FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Santa Cruz SPCA,

Do you ever feel like there are moments of time when things come together — those cloud parting, sun shining moments? I do, and I’m feeling one of those moments right now. So many exciting pieces are falling into place, and I’m beyond thrilled to have joined this ingenious team and extraordinary organization at such a momentous time.

In this edition of Companion, you’re going to read about how, after many years of planning and dreaming, we’ve finally broken ground on our new animal shelter. The bulldozers are rolling, we’ve got hard hats ready for site tours, and our team is working on plans to move our animals and our operations to the new facility. For me, the biggest excitement is thinking of how this new facility -- this forever home -- will allow us to save more animal lives!

Achieving the milestone of breaking ground is a win for our entire community. In whichever way you support the Santa Cruz SPCA — whether it’s volunteering your time, giving financially, sending your kids to our camp or other youth programs, or adopting one of our animals — you are a part of this exciting new phase of our organization’s continued growth. And, we’re not done yet! Now, more than ever, we need your contribution to help us finish this project and open a new shelter for generations of future animals in need. I can’t wait for that extraordinary moment when we open our front doors for the first time!

Alongside all the planning and construction, our regular operations continue. Right now, our Humane Education team is getting their ducks in a row for what is guaranteed to be a fantastic Summer Camp season (real ducks may or may not actually attend). Our Adoptions and Animal Care teams have been having a TON of really special adoptions lately with many of our staff and volunteer favorites finding their forever families. You’ll read about just a few of those Happy Tails stories on page 2. Our Volunteer team has been hard at work on some great enhancements to our programs. I’m really excited about these changes because they are going to help us leverage and appreciate our volunteers even more than we currently do (which is already a tremendous amount). I’ve got to tell you, although I’m new to the Santa Cruz SPCA, I’ve been working in and with animal shelters for nearly 25-years. With all that experience under my belt, I can honestly say I am so impressed with this team and the feats of ingenuity I see accomplished on a daily basis for the animals.

Thank you for welcoming me into this community and the Santa Cruz SPCA family. I’m truly looking forward to our sun shining future, getting to know our community, working collectively to give safe harbor to more-and-more animals in need, and saving more lives in our community, and beyond!

Woofs and meows,

Alison “Ali” Talley, Executive Director

---

Main Shelter
Tues - Sun 11 am - 6 pm
2685 Chanticleer Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95065
(P) 831-465-5000
(F) 831-479-8530
info@spcasc.org

SPCA Mall Adoption Center & Gift Shop
Wed - Sun 11 am - 5:30 pm
(Target Wing)
1855 41st Ave.
Capitola, CA 95010
(P) 831-477-7886

Board of Directors
Moir Gagen, President
Terrie Sima, Vice President
Nina Mar Burnette, Secretary
Sheri Billings, Treasurer
Members
Deborah Walt
David Kunis
Hedy Nochimson

SCSPCA Team
Alison “Ali” Talley
Executive Director
Mandi Hart
Shelter Manager
Brenna Ewing
Humane Education & Volunteer Program Manager
Sydney Lindquist
Humane Education
Sarah K. Michael
Liz Senteney
Liz Smith
Shelter Adoptions

Shawn Shellard
SPCA Mall Adoption Center
Ana Cortez
Jordan Raulsten
Joe Silva
Animal Care Team
Savannah Jones
Administration
Petra Woosley
Behavior
Luiza Cortez
Patricia Espinoza
Facilities
My fiancé and I came to Santa Cruz to visit my parents in the summer of 2017 and ended up adopting a sweet 5-month-old old kitten who we named Harry Pouncer (left in the photo). A few months later, we got him a sister from the East Bay SPCA named Freyja. Harry and Freyja truly act like they’re siblings. They love snuggling and playing together. We have purchased an unknown number of fake mice to satiate Harry’s constant need to play, all of which have been lost beneath the couch. His favorite toy, however, is the laser pointer, which he will attack with both paws in rapid succession. Our friends have lovingly named him Thunderpaw. He has tried to befriend all of our contractors; he’s “helped” install floors, windows, a garbage disposal, and even assisted the notary with signing the closing docs for our home. He enjoys sprawling on top of my books while I’m reading, and repeatedly walking across our keyboards. Most of all he is enjoying his life and we feel so fortunate to be a part of it every day. Thanks for finding Harry for us!

