ANIMAL CHRONICLES

Summer 2015 | Vol. 24 | A Marin Humane Society Publication

Transformations of Many Kinds

A Place Called Compassion Corner

Kitty Corner Becomes a Reality!

TICO

Read about this cover boy's transformation on page 18

A McKenney Minute

Although many readers associate the Marin Humane Society (MHS) with an animal shelter for homeless dogs and cats, we are so much more than that! Every day, MHS transforms the lives of both people and animals through our adoption program, youth activities, enforcement of animal ordinances, and offering behavior and training classes, to list just a few.

MHS is unique in that our work in animal welfare focuses on improving the lives of all animals and, at the same time, helps people have a new or improved understanding of and relationship with animals. Actually, most everything we do has a human component—we rely on people to write the donation checks, make the spay/neuter appointments and change their habits, behaviors or sometimes their attitudes about animals.

This issue of *Animal Chronicles* is all about change—the positive change that is happening on our campus and beyond.

I hope you enjoy reading about a man who started off thinking he was not a "cat person" only to learn how his life has changed in such positive ways, all because of his first cat named Joe Willie. Do you know someone who says (even brags) that they are not a "cat person?" If so, perhaps you should share this issue with them!

Animals demonstrate unconditional love and the 16 dogs we received from a South Korean dog meat farm earlier this year (13 in March and three in May) are no exception. As you'll read in the story on page 4, the dogs from South Korea were being raised for food with no human contact, so they required special TLC after arriving on U.S. soil. MHS partnered with Humane Society International and three other humane organizations in the Bay Area to provide a chance for these dogs to become companion animals. Within just a few days for some and a few weeks for others, we saw amazing transformations in these dogs; it was truly heartwarming to witness. I'm so proud of the tireless work by our staff and volunteers on behalf of these special visitors.

I have been with MHS a little more than four years and it is a very exciting time to be a part of this organization—our outreach and partnerships are growing, our financial position is stronger, and our focus on the strategic plan is clear. This work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors, the leadership of our Board of Directors and the compassionate work of the staff and volunteers. We are dedicated to improving the lives of animals AND people through advocacy, education and support. Together we are making *a world of difference*!

Nancy B. McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer

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Animal Chronicles

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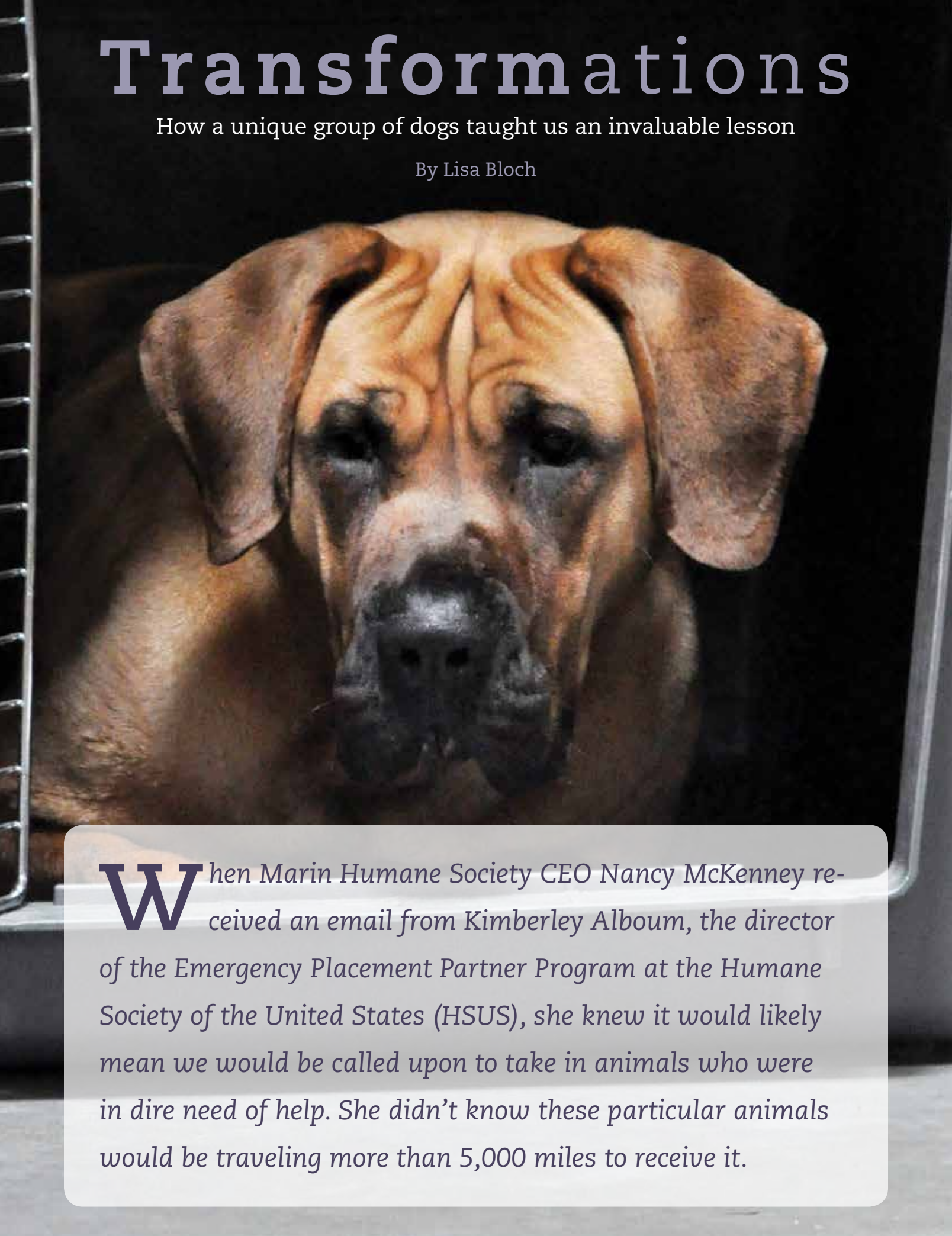
Transformations

How a unique group of dogs taught us an invaluable lesson

By Lisa Bloch



When Marin Humane Society CEO Nancy McKenney received an email from Kimberley Alboum, the director of the Emergency Placement Partner Program at the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), she knew it would likely mean we would be called upon to take in animals who were in dire need of help. She didn't know these particular animals would be traveling more than 5,000 miles to receive it.

