HORSE SHOW RIDES AGAIN!

HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF!

ADORABLE ADOPTABLES

REMEMBER ME THURSDAY SPOKESWOMAN CARRIE ANN INABA INTERVIEW

The COMPANION

CREATING A HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

FALL 2015

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 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 other adoptable dogs and cats, visit animalcenter.org
Dear Friends of the Animals,

Now in its third year, Remember Me Thursday® continues to evolve as it raises worldwide awareness about the plight of orphan pets, educates the public about the critical issue of pet adoption, and above all elevates the importance of animal welfare. There are no words to express my appreciation for all the ways that you, our animal-loving friends and celebrity supporters, showed the world that you care through our luminary gallery, social media posts, and inspiring photos.

As an animal lover who understands the value of this initiative and why we need to do everything we can to help these innocent creatures who have no voice, I looked to you and saw that you showed the world how to care for them and protect them.

With your kind support, we have now reached an audience of over 400 million via social media, from 139 countries. Remember Me Thursday® has a global reach and impact that is touching animal lovers from Australia to Africa yielding a letter of support directly from the White House drafted by Vice President, Joseph Biden!

We know that the Remember Me Thursday® initiative is really taking hold and these numbers only confirm the excitement that is building. As the President of Helen Woodward Animal Center I have dedicated my life to orphan pets, so it is especially meaningful to me to find like-minded individuals who share my passion and dedication to making the world a better place for our animal friends.

For a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms
President and CEO

Vice President Joe Biden’s letter, commending the center’s efforts through Remember Me Thursday®.

Left and right: Candle light vigils for Remember Me Thursday® around the world. Center: Carrie Ann Inaba and the judges of ‘Dancing with the Stars’ show their support.
As the 2015 official spokesperson for Remember Me Thursday, Carrie Ann Inaba partnered with Helen Woodward Animal Center to help shine a light on pets in need of a forever home, and illuminate the fact that sadly, many animals around the world still lose their lives without the chance to find a family of their own. Inaba is a lifelong animal lover and recently shared with us her own background and involvement with animals, including starting her own nonprofit, the Animal Project Foundation.

1. What experiences did you have growing up that made you an animal lover?

I have always had animal companions. I grew up next to an animal sanctuary in Hawaii, so I always felt like I was a guardian of animals. Because I am from Hawaii, I was raised with the belief that everything has a spirit, and so I’ve always been very close to my animals. We had fish, cats, and dogs growing up and they were always there for me when I had problems. Animals are the best listeners.

2. What pets do you have currently and where did they come from?

Currently I have Peanut, a Chihuahua Pug mix, who found her way into my heart when I did a segment on Access Hollywood Live for Best Friends Animal Society. I am one of Best Friends Animal Society’s celebrity ambassadors—they put Peanut in my arms and I fell in love. When Peanut didn’t get adopted at the event, I went down and took her for myself. I was a bit scared because I wasn’t really a Chihuahua fan, but she was so cute with her little under bite, I couldn’t resist and we found our way. My two other dogs, Lola and Buddy came together. I do a lot of rescue work with my own organization, The Animal Project Foundation. We work with other organizations to help homeless animals get the attention they need, and get where they need to go. Mary’s Little Lambs had sent out an adoption plea for Lola and Buddy—in the photo that was sent, the two of them were huddled together. They were going to be separated, and I just thought to myself, if all they have in this world to feel safe is each other, I must find a way to keep them together. My thought was that I would foster them, but I ended up keeping them. I also have two beautiful cats, Mimi and Blizzard. They are both from the organization Heaven on Earth Society for Animals, which is a wonderful cat rescue. They both have special needs, and I have a special way with special needs cats. I guess because I suffer from chronic illness as well, I can relate and perhaps have more patience and compassion for their special needs. I am happy to say that since they have moved in with me, both of them are off their medications, and are doing really well.