– Katie and Dave L.

We got our Lulu a few years ago from the SCSPCA as a five-year-old who previously had a litter of puppies. She is literally the cuddliest mamma dog ever and has now taken to mothering my two children. This is her with our 10-day-old daughter. Lulu also lays with our son after a seizure – providing much needed comfort and calming. She really is an amazing dog!

– Jennie B.

I adopted Adeline back in February of 2018 and she is doing so well! She is my favorite buddy. She loves cuddling with us and charms the pants off of everyone she meets. She is truly my angel and I’m so thankful for her!

– Shannon G.
After years of dreaming, planning, and strategizing, we have finally broken ground – and our vision of a forever home for the Santa Cruz SPCA is becoming a reality!

Bulldozers are rolling; we’re poring over paint chips and tile samples; and you can feel the excitement and anticipation in the air.

**Time To Celebrate - We Have Broken Ground**

After years of dreaming, planning, and strategizing, we have finally broken ground – and our vision of a forever home for the Santa Cruz SPCA is becoming a reality! Bulldozers are rolling; we’re poring over paint chips and tile samples; and you can feel the excitement and anticipation in the air.

**Time To Move On - Why We Need a New Shelter**

If you’ve ever visited us at our existing shelter on Chanticleer Avenue, you already understand the need for a new shelter. Every aspect of our operation takes place within a 1,200-square-foot rented facility that was never intended to be an animal shelter. This makeshift, outdated facility is in a state of serious disrepair — and it can no longer be cost-effectively fixed or made functional through our usual creative workarounds.

The animals have always received exceptional care despite these many challenges, thanks to the amazing dedication and resourcefulness of staff and volunteers. But current best practices in shelter management just aren’t possible in a building as old as ours.

Bottom line, the current facility not only hinders our future growth, but also threatens current operations — and it must be replaced.
The 7,092-square-foot forever home that we are building for the Santa Cruz SPCA will be nearly six times the size of the current facility – with features that support animal rescue best practices, and room to save more animals, engage more people, and unleash more possibilities!

And the moving trucks won’t have far to go, as the new shelter will be just a few paces down the street from our current facility!

Features will include:

- 3,500 square feet of modern, low-stress animal habitats
- Room for cats to climb and dogs to play
- Dedicated areas to treat animals during medical assessment and recovery
- Space for animals and visitors to get acquainted
- A multi-purpose room for our humane education and other youth programs, as well as trainings, speaker events, community receptions and other events!
- A warm, welcoming, positive shelter experience for all our visitors – feline, canine, and human!

Time To Celebrate - We Have Broken Ground

We can’t wait to move into our beautiful new digs and invite you to visit! We have come so far in our long journey to build a new shelter, but we still have many miles to go.

Generous early investors have provided more than half the funds we need to build our new facility. Now we are asking you — the wonderful members of our community — to come together and help us, “the Little Shelter that Could,” get to the finish line!

The easiest and most direct way of supporting our new shelter campaign is with a monetary gift. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the SCSPCA receives no funding from city, county, state, or federal government, and we rely entirely on the generosity of individual donor dollars. We are completely independent, not affiliated with any other SPCA or Humane Society. You can donate in person, via mail, or through our website at www.spcasc.org.

Time To Learn More

Watch our video:
www.spcasc.org/our-campaign/

Read more about the SCSPCA and the new shelter campaign:
www.spcasc.org

Watch for special mailings and invitations to events.

Take a tour of the new shelter site — contact us at 831-465-5000 x19 or via email at foreverhome@spcasc.org.
In 2014, Dennis was drawn to volunteer work with the SCSPCA because of his love of animals and concern for their welfare. He has a huge heart for our furry critters and works hard, each week, to provide them with clean spaces as well as fresh food and water. And dishes, so many washed dishes!

Volunteers like Dennis are our backbone. He arrives in the morning with a quiet smile and “hello” — then gets right to work alongside our facilities and animal care staff. His work allows us to care for our animals at a level that we could not achieve with just our small staff. If you ask him though, the feelings are mutual. “What I love and appreciate about volunteering at the SCSPCA is the love, kindness, and commitment that I witness from all the staff and volunteers,” he says.