With the love and dedication of MHS staff and volunteers, Lola, pictured left and right, came a long way during her stay with us. Animal Care Manager Samantha Winegarner says, "Lola quickly proved to be just a gentle giant, who enjoyed scratches under the chin."

Emergency Placement Partners, like the Marin Humane Society, are part of a national network of animal welfare organizations that can be called upon at a moment's notice to help house and place animals rescued from large-scale animal abuse cases, including hoarding situations, dog fighting, and puppy mills. They're also called upon during natural and man-made disasters.

According to the HSUS website, "Emergency Placement Partners (EPP) are perhaps the most crucial element in our national mission to rescue abused animals. After HSUS removes animals from abusive situations, we work with EPPs to care for and place the animals. As local groups with access to local resources, EPPs provide the animals with veterinary care, rehabilitation, and ultimately, placement in lifelong homes."

Nancy learned that 57 dogs were being rescued from the cruel dog meat trade in South Korea and were due to arrive in the Bay Area in two weeks' time. The dogs were from a meat "farm," being raised in harsh conditions for human consumption. The dogs—a variety of breed mixes and all under the age of two—were kept in small, cramped cages, exposed to the elements. They were never let out of their cages and never knew the loving touch of a human. Worse still, many are tortured before they are inhumanely killed. More than two millions dogs a year face such a fate in South Korea.

"One of the things I was most struck by was how Humane Society International (the international branch of HSUS) was working with these farmers to encourage them to raise crops instead of continuing this cruel trade," commented Nancy. "HSI recognized that these farmers needed a livelihood—they just needed to convince them to pursue one that didn't rely on the suffering of animals."

HSI asked if we'd take 13 of the dogs. The rest would go to other EPPs in the region—East Bay SPCA, San Francisco SPCA, and Sacramento SPCA.

"It didn't take long to agree to be part of such a unique life-saving mission," said Nancy.

The MHS team quickly sprang into action to prepare for these special visitors, who would be unlike the vast majority of animals usually seen at the shelter. First and foremost, information had to be gathered about the dogs' medical conditions, any potential quarantine periods, and a general idea of acclimation/behavioral challenges they might face. A team representing the departments of Animal Care, Veterinary Medicine, Behavior & Training, and Adoptions began meeting to determine steps that would need to be taken for this special challenge.

We then had to decide where exactly these dogs would be housed within the shelter. Fortunately, MHS has a special "Dog Intake" building which can house many dogs separately from the general shelter population.

The dogs were picked up by MHS staff and the other partners at the San Francisco SPCA, where they were initially housed after arriving in the U.S. The dogs we received ranged from giant Tosas (similar to Mastiffs) to medium-sized "yellow dogs" to a popular small Asian breed called Jindo, and even a Beagle and a Hound mix.

Upon arrival at MHS, the first step was for the dogs to have a medical examination from our veterinary team, led by Drs. Belinda Evans and Anne Miller.

"While the dogs appeared to be in good shape medically, it was important to be sure there were no obvious medical problems or signs of infectious diseases," said Dr. Evans. "Visual exams were done on all dogs on intake, and hands-on exams were done on the ones who were able to be handled initially. Tests were also run shortly after arrival to look for any GI parasites."

Next, our Animal Care team, headed by Animal Care Manager Samantha Winegarner, kicked in to high gear, getting the dogs settled, fed, and bathed. These seemingly simple tasks were anything but. Many of the dogs were terrified to leave their runs and had to be gently coaxed out with lots of patience (and lots of treats). For some, even treats weren't enough for them to trust humans. The dogs had never before been bathed and neither staff nor the dogs were entirely comfortable with each other yet. These tentative first steps were integral to the dogs' socialization. None of the dogs were house-trained so the dogs runs required constant cleaning. A messy business to be sure.

The first time these dogs stepped on grass, played with a toy or accepted the loving touch of a human, it brought tears to the eyes of many who were there to witness their transformation.

"I remember trying to coax Lola (a 105 pound Tosa) to come out so I could give her a much-needed bath," commented Samantha. "Her behavior was hard to read and because she was so big, I was a bit nervous and proceeded with a lot of caution. To my amazement, Lola quickly proved to be just a gentle giant, who enjoyed scratches under the chin."

While the dogs were getting acclimated, a team led by Behavior and Training Director Dawn Kovell was putting together a plan for evaluating them and determining what each would need to prepare them for adoption. The dogs were on a spectrum, behaviorally. In general, the youngest dogs were the most outgoing, while the ones who were a year old or more tended to be quite skittish.

"The Korean dogs presented a unique behavior challenge because of their history," said Dawn. "We were pleasantly surprised by how much progress these dogs made in a relatively short period. All in all, it was a wonderful learning experience for MHS and extremely heartwarming to share so many wonderful 'firsts' with them."

A dedicated team was assigned to work on behavior and socialization of the Korea dogs but other staff and volunteers pitched in, too. While almost all the dogs were well-socialized to other dogs, they needed to bond with people. Several were "office fostered" throughout the day, meaning they'd spend time in staff member's offices simply getting comfortable with people in a quiet space.

The first time these dogs stepped on grass, played with a toy or accepted the loving touch of a human, it brought tears to the eyes of many who got to witness their transformation. The dogs made tremendous strides in their ability to trust people, to play with toys, to walk on leashes, and to simply enjoy life like other companion dogs.

