ANIMAL CHRONICLES

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Going the Extra Mile

A McKenney Minute

Every day at the Marin Humane Society (MHS) there is a "mission moment." We are reaching out—and helping out—both people and animals every day. From rounding up emus during our Valley Fire response to providing veterinary care for injured animals found in Marin, our work is unique. It's also rewarding, like when we reunite a lost animal with its guardian, give young adults a chance to promote humane legislation, or offer a support group for those who are grieving the loss of a pet.

Our staff and board of directors recently completed a thorough review and revision of our strategic plan (our priorities and goals for 2016–2020). We remain committed to leading the way in animal welfare and advocacy, embracing our collaborative spirit, playing a vital role in our community, and expanding our financial resources to support all our efforts. Since much of our Novato campus is aging, and space for staff and program delivery is at a premium, we are also aiming to complete a facilities master plan over the next year to 18 months. This plan, along with our strategic plan, will guide us over the next four to five years. Both are ambitious but I'm optimistic we will be successful in accomplishing our goals.

I am very proud of all the ways our staff keeps up with their training and stays current in the field of animal welfare. Many are active volunteers on local, state and national committees. Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. Belinda Evans, is serving as president of the Marin County Veterinary Medical Association. Kim Lanham-Snyder, our director of training & compliance, is certified to train personnel throughout the state in humane euthanasia, and Animal Services Director, Captain Cindy Machado, serves on the Certified Animal Welfare Administrators exam writing committee.

I'd like to close by sharing that it was the week of New Year's Eve, 2013 when a puppy, purchased from a breeder and surrendered to MHS, made his way into my heart. In the time since my family adopted Brody, we have attended many different dog training classes taught by MHS Behavior & Training staff. The classes have been great and I encourage all dogs and their guardians to sign up for one. They provide you with an opportunity to do something new with your dog and learn more about dog training and behavior. We've gone through the basics and even tried a sampling of some of the more advanced activities, such as scenting, agility and rally. Visit our website for the latest schedule of class offerings.

All the work accomplished by MHS mentioned in this issue 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

Animal Chronicles

Our Mission
We improve the lives of animals and people through advocacy, education, and support.

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The Marin Humane Society responds to animal emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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"Cat Daddy" Jackson Galaxy visits with Poof during Catapalooza

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Christine Costello adopted Sheba, a 12-year-old Somali who was entrusted to our care through our Guardian Program after her guardian passed away.

Helping Beyond Our B

When news broke on September 12 of a fast-moving fire in Lake County, Marin Humane Society Director of Animal Services, Captain Cindy Machado, knew urgent help would be needed. Having been through several disasters over her 30-year career, Captain Machado knows exactly what needs to happen during a disaster and what can go wrong when it comes to the welfare of animals. She quickly made contact with local organizations, as well as with the ASPCA's Disaster Response Unit, to see how we could help.

Captain Machado coordinates animal response efforts through Emergency Operations Center of Marin during local disasters. As such, Marin Humane Society (MHS) is directly connected to the many agencies responsible for, and involved with, disaster response and relief. MHS also works with national organizations, including the ASPCA and Humane Society of the United States, as a designated emergency response partner.

The devastating Valley Fire burned more than 76,000 acres. Thousands of people were evacuated and many animals were left behind, either because their guardians couldn't take them or couldn't get back to their properties to rescue them.

As expected in the first stages of a disaster, local animal shelters quickly made arrangements to transfer their adoption animals out to other organizations as they prepared to take in evacuated or lost animals. The Marin Humane Society readily agreed to take in adoption animals from two shelters close to the fire region—the Sonoma Humane Society and Napa Animal Services—and later from the SPCA of Clearlake and Lake County Animal Care and Control (LCACC).

A week later, MHS was asked to assist LCACC with their response efforts. MHS does not self-deploy teams to disaster areas; we follow established protocols and procedures before sending anyone or anything from MHS into a danger zone. We do not remove stray animals from a county unless instructed to do so. Regardless of good intentions, taking an animal away from the county in which they were found makes it extremely difficult for them to be reunited with their guardians.

After the request for assistance came in, we sent teams to the region every day for 11 days to help with a variety of needs—from field work in the evacuation areas to shelter and animal care duties at LCACC. A total of 27 MHS representatives worked in Lake County, leaving MHS by 6 am to make the 8 am briefing sessions at the shelter in Lakeport.

One of the primary tasks of our field teams was responding to calls from evacuees who were checking on their animals they had to leave behind. Those requests took us to the Hidden Valley, Middletown and Cobb Mountain communities. We provided food and water for the animals and determined if they required any medical attention. One MHS team was even involved in rounding up a group of emus to bring them to the shelter.

