Babies of Spring: Kittens Are Here!

Campaign for Caring Medical Renovation Plans

Animals Support Our Troops

ANIMALCENTER.ORG

ANIMALCENTER.ORG
FRIENDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

FRANKLIN is a sweet, medium size terrier blend with tons of spunk. Franklin is gentle natured, and looking for a forever home that enjoys quick walks, and giving him lots of treats!

CHA CHA is sugar and spice and everything nice. A gentle, 7 pound Chihuahua blend who always has a happy tail when she sees her favorite people coming.

NANCY will follow her nose right into your heart! This 37 pound hound, pointer blend is looking for a forever family that enjoys long walks on the trail, where she can use her hound senses to enjoy the true outdoors!

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.”
Summer is one of our favorite times of year here at Helen Woodward Animal Center because it means there are over 1,000 children running around our campus enjoying the animals, learning to be humane and share the earth, and most importantly having a great time doing it all! The sounds of these children laughing and the sheer joy in their voices as they interact with the animals reminds me time and again how the connection between humans and animals is the most natural in the world and is truly essential to our lives.

I feel privileged to be able to play a small part in not only providing programs like Critter Camp to thousands of children over the years, but to know that here at the Center we are playing a role in saving millions of animals around the world through innovative programs like Remember Me Thursday and Home 4 the Holidays.

Recently I received an email from one of my long-time friends and supporters who had lost her beloved dog who was part of their family for more than 16 years. The title of the email was “Gentle Ben” and her words of loss and the celebration of his life touched me deeply. These pets are truly part of our families and fulfill our lives in a wonderful way that human companionship never could. When I read an email like hers I am also reminded of not only the lives saved but the joy delivered by each and every one of the over 10 million adoptions in Home 4 the Holidays, not to mention the ones we do every day here at the Center in our own Adoptions department. The human/animal bond truly brings out the best in each of us and helps define the most beautiful aspects of our humanity.

Kitten season is coming into full swing, and as these precious days-old babies arrive at our doors, I am grateful that with each of you by our side sharing your life-saving commitment and support we can provide the care these and all our orphans need. Because of you, soon they too will have the chance to share that special bond with a forever family of their own. Thank you for all you do through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We are so fortunate to have the support of a wonderful community who shares our vision of a better future for our animal friends.

For a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms
President and CEO
WARM DAYS AND SUNSHINE SEEM TO BE A FACT OF LIFE ALMOST YEAR-ROUND FOR THOSE OF US IN SAN DIEGO, BUT ONE SURE SIGN THAT THE SEASONS ARE STILL CHANGING IS THE ARRIVAL OF LITTERS OF NEWBORN KITTENS.

Each spring, the number of homeless kittens and mother cats increases exponentially with the arrival of warmer weather, and the Center and our dedicated foster volunteers stand ready to provide them with the shelter and care they need to grow healthy and be adopted into their own forever families.

ROBYN’S STORY

Mother cats like Robyn do all they can to keep their babies safe and protected, even if it means seeking help from a stranger. That is just what Robyn did when she appeared at the doorstep of a home in mid-April, unsure of who was inside or if they would even have the compassion to help her. Fortunately, the resident was a volunteer at an animal rescue group, so she knew just who to call to get help for Robyn and her babies. They were picked up by one of our rescue partners and before long were here at Helen Woodward Animal Center having their first medical examinations in preparation for
BECOMING A PAW PAL IS THE EASIEST, MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO SUPPORT HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER and to make sure we have the resources we need each month to provide our life-saving programs and services for pets and people in need. By taking just a few minutes to sign up today, you can be confident knowing that you are making a difference each and every month. For less than the cost of a trip to the coffee shop, you can help save a life with a secure, automatic monthly donation.

Yes! I want to join the Paw Pals monthly donors!

Please charge my card:
☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ $15  ☐ $10  ☐ $_____

The _____ day of each month until I cancel.

Credit Card Number: _______________________________

exp: ______ / ______

Address: ________________________________________

City: ______________________________ State: ________

Zip: _______________

Signature: ________________________________________

Please call 858-756-4117 x350 or email: kellyr@animalcenter.org with any questions or to set up payments by phone.