During this time, our Adoptions team created a special hotline for those interested in adopting one of these special dogs. Their arrival in the U.S. received a tremendous amount of media coverage so there was great interest in adoption; however, it would be crucial that the dogs be matched with compatible homes. After all these animals had been through, the last thing anyone wanted was for them to be returned to the shelter because dog and guardian weren't a great match.

Potential adopters were carefully screened and one by one, when the dogs were ready, we introduced them to potential guardians. One such guardian was Sung Girtler. Sung, a native of Korea, was inspired by the story of these dogs. As a child growing up in Korea, she'd always felt terrible for the dogs raised for meat so when she heard about the 13 coming to MHS, she knew this was a way for her to make a difference. Sung, her husband, and their two young daughters welcomed Hayley (now Jin Joo) into their home and she quickly became one of the family. Sung has since become involved with HSI in working to end the cruel dog meat trade in her home country.

Eleven of the 13 dogs found their forever homes within a month of arriving at MHS. Jack, the Beagle, tested positive for heartworm and was sent to our Pen Pals foster program at San Quentin where he is receiving his medical treatment. Oliver, the Hound mix, was sent to live with a foster family before finding his forever home the following month.

MHS also agreed to accept three more of the Koren dogs from a shelter that was having trouble with their rehabilitation; all have been adopted now, too.

The dogs' rescue was featured in media stories both nationally and internationally, and focused a spotlight on a horrific industry. While MHS has no current plans to participate in another operation of this kind, MHS stands ready to help animals in need whenever called upon.

Photos: The dogs were kept in deporable conditions (photo courtesy of HSUS); Animal Care Tech Yukari Mikami lends her healing touch; Maisey with her new family.

Ask the Behaviorist

We sat down with Director of Behavior & Training Dawn Kovell and Cat Behavior Consultant Beth Weil to ask them some vexing questions about animal behavior.

Why are my cats active in the middle of the night? Is there a way I can make sure they don't bother me?

House cats are generally crepuscular, meaning that they are most active during twilight hours of dusk and dawn. However, cats adapt to our lifestyles, so if we are not home during day, they sleep most of that time and are more active when we are around to interact with them. Here are some tips for ensuring that you have a good night's sleep:

- Cats love routines. Typically they hunt, eat, groom, and then sleep. Playtime is reenacting the hunt. Have an interactive play session with your cat about an hour before your bedtime. The session should last 10–15 minutes and your cat should be panting by the end of it.
- Feed your cat after the play session and before bedtime. If you typically feed your cat at dinnertime, split the cat's meal between dinner time and bedtime. If you free fed dry food, give your cat some wet food before bedtime.
- If your cat wakes you up in the middle of the night, ignore him. Any interaction on your part is a reward and the behavior will continue.
- Give your cat more to do during the day. Indoor kitties love "kitty TV." Put up a bird feeder outside a window with a cat perch nearby. Plant native plants—not only are they drought resistant but they attract bees, butterflies and birds.

For more ideas about how to give your cat fun things to do during the day, come to our Feline Environment Enrichment Class. If you have questions about your cat's behavior, feel free to contact our Cat Behavior Hotline at 415.506.6284.

Is nipping play or aggression?

The short answer is that it depends on the context. Is the dog in question an adult or a puppy? Are the nipping incidents with people or with dogs? What is the situation when the nipping occurs?

Puppies explore the world with their mouths and they have to learn when and how hard they can use their mouth and teeth to communicate. A nip or a bite by sharp puppy teeth can hurt! Fortunately, puppies can learn not to do this. People and other dogs giving puppies feedback about those very sharp chompers teach bite inhibition. Responses like a loud yelp or "ouch!" can do the trick.

Since human skin is more sensitive than thick dog fur, dogs should learn that teeth on people are never appropriate. However, dogs can often use their teeth in play with other dogs. Open mouth jaw sparring, leg bites and neck fur grab are popular games with canine play partners which looks quite dramatic. These are all done with inhibited or "lite" bites, and if not, one loses their play partners quickly!

Rules during human-dog play are different than those of day to day activity. Sometimes dogs will air snap at their humans in play, but the no skin rule should always remain. The better your communication on these issues, the better your relationship.

If you have more questions about nipping or are having issues with a nipping puppy or dog call our Dog Behavior Hotline at 415.506.6281.

Are You Kitten Me?

Kitty Corner Now Open!

Cat lovers throughout the region are thrilled by the opening of Kitty Corner, Marin Humane Society's first satellite adoption center! Located in the Red Hill Shopping Center in San Anselmo, Kitty Corner houses cats and kittens for adoption (with the occasional dog or small companion animal visitor, too).

Supported by Pet Food Express, which generously donated the rent for five years, Kitty Corner has a sleek design and custom-built kitty condos which house our favorite felines in comfort until they find their forever homes.

A special ribbon-cutting event was held Saturday, April 25, with CEO Nancy McKenney and Pet Food Express Co-Founder Michael Levy making the celebratory cut.

"I live in Marin and have always wanted to help the Marin Humane Society find a way to reach even more potential adopters," said Michael Levy. "We hope Kitty Corner will provide a place for adoptable cats and kittens to thrive and result in even more adoptions."

The event was followed by a weekend of festivities, including raffle prizes donated by Red Hill Shopping Center merchants, face painting, a special Kitty Corner cake, and a human-sized cat greeting visitors.

Longtime MHS supporter and cat lover Mark M. Glickman donated the adoption fees for the first 100 adult cats! Mark knows first-hand the impact a beloved kitty can have on one's life and his generous donation is in honor of his cat Joe Willie (see story on page 19).

MHS board members Chip Smith and Brian Cooley provided pro bono architectural and technological expertise (respectively), and Michael Rylander of Rylander Designs contributed the fun and inviting storefront and interior design, also pro bono.

MHS relies on donations to help keep Kitty Corner purring so please consider a donation! Contact Director of Development Joe Lisella at 415.506.6257 or jlisella@MarinHumaneSociety.org to learn more.

We'll see you at Kitty Corner!

