



# All Things Pawsible

SPRING  
2025



Jones is just one of over **20 specialty surgeries** we've partnered on since the fire

## Saving Lives

# Jones's Own Stem Cells Speed His Recovery

With a fractured left radius and forearm, Jones clearly had a tough time — yet he was still a lovable little scamp who wiggled with unrestrained joy whenever anyone came near. One of our partner shelters contacted us when they realized he needed the type of extensive medical care that HSSV excels at. Once he was transferred to us, our skilled veterinary orthopedic surgeon stabilized Jones's leg using a bone plate and screws, and he came through his surgery like a champ.

Over the next few weeks, we were concerned that Jones wasn't healing as quickly as he should. Our team examined

the pup and knew just what Jones needed to give him a boost and speed his recovery: a bone marrow transplant to the fracture site.

Just before Jones's scheduled procedure, the December 16 fire destroyed our entire medical center — and compromised all our lifesaving medical equipment. Our team quickly mobilized to relocate important services and find a way to continue providing critical care for animals in need. That's when we contacted Veterinary Emergency Group San Jose and they graciously opened their facility to partner with us on Jones' journey to recovery.

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This innovative procedure used the regenerative power of the stem cells in Jones's own bone marrow to accelerate healing. By extracting a small amount of his bone marrow and injecting it into the fracture site, the stem cells helped repair



damaged tissue, promote new cell growth, and reduce inflammation — all working together to speed healing. It wasn't long before Jones was back to his playful antics, completely pain-free. What's more, his foster family found the charming little gentleman irresistible and decided to make him a permanent part of their family.

In the fire's aftermath, HSSV faced unprecedented challenges. Yet our medical team rose to the occasion, continuing to deliver exceptional care to animals in need. Their dedication transformed a potential crisis into Jones's success story, and countless more like it.

## Saving Lives

# All Paws on Deck for Kitten Season

It might sound cute, but “Kitten Season” is a critical time for stray mother cats and their newborn litters.

With spring's warmer weather, an average of 1,000 kittens arrive at HSSV each year between April and June — all needing care and loving homes. Some are found in backyards and alleyways, brought in by good Samaritans who know these vulnerable kittens will be safe with us. Others are transported by our Rescue Team, which works with partner shelters to alleviate their feline overpopulation.

These adult cats and days-old kittens need our help in a myriad of ways — from medical testing to expert surgery to postpartum care and grooming. Thanks to our animal-loving



community, we're *all paws on deck* to prepare these felines for foster care and adoption!

To help alleviate overpopulation — one of the underlying causes of kitten

season — our Community Cat Program runs all year long. In 2024, through our targeted Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, we identified and altered 200 stray cat colonies and a total of nearly 2,600 cats! TNR is the most effective strategy to reduce community cat overpopulation and increase the quality of life for outdoor cats.

## If you find kittens, here are some helpful tips:

- Avoid touching them immediately. Observe from a distance to see if the mother is nearby.
- If the mother doesn't return after a few hours, contact your local animal shelter for advice.
- If you need to move the kittens, handle gently and place them in a warm, safe, quiet place.
- Visit [hssv.org/found-kittens](https://hssv.org/found-kittens) for more information.

## Foster Heroes

# Foster Heroes Save the Day — Every Day

“Whether a foster volunteer takes in an animal that isn’t quite ready for adoption, or provides medical care until an animal is well enough for adoption, or simply gives an animal a break from shelter life — they play a huge role at HSSV,” says Crystal Swan, our Foster Program Manager. Foster volunteers help determine if an animal can be around other dogs, cats, children, and the elderly. They can also learn more about individual personality traits and help animals adjust to what it is like to live in a home. All of this information helps HSSV match animals with the right adopters.

After the December 16 fire, the role of our foster program became even more important because 70% of our cat housing and 80% of our dog housing was rendered unusable. We had to rally our foster community quickly — and they rose to the occasion! Within 48 hours, fosters had taken in 107 animals. “Right now, we can only commit to bringing in the number of animals that we have fosters for,”



In the two months following the fire, **we sent 356 animals to foster homes** — 60% of all animals that arrived — compared to 30% during that period the prior year.

Crystal explains, “so the more foster homes we have, the more animals we can take in from our partner shelters.” Our foster volunteers literally make our lifesaving work possible, and for that we are extraordinarily grateful.

Are you interested in becoming a foster volunteer? By opening your home temporarily to an animal in need, you provide them with a safe and loving environment until they find that perfect match. And as we rebuild, you would be directly affecting how many animals we can save this year. Learn more at [hssv.org/foster](https://hssv.org/foster).



## Home to Home: An Innovative New Program Builds Momentum

An exciting new program that allows people to adopt a dog or cat directly from their foster home has really taken off! The Home to Home program enables dogs and cats to stay with their foster parents until they are adopted, resulting in:

- **Less stress:** Staying in a familiar home environment minimizes anxiety
- **Better adoption matches:** First-hand insight into the pet’s personality
- **Expanded capacity:** Ability to connect more animals with adopters
- **Smoother experience:** More informed decisions for successful placements

Learn more: [hssv.org/home-to-home](https://hssv.org/home-to-home)



# Sue and John Diekman Honored at The Fur Ball

As two of our most passionate supporters, Sue and John Diekman have had a transformative impact on HSSV's ability to fulfill its mission. "Our commitment to HSSV is inspired by its exemplary work saving lives, keeping families together, and reaching deep into underserved communities with free or affordable veterinary care."

