



SEPTEMBER  
2022

# All Things Pawsible

Agnes found help and healing, and Dani found her best friend.

## TOP STORIES:

From Summer Camp to a Second Home  
How I Met My Soulmate Dog  
A Gift That Keeps Giving  
Helping Our Community Together With You  
Sabrina Settles In





# HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

901 Ames Ave.  
Milpitas, CA 95035-6326

[hssv.org](http://hssv.org)

408-262-2133

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

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# An Ecosystem of Care

Creating and keeping connections between pets and people is at the heart of our work. We are dedicated to caring for animals and making them whole so they can find amazing homes or stay with the people who already love them so much. Thanks to the support of friends like you, this year we have been able to give so many animals the help they need to live happy and healthy with their families.

In response to the changing world around us, we've expanded our programs to meet the needs of our community. Our Medical team is constantly innovating to save animals with extensive medical needs. Our Behavior team is not only supporting animals in our care, but providing support and resources to adopters whose pets need assistance with behavior challenges to help them stay in their homes. Our Community Development team is providing free spay/neuter and wellness services to the pets of community members in need. Together with you, we're creating an ecosystem of care for not only animals, but the people who love them.

Thank you for being  
an integral part of our  
lifesaving work. We are  
so grateful to have  
partners like you.

Gratefully,



Kurt Krukenberg  
President



## Humane Society Silicon Valley

**Peter Detkin and Michelle Oates Detkin 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

For additional contact information, visit [hssv.org/hourslocations](http://hssv.org/hourslocations)

# From Summer Camp to a Second Home

**Senior year of high school can be unthinkable busy, but between college placement exams, academics, and hanging out with friends, youth volunteer Ananya Mukundan found time to help out our Medical team in a big way.**

Ananya has always loved animals, but pet ownership wasn't a good fit for her family. To get her fill of animals as a kid, Ananya had birthday parties at The Peter Detkin and Michelle Oates Detkin Animal Community Center and attended our summer camps. One day at summer camp, Ananya noticed a teenaged volunteer socializing a cat and knew she wanted to be in that spot. She started volunteering as a summer camp counselor and has been helping our staff and animals ever since.

Summer camp counselor was just one role Ananya filled — she kept finding ways to get more involved at HSSV and joined the Compassion in Action (CIA) program, where she helped care for animals. When her CIA group took a tour of HSSV's medical facilities. Ananya had recently begun pondering a career in medicine. The tour came at just the right time to inspire her to volunteer in the Medical department.

As one of HSSV's first student volunteers trained as a Medical Assistant, Ananya learned to sterilize medical instruments and how to prepare supplies for surgeries. She began mentoring other Medical Assistants and realized everyone had a slightly different way of doing things. So, for her senior project at Moreau Catholic High School, Ananya developed a Medical Assistant training manual to help standardize procedures and create a reference piece for volunteers.

She took pictures and videos of herself doing every Medical Assistant task do and wrote out step by step instructions. She worked with medical and volunteer staff to make sure everything was accurate, and after months of work, the guide is now in use.

This fall Ananya will start her freshman year at Johns Hopkins University, where she's

studying public health. She's thankful for all the medical experience she got at HSSV, but she's most thankful for the community she found along the way.

"Everyone's so nice here," Ananya says. "Everyone is like a family. The other teen volunteers are so nice and I've made so many friends. It's been a lot of fun. HSSV is my second home now."

**We're so grateful to Ananya for all the time, energy, and compassion she has shared with HSSV, and we can't wait to see where she goes in the future!**

Ananya worked with our medical and volunteer staff to create a training guide for medical volunteers.





# How I Met My Soulmate Dog



**"Agnes wakes up every morning excited to be alive and ready to take on the day."**

**By Dani Steinberg**

**This is the story of how my soulmate made her way into my life:**

Agnes the French Bulldog was found in a parking lot not too far from our Detkin Animal Community Center in Milpitas. Her front leg was horribly broken and so badly infected that when she was brought into the medical center,

we could smell her throughout the building. Our Medical team examined her and didn't think she would survive another day if they didn't remove the leg. Agnes had so little body fat and muscle and was in such bad condition that no one knew if she would even make it through surgery. Luckily, we have the best team of veterinarians



and veterinary technicians who were able to manage an unbelievably challenging surgery to remove her front leg!

As Agnes recovered, I would visit her whenever I had a break in my day. She was so skinny that I made it my goal to fatten her up. That's how I learned that Agnes has a love for cheese unlike any love in the history of the universe. When she was finally strong enough to go to foster, I *had* to volunteer to take her to make sure *Operation Get Porky* continued. She slept in my bed that first night and has slept next to me every night since.



