See the Light
FURiENDS
available for adoption

CLIFFORD
Labrador Retriever - Cattle Dog blend
I am a very energetic dog that loves people but needs a lot of exercise to be the best I can be. If you are looking for an active best friend who also loves the great outdoors, I could be the one for you.

MAGNUS & RUFUS
Domestic Medium Hair blends
I, (Magnus) am an independent guy looking for a forever home, so I just need someone who will be patient and go slow with me. I would do best in an adult only household, but I love to bird-watch with my best friend Rufus, (who is super sweet and easy going) so please take us home together! If you have cat experience and we sound like the cats for you, please come see us and let us win your heart!

BRUNO
Shepherd blend
If you have an active lifestyle and enjoy outdoor activities then I’m the perfect dog for you! I can turn any day into an adventure! With a little training I’m sure to be a wonderful addition to your family!

To see more adoptables, visit animalcenter.org

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 48 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.”
Dear Friend of the Animals,

It is hard to believe we are almost through summer when it feels like it was just March and the world was shutting down around us. The last few months have literally flown by, but not because we have been bored or lacking new and exciting work here at the Center, in fact it is quite the opposite. Here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we have never worked harder or been more committed to saving lives than in the last few months — so committed in fact that we quadrupled our normal amount of transfers from out of the area in order to prevent the senseless euthanasia of cats and dogs around the country when shelters were shuttered due to COVID.

Never have we worked harder to find ways to bring animals and people together during this time of great loneliness and depression... from virtual education field trips to “drive in” pet therapy and “window visits” provided in partnership with our incredible animal ambassadors. Never have we worked harder to meet the needs of our community by ensuring that families who had lost their jobs had a place to go for pet food and human food to keep their pet and themselves healthy and strong. Never have we worked harder to ensure that the pets of San Diego's homeless received veterinary support through Pets Without Walls. In fact, our own small animal and equine hospitals never closed during this crisis — we were here for the community from day 1 of the shutdown and we will continue to be for all the days ahead.

Beyond all of this amazing work at your Center, we were also providing innovative experiences like a virtual marathon and our first ever virtual PAWmicon, as well as a special two hour HopeNOW program to share our teams’ amazing efforts during this time. We miss our friends and supporters and hope that we can all be together again soon but we do appreciate all the ways that you are supporting us from home. I hope that you have found positive ways to keep yourself entertained but if you are missing the type of content that lifts your spirits and provides you with inspiration, we may have some exciting news to share with you on that front, as well... stay tuned....

As Remember Me Thursday® approaches please remember that although we might not be together physically at Petco Park, we are all one at heart for this important cause to protect the lives of dogs and cats waiting for adoption around the world. Please join us as we bring together organizations from around the globe at 9 a.m.(PST) on Thursday, September 24, for a Zoom presentation. We will come together as one heart, and one mind for the animals. Your Center is certainly continuing to move to a whole new level of recognition and awareness and we certainly could not do it without you. Thank you for remembering us and know that our critical work for the animals will never stop … no matter what challenges tomorrow brings.

For a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms
President and CEO
Center favorite Sabrina finds her perfect ending

The sight of Helen Woodward Animal Center staff eagerly coming out from their respective departments throughout the Center en route to the adoptions lobby can only mean one thing—the news has spread that a Center favorite and long-term resident has finally found their match.

Smiles, chatter of favorite memories, and even tears are common as Center staff say their bittersweet goodbyes, knowing a new chapter is unfolding for a once orphan pet, turned loving family member.

The perfect family for an orphan pet sometimes takes months to find as Center trainers, adoption counselors and even Center marketing staff work together as matchmakers to find pets their forever homes.

A 1.5-year-old black Labrador retriever blend named Sabrina quickly became one of those special Center favorites. Upon Sabrina’s arrival at the Center, it was obvious she would need extra help coming out of her shell.

Rob Kuty, Center trainer and owner of San Diego Pet Training worked with Sabrina daily. She was nervous, apprehensive with new people and overall lacked confidence.

“As a unique part of training, we also work on other things such as agility,” Kuty said. “This helps us build trust and a stronger bond with the handler.”

