Lives made happy™

Winter 2023 | A Marin Humane Publication

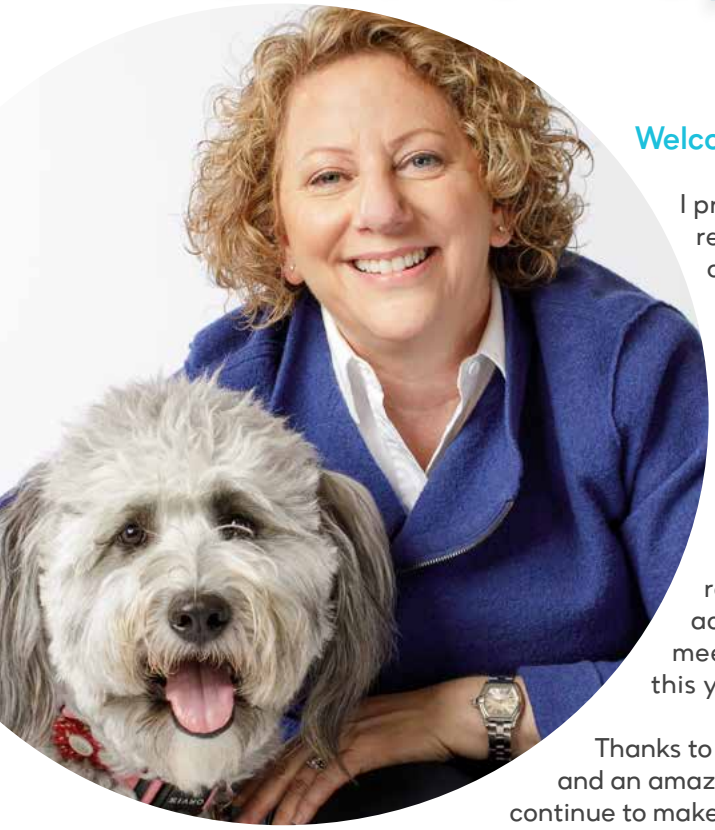
IMPACT REPORT
So many lives made happy

A TEXAN DOG FOUND IN MARIN
Rocky's journey home

HOPALONG FOSTER PROGRAM
Canine buddies help dogs transform

marin humane + hopalong

The McKenney Minute



Welcome to 2023!

I prefer not to make New Year's resolutions, however, I'm optimistic about what Marin Humane has resolved to do over the next 12 months. As you will read in our 2022 Impact Report (page 2-4), we changed lives, reduced the reasons people surrender their animals to the shelter, and responded to thousands of calls and emails requesting help. Last year's accomplishments propel us to meet new challenges facing us this year.

Thanks to the support of our community and an amazing corps of volunteers, we continue to make our shelter more fear-free to our animal guests and provide them with needed training. In this issue, you'll read more about our work with larger, adolescent, dogs who need specialized training and some special dogs who require extraordinary and critical medical care.

With the arrival of the deadly Avian flu in California, we're reviewing our protocols for the intake and care of fowl and domestic birds and creating more aviary space in the barn for individual quarantine and general housing for birds.

These examples are just some of the ways Marin Humane is stretching the limits of what we can do and what we can provide to both animals and people in need!

I want to give a warm welcome to the Hopalong family, since this Lives made happy™ is the first combined publication of our two groups which are now one. Updates on our Hopalong Foster program are on Page 9 and if you haven't done so yet, bookmark the Marin Humane website, marinhumane.org, which now features a dedicated Hopalong section.

In gratitude,

Nancy B McKenney

Nancy McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
CEO/President

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★
Four Star Charity

ON THE COVER: Bob found this adroable kitten as a stray and returned to Marin Humane to adopt the little kitty who'd captured his heart.

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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From Abandoned Box to Loving Home

By Carina DeVera, Digital Marketing Manager

Little Auggie and his two littermates were found shivering and abandoned in a cardboard box in an East Bay parking lot. Huddled together and scared, a kind stranger took them to Oakland Animal Services. That's when our Hopalong Foster Program got the call for help. And even though it was clear that at least one of the puppies would require expensive medical care, we just couldn't say no.

Our veterinary team quickly determined that Auggie had severe medially luxating patellas (grade 4), which affected his ability to walk normally. This condition, also known as "slipped stifles," is common in small breed dogs and can cause pain, lameness, and difficulty with movement. Without treatment, cases with advanced grades like Auggie's can lead to severe mobility issues.

