Lives made happy™

Winter 2018 | A Marin Humane Publication

THE IMPACT REPORT
Achievements by the numbers

BETTER THAN THE A-TEAM
Saving the day for challenging dogs

THE MYTH OF HUMANE RELOCATION
Wisdom from WildCare

marin humane
Lives made happy.

The McKenney Minute

Every day I get to witness lives made happy.

Our caring and compassionate staff and volunteers do so much; they rescue wildlife, reunite lost animals with their guardians, care for hundreds of pets under our roof, and find new, loving families for them.

Marin Humane accomplished a lot in the past year. A successful outcome for all animals who arrive at our shelter is our main focus, and 2018 was no exception! Transparency is essential in our work, so we're proud to share our annual statistics with our community.

Among our accomplishments in 2018:

- Joined a coalition of groups to pass landmark legislation for farm animals, Prop 12
- Provided critical assistance to communities affected by fires, including the counties of Lake, Shasta, and Butte
- Launched our new Pet Safety Net for pet guardians in need
- Held two major events (the Gala and Woofstock) bringing more animal lovers together to raise needed support
- Joined a critical coalition of Bay Area shelters to better coordinate the support for under-resourced and overcrowded shelters in the Central Valley

As we begin the New Year, we'll continue to seek a humane world for every animal. Our 2019-2024 strategic plan includes initiatives to guide us in our efforts. If we're successful, by the time we reach 2030 we will have helped end pet homelessness. This is an ambitious goal, no doubt, so I'm inviting you to support our life-saving efforts.

May your holidays be happy and humane!

Nancy McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
CEO & President

ON THE COVER Maureeen Reyes, Marin Humane Development Coordinator, snuggles a foster kitty.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★
Four Star Charity

Lives made happy™

Our Mission
We transform lives through exceptional animal care, humane education, and advocacy. Every day, we inspire compassion and positive relationships between people and animals.

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415.309.6339
Marin Humane responds to animal emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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marinhumane.org

The **IMPACT REPORT**

Thanks to the generous support of our donors (individuals, corporations, and foundations), Marin Humane transformed many lives—both human and animal—in the past year. Here's a look at our work from Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1 – June 30). Compared to the year before, we took in more animals, spayed and neutered more animals, and achieved a "Live Release Rate" of 93%. Behind every statistic is a story of an animal in need—whether it was medical care, compassionate behavior modification, or simply a new, loving home.

2017-18 IMPACT REPORT

Spay/neuter surgeries performed
1,849

Homes found for Career Cats
205

Animals fostered
866
19,760 foster days

Behavior & Training consultations
1,373
Workshop & class attendees
12,750

Students reached through Humane Education
8,026

ANIMALS

Dogs: 1,521
Cats: 2,136
Small Companion Animals: 882

METHOD

Owner Surrender: **1,364**
Stray: **1,240**
Transfer in: **1,162**
Emergency Boarding: **658**
Adoption Returns: **115**

OUTCOMES

adopted 2,397
transferred out 583
returned to guardian 80
reunited 548
euthanized 278*
emergency boarding return 601
died 26
still in care 26+

live release rate
93%

*Marin Humane provides euthanasia only when it is compelled by circumstances, including dangerous behavior issues that cannot be rehabilitated, untreatable medical conditions, or if the animal is in extreme pain or suffering. Marin Humane employees are extensively trained and certified to perform euthanasia to ensure the final moments of an animal's life are filled with compassion and care.

Volunteers
675
73,000 volunteer hours!

