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Dear Friends of the Santa Cruz SPCA,

I can’t believe how time flies! Even though it’s only been a handful of months since our last Companion newsletter, there has been a hive of activity here at the Santa Cruz SPCA, and we have so much to share with you.

I’m excited to let you know we are about halfway done with the construction of our new shelter and we are on track to open our doors this coming Spring! Nearly every day there is something new to see at the construction site — just yesterday we were able to discern the outline of what will be our new dog play yards and it was so easy to imagine our pups out there, romping together, in the not so distant future. You can walk up to the site and see the catio cutouts and easily picture our kittens safely sunbathing. It’s incredibly inspiring to see our future taking shape right before our eyes. And, it is even more of a pleasure to be able to share the joy of this big dream coming to fruition with you, our supporters.

In this edition of the Companion, you’re going to get an update on all things construction and you’ll learn more about how you can help us cross the fundraising finish line for our shelter guests. We evolve and we grow so we can better serve this community and the animals who need us. We can’t wait to open our new shelter which is meant to be a community shelter, a place where we will continue to welcome the two- and four-legged. A place where animals in need find safe harbor, second, third, and fourth chances and, ultimately, the path to their future lives.

Thank you for supporting the Santa Cruz SPCA — whether you are a volunteer, take part in our programs, support our mission financially, or cheer us on from the sidelines — you are a part of our community, our new shelter, and our next evolution. I invite you to contact us for a hard hat tour of the construction project so you too can experience the excitement and inspiration first hand, because we simply could not be doing our work for the animals without you.

Woofs and meows,

Alison “Ali” Talley
Executive Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Main Shelter
Tues - Sun 11am - 6pm
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 - Sat 11am - 5:30pm
(Target Wing)
1835 41st Ave.
Capitola, CA 95010
(P) 831-477-7886

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Behavior

Home Sweet Home

Lily

Lily was a bit overweight when I adopted her about a year ago, but we are pleased to report that she has continued her SPCA weight loss program of eat less and move more — and has lost another 2.8 lbs! While keeping an eye on her dog companions, Lucy and Sally, Lily has become the mouse catcher of the household and an integral member of the family.

Thanks to everyone at SPCASCA that cared for and socialized Lily while she was at the shelter and mall location, where I met her.

- Carolyn K.

Dolly Parton
Formerly ‘Sabrina’

We have a full house of both animals and children, but we were still missing something from our home. Dolly Parton the cat. We wanted an indoor-loving house cat that the kids could cuddle and play with. And that’s just what we found in Dolly, our little singer. She wakes us up each morning belting out a song of meows while waiting for her food. She follows you everywhere, playing and pouncing, all the while, meowing a story to you. She is a fluffy ball of love and cuddles. Thank you SPCASCA for the perfect match of loving hearts.

- Katie F.

Petrusia andivy

We adopted Ivy in November and Petrusia in December. They are doing great and have become true sisters. They are now Ivy Isobell and Petrusia Rose (all dogs deserve middle names, right?). Their 13-year-old dog sister, Lola Moe, was a little reluctant at first, but has now accepted them into her world. Petrusia is still working on her confidence and comfort with the outside world, but Ivy is always there to give her support. She lets Petrusia near her whenever she needs it. We absolutely love our Ives and Tuni — thank you Santa Cruz SPCA!

- Wendy J.

Irvin

This November will mark three years since I started fostering Irvin. He had been at the SPCASCA for 9 month I brought him home as my sixth foster and after only a couple weeks, he became my first foster failure — and a permanent member of our family. He fit in perfectly to ever let go.

Watching Irvin become so comfortable with us, his hilarious personality coming out more and more, has been such a joy to witness. His energy, playful manner, snorting, and love for us is so endearing that it was so he would end up with our little family! Thank you SPCASCA for helping find such great matches.

- Amanda G.
Our future is literally in the making! More and more of our new shelter is being completed every day. You may have caught your own glimpse of its progress as you drive north on Highway 1! We all know that moving from our current shelter into this brand new, state-of-the-art facility will be a gigantic step forward for the Santa Cruz SPCA. But read on for a “sneak peek” into just a few of the key areas in our new space that will be most impactful for the animals, the people who care for them, and the community as a whole!

What we deem the gathering “hub” of our new home is the Community Room, a multi-use space that will allow us to expand our Youth and Humane Education Programs, host public and private events, invite informative public speakers, provide dog training classes, facilitate seminars, and much more!

Our dog suites will come in three different sizes: small, standard, and large. After years of housing only small dogs due to space, we will finally have the environment to welcome larger dogs! The suite design also allows us to connect two, three, or even four individual “habitats” together, making it possible to both group house the social butterflies as well as provide privacy for those not so keen on the idea of a roommate.

Providing a multitude of outdoor play and visiting spaces was extremely important to us and we are excited to say that we will have eight different open-air play yards of varying sizes to accommodate the rompers and fetchers while also catering to the sunbathers and quiet cuddlers. The yard footing will be artificial turf that is designed specifically for dogs, and will look and feel great!

The flexible space continues for the cats! Our new shelter is designed with three different types of cat housing to meet all kinds of feline needs. The cat condos are perfect for the single adult who enjoys privacy, the cat towers provide the vertical space needed by litters of kittens or teens, and an indoor group room along with two fresh air “catios” provide large social settings for multiple cats to hang in a natural, home-like setting.

We still need your help!

Fundraising Goal: $7.2 Million
Current Raised: $4,824,791

A Gift of Cash
The most direct way to support our new shelter campaign! Donors who give $1,000 or more will have permanent name recognition on our donor wall.