Kitty Corner is open:

Wednesday through Friday, Noon to 6 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm
Red Hill Shopping Center
876 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo

Anne Brody Oliver

Celebrating 25 years of service to animals and people

By John Reese

Anne Brody Oliver, a dedicated 25-year veteran of the Marin Humane Society, has helped mold who MHS is today, creating a culture where people and animals are valued and cared for with compassion.

In March of 1990, Anne Oliver responded to a want ad in the *San Francisco Chronicle* for a part-time front office clerk at the Marin Humane Society. The position interested Anne who grew up fancying cats. She had also worked in a veterinary hospital. And, for a busy single mother of two, this fit her desire for part-time work.

Anne started out in our fast-paced front office engaging with guests as they arrived for services and helping to reunite lost and found pets with their guardians. She cross-trained in Animal Care, Animal Services, and Adoptions, giving her a well-rounded understanding of our many services and programs.

The busy front office noticed Anne's natural customer service skills and promoted her to front office supervisor in 1993. Not only did she inspire staff and volunteers to provide exceptional customer service, Anne formally assisted with conflict resolution for staff. Anne said, "I'm a good listener and have a knack for turning things around." In 2000, Anne was promoted to a new role at MHS, our first director of customer service. "I wanted to create a culture of positive outcomes with customers and to advocate for staff," Anne said.

In December of 2002, Anne received a devastating diagnosis of leukemia. This was a blow to the entire organization. As the cancer outpaced its various treatments, Anne took medical leave to receive a bone marrow transplant in August of 2004. Her previous good health as an avid hiker and cyclist helped her manage the struggles and setbacks, and Anne fought through treatment to beat cancer.

Anne returned to MHS as our new volunteer coordinator in September of 2005. She said, "This was a perfect match for my skills and interests, returning to MHS as an advocate for volunteers." With nearly 600 volunteers assisting in dozens of ways, Anne was promoted to director of volunteer services in 2007.

Health returned to Anne in a few ways. In addition to beating cancer and getting back out into nature, she dedicated herself to the practice of yoga. In 2008, she trained as a yoga instructor. She began a yoga class for MHS staff offered on campus after work—"Yoga for Compassion Fatigue." Compassion fatigue is common in our profession. While we see many happy endings, we also see suffering and unwanted animals in dire need of our care. "Yoga is a way to refill a person's well of compassion that is often depleted by shelter work," explains Anne. Thankfully, she still teaches our weekly yoga class to this day.

In 2011, Anne was offered the opportunity to present customer service workshops to MHS staff and volunteers. These trainings were based on the work of Jan Elster, author of a comprehensive customer service workbook, "Animal Friendly-Customer Smart: People Skills for Animal Shelters." Anne is part of a team that presents these workshops locally and nationally to other animal welfare organizations.

Anne's career themes include advocating for people, strength, passion, and of course, love for animals. "I think that I have affected the culture here and I've made it friendlier. We open our doors, let's remember to open our hearts."

Anne's most recent venture, "Compassion Corner," links MHS with programs that serve people with physical or cognitive limitations (see related story on page 11). She is proud to have created opportunities for people to relax and feel unconditional love and nonjudgmental assurance.

Congratulations and thank you Anne for your 25 years of service!

Partnering to Save More Lives

When Odin (pictured right), a Bull Terrier, was surrendered by his guardian, it was clear he'd need a special kind of adopter. Just six months old, Odin was full of energy—too much for his former guardian who bought him from a breeder. He would need an experienced guardian familiar with the breed, which is known for being very independent, with a strong prey drive but who can make for a loyal family member, if properly trained. They would also have to provide him with a lot of mental stimulation and exercise.

Adoption Counselor Kyle Dunlop is MHS' resident breed rescue contact. With more than 250 breed-specific rescues on file, Kyle often reaches out to these groups to see if they can help place a dog who may do better with people who are familiar with that breed. Luckily, Bull Terrier, Inc., a nonprofit breed rescue which operates in California, Oregon, and Nevada, was able to take Odin and help him find his forever home.

Rescues must go through an application process to be part of MHS' network. We also research each organization, including contacting their local Animal Services department.

"Rescues are awesome because they know so much about the breed and their characteristics," said Kyle. "They also have a huge network of those looking to adopt, or at least foster, dogs of a certain breed."

Baron, a beautiful Doberman Pinscher was surrendered by his guardian after he bit someone. While it wasn't a serious bite, the guardian knew he couldn't handle Baron's energy. Because of his bite history, very few people were interested in adopting Baron and he sat in our shelter for weeks. By working with Doberman Pinscher Rescue in Southern California, Baron got a second chance. He was even flown via private plane to his new home thanks to Pilots n' Paws, an amazing network of pilots who fly homeless animals to their forever homes for free.

Breed rescues aren't only for dogs. Amelia, a special breed of cat called a Cornish Rex, was brought to us as a result of a cruelty complaint. She had been through a lot so it was important to find her a home as quickly as possible. Kyle found Cornish Rex Friends, a national network, which had a foster family available in Berkeley, who ended up keeping this sweet girl.

Leaving no stone unturned is the unspoken motto of our adoptions team when it comes to finding forever homes for animals in our care. And rescue organizations are an integral part of that. We're truly grateful for these partnerships!

Compassion Corner

Where a little love goes a long way

By Candace Alexander

The Marin Humane Society is proud of its tradition of creating special bonds between animals and people. MHS is known for its dedicated corps of SHARE (Special Human Animal Relationships) volunteers who bring their companion animals to visit people in 58 different care facilities in Marin, including convalescent and acute care hospitals, senior communities, libraries, and special day classes in Marin public schools.

In an effort to expand our reach and give more people with special needs an opportunity to socialize with animals, MHS started Compassion Corner. Volunteers with physical or cognitive limitations are invited to Compassion Corner to visit with SHARE volunteers and their dogs and to socialize with selected small companion animals, like rabbits or guinea pigs. Hosted twice monthly at the Marin Humane Society, Compassion Corner is a safe and comfortable place where program participants can pet a smiling dog placed on their lap, feed lettuce to a guinea pig or even gently stroke a rat. Compassion Corner staff and volunteers bring joy and companionship to people who often do not have the chance to interact with animals. The animals, in turn, get to enjoy some special attention.

