THE COMPANION
PEOPLE HELPING ANIMALS AND ANIMALS HELPING PEOPLE

this is what HOPE looks like

a quarterly publication of Helen Woodward Animal Center
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 45 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.

To see more adoptables, visit animalcenter.org
Dear Friends of the Center,

It is hard to know where to begin writing this letter to those of you who have been through so much in the last few months and have given so much to support Helen Woodward Animal Center. Maybe you are one of the many families who have been a foster parent for our adoptable pets that we have been transferring from closed and overcrowded shelters around the country or maybe you have donated pet food for our AniMeals Relief program to provide emergency pet food to those who have recently suffered a job loss as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. Perhaps you have made a donation no matter how large or small to show your support for our efforts during our time of need. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for caring and we thank you for remembering those among us who are the most vulnerable—those who are the first to be forgotten during tumultuous times but who need us the most—our beloved pets.

Like you, I have found great comfort in my pets over the last few months… whether it was a head in my lap while watching TV or a loving paw placed on my arm while taking an important call, our pets feel our pain and frustration and without fail they offer ceaseless support and affection. At times like these we are reminded how much they enhance our lives and how truly unconditional their love really is. That is why here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we have not ceased [even for a day!] our vital efforts to find forever homes for our adoptable pets and our life-saving partnerships that bring animals to us from around the country. Amazingly enough through our “appointment only” adoptions the Center has actually surpassed our adoption numbers for March and April of 2019. Not only that but we have taken in literally hundreds of animals out of time and options from places like Louisiana and Texas, but none of this is possible without you and your support.

Although we have been forced to shut down many of our key programs including Critter Camp, Therapeutic Riding, Pet Encounter Therapy, Club Pet Boarding (which reopened April 27th), and our Orphaned Objects Resale Store, the Center is still committed to providing not only Adoptions but our AniMeals program to ensure that our community's senior and disabled pet parents are able to get the supplies they need, as well as our Companion Animal Hospital and Equine Hospital. In addition, we have expanded AniMeals to include AniMeals Relief to provide two weeks of pet food and human food for those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The Center is committed to keeping our full staff on board helping in the areas that have expanded in recent weeks from the areas that have shut down.

We are committed to offering our life-saving services and staying open for the animals and it does not come without a cost. We anticipate that we will lose between $200,000-300,000 by the end of the third month of this shutdown and those are funds we must make up in order to carry out our mission. I hope that you will consider supporting your Center in whatever way you are able and know that we are grateful for anything you can do.

Stay safe, be well and together we will continue creating a more humane world.

For the animals,

Michael M. Arms
President and CEO
LENDING A HELPING PAW WITH ANIMEALS RELIEF

During times of uncertainty, our beloved pets are an incredible source of comfort, healing and joy. When COVID-19 forced thousands of businesses to rapidly close in mid-March, resulting in unprecedented job loss and immense financial strain for hundreds of thousands of San Diegans, Helen Woodward Animal Center’s President and CEO Mike Arms had one thing in mind – ensuring our region’s pet owners were able to keep their pets.

Within days, the Center’s new AniMeals Relief efforts were serving out a two-week supply of pet food to individuals in need.

One of the Center’s longest running programs, AniMeals feeds more than 600 dogs and cats monthly owned by homebound seniors, disabled veterans and homeless individuals. AniMeals Relief expanded that support to newly unemployed workers to ensure their loving companions were fed and healthy.

Within the first week of the distributions, hundreds of recently laid off pet parents were lining up at the Center to receive their prepackaged two-week supply of pet food and kitty litter in our drive-through contactless distribution service.

OUR QUICK ACTION TO FILL THAT NEED WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO CENTER FRIENDS AT BLUE BUFFALO, NATURALLY FRESH, AND HANDBULS OF AMAZING DONORS.

On the third day of distributions, with community demand only increasing, the Center partnered with Feeding San Diego to make an even bigger impact. Since March 26, AniMeals Relief distributions have not only included pet food, but also non-perishable food supplies for families as well.

