CREATING A HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

SUMMER 2015

Helen Woodward Animal Center

2014 ANNUAL REPORT SURF-A-THON CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

EQUINE THERAPIST MARK NAMED HORSE OF THE YEAR ANIMAL HOSPITAL STAFF TAKE A ROAD TRIP

CARRIE ANN INABA 2015 OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON FOR Remember me thursday

The

ANIMALCENTER.ORG

FRIENDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



PACO I love to snuggle and be tucked in at night. There's nowhere else I'd rather be than by your side! If you are looking for a loving and affectionate companion, I might be the one for you!



JULIET I like to be brushed and enjoy being petted on my head and neck. I am looking for a quiet, cat sarry owner who understands moving slowly and giving me time and space to adjust to a new environment.

To see other adoptable dogs and cats, visit **animalcenter.org**

VIDA I am a very energetic pup that loves people but needs guidance, and a lot of exercise, to be the best I can be. I love to play and with a little training I'm sure to be a wonderful, fun-loving addition to your family!

CREATING A HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

Helen Woodward Animal Center is a unique, private, non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of animals and enriching the lives of people. For more than 40 years, our no-kill Center has provided humane care and adoption for orphan animals, as well as animal-centered educational and therapeutic programs for people. The Center is a dynamic, evolving institution that is an agent of change for the animal welfare world. Not only are we operating innovative and beneficial programs for animals and people, but we are teaching others around the world how to successfully market and promote their programs and stop the senseless death of thousands of animals.

Don't miss a single issue...

Every issue of Helen Woodward Animal Center's *The Companion* newsletter is filled with stories about the relationship between humans and the animals that we love. Four times each year *The Companion* keeps you informed about how you are helping us fulfill our mission of **"people helping animals and animals helping people."**



SURRENDERED PETS will receive a complete veterinary examination for good health and temperament. A documented history is required for all owner-relinquished animals. Dogs under our care are exercised regularly and cats enjoy comfortable playrooms. Experienced staff screen potential adopters to help clarify needs and ensure a lifelong match. Once an adoption is complete, our staff is available for any assistance to make the transition a success.

COMPANION

SPRING 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During a recent phone call with our good friends at Maggie's Rescue in Australia, I had a revelation about the importance of our work here at Helen Woodward Animal Center. Not only did the hard-working team at this dynamic organization credit our training and support with their growth and success, but they also came to us with new challenges that required our help going forward. This was the truly exciting part of that call — we are continually modifying and enhancing our innovative outreach and education programs for animal rescue groups around the world to help them deal most effectively with any issue that is impacting their ability to save lives.



... we are continually modifying and enhancing our innovative outreach and education programs...

Whether we are providing tangible strategies to change legislation on a national level

or giving them hands-on tools to deal with employee stress and compassion fatigue, we know that the Center must continue to evolve and develop new ways to support those in animal welfare who are our partners in the fight to save lives and stop euthanasia. We work as a team to meet those needs and if we don't have the internal resources to do so, then we find other professionals to lend that guidance and support. We are committed to not only saving animal lives but also to protecting those who dedicate their lives to caring for them.

Every day here at the Center we are bringing orphan pets into the safe haven of our facility from around the state and the region. Every day we are providing life-changing animal-centered therapy to individuals in crisis, ensuring seniors are able to keep their best friend through weekly pet food deliveries, teaching children to love and protect animals while sharing the earth with them, and teaching organizations around the world to join us in our life-saving battle against adoption practices that just don't work and more importantly send the wrong message about the value of our precious pets.

Thank you for making this possible with your generosity, commitment, and vision for a world where these pets have value and receive the love and attention they deserve for a lifetime.

For a more humane world,

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Michael M. Arms President and CEO

P.S. Please read more about our expansive outreach efforts inside this issue of the Companion.



Hudson at an outreach event.

The Pet Encounter Therapy program has been bringing the unconditional love and affection of our animal friends to children and adults during the most challenging times in their lives since the mid-1980's. Now, with a generous grant from our friends at the Lucky Duck Foundation, even more San Diegans are benefitting from these special visits each month.

ww.home4theholidays.org

Serving all of San Diego County with just one staff member supported by approximately 40 volunteers, the program has had a waiting list for many years. Now, with funds from this generous grant, we have been able to hire an additional part-time staff person and purchase a second vehicle, allowing us to make significant progress toward eliminating that list.