Sabrina’s training plan continued for months, during this time, her sweet, tender personality more deeply touched the hearts of everyone who got to know her. Increasingly, Sabrina began warming up to people and places. “We had to always be aware not to put her in a new situation or present her to a new person and go too fast or she would want to close down.”

Kuty worked with adoptions staff to develop a success plan for Sabrina detailing the desired characteristics of her forever home. As training continued, so did the search for Sabrina’s match. Then in late May, came Melinda Eisenhower and Ed Matthews.

“We’ve adopted three dogs from Helen Woodward Animal Center over the years,” explained Eisenhower. “We adopted Gus about 5 years ago and he had a similar story to Sabrina. He was there for a long time and needed a lot of training. Gus has turned out to be a significant success story — not to mention, he’s a great dog.”

In search of a new furry family member to join Gus and their other dog Henry, the Eisenhower and Matthews family were immediately interested in sweet Sabrina.

“Having adopted from Helen Woodward Animal Center twice before and having worked with Rob Kuty for Gus’s adoption, we trusted that we could provide a loving environment for Sabrina,” Eisenhower explained.

As they have done many times before, Center staff said their bittersweet goodbyes and wished Sabrina the happiest life ahead.

“She’s turned out to be a really good dog. She’s smart, she and Henry play for hours, she understands what it means to go for a walk and she’s no longer afraid to come inside and relax,” Eisenhower said. “Sabrina is starting to blossom and she’s happy. It’s emotional. Adopting dogs like her is just a way of doing something good.”

Helen Woodward Animal Center is proud to provide all orphan pets with the necessary medical care, nutrition and shelter they deserve, and also the specialized training and attention they need to guarantee them the best possible chance at finding their perfect homes.

“It means everything to me to see a dog like Sabrina find her match,” Kuty said. “To see where some of the dogs start and then see them with their forever families, is a perfect ending to their journey.”
A unique kitten season at the Center

With oodles of fuzzy felines arriving twice weekly, staff are on their toes ready to welcome in droves of kittens, get them checked through the medical team and off to loving foster homes to await spay or neuter surgeries and the all-clear to go up for adoption.

In line with 2020’s unusual circumstances amid COVID-19, this year’s kitten season has proved to be particularly unique. With many rescue organizations unable to perform their life-saving work in early spring due to closures, safety concerns and restrictions, Helen Woodward Animal Center arranged special transports welcoming more than 100 orphan cats and kittens from the Lone Star State.

While those life-saving transfer road trips out west from Texas marked the start of kitten season for the Center, momentum has been building with more than 300 kittens and cats marking their arrival in recent weeks.

Some of the Center’s newcomers will stay in our care for a longer period, arriving too young to even feed themselves like in the case of Masina. This itty bitty kitty was found alone on someone’s balcony. She will require bottle feedings every couple of hours for weeks to come.

Notably, many of the Center’s newest feline arrivals have been older kittens, often found in dire situations. Minnie, a recent rescue from a storm drain was found just in the nick of time. She likely would not have survived much longer — this young kitten was found shivering and soaking wet.

While many of the orphan kittens arriving at the Center recently can begin their search for forever homes within a week’s time following medical checks and spay and neuter surgeries, some kittens arrive with medical concerns that first need to be addressed.

Jerry, Boots and Sassy came to the Center from the Los Angeles area suffering from upper respiratory infections. Their recovery involved a unique oxygen treatment in a nebulizer chamber. This trusty trio made a quick recovery and soon found forever homes.

While the Center’s kittens quickly get scooped up by loving families, adult cats tend to take a little longer to win over prospective adopters. Those who choose to adopt adult cats benefit from already knowing and loving their developed personalities, better manners and calmer demeanors.

In the months to come, hundreds more orphan cats and kittens will arrive at Helen Woodward Animal Center getting their second chance at a loving home.

You can support the many orphan felines in need by donating at animalcenter.org or shopping the Center Amazon Wish List at animalcenter.org/kittenshower.

From June 8 - 14, 55 cats and kittens found forever homes — the highest amount in a week in Center history!

Arrow — a kitten, pointed straight at our hearts.

At just a couple weeks old, Arrow, an adorably sweet boy with a beautiful grey coat, arrived at Helen Woodward Animal Center in great need — his two hind legs were badly broken.

