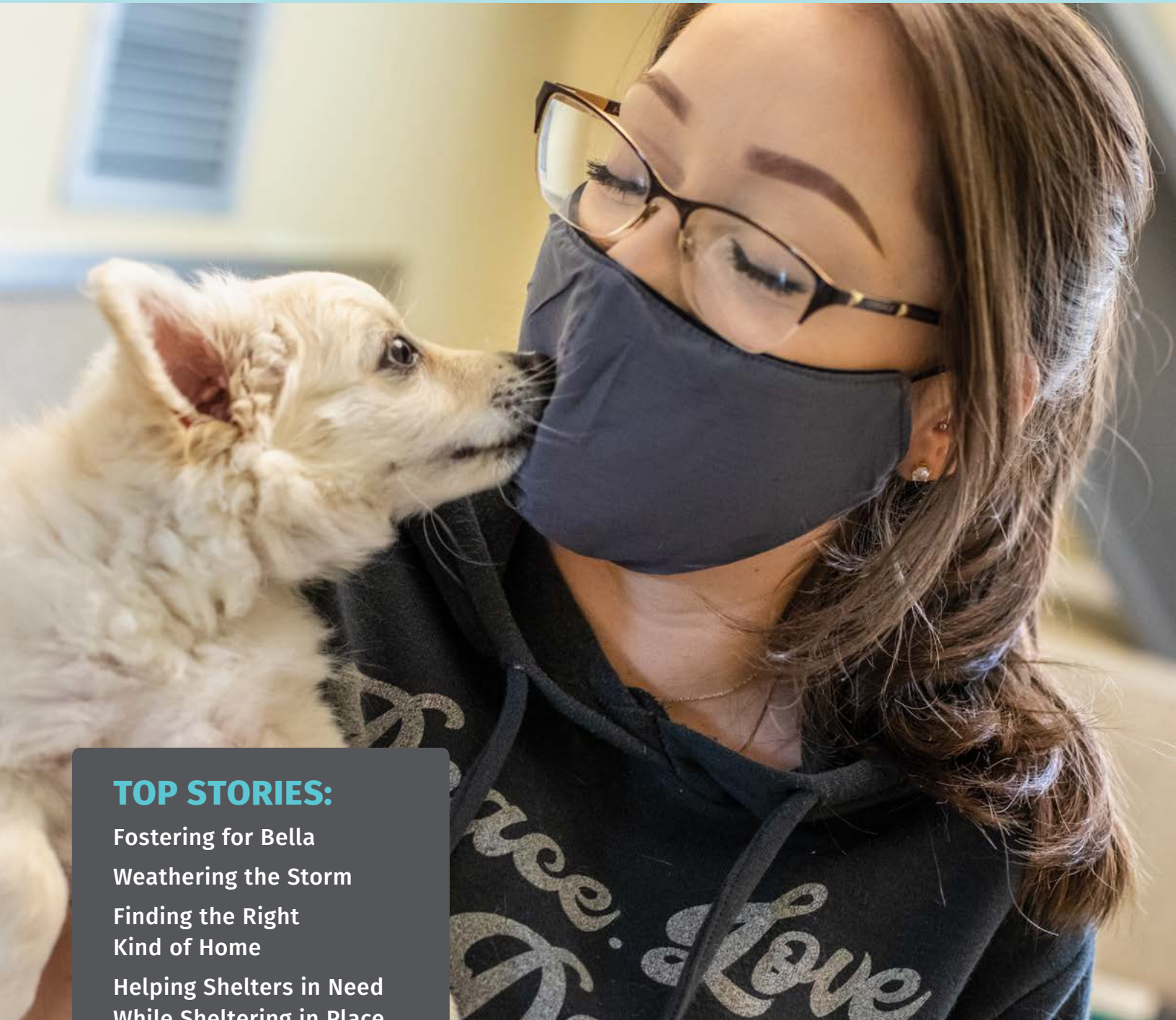




SEPTEMBER
2020

All Things Pawsible



TOP STORIES:

Fostering for Bella

Weathering the Storm

Finding the Right
Kind of Home

Helping Shelters in Need
While Sheltering in Place

Community Support
for a Special Kitty

HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

901 Ames Ave.
Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

hssv.org

408-262-2133

Medical Services 408-262-2133 x108	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	
Behavior & Training 408-262-2133 x352	

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Passion and Purpose

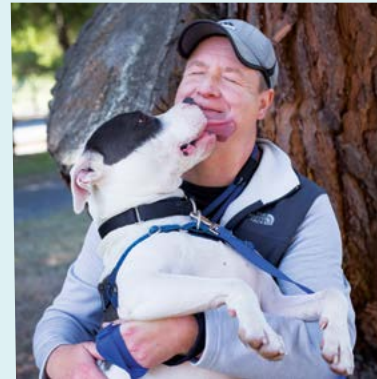
This year, we and so many others have been facing new challenges. With the arrival of the novel coronavirus, our immediate future looked uncertain, and we were forced to make changes to adapt to the new world. But we weren't alone. You, our supporters, have allowed us to continue our important, lifesaving work, even during a global crisis. You remembered animals who could have easily been forgotten, and you helped us save them. You also enabled us to provide much-needed services to those in need in our community.

Humane Society Silicon Valley has always been an organization dedicated to and immensely supported by an amazing community. We are deeply grateful for compassionate, committed people like you who can come together in times of crisis and give to those who need it most. In this issue of All Things Pawsible, learn how your support impacted homeless animals – and how they, in turn, impacted the people who care for them. Thank you for being a friend to HSSV and to the animals who rely on us.

Gratefully,



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

To see what services are currently available, visit hssv.org/services

Fostering for Bella

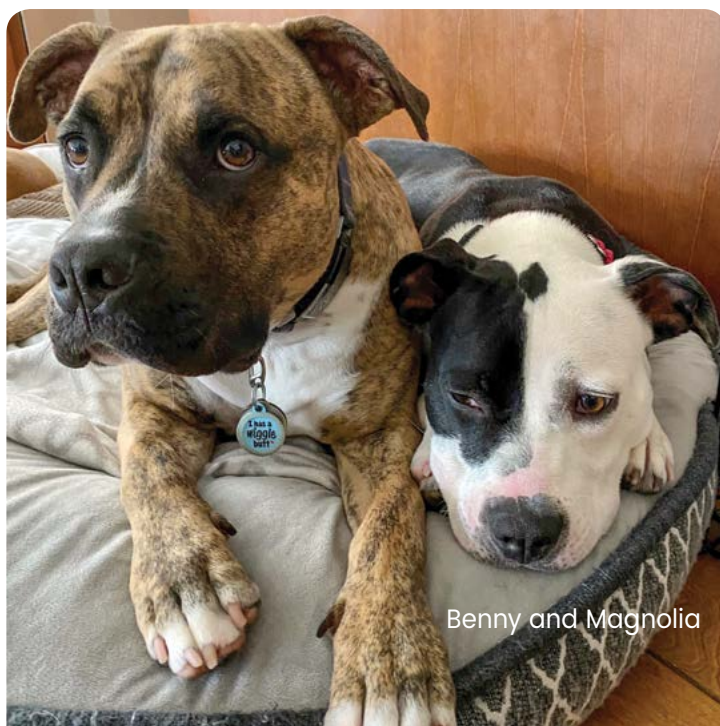
By Esti Yeung

Bella was our first pit bull-type dog, but she won't be the last. We adopted her from Humane Society Silicon Valley in January 2018. It was luck that led her to us, and I loved her with every fiber of my being. We introduced her to all our friends, and she went to oodles of puppy socials and play dates.

We took her to dog parks and on road trips to see the snow and beaches. We diligently trained her with fun tricks and commands. She was showered with toys, treats, and enrichment. She was family, my whole life, and my heart-dog. There are not enough words to describe our bond.

In August 2019, at 22 months old, she passed away due to a complication with a double-TPLO surgery to repair her knees. My husband and I were devastated, and the days following her death were some of our darkest.