"It was an awesome, humbling and incredible situation," recalls Animal Services Lieutenant Evan Eustis. "I felt privileged to be able to help, while at the same time experiencing twinges of

Borders

By Lisa Bloch

guilt in being witness to the vast devastation of the fire zone. While there were many sad situations for both animals and people, I also got to be a part of a few heartwarming experiences. I set out a feeding station in an area in which there were likely many cats. Within moments, there were a dozen cats and kittens in an otherwise eerily vacant and evacuated neighborhood. Even more heartwarming, the adult cats allowed the kittens to gorge themselves first."

Our shelter teams helped with an overwhelming amount of cleaning and feeding at the shelter. Many of LCACC staff were working long days without a break, so our goal was to give them as much support as possible. We assisted their office staff by tracking the lost and found reports, staffing the phone lines, and providing free microchips and microchipping expertise for animals reunited with their families. And, when two cats taken from a family's evacuated home were located in a nearby animal shelter and nearly put up for adoption, we intervened to assist in getting the cherished cats back to their family in Lakeport.

"I went up twice, actually," said Customer Service Representative Sarah Leathers. "The first time it was to help out their front office staff who were overwhelmed and exhausted. They were an amazing group of people, and since they'd been working long hours in such a stressful situation it felt really good to give them a little break. I helped out with paperwork and phone coverage, as well as with redemptions of lost animals which was of course, very heartwarming. The second time I went up I helped clean kennels and feed the animals. It was grueling work but I'm so glad I did it. One of their staff members was visibly pregnant but working just as hard as everyone else and I thought that was really inspirational. She and I both have horses so we bonded over our love for them."

At the same time, our supporters were asking us for guidance as to which organization they should give their monetary donations. Since there were several different animal organizations involved, spread over a wide geographic area, MHS decided to set up a special way for our supporters to give money towards the recovery efforts. We sent out our "Valley Fire Appeal" email and received an amazing response. More than $25,000 was raised within just a few weeks! A committee was quickly formed which reached out to those involved and conducted research as to what was needed most and by which organizations.

In early November, MHS began distributing the donations which included funds for one shelter to build much-need housing for its

cats, and support for two other organizations to receive additional training and personal protective equipment for their volunteer responders.

Bill Richardson, director of Lake County Animal Care and Control said, "The Marin Humane Society and the help they provided during the Valley fire, was a 'God Send'. Everyone from MHS was awesome! They were helping to care for almost 400 animals in the shelter, as well as assist our teams in the field. The fact that they somehow also found the time to raise funds for our shelter was incredible."

LCACC is now in its recovery phase. We remain committed to supporting them well into the future. We have added their organization to our list of transfer partners, periodically offering to transfer their adoption animals to MHS in hopes of placing the animals in homes more quickly. We also have training and evaluation resources and ideas about how we can assist their dedicated yet under-resourced organization.

The Valley Fire was a strong reminder about the importance of having a disaster plan—and supplies—for their business, their home, their family, and of course, their animals.

We are very proud of the 27 people from MHS who worked long hours under challenging and sometimes heartbreaking conditions to assist LCACC in their time of extreme duress. When their call for help came in, we knew we had to respond. MHS thanks the staff and volunteers who served and also those who stayed back and helped with coverage at the shelter. This heart-wrenching experience is another example of how MHS carries out its mission of helping animals *and* people.

Visit MarinHumaneSociety.org for tips about disaster preparedness.

Photos: A cat is rescued during the Valley Fire (photo courtesy ASPCA); MHS Animal Care Manager Sam Weingarner scans a dog for a microchip; MHS Customer Care Representative Sarah Leathers cleans dog runs at LCACC

Ask the Behaviorist

Director of Behavior & Training Dawn Kovell and Cat Behavior Consultant Beth Weil answer some vexing questions about animal behavior.

Help! Walking my dog is very stressful!

You adopted a dog to have an enthusiastic, enjoyable walking companion. And, as it turns out, you got it half right; your walking buddy is very enthusiastic but significantly less enjoyable than expected. If your dog barks at other dogs during neighborhood walks, your favorite pastime can quickly become your least favorite chore.

Your dog hasn't purposely chosen to make you a social pariah; it is just a nifty side benefit of having a reactive dog. She isn't necessarily an aggressive dog, but her behavior sure makes her appear so.

Reactivity can have a variety of causes. It is important to understand why such behaviors are happening. If you can empathize with your dog's perspective you are then poised to establish a different behavior pattern—both for yourself and your dog!

Oftentimes, a dog is afraid of strange dogs. She barks and lunges in an effort to make the strange and disturbing thing "go away" and create some space. Another dog may be friendly but frustrated by his inability to greet or play with other dogs. And yet another dog is noise or motion sensitive and is completely over-stimulated in an urban or suburban environment.

The solution is multi-faceted and entails the assistance of a good dog trainer. Examine all of the other places where your dog barks at other dogs. The car, yard and living room windows are prime candidates. Manage these spaces so that she can't bark from these positions of power. Then, working with your trainer, learn how to teach her other options for creating sufficient space.