Other Options
» Three-to-five-year campaign pledge
» Gifts of appreciated stock
» Matching gifts: Check to see if your employer will match your gift! OR Offer your own matching gift in order to encourage others to give!

Any amount you can give, large or small, will help us complete our new shelter. To learn more, request a tour, or make a donation toward the campaign, visit spcasc.org/our-campaign or e-mail foreverhome@spcasc.org.
Volunteer Spotlight

JACKIE SCHOOLER

Where do we start with all the amazing-ness that is Jackie? We’ll begin with the fact that she’s been volunteering with us for nearly a year-and-a-half, and has been lending her skills in a multitude of meaningful ways since! Jackie is a founding member of Hounds Around Town, a group of volunteers who regularly bring shelter dogs out into the community (beaches, parks, cafe’s, etc.) to get them seen by potential adopters and to provide enrichment through a change of pace and scenery.

Jackie also works with the animals IN the shelter and has upped her volunteer status to “orange,” in order to be able to assist our Behavior Team with providing training, behavior modification, and TLC to some of the more challenging dogs in our care. As if that wasn’t enough, Jackie volunteered to help us pilot a new volunteer role with our Adoptions & Client Service team, where she welcomes visitors and assists in the adoption match-making process. Let’s top it off with the fact that Jackie and a few of her fellow Hounds Around Town volunteers, raised nearly $2,000 for our 2019 Human Race team!

Needless to say, we have a volunteer superstar on our hands and felt the overwhelming need to acknowledge her hard work, express our appreciation, and share her good deeds with the world! With people like Jackie on our side, we can accomplish so much more for the animals.

Thank you, Jackie!

Inspired by Jackie? Become a SCSPCA volunteer! Visit the VOLUNTEER section of our website to learn more! spcasc.org/volunteer

Winter Camp

Who says camp is only for summer — winter camp is just as COOL!

Winter break is coming! Do you have plans for the kids? If they love all things animal, the SCSPCA Winter Camp is calling for them! For children ages 8-11, our two-day camp sessions provide hands-on learning through games, crafts, lessons, and of course — animals! Each day is themed in order to create a unique experience where campers learn about animal rescue and proper animal stewardship — with a lot of winter fun thrown into the mix!

Camp Details

Students in 1st through 3rd grade
December 26th and 27th

Students in 4th through 6th grade
January 2nd and 3rd

Enroll your kid(s) while spaces last! Visit the HUMANE EDUCATION section of our website spcasc.org/humane-education and select the “Camps” tab.

Science Supports

SLUMBER PARTIES — AND SO DO WE!

The science is in and it’s official, studies show that overnight slumber parties with shelter dogs lower their cortisol (stress) levels and provide them with an additional four or more hours of uninterrupted rest per night. AND, don’t worry, returning from an overnight doesn’t raise their stress levels any higher than before the sleepper.

These new studies just reaffirm why the Santa Cruz SPCA is so proud of its long-standing sleep-over program, which encourages our volunteers and fosters to take shelter dogs home overnight. The doggy dates experienced by Susan Kitchin, one of our sleepover enthusiasts, directly support what these studies found. “I love bringing a dog home for the night and seeing how they relax, snuggle up, and enjoy the quiet of a night away,” she says.

Science aside, slumber parties also benefit shelter dogs in that they help us collect valuable information about their household habits in order to find the best possible adoptive home. Volunteers and fosters can observe things like potty training, or how a dog might do with a household cat or dog, children, being left alone, riding in the car, or sleeping through the night.

Because so many of the animals we care for come to us with little or no history, learning these things about them is helpful and in some cases means the difference between finding a home that sticks and one that doesn’t.

Susan’s overnight fostering of Gimli, a Chihuahua mix who had been in our care for months, helped us gather behavior intel that ultimately resulted in him finding a successful adoption match. While she was sad to say goodbye, she was happy to see him go. “I’ll know that I helped him land more softly into a new situation and loved and protected the little guy when he needed it most.”

Interested in offering a shelter dog your home for a “night off”? Visit the FOSTER section of our website to learn more! spcasc.org/foster-an-animal
Santa Cruz Warriors

At the beginning of October, we were lucky enough to host a group of staff members from the Santa Cruz Warriors for a volunteer work day! They dove right in with big smiles and sheer determination. And even through the sweltering heat, they helped to re-gravel our play yards, sort through hundreds of leashes and collars, and give our animals some love and exercise. The SCSPCA sends a huge THANK YOU to each and every member of the Warriors volunteer team, you’re forever warriors for the animals in our eyes!

Nourish Santa Cruz

During the month of September, Nourish Santa Cruz really stepped it up for the animals of the SCSPCA! They kicked off their streak of support by donating $1 for every person who took a yoga class, got a massage, or sought nutritional advice — even extending a discount on these services to all of our staff! They then organized photo shoots with our adoptable dogs at the Nourish studio and shared them far and wide on social media. The whole effort was topped off with a hilarious comedy show — and a portion of the proceeds were of course donated to the animals! We suddenly really love September — thank you Nourish!

Capitola Soquel Chamber of Commerce

The SCSPCA was invited by the Capitola Soquel Chamber of Commerce to host a token and glass sales booth at the 2019 Capitola Art and Wine Festival. With the help of two staff members and six volunteers, we had a BLAST interacting with patrons and getting them all set up with the supplies they needed to enjoy the day! Thanks Capitola Soquel Chamber of Commerce for inviting us to be part of one of the most awaited events of the year, and allowing us to decorate the booth with all things SCSPCA!

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 holiday parties, family gatherings, and cozy nights in — 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!