THE PARTNERSHIP WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY FEEDING SAN DIEGO CEO VINCE HALL AND WAS FACILITATED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, PHILANTHROPIST AND DEDICATED CENTER FRIEND DAN SHEA.

“You could just see the worry in their faces but also the look of relief when our staff would place the food in their cars,” explained Arms. “AniMeals Relief is helping thousands of our pet-loving community members during this difficult time and we couldn’t be more grateful to be able to provide this much-needed support.”

In one month, AniMeals Relief has ensured more than 3,000 pets and more than 7,200 people have the nutrition they need. In total, more than 21,000 lbs of food has been served through the AniMeals Relief response efforts to help pets and people.

SUPPORT FOR ANIMEALS RELIEF IS ALSO MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO KEN AND KATIE SHULL, CLIFF AND CHRIS BREINING, JAN AND DICK HUNTER, SHEILA JACOBS, DENISE CLARK, FERN STEINER, AMY HOWE, ROBERT CERASOLI AND MANY GENEROUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

During these challenging times it is comforting to know our loved ones are in good hands...

If you would like more information about Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Pet Bequest program please call Renee Resko at 858-756-4117 X 347
During this truly unique time we hope you consider a donation of any amount, to help us continue the essential duty of saving the lives of our animal friends, and helping people in need.

In mid-February, just days before Valentine’s Day, a pair of puppies from Louisiana touched our hearts in a truly special way.

Star and Denver arrived at Helen Woodward Animal Center from a rescue partner called Heart of Louisiana. The pups were part of a litter of eight whose mother had been dumped in a rural area. The litter, along with 31 other rescue puppies, traveled 1,900 miles to reach sunny San Diego in search of forever homes at Helen Woodward Animal Center.

Soon after their arrival, Center adoptions staff realized Star had some unique challenges. Deaf and nearly completely blind, Star was learning how to make her way in the world by use of her other senses. While the rest of her littermates frolicked without her, her brother Denver kept a protective eye on her. Choosing Star as his main playmate, the two were rarely apart and when separated, Denver would go running back to love on Star and let her know he was there.

After receiving medical checks and their spay and neuter surgeries and with sound advice from Center trainer Rob Kuty, it was decided that Star and Denver would need a home together, after all, Denver had stepped up as Star’s guide dog.

In awe of their amazing bond, we shared their inspiring story and reached audiences all over the country and the world as far as New Zealand and Canada. Their story, shared by Yahoo News, People Magazine, The Dodo, and Cesar Millan, spurred adoption applications from New York, Oregon, Utah, Vancouver and Alaska to name a few.

“It’s really extraordinary,” Helen Woodward Adoptions Services Manager Dora Dahlke said about Star and Denver’s inspiring bond. “We never stop learning from animals and these two have a lot to teach us. It’s no surprise that their story inspired so many across the country and world.”

To ease the transition for the new family, Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Trainer Rob Kuty provided in-home training and advice for how Star could adapt to her new surroundings. The Armendariz’s have laid out floor mats so Star can feel under her paws where she is in the home depending on what she’s standing on. They don’t have any plans to rearrange their furniture to make sure Star can map out the rooms in her head. They have also begun ‘touch training’ in which they lightly tap around Star’s body to indicate commands like “sit.”

“Star is the leader. She is fearless. She’s independent,” explained Sheri Armendariz. “She’s so much more outgoing and inquisitive than we ever thought. Both Star and Denver have changed our lives and the energy level in our home is now amazing.”

Their training with Rob will continue for the months to come (following current safety guidelines of course). The Armendariz’s say Star and Denver’s bond is tighter than ever.

Special thanks: Blue Buffalo gifted the Armendariz family with a year supply of nutritious pet food! Star and Denver’s story also inspired John and Frances Castle to fund their adoption fees.

Despite adoption inquiries coming in from across the U.S., Center staff was determined to find a local home for these special pups. Raising two puppies at the same time is challenging but adding to the challenge would be Star’s special needs. She would need experienced dog owners with the time, patience and skills to raise a pup who is unable to see or hear. Their adopters would benefit from having the expertise of Center trainer Rob Kuty nearby.

Inspired by their story and checking all the right boxes, Art and Sheri Armendariz officially adopted Star and Denver into their Encinitas home on March 13.