If you have more questions about leash frustration or other dog behavior issues, email OhBehave@MarinHumaneSociety.org or call our Behavior and Training Department at 415.506.6281.

How can I keep my cat off of the kitchen counter?

Contrary to popular belief, cats are very trainable and it is possible to keep them off of kitchen counters. The key is to use positive reinforcement and to make any negative interaction seem as if it is coming from the environment rather than you. If you spritz your cat with a water bottle when he is on the counter, he will learn that you are not to be trusted and not to go on the counter when you are there.

First, determine why your cat wants to go on the counter. Perhaps there is food there or a window with a good view of the outside. Perhaps every time he jumps on the counter he gets your attention. We want to decrease the attractiveness of the counter by removing food and providing another high spot, like a stool, where they can see outside. Reward your cat with a treat or a petting session when they go to the high spot. Lastly we want to make the counter uninviting whether or not you are present. Put double sided sticky tape (Sticky Paws) on old placemats or pieces of cardboard and place these on the counter when you are not using it. Cats don't like to walk on the sticky tape, so they will find the counter unattractive.

If you would like to learn more about how to train your cat or attend our How to Train Your Cat class, email OhBehave@MarinHumaneSociety.org or call our Feline Behavior Office at 415.506.6284.

HOME SWEET HOME

By Nancy Weiler

SPOTTY

California has had more than its share of wildfires this season. As part of a regional coalition of animal rescue organizations, MHS takes animals from shelters where disaster strikes to help make room for animals left homeless. Spotty arrived here from the Clearlake SPCA when wildfires struck the area. Little did he know it would be his lucky day! Hannah Chetkowski and Jason Sibley-Liddle had just moved to Mill Valley from Boston and were looking for a dog to take with them on all their adventures. They came to MHS "just to browse," wound up falling in love with Spotty, and adopted him the next day. Timid and shy at first, Spotty—now Jack—soon blossomed into the companion of their dreams. Jack now goes everywhere with them—work, dinner, errands, the beach, paddle boarding, hiking and mountain biking. Hannah says "he is always so excited when the three of us are together and it warms my heart. Every morning he greets us with kisses and every evening he snuggles up right next to us. He truly is family to us now."

GOLDMAN AND KEELEY

When the weather turns warm, you might see MHS's "Too Hot for Spot" flyers posted as a reminder to keep your pets at home in hot weather. This means cockatiels, too! When one of our Animal Services Officers responded to an emergency call of "birds in a hot car," he found four very vocal cockatiels in a small, dirty cage on the front seat of a parked car. In a matter of minutes the inside temperature had risen to 100 degrees and, with the assistance of the local police, the birds were removed and transported to MHS. Two of those birds, Goldman and Keely (renamed Bird Bird and Snuffy), are now happily at home with adopter Lisa. She tells us that "Big Bird is now willing to 'step up' onto my finger and Snuffy is happy to fly onto my head and preen my hair. Both birds enjoy 'shoulder surfing' while I work at the computer." Lisa's two new family members are also learning a handful of commands in addition to how to whistle the theme song to the Andy Griffith show!

BUFF AND BELLA-ROSE

MHS occasionally receives animals with special needs. Buff, a sweet buff colored tabby, was born with cerebellar hypoplasia, a neurological condition that causes tremors and jerky, uncoordinated body movements. It is not painful and doesn't affect a cat's ability to live a long life or be a playful, affectionate companion. Buff was particularly bonded to his sister Bella-Rose, who was used to his unusual movements, so we felt the best thing for Buff was for them to be adopted together. We didn't have to wait long! When Nancy Hansen of San Rafael and her son Kevin came to our campus looking to add some new felines to their lives, they were immediately drawn to these two as they had previously shared their home for 14 years with a cat who also had cerebellar hypoplasia. Renamed George and Gracie, they are now happily enjoying their new life. Nancy reports that they love to wrestle and play with each other before cuddling and purring in a nice warm lap, and that she and Kevin are "very happy to have another of these special cats to love."

COOPER AND CHARLIE

Some animals who arrive at MHS take the long road before finding their forever home. Brothers Cooper & Charlie arrived here as tiny kittens, placed in a foster home then quickly adopted, only to be returned two years later. A series of recurrent skin issues then kept them in and out of foster homes for months. Cooper's issues resolved first and the tough decision was made to make him available for adoption without Charlie, who was still recuperating. Missing the joy of having a furry, purring companion after losing their sweet 17-year-old cat, Pam Berkon and David Hyer of Novato came to MHS to look for a mellow, indoor only cat. They decided on Cooper, but after learning that Cooper had spent his whole life with Charlie, they couldn't bear the thought of splitting them up. Now both happily at home, Pam tells us the cats "often hang out together, frequently looking like a two-headed ball of fur during their afternoon naps. They make us happy with their antics, their energy and their love for each other and for us."