So far, we have added 11 new off-site facilities and two new on-site visits where the clients come to us. These include assisted living and memory care communities, a psychiatric inpatient program for children and teens as well as an outpatient program for young adults, and skilled nursing facilities. In addition, we are currently in the process of adding two more assisted living facilities and an organization that helps feed and house homeless participants, which will bring us to our goal of serving 60 facilities throughout the County by the end of September.

While over 2,000 Pet Encounter Therapy interactions take place each month, the profound impact of the program comes one visit and one family at a time, as a volunteer recently reminded us:

My dog Hudson, a nine-year-old Italian Greyhound, and I make regular P.E.T. visits at senior facilities around San Diego. We've been witness to many memorable moments, but some are extra special.

About a week ago we were visiting hospice patients at a large hospital, when we entered the room of a tall, fragile, elderly gentleman, motionless on the bed, eyes closed, and surrounded by his family. We were welcomed in and asked by his daughter if it would be OK to place Hudson on the bed, adding that her dad always loved dogs. I laid Hudson at her dad's side, letting him snuggle gently. After several moments Hudson raised his head looking for attention, and then softly rested it on the gentleman's hand. Almost immediately, the man began to slowly raise his hand to pet Hudson's head, now stretched across the man's chest. It was a long visit, Hudson lay content being gently scratched. The man never opened his eyes.

Looking up at the end of the visit I was concerned when I realized that everyone around me was crying. Outside the room, a nurse was waiting to tell me that this patient, until now, had been completely unresponsive since his arrival at Hospice almost two weeks earlier.

Encounters such as this where a client and an animal therapist connect so effortlessly show us the true strength of the animalhuman bond, and the important role our animal friends so often play during the most pivotal times in our lives. Thanks to our generous donors, the Lucky Duck Foundation, and our dedicated staff and volunteers (human and animal) even more people in need will now be experiencing the healing power of the Pet Encounter Therapy program each month.

If your pet is at least 1.5 years old, is well trained and socialized enough to behave in new and strange surroundings, and most importantly loves people, s/he might be a great therapy dog! Contact the program at 858-756-4117 x322 to learn more!

RIC ROBERTS

IAN SOMERHALDER photo by Jessica Olivier, ISF



This year's luminaries stand with us to raise adoption awareness

...lighting up the world for orphan pets.

Remember Me Thursday® is an international adoption awareness program that has touched the hearts of animal lovers around the world and has developed a momentum all its own, from the exponential growth of participation on social media with postings of photos and tributes to the response of organizations and individuals around the world with their own individual stories and experiences. This campaign to "shine a light on orphan pets" and remember those who lost their lives before finding their forever homes has truly struck a chord with animal lovers around the world. As we continue to garner the support of famous luminaries including athletes and celebrities alike, from this year's spokesperson Carrie Ann Inaba to Kristin Chenoweth who has again generously provided us with her heart-warming song, to icons of film like Diane Keaton we know that this year will show the world unlike ever before that we can all join together for one moment in time to be joined in spirit and at heart for our animal friends.

This year's events in San Diego include pre-game ceremonies at PETCO Park including the first pitch with our President Mike Arms, a brief Remember Me Thursday video on the jumbotron, and proclamation of this important date for our city. Adoptable pets will be on-hand to greet guests as they arrive to the park. This game will take place the evening of September 24, 2015 and we will distribute Remember Me Thursday poems to all guests that evening, as well.

Here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we will be holding our own special event for Remember Me Thursday that will include local school children sharing in a candle-lighting memorial with activities geared towards these younger animal lovers to create awareness and inspire them to make the world a better place for orphan pets in the future. Helen Woodward Animal Center's event is open to the public and will take place at 11 a.m. the morning of Thursday, September 24th. All guests will receive complimentary flameless candles for the ceremony.

To learn how you can participate visit remembermethursday.org and follow us via #LightForPets on social media.











SNAKES, ALPACAS AND SHEEP.OH, MY!

Humane education is one of the most important aspects of creating a more humane world. Our Education Department provides a variety of unique learning opportunities, which strengthen the bond between humans and animals by nurturing knowledge, compassion, and respect toward all living things. We offer several onsite learning opportunities such as critter camp, birthday parties, and seasonal programs. We also have programs for schools such as animal education outreach, field trips, and a new opportunity called Pet Pen Pals. Pet Pen Pals is one example of the department's recent implementation of more programs that compliment Common Core Standards.



Pepperoni, the Albino Corn Snake's favorite thing to do is tie knots.

