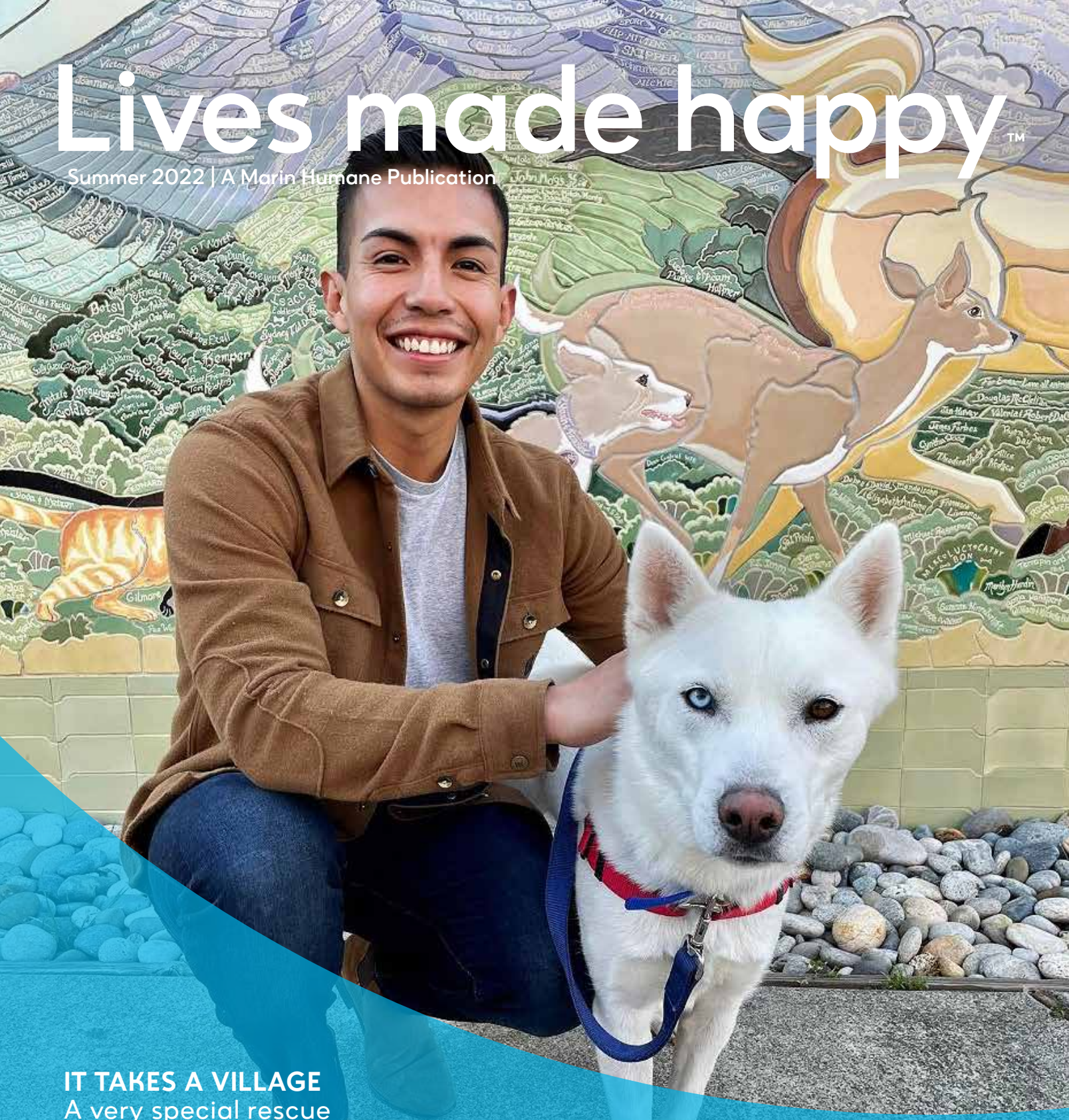
Lives made happy™

Summer 2022 | A Marin Humane Publication



IT TAKES A VILLAGE
A very special rescue

ARE YOU PREPARED?
Making sure pets are part of our disaster plan

COMMUNITY CLINICS
So many lives made happy!

marin humane + hopalong

The McKenney Minute

I've always believed that my position as CEO doesn't preclude me from rolling up my sleeves from time to time. I've cleaned kennels, done laundry, and most recently, served as a foster parent to one of our animals in need.

Nancy McKenney and her new dog, Daisy.