TERRANCE

This year, MHS extended their Pet Partnership Program to the Hawaiian island of Kauai. With the help of the Kauai Humane Society and Alaska Airlines (which transports the dogs for free) we began transferring dogs in. Mostly hounds that were used for hunting, these dogs weren't used to an indoor life and would need extra time adjusting to their new homes. Katie Runkel and her daughter Lyla of Corte Madera had been looking for a dog to join their family and, after a lot of discussion, decided to take a chance on Hawaii dog Terrance. Katie says "he was shy at first and cowered a little as he adjusted to his new home. Now that he has love and feels secure, he is like a completely different animal from the first few days after adoption." She says that "Terrance, or 'Mr. T,' is a sweetheart and a loving and funny dog. He's my jogging partner and is very loyal. I feel like we won the dog lottery! He is great with other dogs, people and loves kids. He's a joy and we adore him!"

DORAN

Doran arrived at MHS as a stray where a routine blood test revealed that he had the FIV virus, most likely from the bite of an infected cat. Cats with FIV generally have a normal life span if kept safely indoors. Doran was handsome, affectionate, playful and loved people, so we thought he would quickly be adopted. Well we were wrong—Doran waited almost a year to find his new family! While Karen Lavsa's grandson Max was attending the MHS summer camp program, he met Doran and thought he would be the perfect cat for her. Having lost her senior cat the previous year, Karen was ready to look for a new one—Max just sped up the process! She reports that Doran "immediately made himself at home, loves to sit in the windows and smell the fresh air, and sleeps on the bed. He has lots of energy, a sweet personality and is very smart." And of course Max comes over frequently to play with him!

A Day in the Life of an Animal Services Officer

By Lisa Bloch

The Marin Humane Society is unique in that it provides both shelter services and animal control, now called animal services, for the county of Marin. The county contracts with MHS to provide all services related to animals, both domestic, farm and wild.

Sometimes her work day starts at 6 am, sometimes at 3 pm, and sometimes MHS Animal Services Officer Adrienne Russo doesn't start her work day until 11 pm. Regardless of when she starts, one thing is for sure—each workday is never the same as the last.

We recently sat down with Officer Russo to ask her what a day in the life of an animal services officer is like.

Q: How does your shift usually start?

A: A typical shift starts with reviewing pending calls. If possible, I may be able to talk to the officer who's ending his/her shift to get a briefing. Next, I perform an equipment and supply check of the Animal Services truck I'll be using. Within 30 minutes I'm usually out the door and on the road.

Q: What sort of supplies do you have with you when you're out working?

A: Our trucks can pack a lot! We have everything from nets to buckets to pillow cases to dog treats to forms and informational materials. Our trucks also have special air conditioned compartments for us to transport animals either back to the shelter, to a veterinary hospital or, if it's a wild animal, to WildCare in San Rafael, which provides wildlife rehabilitation.

Q: What sorts of calls do you go out on?

A: There's a huge variety. One might be to investigate a case of animal neglect; the next might be a call about a dog who's "running at large," which basically means a dog running loose. Then I might go out to follow up on a permit inspection we're doing for a business related to animals or I might be called to rescue ducklings who've fallen down a storm drain. No two days are ever the same.

Q: Are there certain kinds of calls you enjoy most?

A: The calls I enjoy most are during our busiest season, Spring, aka "baby sea-

son." We quite often receive calls about abandoned, sick, injured, or trapped baby animals during this time which means I get to be up close to some of Marin's cutest wildlife.

Last year I had to coax out a baby fox that was trapped behind a washing machine in a Bolinas home and promptly take the little guy to Wildcare for a welfare check. I have rescued and then reunited hundreds of baby ducklings with their mothers after they had fallen through storm drain covers and became trapped. I'm known as "the badger whisperer" at MHS for always getting dispatched to calls for the elusive badger of Marin County. Last Spring, I responded to a call at a San Marin condominium complex for a small badger that appeared to be displaced and disoriented. It turned out to be a healthy juvenile that was expanding his territory and happened to wander in close proximity to humans.

Q: What kind of calls are the most challenging for you?

A: Some of the more challenging calls involve people who have a lack of awareness about coexisting with wildlife. I try to minimize these negative human/wildlife interactions by educating the public using my knowledge of wildlife and the many resources we have in Marin (Wildcare's wildlife solutions, Project Coyote, Hungry Owls, etc.).

Q: What are some of the strangest or most dramatic calls you or another officer has gone out on?

A: Apparently, several years back we had a call about a crocodile in a swimming pool which, of course, turned out to be an inflatable toy. As far as dramatic, we've had a few horse rescues that were really intense. In one case, the horse had fallen off a cliff and in another, a horse fell down a well.