Our **Pet Pen Pals** program allows each student to choose their own pen pal from a variety of animals (snake, rabbit, cockatiel, alpaca or sheep) and write letters to these animals inquiring about their diet, habitat, adaptations, communication, or just about how their day is going. Once the letters are received, the animals "respond" to the students. For example, Pepperoni (the

Albino Corn Snake) taught his pen pal that his nose allows him to breathe but not smell; he told his pen pal that he smells with his tongue and that is why snakes stick their tongues out! After four correspondences, the class schedules a field trip to the Center and is able to meet their pen pals face-to-face. The Education Department also offers cross curricular lesson ideas for the Pet Pen Pals program. Besides being a lot of fun, this program promotes literary development while bonding students with animals.



Another great way for kids to learn about and bond with animals is to attend the Howl-O-Ween Harvest here at the Center. The Howl-O-Ween Harvest is an opportunity for kids to get up close and personal with some of our "spookier" residents and see that they aren't that spooky after all. The Harvest also features the "Tricky Temple" where kids participate in team-building games like solving puzzles and riddles. Those who attend the harvest not only come home with fun facts to share but also a mini pumpkin from our pumpkin patch! There are time slots available from October 1st-30th and there is also a Howl-O-Ween Harvest Family Day on October 31st from 9am-12pm. The Family Day includes pumpkin picking, animal interactions, face painting, access to the "Tricky Temple," and crafts. Don't miss out on these fun fall festivities!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PET PEN PALS PROGRAM OR TO BOOK YOUR HOWL-O-WEEN ADVENTURE, CONTACT THE EDUCATION OFFICE AT (858) 756-4117 X318 OR E-MAIL EDUCATION@ANIMALCENTER.ORG

ONfor Kids

Five Ways to be a Superhero

With great power comes great responsibility, and we have a responsibility to be heroes to animals. In our last issue we asked you to tell us how you have been a hero to animals you know -- this month we're sharing what we've learned about how we can be hero's to our pets!

1. Exercise your pet! Dogs love walks, runs or hikes. Kitties love to play with toys! Even barn animals need exercise as part of their overall well-being.

2. Train your pet. Training is a great way to build a bond between you and your pet, and it even makes them a happier animal! At Critter Camp, kids learn how to clicker train, and practice on each other.

<u>3. Socialize your pet.</u> That means introducing your pet to others in a safe and fun way for that animal. Socialization is a great way for animals to receive enrichment and build the bond between people and animals.

4. Keep your pet and its home clean. You can be a hero to animals by being a responsible pet owner and keeping your pet clean and healthy.

5. Adopt your next pet. Dogs and cats make great pets, and there are so many that need loving, forever homes. Even if you can't adopt a pet, you can still be a hero to animals by participating in fundraisers, donating, volunteering, or just sharing your love and passion for animals with others!

Unofficial SURF DOG CROSSWORD

Use these clues to find the Surf-Dog I themed words in this month's puzzle.

ACROSS

- 2. The month our Surf Dog Surf-a-Thon is held in every year
- 5. A good thing to protect you from the sun's rays
- 8. The smallest breed of dog to surf

DOWN

- 1. Where we will be watching dogs surf
- 3. You will need one when you get out of the water
- 4. What dogs will be doing Sept. 13th
- 6. You may bring some of this back from the beach
- 7. We'll be soaking up it's rays on Sept. 13th













EQUINE OF THE YEAR!

The Therapeutic Riding Program at Helen Woodward Animal Center illustrates the meaning of the Center's motto, "People helping animals and animals helping people." The program currently has six active therapy horses who help over 55 students overcome physical, cognitive, emotional, and social challenges.

We aren't the only ones who recognize the amazing work of these horses, which was recently made evident when Mark the therapy horse won the PATH Intl. Region 11 Equine of the Year award! Mark is a 34 year old Arabian gelding and is leased to the program by a local trainer, for whom he spent many years teaching English riding and jumping. Mark, like all of our active therapy horses, went through a 90 day trial period during which he was exposed to elements unique to a therapeutic riding program.

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) serves as a resource, authority, and advocate for equine therapy programs around the world. Each year, PATH Intl. gives out awards in various categories including Equine of the Year. Gina Gregory, one of our Therapeutic Riding instructors, described Mark's lessons with a rider who has Cerebral Palsy on her nomination, "If Mark feels her struggle to stay centered, he slows or even moves underneath her to help. Though her legs are not the strongest, he responds gladly to her leg and voice cues when prompted to go. He builds this connection with all riders, regardless of their challenge: emotional, physical, cognitive."

