



FEBRUARY
2021

All Things Pawsible



TOP STORIES:

Pepper's Path to Peace

Hope Takes Flight

The Art of Healing

Saving Grace

From Hedges to Houses

HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

901 Ames Ave.
Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

hssv.org

408-262-2133

Medical Services

408-262-2133 x108

Dog Park

408-262-2133 x164

Pet Store

408-262-2133 x164

Adoptions

408-262-2133 x150

Behavior & Training

408-262-2133 x352

Lost & Found

408-262-2133 x110

Pet Surrender/ Euthanasia

408-262-2133 x110

Donations

408-262-2133 x132

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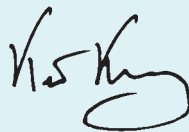
Passion and Purpose

We believe strongly that when you give love to animals, they give back the love they receive. It is one of our core values that when you save the life of an animal and provide them with the care they need, that animal will provide goodness to the people whose lives they touch. And when you save the lives of and care for thousands of animals, you can change a community.

I am constantly impressed by how our community provides love to animals. Our adopters give second chances to our animals, including animals like Pepper who need a little more care and patience. A student volunteer provides healing animals with loving art. Our medical team tirelessly gives critical care and time to animals with severe medical needs like Grace. And our wonderful supporters who allow us to rescue and provide lifesaving care for animals in need both near and far.

The work we do every single day is made possible because of friends like you. Thank you for the tremendous love you give to the animals—and people—that need 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 and locations are currently open, visit hssv.org/services

Pepper's Path to Peace

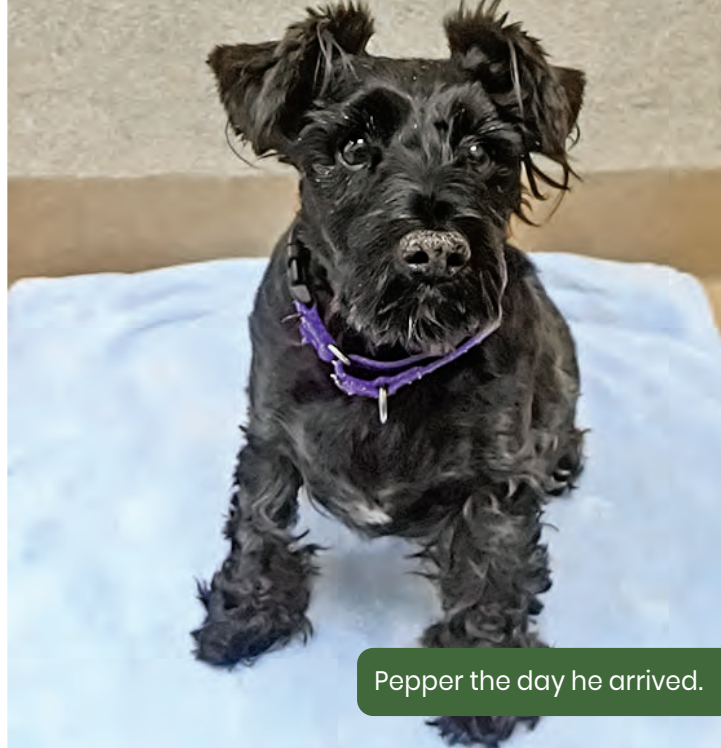
Pepper was terrified. After arriving from another shelter through our Regional Rescue Program, our medical team struggled to examine him because he was so fearful. We decided to place him in an experienced foster home with Karen, one of our volunteers who works with our shy dogs and helps them build confidence. She noticed immediately that Pepper was tentative about being leashed, nervous about going outside or upstairs, and anxious about being handled at all.

Karen worked with him daily to try to build his confidence and make him more comfortable. After only a few days in her home, Pepper began to show his sweet side. He warmed up to Karen and began giving her kisses and exploring more of her home. A week later, he allowed her to leash him and take him for short ventures in the front yard. She worked on getting him more comfortable with handling by brushing his fur, petting his back, and lifting him to get him up on the couch through patience and lots of tasty treats.

Finally, Pepper's personality was blossoming—it was time for him to find his home. There were many



Pepper, after!