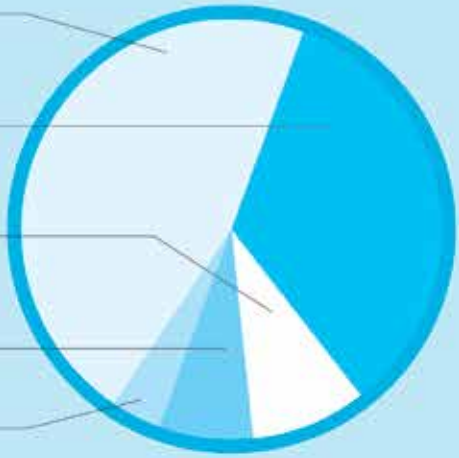
Animals helped through Pet Care Assistance
295

Animal Assisted Therapy visits
1,402

Animal Law Enforcement Academy students
56

Pet & wildlife calls responded to
7,253

REVENUES



$4,539,332 46%
Contributions, bequests, grants, and special events

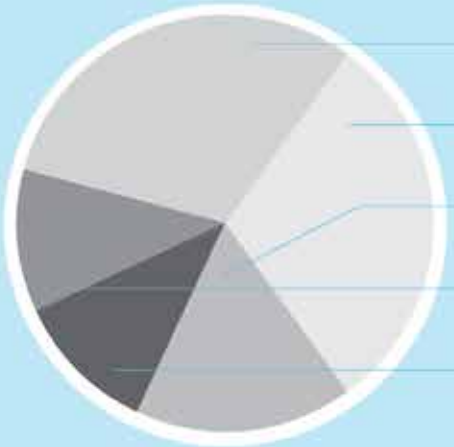
$3,355,547 34%
Animal Services and other county fees (JPA)

$884,175 9%
Education and training fees, retail sales, other

$649,170 7%
Investment income

$424,070 4%
Operating fees and income

EXPENSES



31% $2,662,849
Animal Services

30% $2,577,947
Education and Community Engagement

17% $1,437,276
Clinic, adoption, and foster care

11% $918,887
Fundraising and development

11% $922,844
Management and administrative

Marin Humane—Marin's only open door shelter helping all animals in need—is not a chapter or affiliate of any national organization like the Humane Society of the United States or the ASPCA. We rely on the generosity of animal lovers like you to do our work. Please support us so we can help more animals in our community (and people, too).

Our statistics are readily available at marinhumane.org/meet-us/shelter-statistics

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Julia Lamont

When Charlie, a 10-year-old Maine Coon mix, arrived at Marin Humane, he was frustrated by his confinement and leery of people. It was clear this beautiful boy needed time to learn to trust again.

Charlie (pictured above) flourished from his time with his foster family.

Off he went to the home of behavior foster Shirley Sugawara. She gave him the time he needed to come out of his shell while also keeping him entertained indoors. Charlie improved so much under Shirley's care that he's now back at the shelter and ready for his forever home. Without Shirley, he might still be growling at every visitor from the corner of his room.

This is the power of behavior fosters. Fosters take animals into their homes to give them a break from the often-stressful shelter. Behavior fosters take that commitment to the next level, helping animals who need extra time and attention before they're ready for adoption.

