

THE COMPANION

PEOPLE HELPING ANIMALS AND ANIMALS HELPING PEOPLE



*the
Babies
of Spring*

a quarterly publication of Helen Woodward Animal Center

FURIENDS

available for adoption



IVY
Boxer - Labrador Retriever Blend
 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!

SIR CHARLES
Domestic Short Hair Blend
 Hello! Have you ever seen a coat as beautiful as mine? I am looking for a knowledgeable, adult-only household to help me become the best cat that I can be. If that's you, come and see me!

INDO
Australian Cattle Dog - Blue Heeler Blend
 I am a fun loving guy with a high energy level. I would enjoy playing fetch in a big secure fenced yard. I will do best in a home with older teenagers. I would also love a canine pal with great energy to be able to play with. If I sound like the dog for you please come see me.

TARO
Labrador Retriever Blend
 Hello! I am very sweet and will warm up but can be a little timid at first. I love to have space to play and would do best in a home with a secure 6 foot fence. I will also do best with a family with older children. My new family should have experience with working breeds.

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 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.

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Brighter days are ahead.

Dear Friends of the Animals,

I am excited to say that we are finally seeing a “light at the end of the tunnel” when it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although Helen Woodward Animal Center has been open and extremely busy throughout the last year, we know so many businesses that were forced to shut the doors, lay off employees, and may not be able to reopen... including other animal organizations. We are proud to say that we brought over 3,700 orphaned pets into loving new homes this past year and helped organizations in need around the country, from Texas to Louisiana. We felt fortunate that because of wonderful friends like you we were able to continue our life-saving work.

Although our Critter Camp program never really slowed down we did see a significant drop in birthday parties and school outreach. We are happy to see that kids are excited to attend Critter Camp this summer and most of our programs are already full! We are following all the CDC guidelines and keeping the kids safe and healthy, while they have a great time learning about our animal ambassadors and socializing with their fellow animal lovers.

We have brought back at least 50% of our Therapeutic Riding students despite a number of unique challenges, including the nature of the clients' health issues and the close proximity of our staff and volunteers to support them in their riding. The students and the horses couldn't be happier to be together again and we look forward to a June show.

AniMeals Relief is going strong serving those in the community who have lost their jobs during this difficult time with pet food and through our partnership with Feeding San Diego, human food, as well. We have grown our regular AniMeals program and are now serving close to 800 pets that belong to San Diego's seniors, both those who are struggling with financial distress and those who are homebound due to health issues.

We never slowed down during the pandemic, in fact we took on new and exciting projects like our Emergency Rescue RV thanks to the Linda C. Scott Fund at the San Diego Foundation and the Lewyt Foundation. Not only did we complete its specially outfitted renovations to help us meet the needs of animals in disasters around the country but we sent nine employees to special disaster relief training, so we are ready to go when the next need arises.

In closing, I want to remind you that not only are you supporting the important work going on at Helen Woodward Animal Center but we are continuing to offer training to groups around the country and the world. In fact, during the pandemic we provided 2 virtual “Business of Saving Lives” conferences and I spoke at a special international conference on humane education. We are touching the future!

Thank you for making this critical work possible – we couldn't do it without you. We look forward to a much brighter year ahead for animals and people.

For a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms

President and CEO



The Business of Saving Lives

Helen Woodward Animal Welfare Conference

SHARING BEST PRACTICES TO SAVE MORE LIVES

As a leader in the world of animal welfare, Helen Woodward Animal Center continues to stay committed to sharing best practices with other shelters and rescues in an effort to cumulatively save more orphan pets.

In April 2020, Center staff jumped at the opportunity to host a day-long virtual Business of Saving Lives workshop aimed at providing vital resources at the height of the pandemic to struggling organizations. Workshop participants walked away with tangible advice, plans and hope amid that difficult time.

Now, one year later, Center staff have just completed another virtual Business of Saving Lives workshop, completely free of charge, as the country and world are on the brink of a full reopening.

Dozens of attendees from 24 states and as far as Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and even Kazakhstan joined the virtual seminar. Members of the SEN Foundation in Kazakhstan were particularly interested in hearing about how the Center has adjusted to continue providing Humane Education to children despite the pandemic. The organization is developing its own program for children to increase awareness about the fair treatment of animals in their country.

The virtual workshop also included topics like successful adoptions and protocols, fundraising and how to share your organization's stories in the media and online.

