Lives made happy™

Winter 2022 | A Marin Humane Publication

IMPACT REPORT
Your generosity in action

FAREWELL, FRIEND
Saying goodbye to a true animal lover

BREAK IT UP
How to handle dog fights

marin humane + hopalong

The McKenney Minute

Happy New Year!

It's the time of year when the calendar gives us a sense of a new start and, given the impacts of the pandemic, optimism that we can re-start even more of our programs and services and get back to the "new normal."

At Marin Humane, we are beginning 2022 with a renewed sense of urgency and resolve.

As you'll see in our Impact Report on page 3, our work continues to impact thousands of animals—and people. Demand for help from struggling pet guardians through our Pet Safety Net continues to grow and thanks to our generous donors, we've been able to promptly say yes and provide needed resources.

We welcomed guests back to our 2021 Gala on our campus and we hope to see new and returning friends and family (including dogs), safely, for music, food, and fun at Woofstock on May 22.

Despite continuing pandemic limitations, programs like our Behavior & Training classes and the integration of our partnership with Hopalong Animal Rescue are thriving. Marin Humane continues to work on ways to keep people and their companions together. The story of Debra (page 9) illustrates why we are focusing on the more human side of our humane work.

Please join us in our goal to end pet homelessness in the Bay Area by 2030. Volunteer, foster, or become more involved in our programs and events—together we can transform lives!

With gratitude,

Nancy McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
CEO & President

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★
Four Star Charity

ON THE COVER: Lolli the kitten goes home with her new family.

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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Animal Emergencies
415.309.6339

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

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Happily **Hopping** Along

By Juliet Boyd, Director of Hopalong

Four days a week, animal-filled transportation we like to call the "fuzz bus" runs between Hopalong and Marin Humane, ferrying dogs and cats coming and going from spay/neuter appointments, medical treatments, behavioral evaluations, foster home transfers, and shelter intakes from Northern California shelters. Each organization has seen new changes in this partnership, but the true winners here are clearly the animals.

Marin Humane is now performing almost all of Hopalong's spay/neuter procedures, and medically treating roughly 10% of Hopalong's animals, including complex and major surgeries. And, now that Marin Humane has access to Hopalong's foster families, they can regularly say "yes!" to the many requests for foster homes for litters of puppies.

Speaking of foster homes, Marin Humane now has a new subset of foster families through Hopalong that can provide long-term foster care for animals who need medical recuperation or to work on their manners.

Marin Humane's medical support has truly been a game changer for Hopalong. And their behavioral specialists have worked with both Hopalong fosters and adopters to not only help get them adopted, but to stay in their home post-adoption.

Next up: Marin Humane will be joining Hopalong at our mobile adoption events!

Together, we're doing so much more than ever before!

If you're interested in fostering an animal for Marin Humane or Hopalong, please contact Suzanne Gollin at 415.506.6235.

2020-2021 IMPACT REPORT

Looking at our fiscal year statistics (from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), it's clear we experienced changes in our operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Intake numbers went down 21% as we worked with the community to help us connect lost animals to their guardians and to rehome animals whose guardians could no longer keep them. We also dedicated more resources to help keep animals with their guardians and supported more than 335 new Pet Safety Net clients over the previous year.

Thanks to all our supporters and the federal Paycheck Protection Program loan (which was later forgiven), our financials are very strong. This means we can continue to serve our community with stability as we face the uncertain future.

LIVE RELEASE RATE*

95%

Spay/Neuter Surgeries 1,698
Animals Fostered 1,150
Foster Days 24,493

INTAKE 2,656

Cat Intake 1,466
Dog Intake 864
Small Pets 196
Other Domestic 130

OUTCOMES

Adopted 1,820
Reunited 280
Transferred Out 176
Emergency Boarding Return 168
Humanely Euthanized 116**
Died in Care 9

