



DECEMBER
2022

All Things Pawsible

Thanks to friends like you, Oliver is one of many happy, healthy, and loved animals in a new forever home this holiday season.



TOP STORIES:

Kona's Spot in the Sun

A Twist of Fate for Oliver

Giving Yuki Time to Shine

Caring for Our Community's Kittens

Taking Care of Tortellini

HUMANE SOCIETY SILICON VALLEY

901 Ames Ave.
Milpitas, CA 95035-6326
hssv.org | 408-262-2133

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Gratitude and Reflection

Thanks to friends like you, thousands of animals are spending this holiday season with their new, loving families. We're so grateful for the love and support you have provided, enabling us to save animals and support our local community.

This year we focused on our role as a safety net — for homeless animals, for pet owners in need, and for our partner shelters. With your help, we were able to rescue thousands of homeless animals from all over the state and give them the medical and behavioral care they needed. We provided pet owners in need with supplies and access to veterinary care so they could keep their beloved pets with them. And we supported our local shelters by providing resources and expanding our own programs to take in more of their animals.

By supporting Humane Society Silicon Valley this holiday season, you're helping us create a better future for animals and the people who love them. **Thank you for being a part of our safety net!**

With gratitude,



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
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To find out service availability, visit hssv.org/hourslocations

Kona's Spot in the Sun

We are so excited to announce that Kona's Spot in the Sun, our brand-new cat garden, is officially open! Construction began in September 2021 the grand opening took place on April 21, 2022.

The History of HSSV's Garden Cats

Our Garden Cat Adoption Program began many years ago thanks to a generous donation from Fred and Marilyn Anderson that allowed us to build the Fred and Marilyn Anderson Community Cat Garden. The Anderson Community Cat Garden gives unsocial cats a pathway to adoption where they can be cared for (from afar!) by humans and thrive in the environment that suits them best.

Garden Cat "Imposters"

Soon after the creation of the Anderson Garden, though, it became clear that there was a wide range of cats that lived there. Some were truly feral and often hid from human intruders. But others had an affinity for people — they would sometimes approach staff who entered the garden, and even tried to sneak in to our admin offices for attention on occasion.

While these more social cats (who we sometimes affectionately refer to as "imposters") still weren't your average housecats who were content to live inside and constantly soak up human attention, they were open to an indoor/outdoor living arrangement and some love from people.

Kona's Spot Creation

Because of the success of the Garden Cat Adoption



Program, we were thrilled when HSSV donor Suzanne Maas brought us the idea of a special area for these people-social cats who prefer an indoor/outdoor living situation. We designed a space that was safe and provided tons of enrichment. Kona's Spot in the Sun features lots of perches, hiding spots, and even a water feature for both enrichment and

white noise. It's a relaxing spot at the front of our building where visitors can look in the "windows" to see the garden's residents without scaring or interrupting them.

Kona's Spot will house these former "imposters," while the Anderson Garden will continue to be used for traditional garden cats who prefer a purely outdoor environment.

Kona's Spot Grand Opening

On a drizzly day in April, we celebrated the grand opening and commemorated our Community Cat Garden by recognizing the incredible support of Suzanne Maas for Kona's Spot in the Sun, as well as Marilyn Anderson, who paved the way for our first cat garden. Marilyn cut the ribbon, then our team released Izzy, very first cat resident, into Kona's Spot. He spent a few minutes exploring his new habitat while our guests looked on.

We're so grateful for the incredible support of Suzanne and all those who made this new space possible. Come by our Peter Detkin and Michelle Oates Detkin Animal Community Center to see Kona's Spot in the Sun for yourself!



A Twist of Fate for Oliver



Oliver was only five months old when he came to a Central Valley shelter with large, deep wounds across his back and rear legs. We transported him and more than 20 other dogs and puppies to our Detkin/Oates Center so that they could receive the care they needed.



Oliver was just one of more than 3,500 animals transferred in through our Sue and John Diekman Regional Rescue Program program in 2022 who received a second chance thanks to support from friends like you.

Due to the extent of Oliver's wounds, our Medical team put him under anesthesia before cleaning and disinfecting his wounds. They found foxtails throughout his coat and one embedded in his skin and removed those as well. Once his wounds were clean, the team decided he should be sent to a foster home that could help monitor the progress of his healing and keep his wounds clean while he recovered.

The first time Oliver's foster mom Michelle met him, he was nervous and shied away from her touch. "His wound was so big, it even hurt me to look at it," says Michelle. She worried he was going to be terrified of her two dogs at home and that it would take a huge effort to bring him out of his shell.