While I was fostering her, Agnes was on a cocktail of medications for the first few weeks that required me to give her medicine several times a day. Her gauze needed frequent changing, and I often put her in clothing to keep the surgery site clean. It took weeks, but she finally healed and put on the weight she needed to be strong and healthy.

I couldn't tell you the exact moment I decided to officially adopt Agnes. It didn't even feel like a decision — it just felt right. When I first laid

eyes on her, I felt an instant connection. That first night she slept in my bed, we just fell in love with one another.

Despite having been neglected, malnourished, and on the literal verge of death, Agnes wakes up every morning excited to be alive and ready to take on the day. When work is tough, she reminds me why what we're doing is so important and impactful. **She loves to meet new people and brings joy to everyone she comes across. I'm so grateful she came into my life and I get to spend every single day with my soulmate dog.**



Agnes  
playing in  
the park.



## WE LOVE ANIMALS.

**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!  
[hssv.org/faithfulfriends](https://hssv.org/faithfulfriends)



# A Gift That Keeps Giving

Our Medical team at HSSV is skillful and talented, caring for our animals and saving lives daily. Sometimes we get animals with unique medical needs and we need a specialist's help.

Dr. James Roush, a traveling orthopedic surgeon, is one of those specialists. Dr. Roush has worked with us for many years, performing difficult and complex surgeries on animals in our care. They require both great skill and highly specialized tools. Along with performing surgeries, he trained and mentored our veterinarians in new surgical techniques so we can always give the best care to our animals.

After decades of work, Dr. Roush recently retired at the age of 79. Upon his retirement, he donated tens of thousands of dollars of his unique orthopedic surgery equipment to HSSV.

The tools he donated are expensive, specialized equipment that he used in his surgical practice. Without Dr. Roush's generosity, they would have been out of reach for us or taken a very long time to acquire, if at all, and learn to use. Not only did Dr. Roush donate his tools, but he gives our team his time. He has taught our veterinarians how to use the equipment, and continues to mentor our



Drs. Tao and Roush perform orthopedic surgery on a dog.

team in his retirement. This is a priceless gift!

"Dr. Roush has been a unique resource for HSSV over the years, performing many complicated specialty surgeries beyond our capabilities," says Dr. Cristie Kamiya, Chief of Shelter Medicine. "More importantly, he includes our staff veterinarians in these procedures to observe and learn, teaching and coaching them through new procedures. This ultimately benefits the animals in our care by expanding our capabilities, and helps us save more lives."

**We cannot put into words how grateful we are for Dr. Roush and his support. His time, tools, and knowledge have saved countless lives at HSSV and will continue to do so for years to come.**

## Humane Society Silicon Valley's Visionaries' Circle

We thank our Visionaries' Circle members for their transformational support by bringing them even closer to our mission, enabling them to see their impact first-hand. Opportunities have included spending a morning in our Medical Center watching lives being saved; or treating colleagues to a "Kitten Cube" where they could be immersed in soft purrs; or triaging animals just rescued from another shelter, providing them with immediate comfort and security. Imagine seeing lives changed, right before your eyes, by joining our Visionaries' Circle.

To learn more, visit [hssv.org/visionariescircle](https://hssv.org/visionariescircle)

### Diamond Paws \$50,000 And Above

The Borch Family  
Michelle Oates  
& Peter Detkin  
John & Sue Diekman  
Friends of HSSV

Robert Fox, Jr.  
Robin Fox  
Derk Hunter  
Marc Owen & Rebecca  
Ranninger Owen

Blythe Jack & Bob Rider  
Tracy Macuga & Laura Shawver  
Brenda Lynne & Frank Sloodman  
Andie & John Sobrato

### Emerald Paws \$25,000 - \$49,999

Fred & Marilyn Anderson  
Anonymous  
Aria & Family  
Becky & Adony Beniares  
Dr. Monte Bernstein  
The Rich & Nikki Beyer  
Family  
Richard & Sally Broberg  
In memory of Ruth Cashion  
Satish & Smita Dharmaraj  
The Ekstrom Family