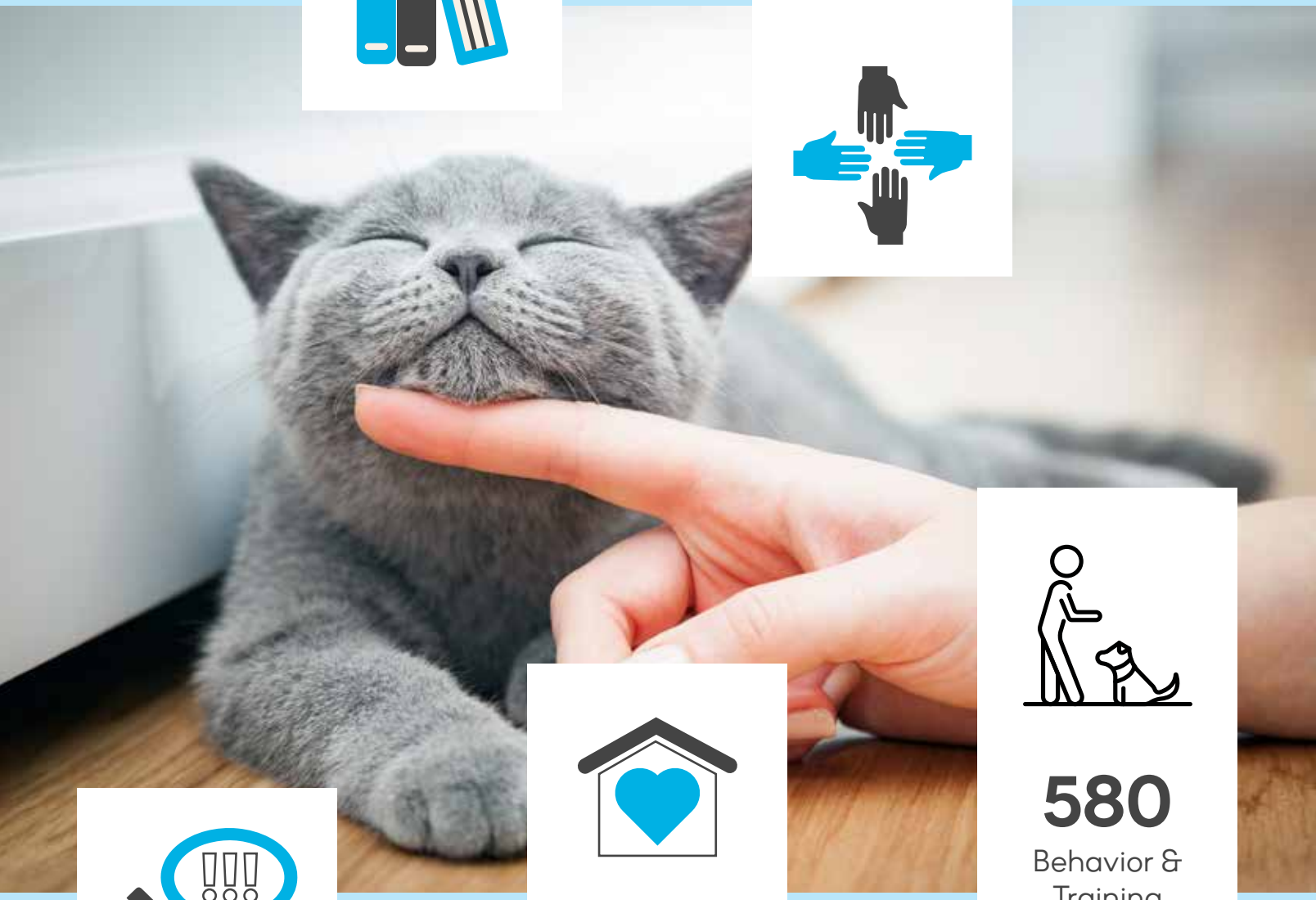
* Live Release or placement is defined as the number of all pets who are adopted, rescued, transferred to another shelter, or returned to their guardians after being lost.