She was wrong. Within days of bringing Oliver

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home, Michelle saw his true personality come to light. Once he was within the safety of her home, he became bouncy, wiggly, and thrilled to spend time near Michelle and her dogs. Because his wound was still so raw and exposed, she kept him contained in a pen for the first few days and Oliver wore a soft cone around his head to prevent him from aggravating the wound site. The Medical team instructed her not to cover the wound, as the exposure and air circulation would help with the healing. She had to watch him carefully, as Oliver would try to rub his wound sites against various items as it healed and became itchy — the sides of his pen, her couch, even her dogs.

Michelle and Oliver made frequent visits to the Medical Center to check on Oliver’s progress. “The care he received was amazing,” says Michelle. “It really highlighted that fostering



through HSSV is truly a team effort.”

Once Oliver had healed, it was time for him to find his forever home. The first time he met his new parents, Michelle says, was love at first sight. He spent that first meeting snuggled in his new mom’s arms and giving his new dad constant kisses.

We’ll never know what Oliver went through before he came to us. What we do know is that he has a bright, happy future ahead of him. Together with you, we can help so many animals just like Oliver get the second chance they deserve this holiday season.



Giving Yuki Time to Shine

The fluffy white giant hid in the back of his room. Despite his huge stature, the ninety-pound Great Pyrenees mix made himself as small as possible, curled up in a ball. He was shy and nervous.

He came in as a stray, his hair heavily matted. Despite his fear, he was steadfastly gentle when interacting with people and quickly charmed everyone he met. Our staff named him Yuki, meaning snow, because of his beautiful, white coat.

Our Behavior team quickly put a plan in place to build Yuki's confidence. Staff let Yuki warm up to them at his own pace. Our Medical team removed his matted fur and placed him on an anti-anxiety medication. We all paid close attention to him to learn what triggered his stress.

We learned that loud noises, fast movement, and strangers all made him uncomfortable. Yuki's signs of stress were subtle. Rather than whining or pacing, he would lick his lips, turn away gently, or lift one



"He learned that the humans around him were here to help."

paw when he was ready to take a break. If he was too nervous, he would even refuse treats.

Staff and volunteers worked hard to create positive experiences with people, being sure he had time to relax on his own. They would stop by his suite and say hi, talk to him, or simply sit in silence until he trusted them. Short walks each day showed him that people wanted to give him fun things like time outdoors and delicious snacks.

With your generous support, Yuki took all the time he needed to gain confidence. He learned that people around him were there to help. He came to enjoy walks with his favorite people and soaking up sunshine. Yuki even amused his companions by using bushes to scratch his tall back on walks. His goofy grin and softly wagging tail delighted everyone he met.

After a month of steady, encouraging experiences with people, Yuki was ready to find his forever home. His new family adopted him quickly, eager to welcome him into their lives and watch his confidence bloom.

Thanks to donors like you, we can help animals like Yuki let their true personalities shine and find them loving homes.

See more Happy Tails of adopted animals on Facebook and Instagram!

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Kitten Season: The Need for Speed

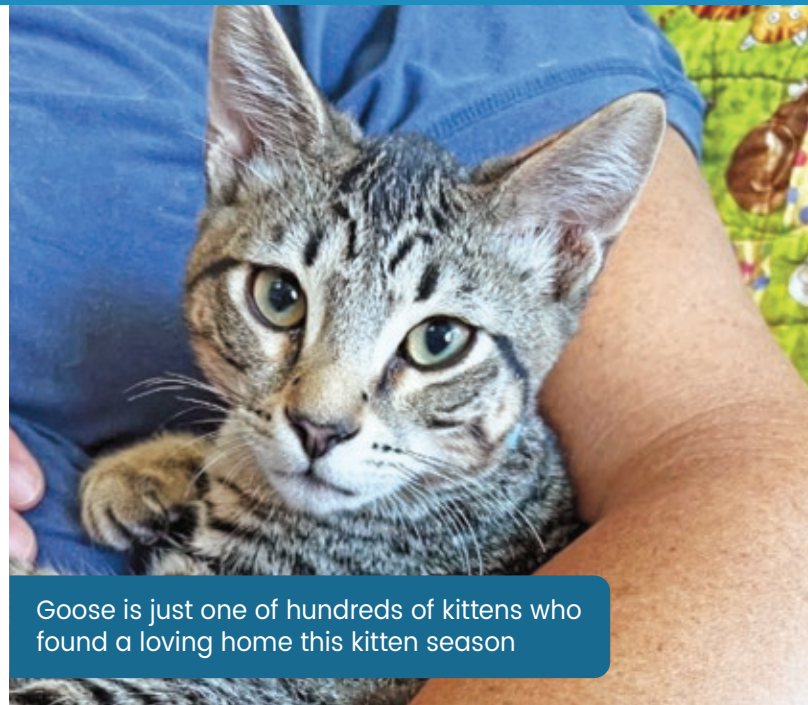
Every year, animal shelters across the nation are flooded with kittens from spring to fall. Santa Clara County, in particular, was impacted by a rush of kittens. We knew kitten season would be challenging for our local partner shelters and prepared to help. Little did we know how great the need would be.

