

The

COMPANION

 *Helen Woodward Animal Center*

IT'S RAINING
KITTENS

FOSTER
FOCUS

A SALUTE
TO OUR
TROOPS



Tyson Ross photo courtesy of the San Diego Padres

ANIMALCENTER.ORG

FRIENDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



MR. KRABS

I am playful and inquisitive and would love for you to help me grow into the best cat ever.



SCRABBLE

I am a sweet and gentle pup who would love to be your best friend. Won't you take me to your home and make me part of your family? I hope to see you soon!



CORA

I like going for long walks and exploring new areas. I am very friendly and affectionate once I warm up to you but I prefer things to be taken slowly at first.

To see other adoptable dogs and cats, 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 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."



Find us on
Facebook



Follow the litter on
Twitter

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.

Helen Woodward Animal Center would like to say thank you to our friends at the San Diego Padres and Petco for featuring us in the 2016 Padres and Puppies Calendar.

The COMPANION

SPRING 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Animals,

Here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we are celebrating another record-breaking year of almost 3,300 adoptions in 2015 — that's more adoptions than ever before! What's even more amazing, the first quarter of 2016 is breaking every previous record. We truly believe that by giving these animals the value they deserve, and by carefully screening potential adopters, we have not only ensured the highest quality adoptions, but also the lowest return rates. As we continue to work with organizations across the country to help bring orphans to a safe haven, we feel great pride in our community and friends — and supporters like you who not only embrace our important mission, but also work to promote the importance of adoption.

In addition to the belief that our community is embracing the value of these special animals, I am also inspired by the fact there is more awareness around adoption and saving the lives of orphan pets rather than purchasing a pet from a backyard breeder or pet store. Programs like Home 4 the Holidays®, which has placed over 12 million orphan pets worldwide since its inception in 1999, and Remember Me Thursday®, which began just a few years ago and generated 263 million social media impressions in 2015, are making a significant impact on awareness and changing the public's perception about the value of these beautiful pets whose only crime was being left behind by those who should have loved them most of all.

As we move into spring and prepare for our busy kitten season, the Spring Fling Gala, Remember Me Thursday® 2016, and our busiest year yet in terms of adoptions and education, we are grateful for people like you who provide generously and advocate for these orphans that need our voice to create a better tomorrow.

Enjoy the special stories inside and, if you can, take a moment and **please support us in continuing our important work**. Thank you again, dear friends of the animals.

For a more humane world,



Michael M. Arms

President and CEO



“We are simply grateful for people like you that provide generosity and advocacy for the animals.”

Our Miracle Twins Turn Six!

Sunny and Angel are twin foals, born March 28, 2010. Their mom's owner didn't realize she was pregnant with twins! Both babies and mom were rushed to Helen Woodward Animal Center's Equine Hospital shortly after birth, where they could be monitored and experience state of the art, around the clock care.

With a 1 in 10,000 chance of surviving birth, and within that, a 1 in 15,000 chance that their mother would survive, we are ecstatic to report that six years later, mother and young are all healthy and living their lives to the fullest! Happy Birthday! 🐾



ANIMEALS NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The AniMeals program has been keeping seniors together with their pets since 1984. All of us have seniors in our lives and may have, unfortunately, seen them struggle with loneliness and isolation. This is the very reason why a pet in our lives is so valuable. We know that for these struggling seniors, their pet is their reason to get out of bed each morning and is their sole source of companionship. When it comes to the difficult choice of whose health is more important, their pet will always come first. Fortunately, AniMeals has taken that painful choice away by ensuring that seniors and their pets get the nutrition they need for good health.

The number of beneficiaries receiving AniMeals has more than doubled in the last few years and we are now serving 616 companion animals every month right here in San Diego!

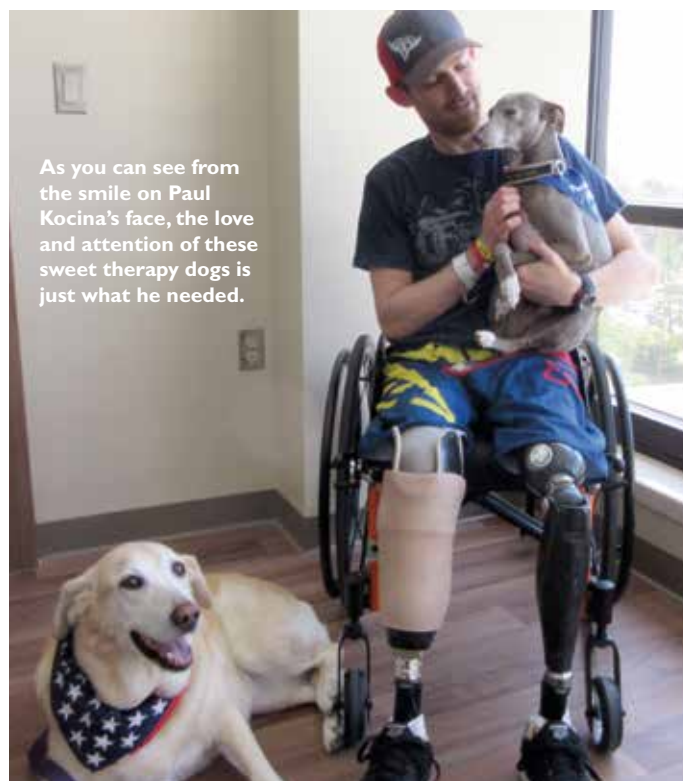
In addition to working with programs that serve low-income and home-bound seniors, such as Meal-On-Wheels and Jewish Family Services, we have also partnered with Wounded Warriors to serve injured soldiers and veterans and their service dogs. It's an honor for us to serve those that have risked their lives to serve our country.