** Marin Humane provides humane 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.

295
Humane Education Students

300
Volunteers

15,500
Volunteer Hours



580
Behavior & Training Classes

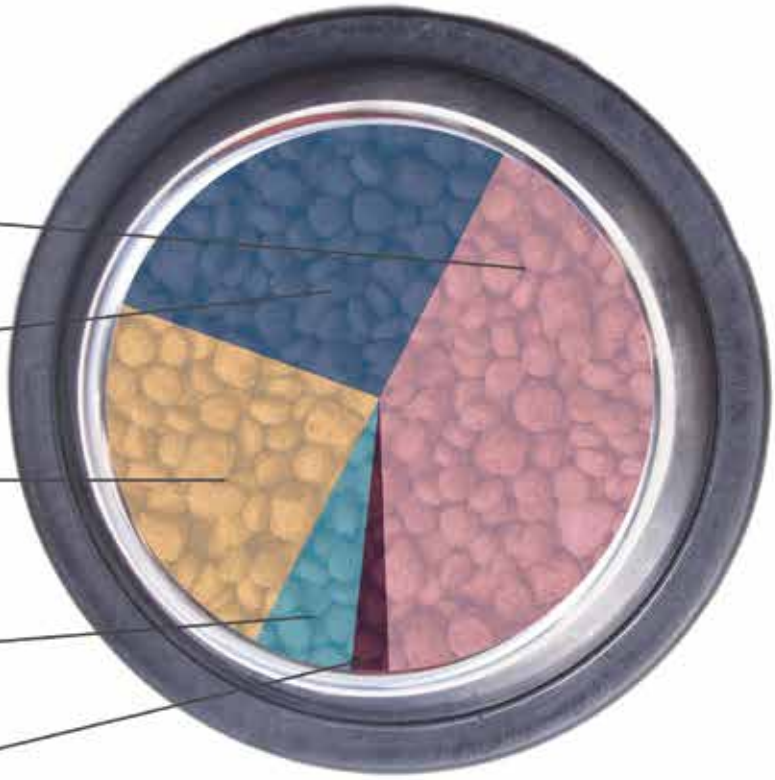
903
Pet Safety Net and Pet Care Assistance clients served

793
Dog & Cat Consultations and private training sessions

7,965
Pet & Wildlife calls responded to

REVENUE

$13,506,379



Contributions, Bequests, Grants & Special Events
$5,741,169 42%

Animal Services & Other County Fees
$3,666,351 27%

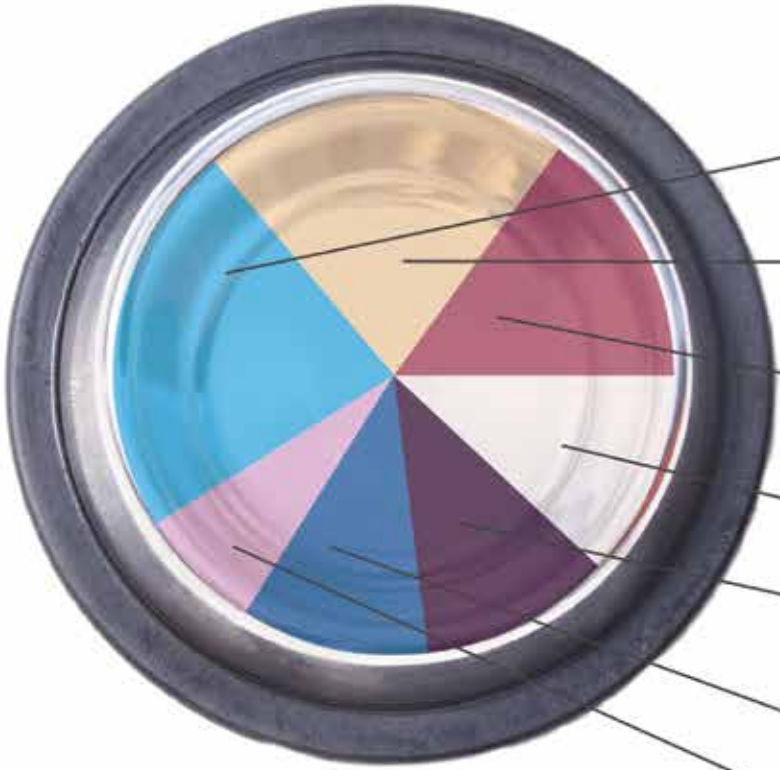
Investment Income & PPP Loan
$3,043,476 23%

Education Program Fees, Thrift Shop Sales & Other
$782,764 6%

Operating Fees & Income
$272,619 2%

EXPENSES

$9,321,314



Animal Care & Veterinary Services
$2,094,955 23%

Field Operations & Customer Service
$1,961,810 21%

Education & Community Engagement
$1,394,735 15%

Fundraising & Development
$1,134,913 12%

Adoption & Foster Care
$978,124 11%

Management & Administrative
$1,060,165 11%

Behavior & Training
$696,722 7%

HOME SWEET HOME

Is there anything better than photos of newly adopted animals and their smiling families?

Dog conflicts

Pets — especially dogs — are extremely popular in Marin. Unfortunately, this preponderance of dogs also means they can get into altercations with each other.

Dog fights are traumatic for both dogs and humans. Here are a few things to remember.

Avoid situations that might lead to altercations:

- Keep your dog on leash as much as possible
- If your dog is reactive to other dogs, avoid locations with many dogs. Dog parks, in particular, are not appropriate for some dogs.
- If your dog has a history of aggression toward other dogs, use a muzzle.