INSPIRING SIBLINGS

SPECIAL NEEDS PUPPY AND HER GUIDE DOG BROTHER INSPIRE OTHERS WORLDWIDE

Special needs puppy and her guide dog brother inspire others worldwide

Star and Denver were a uniquely bonded pair who inspired us with their love and compassion. They found their forever home in early March.
The coronavirus pandemic has had ripple effects on every aspect of animal rescue. The deepest and most heartbreaking have been felt at already overburdened shelters around the country that have had to shut down operations leaving orphan pets at higher risk of euthanasia.

**DURING THIS COVID-19 CRISIS, HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER HAS BECOME A SAFE-HAVEN FOR HUNDREDS OF ORPHAN PETS WHOSE LIVES WERE AT RISK HAD THEY NOT BEEN TRANSFERRED TO US.**

But, there is light and hope in San Diego. As an essential, life-saving service, Helen Woodward Animal Center’s adoptions and pet transfers have continued while following CDC safety guidelines. In fact, the Center is receiving more calls from rescues and shelters asking for help taking in orphan pets in recent weeks.

Since the pandemic ramped up in mid-March, Helen Woodward Animal Center has welcomed well over 400 orphan dogs, cats, puppies and kittens whose options were running out.

These transfers are part of the essential work being done at the Center amid the COVID-19 crisis to continue to save the lives of orphan pets in need. Given the dire situation in other states, this work is more important now than ever.

Many of the Center’s new arrivals are coming to us from a big-hearted foster-based organization called Heart of Louisiana. The group pulls orphan pets from over-burdened and high-kill area shelters, in addition to accepting stray pets, then places them in shelters better equipped to get the animals adopted.

“We heard from Heart of Louisiana in late March,” explained Helen Woodward Animal Center Operations Director Jennifer Shorey. “Louisiana is considered a ‘hot spot’ and with the intense government restrictions put in place, shelters are unable to accept any new orphan pets. They were devastated because there was literally no one in Louisiana who could take these animals.”

**IN RECENT WEEKS, LIFE-SAVING TRANSFERS HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRANGED FOR MORE THAN 70 CATS AND KITTENS** from the Houston and Galveston areas of Texas whose options were running out. As we enter kitten season, a time when orphan kittens typically arrive at shelters in droves, the current COVID-19 closures at shelters will likely mean an even busier kitten season ahead for Helen Woodward Animal Center.
During this truly unique time we hope you consider a donation of any amount, to help us continue the essential duty of saving the lives of our animal friends, and helping people in need.

The below graphic shows the enormous financial loss from Center services currently closed that fund our Adoptions department. Despite this, the Center has remained committed to continuing our mission of saving the lives of beautiful orphan pets in need.

Since then, the Center has received nearly 200 orphan dogs and puppies from the group and has already found many of them loving forever families.

“We have been struggling to continue to help all the animals in our overpopulated area during the pandemic,” explained Heart of Louisiana Humane Society spokesperson Caitlin Hemphill. “We cannot express our gratitude enough for the amazing people at Helen Woodward Animal Center for reaching out to us at this critical time. It is truly a lifesaving event, and without them, so many more animals here would perish.”

During this COVID-19 crisis, Helen Woodward Animal Center has become a safe-haven for hundreds of orphan pets whose lives were at risk had they not been transferred to us.
HUMANE EDUCATION OFFERINGS GO ONLINE

Despite the inability to host in-person humane education programs, we knew that we had to connect with the public somehow. We were determined to do this because animals have the unique ability to bring us joy even in our darkest hour.

Our staff has worked tirelessly to provide educational & entertaining content via Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and platforms like Zoom. These efforts include Virtual Field Trips, Virtual Education Explorations, instructional craft videos, a live Critter Cam, Virtual Vet Camp, and more. While we sorely missed seeing your wonderful families in person, we were delighted to carry out the Center’s mission virtually and we thank you for tuning in and showing your support.

