FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello Fellow Animal Lovers,

The last six months have been an exciting time for the Santa Cruz SPCA!

One of the most thrilling changes has been the launch of our behavior and enrichment program (page #6). This new organizational facet ensures that we are maximizing the adoptability of all our animals while simultaneously working to find their forever homes as quickly as possible. With the help of our behavior staff and volunteers, we are actively working to modify many of the behaviors that typically cause animals to be considered less adoptable and we are seeing wonderful results -- including new homes!

We are all overjoyed to be able to meet the needs of animals who require extra socialization, training, medical care, time, or management. And we could not do it alone! Only through the commitment of our supporters are we able to do this important work. Turn to page #4 to read about a few lives that have been positively impacted by your generosity.

Want even more exciting news? We are now in the third round of permit review for our new building -- which means we are closer than ever to our forever home! Things are speeding up in that department and we are hopeful to begin the construction phase very soon.

As we enter into Holiday Season 2018, particularly during the month of November, I hope you choose to take advantage of our matching funds in order to maximize any gift you are able to give during this critical time. Needless to say our 4-legged -- and 2-legged- friends are incredibly grateful!

Happy Holidays to all!

Abbi Davis
Interim Executive Director

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**Crux | Formerly ‘Marty’**

We met Crux in September 2017. Back then, he seemed very mellow and shy. He spent most of the ride home shaking but soon after we brought him home, he got comfortable and was asking for belly rubs. In the past year, he’s gone from being afraid of many big dogs to wanting to play with almost every dog we meet! He’s made us into more responsible pawrents -- taking us on hikes and making camping trips extra fun. He has brought so much love and happiness into our family! Thank you SCSPCA!

Yuliya V.

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**Tali | Formerly ‘Raisin’**

Everything with Tali is going wonderfully! She’s healthy, well behaved, and VERY playful -- when she’s not sleeping on top of me. She’s still learning that she can’t attack my toes when I’m in bed (especially after we finish playing). But, honestly, she’s just so perfect. I’ve been sleeping better than ever since adopting her. Thank you for entrusting me with her care!

Josh S.

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**Annie**

Formerly ‘Piper’

We could not imagine life without Annie -- she’s the ultimate family dog and has brought us so much joy. Annie is friends with everyone and at least two other families found true love at the SCSPCA after meeting her at our home. She’s a true adoption ambassador and the perfect fit for our family. Thank you for bringing Annie into our lives!

Robert and Heather M.

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**Auggie**

Formerly ‘Gerwin’

A little Halloween love -- Ava and Auggie all dressed up. Auggie is doing incredibly well and we ALL love him to the moon and back. He is the best dog EVER. Sending our love to you, all the animals waiting for forever homes, and the entire staff at SCSPCA!

Tiffany T.
Hugs and Kisses Deserved Care

The lives of two adorable puppies were hanging in the balance because of a highly contagious skin condition. Hugs and Kisses had a severe case of Ringworm, the dreaded follicular fungus. They were being housed at another shelter where, in order to prevent the spread of ringworm, there was no other option but to euthanize any animals showing symptoms. Even with huge patches of hair missing, eight-week-old Hugs and Kisses were happy-go-lucky puppies who were otherwise healthy. The thought of their lives ending over a treatable condition was heartbreaking. Because you stand up for the animals in our community, we had the resources to pull them from danger and get them the care they deserved. The treatment for Ringworm is long and arduous but a few months of medication, stinky baths, and meticulous sanitation is worth the lifetime of love that they will now have the chance to give and receive – thanks to you!

Kaboo Deserved a Chance

Kaboo was adopted out as a four-pound puppy and returned as a 60 pound three-year-old. She was aggressive with other dogs and had started growling and lunging at strangers. Given this information, most shelters would have opted to euthanize – but we felt we owed her another chance. But before we could safely place her into a home, her serious behavior had to be addressed. Because of your support, we were able to find an appropriate foster for Kaboo and had the resources to hire a specialized trainer to work through the troublesome behavior. Soon, the dog who could not safely greet another dog, was actually living peacefully with one – and also training, off-leash, side-by-side, with more than 35 others on a weekly basis! Kaboo even began greeting strangers with a wiggly body and wagging tail. A perfectly matched mamma came along at just the right time, and a love match was made. All she needed was a chance, and as a friend of the SCSPCA -- you gave it to her!
As soon as Poppy arrived, we knew her babies would be born any day. Her swollen belly swayed to and fro, her nipples leaked milk, and she immediately began nesting into the soft blankets of her new bed. She had been roaming on a strawberry farm for weeks, outside in the cold — terrified and alone. Now she was safe and secure at the SCSPCA and she knew it. Because less than an hour later, the first of three babies was born! That night she nestled in tight — within a clean, warm, and cozy nest — nursing her new babies to sleep. Your support enabled us to give Poppy shelter in the nick of time, when she needed it most. She and her babies will now spend the next few months in a loving foster home until they are ready to be adopted into forever homes.