After Bella died, we started visiting animal shelters nearly every day. Being around dogs who needed homes helped with our grieving; there are too many wonderful dogs out there, ready and waiting for their slice of happiness. We met several adoptable dogs, but made an immediate connection with Benny in



Benny and Magnolia



Baby Bella

the same place we met Bella: at Humane Society Silicon Valley. It was his shy-eyes and the way he slowly inched and crawled his way forward to us, even though he was unsure. He wanted to be near us, but wasn't sure how to be. He did it anyways. Like sunshine after the rain, adopting Benny came naturally. Benny has been in our lives for nine months now, and our family is complete again.

In the weeks following Bella's death, we decided we wanted to give back. We committed to fostering in honor of Bella's life. The universe was nudging us to show up and help other dogs find their people.

We began our fostering journey in late 2019 and have fostered dogs and puppies for HSSV ever since. When COVID-19 hit, we stepped up to foster Penelope, a young single puppy who needed a well-mannered adult dog to model after. And when Penelope found her forever home, we took in Magnolia, who had recently suffered a broken leg and needed a place to heal. We have been overjoyed to watch Benny interact with each foster we take in and teach them the ropes.

We are so grateful that we are able to provide safety and comfort for the animals that need it most. Bella is our inspiration for helping these animals, especially in these uncertain times. Watching our foster dogs gain confidence, trust, and reach new milestones is something we cherish. We can't imagine not being a part of these "firsts."

Weathering the Storm

When COVID-19 hit hard in early March, operations at Humane Society Silicon Valley changed by the day. We temporarily closed many of our programs and services, including adoptions and medical services, and were no longer able to have volunteers in the building. We rushed to make new plans and adjustments to ensure we could continue to provide the best care for our animals while also keeping our staff safe.

And though so many things were uncertain about the future, you made sure of one thing – that we knew we had the support of our community behind us.

Foster Families to the Rescue!

One of our first major steps was figuring out how to place as many of our shelter animals as possible into foster homes. We knew there was a good chance that our rescue partners would need help, so we wanted to ensure we had space to take in more animals.



Our current foster families stepped up to help immediately. We knew that moving forward, we would need even more foster support, so we put out a call for new fosters to sign up. We were blown away by the response. Within days, more than 3,000 people signed up to foster. Despite the crisis, our community was more than willing to help in whatever way possible.

These foster families were grateful to their foster animals, too, for giving them purpose during such difficult times. One volunteer, Diane Foxen, fosters some of our sickest kittens. She's also a full-time neonatal nurse, caring

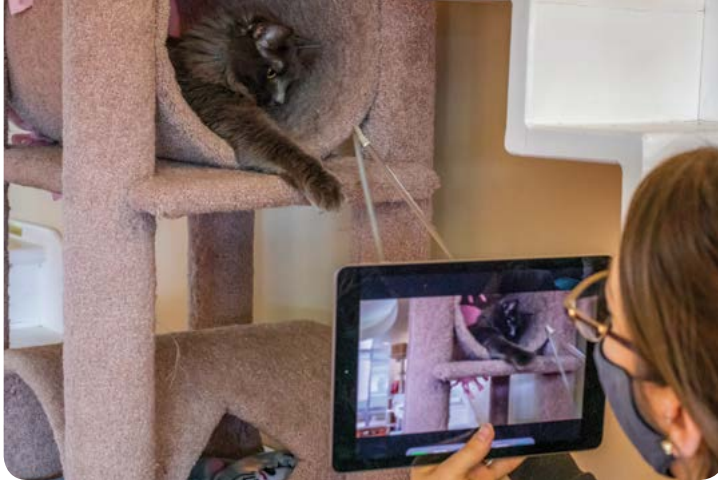
for the smallest and sickest infants in the hospital. When COVID-19 hit, her already stressful job became overwhelming at times. Diane told us that having foster kittens during an intensely challenging period allowed her to recharge from the stress at work. "My kittens have saved me more times than I've saved them," she said. "Having these kittens crawl on my chest and let me love them, they're giving me hope that it's gonna get better, we're gonna get through this."