Our goal of taking in 90 extra pets per month quickly grew. At times, we took in over 300 additional cats and dogs per month to support our partners.

A partner shelter told us they had several kittens with ringworm, a highly contagious disease. We leapt into action, transporting a caboodle of kittens to HSSV. One of those litters was the Top Gun litter, consisting of three adorable kittens named Goose, Maverick, and Iceman. They experienced all the ways HSSV innovated to ride this unique kitten season wave.

Thanks to donors like you, we can confidently say yes when partners need help. Your generosity saves lives at HSSV and beyond.

One of the first people the Top Gun kittens met was a Kitten Evaluation Assistant. This new volunteer role speeds up the evaluation of kittens for medical and behavioral needs. That means kittens can be put on treatment plans, placed in foster homes, or made available for adoption as soon as possible.



Goose is just one of hundreds of kittens who found a loving home this kitten season

Our volunteer noticed the Top Gun kittens were coughing and sneezing. They alerted vets, who diagnosed them with upper respiratory infections on top of ringworm. With a treatment plan set, the kittens could go off to a great foster who specializes in helping ringworm kittens.

While Goose, Maverick, and Iceman were learning how to snuggle on laps and play with toys, our teams continued to onboard even more fosters, increasing the capacity of our Shannon Wass and Dan Kelmenson Foster Care Program. For over six months, the Foster team managed over 250 kittens across 100 homes at any given time.

In their foster home, the Top Gun litter developed distinct personalities. Iceman loved to snuggle up at the end of a long day. Goose noisily tumbled down hallways, cracking up his foster family. Maverick was an enthusiastic wrestler. The kittens became loving, playful, and healthy in the three weeks they spent in their foster home. It took no time at all for them to find their new families.

We're able to innovate and meet the needs of our community because of donors like you.

Interested in fostering? Visit hssv.org/foster to learn more.

Meet your new best friend!

Home for the Holidays



To learn more, visit [HSSV.ORG/HOMEFORHOLIDAYS](https://hssv.org/homeforholidays)

Taking Care of Tortellini

Tortellini was in trouble when his owner, Em, brought him to our Detkin/Oates Center. The grey cat was in pain and struggling to urinate, which Em recognized as signs of a urinary blockage.

“My cat Tortellini suffers from a condition called Feline Idiopathic Cystitis, a condition which is unfortunately exacerbated by stress,” Em says. “I am a full time graduate student, so stress levels are high and my income is low, meaning his flare ups can be devastating for us both.”

After seeking initial treatment at an ER, Em brought Tortellini to HSSV for help. **Thanks to compassionate donors like you, we could treat Tortellini and return him to his family.**

“Surrendering Tortellini in such a fragile state was an extremely difficult and emotionally devastating situation for me and my family, but the kindness and reassurance we received from the Humane Society staff brought us so much peace,” Em says.

Our Medical team got to work on Tortellini right away. They placed him on painkillers and gave him antibiotics to treat any infection

“If it weren’t for the incredible work and immense generosity of the Humane Society and its donors, I may have lost my sweet boy,” Em says.



that might be connected to the urinary obstruction. Tortellini received a urinary catheter at the ER, so our staff cleaned it up and made sure it was comfortably in

place. Tortellini’s recovery was just beginning. It took him a few days of treatment to regain an appetite and urinate comfortably. Once he was on the mend, Tortellini became an affectionate patient, eagerly rubbing his face on people’s hands.

A week after his emergency arrival at HSSV, Tortellini was happy, healthy, and ready to go home. Em was overjoyed to have their beloved companion back.

“If it weren’t for the incredible work and immense generosity of the Humane Society and its donors, I may have lost my sweet boy,” Em says.

“Thanks to the amazing work done by the Humane Society, my family can stay together without fear of losing Tortellini to a flare up of his condition.”



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