In addition to the instructors, riders, and horses, the Therapeutic Riding volunteers are also crucial members of the team. Norma Goodnight is a volunteer who submitted a reference for Mark's nomination. Norma wrote about Mark's innate ability to adjust to the rider's needs; saying, "That's this horse's best trait: his responsiveness to riders mirrors their growth." There is another group of people who make these lessons possible: the parents/ guardians of the riders. Brooke Cortese wrote a reference as well, in which she illustrated all the ways Mark has helped her son Luke. She explained, "The relationship between the two is exceptional. This horse takes time to acknowledge Luke at every lesson, a nod or nuzzle. Originally, Luke did not feel secure enough to bring his hands down from his chest. Within a few months of riding this horse they were down by the mane, then holding adaptive reins. This was a significant achievement; much of the credit goes to this horse's calm, secure, consistent personality, and the wonderful relationship they have. Luke also started increasing core strength with this marvelous horse. His orthopedic doctors noticed improvements in Luke's walking ability — which has been an exciting leap for Luke."

As a regional winner Mark is now eligible to win the award at the international level, where we are sure this very special guy has a great chance. We wish Mark the best of luck! \clubsuit

YOU CAN HELP MARK AND OUR OTHER THERAPY HORSES BY GIVING TO OUR "FOSTER A HORSE" PROGRAM AT animalcenter.org/fosterahorse

Donations of any amount are appreciated. If you donate a minimum of \$300 you will:

- Be recognized in our Companion newsletter.
- Receive a photograph and biography of a horse chosen by our staff.
- Have your name displayed on that horse's stall card (a sign that has a picture and description of the horse that is placed on the front of their stall).

ANIMALCENTER.ORG

HANGIN[°] EIGHT FOR 10 YEARS STRAIGHT!

JOIN US FOR EVEN MORE Exciting activities to see and do!



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon and we are celebrating with even more fun activities to see and do!

The family-friendly beach day not only showcases the amazing talent of nearly 100 surfing pups, but includes a special Surf Dog Sand Sculpture, a stand up paddle board parade, fun kid's activities, a wide variety of vendor booths for people and pets, and a steel drum band. Come on down and join us for this free-to-watch competition and more, all for the benefit of pets and people in need!





BRINGING VETERINARY CARE TO RURAL PETS IN NEED

Two members of Helen Woodward Animal Center's Companion Animal Hospital staff recently had the opportunity to make a trip to the Quinault Indian Nation to help provide veterinary services for pets in this underserved area of Washington state. Dr. Angela Gaeto first participated in such a trip in veterinary school, and when she decided to volunteer once again as part of her continuing education activities, veterinary technician Chelsea Camacho decided to use her vacation to join Dr. Gaeto to take part in this unique opportunity.

The Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) program is provided by The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMS) which organizes field clinics in impoverished and/or rural communities throughout the U.S., as well as internationally, to offer veterinary services for local pets, education for children and adults in the community, and training for veterinary students who participate in the trips.

For four days, Dr. Gaeto and Ms. Camacho worked alongside other veterinarians and technicians as well as veterinary students and volunteers, often from 6am until 10 or 11pm, to treat 249 animals, providing vaccines for 144 pets and spay/neuter surgery for 105. Both noted the incredible level of planning and organization that the HSVMS undertook to build a makeshift veterinary clinic in the local community center, and enjoyed the opportunity to be part of making such a significant impact for this community, providing services to families who truly love their animals but simply do not have the resources to provide regular veterinary care.

Congratulations to Dr. Gaeto and Ms. Camacho for their part in making this important program possible, and for taking the high quality veterinary care we are so fortunate to be able to offer to our local community to the pets and people in the Quinault Indian Nation.

BABIES IN **A BUCKET**

The 5 gallon bucket mysteriously appeared in the busy lobby of the Inland Empire shelter one hot afternoon. No one was quite sure where it came from but they became suspicious immediately and worked to get the lid off as quickly as possible. They got the surprise of their lives when they took the lid off and found six beautiful Pomerian puppies, panting, overheated, and packed into a very cramped bucket. It was clear that if the staff at the facility had not found them and removed them quickly from the bucket, they may not have made it much longer!

