference

From Shelter Pup
to Therapy Dog

Innovative Care for
a Special Kitten

HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

901 Ames Ave.
Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

hssv.org

408-262-2133

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

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Passion and Purpose

It is my pleasure to write this first letter to Humane Society Silicon Valley's supporters as president of this incredible organization.

The first time I visited the Animal Community Center, I was impressed by the beautiful building and inspired by the team's clear passion for saving and enhancing the lives of animals and people. After working with so many amazing volunteers and staff, adopting a wonderful dog, and serving as chairman of our Board of Directors, it is even more obvious to me that HSSV is truly a special place where passion and purpose coexist with excellence and impact.

I am grateful beyond words for my predecessor Carol Novello's extraordinary leadership over the past decade. At the same time, I am equally as grateful to our remarkable community of dedicated donors, adopters, and volunteers. By supporting this organization, you have shown that you are deeply invested in creating a compassionate society. There are so many animals in need of that compassion, and when we help them, those animals go on to better the lives of the people they meet. This lifesaving work happens because of you, and I am humbled to be a part of it.



Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kurt Krukenberg".

Kurt Krukenberg
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 Small Fix and a BIG Difference

We're big believers that even a small change can make a huge difference. It's part of how we became a model shelter.

We made tons of small — and some big — changes that added up to a big difference in the lives of the animals we care for.

One of our Regional Rescue program partners, Kings County Animal Services, has the same belief. Kings County Animal Center sits in the Central Valley, an area of California that is struggling to help its high number of homeless animals. Though the under-resourced shelter is faced with many of the same issues as others in the region, including underfunding and overcrowding, shelter staff and volunteers are committed to doing everything possible to save more animals and make the lives of the animals in the shelter better and more enriched.

They decided to tackle an issue caused by the way their dogs are housed. Dogs at the Kings County Animal Center are held in traditional chain-link kennels with indoor and outdoor spaces. Dogs on either side of the fences were often fighting with each other, frustrated by the barrier and the inability to properly meet each other. It was increasing their stress levels, raising the volume level, and preventing the dogs from showing their best selves to prospective adopters.

Staff and volunteers realized they could make an easy fix. Together with our Facilities Manager, Jon Cvitanich, they came up with a plan to create “walls” in between each of the kennels that would prevent the dogs from seeing each other and building frustration. Jon and our facilities volunteer, Mark, drove down to Kings County and helped the shelter build and install the walls. Almost immediately, there was a shift in the noise level of the shelter and the stress level of the dogs.

It's because of your incredible support of Humane Society Silicon Valley that we are able to help our Regional Rescue partners by doing more than just transferring in animals. By making small changes, we're working together to make shelter life easier for animals all over the state. **It's proof that with just a little creativity and a lot of passion and dedication, we can all change the lives of animals for the better.**





Selma with
Dr. Margaret Cochran
and her husband Michael.

From Shelter Pup to Therapy Dog

From the moment Dr. Margaret Cochran met Selma, she knew Selma was special.

Dr. Cochran, a transpersonal therapist, met Selma through her coworker David, who had offered to watch his friend Ingrid's Humane Society Silicon Valley alumnus Selma, while she was visiting family out of the country. David brought Selma to work, intending to keep her in his office, but it wasn't long before Selma began spending more time in Margaret's office instead.

Margaret had a history of training dogs and saw Selma's potential through her wiggly, overexcited personality. Selma was adopted from Humane Society Silicon Valley as a sweet, outgoing dog

with a big personality, but with little in the way of manners. Margaret helped Selma work through some of her overexcited tendencies and frustrations and began training her to be a therapy dog.

When Ingrid returned from her trip, she saw the change in her dog — Selma was calmer and happier. Ingrid and Margaret began a routine of “shared custody” in which Selma would spend weekdays with Margaret and her husband Michael, and Ingrid would bring her back home for the weekend.

When Ingrid needed to move across the country to be with family, she had a decision to make. She had seen the transformation in Selma and how she had

bonded with Margaret and Michael during their time together. Ingrid asked them if they would like to keep Selma permanently, and they enthusiastically agreed to make Selma a permanent part of the family.

Selma now spends her days in Margaret's office greeting and calming patients. Selma's name is right next to Margaret's on her office door. Selma acts as a true partner to Dr. Cochran's work. "She is absolutely indispensable," says Margaret. "She calms people with anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder by laying across their feet. She comforts people who are grieving or going through trauma or illness by sitting close to them or putting her head on their lap."

Thanks to Margaret's training, Selma now acts as a support to both adult and child patients alike. Selma's journey has taken her from a homeless dog waiting for a home at Humane Society Silicon Valley to a therapy dog with a purpose. We're so grateful to



Selma in costume at HSSV

have been a small part in Selma's story, and beyond proud of the work she's doing in her new life.

Make a Tribute Gift for Someone Special This Season

Give the unique gift of a life saved.

Donate in honor of the animal lovers in your life and send them a special personalized message.



Visit hssv.org/tribute to make your gift today

Saving Our Community's Most Vulnerable

Late one morning, two teeny five-week-old kittens were brought into our lobby. They were covered in fleas, but otherwise appeared healthy. That is, until their Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) tests came back positive.

FeLV is an infectious disease in cats that can lead to immune deficiency, making it difficult to fight off other infections. Kittens are especially susceptible to FeLV because their immune systems are still developing so they're at risk for catching major infections.

