IT’S RAINING KITTENS

FOSTER FOCUS

A SALUTE TO OUR TROOPS
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.”

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 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.
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! 🐴
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.

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.
Camping Season is Here!

Your Dog...
Don’t Leave Home Without ‘Em

myRVsolutions.com 858.573.2100

Save on Blue Buffalo

LOVE THEM LIKE FAMILY.
FEED THEM LIKE FAMILY.

Limited-time promotion. See store for details.
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! 🐱
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. 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/vehicleonation

**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.**

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Name ____________________________
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City ____________________________ State ______ Zip ____________
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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.

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Card Number ____________________________
Expiration Date __________

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.

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

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

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

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

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

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

*For your gift of $100 or more, you may add a personalized gold leaf to one of the Center’s Tree of Life murals in memory or in honor of a beloved pet or person.

I am making this gift
☒ In honor of  ☐ In memory of

Name of pet or person: ____________________

Please send notice of my gift (without specifying amount) to:

Name: __________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City: ______________________________________
State / Zip: ________________________________

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

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.