Thank you, Dennis, for the important work you do for both the animals and our organization. We are so very grateful to have you on our team! Dennis’s message to anyone thinking of volunteering, “If you want to be surrounded by love, compassion and have the work that you do touch your heart – this is where you need to be.”

Santa Cruz SPCA Summer Camp 2019 is almost here! This fun-filled, week-long day camp is geared toward kids in 1st – 7th grade and leads them through age appropriate elements of animal care, arts and crafts, and key animal welfare issues. Of course, they also enjoy LOTS of critter time from our own shelter animals as well as “visitors” of various species from other local animal organizations!

There are eight sessions of SCSPCA Summer Camp, starting early June and ending early August. **Enroll your kid(s) while spaces last!** Visit the Humane Education section of our website, wwwspcasc.org/humane-education/ and select “Camps.”
It’s no secret that volunteers can boost an organization’s efficiency, ability, and overall mission-driven impact. In short, a great volunteer program can pack a powerful punch! That is why the Santa Cruz SPCA is making some exciting moves with our program this year.

As we look to the future with our new “forever home” on the horizon, we know we’re going to need more help than ever. That’s why we are working to grow our volunteer force in size and skill through strategic recruitment and more job specific training. For those who want to learn more and move up, we want to provide continuing education so volunteers can do even more for our animals! Because we truly depend on our volunteers, we want to encourage commitment through increased communication, appreciation, education, and mentorship. And we look forward to inviting volunteers into positions at the shelter where no volunteers have gone before!

At the Santa Cruz SPCA, we value our volunteers and couldn’t have designed these program changes without their contribution. So, we completed information gathering focus groups involving many of our current volunteers, and in essence — our volunteers have spoken, and we are listening!

So What Can a Volunteer Expect?

**Volunteer Tiers/Levels** – We’re better defining our volunteer roles to allow flexibility and structure for volunteers of all skill and commitment levels. This also gives folks room to grow through additional training and upward movement!

**Additional Volunteer Positions** – We’re creating new and exciting opportunities with our Behavior, Adoptions, Administration, and Animal Care teams. Think assisting with adoptions, supporting fundraising efforts, and/or working with our animals who have specific medical and behavioral needs!

**Trainings, Appreciation Events, and Updates** – From educational seminars, training presentations, and shadowing to volunteer social events, incentives, spotlights, and newsletters we’re adding more ways to show our volunteers just how much we appreciate them! Making sure our volunteers feel cared for, acknowledged for the work they do, up-to-date, and in-the-know are top priorities for our program!

**Oh yeah, and more quality time with the animals!** – The increased training and expanded volunteer positions come with a wonderful side effect – more opportunity for meaningful interaction with shelter dogs and cats. Expect a large amount of doggy kisses and cat cuddles!

We are very excited about this volunteer program overhaul, are you? If you’re not a volunteer, now is the time to get started! Visit us on the web to learn how at www.spcasc.org/volunteer/.

**Overhaulin’**

CHEERS TO THE VOLUNTEERS!
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!

Don’t FORGET

NEW LEAF ENVIRO-TOKENS

We LOVE the Capitola New Leaf Community Markets! Why? Well, lots of reasons but the biggest one is that they have selected the Santa Cruz SPCA as one of the benefactors of their Enviro-token program! This means that every time a customer brings in a reusable bag for their purchases, they receive a token worth 10 cents — and they get to drop it into the box of the select non-profit of their choice!

Those small tokens can add up to some BIG support for the animals and we hope to earn yours the next time you shop! Our name will be on one of the boxes for the next two months. Help us continue to benefit from this program for an additional six months or more, by voting for us at your local New Leaf location!

Need a reusable shopping bag? Go pick up one of our logo totes at our Capitola Mall Adoption Center and Gift Shop!

SANTA CRUZ DERBY GIRLS

We are so excited to have been selected as the 2019 Santa Cruz Derby Girls “Community First” partner organization! This is our second year joining forces with these UH-MAZING women on wheels — and we are having some fast and furry-est fun so far. You’ll find our awesome volunteers and adorable adoptable dogs at each and every bout, cheering our paws off. And at season’s end, after all the competitive fun has come to an end, the group will make a generous $2,500 donation to the animals. Our community rocks!