If a dog is approaching your dog in an aggressive manner:

- Don't be embarrassed to yell at the dog or scream for help.
- Throw treats at the attacking dog to distract them.
- Pick small dogs up and if possible, place them on top of a car, or something else high up. If you're holding the dog in your arms, the attacking dog may bite you in an attempt to get at your dog.

If your dog gets into a fight with another dog:

- Use the leash or harness to pull the dog away. However, if the attacking dog has the other in what's called a "bite-grip," doing this may cause more injury. Instead, lift the hind legs of the attacking dog. Keep your hands away from their mouths to avoid getting bitten.
- If possible, wedge something between the two dogs such as a backpack or a board. If near a hose, spray water at the attacking dog.

Once the fight is broken up:

- If anyone is hurt, call 911.
- If your dog is seriously injured, immediately take them to the nearest veterinarian or pet emergency hospital.
- If your dog isn't severely injured and your car is nearby, secure your dog and return to exchange information with the other person even if you don't think your dog is injured. Take photos of the other person, their dog, their car and the street or trail you're on.
- To file a complaint, contact Marin Humane at 415-883-4621. An animal services officer will investigate.

And remember to help your dog after the altercation. "Hormones spike during a conflict, and dogs can take a long time to calm down," Virginia Grainger, shelter behavior manager at Marin Humane says.

"After a dog fight, set up 'rehab' sessions for your dog. Have them take a short walk with a calm, stable dog they know and like, or just a dog you know who is calm. It's even better if you can find a dog who looks like the dog from the fight," Grainger adds.

Need behavior help? Contact our behavior and training department at marinhumane.org/oh-behave.

Preserving the **bond**

Debra's first experience in Marin was living without a home. Having exhausted all her resources, she knew she had to make a drastic change. However, she was afraid of going to a homeless shelter, as she worried that her beloved dog Bear would not be allowed to come. After all, he was her everything, and the only companion she had left.

She knew Bear had to be licensed and vaccinated to enter the shelter along with her. What might seem like a small, logistical step on the surface, however, can easily turn into a major obstacle when resources are limited.

Thankfully, we were able to help Debra license and vaccinate Bear through our Pet Safety Net program, which works to preserve the bond between people and their pets. Because of this, Bear was able to stay with Debra at the homeless shelter.

Since the start of our Pet Safety Net program only a few years ago, we've been assisting pets — and the people who love them — by providing pet food, supplies, vaccinations, licensing, and financial aid for veterinary care. And when the pandemic hit, demand for this already popular program skyrocketed. (See Impact Report, page 4)

Thanks to the support of generous donors, many of whom gave generously at our Gala, we were able to say "yes" to the exploding number of requests for help — an increase of more than 80% since the program's inception. More than 1,600 struggling Marin residents have already received assistance for their pets, much of it delivered directly to their doors.

We're honored to be there for pet guardians and their pets when they need us most, providing resources that change lives. We believe no one should ever have to give up their beloved pet because they can't afford pet food, veterinary care, or help with behavior issues.

Today, Debra works for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin as an Enrichment Peer Manager, supporting those in need.

When she eventually had to say goodbye to her sweet Bear, she didn't hesitate to adopt her next pet from Marin Humane, "Animals are absolutely healing," she says. "My loneliness goes away. My comfort, my safety, my security is all intact when I have an animal with me."

To learn more about the Pet Safety Net and to support this unique program, visit marinhumane.org/safetynet

Together again!

After two years, Marin Humane's Gala returned to an in-person event and what an evening it was!

More than 350 animal aficionados gathered under the stars (some with well-behaved dogs in tow) on the expansive lawn at our Novato campus on September 25 to celebrate and raise money for animals! The theme of this year's Gala was "Together at Last," and that's truly how many of us felt.

Vaccinated or recently-tested guests were welcomed to the event with cocktails such as the "Moscow Mutt" and the "Cat Scratch Spritzer" and a "pawparazzi" photo booth gave guests a chance to snuggle and take photos with adorable, adoptable kittens and puppies. Cocktail hour also featured a silent auction and delicious plant-based appetizers donated by Miyoko's Creamery. More than $575,000 was raised, including $219,000 for the Fund-a-Need which this year was our Pet Safety Net program.

During the elegant, sit-down vegan dinner, guests learned more about the work Marin Humane does every day on behalf of animals and the people who love them. A live auction offered packages like dream vacations, a chance to name your own ice cream flavor, and cases of wine personalized with the bidder's own pet photo on the label.