Auggie's condition required specialized surgery from a veterinary orthopedic surgeon, which can easily cost $7,000 and requires weeks of aftercare.

Marin Humane is dedicated to providing the best possible care for animals in need, regardless of the cost or complexity of their medical issues. Fortunately, thanks to the generous donations of our supporters, we were quickly able to raise the much-needed funds. The surgery was a success, and little Auggie was transferred to a loving foster home, which allowed him to recover and heal in a comforting home environment.

Auggie's foster caregiver was incredibly supportive and loving, providing him with the care and attention he needed while recovering. Auggie made great progress in his foster home. And the best part: his foster guardian just couldn't stand the thought of returning him, so when he became available for adoption, they made him a permanent member of their family!

We are so glad to have dedicated foster families like Auggie's, who are willing to open their hearts and homes to animals in need. We're also grateful for the support of our donors who once more came to the rescue by responding to our urgent fundraising appeal. These gifts allow us to provide specialized medical care for animals like sweet Auggie.

Auggie's journey is also a fantastic example of our partnership with Hopalong Animal Rescue in action. Their extensive network of foster homes across the Bay Area is crucial, and allows us to help even more animals across the Bay Area!

2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT

The past year has seen huge growth in our Pet Safety Net program – a dubious distinction because while it's wonderful we're helping so many struggling pet parents, it's clear the need is greater than ever.

Other programs, like our award-winning Behavior & Training classes, continue to thrive and others, like Humane Education, are finally returning to pre-pandemic operations. And, with the integration of Hopalong Animal Rescue, our foster program is stronger than ever.

Take a peek at our FY 2021-22 Impact Report for a few remarkable stats made possible by our awesome, animal-loving community. So many lives made happy!

RATE OF POSITIVE OUTCOMES*

95%

Animals arriving: 3,773
Transferred from overcrowded shelters: 1,837
Found as stray: 792
Surrendered by guardian: 839
Emergency board: 305

Still in care at end of fiscal year: 352

Positive Outcomes:
Adopted: 2,741
Reunited: 571
Transferred to partners: 116

Spay/Neuter Surgeries 1,875
Animals Fostered 1,606
Foster Days 51,958

654
Behavior & training classes

754
Dog & cat consultations and private training sessions

23
Seminars and events

400
Volunteers

30,000
Volunteer hours

1,058
Humane Education students

7,011
Pet & wildlife calls responded to

1,079
Wildlife rescues

523
Private rehoming

1,302
Pet Safety Net and Pet Care Assistance clients served

* "Rate of positive outcomes" or "Live Release Rate" 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.

Profiles in Philanthropy

By Matt Terhune, VP of Philanthropy

At Marin Humane, philanthropy means generosity in all its forms—giving gifts of "time, talent, and treasure" to help transform the lives of animals and the people who love them. Here are some of our most dedicated, lifetime supporters, who have helped us make many lives happy in extraordinary ways over many years. We are pleased to introduce this regular feature, which allows us to honor philanthropy at Marin Humane and perhaps inspire others to follow similar paths.

Julie and Tom Atwood have been dedicated supporters of Marin Humane for more than a decade. Longtime North Bay residents who met through their mutual love of horses, they're deeply engaged in a variety of charitable organizations and educational institutions. Spurred by an equine emergency and a desire to help under-resourced animal owners be prepared for emergencies, Julie started The HALTER Project in 2013 to deliver free preparedness education, responder training and equipment, and outreach resources to a global community.

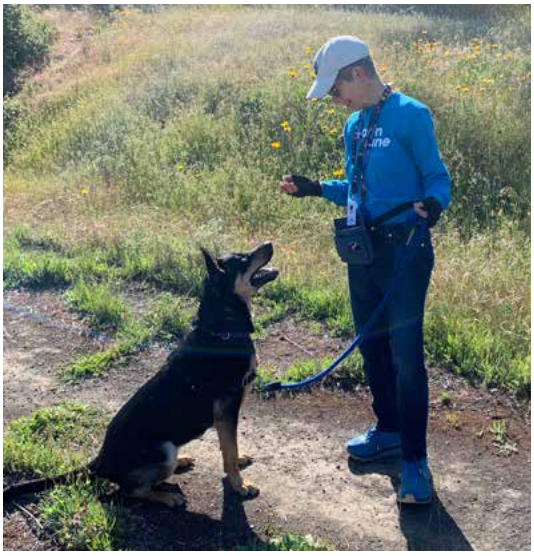
"Tom and I are on a mission to gather a circle of like-minded donors to ensure this beautiful, life-affirming organization is here to serve animals throughout our region whenever it's needed."
~Julie Atwood