Alongside our twelve partner agencies, the AniMeals program has served over **two million** free meals to keep seniors and disabled people with their loyal companions! That number represents so much more than just bags of cat food or dog food. To us here at the Center, it represents the gift of companionship, unconditional love, and additional years of quality life for clients and their pets.

Special thanks to our agency partners as well as our corporate partners at PETCO, Gelson's and Kahoots for helping us to bring this gift to so many in need. 🐾



Food donations help animals like adoptable French Fry, pictured above, who recently found her forever family.



As you can see from the smile on Paul Kocina's face, the love and attention of these sweet therapy dogs is just what he needed.

P.E.T. PETS FOR VETS

As animal lovers, we all know and appreciate the comfort and unconditional love that our pets provide us every single day. But what about those animal lovers that are stuck in hospitals without their loyal companion by their side? This is where the Pet Encounter Therapy (PET) program steps in. The program is led by two staff members with the help of 60 volunteers who visit skilled nursing facilities, children's centers, psychiatric units, and hospitals to provide clients with the emotional and tactile benefits of animals.

One of the most inspiring facilities the PET team has the pleasure of visiting twice a month is the VA San Diego Healthcare System, a hospital that provides services to more 82,000 Veterans in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The services veterans receive include medical, surgical, mental health, and rehabilitation services, in addition to highly anticipated biweekly visits from the therapy dogs at Helen Woodward Animal Center.

Sadie, a Labrador Retriever, and Hudson, a Miniature Grey Hound, love their job of interacting with the veterans and providing them with the many benefits of petting animals including relaxation, lower blood pressure, improved long and short term memory, and sensory stimuli.

Sadie and Hudson have a special way of connecting with every client in a unique and impactful way whether it is just feeling the warmth of their body against theirs, or having someone that is able to listen to their every thought without judgment.

We are truly grateful for the generosity of our Pet Encounter Therapy supporters. Without them, we would not be able to provide over 23,000 therapy animals interactions a year to facilities like the VA hospital. 🐾



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THANK YOU!

Helen Woodward Animal Center's
PUPPY LOVE 5K

We wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all the generous sponsors of our Puppy Love 5K! Together we made it a smashing success. See you next year!

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Gala

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**Special thank you to the sponsors of our Spring Fling Gala
presented by EDCO!**

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For information on sponsoring any of our events or programs, contact
Kelsey Shea at 858-556-4117, x312, or email, KelseyS@animalcenter.org 



Kittens cuddle and wait for their check up with our veterinary staff.

IT'S RAINING... KITTENS?

As kitten season quickly approaches, more and more kittens in need of your help and support are flooding into the Center.

On an early and rainy morning in March, an employee of a plumbing company found more than he anticipated at the bottom of a storm drain. What he thought would be a routine cleaning of the drain quickly turned into a rescue mission as the rain grew heavier. Eight feet down, he found three kittens still too young to open their eyes and no sign of their mother. The water level was quickly rising and he knew that if they were down there any longer, the kittens risked being swept away. He had to get them out of there quickly.

Once the kittens were free from danger, their rescuer immediately called a friend who knew about animal rescue and she, in turn, brought them to the Center for nursing care and treatment. A dedicated foster was more than willing to welcome them into the safety of her home to closely monitor them and provide them with constant bottle feedings.

It's because of *your* generous support that Helen Woodward Animal Center was able to save the lives of these beautiful babies.

Squash, Sushi, and Scone will spend the next few weeks with their foster mom, growing big and strong so they can have their spay/neuter surgeries and then start to look for their forever families. There's nothing but blue skies ahead for these kittens! 🐾

FOSTERS TO THE RESCUE!

We could not accomplish our goal of saving as many lives as possible without you, our amazing supporters and volunteers.