Young kittens like Arrow that require extensive medical care often find themselves in a desperate situation at overcrowded shelters with limited resources. His arrival at Helen Woodward Animal Center was life-saving.

For just over five weeks, tiny Arrow wore full-length casts and rested at a loving foster home, checking in regularly with the medical team for x-rays and exams.

Thanks to the work of the medical staff and Center veterinarians, Arrow made a full recovery and regained mobility in both his legs!

He’s now living life to the fullest in his forever home!
Although it is a challenging time for animal organizations around the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we feel there has never been a more important time for us to work together to promote pet adoptions and remind people that millions of animals are losing their lives in shelters, many of which have been closed throughout this time.

This year’s Remember Me Thursday® events will certainly be different than years past but we believe they will still be extremely special. For the first time ever we will be hosting an international Zoom call at 9 a.m. PST with organizations from around the globe, including Puerto Rico, Estonia, Bulgaria, UK, parts of Africa, and Japan. They will all share what they are doing to commemorate Remember Me Thursday in honor of the over 1,000 organizations from 190 unique countries and territories that participate. The zoom call will be open to the public so that together we can share in this moment and add our voices to a campaign that’s marked over 1 billion social media impressions.

Helen Woodward Animal Center will also be hosting an on-site event during that time for our staff and supporters with a special candle-lighting ceremony in our Pavilion to join with the 1,000 virtual candles that have been lit on the website remembermethursday.org.

The Remember Me Thursday contest which allows you to share your rescue story to benefit your local animal organization is currently open, as well. You can help provide both Blue Buffalo dog food and $1,000 cash to your favorite organization by sharing your touching stories today.

We continue to have tremendous support from our over 100 celebrity human and animal luminaries and we are so grateful. Please keep checking the Remember Me Thursday website as we will be announcing our official spokesperson for the campaign at the beginning of September. Thank you for helping everyone around the world to #SeeTheLight to save lives.
Our annual celebration of superhero adopters and the furry sidekicks who save us right back prevailed despite COVID-19 challenges as we brought you PAWmicon presented by Blue Buffalo, virtually.

For eight years, PAWmicon has wowed attendees with its pop culture themed dog cosplay event that raises life-saving funds for the orphan pets at Helen Woodward Animal Center. PAWmicon soared in 2019 when it began its collaboration with the new Comic-Con Museum, which continued into 2020.

This year, the new virtual format gave attendees complete online access to PAWmicon's PAWsplay contests, augmented and virtual reality experiences powered by Omniscape, artist alley, pet vendors, kids activities, trivia competitions and eight notable pet themed panel discussions.

The online setting paved the way for top notch panel participation from some of the biggest names in TV, film, novels, comics and social media who discussed the loving animals in their lives and how pets have influenced their work.

With more than 7 million combined fans on Instagram alone, one of PAWmicon's most popular panels was Pets in Social Media featuring some of the internet's most beloved pets including Trixie, Sunglass Cat, Nala Cat and Little Boogie Shoes.

Patrick McDonnell, the creator of the Mutts Comic Strip joined the Animals in Comics discussion with long-time Center supporter Greg Evans, creator of the popular Luann Comic Strip. We also heard from Michael Levitt, the executive producer of Hallmark's American Rescue Dog Show in the Pets on Set Panel moderated by Hallmark's Pet Rescue Expert, Larissa Wohl.

Other panelist included Nick Bruel, Author & Illustrator of New York Times Best Seller Bad Kitty, Chris Ryall, President of San Diego's IDW Publishing and Keith Arem, CEO of PCB Productions.

Despite the virtual format, attendees were able to share the magic of PAWmicon with gratitude to presenting sponsor Blue Buffalo, technology sponsor, Omniscape, Kids Activities Sponsor, Petco and the Comic-Con Museum.

To join the fun and view PAWmicon's panel discussions on YouTube, just search Helen Woodward Animal Center.
As we collectively settled into our homes to prevent the spread of COVID-19 this spring, many who had in the past dismissed the idea of bringing home a new pet, were finally able to open their doors to the possibility. As work schedules, travel commitments and the rapid pace of life were no longer obstacles to fulfilling the dedication a new pet requires, Helen Woodward Animal Center was flooded with requests for adoption appointments. In fact, more than 1,500 orphan pets have found their forever homes in recent months. Through these uncertain times, these newly adopted four-legged companions are providing joy, comfort and purpose to their new forever families.