We're so grateful to all who attended and look forward to welcoming everyone to **Gala 2022 on Saturday, September 10**, so mark your calendars!

Two people, two decades, two milestones

VALERIE ROBBINS

Valerie Robbins, our Director of Human Resources, is celebrating 20 years with Marin Humane! Val is a small-but-mighty team of one, supporting a staff of more than 110! This is no easy task when you consider she hires for roles that range from customer service and marketing to veterinary technicians and dog trainers! But that diversity of knowledge is all in a day's work for Val.

Val says the biggest challenge of the job is making the time to support each and every staff member. But she makes it a priority! Her proudest moments are when she knows she's helped an employee in some way, be it big or small.

"Working with the extraordinary and awe-inspiring employees and volunteers in making so many lives happy—both the human and furry kind—is my favorite part of the job," said Val. And of course, being able to cuddle kitties and pups on a daily basis doesn't hurt!

Thank you to Val for so many years supporting the team here at Marin Humane!

ALBERT OLIVER

Al Oliver, our Information Technology Systems Administrator, recently marked 20 years at Marin Humane! He keeps the organization's IT department humming along, assisting with everything from server maintenance to software updates. While his role may involve more networks than pet work, it's still a crucial one.

Over the past two decades – and during an earlier stint working at Marin Humane in the eighties - Al has seen the shelter through countless technology advances. When Al first started out as a front office supervisor in 1985, all office processes were done manually on paper control forms. "We had to borrow a Fujitsu laptop computer from a volunteer to compile animal statistics," he says.

Al is also fond of the low-tech moments here at the shelter. He says, "My favorite part is being witness to animals finding their forever home. It's been that way since I assisted with my first adoption while working in the front office!"

We're so grateful to Al for all his years of hard work supporting Marin Humane's mission.

Recently, we bid a very sad goodbye to one of our longest-serving staff members, Margareta Luff, who passed away on August 7, 2021. One of her dear friends penned this tribute to her, which we're honored to share with you.

Saying goodbye to a true animal lover

By Maggie Rufo

Margareta Luff grew up on a farm in Sweden and it was there her love of animals and the natural world took form. Upon arriving in Marin County in the early 1970's, she immediately began devoting herself to animals by working at a veterinary clinic in Mill Valley, but soon joined the team at Marin Humane as an Animal Care Technician in 1972.

For almost 40 years, Margareta lovingly fed shelter animals, cleaned their kennels and enclosures, made sure they were clean and comfortable, and of course, provided much-needed love. Her favorite shelter guests were the cats and she became passionate about the need for cats to be microchipped. She was so passionate that for years, she quietly paid for all the cats at Marin Humane to receive microchips.

She was a fierce advocate for animals, but would help people in need, too. At Marin Humane, she helped non-English speakers who might come in looking for a lost pet; Margareta spoke several languages!

Throughout the decades, Margareta helped people all over Marin with their cats. She'd visit people's homes on her off-time from work, and trim their cat's claws. This can be hard for people to manage, and some can't afford grooming. She would also help housebound people get their animal to veterinary appointments. She was always the first to ask "How can I help?"

As if working at Marin Humane and volunteering to help people in the community wasn't enough, Margareta also volunteered at WildCare, often going early in the morning before her shift at Marin Humane. She helped baby birds get a second chance at life after harm had befallen them. That's the fun stuff, where you get to be hands on with the animals, but Margareta also did the more mundane tasks like volunteering to drive animals to other wildlife centers for specialized care.

She attended fundraisers for many animal-welfare organizations in the Bay Area, including Animal Place and others. Helping other people help animals was important to her.

Margareta also helped dog guardians by identifying suspicious mushrooms. I knew a family who had lost both their dogs to death cap mushrooms, on their own property. Once I connected them with Margareta they brought any mushrooms they found to her for identification, so they could protect the dogs they adopted later. People would often leave mushrooms outside her home, with a note, or they'd even go into Marin Humane to leave them for her to identify. She loved hunting mushrooms and knew which kinds her friends, family, and co-workers liked best and would give most of them away. It was the solace of being in nature that guided her to remote locations to commune with the wild.

Margareta volunteered with the Hungry Owl Project to care for orphaned barn owls and other raptors, after they'd been displaced from nests due to human activity, such as tree cutting. She talked people out of doing harm to animals, whether it was her own family members or strangers she met who didn't know about the dangers of using rat poisons which harm wildlife and pets. She didn't want any living creature to suffer.