Q: How long have you been with MHS? And what made you want to be an animal services officer?

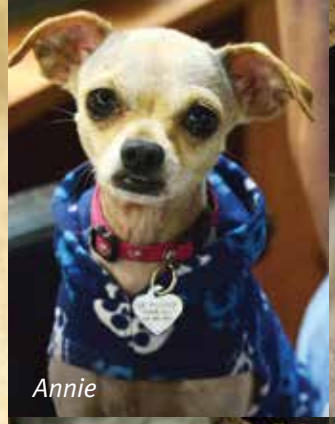
A: I have been an Animal Service Officers at MHS since 2008 but my "career" started much earlier; I was an MHS summer camper when I was in elementary school. I even got to go on a ride-along with the beloved but now retired Lt. Steve Hill. I was able to assist him with a wayward skunk on a golf course and a rescue and reunion of an older dog stuck in a ravine. I think those experiences planted the seed of wanting to work with animals so in 2007, I joined MHS in their Animal Care department and then went through the Animal Law Enforcement Training Academy at MHS.

Q: What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

A: I love spending time with my daughter, Sienna. She is five and a half and enjoys all of my rescue stories, good and sad, as well as coming to "volunteer" by socializing the kittens here on campus and working at Woofstock filling the water receptacles for the companion canines at the event. Sienna even has a volunteer badge with her name on it! She tells everyone in school that her mommy saves animals and that someday she wants to work with me.

Photos: MHS Animal Services Officer Adrienne Russo; ducklings that stray from their moms are a common occurrence during springtime

Chicky


Annie

Ava

Big Red

Merlin

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

Kitsume

Tennessee

Marty

Buster

Chickie

Pepper

Buff

Citizen

Freckle

Cocoa

Delilah

Cheeks

Sheba

Scamper

Bambi

Wilbur

Jeff

Champ

Hazel

Tweet

Francesca

Ruby

Silvana

Emma

Piper

Buddy

Petra

Eragon

Reggie & Bernie

Volunteer Profile:

Georgia Couderc

By Anne Oliver

When Ray Charles sings "Georgia on My Mind," he's thinking of a very special person. Here at the Marin Humane Society, we have a very special Georgia on our minds, too! For almost 10 years, since attending her volunteer orientation, Georgia Couderc has become an integral part of the daily operations of MHS and has made a positive impact on the lives of many—human and animal alike!

After retiring from 24 years as a registered nurse at UCSF, and the passing of her elderly dog, Georgia knew she wanted to spend more time around dogs. Her volunteer career at MHS began in April 2006 in the Behavior and Training (B&T) department as a dog behavior volunteer, assisting in private dog behavior consultations. Within a few months, she also became a Dog Training Assistant, coaching people learning new skills with their dogs in our public training classes. By the end of 2006, Georgia was also a dog foster volunteer.

Everyone soon knew that Georgia was not only capable, but also willing to take on new roles in the B&T department. She was asked to join the team of dog bathers which led to her becoming part of our Pet Partnership Program (PPP). This program brings animals from overcrowded shelters to MHS for adoption. She regularly joined a staff person on PPP trips to other shelters, selecting dogs and returning with them for evaluation and adoption.

"The trips were very difficult but so rewarding," said Georgia. She knew that once these dogs arrived at MHS, they had a much better chance of finding a life-long home. She was also asked to assist in cat behavior evaluations. Georgia couldn't say no and added that to her list of volunteer jobs! And, around this time, she took the lead with the dog bathers—not only performing the messy but transformative work but selecting dogs needing a bath or grooming and scheduling volunteers to assist.

Georgia also harbored an interest in volunteering in the MHS veterinary clinic. So when an opportunity arose, she happily joined the clinic volunteer team. At this point, she knew she was stretched too thin and decided to give up her shifts as a dog behavior volunteer. Georgia has become so valuable in the clinic, she is often there several days a week, preparing surgical packs and cleaning up after a long, busy day. Andrea Reese, MHS registered veterinarian technician says, "If the veterinary clinic was an automobile, Georgia would be the fuel. She keeps us running. I honestly don't know how we would function without her!"

A typical week for Georgia begins on Mondays—her cat evaluations and dog bathing day. Tuesdays and Thursdays she is in the vet clinic for 6–7 hours. Wednesdays she is back to work with the dog bathing team, doing rounds to select dogs in need of a bath or an outside grooming and scheduling bathing volunteers. Fridays are another day to bathe and fill in as needed. Although Georgia doesn't go on PPP trips any longer, when these dogs arrive at the shelter she is busy inputting their information into our database, weighing, vaccinating, and giving medication as needed.