**Bringing Home**

**Mia**

William Steele, 71 and Betty Steele, 69 became empty nesters when their son moved back to town and regained ownership of his French Bulldog ‘Dude’. The Steeles knew they needed another furry companion in their lives, especially as the new normal of the pandemic settled in.

“We are both cat lovers so we headed to Helen Woodward Animal Center to replace our now empty nest. When it comes to pet decisions, Betty makes the final decision. We were impressed with the Center and their staff who were very courteous and professional. My wife picked a white and black female named Mia.

After a couple of weeks, Mia has become my favorite cat that we have ever owned. She makes me laugh a couple of times a day. She sleeps stretched out like a human. Mia follows my wife around the house and greets us at the door like a dog and talks to us with her soft meows. There’s something about waking up in the morning and seeing a cat sleeping on your bed that makes me smile.”

**FAVORITE FUNNY MOMENT:**

“No matter how many water bowls we put out, Mia likes to drink from a running faucet. She will follow us into the bathroom and sit on the sink waiting for the water to be turned on.”

**Archie**

Anna Fairman is a Carlsbad teacher who was waiting for the day when she would have enough time in her schedule to adopt a puppy. She grew up with dogs and has always dreamt of having one of her own as they make great companions. Young dogs though require a lot of attention and with Anna’s busy school schedule, the idea was farfetched, until COVID-19.

“I adopted Archie the day Governor Newsom mandated the stay at home order. I was planning to adopt a dog during the summer, when I would have time to train a puppy, but figured if I was going to be stuck at home, I may as well have a puppy with me. Having Archie during the COVID pandemic has been a life-saver. He has given me something to focus my time and attention on. He is my best friend and is with me 24/7. He also forces me to stay active! He has become my best friend and companion and makes me laugh when he zooms around the house.”

**FAVORITE FUNNY MOMENT:**

*Archie is a total lover of all humans and all dogs! We did obedience training recently, which has built in puppy play and he had the absolute time of his life playing with the other dogs. When he’s not snuggling up with me on the couch, he can be found chewing on his favorite toys or “zooming” around the house to burn off some of his excess Border Collie energy!*

*“I adopted Archie the day Governor Newsom mandated the stay at home order. I was planning to adopt a dog during the summer, when I would have time to train a puppy, but figured if I was going to be stuck at home, I may as well have a puppy with me. Having Archie during the COVID pandemic has been a life-saver. He has given me something to focus my time and attention on. He is my best friend and is with me 24/7. He also forces me to stay active! He has become my best friend and companion and makes me laugh when he zooms around the house.”*
Sierra Esprit-DiBianco is 7 years old and a huge animal lover. Her dad Raphael agreed Sierra was old enough to help care for a pet and they knew they wanted to adopt. Sierra was looking for a companion with whom she could play and love. The pandemic seemed like the perfect time to welcome a new furry friend…or two.

"We were looking for either a cat or a dog because I wanted a live pet that could jump and play. My dolls don't do that. Also, we were looking for one pet and got two kittens instead! Happy and Cooper are fun to play with, hug and love. They make me so very happy and they are just so cute and playful. The make us laugh all the time. I love feeding and caring for them every day."

Lady

Sara McCalment says her family had been thinking of rescuing a puppy for a while, but when COVID-19 hit and her husband who is a photographer was out of business for months, they figured it was the right time to love on an orphan pet and give it the time and attention it needs.

"We knew we wanted a dog. We weren't too picky, we were just looking for a cute pup that wouldn't get too big and that's exactly what we got. Lady has been keeping us busy with walks and playtime, which has been a good thing during this quarantine. She's helping us keep our focus on something else. Lady was so quick to become part of our family. The kids all love playing and cuddling with her. At night when the kids go to bed, she cuddles with us."

FAVORITE FUNNY MOMENT:
"If I take Lady for a walk by myself she refuses to actually walk. She plants herself on the sidewalk. When the kids come with me, she is willing to walk but she's not happy unless she's home with the family. I love that she so quickly has made herself part of our family."