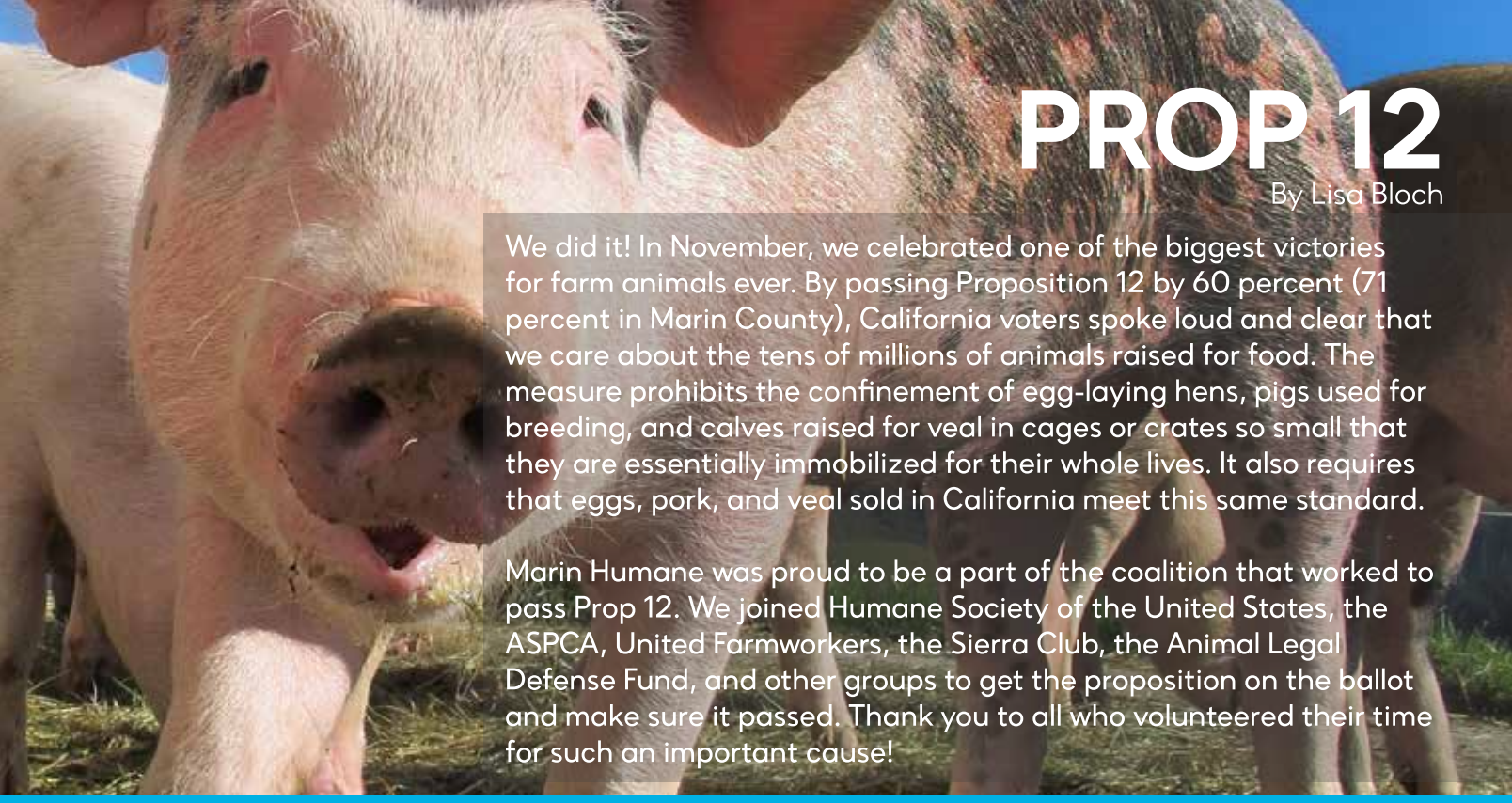
Many of these fosters have opted not to have any animals of their own and instead open their homes to those dogs and cats who badly need a safe place to land. Others have gentle resident pets who help shelter animals feel safer or teach them how to socialize.

Suzanne Gollin, Marin Humane's foster coordinator, says the most important part of being a behavior foster is patience. "They also need to work with our behavior team to learn what the animal needs, and should have a keen eye to watch the animal's body language and changes in their behavior."

When Christie Wrinkley, a terrified little Chihuahua, first arrived at Marin Humane, she hid under a blanket and refused to come out. She'd been rejected by a number of other rescue organizations because she was so shut down. But Adoptions Manager and foster parent Catherine Tryon wasn't about to let her hide forever. She brought Christie Wrinkley home, where she and her own dog taught the skittish pup that the world could be a safe, fun place. Catherine was gentle with Christie and took her everywhere so she'd be exposed to lots of sights, sounds, and smells. Catherine says, "She came out from hiding, started to wag her tail, was friendly with the animals in my home, and relaxed enough to actually start playing." The gradual improvements added up until Christie was ready to be adopted! A woman fell in love with her at the Bay Area Pet Fair and took her home, where she continues to shine.