What does she love the most about volunteering at MHS? "I love seeing a dog who has come through PPP, had a bath, has been to the clinic for spay/neuter, became available for adoption, and is leaving the shelter with his or her new family." One of the most memorable experiences of all happened about two and a half years ago when Georgia went to a shelter in the Redding area on a PPP trip. There, they found Haley, a female Basset Hound used for breeding, who had just been surrendered. Georgia was told that Haley recently had puppies so she offered to foster her so her milk could dry up. It turned out that Haley was pregnant again and gave birth to five puppies in Georgia's bedroom! Since Haley had a skin condition and one of the puppies was sick, she continued to foster them while the other puppies went to another foster home. Georgia had an opportunity to meet Haley's adopters—a couple who had been Basset Hound guardians and would provide Haley with a wonderful new home.

MHS staff who work closely with her give Georgia glowing compliments. Suzanne Gollin, foster program coordinator, says "We only have a handful of foster homes that can take dogs with behavior issues. Fortunately, Georgia is always eager to help us out. Because of her background she is able to give us insightful and clear feedback that helps us determine rehoming options. Georgia will also take long-term foster dogs. One such dog was Tico, a very overweight Australian Cattle Dog mix who needed regular exercise and a controlled diet. Thanks to Georgia and an additional foster home, Tico became the picture of good health after several

months and was adopted soon after he became available. We rest easier knowing we can count on Georgia."

Georgia says, *"I couldn't do any of this without the support of staff and other volunteers. I am not volunteering in isolation."*

Finally, Georgia's compassion for animals extends beyond MHS. When she learned about a pig sanctuary near Tucson, Arizona that needed blankets to keep the pigs comfy, she knew she had to help. She knew MHS sometimes had an excess of blankets but shipping them to Tucson was cost prohibitive. Luckily, Georgia's husband owns a moving and storage company so he now has one of his trucks drop off boxes of extras when they are traveling through the area. Georgia also takes home our excess donations of collars and leashes. She washes them, packs them up and sends them to other shelters, even one in Aniak, Alaska where they are put to very good use.

Georgia is a volunteer who fully embraces our philosophy of making a world of difference for all animals. We sing our praises and thanks to Georgia for sharing her huge heart and energetic spirit with everyone, animals and people alike!

For more information about volunteering at MHS, please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org or call 415.506.6267.

Support After the Loss of a Loved Animal

"Grief over the loss of a pet is not really supported in our society," says Annie Humphrey, SHARE program coordinator at MHS. "It's not uncommon for someone grieving the loss of a pet to be told, "It's just a dog, or it's just a cat. Get over it."

That lack of understanding became the impetus for organizations to begin offering pet loss support groups. Providing a safe space for people to process their grief has shown to be incredibly helpful.

Those of us who have been through the loss of a beloved animal companion know how painful it can be. Simply "getting over it" isn't easy. Our pets are the ones who are always there for us with unconditional love, and offer a unique bond. Sometimes their loss can trigger other emotional issues too, so having a safe space to express oneself is key.

The Marin Humane Society is proud to partner with Hospice by the Bay to host a regular, free, pet loss support group held on the first Monday of every month from 6-7:30 pm at its Novato campus. Facilitated by a professional grief counselor, this group allows you to connect with others who have experienced a similar loss, share your grief, and learn skills to help you on your journey toward healing.

For more information, please contact Hospice by the Bay at 415.526.5699 or griefsupport@hbtb.org.

Reaching More Animals...
...Through Unique Services

By Betsy McGee

Recognizing that large group training classes and behavior consultations held at the MHS campus aren't always the best way to address the needs of seniors and people with disabilities in our community, the Marin Humane Society has recently launched two new programs.

First, our **Seniors & People with Disabilities handling classes** are limited to just four clients. In this smaller environment, we are able to tailor the curriculum to meet our clients' particular training needs, and address any canine behavior issues our clients are encountering.

Second, our **in-home consultations** provide one-on-one coaching in a client's home to address behavior issues. It may be that a client is unable to drive to Novato. Or, sometimes the behavior issue is best addressed in the client's home or neighborhood where the problem is occurring. Our consulting team visits with the client and dog and provides advice and hands-on training to help both live more comfortably with each other.

After a recent in-home consultation, Tineke Steinhart said, "Thank you so much for helping us with Jake. That was a great visit! We learned a lot and have been using your tips every time."

The MHS Behavior and Training staff enjoy having more personal time with our clients. We're able to do a better job of assisting them with their behavior and training needs, and we often see immediate results that give us the confidence to know that our clients and their dogs can live a happier and more harmonious life together.

Please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org, or call 415.506.6280, for more information on our Seniors & People with Disabilities Client Services program.