“It's incredible to be able to share what's worked for us during this difficult past year,” explained Hella Tyler, Adoptions Director. “When we all work together, we can make a bigger impact on the lives of pets in need.”

WHERE 
are they now?



Murphy, Previously Louis, Adopted January 2021

Murphy's story touched hearts all over the world. He arrived at Helen Woodward Animal Center late last year after losing his eyes when his previous owners failed to get him adequate medical care.

He started 2021 wagging into his new home with the Walker Family. Beyond being an animal-loving family, the Walker's home was a perfect fit for Murphy because his new dad, Steve, also is visually impaired.

The Walker Family recently sent an update saying "Murphy is a delight! He's the sweetest! He has found his voice now and we can't bring ourselves to tell him to be quiet when he's in the yard barking up a storm. He has his favorite walk routes and likes to go in the car."

"Murphy and Steve continue to build their bond. Murphy is his shadow. We love him and are thankful for his youthful energy."



THE FUTURE IS NEAR

If you have been to Helen Woodward Animal Center in the last few years, you know that we have been extremely busy upgrading and modernizing our facilities. We are excited to share that one of the oldest parts of The Center (and perhaps one of the most widely used!), the old Education house, is going to be torn down and rebuilt with a brand-new look and a fun, whimsical style that provides a special space to be shared by children and animals alike. The new facility will have six themed classrooms, from the Tundra to the Ocean and everything in between, as well as birthday rooms and a fun, interactive lobby for children to explore. The

animal enclosures will be both indoors and outdoors and will provide ample opportunities for our young clients to get to know our animal ambassadors up close and personal. The project will also include two all-inclusive playground areas to meet the needs of children of all ages and abilities.

We hope to break ground in the Fall of 2021 and we are hopeful that we will be able to complete the project in a year. There are a number of unique naming opportunities available at all levels.

If you would like to know more, please contact Renee Resko at 858-756-4117 X347.



SPECIAL DONOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE...

As we share the exciting news about our new Humane Education and Pet Encounter village, we know the story would not be complete without giving recognition to the woman who made it possible, our dear friend and benefactor Sharron MacDonald.

Sharron has been generously supporting Helen Woodward Animal Center in a variety of ways for the last few years. She is passionate about helping children and animals, so there couldn't have been a more perfect project to ignite her

enthusiasm than the Center's new Humane Education and Pet Encounter village. She was instantly drawn to the project and the important mission behind the building, which is to inspire children to be humane, compassionate, and responsible toward all living creatures and our environment.

Sharron and her husband, Steve MacDonald, built the extremely successful engineering firm CD-Adapco. After the unexpected passing of her husband, Sharron sold



PICTURED: SHARRON WITH HER TWO DOGS KAYCEE AND BELLA.

the company to Siemens and retired to California where she lives with her two 3-year-old maltese/poodle mixes, Kaycee and Bella. Sharron has a tremendous heart for all animals and is so happy to be part of our efforts to create a better tomorrow for our animal friends by teaching compassion to the children of today.



BLOSSOMING BABIES

Oh boy, we've had so much fun this spring with our baby animals! Our goat family and emu chicks arrived in March and will be going back home to their owner at the end of May – they were leased to us temporarily to help out during our Spring Critter Camp and Spring Tails events.

Did you know baby goats are called kids? It's just like baby humans! Unlike us though, goat kids are born able to run around within the first few hours and they are even able to jump and climb. They'll find anything to play on, including mom! Armada, the mother goat here with us, is always watching over the rowdy antics of her daughters, Pearl and Hazel.

You might think it's always a mom's job to care for kids, but that's where the emu chicks Olive & Pebbles want you know just how stellar their dad is! Emus hatch and are mostly able to take care of themselves, but their father will stay with them for weeks to help protect them, just in case, and show them some of the better places to get tasty snacks. Once the mom lays the eggs, female emus don't take any part in raising the chicks, which might sound odd, but different survival strategies help various animals thrive.



June 7 - August 27

Pre K:
\$65/child/day, 9am - 1pm
Kindergarten-6th Grade:
\$85/child/day, 9am - 3pm

*Register for 5 days in the same week, get the 5th day free!
*Daily sign ups available!

Summer Adventure Awaits!