As an open door shelter, Marin Humane sees every type of animal behavior issue. Some shelters may turn these dogs and cats away, and others might deem them "unadoptable." Thanks to our behavior fosters, we're able to give these animals the time and space they need to grow and transform into happy, adoptable pets.

To learn more about our foster program, head to marinhumane.org/get-involved/volunteer/foster-program.



PROP 12

By Lisa Bloch

We did it! In November, we celebrated one of the biggest victories for farm animals ever. By passing Proposition 12 by 60 percent (71 percent in Marin County), California voters spoke loud and clear that we care about the tens of millions of animals raised for food. The measure prohibits the confinement of egg-laying hens, pigs used for breeding, and calves raised for veal in cages or crates so small that they are essentially immobilized for their whole lives. It also requires that eggs, pork, and veal sold in California meet this same standard.

Marin Humane was proud to be a part of the coalition that worked to pass Prop 12. We joined Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA, United Farmworkers, the Sierra Club, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and other groups to get the proposition on the ballot and make sure it passed. Thank you to all who volunteered their time for such an important cause!

DO I NEED A LICENSE FOR MY DOG?

By Julia Lamont

In Marin County, dog guardians are required to license their precious pooches. If your dog isn't licensed, you've probably wondered if it's really necessary. Well, the answer is a resounding YES!

If you get caught without a current license, you could find yourself facing a fine. But more importantly, there are advantages to licensing your pup beyond just keeping your dog's paw on the right side of the law.

For most dog guardians, the thought of losing one's dog is the stuff of nightmares. If you knew there was an additional form of identification that could help you and your pooch be reunited more quickly if that nightmare ever came true, wouldn't you want your dog to have it? A license helps Marin Humane staff quickly identify dogs should they ever become lost. Even if your furry friend is microchipped, a license is an immediate, visual cue that he or she has a guardian.

Your dog's license also lets people know your pup is up to date on all necessary vaccinations, especially their rabies vaccine. If you're a renter or part of a homeowners' association, this shows your

landlord or neighbors that you're a responsible pet guardian and that your dog is rabies-free. Also, revenues from the dog licensing program support having Animal Services 24/7, 365 days out of the year, for Marin County.

A license fee is a small price to pay for all those benefits! **Purchase or renew a dog license at marinhumane.org/get-help/dog-licensing.**

HOME SWEET HOME

By Nancy Weiler & Julia Lamont

SOPHIA

Lovely Sophia was surrendered because her guardian was moving. At 13 years old, we knew it would take a special person to offer her a new home. Marin Humane volunteers, Susan Altizio and Richard Hoover, had recently lost their senior cat and missed him terribly. When they were ready to adopt again, they knew they wanted another senior and both fell in love with Sophia, now Gracie.

Susan tells us, "Gracie instantly bonded with Richard, making herself at home on his lap and after a day or so she decided to put up with me." When Richard is outside, Gracie watches him (and the birds!) from her two cat towers and follows Susan around the house conversing in various cat tones—probably telling her how happy she is in her new home!

APOLLO

Apollo is a sweet, goofy, and strong mastiff mix who found himself looking for a new home, but he had a hard time finding a family who could manage his strength and exuberance—until he met Cyndy and John Baroy. They tell us they are absolutely in love with him! Apollo—now Hank—gets along with their small dog, loves chew toys, and enjoys his daily 10 to 15 mile walks.

Cyndy says, "All of us have lost weight except for Hank, who's put on eight pounds of pure muscle." He knows his commands and listens well. "Drop it" came in handy when he was just about ready to devour a tennis ball! Cyndy tells us, "The only accident we've had is when Hank came in from a walk, ran straight to the kitchen, and devoured a whole loaf of jalapeno cheddar cheese bread!"

GIRL

In California, it is legal to keep a desert tortoise as a pet if it was in captivity prior to 1990. Girl, a 50-year-old desert tortoise, was surrendered by her guardian. Girl arrived in poor condition. Her tub was way too small and bore scratch marks from her trying to get out.

