Dear Friends,

As we emerge from COVID-related restrictions, our summer camp is returning to campus, dog training classes are being held again in our breezy pavilion, and both staff and volunteers are coming back to work together, in person!

From nine large parrots needing to be taken in at a moment’s notice to mobile free clinics for pets of those in need, we enter the summer season knowing calls for help will only increase. Summer is peak season for kittens, we’re stepping up the integration of Hopalong Animal Rescue into our operations, applying lessons learned from COVID-19, and preparing for a drought and wildfires.

If that weren’t enough, we’re also busy planning our annual Gala (remote and in-person this year), ramping up our foster program (through Hopalong), and making sure more lost pets find their way back home!

We simply could not help both animals and people without support from our donors. On behalf of Marin Humane, I’m so grateful for your generosity and compassion. As an independent nonprofit we’re not part of any national organization, so all donations made to Marin Humane stay local and truly make lives happy.

Warmly,

Nancy McKenney
Nancy McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
CEO & President

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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Fifteen grueling months after the initial Shelter-in-Place order was issued, California did away with its COVID-19 tier system and we moved to a full, though modified, reopening.

We were eager to welcome the public once again to our campus, mostly by appointment, and get back into the community. As we planned for this reopening, we were especially cognizant of changes made during the pandemic that had surprisingly positive effects.

Adoptions-by-appointment have been an undisputed COVID-19 success story, allowing us to spend dedicated time with potential adopters and providing a much more customized experience. We find matches for potential adopters and guide them through the process via email or phone, handling all paperwork and payments remotely. And due to our ever-growing foster network, we’re usually able to provide plenty of first-hand, detailed information from these foster parents — answers we wouldn’t necessarily have for animals we only observed in the shelter environment.

From the time an animal comes into our care to their behavior and medical evaluation and spay/neuter surgery, our furry friends are moving into homes at a much faster pace — and a streamlined process for adopters leads to plenty of happy matches in record time. Speaking of matches, despite some sensationalist headlines you may have read, nationally, animals adopted during the pandemic were not returned to shelters at a higher rate, and the same is true at Marin Humane!

We’ve learned so many lessons over the past year, and the pandemic has truly sharpened our focus. More than ever, we envision our organization as a resource for the community, working to keep pets in their homes in the first place. For example, our Pet Safety Net program resulted in hundreds of deliveries of food and supplies, and helped defray the cost of veterinary care for those who needed it most. And our Animal Services officers and Customer Service team have developed innovative solutions to reunite more lost pets with their guardians as soon as the wayward pooch or kitty is found.

To learn more about Marin Humane’s Pet Safety Net, visit marinhumane.org/safetynet
To view animals available for adoption, visit marinhumane.org/adopt/adopt-a-pet

After some challenges due to the pandemic, we’re happy to report that Hopalong Animal Rescue is now a division of Marin Humane and the lives of hundreds of furry critters have already been made happy! Hopalong’s employees are now Marin Humane staff, and working together, more foster and forever homes are available for animals through our expanded network.

As veterinary appointments became impossible to find during the pandemic, Marin Humane began performing all spay/neuter surgeries (350 as of July 1) for Hopalong and offered resources for many animals with behavior challenges. In addition, important items like microchips and other supplies can now be purchased at significant savings, and the integration of our administrative functions has freed up financial resources to help even more animals.

With Hopalong continuing their region-wide success from their base in Oakland, our expanded resources are enabling us to find homes for even more pets in need.
Training in the Time of COVID-19
By Dawn Kovell

When states across the U.S. began to implement Shelter-in-Place (SIP) protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19, those of us in the animal sheltering and dog training world feared the pandemic would mean large numbers of people giving up their pets. Not only did that concern fail to materialize but the exact opposite happened. People embraced having more time with their animals and pet adoptions increased! This meant an increase in the need for help with behavior and training.

The Behavior and Training (B&T) department met the initial demand with virtual consultations. Cat behavior modification and training lent itself quite nicely to Zoom since cats rarely appreciate outings. Attendance at these workshops skyrocketed. Families were able to participate together without geographic limitations. The B&T feline program immediately excelled in this strange new world.