Many of our Compassion Corner volunteers are eager for their twice monthly visits to MHS. Glenn, one our regulars at Compassion Corner, says "I enjoy being with the animals, it's nice to interact with others in general. After my time at Compassion Corner, I feel joyful and fulfilled."

For some, Compassion Corner is their first experience spending time with companion animals; for others, it is an opportunity to relax and feel unconditional love, reassurance and nonjudgmental acceptance from the SHARE teams. Glenn has found true friends in Aziza, the Black Lab; Kuri, his favorite lap dog; and Breya, a dog who gives kisses.

If you are interested in learning more about Compassion Corner, please contact Anne Oliver, director of volunteer services, at aboliver@MarinHumaneSociety.org or 415.506.6267.

"I enjoy being with the animals, it's nice to interact with others in general. After my time at Compassion Corner, I feel joyful and fulfilled."

Abner

Big Guy

Bruno

Godzilla

Jujubie

Just a few of the animals that have found new homes...

Rooney

Delilah

Beth

Gremlin

Roxie

Orrin

Malcom

Dos

Gracie

Dr. Girlfriend

Phil

Brook

Ted

Rico

Chloe

Jasmine

Cookie

Atticus

Sunshine

Sunny

Dazja

Mocha

Bo

Bug

Cookie

Howie

Cleo & Leo

Happy

Baby

MHS Celebrates Milestone in Animal Protection

By Captain Cindy Machado

The Marin Humane Society is a recognized leader in creating high standards in animal protection for other shelters and animal law enforcement programs. With longstanding roots in education, MHS became one of the first animal law enforcement training centers recognized by the State Humane Association of California. This year we celebrated our 30th anniversary, graduating 40 exceptional students from all regions of the state.

The intense annual two-week session is held on the MHS campus and co-sponsored by Santa Rosa Junior College and the State Humane Association of California. Students not only receive a great deal of information specific to their jobs as animal law enforcement investigators, they also become part of the MHS family, learning about the various programs and activities that take place on our campus every day. This year's class had a unique opportunity as their academy coincided with the arrival of dogs rescued from the cruel meat trade in South Korea (see story on page 4). They got to learn about the process of rehabilitating shy, fearful dogs into loving companions. For many of the students, it was one of the biggest highlights of the class.

Over the past 30 years, I've been heartened to see the position of animal services officer become very popular across the state. While agencies around California routinely send their officers to this training, we are also starting to see a big increase in the number of students who independently seek out the training to better position themselves for a job in animal welfare. Having college support and credit also serves as a unique component by providing college students with opportunities they may not have been aware of in their educational pursuits. Another benefit of the training has been the opportunity for networking with their classmates. Many of these students remain friends long after the class work is done and some end up working together in the field.

In this fast-paced world filled with instant information, it is nice to know that professional education for our animal services officers still comes down to instructors and a classroom. The instructors for this course take great pride in participating in the educational process. Some of the favorite instructors include retired law enforcement officers, judges and practicing veterinarians. MHS also provides expertise as animal behavior experts and our shelter becomes a real teaching lab showcasing everyday situations for the students.

Making the world a better place for both animals and people revolves around education. Our 30th class demonstrated the ability of a group of strangers to come together for training only to be transformed into inspired, high level professionals. These men and women will go on to share their knowledge and new appreciation for animal welfare in shelters throughout California. For all we know, many of these students will become our future leaders and make even greater strides on behalf of people and animals!

Photos: Top—MHS Animal Services Corporal Dave Stapp rescues a dog stuck in the mud; ASO Andy O'Brien helps find a baby raccoon better lodging; ASO Adrienne Russo comforts a stray puppy; Below—the animal law enforcement class of 2015.

"Teaching the importance of stretching our role as an animal shelter always leaves students inspired and ready to make a positive difference in their own communities." says Nancy McKenney, MHS CEO.

Volunteer Profile:

Gordon Robinson

By Anne Oliver

Though Gordon Robinson has always loved animals of all kinds, he discovered his deep passion for dogs after meeting Hillary, the animal companion of his girlfriend, Rita. Hillary wasn't an easy dog, but when Gordon helped nurse her back to health after a serious illness, he realized that he and Hilary had developed a very strong bond. As she aged, Gordon was at her side, helping her as needed. She never complained, even when he knew she was in pain. She had a will to live and enjoy each day to the fullest. Being a part of her life was a transformative experience for Gordon.

After Hillary passed away, Gordon and Rita joined MHS as volunteers. Gordon began as a Dog Training Assistant and a year later he added the role of Dog Pet Pal. In this new role, Gordon learned to work with some of the most challenging dogs in our care, both in the Adoptions Department and with the dogs who were still in the evaluation process. His heart really went out to the dogs that were either unclaimed strays, guardian surrendered, or had come in from other shelters. Until they were available for adoption, they had limited time out of their kennels for walks and social interaction. Gordon wanted to make a difference for these dogs and found inspiration in working with them.

Sadie Mae was one of the dogs that left the biggest impression on Gordon. She was an 11-year-old greying black Shepherd with arthritis and mild hip dysplasia. Sadie Mae had significant issues getting around but once she got outside she loved the ball and playing fetch was all she wanted to do. Gordon remembers, "She never complained, despite her pain and stiffness. She saw the chance to enjoy life and took it."

Gus von Woods was a wirehair pointer who's another memorable dog for Gordon. He hated being in his kennel, and would jump and whirl and howl in his enclosure. Gordon found that when he opened the kennel door, Gus would sit and wait, and almost help put on his own harness before going out on a walk. It turns out that Gus knew all kinds of commands and simply needed more attention. He was a sweet, clumsy, goofy boy that just needed someone to take the time to understand him. And Gordon gave him that time.