After receiving treatment and TLC, we found her a great home with Kimberly, who has a soft spot for desert tortoises. Girl, renamed Rosie (after rose petals, her favorite snack!), joined Kimberly's already large animal family. Kimberly says that "Rosie is loving her new home and spends her days laying in the sun and exploring her backyard. She loves to follow me around as I garden." And we're sure she's getting lots of rose petals to snack on, too!

AMBER

Amber is one amazing kitty. Left outside a sheriff substation in a cardbox box, she was in grave condition with severe burns across 75% of her body. After spending five days in intensive care, she was transferred to Marin Humane. Slowly but surely, Amber improved and moved to a foster home where she continued her recovery. While there, she emerged as an affectionate, playful kitten and continued on the road to recovery.

Marin Humane Customer Service Representative Lili Schneider had been looking for a feisty kitty for her two other felines, and Amber fit the bill perfectly! Renamed Phoenix, she and her brothers chase each other and play with their toys together. Although she still bears a few scars from her trauma, Phoenix's unique personality has brought happiness and endless entertainment to the whole family.

MAIZEY

Maizey was found scared and alone and would act out when unhappy. How would we ever find the right home for this special rabbit? It took six months, but when Erik Allen decided to adopt a rabbit, he wanted the one "least likely to get adopted." Well, he found her!

Erik had bunny experience and wanted a rabbit who needed patience and guidance. He tells us Maizey has adapted well to her new home and is a wonderful companion. He lives alone in a quiet neighborhood and has a consistent schedule—things Maizey needed to feel safe. She's stopped misbehaving and enjoys doing "binkies" when she's out of her cage. Since she likes to stay active, Erik makes her tunnels, hiding boxes, or things to destroy (how fun!). Content and happy at last, Erick says Maizey is now definitely "Queen of the Castle."

LILY LOU

Lily Lou, now Lili, arrived at the shelter matted, blind from advanced cataracts, and scared of her new surroundings. Thanks to lots of TLC and surgery to remove her painful eyes, Lili blossomed into a cuddly, vivacious dog.

At first, Lily's adopter, Laura, was unsure she could accommodate her blindness but after meeting her, she was sold.

"I knew the minute I met her she'd be coming home with me. Lili let me pick her up and snuggled her face in my neck. It was as if she was telling me, this is where I'm meant to be."

Lili is thriving in her new home. She has a mini schnauzer for a sister and is learning to play with toys. Laura made Lili a special mat for Lili's meals and they're attending scenting classes together. Laura says, "I hope Lili's story inspires more people to adopt special-needs babies."

THE MYTH OF HUMANE RELOCATION

By Kelle Kacmarcik, WildCare Director of Wildlife Solutions and Advocacy

Every day, WildCare and Marin Humane receive calls from people looking for do-it-yourself ways to resolve conflicts with wildlife. Callers frequently ask about trapping and relocating animals, thinking that taking the animal to a "better" habitat far away is a humane way to resolve the problem. Most don't want the animal(s) to die or be killed, but what they don't realize is that trapping and relocating wildlife is inhumane, illegal, and ineffective.

Animals who are relocated have no idea where to find food and water or where to find safe places to hide or shelter. They get dumped in the home range of other animals, leading to territory disputes which can cause fatal injuries. Many die from starvation and dehydration.

When an animal is removed from her home territory, an opening is created and another animal will soon fill that void. Intentionally or not, our neighborhoods provide wildlife with the resources they need to survive, and animals choose territories based on the availability of these resources. Birdfeeders, pet food left outside, fruit trees, compost, and wood piles draw wildlife in. As long as the attractant remains, animals will be drawn to it. Removing the attractant is the only effective and permanent solution.

The majority of WildCare's Hotline calls about trapping and relocating come in during baby season. In residential areas, wild animals will frequently access human-made structures to create a nest or den and raise their family, and one of the worst results of relocation is that babies are often left behind to die from hypothermia and starvation in walls, crawl spaces, and attics.