Why do the Atwoods support Marin Humane? For Tom, it's about his fondness for a solid "hometown" organization with a long history as a leader in animal welfare. For Julie, the reasons are many: "Marin Humane stepped up and offered help to The HALTER Project. They encouraged me, provided mentoring and participated in our events. And then there's the fabulous education programs, and the Pet Safety Net program, which is something very meaningful to me."

In 2017, both Atwoods realized first-hand how much they valued their relationship with Marin Humane. Julie recounts: "We were forced to shelter in place on our ranch during the Nuns Fire. On night 4, watching flames erupt yet again, I received one of the first calls to get through. It was Cindy Machado and Nancy McKenney, checking on us and providing important updates. I'll never forget how comforting that was. Then, and in the five years and multiple disasters since, Marin Humane has been one of, if not the first, to offer aid to communities all over the state. Tom and I are on a mission to gather a circle of like-minded donors to ensure this beautiful, life-affirming organization is here to serve animals throughout our region whenever it's needed."

Gale Greisen and Don Scheiner are lifelong friends of Marin Humane and have generously supported our work both individually and through their business, Sausalito Construction, since 2004. They've become familiar faces on campus, particularly through their sponsorship of and participation in our annual Gala.

They also ensure, twice a year, that the Pet Safety Net (PSN) Program, which helps pet parents in crisis, is stocked with pet food for many months to come. This idea arrived one day when Gale and Renee Greisen, his beloved late wife, were sitting at the front desk at Marin Humane when a man came in to surrender his dog because he could no longer afford to feed him. Shocked and dismayed by this heart-wrenching situation, Renee vowed to ensure that no one



Photos (L-R): Julie and Tom Atwood; Don Scheiner, Gale Greisen, and Eric Flick; Ulla and Vince Howes; Audrey Pulis; Janet Weiner

who walked through those doors would have to face that decision again.

A memorial will soon be installed to honor Renee, in deep gratitude for her dedicated service to Marin Humane. When asked to comment on philanthropy and their commitment to Marin Humane, Gale and Don replied, "Give what you can when you can, as every little bit counts."

Ulla and Vince Howes are Legacy Society members who have been giving gifts of increasing size yearly since 2000. They've attended many events, and have adopted both cats and chickens from Marin Humane. Ulla and Vince have an interesting animal-related pastime in their history: competing in horseback endurance races! "We have always been fond of animals - our cats, horses and chickens-and are concerned about their welfare. And we hate to hear of other pets around the country being maltreated by caretakers and owners. We are therefore so happy to be able to support Marin Humane and are also impressed by all the measures you are taking to improve the lives of animals in your care."

Audrey Pulis has been a generous, consistent supporter of Marin Humane over the past 30 years. Her giving has ranged from pet memorials, disaster response, and special events, to emergency surgeries ensuring animals get a second chance. She also volunteers as a Dog Pet Pal (walking dogs on and off campus) and at special events!

"I donate to Marin Humane because I appreciate the vast array of services Marin Humane staff and volunteers provide to families and their pets in need as well as the relentless work at the shelter to care for and find homes for animals who come through their doors."

Janet Weiner is an animal advocate, businesswoman, publisher, and author. Janet has dedicated much of her philanthropy to improving the lives of animals and is a past recipient of Marin Humane's Humanitarian of the Year award. Janet and her husband, Michael, and children Russ and Rebecca, have generously supported Marin Humane since 2009, particularly for special projects that could not have happened without their leadership giving. Their support ranged from facilities improvements that ensure the comfort and care of our animals, to funding critical veterinary staff positions and event sponsorships. Janet also facilitated support from Rockstar, Inc., the energy drink company founded by her son, and for which she served as co-owner, CFO, and COO prior to its sale to PepsiCo. Janet's philanthropy has allowed us to expand and maintain the highest standards in our clinical care and be proactive in the ever-evolving field of animal welfare.