Working with the dogs who were rescued from a meat farm in Korea (see story on page 4) was a major turning point for Gordon. He played a significant role in socializing and rehabilitating these special dogs who'd never known the loving touch of a person. "They had no concept of people being good or fun, and they didn't know how to just be dogs," Gordon said. Much of his attention was focused on the two large Tosas that were a part of the group brought to MHS. Thanks to his patient, gentle nature, Delilah and Lola were able to learn how to run and how to stop, how to drink from a water basin, how to go through a doorway, and how to enjoy a belly rub. Gordon was able to share important information with the adopters of both dogs, helping ensure success in their new homes.

The transformations Gordon witnessed in these and other dogs couldn't have happened without his willingness to put himself in their place and see the world through their eyes. That was a big lesson he learned from them. "The animals haven't lost their innocence. When they have a good moment, they enjoy it. They have taught me about resilience, trust and that no matter how far away from a goal, you can always get there." These are wise words to live by, thanks to all of our canine friends.

Photo: Gordon with Lola as she prepares to go to her new home.

HOME SWEET HOME

By Nancy Weiler

BLU

Blu (formerly Beulah), a cute Pit Bull mix, was surrendered when her guardian could no longer care for her. Social, friendly and smart, Blu was quickly adopted. But sadly, she was soon returned to MHS through no fault of her own. Once again, she began looking for a new family. Meanwhile, Jon and Jenise Hamblin of Walnut Creek had started looking for a new dog and when they saw Blu's picture on our website, they decided to come meet her. Jon says "Blu was even more beautiful in person and, after taking her for a walk and watching her run in an enclosed area, we decided to adopt her. We thought she was going to be a handful because she had plenty of energy, but she seemed very loving and smart." Now happily settled in her new home, Jon reports that Blu loves to sunbathe, visit the local dog park and follow them around the house. She knows quite a few tricks and they are working on a few more. He says "she is a wonderful, loyal pet. We pray we'll get to enjoy her for many years to come."

JEFFREY

Jeffrey was found wandering alongside Lucas Valley Road in San Rafael and brought to MHS by a concerned citizen. It soon became clear that Jeffrey was a very special little bantam rooster—he enjoyed being petted, jumping onto your arm and sitting on your shoulder. When Jazelle Lieske of Petaluma arrived to adopt him after seeing a photo of him on Facebook, she said it was clear he loved attention, had a huge personality and had bonded with several of the MHS staff members. She couldn't wait to take him home! Jazelle told us that Jeffrey spent his first few months with her as a house rooster but was very curious about her outdoor flock. She says "his friendly demeanor has not only charmed humans but also the other rescued roosters (three are MHS alumni) and ex-factory farm hens that make up his new family. Jeffrey enjoys singing, lap-napping, admiring himself in the mirror and taking dust baths with his new chicken friends." Jeffrey goes to prove that roosters can be affectionate as well as entertaining companions... just ask Jazelle!

SOPHIE

Being an older cat in an animal shelter is hard. You suddenly leave the life you knew, move to a strange, noisy place watching all the cute little kittens get adopted, and wait for your new family to find you. Nine-year-old Sophie waited and waited. When Congressman Jared Huffman of San Rafael and his 11-year-old son Nathan stopped by MHS just to look at dogs and cats, bringing a cat home was the last thing on their minds... until Nathan read Sophie's story. Sophie was surrendered because her guardian died and she now needed a new family. Right then and there he insisted on taking Sophie home, so off they went. Jared says that "we are all smitten by Sophie, especially my 15-year-old daughter Abby who is constantly doting over and playing with her new best friend." He adds, "Sophie might be the happiest, most social cat I've ever seen. She greets us when we come home, meowing to be petted. She has been a great addition to our family and we're very grateful to the Marin Humane Society for making it possible."

HAIKU AND ALIBI

Haiku and Alibi (formerly Google and Bing) were a pair of "special needs" brothers—Haiku was born missing his right rear foot and Alibi was deaf. But they were friendly, affectionate and playful. They needed to find just the right home, so we were prepared for a long wait... or so we thought. A week later, Kristin Herrera, an employee at MHS and her husband Benn realized they would be perfect additions to their household and took them home. They sent us this update: "Friendly and charming, Haiku and Alibi enjoy being wherever we are or lying together in a jumble of indistinguishable cat limbs. Each takes his entertainment duties seriously and goes about being funny in his own way. This leads, of course, to nicknames. Haiku is often "Bumpty Bump" due to his three-legged gait when walking slowly. Alibi often gets called "'Sup" because he hangs his elbow over the edge of his perch like someone leaning out a car window to talk. They are a charismatic bonded pair, and whether snuggling with us or with each other, they always make us smile."

LUKE

A purebred Golden Retriever at an animal shelter? It was hard to believe, but eight year old Luke (formerly Lucky) was surrendered because his guardians didn't have enough time to spend with him. He loved people, toys and food, and was now hoping to find a nicer place than a garage to spend his golden years. Nanni Wurl, a senior herself, had spent a year looking for a senior dog. It was love at first sight when she met Luke—in her words, "a real classy gentleman." And Luke fell in love with her, too. Now happily at home, they are very attached to each other. He lies in front of the bathroom door waiting for her to come out, sleeps next to her bed, and loves to go for rides in her flashy red car. They are getting ready to start Family Dog 1 classes together. Nanni says that "Handsome Luke" (think Paul Newman in Cool Hand Luke) is quite aware of his good looks and enjoys flirting with the ladies. Nanni and Luke are truly "a match made in heaven."

MIKEY

Despite being very sweet and friendly, Mikey the bunny was having a hard time finding the right home. His first adopter developed allergies; his second adopter didn't have the time needed to assimilate Mikey into their household. He waited 200 days to meet his next—and last!—family. When Mallory Beren of San Anselmo and her father Bubba came to MHS looking for a rabbit, they took their time, read over all the available rabbits' profiles—and fell in love with Mikey. They knew he had some behavior issues in his last household which were not being helped by his long stay in the shelter, but they were up for the challenge and took him home. After a few months, Mikey was happily settled in. The behavior challenges were gone and Mallory says "he greets us with a nudge to the leg whenever we enter his room. Whether we're sitting together in his room or lounging on the bed, Mikey is there. He has become a special part of our family and we couldn't be happier."