Sue served on HSSV's Board from 2008-2017 and from 2018-2024, and was Board Chair from 2012-2017. John has been on the Honorary Board since 2008. Sue and John served as Co-Chairs of the "Paint a Better Future" campaign, which guided HSSV's future growth by raising almost \$60 million and helping establish HSSV as the world's first Model Shelter. Their legacy lives on through our Regional Rescue program that proudly bears their name. At The Fur Ball 2025, we're

proud to honor these two visionary people to show our deep gratitude for their dedication and decades of support.



*Sue and John Diekman pictured with their beloved pups*



## Committed Supporters Help Make Giving Day a Rousing Success

A group of generous donors pledged a total of \$150,000 to match individual gifts during HSSV's first Giving Day campaign. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of our entire community, the campaign surpassed its goal — raising over \$300,000 from nearly 700 individual donors!



**Becky Ranninger Owen**

"I am deeply passionate about helping pets and people. It is a great honor to inspire others to join me in this mission by being part of Giving Day!"



**Florence Bass**

"A pet gives you unconditional love and undying loyalty. They deserve our care. Helping an animal be healthy and find its forever home is why I support HSSV."



**Bob Overby and David Salice**

"There is satisfaction in knowing that our contribution makes a difference. Participating in a matching funds drive allows you to feel the impact of your generosity in real time!"

## Keeping Families Together

# An Unbroken Bond of Love: Alex and D.O.G.

Meet Alex Portillio and his loyal companion D.O.G.! An 81-year-old native of San Jose, Alex experienced homelessness for several years, living in his vehicle with his pit bull D.O.G. until he got the opportunity to move into a supportive housing community for seniors that allowed pets. He was excited he could bring D.O.G. with him, because he wouldn't abandon his best friend, "If they didn't accept dogs here, I wouldn't be here. I won't get rid of him for nothing."

HSSV's Pet Pantry provides free pet food and supplies to thousands of low- or no-income and homebound pet owners like Alex and D.O.G. — delivering as many as 30,000 meals a month. Now, with a roof over their heads and full bellies, Alex and D.O.G. are thriving in their new home. They go for long walks together, without the worries that they faced before.



Alex knows that HSSV is committed to keeping families like his together — and making sure D.O.G. has what he needs.

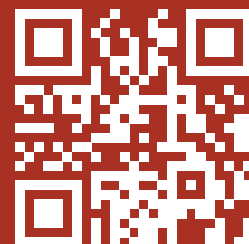
**1.3 Million Meals Served!** Our Pet Pantry program continues to make an impact on lives. In January, we hit a major milestone — Alex and D.O.G. were the recipients of our millionth meal served to pets and families with our partner PATH Villas, an organization that provides transitional, emergency, and supportive housing throughout Santa Clara County.



## Support Fire Relief Efforts

We're still in the process of making repairs following December's fire. Please make a tax-deductible gift to help us recover and ensure we can continue to give every animal the very best care possible.

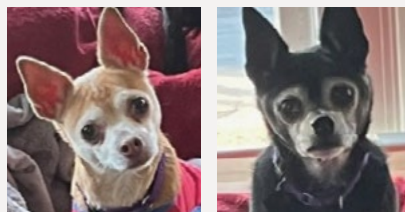
**Give now: [hssv.org/gift](https://hssv.org/gift)**



## Pet Guardianship

# Ensuring Your Pets Future: Molly and Cole's Story

For pets like Molly and Cole, the loss of an owner can be catastrophic, resulting in separation, abandonment, or being left to fend for themselves. But these two cuties didn't have to worry because their mom had planned for her beloved pets' future safety and happiness by enrolling them in HSSV's Pet Guardianship program. She filled out HSSV's simple form that included their medical history and other important information — even stipulating that they only be placed as a bonded pair. Anyone who names HSSV as a beneficiary in their will or trust, life insurance policy, IRA, or account can enroll their pets in this program. And like Molly and Cole's mom, those enrolled in the Pet Guardianship program gain complete peace of mind that their beloved pets will be safe and cared for no matter what.



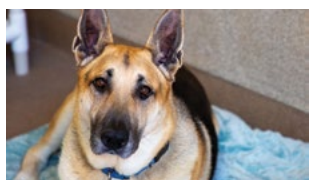
After their mom passed away, Molly and Cole came to HSSV and received expert medical

care, enrichment, and companionship while they were with us. Soon we found the pair a loving home where they could thrive together. Now, Molly and Cole are treasured by a new family who loves them fiercely.

To find out more about our Pet Guardianship program, or to enroll your pet, please contact Megan Guzman at **408-942-3008** or [megan.guzman@hssv.org](mailto:megan.guzman@hssv.org).

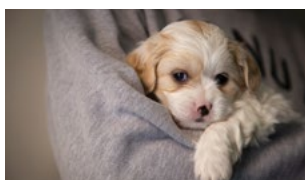
## Get Involved

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.



### Feed Pets

Support your neighbors in need by stocking our Pet Pantry with food for their pets.

Visit our website to learn more: [hssv.org](https://hssv.org)

**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

Get social with us!



@humanesocietyssv

To find out service availability, visit [hssv.org/hourslocations](https://hssv.org/hourslocations)



We always use donations wisely. Humane Society Silicon Valley is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our tax ID is: 94-1196215