When SIP protocols were modified to allow low-risk outdoor activities, we were faced with the decision of whether to open “in-person” dog training and consultations. Although outdoor transmission risk appeared to be relatively low, we were worried. But we also knew people were clamoring for help. Dog training and behavior modification is all about enhancing the human-animal bond so we embraced one of the Marin Humane core values, Courage with Compassion, got out our clickers, toys, and treats and threw open the doors!

We developed new safety protocols, created our Site Specific Plan, and earned County approval to hold classes. Agility and Flyball classes were the first to open (as they’re always held outdoors in large spaces with relatively few students). We expanded cleaning protocols, brought in new crating condos, and we were back in business!

The first Family Dog and Beginning Puppy classes were held outdoors in our fenced areas. It was hot, the traffic was noisy, yet everyone was delighted to be exactly in that spot. We then received permission to open our training Pavilion. Luckily, the Pavilion has excellent open-air ventilation and was easily transformed into a safe open-air training area. Demand for classes nearly blew the roof off the place! In fact, for the first time ever, there was a waitlist for all our classes.

On the shelter side, the majority of the animals under our care went to foster homes briefly while their adoptions were processed. The key word being “briefly” as animals were literally whisked into forever homes! However, there were some challenging animals who required a lengthier shelter stay to receive specialized care from our behaviorists to put their best paw forward.

We’re so happy to have met and provided services to so many new dog and cat guardians. We have learned a lot from the COVID tragedy and remain available to serve the community - without COVID-19!
Congratulations to Brigitte Sanchez for 30 years at Marin Humane! Starting as a part-time Animal Care Technician, Brigitte now serves as supervisor of Customer Service, our first touchpoint for people who need our help. This means Brigitte’s days are always busy and never the same.

Brigitte’s favorite part of those busy days? “Connecting with people,” she says. Providing guidance and support when people have questions about animals, both wild and domestic, is the most rewarding part of her work. Whether someone is anxiously seeking their lost dog, has questions about deer in their backyard, or has to evacuate from their home in the path of a wildfire, Brigitte and her team are there.

Brigitte loves that contrary to the historically punitive image of “the pound,” Marin Humane focuses on ways to help as well as educate.

Charging fees and fines isn’t the goal; it’s to improve relationships people have with their pets and with the wildlife in their neighborhood.

Over the past few years, when Marin and neighboring counties faced the daunting challenges of disastrous wildfires and a global pandemic, Brigitte and her team have risen to the occasion. She says, “What makes me most proud is the flexibility, professionalism, and resilience of my team. They’re always ready, willing, and able to take on whatever comes our way.”

Thank you to Brigitte for dedicating so many years to helping us create a more humane world for every animal!

Congratulations to Darlene Blackman on 30 years with Marin Humane! Darlene first joined our team as a Volunteer Adoption Counselor, but over the years, she’s served in many roles so she knows the workings of the shelter inside and out!

Darlene’s favorite part of her current role as Director of Community Engagement is working with both people and animals to promote and support the human-companion animal bond. “Our programs allow us to support struggling pet parents in need so they can maintain that bond,” she says, “And our humane education lessons teach compassion and better understanding of animals to emphasize that bond.”

The Community Engagement department has grown under Darlene’s guidance, adding programs like Share-a-Book where kids read to animals at libraries and Jumping for Joy which teaches children on the autism spectrum how to work with dogs on an agility course. The Pet Care Assistance program, which only served low-income seniors, now includes our Pet Safety Net program, which helps any struggling pet guardian in Marin.

Darlene is especially proud of the work her team accomplished throughout the pandemic. She says, “The increase in requests for help from pet guardians makes me aware of how vital the Pet Safety Net is in the post-COVID world.”