Although the future is a bit uncertain, we so look forward to the day when we’re able to resume in-person programs and get back to “normal” operations! Our current goal is to run Summer Critter Camp starting June 8th with modifications to keep everyone safe. Please visit animalcenter.org/education for full details and don’t hesitate to reach out to us at education@animalcenter.org or (858) 756-4117 x 318.

THE BUSINESS OF SAVING LIVES GOES VIRTUAL

Helen Woodward Animal Center has always been proud of our efforts to reach out to animal organizations around the country and the world with our best practices programming, The Business of Saving Lives. There has never been a more important time than now for us to provide a special COVID-19 Crisis Business of Saving Lives virtual program for our friends who are struggling during this challenging time with everything from adoptions to fund raising. On Tuesday, April 21st, Helen Woodward Animal Center presented its first ever virtual Business of Saving Lives program for any animal organization who chose to participate at NO cost to them.

The goal was to provide the vital information that is so relevant now including how to provide adoptions during social distancing; safety protocols for animals and people; how to reach out to the media during this time; using social media to connect with donors and fans virtually; canceling events but keeping fund raising activities on-line and through the mail going strong; capitalizing on virtual education opportunities; and of course how to apply for emergency funding. Most importantly every attendee received contact information from our team and the ability to reach out at any time with questions or concerns. In all, 340 people participated from 46 states and the following countries: Estonia, Romania, Australia, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada and the Virgin Islands. Once again, the Center is here for the animal welfare community down the street or around the globe.
During this truly unique time we hope you consider a donation of any amount, to help us continue the essential duty of saving the lives of our animal friends, and helping people in need.

CLUB PET BOARDING IS TAKING RESERVATIONS

CLUB PET SAFETY MEASURES
We take seriously the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers. In compliance with the guidance provided by the CDC, we are enforcing the following safety measures:

• Please avoid entering our facility if you have a cough or fever.
• We also are enforcing social distancing within the lobby, maintaining a minimum 6 foot distance from one another and no more than three guests at a time.
• Do not shake hands and please avoid any unnecessary physical contact.
• In addition to these measures, we are now offering curbside service for drop off and pick up. If you have a credit card on file or are utilizing daycare credits, you will not need to enter the building to drop off or pick up your pet. Members of our team will be waiting in the parking lot to assist you.
• If you do need to enter the lobby to complete your reservation, our credit card terminals are sanitized after each transaction. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these new safety measures, please let us know.

Let's continue to help each other be well and stay safe! We can't wait to see you all soon!

SPECIAL FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS
During this time, workers in the medical fields continue to work and take care of those who are in need. As a special thank you to our health care workers, from now until July 4th Club Pet is offering 50% off boarding and daycare for dogs and cats. Medical badges are required to be shown at check out to take advantage of this promotion. Many other discounts are available to our clients, new and returning, please visit animalcenter.org/clubpet for details.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR most Exclusive Fundraiser OF THE YEAR

Jewels of the Earth

PRESENTED BY EDCO
animalcenter.org

OUR SPRING FLING GALA HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020

Join us for a tropical evening of coming together. Delight your senses and dine with San Diego’s finest restaurants, indulge in refreshing cocktails and silent and live auctions, and dance to live music until the edge of midnight, all while we celebrate the “jewels” that support the Center.

VISIT ANIMALCENTER.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
a safe place for your pet and peace of mind for our clients

CLUB PET’S SPA IN THE RANCH IS OPEN FOR YOU.

Our newly remodeled facilities boast elegant grooming and bathing services plus many delectable extras to fully pamper the furry member of your family during this time.

book your baby’s day at the spa today!

CALL (858) 756-4117 EXT. 2 OR VISIT ANIMALCENTER.ORG/CLUBPET

ALL FOR LOVE

Pets change our lives. So let’s change theirs. Six million pets adopted and counting. But we’re just getting started. Together, let’s do this!