Is Pet Obesity the New Normal?

By Debrah Hines, RVT

Let's stop and ponder this for a moment. In human terminology, overweight refers to an excess amount of body weight that comes from bone, muscle, fat and water. Obesity refers to an excess amount of body fat. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention states that clinical obesity in dogs and cats is classified as 30% above their ideal body weight. According to Kirk's Veterinary Therapy XIV, obesity is 15 to 20% more than their ideal body weight.

On average, most Americans do not recognize that their pet is overweight. When a guardian's dog can no longer get up and down so well, they rationalize with statements such as "Oh, she is just getting old." I have lost track over the years of how many times I have been told an overweight pet doesn't need a diet adjustment or temporary pain medication just because he/she "is slow to rise in the morning." Sometimes, people think it's "cute" to see a dog or cat with big girth waddling around. But it's not cute. It's dangerous.

Pet obesity is linked to many health care concerns. As summer nears, overweight animals can have heat intolerance. Orthopedic disorders can be evidenced by knee, back and hip abnormalities. Hypertension (high blood pressure), difficulty breathing, or tracheal collapse can result in heart disease. All of these medical concerns put pets at serious risk and cost pet parents thousands of dollars in diagnostics and treatments. And if your pet does need medical procedures, being overweight puts him/her at increased risk for anesthesia complications. Sometimes there are diseases which can contribute to obesity, including hypothyroidism in dogs, which is important to rule out when faced with an obese dog.

Humans, for the most part, can take control of this situation for our companion animals. We buy their food. We open the containers. We have control of the measuring scoop. But let's face it; it brings us joy to give our pets a treat and to feed them meals. That's understandable, but quantity matters. A solid conversation with your veterinarian can get you started in the right direction.

Satiety is a complex biological process. If your companion animal is obese, cutting back on their current food is not the answer. This is where specially formulated diets come into the picture. A lot of science goes into the research and development of these products. Again, your veterinarian can help you with a decision.

And don't forget about the importance of exercise. Sometimes guardians assume that a quick walk around the block or five minutes of chase the string is enough for a dog or cat but animals require (and enjoy) much more than that. An old adage we use for dogs is, "A tired dog is a happy dog," (and the same holds true for cats). And just think, you'll get more exercise, too!

For most of us, our companion animals are just like family. Let's keep our whole family healthy so we can enjoy long lives with all of them.

Photos: Cover dog Tico, a Cattledog, came to us weighing 58 pounds, which is severely overweight for his breed. After being adopted in to a loving home that helped him lose that extra weight, he's now a happy and healthy 22 pounds!

How a tuxedo cat named Joe Willie is making a World of Difference for One Hundred Cats

For more than 25 years, Mark M. Glickman has been one of Marin Humane Society's strongest supporters.

Growing up, Mark didn't have pets. In fact, it wasn't until he was an adult and a cat hopped up on his lap during a party, that he felt a connection to these furry creatures. Mark has made cats his primary passion and dedicated countless hours and funds to support them, especially those with health challenges and other special needs. He currently shares his home with Hathaway, a calico adopted from MHS who goes to work with him—when she is in the mood. He also shares his office with Evie and Sinatra and has been caring for a small feral colony nicknamed "The Breakfast Club," who have been living outside his office for several months.

In honor of his beloved cat Joe Willie, Mark has generously paid the adoption fees for the first 100 adult cats adopted at Marin Humane Society's Kitty Corner which opened recently in San Anselmo (see story on page 8). We asked Mark to share some insights regarding Joe Willie and what inspires him to give so generously to support MHS's work with cats.

In November 1990, I was on a noon-time walk in the San Francisco Financial District when I came upon an SPCA mobile adoption site. One of the kitties was a small Tuxedo Cat named Felix. Felix had neurological damage in his back-side, and due to this did not walk well. I expected that he would require ongoing attention for his condition, but adopted him anyway. After taking him home and watching the stiff-legged kitty with white shoes jet around my house I re-named him Joe Willie.

Stiff legs were just the first of Joe Willie's challenges. He had serious gastro-intestinal issues and eventually lost his ability to walk. Later, he also had a heart attack and stroke, all of which were treated by an extraordinary team of veterinarians. Throughout all this, Joe Willie remained the sweetest, most loving cat I have ever known.

All of my cats have inspired me; Bogie G. and Bandit are remembered with rooms at MHS. While I learned about cats from them, I learned about myself from Joe Willie. I want other people to adopt a cat and have that opportunity for an extraordinary connection.

Last year, I made a pledge to help cats with serious medical issues, and this year I wanted to encourage people to adopt and decided to focus on adult cats. While looking at the MHS website, I realized that kittens appear to be placed quickly while adult cats can take much longer, especially a cat like Joe Willie with medical problems. He enriched my life in countless ways. I hope my gift will pay this forward for another 100 cats and families.

The cats that have been sponsored by Mark can be adopted at Kitty Corner in the Red Hill Shopping Center. For more information, visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/KittyCorner or call 415.747.8322.

Photos from top: Croft, Tookie, Ozzy, and Mr. Soul are just a few of the cats who have found their forever homes through the generosity of Mark M. Glickman.

Agility for Junior Handlers
Tuesdays, July 14–August 18
3:45–4:45 pm
$150 for 6 weeks

Do you have a playful dog who you think would be good at Agility? Or maybe you've already taught your dog a trick or two? Have fun teaching your dog to go over hurdles, through tunnels, and through the weave poles. In this class you will learn the fundamentals of agility while building trust and confidence between you and your dog. Whether you plan to go on to competition or want something to impress your friends, junior handlers are sure to have a ball in this class! Previous training experience is helpful but not required. This class is for handlers ages 12-17 with emphasis on fun and teamwork. Dog friendly dogs only please. For more information or to register visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/classes.