Rearranging Staff to Provide Care

With many of our animals in foster homes, our focus shifted to caring for the animals at our Animal Community Center. Many of our public-facing programs were temporarily suspended, which freed our public-facing staff members up to give the hands-on care our animals needed. The manager of our pet store became the lead cat socializer and helped coordinate socializing shifts to make sure every cat in the building received necessary cuddle and playtime. Our intake and adoptions teams took turns assisting our behavior team with dog playgroups and walks. Our medical receptionists jumped in to help send animals to foster and ensure foster families had the supplies they needed. Because of the generous support from friends like you, our staff have been able to keep their jobs and make the necessary changes to continue providing the high standard of care that our animals deserve.

Forever Homes Are Just a Video Chat Away!

Almost immediately after receiving the mandate to shelter-in-place, we began brainstorming ways to safely reopen our adoptions program and continue to find forever homes for our animals. Although we were anxious to restart adoptions as soon as possible, we were focused on ensuring we could do so while keeping our staff and adopters safe. We created a virtual adoptions process, in which potential adopters could meet animals through video chat, then pick up their adopted animal through a safe, socially-distanced appointment process.



We were nervous about how the process would go, especially since one of the tenets of our adoptions program is the ability for people to interact with animals they're interested in meeting. But we shouldn't have worried. Our amazing adopters were thrilled with the opportunity to safely adopt animals during such a trying time. After just one day of offering virtual adoptions, hundreds of people had signed up to meet our animals. By the end of the week, dozens of animals were in their new homes. We were unbelievably touched by our community's willingness to adjust to this new process, and by their desire to adopt an animal during an otherwise difficult time.

Providing for Pet Owners

With the people in our community facing financial and other hardships due the ramifications of the pandemic, we knew we needed to do whatever possible to provide more support. We were hearing from pet owners who were struggling to feed their four-legged family members, some were even thinking about surrendering their pets because of financial issues. In response, we expanded our Pet Pantry program — which gives food and other supplies to pet owners who are unable to feed their pets — to meet the new and ever-changing needs of our community. Many of our community members donated food and other supplies to the program, and we are so thankful for their generosity which allowed us to help pet owners when they needed us most.

Thanks to incredible support from friends like you, we can innovate in a time of crisis, provide lifesaving care for animals, find amazing homes for homeless pets, and give people and pets the support they need to stay together. Together, we make a difference for both animals and people. We are so grateful to have you as part of the Humane Society Silicon Valley family.

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

Our Visionaries' Circle members inspire our community while deeply investing in the future of HSSV, by giving \$25,000 or more cumulatively in a calendar year.

Imagine embedding yourself in our Medical Center for a busy morning of critical surgeries, or helping us triage and provide love and comfort to dogs and cats that have just arrived from a large Regional Rescue run! By directly connecting with our lifesaving work through these unforgettable experiences, our Visionaries' Circle members fully experience the incredible impact their gifts make toward our mission.

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

Diamond Paws \$50,000 And Above

The Nikki and Rich Beyer Family

The Borch Family

In Memory of Cindy Cutts

Sue and John Diekman

Steven Hughes

Blythe Jack and Bob Rider

Suzanne Maas

Rebecca Ranninger and
Marc Owen

Connett Ahart and
Clinton Severson

Brenda Lynne Sloodman and
Frank Sloodman

Elizabeth and
Charles Travers

Diane B. Wilsey

Emerald Paws \$25,000 – \$49,999

Marilyn and Fred Anderson

Anonymous

Joanne Jacobs and
Claiborne Brown

Ruth and Michael Cashion

Michelle Oates Detkin and
Peter Detkin

Dana Dymond Rutherford

The Ekstrom Family

Robin and Bob Fox

In Loving Memory of
our Furr Friends

Audrey and Kenneth
Gilbeau

Dave Jacquin

Debbie Vander Zwaag and
Bill Johanson

Shannon Wass and
Dan Kelmenson

Roseann and Kevin King

Charu Ramaprasad and
Kurt Krukenberg

Sue and Dick Levy

Ruthann Quindlen and
David Liddle

Kate Mulligan and
Dr. David Mack

Judy and George Marcus

Mary Orton-Mitchell and
Gregory Mitchell

In Honor of Santa Clara
County's Community Cats

Yvonne Saucedo and
Chris Satterlee

Denise and
Raymond Scheaffer

Elizabeth Laverty and
Kevin Williamson

Finding the Right Kind of Home



Garden kitties waiting for Sam Cascarini

Providing the right kind of care and environment for our animals is essential to our mission. Even during a global pandemic, we are committed to doing everything possible to maintain a high standard of care for every single animal.