"They wrestle each other, roll around, and chase their tails, run and jump all over. They love to get crazy with their toys!"
Helping people connect through animals

Distance learning and virtual gatherings might be the reality for months to come, which means it’s more important than ever for us to provide content that is both educational and engaging. Whether you want to set up an animal appearance for your next virtual Scout meeting, arrange a presentation for your students, or send someone a personal message from a cute critter, we have something for you!

Contact us at education@animalcenter.org to set up your program. You can also contact us to learn about our modified in-person programs.

Critter Drive-In

Pandemic “cabin fever” has been hard on everyone but especially difficult for seniors that are completely isolated from the community. Many haven’t left their home (and sometimes room) for three to four months.

This is why we created the Critter Drive-In. Seniors, clients dealing with cognitive impairment, children in the foster care system – any group in need can enjoy the drive out to the Center where they will park in the lot behind Pet Encounter Therapy to enjoy a host of cute animals.

Alpaca, horses, sheep, dogs, reptiles and more will walk up to their cars for an up-close and personal interaction while they stay safe in their vehicle. Laminated fun fact sheets are hung on the windows so guests can learn about the animals that they are meeting.

We also just purchased an FM transmitter that will allow us to broadcast through their radios just like a true drive-in! It is incredibly powerful to see the joy our animals can bring to these clients.

Contact us at education@animalcenter.org to set up your program. You can also contact us to learn about our modified in-person programs.

Animal Care Camp

Kids will get to experience what it’s like to have an awesome career with animals! This camp combines hands-on activities with a variety of species and lessons from our experienced animal care staff. We hope to inspire your kids to follow their passion. Spots are limited, so sign up today!

Visit animalcenter.org/education for registration & details.

*If changes arise due to COVID-19 restrictions, registrants will be notified/refunded accordingly.
MEMORIAL GIFTS
We have a beautiful program called “I Remember You” to memorialize pets online, by “lighting a candle” and sharing a story and photo. If you have any questions please call The Center, x350 or visit the site to light a candle.
old.animalcenter.org/irememberyou/

MONETARY DONATIONS
Helen Woodward Animal Center relies heavily on private donations to fund our programs.

BECOME A ‘PAW PAL’
Monthly donors support our work throughout the year with recurring monthly gifts. Join "Paw Pals" and receive a commemorative pin to show your support.

IN-KIND DONATIONS
To help reduce costs, our programs are always in need of items to support their activities. Visit animalcenter.org for our current wish list of specific needs.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS
Give the gift that saves lives! A gift to help the animals is a great way to celebrate a birthday, graduation, or the upcoming holidays. We will send a personalized card notifying the recipient of your gift.

VEHICLE DONATIONS
Take the hassle out of selling your old car, truck, motorcycle, or other vehicle — donate it to Helen Woodward Animal Center! Our simple, hassle-free program will take care of all the paperwork, pick up your vehicle, and send you the documents needed for a tax deduction, while providing valuable funds to help the animals! Call 844-854 PAWS to donate.

PLANNED GIFTS & PET BEQUESTS
Including Helen Woodward Animal Center in your will or trust will create a lasting legacy to help pets and people in need for years to come. Make provisions to ensure your pets will be cared for in the event of your passing.
Contact Renee Resko: 858-756-4117 x347 or email ReneeR@animalcenter.org

PLANNED GIVING

☐ 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.
Renew or upgrade your GIFT CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

- The Best Friends ............................................ $150 - $249
- The Faithful Friends .................................... $250 - $499
- The Loyal Companions ............................... $500 - $999
- The Helen Woodward Society, Bronze Circle ............................................. $1,000 - $2,499
- The Helen Woodward Society, Silver Circle ............................................. $2,500 - $4,999
- The Helen Woodward Society, Gold Circle ............................................. $5,000 +

Make a one-time gift club membership donation OR divide your gift into 12 monthly payments by joining Paw Pals monthly supporters.

If you have any questions, call the Development Office at 858-756-4117 x350.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Our new building is open but you can still purchase commemorative plaques and pavers. These opportunities allow you to make a gift in memory of, or in honor of a beloved pet or family member, and give you a chance to leave your legacy.

Visit animalcenter.org/future TODAY to customize your gift for the new building and help us give the animals the new facility that they deserve!