Pepper the day he arrived.

people interested in Pepper, but once they heard about his challenges, they weren't sure they could commit to a dog who needed so much help to live comfortably in the world. But after weeks of looking for his perfect new family, Pepper finally found it.

Pepper's new family fell in love with him instantly. His new dad talked to Karen in depth about the kind of care Pepper would need to help him continue his confidence journey. He felt sure that their family would be just what Pepper needed. They brought Pepper home and continued where Karen left off on helping him become comfortable with things like walks, grooming, and exploring his new space. Within days, Pepper had settled in better than we ever imagined. His new dad keeps us updated on Pepper's progress, and we're thrilled to see how far he has come. We are so grateful to our foster families, adopters, and supporters who give us the ability to help animals like Pepper thrive.

**If you are interested in
fostering dogs, puppies,
or kittens in our care,
please visit hssv.org/foster**

Hope Takes Flight



Michi was unaware of the long journey he was about to take to get a second chance.

When a shelter in New Mexico found themselves inundated with dogs, they put the call out to the ASPCA, who coordinates with shelters that are able to help take in extra animals.

ASPCA contacted us and asked if we would be able to take in a large group of dogs and puppies from the New Mexico shelter. We said yes, and quickly got to work

figuring out how we would house and medically examine each dog to provide them the care they needed in a short period of time.

Meanwhile, the ASPCA connected with Wings of Rescue, an organization that flies at-risk shelter pets to shelters with more capacity and resources. They arranged to have 32 dogs and puppies from the New Mexico shelter flown to an airport near us. One of those dogs was Michi, a beautiful one-year-old Australian cattle dog, who had been found in New Mexico walking along a busy street alone. While we were preparing both our rescue vehicles and setting up spaces within the shelter to accommodate this large group, 1,300 miles away Michi was unaware of the long journey he was about to take to get a second chance.



The day of the transport, our rescue team drove to the airport to pick up the dogs and puppies. Our President, Kurt, even tagged along to assist with loading up the dogs for the final leg of their journey and take the photos that you see here. Michi was greeted after his long flight by Matthew, our Animal Transport Assistant. When they arrived back at Humane Society Silicon Valley, all the

dogs and puppies were medically examined, vaccinated, and fed. Michi and the other dogs were now able to settle into their new rooms.

When we behaviorally assessed Michi, we found out he was the perfect dog. He enjoyed playing with other dogs, walked well on a leash, and loved to be loved. We knew Michi's playful and sweet personality would make him a popular choice for families looking for their new best friend. All he needed was a home, and we were committed to helping him find one.

Soon after arriving, Michi and the other 31 dogs were placed up for adoption. We held a virtual puppy palooza to help the puppies find homes quickly, and all found their families within days of arriving. Michi and the other

adult dogs also found amazing homes quickly—most within the week. They traveled far, but in the end they all got their happy endings and are now being adored and cared for by their new families. We're so glad we could open our doors to these sweet dogs. With so many shelters overcrowded and under-resourced, we are fortunate that your support allows us to keep helping them and the animals they care for. **Together, we can continue to give these animals loving families and fill our community with wonderful dogs like Michi.**



Matthew and Michi

We love
animals.

Every.
Single.
Day.



Faithful Friends are at the heart of what we do at Humane Society Silicon Valley. By setting up a recurring monthly donation, you ensure there are resources to care for every homeless animal who comes through our doors.

Sign up to be a **Faithful Friend** today!
Visit hssv.org/faithfulfriends

The Art of Healing

Our medical team at Humane Society Silicon Valley works incredibly hard. They save lives, provide emergency care, perform surgeries, give vaccines, spay and neuter animals, treat diseases, and so much more. When they had an odd request to help with a more joyful aspect of their job, one of our student volunteers answered the call.

One of the ways our medical team brings joy to the animals and the staff who care for them is by decorating the casts of animals with happy, adorable designs. It started with one of our veterinarians, Dr. Moore. She would decorate the casts and bandages of our animals with hearts. It caught on quickly. Dr. Shearer, another veterinarian on our staff, started expanding the kinds of designs included on casts. But they were running out of ideas.

That's when our medical and education teams reached out to an artistic student volunteer, Chloe. She jumped at the opportunity to come up with new designs for the casts. She developed a deep passion for HSSV's mission through her involvement in our education programs and her family fostering kittens.