Photos clockwise: Darl and Tekila; Richard and Squeaky; Yuri and Silky; Katrina and Jack; Noreen and Lucy; Margery and Poppy

"Thanks so much for such a terrific class. Rafa and I learned a great deal and are enjoying each other so much!"
– Nancy Angelo

Sophie's Second-Chance Bridge

By Sonja Bohannon

If you have been on the MHS campus lately, you might have noticed four banners hanging on the sides of the bridge that connects the dog and agility parks to the main campus. They have a photo of an adorable dog with a caption that reads, "*Sophie's Second-Chance Bridge*." Who is Sophie and how did she get on the bridge?

Our annual gala this year, *For the Love of Animals*, featured several opportunities to honor an animal friend including the cover of our MHS calendar, a cat condo at the new *Kitty Corner* in San Anselmo, and the bridge on our Novato campus.

Sophie was brought to the Marin Humane Society because her guardian could no longer keep her. As luck would have it, Virginia Haldan was volunteering that day and fell in love with Sophie right away. Her husband, Glenn, rushed up to the shelter and he, too, was smitten.

"I took Sophie over the MHS bridge and unlocked the Small Dog Park gate. I put Sophie down and let her run around to her heart's content," said Glenn. "During those moments we were together, a bond was formed. When I returned to the shelter where Virginia was waiting, we looked at each other and smiled. There we were, like three peas in a pod, and have remained as such to this day. Our 'Little Miss Sophie' is a real gem, and we will always be indebted to the Marin Humane Society. We found our Sophie...and, more importantly, Sophie found us that day we crossed over her *Second-Chance Bridge*."

108 Years

By Joe Lisella

On December 17, 1907 the Marin Humane Society was incorporated as an independent nonprofit in the state of California. From the beginning when Marin animal lovers joined founder Ethel Tompkins to change the way animals were treated, MHS has reflected the values of our community and is today one of the most progressive and truly influential humane societies in the United States.

Much has changed in those 108 years, but it is still through the generous support of our community that we are able to help thousands of animals every year.

Bequests and other gifts from people who share our commitment to the future of animal welfare are an essential component in our ability to provide care and support for both animals and people in Marin.

Please consider joining the MHS Legacy Society to ensure our ability to help animals for another 108 years by including MHS in your estate plans. Information is available online at MarinHumaneSociety.org/legacy or you can contact Joe Lisella, director of development, at jlisella@MarinHumaneSociety.org or 415.506.6257 to receive a copy of "12 Ways to Support Your Favorite Cause," a free informative brochure that provides ideas of how you can support MHS with tax advantages to you and your heirs.

More than one third of the Marin Humane Society's annual philanthropic support comes in the form of planned gifts.

MHS founder, Ethel Tompkins

The Marin Humane Society Advocacy Committee: Pushing the Boundaries

By Brian Cooley

Did you know that the Marin Humane Society has an advocacy committee? The mission of the committee, which is made up of board members, staff, and volunteers, is to elevate the animal welfare message from the organization, engage politicians and policy makers toward making positive changes for animals, and ensure the prominence of animal advocacy within the Marin Humane Society.

The committee is meeting this mission through:

Monitoring
Monitor local, state and/or federal legislation, debate in committee and recommend when and if MHS should become actively involved.

Organizing
Organize and promote MHS' involvement in annual Lobby Days in Sacramento and at other high-level events.

Synchronizing
Synchronize with MHS departments for a consistent animal welfare message.

Advising
Advise the board of directors and keep it involved in animal advocacy issues as well as framing requests for approval or consent when needed.

Connecting
Connect with other advocacy groups to find opportunities to speak as one larger voice on behalf of animals.

The committee, which meets monthly, has recently been involved in several ongoing projects. We have been monitoring state and federal legislation, including the recent bills in Sacramento to ban the use of bullhooks on elephants and the sale of ivory in our state. The committee submitted letters of support during the 2015 legislative session. We're very disappointed to learn that Governor Brown vetoed the bullhook ban and we hope the bill can return next year and be more successful. We are pleased, however, that he signed the bill banning the sale of ivory.

Entering into new territory, the Advocacy committee contacted local cruelty-free cosmetic and beauty product companies to be vendors at Woofstock. Hopefully you had a chance to stop by the booths of EO, Amanda Ross, Every Man Jack, and Neal's Yard Remedies to learn more about these product lines that don't test on animals and are "Leaping Bunny" approved. Leaping Bunny is the only international third-party cruelty-free certification program.

MHS continues to be a participant in the legal efforts spearheaded by the Front Range Equine Rescue to stop the opening of horse slaughterhouses in the United States. We also have joined with the Animal Legal Defense Fund to take legal action to end the use of farrowing crates at the California State Fair. The committee will continue monitoring any new animal legislation and working on the review of MHS position statements. The next event coming up on the Advocacy Committee's radar will be promoting the Animal Film Festival on the MHS Campus (January 23-24, 2016). Please visit MarinHumaneSociety.org for more details and we hope to see you there—we'll provide the popcorn!