My husband, Jim, and I thought we weren't ready to adopt a new dog, as we were learning to navigate life without our beloved Brody who passed last December. However, a few months ago, we decided to foster a sweet, female dog (transferred to us via Hopalong) who was recently spayed in our clinic. Fostering was a good option for us; we could see what it was like to bring home a new companion while she got a chance to relax in a home after her surgery.

Fostering is a great way to support Marin Humane and our Hopalong Foster Program. You can sign up and participate when it's most convenient for you. The commitment can be as little as a few days or it can be more involved, especially if you take in newborn kittens who need regular feeding and care or a big, goofy dog who needs to work on his manners. Please consider this special and impactful volunteer role – I highly recommend it!

Please enjoy this edition of Lives Made Happy!

Nancy B McKenney

Nancy McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
CEO & President

ON THE COVER: Thor goes home with his new pet parent, Ivan.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
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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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Animal Emergencies
415.309.6339

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

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A Life-Changing Chip

If you've ever questioned the power of a microchip, here's your proof that they're truly life-changing.

Kirby went missing from his home in downtown Novato way back in 2016. His guardian, Richie, was understandably heartbroken and spent months posting flyers and searching for Kirby around the neighborhood. As the months slipped away and there was no sign of Kirby, Richie sadly resigned himself to the fact that he'd probably never see his kitty companion again.

This past March, another Novato resident, Karen, was presented with a drawing of an orange tabby cat by her six-year-old daughter, Olivia. Imagine her surprise when an older, orange tabby cat appeared the very next day on her front porch! Karen jokingly told Olivia that her drawing had come to life. The cat visited their porch for a few days and they happily gave the kitty some love and attention, assuming it was a neighbor's cat. Olivia even nicknamed the cat Fluffle Puff.

But when the cat slept on the porch overnight and didn't leave the next morning, Karen became concerned Fluffle Puff was lost and needed help, Karen posted about him online in hopes of reaching a guardian. A Good Samaritan named Michael saw the post and promptly offered to drive the cat to Marin Humane to scan for a chip and make sure he was kept safe.

We're so grateful they did, because a quick scan at the shelter brought up Kirby's microchip information. We were able to give Richie the surprise of his life when we called to tell him his cat - now missing for six years! - was waiting for him at Marin Humane.

Richie rushed to the shelter where he and Kirby enjoyed a sweet and touching reunion. Kirby happily accepted cuddles, finally safe in the arms of his guardian after all these years. Richie took Kirby home to a familiar face - Kirby's brother, Ninja - and a new face - Richie's fiance! We hear Kirby is settling nicely back into his old life and we couldn't be more thrilled for the whole family.

While we don't know where Kirby was for the past six years (if only cats could talk!), we do know that a microchip is the reason he's safe at home today. Microchips are the size of a grain of rice and readily available at any veterinarian's office or at Marin Humane. And thanks to a generous donor, microchips are free for cats at our Novato campus! Call 415.883.4621 for more information.

COMMUNITY CLINICS

Thanks to generous donations, sponsors, and volunteers, our free community clinics are helping struggling pet parents from Novato to Sausalito. We think these smiles say it all!

BY THE NUMBERS...

Clinics: 10
Pet parents: 321
Dogs: 336
Cats: 113

Vaccinations given: 672
Microchips implanted: 192
Flea meds given: 350

Planning and Preparing

Disasters, like wildfires, can catch us by surprise, but a well thought out disaster plan that includes your beloved furry, feathered, and scaly family members can reduce stress and save precious time and lives.

Here are a few tips to help prepare you and your pets for a disaster:

- Keep your pet's license current and ensure they have a collar and ID tag on at all times.
- Microchip your pet and keep the information up to date.
- Secure birdcages and tanks on low stands or tables to help prevent breakage during a disaster.
- Tighten latches on birdcages so doors can't be shaken open.
- Get to know your neighbors and develop a plan. Keep an updated list of your neighbors' pets and their phone numbers. Select a coordinator as well as one or two back up coordinators who can help should disaster strike when you and others aren't home.
- Keep a pet emergency kit in a safe and easily accessible location in case you need to evacuate your home quickly.

Pet Emergency Kit Checklist:

- Sturdy crate/ carrier
- ID tag and collar for dogs and cats
- Extra leashes
- Food and Water (seven day supply for each pet)
- No-spill bowls
- Litter/ litterbox
- Medication, copy of vaccination history
- Phone numbers of emergency veterinary clinics
- Phone number of your local animal shelter
- Portable caging, cable runs and/ or tie-out stakes
- Pet first aid kit
- Bandages, scissors, tweezers, tape, antibiotic ointment
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Eye wash (saline) and ear cleaning solutions (ChlorhexiDerm, Epi-otic)

Declawing is **unnecessary and inhumane**

Recently, a beautiful cat with bright green eyes and a pink nose named Sunny was surrendered to Marin Humane for biting her guardian five times. It didn't take long to learn the likely reason Sunny was biting—she'd been declawed.