Thank you to Darlene for your tireless efforts to support so many animals and the people who love them!
A Long-Awaited (and Far Away) Reunion
By Lisa Bloch

When Marin Humane Animal Care Manager Samantha Winegarner welcomed several dogs as part of a transfer of animals from a shelter in Bakersfield, she noticed that the cute terrier mix had a microchip and a note on his paperwork that read, “Dog has unregistered Pet Link microchip implanted in Albuquerque, New Mexico.”

Samantha said, “I was curious if there was an implant date to help me get an accurate age or any other useful information about the dog. I also knew that sometimes you can get more information from the implant source if they keep their own records like we do (not all places do that I have found, but some!)

I called the number the microchip company gave me and left a message. The next day I got an email from a staff member at Albuquerque Animal Welfare. He was able to look up the chip number in their system and confirmed the dog had been neutered there about three years ago! He gave me the contact information of the person they had on record as the guardian.

It turns out, their dog, Mac, went missing two years ago and they were unable to find him. They have absolutely no idea how he got to California, but very much wanted him back!”

Now that we knew he had a family waiting for him in New Mexico, the next question was, how do we get Mac back to them?

Enter dedicated volunteers, Josie and Malcom Plaister. Josie and Malcom have been transporting animals for us for a few years now but would they actually consider driving more than 2,000 miles roundtrip to get a dog home? Turns out, the answer was a resounding yes!

So off Mac, Josie, and Malcom went on their road trip!

We think Josie tells the rest of the story best:

“Hello Team Mac,

Malcolm and I are so grateful that we were able to help reunite Mac with his long lost family. Thank you for choosing us to transport this precious cargo!

As you know, we arrived on Sunday morning to pick up our passenger. We had spent the last week re-arranging appointments, closing up the house and packing up for a long road trip. We were ready to meet Mac but didn’t know what to expect. Out bounded a fur ball with a confident strut and the funniest little features. Somehow, he seemed ready for an adventure.

After figuring out which crate would work, we were helped into the car and waved off as we pulled out of Marin Humane to start our four-day trip to Albuquerque.

Mac was a little car sick at first so we took it slow
the first day with plenty of stops including charging breaks for the electric car. He was happy to get out of the car for a walk and water break. But he was also happy to jump back into his crate and continue the trip.

First stop was Bakersfield. Given Mac’s history of somehow getting from New Mexico to Bakersfield, we had to laugh as we checked into our first hotel with him. He was clearly a well-traveled dog! He walked straight through the lobby with his confidence and friendly attitude, said hello to everyone and then hopped into the elevator like it was just another day at work!

We continued our trip with stops in Lake Havasu, Flagstaff, and finally Albuquerque. It was a wonderful adventure to travel with Mac and see his little personality. He is so outgoing and every walk we took someone would stop to admire him and appreciate his antics. He liked to greet everyone with two paws in the air!

On Thursday morning, May 6, Malcolm and I drove to Animal Humane in Albuquerque, New Mexico to meet Mac’s original parents. We’d miss Mac but we were hoping this little guy was about to embark on another grand adventure with his long lost family.

We parked outside the shelter and gave Mac a little walk. As we approached the building three people, a mom and two older children, started pointing and smiling and saying, “Mac? Mac, is that you?!”

Mac went up to greet these wonderful people but was soon distracted by other dog smells and the shelter staff who had come out to join us for the reunion. But as we all sat out on the sidewalk in front of the shelter, his family continued to pet Mac as he offered his belly for a rub. He was definitely excited to have all of the attention!

It was very sweet and very emotional. The family could not believe he was back! As we all crouched together, with our masks on, we gathered the bits and pieces of the story of our intrepid traveler, Mac.

This family previously had a dog, a shih tzu named Orzo. She had one puppy and they named him Macaroni. This was our Mac! The family shared photos of Mac as a puppy and the sweetest video of him in the snow bouncing up and eating snowflakes!

One day, over two years ago, Mac got loose. He often would slip out to greet other dogs but this time he never came back. The family was distraught. The son said he called every local animal shelter for months. The mom said she was certain he was either hit by a car or was maybe taken by someone. She always kept an eye out for him when she was driving through town. In any case, after many months, they realized they would never see him again.