Canines and Kids
Sundays, July 12–August 9
11 am–Noon
$100 for 4 weeks

Bring on the kids!! This very kid-friendly class series is designed to provide children with the skills needed to help train the family dog. The entire family is invited, but it's the kids who are holding the leash and providing the instruction. Class is for kids ages 10+. Dogs come to all the classes. Prerequisite is Family Dog 1. For more information or to register visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/classes.

Clear the Shelter
Saturday, August 15

In partnership with our local NBC and Telemundo stations, animal shelters throughout the Bay Area and across the United States are participating in "Clear the Shelter," a day dedicated to finding as many homes for homeless animals as possible. In hopes of making this a reality, the Marin Humane Society is going to let you name your own adoption fee to help us make a world of difference for animals. Stay tuned to MarinHumaneSociety.org or your local NBC affiliate for more information as August gets closer.

Pet First Aid & CPR class
Saturday, September 26
9 am–1 pm
Peter Pay, American Red Cross certified instructor
$60

This hands-on workshop teaches basic lifesaving techniques and preparedness, including basic pet first aid, CPR training, rescue breathing, restraint and muzzling, choking management, poison response, and much more. Included in the First Aid & CPR workshop is a first aid workbook and completion certificate. Please leave your animals at home. "Resus-a-dog" and "Resus-a-cat" mannequins will be available for hands-on training. Space is limited for this workshop; pre-registration is required. For more information please email Education@MarinHumaneSociety.org.

Weekend with Ken Ramirez
Saturday & Sunday, December 12–13
9 am–5 pm
One day $175, two days $300

Ken Ramirez is helping bring positive reinforcement training to all corners of the animal training world. Topics will include Core Training Tools & Practices; Complex Tools; Teaching Reactive Dogs to Live Together (a special case study); Concept Training: Counting; Handling Animal Mistakes; and the Evolution of the Modern Trainer. Please call 415.506.6280 or email OhBehave@MarinHumaneSociety.org for more information.

Sunday, September 20, Noon–5pm
A benefit music festival featuring
Wonder Bread 5!

Santa Photos December 1–6

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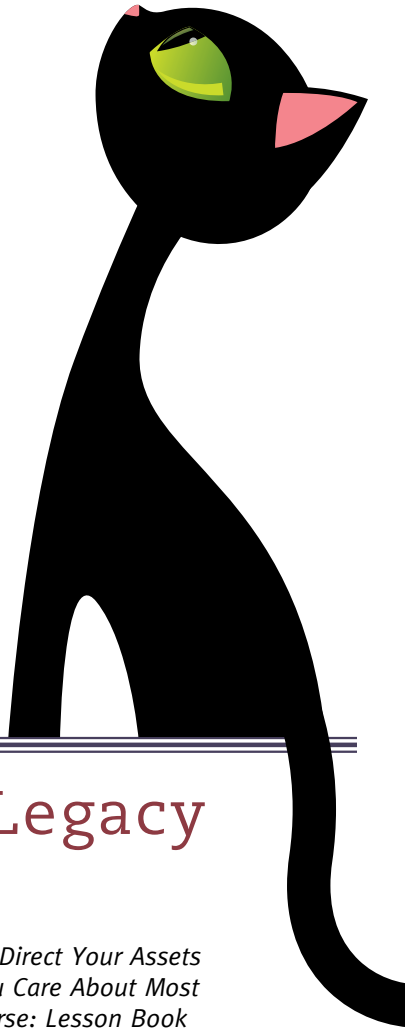
CATAPALOOZA

Sunday, October 25

The First MHS Catapalooza—out of this world!

The celebrated cat behaviorist **Jackson Galaxy** will be our featured speaker launching Catapalooza—our benefit to celebrate the fabulous world of felines happening Sunday, October 25 at the Marin Humane Society. Known as the "Cat Daddy," Jackson is featured on Animal Planet in his show "Cats from Hell." Check out *Facebook.com/Marin Humane* for special promotion opportunities... tickets go on sale in September!



Now is the Best Time to Plan your Legacy

By Joe Lisella

Nearly two years ago, my sister passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49. Like many of us, she thought she had plenty of time to put her affairs in order. My family has spent countless hours working through the various details of her estate, and the process presented many avoidable challenges.

It opened my eyes and made me determined to simplify matters for my heirs.

MHS recently launched a new Legacy Society website that includes free tools to help you plan—whether you intend to include MHS or not. I encourage you to explore the resources and plan wisely to ensure your wishes are carried out.

I recommend three resources that are available for download from the MHS website:

- *A Guide to Making Your Will: Direct Your Assets to the People and Causes You Care About Most*
- *Personal Estate Planning Course: Lesson Book*
- *Personal Estate Planning Course: Record Book*

MarinHumaneSociety.org/legacy provides these resources and many more in a friendly format.

Members of the Legacy Society (those who have included MHS in their estate plans) are also eligible for MHS's **Guardian Program**. This program enables people to pre-register their animals with MHS in case there isn't a loved one able to adopt them at the time you pass away. With your insights, MHS will match your animals with adopters best suited for their personalities, habits and special needs.

For more information on MHS's Legacy Society, please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org/legacy or contact me at 415.506.6257 or jlisella@MarinHumaneSociety.org.

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We are proud to support the efforts of the Marin Humane Society on behalf of the animals of Marin County who are dependent on their human companions. Committed to the communities in which we practice, we support organizations that reach out to those in need within Marin and Sonoma Counties and all of Northern California.

❖

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The Marin Humane Society

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MHS Thrift Store

Visit the Marin Humane Society Auxiliary's Thrift Store in downtown San Anselmo! Shop for clothes, kitchenware, books, handmade cards, collectables, and more. Proceeds support the Marin Humane Society spay/neuter program. Item donations welcome!

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