In many animal shelters, kittens with FeLV are considered unadoptable. But thanks to the shelter medicine work we do and because of your incredible support, we can give kittens like these a chance. The first test on these two kittens was positive, but we knew that to truly diagnose FeLV, we'd have to run another test in a few weeks. In the meantime, the kittens seemed healthy, but undersocialized.



a foster home to get ready for adoption. Once in their foster home, Bagel and Sesame, as they were named, immediately settled in. Soon, Bagel and Sesame became friendly, outgoing kittens with a habit of riding on their new foster mama's shoulders.

After a few weeks in foster care, it was time for Bagel and Sesame to come back to Humane Society Silicon Valley to be neutered and tested again for FeLV. Both tests came back negative this time, meaning we couldn't conclusively confirm whether or not the kittens were infected. They still appeared healthy, so we decided they were ready for adoption. However, we would provide their future families with all the information they needed to know about FeLV, how to get their tests redone in a few more months, and how to keep the kittens healthy — and any resident cats safe — if their tests came back positive.

We weren't sure if Bagel and Sesame's uncertain status would make it more difficult for them to find loving, understanding adopters. But we didn't have to worry. In just a matter of days, these two fun, friendly kittens were in the arms of their new forever families!

Kittens Need Friends Too

We placed the kittens in our kitten nursery, which provides undersocialized kittens with behavioral support. They spent a few days getting attention from nursery volunteers before our behavior team decided they were ready to spend some time in

We don't know what the future holds for these two, but we do know that whatever happens, they'll be loved and cared for. Your support of Humane Society Silicon Valley gave them that chance.

A Little Help from a Big Friend

At 103 pounds, Ariel was huge and fluffy. The Great Pyrenees was known as a “frequent flyer” at a crowded Central Valley shelter that first took her in — she was on a cycle of being found running loose, getting taken to the shelter, and returned to her owners over the course of just a few months.

But the last time she was picked up, she wasn’t alone. Ariel had found a six-month-old Border Collie somewhere on her journey, and the two were found traveling together and brought to the shelter. When the shelter reached out to Ariel’s owners once again, they decided they couldn’t keep her anymore. Because the Central Valley shelter was so crowded, they reached out to us to see if we could help. We took a number of their dogs, including Ariel and her new pal, who we named Flounder.

Flounder was shy, but became more confident when she spent time with Ariel. We took them on playdates together so that Ariel could teach Flounder how to meet and accept new people. Thanks to Ariel, it wasn’t long before Flounder was acting like a regular puppy. Soon, Flounder was bouncy, energetic, and friendly, even without Ariel nearby. We placed her on our adoption floor, and she found a happy home in no time.

Ariel, on the other hand, wasn’t quite ready for adoption. She had severe infections in each ear, appeared to have dental disease, and had ticks in her long, matted, dirty fur. Ariel needed a full workup. She received medication for her ears, had all the pesky ticks removed, and had a spa day to clean up her fur.



Our medical team also gave her a full dental workup to make her teeth bright, shiny, and healthy again. After all that, it was Ariel’s turn to find her new home.

“Thanks to Ariel, it wasn’t long before Flounder was acting like a regular puppy.”

And what a home she found! One of our most dedicated volunteers, Greg, fell in love with Ariel and her sweet, calm demeanor. He took Ariel — now named Lady Allie — home and she fit in perfectly. “It was a quick decision to include her in our pack of two dogs, a cat, and two humans,” says Greg.

Thanks to friends like you, both Lady Allie and Flounder were given the time and support they needed before finding the perfect homes.

Innovative Care for a Special Kitten

Our staff always gets right to work when special animals come our way. This time, it was a tiny, eight-week-old stray kitten. He was in bad shape and our veterinarians believed it was unlikely that he would survive. Luckily, this kitten would get what he needed from an unlikely helper, a top-notch medical team, and the support of friends like you.

Both of the kitten's eyes had ruptured, and he was covered in fleas. Because of the fleas, he was severely anemic and weak. He was in critical condition and needed a miracle to make it through. That miracle came, and his name was Walt.

Walt was a friendly, healthy cat waiting for a new home. The kitten needed a blood transfusion, and because of Walt's stellar health and outgoing demeanor, he was the perfect blood donor.

Once the kitten was stable, our medical team performed the transfusion. Although exhausted from the whole ordeal, the kitten perked up enough to eat some food. Walt was the hero of the hour, and our staff made sure he was happy and well cared for after his blood donation. The kitten then went



Glorious
Gilmore

home with one of our most experienced veterinary technicians, Megan, so that he could be carefully monitored. Megan watched him closely for two weeks, then brought him back to be reevaluated. He was gaining weight and responding well to treatment.

Now, it was time to start thinking about the next steps for his ruptured eyes. Glorious Gilmore, as he was affectionately named, had no vision left. Our medical team performed the surgery needed to remove his damaged eyes. Just a day later, Megan reported his status back to our veterinarians — Glorious Gilmore was doing fantastic! We gave him a few more weeks for recovery, and then it was time for this precious boy to find his new people.

It didn't take long before someone recognized how special this kitten really was. A family of Humane Society Silicon Valley supporters decided this unique little guy would make the perfect permanent addition to their family. We are so grateful that we were able to save Glorious Gilmore's life. And our hero cat Walt found his forever home as well. It took a village to save Gilmore, with care that wouldn't be possible without your support. Now he'll forever be in the hearts of every single person who meets him or hears his story. Thank you for making his story possible.



Walt, the
hero kitty