So they couldn’t believe when they got the call from Marin Humane that Mac had been found! And in California! And that someone would be bringing him the 1,200 miles home to New Mexico!

The mom said that just a few days before they got this call out of the blue, her daughter had brought Mac up as they discussed possibly getting a new dog. Her daughter said that Mac was the only dog for her.

You can imagine the joy-filled morning as they embraced Mac. They kept saying how much he had grown. They just couldn’t believe their eyes. And they were so thankful we’d brought him all this way.

Continued on page 10

marinhumane.org 6
Take a peek at some of the awesome adoptions that happened during the last six months. So many lives made happy!
A Pandemonium of Parrots
By Samantha Winegarner

It was late on an otherwise uneventful Monday night when I received a phone call from Marin Humane Animal Services Officer Dawn Hernandez, on scene at a private residence. An elderly woman had passed away, leaving numerous parrots (and one small dog) alone in the home. Midnight is not an ideal time to attempt a large-scale intake of exotic birds, so the decision was made to provide temporary supportive care in the home overnight so we could regroup in the morning. I lay awake for the next two hours, brainstorming a plan for the next day since housing parrots is no easy feat.

The following morning, a team of Marin Humane Animal Services officers and I headed to the home. We were led into a room, dark and musty, that was packed from wall to wall with rusty, old cages. As my eyes adjusted to the low light, I could see many of these cages had occupants - nine parrots in total, representing eight different species. The air was stagnant and everything was dirty. It was not an appropriate environment for any living thing, and certainly not birds who require fresh air, natural light, and open space. We set to work getting the frightened animals into carriers for the first step of the journey to their new lives.

In speaking with the executor of the woman’s estate, we were able to learn a bit about the birds - their names and ages and some of their history - as well as some of the story of their guardian. She was said to have loved her birds deeply, but unfortunately love isn’t enough and decades of well-meaning but inappropriate care had taken a toll on them. That was then compounded when their guardian advanced in age and declined in ability. Thankfully, the executor was vested in a good outcome for the birds. We headed back to the shelter with our new charges.

Marin Humane does have a small supply of parrot cages, but none were big enough for the larger Macaws with their long tails and powerful beaks - it was time to get creative! With some power tools and gathered supplies, I was able to retrofit a few of our dog runs into parrot enclosures. It took 12 hours from start to finish to get the birds to Marin Humane and comfortably housed, but to see them in a better environment made all the hard work worth it.

Over the following weeks, we had a team of designated staff to provide specialized daily care including elaborate diets, frequent and exhaustive cleaning, and behavioral enrichment. We also brought in avian veterinarian Dr. David Rupiper who donated his expertise to assess their health and determine their medical needs, some of which were great due to a lifetime of improper husbandry.
Most of these birds were in their 30’s and 40’s, with one cockatoo being 65 years-old! They bore the signs of their age and less-than-ideal care, but were otherwise in good spirits.

As they relaxed, their individual personalities began to emerge. From Fred the Green-winged Macaw who enjoyed dancing to Reggae music to Molly the Yellow-naped Amazon with an incredible vocabulary and singing voice, her favorite being a spot-on rendition of “I Left My Heart in San Francisco.”

We then set about the task of finding appropriate homes for the birds. Many people are drawn to parrots because of their beautiful colors and entertaining behaviors. However, providing for birds like this, both physically and emotionally, is no easy task. Not only are parrots generally noisy, messy, and destructive, they also require very specialized diets and an extraordinary amount of attention and enrichment. Parrot guardianship is not for the faint of heart, and only for the most dedicated.

Thankfully, the avian veterinarian had some excellent referrals and we found suitable homes for seven of the nine birds. The remaining two, who were the most challenging medically and behaviorally, were graciously accepted by Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue for rehab and placement through their program.

While this story had a positive outcome, not all parrots are so lucky. These nine birds are a reminder of the importance of educating yourself about the level of commitment needed to have these feathered companions in your home, as well as having a suitable plan in place for your animals should something happen to you. Thankfully for these birds, some great teamwork from numerous agencies came to the rescue just in time for a Happily Ever After.