Learn more at petcofoundation.org  @petcofoundation.org
HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

DONATE TODAY! Contact 858-756-4117 x358, or AnneE@animalcenter.org

MEMORIAL GIFTS
The Center has always been a place where people can memorialize the pets of their friends and family with special gifts of support to help the orphan pets in their honor. One of the most visible programs we have is our Donor Wall in our new Adoptions Building. You can add your own commemorative plaque or paver to the new building with a gift of $250 or more. Leave your legacy with one of these running opportunities.

visit animalcenter.org/future
We also have a beautiful program called “I Remember You” to memorialize pets on-line, 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/rememberyou/

MONETARY DONATIONS/CORPORATE MATCH
Helen Woodward Animal Center relies heavily on private donations to fund our programs. If your company participates in corporate matches, please submit your donation for doubling and it will increase the impact of your donation.

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 Mother or Father’s Day, birthdays, graduations, or any upcoming holiday. 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, pack up your vehicle, and send you the documents needed for a tax deduction, while providing valuable funds to help the animals! Donate online or call 844-85-4PAWS.

PLANNED GIFTS
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. Contact Renee Resko: 858-756-4117 x347 or email ReneeR@animalcenter.org

PET BEQUESTS
Your pet deserves a secure future; please take the time to plan for their care in the event of your passing. Contact Renee Resko: 858-756-4117 x347 or email ReneeR@animalcenter.org

CHARITABLE GIVING FROM AN IRA ACCOUNT OR DONOR ADVISED FUNDS
There are a number of tools to maximize your giving and limit your tax liability including donating your IRA distributions or contributing through a Donor Advised Fund. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) have been permanently extended and individuals are able to donate up to $100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities. This can be an appealing option because QCDs can be used to satisfy the minimum required distribution from an IRA without having the distribution be included as part of your income. With Donor Advised Funds, you can donate cash or appreciated securities. If you have held the securities for over a year you can avoid capital gains tax. This piece is for information purposes only. It is not intended to be investment advice. Seek a duly licensed professional for investment advice. If you have questions or would like more information about this option or other planned giving vehicles, please contact Renee Resko at 858-757-4117, ext. 347.

SPECIAL EVENTS
The Center holds a variety of exciting fundraising events throughout the year from our Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon to our Fling Gala. Visit animalcenter.org for more information.

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 Marilyn Martinez: 858-756-4117 x312 or email MarilynM@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 various programs and events. Contact Megan McCarty: 858-756-4117 x305 or email MeganM@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.

THANK YOU to the following generous supporters who remembered Helen Woodward Animal Center in their estate plans.

Adele G. Borut Family Revocable Trust
Belina Lee Lazzar Trust
Beverly Kirby/ Richard Kirby Revocable Trust
Eleanor S. Rogers Trust
Rena J. Edgerton Trust of 2002
Stanley Ira Santo Trust
The Amptman Trust

ESTATE GIFTS THROUGH FOREVER FRIENDS SOCIETY AT HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER

Stan Santo was a true animal lover and he adored his devoted dog Suzy with all his heart. This special girl was a loyal, loving companion for him through the ups and downs of life. When he was first diagnosed with cancer about 5 years ago, at age 83, he told his doctors that their primary mission was to make sure that he outlived Suzy.

Sadly, Suzy passed away from the effects of age in June of 2018 at the grand old age of 15. But as far as Stan was concerned, as much as it devastated him for the remainder of his life, this was the best possible outcome. Theirs was a truly compelling love story. Stan turned his love of Suzy and all dogs into compelling action by giving a significant portion of his estate to Helen Woodward Animal Center where he is honored with a paver in the courtyard of the new Adoptions Center and his love of dogs has become a vital part of our daily life-saving efforts.

Please consider an estate gift today to celebrate your love of animals in perpetuity or ask about our pet bequest program to ensure the health and well-being of your forever friend. Call Renee Resko at 858-756-4117 x347 for details.

DONATE TODAY! Contact 858-756-4117 x358, or AnneE@animalcenter.org

FRIENDS SOCIETY AT HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER

Estate Gifts Through Forever Friends Society at Helen Woodward Animal Center

The Eleanor S. Rogers Trust
Beverly Kirby/ Richard Kirby Revocable Trust
Belina Lee Lazzar Trust
Adele G. Borut Family Revocable Trust
Stanley Ira Santo Trust
The Amptman Trust

THANK YOU to the following generous supporters who remembered Helen Woodward Animal Center in their estate plans.
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!