Aside from the issues of cruelty, the spread of infectious disease and human safety are two of the main concerns in the relocation of wildlife. Diseases can vary by region and relocation introduces them to new areas. The spread of rabies in Canada and in the southeastern U.S. in the 70's and 80's has been attributed to the relocation of wildlife. Whether you hire someone to trap and remove an animal or take matters into your own hands, California law strictly prohibits the relocation of wildlife by anyone, including licensed trappers. If you've hired a pest control company and were told the animal was being relocated, the operator either lied or broke the law. The only options are to release within 150 yards of where they were trapped or kill the animal(s).

Trapping and relocating is not a humane solution. This doesn't mean you're stuck with a problem, but you may need to modify your behavior to resolve it. The most effective and long-term solution to conflicts with wildlife is to remove attractants and to prevent animals from accessing a structure.

We can help you find humane and effective solutions to live well with your local wildlife. Please call WildCare's Hotline 415.456.7283 and visit discoverwildcare.org.

GIVING **HOPE** AS A GIFT

By Joe Lisella

"We always hear, 'It's the thought that counts,' and I've given countless thoughtful gifts over the years for birthdays, anniversaries, and other occasions," Cheryle Hangartner of San Rafael recently shared. "It made me think, do they really need another pair of earrings, scarf, or gift card?"

About a year ago, Cheryle started honoring birthdays by sponsoring the adoption fees of Marin Humane animals who may have trouble finding homes because they're older or have medical or behavior challenges. Cheryle gives each gift recipient a picture of the animal she sponsors, as well as a note that lets them know they're being honored through a sponsorship.

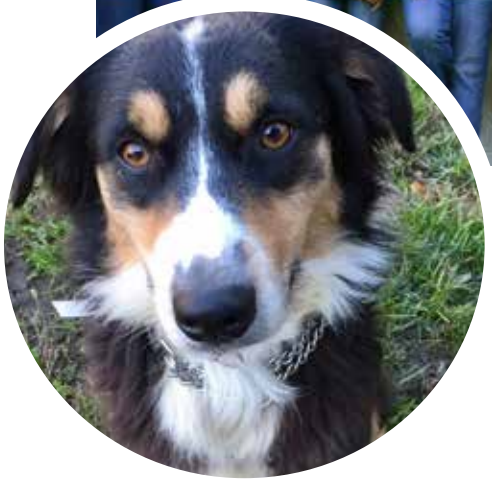
"The gifts are unexpected and people love the idea that their birthday gift is helping an animal find a forever home," Cheryle added. "I would adopt them all if I were able, but directing a meaningful gift to honor a friend or relative is a great way to help each of these special animals begin their next chapter."

To date, Cheryle has sponsored the adoption fees of nearly 30 animals who are now enjoying life in their forever homes. And as they say, one good turn deserves another, so friends have honored her with sponsorships and donations to Marin Humane.

BETTER THAN THE A-TEAM

By Dawn Kovell

Storm, a gorgeous Australian shepherd, was surrendered to Marin Humane by a breeder. At two years old, she had been returned to the breeder because of reported aggression toward people. When she first arrived, Storm was so fearful she couldn't even be weighed. She was the perfect candidate for two special teams at Marin Humane, the "Screen Team" and the "B Team."



The Screen Team (pictured above): Vivienne Ruggiero, Rachel Pound, Elfi Weideli, Kathleen Call, Dawn Kovell, Emily Goodman, Karen Scheurholz, and Gordon Robinson. Not pictured: Helen Rigg, Robert Kridler, Francy Blackwood.

The Screen Team is an intrepid group of seven experienced "Dog Pet Pals," specially-trained volunteers who ensure stray and surrendered dogs get off to a good start at the shelter. As soon as these dogs legally belong to Marin Humane (five to seven days after they arrive), the team works every day to ensure each dog is visited, walked, and prepared to be evaluated behaviorally within 24 hours. The Screen Team identifies which dogs can be walked by special volunteers and which equipment is most appropriate for that dog. The equipment is then fitted and labeled. The team also identifies which animals need early intervention for behavior modification. Safety, speed, and accuracy are the names of the Screen Team game!