When asked about her family's commitment to Marin Humane, Janet remarked, "I often say to people: 'What would Marin be without Marin Humane?' The incredibly important and urgent role it plays in our community can never be overstated. Under outstanding executive and board leadership, Marin Humane has become a stalwart of love and compassion for animals in our community. The volunteers who support Marin Humane are so critical to its daily operations and success. We owe them huge thanks for their tireless commitment! I am proud to be able to help this organization sustain and flourish."

If you'd like to explore the potential impact of your philanthropy at Marin Humane, please contact development@marinhumane.org.

Saving Lives from a Deadly Virus

By Belinda Evans, DVM, Director of Shelter Medicine

After not seeing a case of canine distemper at Marin Humane for at least 10 years, I was surprised - and greatly concerned - when six dogs who arrived as strays tested positive for the deadly virus.

Distemper is completely avoidable in dogs if they're vaccinated but if not, this highly contagious virus is life-threatening.

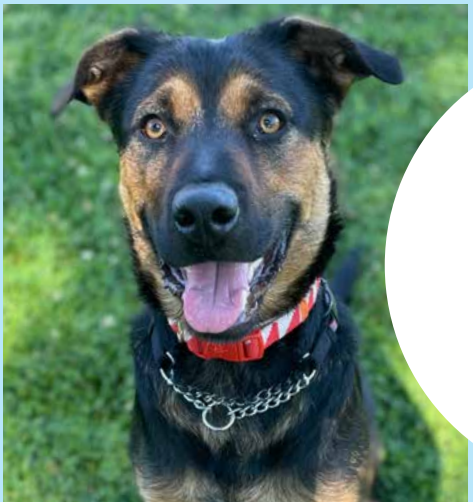
The dogs, kept together in our isolation ward, required a great deal of care. They had little to no appetites or energy, some were clearly in great discomfort, and the severity of the illness waxed and waned. For more than a month, our staff (donned in full personal protective equipment at every visit) fought to get them healthy. One of our veterinary assistants even took to making home-cooked meals for one of them, named Sunshine, as it was the only food she'd eat.

Sadly, two of the dogs were so sick that we had to humanely euthanize them - a decision that's never easy. But the remaining four – Harvest, Sassafras, Sweetie Pie, and Sunshine – started getting stronger! Soon after they were well enough, they were fostered through our Pen Pals program at San Quentin where they lived full-time with their inmate handlers, while they continued their recovery.

Just like with humans, vaccinations for our pets are essential. Marin Humane has been working hard to make pet care more accessible so we're now offering free vaccinations (and microchips!) at our Pet Safety Net quarterly community clinics (visit our website to find out when and where the next one will be).

Harvest, Sweetie Pie and Sassafras were all adopted and soon, the remaining dog, Sunshine, will be ready to go to her forever home, too!

We couldn't provide all the special food, medication, staff time, and resources if it weren't for our generous donors. On behalf of all the animals we care for here at Marin Humane, thank you!



Sunshine will be available for adoption soon!

HOME SWEET HOME

We're sure these animals are smiling as big as their new families!

A Foster Buddy Makes All the Difference

By Juliet Boyd, Director of Hopalong Foster Program

Fostering animals has proven time and again to be an extremely useful and rewarding tool in the pet rehoming process. Important information is gleaned during a stay in a foster home that plays a significant role in the successful adoptive process while providing important comfort along the way.

A temporary foster home allows animals to "unpack their baggage" as we often say with a smile after they've settled in. When pets first arrive at a home, they're often exhausted and stressed, especially if they were found as a stray. While they await adoption, they receive medical care and/or spay and neuter surgery, if needed, as well as behavioral training if their manners need improvement. During this transition, the home environment is one of the key components on this journey; one that helps provide reassurance and love.

One of our favorite parts of our jobs is witnessing the transformation in animals, as they begin to relax and trust their surroundings and temporary family members. "It takes a village" of support the entire way, and one of the best ways to help foster animals is when there are other furry siblings in the household. We think of this as adding a bit of magic to the mix!

When one animal is around another, stable animal in the home, it can often provide immediate relief. They show them the ropes like where to go to the bathroom, where to find the toybox, food, places to sleep etc. Most importantly, they often demonstrate their love of their human family showing the newcomer that their people can be trusted. This speeds up the process of relaxation and progress significantly, and also gives physical touch and contact to the animals. We tend to refer to many of our rock star animal fosters as "Linus' security blanket" from Charles Schultz's Peanuts. Once the newcomers arrive they're often stuck to them like glue.