Summer Critter Camp is an unforgettable experience focused on getting kids up close and personal with a variety of awesome animal ambassadors each day! Campers get to explore a different daily theme and interact with mammals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates with hands-on adventures. They'll also put their skills to the test with different games and activities, unleash their creative side with several crafts, and most of all, discover new friendships! Summer

Critter Camp is sure to make some magical memories and inspire compassion for all living things.

Summer Critter Camp has two themes that alternate each week including "Adventure with Animals" and "The Magical World of Animals", come to both or just one, either way you're bound to have fun! Daily sign ups available, plus extended care hours, discounts, and scholarships.

Visit animalcenter.org/education for full details and registration for both programs.



SUBARU LOVES PETS!

We are excited to announce our new partnership with dealership Frank Subaru, who is helping us find more pets new homes by sponsoring our **Furr-Ever New Home Adoption Campaign**.

Frank Subaru is family owned and operated by the Fornaca and Fenelli

Families, who have a great passion for helping orphan pets.

At Frank Subaru, not only will you find great deals and exceptional customer service, but an incredible dog park as well. Bring your furry friend with you on your next visit!



Joining hands, healing hearts

Your steadfast support and inspiring hope for the future has made an impact on the hearts and minds of our community. At U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management, we're proud to support the *Helen Woodward Animal Center*. We recognize the strength and healing your organization brings to our community.

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THE BABIES ARE HERE!

Babies are blooming and arriving at Helen Woodward Animal Center by the bundles. Kitten Season is a time between March through late fall in San Diego, when kittens are plentiful and arrive by the handfuls at shelters.

Some newborns arrive with their moms, but many are orphaned. These fragile fuzzies are referred to as bottle babies. Without a mom, they depend entirely on Helen Woodward Animal Center staff and volunteers for their survival.

Recently, two bottle babies touched the hearts of Center staff. Princess and Pea were just days old when they were found in a gutter in the Long Beach area. Their mother had been hit by a car and had not survived. Without her, the clock was ticking for them.



Thanks to our rescue partner who rushed to their aid, Princess and Pea received a second chance at life at Helen Woodward Animal Center. The once malnourished newborns are now cuddly spunky kittens ready for their forever homes.

From round-the-clock bottle feedings, constant weighs-ins and plenty of warm cuddle sessions, bottle baby foster volunteers save our most vulnerable babies.



It Takes a Village

The first thing that Cheryl Steinholt will tell you about caring for bottle babies is that “it’s worth it.” Right now, she’s fostering three itty bitty kittens named Amethyst, Sapphire and Garnet who arrived at the Center from LA County in mid-April. They are her first kitten bottle babies but she’s no newcomer to the world of 2 a.m. bottle feedings.



“It’s about helping these tiny babies live. They need us.”

Cheryl has welcomed nine bottle-feeding litters of puppies into her home during her time as a Helen Woodward Animal Center foster volunteer.

“It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” she explained. “It’s about helping these tiny babies live. They need us.”

It takes incredible patience, love and determination to care for the most fragile of orphans. While middle-of-the-night feedings are difficult, Cheryl says “It’s a special time.”

Bottle baby fosters give their all to the precious critters in their care while knowing that their babies will one day leave the nest.

“It’s sad to see them go but it’s my job. To see them be adopted is so rewarding because you know that you gave them a second chance.”



Kitten Season in Full Swing

Helen Woodward Animal Center is in the midst of the first big wave of Kitten Season. With four additional rescue partners over this last year and counting, more kittens are expected to arrive at the Center in the coming months.

Due to San Diego's warm climate nearly year-round, Kitten Season here extends into late fall, meaning the work is never really done.

The Center's network of 750 foster volunteer families are integral in saving these beautiful orphan pets. Just last year, 3,099 orphan pets spent time in foster care before finding their forever homes.

Helen Woodward Animal Center provides foster volunteers with all of the supplies they need to care for the pets in their home. From towels, beds, crates, scales, formula, heating pads, pens, food and treats, the foster volunteer's focus can stay on making sure these precious pets stay happy and healthy.



Kitten season by the numbers



60+

**Bottle Baby Kittens
Expected throughout 2021**



13,440



**Kitten Formula Bottles to be
Prepared Throughout 2021**



932

**Kittens adopted in
last year**



41

**Current Bottle Baby
Foster Volunteers**



You Can Help Us Save Lives

With your support, more orphan kittens can find refuge, health and hope at Helen Woodward Animal Center. Your gift helps ensure bottle babies and all orphan kittens in need have the supplies, medical attention and care they need to succeed and find forever families.