Declawing, once touted as a solution to a cat's pesky scratching of furniture or other places, is an inhumane, non-therapeutic surgery that involves the amputation of the animal's toes at the last joint. If performed on a human being, it would be like cutting off each finger at the last knuckle.

According to the Paw Project, "Most people do not realize that bone—not only the nail—is removed. Declawing can result in chronic pain for the cat's life as well as behavioral issues."

Scratching is a normal and healthy behavior for cats. They mark their territory that way, stretch their shoulders and back, and it's their first line of defense. It also lets them fight off an attack as well as retreat, as their claws allow them to climb up and out of harm's way. If a cat doesn't have claws, they'll often resort to biting as their only available defense.

And in homes with more than one cat, a declawed cat may act out by urinating or defecating outside the litter box. A recent study by Maddie's Fund found that "cats in multi-cat households who have been declawed are three times more likely to fail to use the litter box appropriately than those with intact claws."

There is a very simple solution to a cat scratching in inappropriate places like your furniture—give them a great alternative to scratch! Pet supply stores are filled with options such as cat trees, scratching posts, and simple boxes made of corrugated cardboard. Your cat will quickly learn to exercise those scratching instincts where they're supposed to (pro-tip: add a little catnip to the item when you first bring it home).

Learning to safely trim your cat's nails will also be a big help and avoid accidental scratches to us humans. The ideal scenario is to get them used to nail trims when they're kittens, however even adult cats can learn to tolerate regular manicures (pro-tip number two: wrapping the cat in a towel helps).

Declawing has never been common in most other countries, and, in fact, it is illegal or considered unethical by the veterinary profession in most of the world, according to the Paw Project. For years, many animal welfare organizations, including Marin Humane, have sought to ban declawing in California yet so far, this gruesome practice remains legal except in a few municipalities in Southern California. Sadly, another recent effort, the California Anti-Declaw Bill AB 2606, didn't make it to the State Senate for a vote (despite it being passed overwhelmingly by the Assembly), mostly due to opposition from the state veterinary association. We're deeply disappointed by this result but remain determined to one day see this cruel practice banned—in our state and in the whole country.

Lastly, remember that Marin Humane's feline behavior team is here to help! Visit marinhumane.org/oh-behave or call 415-506-6284.

HOME SWEET HOME

Roosters, snakes, guinea pigs, OH MY! So many animals whose lives are made happy in their new homes.

"Empower" Project Ensures Marin Humane is Disaster-Ready

In our role as direct responders to animal-related needs during local disasters and as a leader in cooperative response in the region and state, Marin Humane provides critical support to communities during the worst of times. In fact, Marin Humane chairs the California Animal Welfare Association's Emergency Management Committee.

During the 2019 Kincaid Fire, PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff cut electricity to our campus, as well as the remote animal evacuation shelter we set up at the Marin Civic Center. This began a new "normal" challenge to add to fire season!

Ensuring our veterinary clinic maintains power, medications remain safely refrigerated, HVAC systems filter smoke from the air and maintain safe temperatures, and power to phone and computer systems are secured is essential in saving animals.

We realized that to ensure we can care for animals in times of disaster, we needed two major fail-safes: industrial generators and the creation of an emergency response fund. However, after consulting with industry experts, we learned that together this represents a cost of about $500,000. While that's a large amount, we can't imagine anything more worthwhile and we're committed to raising those funds.

Thanks to two generous lead gifts:a $75,000 grant from The Rachael Ray Foundation and a large donation from longtime supporters, Julie and Tom Atwood, we were able to secure the purchase and installation of the first generator, just in time for fire season.

Julie Atwood leads The HALTER Project, where she and her husband, Tom, are at the forefront of the drive to help animals in emergencies and disasters throughout California. Their generous challenge gift of $50,000 includes an invitation to others to stretch similarly and become our first responders.

If you or others in your circle share this priority and would like to make a special stretch gift to ensure we can "powerfully" respond to animals caught in the next disaster, please contact us at development@marinhumane.org with "Generators" in the subject line.

As always, we're so grateful for your support.

Mr. Magoo

The beginning of Mr. Magoo's story is a bit of a sad mystery. This handsome, young cat was found on the side of the road in Novato in late January, and the poor kitty was in terrible condition: covered in fleas and lice, suffering from an upper respiratory infection, and shaking and unable to walk.