It was mid-March, and our county had just received shelter-in-place orders due to the spread of COVID-19. Our team worked quickly to move as many animals into foster homes as possible and reassign some of our front-line staff to help with animal care.

Thanks to our dedicated group of new and seasoned foster volunteers, many of our animals went into foster homes, where they could receive more individualized attention during the temporary closure. But there was a group of animals that weren't able to go to foster homes: garden cats.

Our garden cat adoption program finds homes for cats that aren't your typical indoor lap cats — these cats are used to living outdoors, and most prefer little to no interaction with people. As it was early spring, our outdoor garden was full, and with our adoptions program closed, we needed to find an appropriate place for new garden cats that were still arriving at our shelter.

We reached out to adopters who had adopted garden cats in the past and asked if they would consider testing out a virtual adoption process with us to help our garden cats find homes. The first to respond was Sam, one of our veterinary technicians, who lives on a 10,000-acre ranch and is no stranger to adopting garden cats. She had plenty of space to take in a few more and was able to pick them up right away.

Five garden cats went to Sam's ranch that day. She set up transition cages to help them adjust to their new lives. After a few weeks, they were released. They now roam Sam's property with her other garden cats, keep the rodents and snakes away, and return to Sam's home every night for dinner. Sam keeps a close eye on all her garden cats, checking them every night to make sure they're healthy and happy. By adopting out those five garden cats, she created plenty of space for any incoming garden cats.

The pets in our care count on us to give them what they need to thrive. That's why we're so grateful to have incredibly supportive friends like you who help us treat each animal as an individual and provide them what they need. Thanks to you, even in a crisis, we continue to be innovative and find the right homes for our animals. With your help, every animal that enters our building is given what they need to be comfortable, safe, healthy, and happy.

Helping Shelters in Need While Sheltering in Place

It was a few weeks into the shelter-in-place mandate due to COVID-19 when we got the call. One of our rescue partners in the Central Valley needed emergency help with two puppies. The littermates had been exposed to parvovirus, and were showing signs that they, too, were infected. Thanks to your support, we were able to take in these sick puppies through our Regional Rescue program, and they arrived the very next day.

Jessa and Marnie were fluffy, affectionate, and adorable. But they were also feeling very ill. They were congested, had major stomach issues, and weren't eating. Our medical team quickly got to work. Both puppies were cleaned up and given fluids and appetite stimulants to help them stay nourished. They were monitored closely for the next few days while we continued to provide intensive, round-the-clock care.

Slowly, Jessa and Marnie began to improve. They started eating small amounts of food, became more active, and gradually began to gain weight. After a few more days, the puppies were bright, active, and wagged their tails whenever our staff came to check on them. Thanks to you, they had survived the devastating virus. It was now time for them to find their forever homes.



Marnie

With shelter-in-place still in effect, adoptions were being performed “virtually”, so Jessa and Marnie met their future families through video chats. Both families were completely smitten when they met the happy, wiggly pups. They were both adopted that same day and are now being loved and spoiled by their new families.

Your generosity during this challenging time meant that we could be there for a fellow shelter and Jessa and Marnie when they needed us most. You proved that even during a time of crisis, we can all come together to save lives and give animals like Jessa and Marnie a second chance.



Jessa

Our Regional Rescue program, which enables us to save animals like Jessa and Marnie from all over California, is supported by generous donors like Conni Ahart and Clint Severson. In 2019, Conni and Clint generously committed \$1,000,000 to HSSV, part of which directly supports our Regional Rescue program. With their partnership, we are able to be there for our rescue partners who depend on our help to save animals in their community. Thanks to Conni and Clint's gift and the generosity of supporters like you, more than 3,300 animals last year were given a second chance.