In loving memory of  
our Furr Friends  
Emily Harrison  
Steve Hughes  
Claiborne Brown  
& Joanne Jacobs  
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& Kurt Krukenberg  
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& Ruthann Quindlen  
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Denise & Raymond  
Scheaffer  
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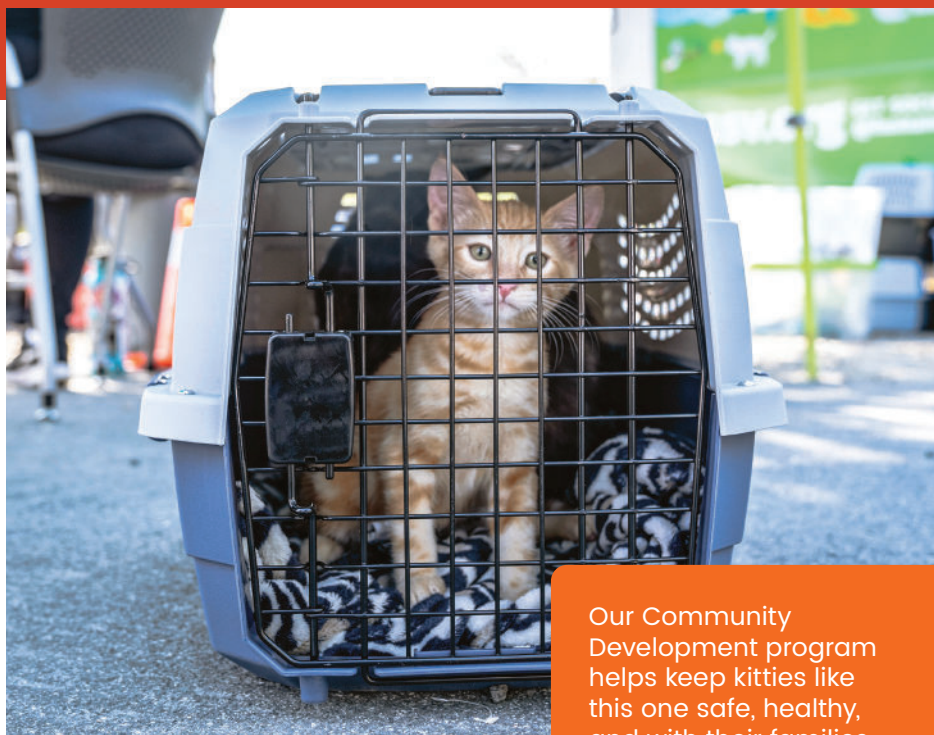
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Bill Johanson & Debbie  
Vander Zwaag  
Curt & Margaret Weil  
Elizabeth Laverty &  
Kevin Williamson  
Pamela Crooke &  
Michelle Winner



# Helping Our Community Together With You

In response to the ever-changing world around us, our team at HSSV is constantly adapting to the needs of our community. As part of our growing Community Development Program, we're expanding our free mobile spay/neuter clinics to provide free pet care to families in need. We recently partnered with Street Dog Coalition to hold a mobile clinic at a local park.

Our Medical team performed 25 spay/neuter surgeries in our Wellness Waggin', a mobile surgical clinic. They also provided free supplies to pet owners and help fit pets for collars and harnesses.



Our Community Development program helps keep kitties like this one safe, healthy, and with their families.



So many of the community members we helped expressed relief and gratitude to our team for providing these services and supplies free of charge. One young woman came with a momma cat and her five one-week-old kittens. She had rescued the momma cat just prior to her giving birth to the kittens, and the woman knew she wouldn't be able to care for the whole family long term. We spayed the momma cat and returned her to her loving owner, and took the kittens into our care.

**We're so grateful that we're able to be there for our community and provide the support and services they need to keep their pets healthy, happy, and at home where they belong. Thank you for making a difference for pets and people in our community.**



# Sabrina Settles In

At HSSV, we consider our adopters part of our family and do whatever we can to be there for them and their pets. So when Sabrina the 2-month-old kitten started showing some concerning behaviors soon after she was adopted, we were there to support her family through it.

Sabrina was a playful kitten, but would often become overexcited and direct her energy toward her new family, which resulted in bites and scratches. She frequently woke them up in the middle of the night, determined to play and relentless in her pursuit. As much as her family loved Sabrina, they were at a loss for how to handle her challenging behavior. They wanted to do whatever they could to keep her, but worried that her behavior was too much for them and were considering returning her

in the hopes she might find a family with the knowledge to help her.



With play therapy and new types of enrichment, Sabrina transformed from an overeager kitten to a loving companion.

Sabrina's family reached out to our staff to let us know what had been going on since they brought her home. Our Behavior team connected with them right away and helped them with ideas on how to engage Sabrina using both play and mental enrichment to tire her out and keep her from seeking out naughty ways to entertain herself. They suggested trying play therapy, which involved playing with Sabrina using interactive toys (not hands!) on a schedule of at least 20 minutes per session, then slowly cooling down the play and petting her only once she was relaxed. The team also gave her family ideas on types of enrichment that would keep her brain busy and keep her out of trouble.

A few weeks later, our team checked in to see how Sabrina was doing. We were thrilled to hear that thanks to all her family's hard work, Sabrina was growing out of her "kitten predator" mode and they were enjoying her company. She was a permanent member of the family, and they were dedicated to keeping her. Sabrina's family was so grateful to our team for helping her through her challenges, they made a generous donation to our work to support other cats and kittens in our care. **We're so thankful that we could be there for Sabrina and keep this sweet family together.**

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