These pups were not only tough but they were adorable too. The staff at the facility wanted desperately to keep them, but at this young age with no mother to nurse them and limited staffing and space it just wasn't possible. Fortunately they reached out to Helen Woodward Animal Center to see if we might be able to help.

The Center was more than happy to take on these brave pups who had suffered through this horrible experience and needed extra time and attention to get ready for their forever homes. We quickly placed them all in foster families where they could receive the care they needed until they were large enough for spay/neuter procedures and adoption. These special homes give our adoptable pets the best start to their new life, socialized and healthy.



THESE PUPS WERE NOT ONLY TOUGH BUT THEY WERE ADORABLE TOO.

The pups were nicknamed "the werewolves" because of their unusual faces and three have already been adopted! Edward, Eliza and Edwin found loving homes and, someday soon, Eloise, Emmet and Eric will start looking for their families, too.

THE BUSINESS OF SAVING LIVES

Helen Woodward Animal Center has been providing brand new ways to look at animal welfare, marketing, social media, fundraising, humane education, compassion fatigue, and more through *The Business of Saving Lives* (formerly called *Animal Center Education Services* or ACES) workshops for over 13 years, with life-saving results. The ground-breaking educational workshops, held on Center grounds, have been making their impact by drawing animal welfare workers who travel from New York to Singapore to attend.

In April of this year, President and CEO Mike Arms decided to broaden the reach of *The Business of Saving Lives* one step further. Working in conjunction with Blue Buffalo, Helen Woodward Animal Center invited animal welfare organizations to apply for a free, *The Business of Saving Lives One-Day Workshop* experience at their location. To be considered, organizations were required to be a 501c or a government recognized non-profit that had been in existence for at least five years and had access to facilities (or chosen sites) that could hold at least fifty participants. Organizations were also required to submit a thorough description as to why they needed the conference, including current challenges, specific needs for inspiration or business techniques, and their commitment and ability to implement the information the Center will provide. In an overwhelming display of need, nearly 40 organizations from Florida to New York to Puerto Rico applied for the training in only 5 weeks' time.

The Center's next one-day conference will take place in Virginia in October 2015 and in 2016 we will go international, working with our good friends at Maggie's Rescue in Australia to address challenging issues impacting their entire country from the feral cat population to compassion fatigue in the animal welfare industry.

"We are delighted to introduce our team to these hardworking organizations," stated Arms. "The only way we can really change the world of animal welfare is to work together. It's an honor to meet with like-minded people who want to make a better world for these beautiful pets."

To become an agent of change for animal welfare apply for a FREE The Business of Saving Lives workshop in your own town or for more information, visit www.animalcenter.org or call 858-756-4117 x 350.

Book your stay today!

Our Newly renovated **"Chateau Meow"** is ready to cater to all of our lovely feline friends!

> Each themed suite features natural lighting, a filtered water fountain, and a personal TV to entertain each guest.

> Call or visit our www.animalcenter.org/clubpet to schedule your reservation! (858) 756-4117 ext. 2





Conveniently located in the Adoptions lobby, we carry a variety of pet products such as shampoos, brushes, leads, collars, beds, toys, Kong products, bowls, litter, pet carriers and much more.

We currently feature Blue Buffalo products including:

- Basics Puppy
- Adult Chicken and Rice
- Adult Indoor Cat Formulas
- Canned food and dry food
- Wilderness Kitten formulas
- Small Breed Adult formulas
- Variety of treats including Blue Stix, Wilderness Jerky treats and Blue Bits Treats

If we don't currently carry the type of Blue Buffalo food your pet is on, we can get it for you! Just ask!





HELEN WOODWARD

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CREATING A HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

Upcoming **EVENTS**

SEPTEMBER 13 Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Dog Beach Del Mar

SEPTEMBER 24 *Remember Me Thursday*

OCTOBER 1-31 Howl-O-Ween Harvest by Appointment

OCTOBER 17 Volunteer Orientation

OCTOBER 18 Bow Wow Brunch (Hornblower Cruises)

OCTOBER 1 - JANUARY 4 Home 4 the Holidays

NOVEMBER 8 Hope Telethon 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. LIVE on KUSI TV NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID SAN DIEGO, CA PERMIT NO. 328





PLANNED GIVING INFORMATION

- I would like to know more about the Center's pet bequest policy.
- I would like to know more about including the Center in my will.
- □ I would like to be invited to an informational bequest luncheon.
- I have already included the Center in my estate plans.

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone		
Email		

For more information, please detach and return completed form in the provided remit envelope.