With Storm, when Screen Team members approached her kennel she barked and lunged. But with the first act of kindness—a piece of string cheese in this case—she immediately became friendly and eager to have the person enter her kennel. She turned out to be easy to handle, but outside she became nervous, reacting to sounds and sudden movements. And she would still bark and lunge at strangers.

It was clear Storm would need a special behavior modification plan so the B Team got to work. The B (for Behavior) Team meets weekly and works daily to identify dogs with behavior issues. Each dog gets a case manager who then creates a behavior modification plan, solicits and organizes resources, and ensures that the dog has additional support for a successful placement.

The team decided Storm would benefit from a game called "Look at That!" This game takes an undesirable behavior and turns it into a rewardable game. It's designed to change the dog's underlying feelings about the objects of her fear. The protocol works particularly well for insecure herding breeds with high food drive.

A specially-trained team of Dog Pet Pals called the "Storm Walkers" implemented the behavior protocol and assiduously worked with Storm's "stranger danger" issues. Not long after, Storm (now Zephyr) was adopted by Aussie-experienced people. As a final test of the protocol, Storm was in the busy adoptions lobby during the final adoption administrative process surrounded by strangers and focused on her new family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Animal Film Festival
Saturday, January 5
6 pm – 9 pm
Purchase tickets at animalfilmfestival.org

FEBRUARY

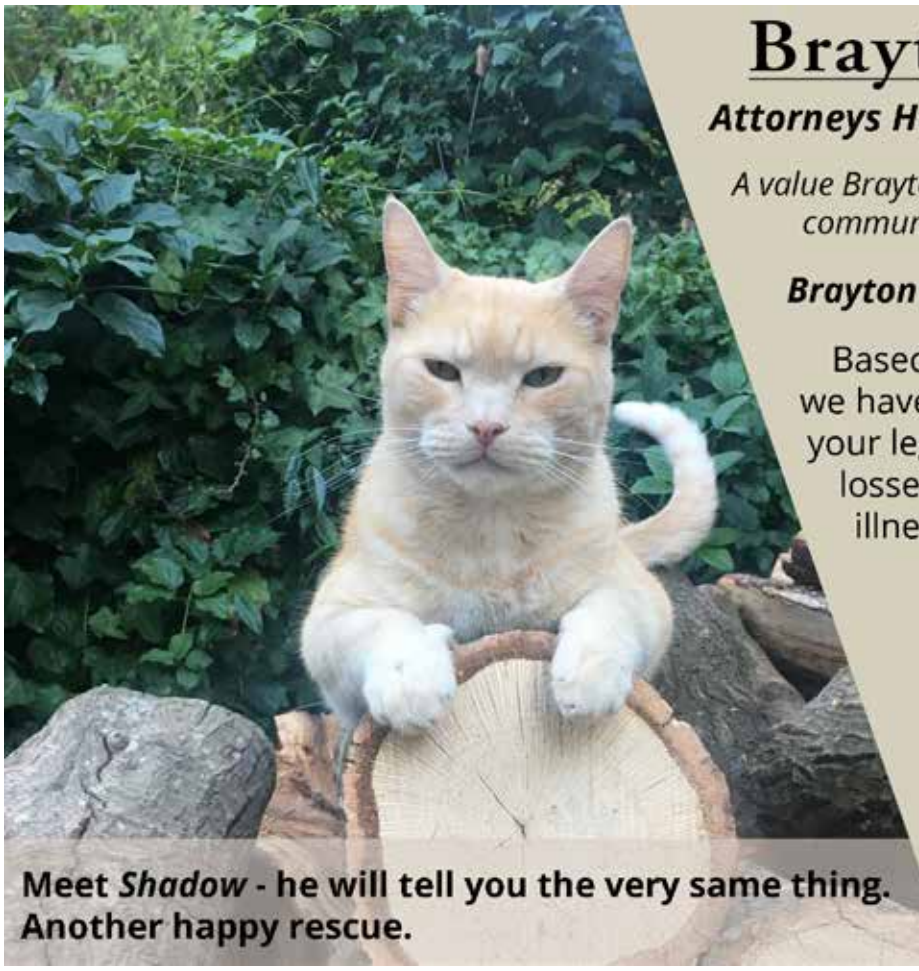
Shape Up! A Canine Fitness and Body Awareness Workshop with Lori Stevens, CPBC, CPDT-KA, CCFT, SAMP
Saturday – Sunday, February 16 – 17, 2019
9:30 am – 5 pm
$380 for a working spot; $190 to audit
Learn about the importance of fitness exercises, strengthening specific muscle groups, and preventing injuries in dogs who perform in sports and competition. **Register at marinhumane/oh-behave**