Give today and save lives at animalcenter.org/bottlebabies. Together, we can make a difference for pets in need. Thank you!



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ANIMEALS RELIEF CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH SPRINGTIME EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Just over one year ago, COVID-19 suddenly shut down workplaces leaving loving pet owners throughout San Diego County unemployed and unable to provide basic nutrition for their four-legged companions. Immediately, Helen Woodward Animal Center activated an extension of its AniMeals program. The program, which typically provides food to the pets of homebound seniors, military veterans and those experiencing homelessness, wanted to ensure beloved dogs and cats were able to stay with their families facing economic burden caused by the pandemic. The new emergency assistance was dubbed AniMeals Relief and provided pet food, specified to each furry member of the family, in a weekly drive through distribution.

To date, the program has served more than 300,000 pet meals, as well as over 130,000 pounds of human food in partnership with Feeding San Diego.

To celebrate the incredible work done by Center staff, volunteers and the giving individuals who have made the program possible, the Center celebrated the one-year anniversary of AniMeals Relief by hosting a special event for those most affected by the pandemic.

On March 31, 70 families (including 118 kids) enjoyed a massive drive-through AniMeals Relief Spring Celebration featuring pet and people food distributions, gifts for kids, the Easter Bunny and individualized Easter baskets for each child. Additionally, the Pet Encounter Therapy Program

provided unique animal encounters.

“This program has been incredibly important to us,” explained Helen Woodward Animal Center AniMeals Supervisor Sarah Jilka. “Over the last year, we’ve seen first-hand how much need there is among our community and we’ve gotten to know the wonderful families who have received support from AniMeals Relief. We were so excited to add something truly special to their weekly distribution with this special celebration.”

Helen Woodward Animal Center is incredibly grateful to Blue Buffalo, Feeding San Diego, Steve and Sharron MacDonald Family Foundation, Naturally Fresh, Barons Market and Kentucky and Derby for making this special drive-through event possible.

REPORTING FOR TRAINING - READY TO HELP

In mid-February, Helen Woodward Animal Center announced its newest program – The Emergency Response Unit and Rescue Team. Now, the Center is one step closer to providing hands-on animal assistance when disaster strikes.

Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Rescue Team spent the first week of April training with Code 3 Associates, a nonprofit providing professional training to individuals and agencies involved in animal related emergency response.

The Center has taken an active role in aiding devastated shelters during emergency situations around the country since 2005 when Hurricane Katrina left multiple animal rescue facilities in trouble. During Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Harvey, the Center once again provided life-saving assistance.

These rescue missions left their mark on Helen Woodward Animal Center.

Thanks to generous donors, the Linda C. Scott Fund for Animal Welfare and The San Diego Foundation’s matching grant support of \$125,000, generously matched with another \$125,000 by the Alex and Elisabeth Lewyt Charitable Trust, the Center is now the owner of a state-of-the-art, 37-foot-long Rescue RV completely retrofitted with veterinary equipment and prepared to deploy to the rescue of animals in any part of the U.S.

The funding has also supported the readying of a Center Rescue Team complete with personal safety equipment, dry-suits, helmets, boots and more.



Most crucially, the funding allowed the Rescue Team to attend the specialized training in early April. The week-long course included instruction on water and boat operating safety, animal handling and behavior, fire awareness, search and rescue, navigation and more.

The goal of these rescue missions is to alleviate the burden on animal welfare professionals and shelters in areas affected by disasters when help is needed most. The Center’s team will respond by rescuing and treating injured pets and transporting orphan animals in need back to San Diego to safety.



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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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Center holds a variety of exciting fundraising events throughout the year from our Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon to our Spring 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, email MeganM@animalcenter.org or sign up at 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.

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Address _____

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

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HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER

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CREATING A HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

event calendar

may

16 Spring Tails

may 22-23

Orphaned Objects Memorial Day Sale

june

19 Spring Fling Gala: Imaginarium

26 Critter Cinema

june 26-27

Orphaned Objects Mid-Summer Sale

june through august

Summer Critter Camp

july

18 Dog Surf Lessons

august 1, 15, & 29

Dog Surf Lessons

september

12 Surf Dog Surf-a-Thon

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FOR EVENT UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION

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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 our Adoptions building and help us continue to give orphan pets the new facility they deserve!

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- 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