MAC continued from page 6

By this time, Mac had settled down and was sitting calmly with his family with Malcom and me nearby.

He was basking in all the love and attention. Many photos were taken and texts exchanged.

We had grown so fond of this little guy so it was a bit tough to say goodbye but it was very clear Mac would be showered with lots of love and attention.

Later in the day as Malcolm and I started our journey home, I received a text from the mom. They planned to give Mac a bath. Apparently when he was a puppy he loved baths and would jump into the tub before it was even filled with water! I pictured them as they settled back in with their newfound pup and smiled.

What a joy to be a part of the story!”
Buckey **Beats the Odds**  
By Carina DeVeria and Lisa Bloch

At just six-weeks-old, Buckey, an adorable bulldog puppy, was found alone in Novato. A Good Samaritan noticed him dragging himself across the ground, struggling to walk.

Thankfully, he ended up with Marin Humane, where our veterinarians quickly determined he had a congenital deformity not uncommon for bulldogs who are overbred. Our staff suspected he was born to an unethical breeder and abandoned because he wouldn’t be profitable... because he was somehow “defective.”

We immediately realized Buckey would have a long and difficult journey ahead of him. But at Marin Humane, we believe an animal’s worth isn’t determined by their profitability or market value. He’d already been abandoned once in his short life, and we promised him it wouldn’t happen again. So the team got to work.

Knowing he needed round-the-clock TLC, one of our relief veterinarians took Buckey home to foster him and see if physical therapy might help him overcome his challenges as he grew. After working with him for a couple of weeks, it became clear he would need multiple orthopedic surgeries and months of ongoing care.

Marin Humane paid for a board-certified veterinary surgeon to perform Buckey’s first surgery and place pins in both of his front legs. Three months old and only 6.6 pounds at the time, he came through it like a world-class champion!

Our commitment to Buckey wasn’t over. He was soon sporting a custom-made fiberglass splint for the next few weeks, followed by surgery to remove the pins, more time in his splint, and finally, more physical therapy.

While his first weeks were challenging, he’s now on the road to leading a happy doggie life. After caring for this sweet pup around the clock for weeks, our veterinarian couldn’t resist his cute face and loving nature — and decided to make him part of the family by adopting him herself. Best of all, her adorable toddler and rambunctious Buckey have become best buddies in no time. We hope they’ll go on adventures together for many years to come!

To help give animals like Buckey a second chance, visit marinhumane.org/buckey

marinhumane.org
No one should have to worry about being able to afford pet food, vaccinations, microchips, or basic veterinary care for their beloved pets. That’s why we’re proud to offer our Pet Safety Net program to Marin residents struggling to afford care for their beloved pets.

We’ve long wanted to expand this program to include a mobile clinic and thanks to generous donors, a new multipurpose vehicle brought us one step closer. But we needed to test the waters first. Our Community Engagement team took on the task – during a pandemic, no less!

They recruited staff and volunteers to lend a hand while Drs. Erin Bennett and Monica Ortiz from the San Marin Animal Hospital offered to perform the examinations free of charge. Forms and flyers were created in both English and Spanish. Locations were arranged, supplies gathered, and the new van readied. Time to take the show on the road!

Our first free mobile Pet Safety Net Community Clinic was held in December at the People’s Inter-City Fellowship in Marin City. Guardians stayed in their cars while their dog was given a cursory exam and vaccinations; cats were taken aboard the specially outfitted vehicle to safely receive theirs. Microchips, flea meds, dog licenses, and food were also given to anyone who needed them.

The next clinic, generously sponsored by Marin County Federal Credit Union, was held in March at West Marin School in Point Reyes Station. Some pets hadn’t received any vaccinations before and some hadn’t had an exam in several years but were now up-to-date and good to go!

More mobile clinics are being planned to bring these essential services to wherever pets and their guardians are in need!