3. Why did you decide to become 2015’s Official Spokesperson for Remember Me Thursday?

I think it’s important to remember and honor all the millions of companion animals who lose their lives without the benefit of a loving home. I also wanted to shine a light on the healthy pets that are still awaiting adoption in our shelters and sanctuaries. Each animal deserves a chance to have a happy life, just like we do. It is my hope that by lighting candles for the already departed animals, we can spread awareness, reminding people to adopt their next animal through one of the many shelters when they search for their next beloved companion. All of my animals have been rescues and they each have made my life much richer.

4. What is the goal of your own non-profit, The Animal Project Foundation?

The Animal Project Foundation is a 501C3 organization whose mission is to help animals in need, and to put an end to the pet overpopulation crisis in America, where millions of healthy adoptable animals are senselessly euthanized every year. We do this by providing emergency rescue funding through other organizations, and on our own. We also have an incredible event called the LA Spay Neuter Fest that we will be having again in early 2016. At the event we provide free spay and neuter services, free microchipping and free vaccinations.
for those who can’t afford it. It’s a great event that is held at Baldwin Hills Park with entertainment, and food, and lots of fun things to do for the whole family. I funded the first one myself and now, through The Animal Project Foundation, we are currently looking for additional sponsors so we can do more of this lifesaving work.

6. Both Helen Woodward Animal Center and your Animal Project Foundation place value on humane education. Why do you think that is an important component in animal welfare?

I think Gandhi said it best: “The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” Compassion for those who cannot help themselves is an important human quality. By teaching animal welfare, in essence, we are teaching compassion and open mindedness. We are teaching people to care about more than just themselves. In this day and age, it is very important to do so. We have become more of a selfish society that consumes too much, with no regard for how it affects others, whether those others are different races or different species. We all live here on this planet and animal welfare is a very important topic. To teach a child how to care for an animal—how to choose the right companion breed for your lifestyle, etc.—is teaching the child how to be compassionate and how to make better choices by thinking things through, not just making spontaneous decisions.

7. Do you think the public has changed their view of shelters and rescue, and are more open to adopting now than even 5 years ago?

Yes I do think so. I have noticed more pet shops having adoptions for rescued animals, rather than promoting puppy-mill puppies. There is much more work to be done though, to educate everyone on how the shelter process works. Many people still drop off their pets to a local shelter when they can’t keep them, without really understanding what that can mean for their pet. There are many different types of shelters out there, but due to pet overpopulation, far too many innocent and adoptable animals are euthanized due to space issues.

8. What do you hope to see in the next 5 years for orphan pets in our country and around the world?

I’d like to see more orphaned pets adopted into loving homes. I’d like to see a no-kill policy in our animal shelters, where euthanasia is only used on animals that can’t be saved due to illness or injury, making it an act of compassion to prevent animal suffering versus a method of animal population control. I would like to see more training programs for animals who need to be rehabilitated, and more veterinarians giving larger discounts to rescue organizations. For the every day person who wants to help, I’d like to see more people offer to foster. It’s a great way to save lives and help the cause!

9. If you could describe pet adoption in one word, what would it be?

Lifesaving—and I don’t just mean saving their lives, I mean saving our lives too. The friendship of an animal is one of the most beautiful parts of life.
A week of LUANN comic strips—created by Greg Evans—kicked off the Blue Buffalo Home 4 the Holidays Campaign

THE 17TH ANNUAL HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS CAMPAIGN, PRESENTED BY BLUE BUFFALO, HIGHTAILS IT TO THE FUNNY PAGES!

Helen Woodward Animal Center and Blue Buffalo kicked off the 17th annual Home 4 the Holidays campaign with a national celebrity on board. The creator of LUANN, Greg Evans, was moved to dedicate a whole week’s worth of comic strips to the kickoff of the 2015-2016 annual holiday adoption campaign. The campaign began 17 years ago when Helen Woodward Animal Center President and CEO Mike Arms noticed that a majority of rescue facilities were closing their doors during the holiday season — a primary time of year for family pet additions.