Our veterinarians promptly examined him and realized that Mr. Magoo was suffering from Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH). This is a congenital neurologic condition that kittens can develop if their mother is infected with the feline panleukopenia virus during late pregnancy. The virus causes the kitten's cerebellum (the part of the brain that coordinates balance and movement) to develop abnormally. These kittens are often born with tremors, usually have a distinctively wobbly and uncoordinated gait, and will sometimes topple over when walking or running.

Sadly, it wasn't too long ago that most shelters would automatically euthanize kittens and cats with CH for requiring extra care and being less appealing to adopters. But in most cases, these kittens can still grow up to be happy cats with a great quality of life! Mr. Magoo's case of CH - which won't worsen over time, but which also can't be cured - was considered moderate to severe. We were sure he could enjoy an excellent quality of life, although his life would still be a little different from your average cat. While Mr. Magoo was a happy-go-lucky and playful young kitty (once his fleas, lice, and respiratory infection were treated!), he did still require assistance when eating, drinking, and using the litter box. He also couldn't navigate stairs or other obstacles due to his wobbly gait. This meant he needed an adopter who would be willing to step up and support him for the rest of his life. But we knew someone was out there who would open their hearts to this sweet cat and his special needs.

Luckily, the perfect adopter came along, just like we had hoped! While Mr. Magoo's new mom had never had a CH kitty of her own, she had lived with a roommate whose cat had it. She was familiar with the condition and felt very prepared to handle the extra help Mr. Magoo would need. We're so grateful to have a community of supporters who understand that animals with special needs deserve their shot at happiness, too!

Rescue Partner Spotlight:
It takes a village (of dedicated volunteers)

Ariel, an adorable, scruffy little dog, had been living alone by an irrigation canal in the Central Valley for quite a long time. She was skinny and scared, and very much in need of rescue. Only an old chain-link fence separated her hiding spot in the bushes from a busy road. We don't know how she ended up in this dangerous situation, but thankfully, the caring people at A SafeFurr Place Animal Rescue learned about her predicament and jumped into action.

By the time her rescuers reached the location and spotted Ariel, she'd become deeply suspicious of humans. Despite her obvious hunger, she kept her distance and stayed just out of reach. They quickly realized that startling her might cause her to flee into traffic, and that a patient, slow approach was needed. Over several days, the volunteers worked to gain her trust by tossing her treats and moving slowly. Yet, she continued to flee as soon as anyone tried to get near her. She even thwarted several attempts to capture her with a humane trap!

The situation only got worse over time as she developed a bad limp. It was heartbreaking to watch. Ariel wouldn't be able to survive on her own much longer, that much was clear.

The volunteers made one more concerted effort, hoping they could get her to stick her head underneath a fence and through the loop of a leash just long enough for them to get a hold of her and bring her to safety.

The plan worked! Once safe in a car, and enjoying an assortment of treats, she began to warm up to her rescuers. They named her Ariel, after seeing her emerge from the waters of the canal, like a mermaid come to life! And life only got better from there. Thanks to the team at The Kern Project, one of our rescue partners, she was transferred to Marin Humane. After receiving additional care from our veterinarians — not to mention extra love and snuggles from our amazing volunteers — we quickly found a wonderful home for Ariel.

Ariel's story illustrates how vital our rescue partners are, and how their commitment and tenacity help make lives happy in the Bay Area and beyond! It truly takes a village (and dedicated partnerships) to rescue, care for, and find loving homes for animals in need. Ariel's story has a happy ending because of kind-hearted people who didn't look away when they saw a little dog all alone and in distress. Thank you!