To read more about our Pet Safety Net program visit marinhumane.org/get-help.
Keeping Tenants and Pets **Together**
By Brian Cooley, chair of the Advocacy Committee

We all know the importance of finding good homes for pets, but integral to that is finding good homes for people who have pets. Without the latter it’s tough to solve the former.

**Seventy-two percent of renters have pets, according to the Humane Society of the United States, yet finding pet-friendly rental housing is a leading reason animals are relinquished to shelters. Twenty-four percent of renters say having a pet has been a reason they’ve had to move, according to the Michelson Found Animals Institute.**

At Marin Humane we know these stories well as animals are often brought to our Novato campus to be rehomed when pet-friendly Marin housing options run dry for their guardian.

The Advocacy Committee of the Marin Humane board selected this issue as a priority project in mid-2019 and the pandemic has only made the work more relevant. Here’s what we’re doing:

- We built a detailed renters kit on the Marin Humane site, laying out the steps you can take as a renter with a pet to stand out as a great candidate for a rental, rather than a compromised one. Our Dog Guardian Pledge and specific training classes & certificates offer tangible proof of your excellent candidacy.

- We developed a presentation to landlords that revisits the standard wisdom around pets in rental housing, illuminating the fact that renters with pets are more stable and lucrative, addressing a top headache landlords deal with. As pandemic conditions warrant, we’ll be getting in front of Marin county landlord groups to bring them a fresh take on pet-friendly policies that will help them do well while doing good by renters with pets.

- Our Pet Safety Net program can assist people in need with funds for pet rental deposits which would be payable directly to a landlord or rental agency. This support is delivered on a funds-available basis.

The key to all these efforts is helping renters and their pets stay together with tools that can help long before they find themselves in a rental housing crisis that can lead to having to surrender their pet.

If you own or operate rental properties in Marin, we implore you to see past the minor issues with allowing pets and appreciate the major benefits of doing so.
CHEERS TO BEING TOGETHER AGAIN!

GALA 2021
Save the Date • September 25
Live on the Great Lawn at Marin Humane

5:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Behind-the-Scenes Shelter Stroll
Silent Auction • Live Auction
Well-behaved dogs welcome!

Email gala@marinhumane.org for early-bird specials and updates

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10 Ways YOU Can Make Lives Happy

As Marin Humane gets back to business as usual, your support for the animals means more than ever! Please consider donating in one of these ways. Visit marinhumane.org/ways-to-give, email development@marinhumane.org, or call 415.506.6233 to learn more.

1. Become a Monthly Sustaining Supporter and make a difference every month of the year

2. Make a gift in honor of your friends and family at marinhumane.org/tribute

3. Donate appreciated stock at marinhumane.org/stock and avoid capital gains taxes

4. Donate a portion of your IRA or 401(k) distribution to Marin Humane

5. Include Marin Humane in your estate plans

6. Shop our Amazon Wish List at marinhumane.org/wishlist

7. Support Marin Humane through Amazon Smile at smile.amazon.com

8. Donate high quality items to our Thrift Store, located in San Anselmo

9. Donate your car or RV

10. Attend GALA 2021 on September 25 live from the Great Lawn
Find the words from stories in this issue in the puzzle below. Words can go in any direction, can share letters as they cross over each other.

ADOPTED BRIE BULLDOG CLICKER DARLENE DONATE GALA HOPALONG MICROCHIP NOLA PARROT REUNION SUPPORT VACCINE

Q O U R V V I Z Y T D X R J L
B R I E E A O L T A O E J T K
B V O U N J C N Y K K R B B N
X D E N E T Y C K C J Q R Z W
M E G I L B S T I E B N E A L
D T N O R E B L T N F G O G P
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P I H C O R C I M R O J W R E
H Q D P W X W I H V Y Y P Q O
Q M O Y L D E A C J O R R I Y
N M W L P N D F K E R J N N Z
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Meet Ben! He was rescued by one of our employees.

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Phone: 415.459.5787

Please check our website for the most up-to-date hours for all our locations.

CHEERS TO BEING TOGETHER AGAIN!

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