Engaging the Youth of Today for a More Humane Tomorrow

By Chelsea Fairbanks

These days, kids have an array of options for extra-curricular activities including sports, performing arts, language classes, and even coding. But what about activities that foster compassion? Or ones that encourage a sense of stewardship for the world around us and the creatures in it? And could those activities encourage a sense of self-esteem at the same time?

The Marin Humane Society's Education Department offers engaging opportunities for the budding animal lovers in Marin. From after school clubs like Animal Care and Roots and Shoots to Humane Summer Camp, students of all ages can learn various aspects of animal welfare while strengthening their self-confidence, expanding their mind, and building friendships (with two-legged creatures, as well as four-legged).

We've long known anecdotally that these programs have tremendous benefits to kids but recently, it was put to the test. Dominican University Psychology Professor Afshin Gharib, PhD, and his students are partnering with MHS on a study about the impact our humane programs have on the students who participate.

Data collected in 2014 was analyzed by the team at Dominican University and the results were very promising. The researchers compiled their results in a paper for their colleagues in the psychology field and according to their study:

The semester-long after school programs improved the participants' humane attitudes towards animals, and also led to a more internal locus of control for the students. This suggests that not only did the students learn about humane issues and proper animal care as a result of participating in the various club activities, they also gained more confidence in their own ability to control events in their lives.*

The week-long summer camp program had positive effects not only on measures of awareness of humane issues but also on measures of psychological well-being (including self-esteem, self-efficacy and locus of control).*

This "proof of effectiveness" can be used to help MHS receive additional funding for our programs, as well as develop new or extended programs to fit the community's desires and needs for more humane education.

With these positive results in mind, the MHS Education Department decided to expand the offerings for both after-school clubs and day camps to reach even more youth in our community. We now offer three after-school clubs for 5th grade through 12th grade students: Animal Care Club, Junior Roots & Shoots, and Senior Roots & Shoots, which meet twice per month, respectively. Starting in 2016, we will offer a brand new Junior Advocates Club for middle and high school students who have completed one semester of Roots & Shoots and are interested in helping with advocacy goals for the animals. And, of course, we still offer our Student Internship to high school students who want to help on campus and learn more about our various departments.

**Locus of control refers to the extent to which individuals believe they can control events affecting them.*

Photos: A MHS Summer camper snuggles with Charlotte, a SHARE dog (photo courtesy Kathy Meier); campers gently handle an adoption kitten

Saturday, January 23, 7–10 pm
Sunday, January 24 , 1–4 pm

The 2nd Annual Animal Film Festival is coming to the Marin Humane Society! The show repeats both days. Proceeds benefit the Center for Animal Protection & Education and the Marin Humane Society.

For tickets and movie information, visit MarinHumaneSociety.org.

March 5, 2016

10 | Marin Humane Society's Tenth Annual Gala

Spring 2016

Fall 2016

The Cat Daddy Visits MHS!

In October, feline fanatics from all over the Bay Area flocked to MHS for its inaugural cat-lovers event, Catapalooza, and to hear from "The Cat Daddy" himself, Jackson Galaxy.

Jackson Galaxy's show on Animal Planet, *My Cat From Hell,* is hugely popular with cat lovers of all ages and features stories about feisty felines and their families. He's also an author and his latest book, "Catify to Satisfy," provides helpful tips about how to make your home more cat-friendly and engaging for your feline family member.

Jackson gave two "Cat Mojo 101" talks in the MHS auditorium, which provided an intimate and up-close session with the celebrity who often speaks to crowds of thousands. These engaging and humorous talks focused on the variety of cat personalities and how best to engage with them. He also took questions from the audience.

Afterward, Jackson stopped for photos with cat adopters and recorded special public service announcements for some of our adoption cats—many of whom have been at the shelter for quite a while. He also spent time with MHS' own cat expert, Beth Weil, learning more about how we help cats and people in our own community.

The day also included a special Purr-veyors Market, featuring vendors of all sorts—from hand-knitted plush kitties to builders of "catios" to kitty spas. Red Whale coffee was on hand with its specially-crafted Catapalooza roast and The Taco Guys provided delicious vegetarian fare.

Guests perused the market and also visited our adoption cats and kittens, who were available with a special "name your own adoption fee." More than 23 cats and kittens were adopted that weekend!

Finally, twenty MHS supporters got the chance to have an elegant and intimate dinner with Jackson at Cavallo Point, raising even more funds for the shelter animals.

We loved our visit from "The Cat Daddy" and look forward to his return!

Photos: Jackson Galaxy visits with longtime shelter cat Lily Kai; Jackson shows some love to shelter cat Sebastian; MHS Special Events Manager Sonja Bohannon and Jackson Galaxy

CATAPALOOZA

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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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Main Campus Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 10 am–5:30 pm, Wednesday 10 am–7 pm, closed Monday
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