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PREPARE
ADOPTION
EMPOWER
MICROCHIP
MAGOO
ARIEL
SNAKE
HAMSTER

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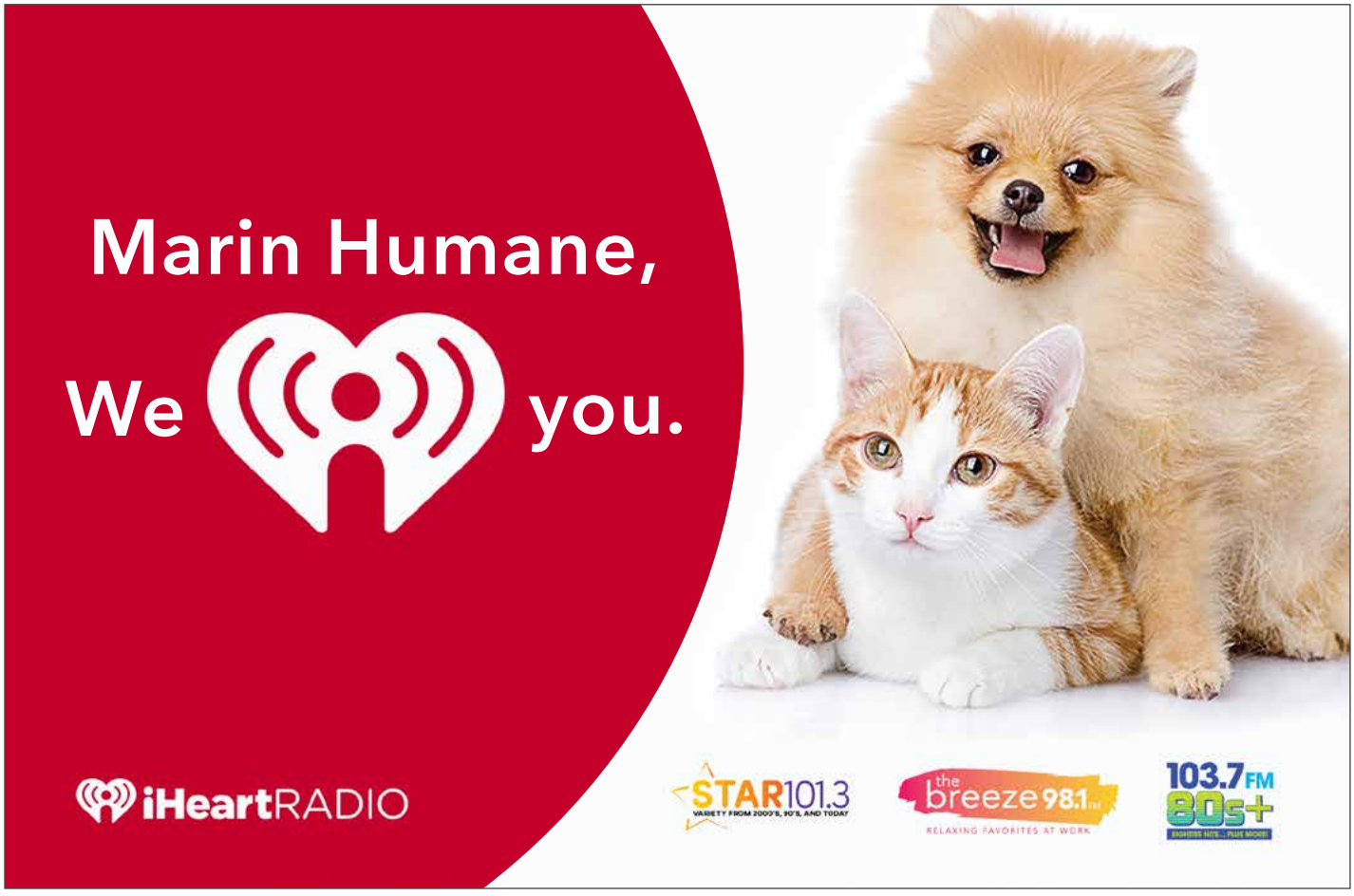

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Meet Simba! He was rescued by one of our partners.

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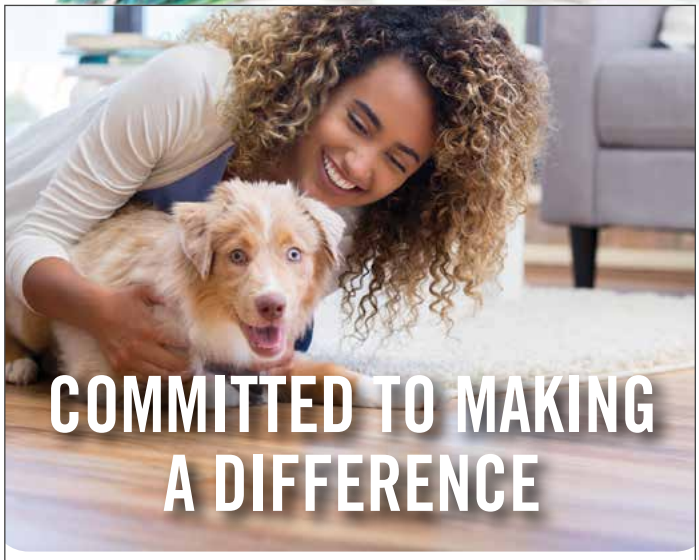

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