



All Things Pawsible

SEPTEMBER
2023

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Bonbon's Got a Secret

If you met Bonbon now, you'd have no idea he carries a secret within his body. This pup (now named Cooper) is an energetic goofball! “I don't think I have ever had a dog with such a unique personality,” says Rhonda Kunnath, HSSV staff member and Bonbon's new mom.

But when he arrived at HSSV, he looked like he'd been hit by a car. He couldn't bear any weight on his rear leg, and our vets determined his hip would need surgical repair. But before they could perform surgery, they discovered Bonbon's first

secret: he had a parasite called Anaplasma. Ticks transmit this parasite when they attach themselves to a dog's skin. Surgery would have to wait until Bonbon's condition cleared up. Fortunately, one of our loving foster families took him home, giving Bonbon the dedicated care and attention he needed while taking a course of antibiotics. Once the infection had cleared, he was ready for the complicated surgery he needed to repair his hip.

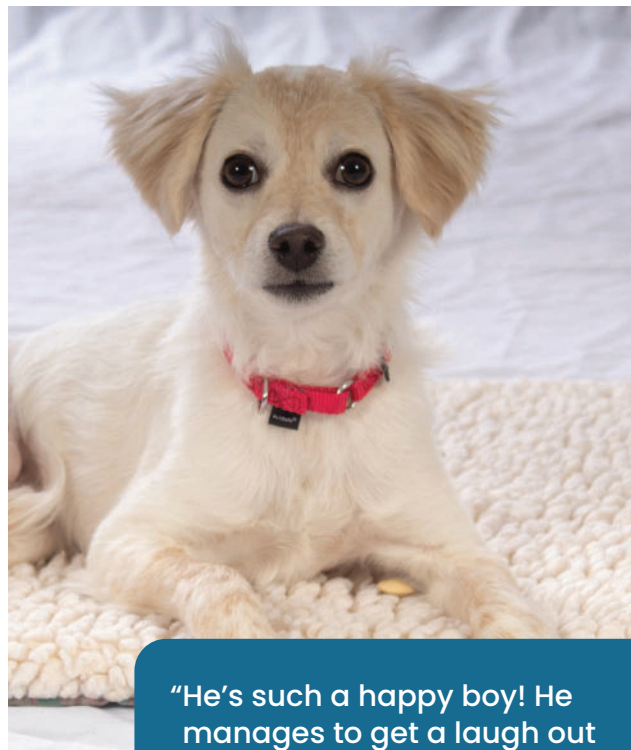
Our vets removed Bonbon's femoral head and neck allowing the right hip joint to heal

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as a “false joint.” Normally, the procedure is followed by months of physical therapy and a mild limp. But Bonbon had other plans. Just a few days after surgery, he decided it was time to be a regular puppy with the secret of his false joint hidden to the outside world.

“It was incredible to watch his recovery!” Rhonda says. “The weeks went by, and he grew stronger on that right rear leg. The amazing vets here at HSSV said that the more he used it, the faster he would recover. Being the energetic puppy he is, he just wanted to play, and boy did he play a lot!” Now, Bonbon shows no signs of his past injury, and his secret is safe with us.

“He’s such a happy boy! He manages to get a laugh out of us every single day,” says Rhonda.



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Kittens! Kittens! Kittens! Oh, My!



“Not every kitten has the same needs”

It’s kitten season! And for Michelle Suarez, Rescue and Animal Movement Manager for our Diekman Regional Rescue Program, that means a lot of coordination. Our local partner shelters have been overflowing with kittens and putting out calls for help. “We’re constantly prioritizing our capacity to help — not every kitten has the same needs,” Michelle says.

She and Matthew, our transport assistant, pick up kittens by the vanful in our Rescue Roadster. “We let our medical team know how many kittens we’re bringing in and how many need to be ready to send to foster by the end of the day, and that allows us to maximize our space.” Thanks to our network of foster families through

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the Wass-Kelmenson Foster Program, we quickly place healthy kittens who just need a little more time to grow. And thanks to our medical facilities and talented vets, we give kittens the medical care they need when partner shelters lack resources.

On a recent trip to a partner shelter, Michelle came across a tiny fluffball with a massive eye full of pus. She took photos of his eye to show our vets, hoping we had the capacity to take him. After our vets gave the okay, Matthew picked him up that same day. Our medical team gave him the necessary care to stop his infection from spreading, likely saving his life. Now, that kitten is in a foster home where he'll get a little older and gain a little bit of weight before being neutered and adopted.

With warm weather lasting longer, kitten season is lasting longer too. And the overcrowding crisis we're all facing is not ending anytime soon. Thankfully, our HSSV teams and our network of foster

families are doing everything they can to provide care and find homes for all the kittens who come through our doors.



Give a gift *fur* them

Help us care for all the kittens coming through our doors this kitten season.



Scan to give online:
hssv.org/gift

Meeting Our Community Where They Are

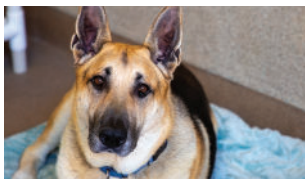
The best place for a pet is in the loving arms of their owner. So when our community needs support, we do what we can to ensure that love stays where it belongs. Over the past two years, that support has been coming in the form of our community clinics, which provide vet care for families in need. Due to the significant need for pet care in our community, we've been ramping up our services for the past 18 months. Last month, we held 16 clinics — both onsite and mobile — so we could be where our community needed us. We offer Wellness Clinics, which provide wellness exams and preventive check-up services, like vaccines, with our vets, and Spay and Neuter Clinics. "Trust is such a critical part of community building. When families bring their pets to one of our clinics and talk with one of our vets, we want to ensure they have a positive experience, so they want to come back when their animal needs care," says Katie Blevins, our Community Program Manager.



We're also actively expanding HSSV's Pet Pantry program by partnering with other human service organizations that provide food, housing, and other social services. Our goal is to meet people in our community where they are. "If you visit your weekly food pantry to pick up milk and veggies, you should also be able to feed your pet family members at the same time," Katie explains. We served 655,000 meals this last year. Due to the need we saw in our community during the program's first year, we're doubling our number of community partners and hoping to serve 1 million meals this next year.

Get Involved

You are an important part of our community! Looking to do more for the animals? Here are a few ways to get involved:



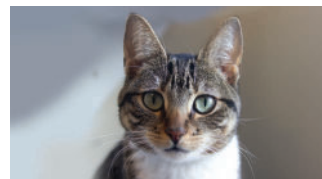
Donate

Make a tax-deductible gift that saves lives with a ripple effect across California.



Volunteer

Share your time and give some of our animals extra love and attention.



Foster

Join our network of foster families and be there for animals when they need you most.



Pet Pantry

Support your neighbors in need by stocking our pet pantry with food for their pets.

Visit our website to learn more: hssv.org

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



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

Get social with us!



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