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For Immediate Release:

Peter N. Detkin Appointed Board Chair of Humane Society Silicon Valley

Detkin succeeds Rebecca Ranninger Owen, lauded for her exceptional leadership and dedication to HSSV.

[Milpitas, CA, Aug. 22, 2023] Humane Society Silicon Valley is pleased to announce the appointment of Peter N. Detkin as Chair of the HSSV Board of Directors. He succeeds Rebecca Ranninger Owen, who served with distinction from January 2020 through June 2023.

Becky Ranninger Owen celebrated for her long-lasting impact



Becky Ranninger Owen at The Fur Ball gala

Humane Society Silicon Valley expresses its deepest gratitude to Becky Ranninger Owen for her exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication as Board Chair. She joined the HSSV Board of Directors in 2017, serving as Chair from January 2020 through June 2023. Becky's strategic vision and formidable experience navigating through change and uncertainty kept the organization on solid footing through the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent challenges.

"During her tenure as Board Chair, Becky gave a master class in servant leadership while adeptly guiding HSSV through unprecedented and turbulent times," Krukenberg said. "Becky is the personification of our organizational values: kindness, courage, and impact."

Despite the difficulties of the past few years, her tenure saw significant gifts from the Detkin/Oates, Diekman, Claudio, Wass/Kelmenson, and Marcus families – each of which has immensely expanded HSSV’s reach and impact. “Becky has been a tireless advocate with the donors, board, and staff who together have built the foundation for an ambitious future,” Krukenberg said. “Even during the most difficult times, she kept HSSV focused on the immediate needs of our community without losing sight of game-changing opportunities to create a better future for pets and their people.”

In her previous professional life, Becky served as Executive Vice President of Human Resources at Symantec Corporation. In that role, she managed the planning, direction, and implementation of Symantec’s global personnel programs and policies for over 22,000 employees and participated in the overall executive management of the company. She acted as secretary and corporate liaison for the Symantec Compensation Committee, which dealt with all aspects of employee, executive, and board of director compensation, and served as President of the Symantec Foundation, which administered Symantec’s charitable activities.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Becky is a lifelong animal advocate. When she is not at home spoiling Cloe, her pampered elderly feline diva, she can often be found volunteering at HSSV socializing cats and kittens. Becky said, “It has been an incredible honor to be part of this wonderful organization that supports so many vulnerable animals and people. I could not be more grateful to have served with such a passionate and talented team, knowing that together we could make a profound difference in the lives of others.”

“On behalf of our board, staff, volunteers, and community, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Becky for her service, dedication, and accomplishments,” Krukenberg said. “Her enduring legacy will save lives and keep families together for generations to come.”

HSSV welcomes new Board Chair Peter Detkin



Peter Detkin with his wife Michelle Oates Detkin and their adopted dog Chloe

Humane Society Silicon Valley is enthusiastic to have Peter Detkin take the helm as the organization embarks upon its next chapter. “Peter is a visionary leader whose experience spans the corporate and nonprofit sectors, making him uniquely positioned to guide HSSV to the next level of impact,” said HSSV President Kurt Krukenberg. “In addition to his unrivaled determination to find innovative solutions for tough problems, Peter has boundless passion for animal welfare and social justice. He shares my excitement and ambition to change the game for pets and their people, here in Silicon Valley and beyond.”

Peter served a previous six-year term on HSSV’s Board of Directors starting in 2015. According to Peter and Michelle, “Bringing a pet into a home makes a family whole. Every pet deserves a family, and every family deserves a pet.”

In accepting the appointment on July 1, Peter expressed his deep commitment to HSSV’s mission, history of innovation, and ongoing leadership in shelter medicine and operations. As Chair, Peter will work closely with HSSV’s board and executive team to provide strategic guidance and ensure effective governance. Peter said, “HSSV wants to ensure that all animals can thrive, all people experience the magic of the human-animal bond, and all families are able to care for their pets. I am honored to play a part in making this vision a reality.”

“Over the past three years, Becky has taken the organization to new heights and established an inspiring vision, mission, and strategic priorities for the future. I have full confidence that under Peter’s leadership, HSSV will continue to build on this foundation and improve the lives of countless pets and people,” Krukenberg said.

Peter is a founder at Intellectual Ventures, where he focuses on a variety of projects relating to intellectual property and invention. Intellectual Asset Management recently named him the second most influential “IP market maker” in the world. He is also a Managing Director at Sherpa Technology Group, providing strategy and M&A services for technology and IP. Peter and Michelle reside in Los Altos Hills with their son, and their family includes Chloe, the dog (an HSSV alum), and three cats: Joey (an HSSV alum), Danica (an HSSV alum), and Blake.

Peter is joined by Vice-Chair Sally Hazard Bourgoin, Treasurer Christy Richardson, and Secretary Alison Buchanan as officers of the board. The entire HSSV team extends a warm welcome to Peter and looks forward to the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

About Humane Society Silicon Valley

The mission of Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) is to save lives, keep families together, and create a better future for pets and their people. Established in 1929, HSSV has adopted more than 500,000 animals into permanent, loving homes. In 2017, the Peter Detkin and Michelle Oates Detkin Animal Community Center became the first model shelter meeting the 547 guidelines set forth by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. HSSV is a privately funded, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves the community in Santa Clara County and beyond. As an independent organization, HSSV is not affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States, ASPCA, or state and federal government entities. For more information, visit [HSSV.org](https://www.hssv.org).

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