Jazz made the trek from Napa County Animal Services to the Santa Cruz SPCA last October during the wildfires. He had been in their shelter since July and, in order to make space for fire evacuees, we took Jazz and ten other animals into our care. This beautiful black and white cat was a very sensitive soul and shelter life, surrounded by other cats, proved hard on him. He was unhappy and he let us know it by growling and hissing at anyone who approached. In the hopes of lowering his stress level, we moved Jazz into an unused part of the facility where he could be away from other cats and have a larger space to stretch out and relax. It only took a week for us to see a completely different cat emerge — one who freely showed affection and relished in human attention. Seven long months went by and then, along came a man looking for a cat to love. Who did he set his adoption sites on? Jazz! The rest is match-made-in-heaven history. Because of your consistent and caring gifts, we can give animals like Jazz as much time as they need in order to find the love they deserve.
Did you know that the number one reason dogs are surrendered to shelters is because of problematic behavior issues? The majority of which are normal behaviors – behaviors that are no different than those we might see in a neighbor’s dog, a dog at the beach, or even our own! The difference in a shelter dog is, that in many cases, no one has shown them a more acceptable way to behave and they’ve been given up on.

Once the dog enters the shelter system, it is just as important to pay attention to their behavioral health as it is to address the dog’s physical health. That’s why the Santa Cruz SPCA has launched a new (and growing!) Behavior Program to address those behavior issues in order to promote success in their next home – and even while at the shelter. This new program focuses on both the enrichment of the animals during their shelter stay and the development and implementation of behavior modification plans for dogs experiencing a behavioral challenge. Through positive reinforcement techniques, our behavior team works with dogs who struggle with issues ranging from guarding, reactivity, and fear -- to hyper-activity, mouthiness, and anxiety.

Along with working with the animals daily, our behavior team meets weekly for “rounds” to discuss the progress of animals currently in the behavior program and to evaluate new enrichment ideas for the rest of our animal population as they await their new homes.

We are always working to make the SCSPCA a safer, happier, and more welcoming place where animals thrive and the adoption experience is successful for all. Would you like to join our efforts by becoming a behavior and training volunteer? Please visit the volunteer section of our website, www.spcasc.org, to read about how to get started!

Her name might be Cat but she’s got something special for the dogs! Since becoming a volunteer over a year ago, Cat Tomlinson has quickly become our go-to gal for giving TLC and enrichment to the dogs that need a little extra. She has a truly extraordinary way with our most behaviorally challenged dogs – the most fearful, the most dominant – the pups who have a little longer to go on their journey toward socialization. Cat works regularly with our behavior team to help our shelter animals be their best selves. She sees beyond even the most acute behavioral challenges and is able to develop a kinship with the animal at their core, believing that each dog has a shining personality that will come through if you pay attention to the signals that he or she communicates. Because of this fact, she agrees that there is a home out there for every pup, it just takes a little (or a lot of) patience, understanding, and time. When asked her favorite part of volunteering with the Santa Cruz SPCA, Cat’s answer is simple: “it makes my heart happy.” It’s pretty clear that, with her, the dogs feel the same way. Thank you Cat!
This year’s entries from the annual Santa Cruz SPCA Poster Contest blew us away! Following the theme of “Love Is A Four-Legged Word,” students throughout Santa Cruz County submitted their masterpieces, from which our judging panel selected a winner for each age group – no easy task when choosing between over 300 mini-Monet and kiddo-Klimts!

Poster Contest WINNERS

KINDER GRADE WINNER
Gianna V. - Twin Lakes Christian School

1ST GRADE WINNER
Stella Flint - Pacific Elementary

2ND GRADE WINNER
Quinn Schromm - Happy Valley Elementary

3RD GRADE WINNER
Lemi Anastasopoulos - Del Mar Elementary

4TH GRADE WINNER
Alexandra - Good Shepherd Catholic

OVERALL WINNER - 9TH GRADE
Jessica Norris - Santa Cruz High School

5TH GRADE WINNER
Charlotte Nielsen - Art Lab

Enjoy THEM ALL!

Enjoy many of our poster contest entries all year long! Each calendar donation supports the Santa Cruz SPCA’s Humane Education program, which is responsible for our classroom presentations, summer and winter camps, junior volunteer programs, and, of course, our annual poster contest!

Please consider a $15 donation for one of our 2019 calendars in support of our Humane Education programs. Calendars can be purchased at our Adoption Center and Gift Shop in the Capitola Mall or online, www.spcasc.org (click the “Poster Contest” tab in the Humane Education section).
**SANTA CRUZ PRIDE 2018**
The SCSPCA was loud and proud at **Santa Cruz Pride 2018**! Adoptable pups in rainbow gear – it might not get much cuter than that!

**HUMAN RACE 2018**
**Human Race 2018** was a BLAST! Team SCSPCA had more than 25 members and, with over 150 individual gifts, we raised nearly $14,000 -- well over our $10,000 goal!

**SANTA CRUZ MAKE AND PLAY DAYS**
The SCSPCA partnered with the **Santa Cruz MAH** for the fun and interactive MAKE and PLAY days! Photo booths, toy making, training demo, lick station – oh my!

**Don’t FORGET**
Good eats and lots of treats! Get your sunny-day shopping done at Deluxe Foods of Aptos — one of our long-time community partners! They’ll have everything you need for beach snacks, park picnics, and backyard BBQ’s — from staples to hard-to-find gourmet specialties. If you mention the Santa Cruz SPCA at checkout, 5% of your sale will be donated to help the animals!