We have a bevy of host families with resident pets who regularly take in new fosters, and the pictures we receive along the way get us every time. Confidence builds, relaxation sets in, and then the best part of all, having a ball with their new buddies! It's at this point that they're ready to be launched and matched with their new, adoptive family, and receive the second chance they so deserve.

With the recent merger of Marin Humane and Hopalong Animal Rescue, we now have one of the largest foster programs (called the "Hopalong Program of Marin Humane") in the Bay Area with foster homes in Marin, the East Bay, and San Francisco. We're so very grateful to our volunteers and foster families for their incredible work, and give a special, heartfelt nod to the four-legged, furry ones for their indelible impact.

Leaving a Legacy

By Nan Zimmerman, Legacy and Grant Program Manager

Marie Martin was a remarkable, forward-thinking supporter who made sure her lifelong love for animals would be part of her legacy. She generously made Marin Humane a beneficiary of her estate and her significant bequest will help sustain our many transformative programs and services to support Marin County's domestic animals and wildlife.

Marie's husband Peter Snoek reminisced about his and Marie's history, "I'd been a cat person all my life when my Siamese cat and I arrived in the Bay Area in 1966. I later adopted two wonderful cats from Marin Humane in 1986 and years later, when I had to say my final good-bye to one of them, I went to Marin Humane for help and was deeply impressed by their kindness.

When Marie and I met in 2012 it was clear she was a dog person. Early on she gave me a Poodle puppy and I became a dog person, too! Marie was a dog lover all her life and supported many animal welfare organizations. She deeply believed in Marin Humane's mission.

I have two dogs now, Emmy and Lucy, and both are enrolled in Marin Humane's Guardians Program. I have great peace of mind knowing that should something happen to prevent me from taking care of them, Marin Humane will make sure my bonded pair are rehomed together."

Rocky

By Lisa, Bloch, Director of Marketing and Communications

Rocky, a Shepherd mix, was found wandering around a San Rafael parking lot so Marin Humane staff was relieved to discover he was microchipped. However, they were perplexed after calling Rocky's guardian and learning his family lives all the way in Texas!

Rocky had gone missing a week earlier during a big storm. No one knew how he ended up all the way in California but the pressing question was: How do we get him back home?

Taking off to drive from Texas to California wouldn't be easy for Rocky's guardians so we worked on ways to get him home. One problem: not only was Rocky stressed and shut down but he wasn't crate trained. Being crate trained was important if we were going to transport him.

We asked Rocky's family if he could stay with us a bit longer while we let him decompress and work on his crate training. They readily agreed and our intrepid Behavior and Training team got to work. At the same time, Rocky began warming up to our staff and volunteers, big time. In fact, it became clear that despite being 70 pounds, he was a big ol' lap dog!

We were able to find trusted transport to drive Rocky back to Texas but before he left, he was treated to a special Bon Voyage party where his fans got to wish him well.

Rocky made it home just in time for Christmas. His family says everyone missed him dearly, including his two dog "sisters."

We'll never know how Rocky ended up all the way in San Rafael from Texas but one thing is clear. Without a microchip, we'd never have been able to reunite this sweet boy with his worried family.

An Influx of Large, Rowdy Dogs Brings New Challenges

By Dawn Kovell, Director of Behavior and Training

When pet homelessness was mostly about overpopulation, animal shelters housed a wide variety of dogs. Many had no behavior or medical issues and it was easy to find the perfect home. These "easy" animals didn't spend many days in the shelter. Robust spay/neuter campaigns reduced overpopulation in many areas so shelters with more space started transferring in animals from overcrowded ones to help ease their burden.

At Marin Humane, we always try to minimize an animal's shelter stay. Small to medium sized dogs are usually quickly adopted. However, shelters across the country are experiencing a surge in the number of "days in shelter" for large, adolescent dogs.

In Marin, we discovered that the majority of dogs being surrendered by their guardians had not had the benefit of training. Many show great potential however, they display challenging behaviors like being reactive to people and/or dogs while on leash or being too mouthy during playtime. Most haven't been trained to walk nicely on leash or had enough mental or physical stimulation, given their breed type and age. They're surrendered to the animal shelter, where, no matter how nice the facility or how loving the staff, they face additional stress.

These big dogs aren't the right match for most volunteer walkers and must be handled by staff. They require an extensive plan not only to improve manners but to decrease problematic or even dangerous behaviors. A decade ago, these dogs were unadoptable because the amount of resources and expertise needed is significant.