There is no bigger heart I can think of than the one that beat in the chest of Margareta Luff for 79.9 years.

Leaving a Legacy

One of the most essential sources of support we receive is from humane heroes who include Marin Humane in their estate plans. These are the names of generous animal lovers whose gifts of a lifetime arrived during our 2020-21 fiscal year.

Julia Becker
Alyce Buchanan
Denise and Robert Burrus
Mary C. Carter
Michael and Charlotte Causer
Leslie H. Comstock
Carmel Demick
Thelma Doelger Charitable Trust
Doelger Charitable Trust
Jennifer Drake
Kenneth M. Edlin
Franklin Pierce Fromhagen
Lina Gawlik
Garnet Gorin Trust
Carol Ann Jarvis
Nancy Schwartz Kiernan
Marlene Langer
Neena K. Lyon
Loraine M. Mathews
Dorothy Arelen Ressegieu
Linda Riedel
Linda C. Sampson
Robert N. Sottimano
Giancarla Tacchi
Jennifer Elizabeth Wells
Joan Sandra Werner
Catherine Wood

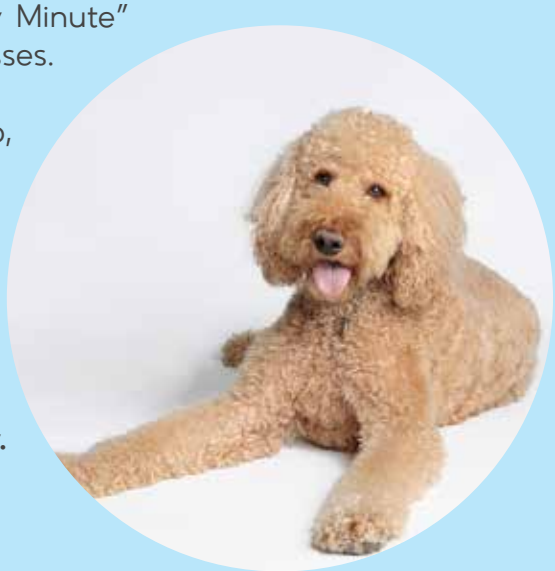
Microchips

are your pet's ticket home!

We offer microchipping by appointment. It's free for cats (thanks to a generous donor) and just $25 for dogs. Call 415.883.4621 for more information.

This issue of our magazine is dedicated to a special dog who crossed over the rainbow bridge recently. Marin Humane CEO Nancy McKenney and her husband, Jim, lost their beloved dog, Brody (adopted from Marin Humane). Brody graced the "McKenney Minute" column over many editions but passed away after multiple illnesses.

In Nancy's words, "I'm grateful to the staff who, nine years ago, said we should look at an adorable puppy who'd recently been surrendered. I'm grateful to the many Behavior & Training instructors who worked with us over the years, one even saying that Brody was the class clown! Most of all, thank you all for your condolences and understanding, as we navigate a home without Brody, who was a goofy yet wonderful companion."



Our pets never live long enough. Rest in peace, Brody McKenney.

THIRTY-SEVEN
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Meet Ireland! She was rescued by one of our employees.

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Based in Novato, California since 1984, we have been dedicated to helping protect your legal rights in the face of devastating losses such as mesothelioma or other illness, injury, death, or harm to you or your family members.

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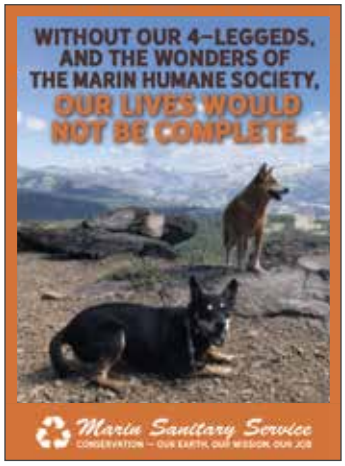
WITHOUT OUR 4-LEGGEDS, AND THE WONDERS OF THE MARIN HUMANE SOCIETY, OUR LIVES WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE.
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Phone: 415.747.8322

Thrift Shop
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San Anselmo, CA 94960
Phone: 415.459.5787

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

Save the date and we'll save you a spot on the lawn!

Sunday May 22, 2022 ✿ 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Leash up your dog and join us for an afternoon of music, food, beer & wine, and tons of fun! Featuring music by the Illeagles, the Bay Area's premiere Eagles cover band!