We gathered all the different colors of bandages we have and provided them to Chloe for inspiration and to make mock-ups. She got to work and soon created a binder of more than 35 designs to be used as templates. The art ranged from animals to food to plants and more. Cast art took on themes—animals were now seen all over the shelter with space themes, seasonal art, and nature scenes. “In addition to being a fun decoration, it feels like a special wish for a swift and successful recovery for the patient,” says Dr. Moore.

Cast art is just one small way we show our love for the animals in our care. We are so grateful that you allow us to do everything we can to save and enhance the lives of our animals while they are with us. Then our animals can pay that love forward to their new families.



Saving Grace

By the time a Good Samaritan was able to get the kitten to us, she was barely alive. There was a puncture wound on her neck and groin area, and she was unable to move anything except her eyes and toes. She was rushed to an exam room, where our medical team immediately started warming her up, giving her IV fluids, and cleaning her wounds. We suspected Grace had a spinal injury. The kitten's future looked grave, and our medical team wasn't certain she would make it through the night. One of our veterinary technicians, Megan, decided to take a chance on this special kitten.

Megan took Grace home overnight to see if she could move anything by morning. If she couldn't move, it would be a sign that she had suffered an irreparable spinal cord injury and would be unlikely to survive. The next morning came and the kitten was able to move her legs a little. She purred when she was petted and was eating well through a syringe. It was good progress, but Grace still wasn't out of the woods yet.

Our medical team continued treatments—antibiotics for her infections, steroid therapy, and pain medication. She began to army crawl with Megan's hand steadying her, then was able to lift herself off the ground, and then was able to take a few steps, all on her own. Grace learned to feed herself and walk more than a few steps without collapsing. A month after arriving, Grace was almost like any other normal teenage cat—she was mischievous, playful, and sweet.

One of our behavior team members, Hannah, was drawn to Grace early on. She had a cat at home with a severe



head tilt and was looking to adopt a playmate with similar abilities so that they would be a good match.

"She's exactly what I was looking for," says Hannah. It was love at first sight, and once Grace was strong and healthy enough, she went home with Hannah—for good.

Grace may never be completely normal. She still has a small head tilt and will sometimes walk in circles. But Amazing Grace—as Megan nicknamed her—survived. And because of the love and care from Megan, our incredible medical and animal care teams, her new family, and the support of friends like you, she has an amazing life ahead of her. We couldn't be more grateful.

Donate your vehicle in 3 EASY STEPS:

1 Fill Out Form



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3 Receive Tax Receipt



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From Hedges to Houses

It was early in the morning when Alyssa, our Adoptions Supervisor, took one of our dogs out to the park for some play. Suddenly, the dog started barking at the park gate excitedly. Alyssa thought there might be something on the other side of the gate—and she was right.

There, under the bushes, were four tiny kittens. Alyssa immediately called another staff member, Melissa. She rounded up kitten food, a cat carrier, and two extra helpers. With Alyssa directing on the other side of the fence, Melissa crawled on her hands and knees through the bushes until she finally reached the kittens. Melissa picked up each kitten and passed them over the fence one by one to Alyssa and the two helpers, Darci and Taylor. They put the kittens carefully into the carrier.

They rushed the kittens into our medical center so they could be examined by our medical team. All four were healthy, but very shy—five-week-old kittens. Melissa named the kittens after their four rescuers—Melissa, Alyssa, Darci, and Taylor. They were too young to be adopted quite yet, so they were sent to foster homes for a few more weeks. Their foster families loved on them and helped them overcome their shyness. By the time they were big enough to find their forever homes, all four kittens had come out of their shells and became social, outgoing, and loved to be around people.

Because the kittens were so friendly, they were made part of our new Kitten Match adoption pilot. Through this program, potential adopters can select what they are looking for in a kitten (age, gender, color) and be matched



with one that fits their description. Darci and Taylor were adopted together by a family who was looking for a pair of kittens that could keep each other company. Melissa and Alyssa were also lucky enough to find the perfect family that loved them both and decided to keep them together forever. These four kittens had quite the journey—from being found under a bush to living in perfect homes—and your generosity helped make it possible to be there for them when they needed us.