The Blue Buffalo Home 4 the Holidays campaign asks shelters to keep their doors open throughout the holiday months and provides marketing tools to get the word out. Blue Buffalo then provides all participating rescue facilities with “Adoption Kits” to gift to each new pet parent who takes home an orphan pet throughout the campaign. Through a collective group of over 4,000 pet adoption agencies, facilities and rescue-groups, located throughout all 50 states and 25 countries, this campaign has become the largest pet adoption campaign on record, helping save over 10 million pets since 1999. In its many years, the international program has attracted the hearts of such major celebrities as Hilary Swank and Diane Keaton, but never one quite so animated as this year’s spokesperson.

The Blue Buffalo Home 4 the Holidays campaign runs from October 1st, 2015 through January 4th, 2016.

There are many ways to get involved in the Blue Buffalo Home 4 the Holidays campaign, most importantly by adopting, and encouraging friends to adopt. For more information about the campaign or to find out how to get involved, go to www.home4theholidays.org.
In a dry, desert city beyond the blue waters of Lake Arrowhead and the jagged peaks of Big Bear lived a tri-colored pup. He had brown, expressive eyes with tan eyebrows and a white ruff that resembled a tuxedo shirt. He was a friendly little guy with a happy-go-lucky personality and kisses-at-the-ready which proved his affection for everyone he met.

At around three-and-a-half years old, he had a life with a family, but that family had vanished. His happy little pup was given up to an overburdened animal shelter that did not have the means to care for him or guarantee him a forever home. His days in the crowded kennel were numbered, and as his time ticked away minute-by-minute, no one came to claim or adopt him.

During this time, two staff members from Helen Woodward Animal Center’s transport team came to take some dogs and cats home with them to relieve the overpopulation at this particular animal shelter. The little pup with the beautiful brown eyes had his chance! They gently herded him into a waiting crate and lifted the crate into the van for his freedom ride back to San Diego County.

When he arrived at the Center, he was given a happy name to match his happy personality: Eddie! Eddie waited patiently in his crate for his turn in the medical exam room. It was a busy day – dozens of dogs and cats were waiting to be seen. When it was his turn, the veterinarian performed all the usual tests, but stopped when she reached his abdomen. The vet techs leaned in for a closer look. She felt around his mid-section and felt three distinct wall hernias on both his right and left flank. (A hernia is a protrusion of intestine through a weakness or opening of the abdominal wall.) Eddie would need surgery to repair the damage to the walls of his abdomen.

A couple days later, Eddie was anesthetized and prepped to fix his abdomen. As the vet tech shaved the fur of the affected area, she called over urgently to the veterinarian. Eddie’s short, black fur hid a horrible truth: Eddie had two puncture wounds which lined perfectly with two of the hernias. It looked like a much larger animal had actually plucked Eddie from his rear end with its jaws and shook him violently back and forth, causing the hernias.

After the shocking find, the medical team got to work and repaired the damage with stitches. It was noted that Eddie was the perfect patient! Our staff said, “Eddie was a champ and never complained about the procedure or the stitches.”

If only Eddie could tell us what had happened to him. Was he surrendered to the animal shelter because he was in danger? What type of animal hurt him? Could it have been prevented?

We will never know the answers to these questions, but one thing is certain… with his winning personality and gorgeous looks, we know Eddie will make his forever family very, very happy!

Dogs like Eddie are able to enjoy a second chance at Helen Woodward Animal Center due to the generosity of people like you. Many facilities might be forced to euthanize a dog like Eddie due to the extensive medical care required from his injuries, but here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we are lucky that with the support of our community, we can treat every orphan just as if they were our own pet at home, providing the medical and/or behavioral support they need to enjoy a new lease on life. Thank you for saving the lives of pets like Eddie who deserve to be happy and have so much love to share with the right family.
SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN’ TO TOWN!

T’WAS THE SEASON BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
WHEN ALL THROUGH THE CENTER,
OUR CREATURES WERE STIRRING,
FOR THEY KNEW WHO WAS TO ENTER.

AROUND THIS TIME LAST YEAR,
SANTA CAME TO SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER,
AND CHILDREN CAME TO SEE OUR ANIMALS,
LIKE SANTA’S “MINIATURE HORSE REINDEER.”

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR SOME FROSTY FARM FUN, BECAUSE THIS WINTER CELEBRATION IS SECOND TO NONE!

Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Frosty Farm is a one-of-a-kind holiday celebration that includes fun activities for children and adults. You can take a picture with Santa and his “polar” dog, frolic in faux snow, decorate cookies, make a holiday craft, enjoy some hot chocolate, get your face painted, meet our animals (including alpacas, rabbits, doves, sheep, & chickens), and more! Each child will also receive a special toy to cherish from Santa himself.

San Diego’s best holiday event will only be offered from 9:00am-1:00pm on the following weekends: December 5-6; December 12-13; and December 19-20. The number of boys and girls on the “nice list” continues to grow so make sure to reserve your adventure before the spots fill up! 🐾

For more information and to register for Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Frosty Farm, contact Santa’s helpers in the Education Department at education@animalcenter.org or (858) 756-4117 x318, or visit our website at animalcenter.org. Santa and his furry friends can’t wait to see you!
We know that oftentimes adoptable senior pets are overlooked, especially during times of the year when we have a large number of puppies and kittens. Everyone loves adorable young animals, but it is important to remember that they grow up quickly. But, it’s easy to love these beautiful pets and know in an instant if they are a good personality match for you. Jim Kuden is a long-time friend and donor to Helen Woodward Animal Center, who is a senior himself and has a special affection for mature pets who have been patiently waiting for a new home and seniors who are looking for someone to share their “golden years.” On Saturday, November 14th and Sunday, November 15th Jim will be sponsoring a Senior Pet Adoption day where anyone 55 years or older will be able to adopt a mature pet at 50% off the normal adoption fee. This exciting promotion will help seniors to find their new “best friend” while giving our mature animals the second look they deserve.
For so many of us, pets are our constant, dependable companions, there to greet us when we wake up in the morning and when we get home at night. They keep us company and comfort us when we are sick or feeling down, and share our joy and excitement when times are good. We would do anything for them, even share our own meals if we were unable to provide the pet food they needed.

Unfortunately, that is the decision many seniors and other homebound or low-income individuals in our community would face if not for the AniMeals program. By distributing donated pet food to our 13 partners such as Meals-On-Wheels, the AniMeals program ensures that every pet owner receiving meal assistance also gets help providing food for their beloved pet, ensuring that neither has to go without.

For seniors who might be homebound due to mobility challenges, or who do not have family nearby, a loving pet is truly a reason to get up each day. By eliminating the challenge of acquiring pet food, the AniMeals program ensures that no one will have to face the decision to put their own health at risk by sharing their food with their pet to avoid the risk of being separated from their "best friend."

You can help make sure the AniMeals program has the supplies necessary to make sure all pets and people have nutritious meals this holiday season by supporting the program by sending a donation in the envelope inserted in this newsletter, or by collecting unopened, non-prescription, wet or dry cat and dog food (puppy and senior diet welcome!) and quart and gallon size Ziploc bags for our volunteers to pack weekly portions.

For more information on how you can help, or for assistance planning an AniMeals drive at your office, church, or classroom, contact Erin Odermatt at 858-756-4117 x341 or erino@animalcenter.org.
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!

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

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

I REMEMBER YOU
Honor a special person or pet who is no longer with us by lighting a virtual candle at www.irememberyou.org

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 Laurel Dalsted at 858-756-4117 x351 or laureld@animalcenter.org

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 Steve Miller at 858-756-4117 x312 or stevem@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 at 858-756-4117 x305 or 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.
www.animalcenter.org/foster
Contact Susanna at 858-756-4117 x375 or fosters@animalcenter.org

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED...

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

MONTHLY DONORS SUPPORT OUR WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH RECURRING MONTHLY GIFTS.
Upcoming Events

October 1 - January 4
Blue Buffalo's Home 4 the Holidays

November 8
Hope Telethon
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. LIVE on KUSI TV

November 23-25
Thanksgiving Critter Camp

November 26
Family Mile Fun Run
Del Mar Race Track

December 5-6, 12-13 & 19-20
Helen Woodward’s Frosty Farm

December 28 - 31
Winter Critter Camp

PLANNED GIVING INFORMATION

☑️ 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.