Late at night on Valentine's Day 2016, someone abandoned seven puppies – just a few hours old – at a Southern California shelter. When workers arrived the next morning, they found the hungry, helpless puppies. One of our rescue partners asked if we could take the seven newborns.

We quickly contacted one of our wonderful foster families that we knew would provide these little ones round-the-clock care. Because the puppies were so young, the fosters had to learn how to hold the puppies during feedings, how to make them latch, how to burp them, and everything else to ensure the puppies got the nutrition they needed.

Those first couple nights, they set their alarms to wake up every two hours to feed the puppies with an eye dropper. These kind, patient fosters are the only mothers the pups have ever known.

While we will never know what happened to their birth mom—or what compelled someone to abandon them in the middle of the night—we are lucky to have dedicated volunteers ready to give orphan newborns a second chance at life. 🐾



Because of you, we are able to save more lives and give our dedicated foster families all the support and supplies needed to care for young pets like Britta, Balou, Balto, Barrack, Bavari, Bax and Belmara.

YOU CAN HELP US TO GIVE MORE PETS A SECOND CHANCE AT SURVIVAL!

Your support ensures that every orphan pet in our care receives vaccinations, a microchip, a spay/neuter surgery, and emergency medical care when needed. We hope you will send a special gift to Helen Woodward Animal Center to help us care for orphans while in search of their forever home. Thank you for your support and the difference you have made for so many. 🐾

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are so many things you can do to help animals and people in need in our community.

Visit **www.animalcenter.org** to learn how!

Contact Shanti at 858-756-4117 x350, or shantip@animalcenter.org to donate:

MONETARY DONATIONS

Helen Woodward Animal Center relies heavily on private donations to fund our programs. www.animalcenter.org/donate

BECOME A 'PAW PAL'

Monthly donors support our work throughout the year with recurring monthly gifts. Enroll with the form below!

IN-KIND DONATIONS

To help reduce costs, our programs are always in need of items to support their activities – from towels and blankets for the animals to office supplies.

www.animalcenter.org/wishlist

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift that will help save the lives of orphan pets is a wonderful way to remember a special person or pet. We will send a special card notifying the recipient of your gift. With your gift of \$100 or more, we will place an engraved gold leaf on our "Tree of Life."

www.animalcenter.org/memorial

ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS

Give the gift that saves lives!

www.animalcenter.org/donate/donate_alt_gift_cards.aspx

HONORARY GIFTS

A gift to help the animals is a great way to celebrate a birthday, graduation, or any other occasion for the animal lovers in your life. We will send a special card notifying the recipient of your gift.

www.animalcenter.org/honorary

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!

www.animalcenter.org/vehicledonation

PLANNED GIFTS AND 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.

www.animalcenter.org/plannedgiving

Contact Heather Disher: 858-756-4117 x351 or email HeatherD@animalcenter.org

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Center holds a variety of exciting fundraising events throughout the year from a 5K to a gala. www.animalcenter.org/events

CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Get your company involved to raise funds for the animals by sponsoring an event, running your own fundraiser, or participating in our HOPE Telethon.

Contact Kelsey Shea: 858-756-4117 x312 or email KelseyS@animalcenter.org

VOLUNTEER

Our work depends entirely on the support of our dedicated volunteers. Many opportunities are available for youth, adults, and groups in our many programs and events.

www.animalcenter.org/volunteer

Contact Megan McCarty: 858-756-4117 x305 or email MeganM@animalcenter.org

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Some pets just need a few days or a week in a loving, comfortable home before they are ready for adoption. We are in great need of more volunteers willing to open their home to these pets in need.

http://www.animalcenter.org/adoptions/foster_parent.aspx

Contact Emily Beltran: 858-756-4117 x375 or email fosters@animalcenter.org

YES! I want to help animals and people in need.

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ YES! I want to receive the Center's E-newsletter

I authorize a one-time credit card payment of \$ _____

I want to be a Paw Pal with a monthly gift of \$ _____ until I choose to cancel.

☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Card Number

Expiration Date _____ Cardholder Signature _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

☐ Do not list my name in the newsletter.

☐ Please send me information about including the Center in my estate plans, or providing care for my pet upon my passing.

☐ I have already included the Center in my Estate plans.





HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER

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CREATING A HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE



Upcoming EVENTS

JUNE 4

27th Annual Spring Fling Gala

JUNE 13 - AUGUST 19

Summer Critter Camp

JUNE 22-24

'The Business of Saving Lives' Workshop

JULY 30

Tack Sale benefitting Equine Therapy

AUGUST 20

Volunteer Orientation

SEPTEMBER 11

Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon

SEPTEMBER 22

Remember Me Thursday

MOVING? SPRING CLEANING?

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- tax deductible receipts given
- pick up available for large donations and furniture



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The Loyal Companions\$500 - \$999

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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