Summer Camp Registration Opens
Wednesday, February 20
12 pm (Noon)
For more information visit marinhumane.org/summercamp

Behind the Scenes One-Day Camp
Date in February TBD
9 am – 3 pm
Registration $65
Kids 8 – 10 years will learn how we care for shelter animals, meet a variety of animal guests, and explore ways to help animals. **For more information and to register visit marinhumane.org/events**

MARCH

Pet First Aid & CPR
Saturday, March 23
9 am – 3 pm
Registration $65
Presented by American Safety & Health Institute certified instructor Peter Pay.
For more information and to register visit marinhumane.org/events



Meet *Shadow* - he will tell you the very same thing.
Another happy rescue.

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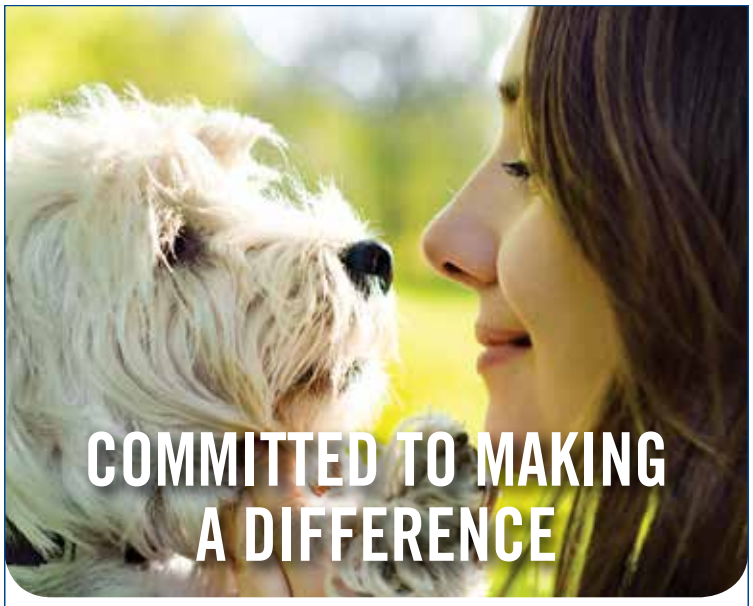

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VCA

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GOING HOME

A few pics taken of adoption amimals headed home with their new families.
See more photos like this at **marinhumane.org/category/recently-adopted/**

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Kitty Corner
Red Hill Shopping Center
876 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Novato Campus Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10 am – 5:30 pm, Wednesday 10 am – 7 pm, closed Monday
Kitty Corner Hours: Wednesday – Friday Noon – 6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am – 5 pm
Novato Campus: 415.883.4621 **Kitty Corner:** 415.747.8322

Marin Humane Thrift Shop

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in downtown San Anselmo!

Shop for clothes, kitchenware, books, handmade cards, collectibles, and more. Proceeds support the Marin Humane Spay/Neuter Program.
Item donations welcome!

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