"You can't change a dog's past, but you can rewrite the future."
~Agnes Carass

Enter Marin Humane's Large Adolescent Dog (LAD) program, which works in a few ways. First, it sends selected dogs home with an experienced trainer for a month at a time for intensive work. It's less stressful which means the trainer can better assess behavior and use individualized training. The environment and training, plus lots of love and affection, of course, can make all the difference.

Second, LAD dogs who aren't too stressed by shelter life see a specialized trainer on campus. Staff work with the trainer to create a modification plan and receive advanced training to ensure there's consistency for exercise and enrichment.

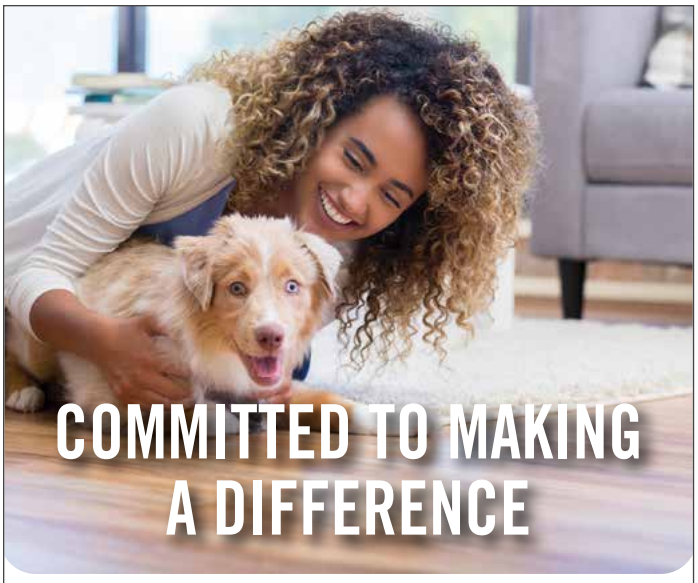
Local trainers or skilled handlers are also encouraged to "take a dog for a day," for special outings to work on real world skills.

So what's the downside?

The LAD program is expensive. Many dogs need several months, even up to a year of "catch up" training. From Board and Train facilities to bringing in specialized trainers to the long shelter stays, the positive outcomes for these dogs depend on financial support from the community.

But seeing a large, rambunctious dog barking up a storm and scaring off potential adopters transform into a well-mannered walking buddy who people want to meet is pretty amazing. In the program's first six months, we've seen great success!

To learn more about the LAD program, email dkovell@marinhumane.org.



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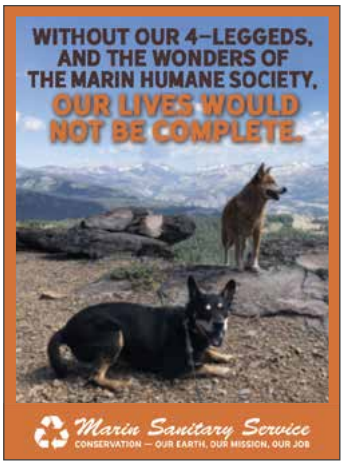

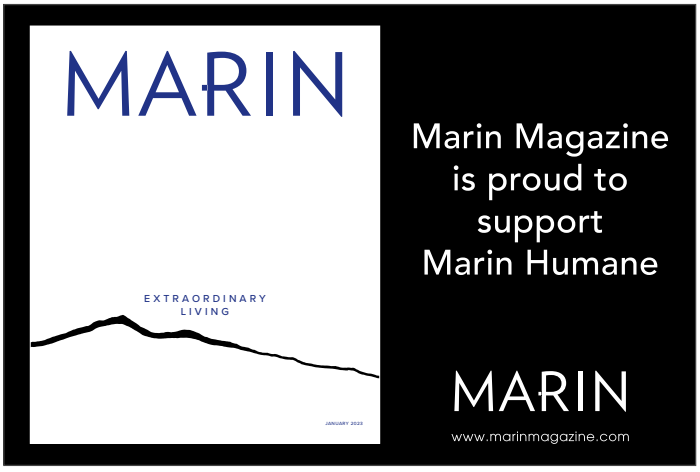

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San Anselmo, CA 94960
Phone: 415.459.5787

Hopalong Foster Program
945 22nd Ave
Oakland, CA 94606
Phone: 510.267.1915

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

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Sunday May 7, 2023
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 Petty Theft, the awesome Tom Petty tribute band!