This time of year, thousands of cats and kittens are in similar situations to Robyn and her babies and thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, we will be able to give them and the many other pets that continue to arrive at our doors the second chance they deserve. Spring is a time for renewal and new beginnings, and watching the tiniest orphans grow healthy and strong is one of the best reminders of why we must continue to provide this life-saving care for our animal friends! 🐾
It’s that time of year again when kids all over San Diego will soon be footloose and fancy free for more than 2 whole months. So where will they go to have unique hands-on animal experiences, learn to be compassionate in their interactions with animals and people, enjoy being outdoors all day every day, and have fun doing creative projects with animal themes?

CRITTER CAMP AT HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER!

The Education program, along with Adoptions, was one of two programs offered when the Center first opened in 1972. In fact at that time, the Center was called The San Dieguito Animal Care and Education Center, highlighting our founder Helen Woodward’s strong belief that educating our youth on the importance of the respectful treatment of all creatures is the key to creating a more humane world for animals and people alike.

To this day, Helen Woodward Animal Center’s mission states our belief that “animals help people and people help animals through trust, unconditional love, and respect, which creates a legacy of caring. Sharing this philosophy with others, the Center inspires and teaches, locally and globally, the importance of the animal-human bond.” Critter Camp and all our Education department programs do just that, providing a variety of unique learning opportunities which support the bond between humans and animals by nurturing knowledge, compassion, and respect toward all living things in a fun, hands-on environment.

At Summer Critter Camp, children will experience a full week of amazing animal interactions and summer camp activities including animal themed games, crafts, songs, and more! http://www.animalcenter.org/education/critter_camp_summer.aspx and if you have questions, please contact the education department at 858-756-4117, Ext. 318.
Animal Heroes and Heroes to the Animals

The theme for this year’s Summer Critter Camp Program is “Animal Heroes” and “Heroes to the Animals” and we want to hear from you! Using the space below, send us a story or drawing explaining how you have been a hero to the animals. Whether you are raising money to help orphan pets or doing “hands on” rescue care, we want to hear your story! Take a picture of it with a smart phone and email it to mindyw@animalcenter.org, or mail it to 6461 El Apajo Road • P.O. Box 64 • Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067. We’ll be printing some selections in the next issue of The Companion!
The Center provides care for many cats and dogs that have been orphaned. Some of these animals are as young as a few days old! Can you imagine being born without a mom or a home? The littlest of our “patients” come to Helen Woodward in cardboard boxes and in crates — newborn kittens that might have a mom with them or may not — they are so tiny they can literally fit in the palm of your hand.

Once they arrive at the Center they have to have lots of special care, from around the clock bottle feeding to daily weigh-ins and regularly scheduled checkups. These little charges rely on their foster families and our medical team to make sure that they are able to grow up healthy and strong!

The gentle giants that frequent our equine hospital come from all over San Diego County. They might be a world class race horse or someone’s backyard pony. The animals arrive in large trailers and are off-loaded here at the Center right into the treatment area. Whether they’re receiving a middle of the night emergency surgery or a pre-planned and scheduled scoping procedure, these unique patients require special care and creative techniques for maneuvering. We see over 100 horses a month on average here at the Center and we truly have equine care down to a science!

All Creatures Great & Small

Here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we take care of a lot of animals. From the smallest to the tallest, here are some of the ways we keep them healthy!

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word search

Find the following words from the story above, hidden in the puzzle below:

CARE
CHECK
EQUINE
FEEDING
FOSTER
HOSPITAL
KITTEN
ORPHAN
PROCEDURE
PUPPY
SURGERY
TEAM

R K C E H C E K C H
R E T S O F O I A O
E Q U I N E W T X S
Y R E G R U S T F P
N O R P H A N E H I
T E A M A P E N U T
P R O C E D U R E A
Y Z K P I D Q P A L
S C S N F K Z D P C
U M G M V Q P O L Y

ASK AN EXPERT

What type of training do you need to be a small animal veterinarian?

Veterinarians attend a four-year college ideally majoring in biology or life sciences and then apply to attend a four-year veterinary school. These schools receive many applications, so it is very important that students receive excellent grades in college and also that they get involved with the care of animals as a volunteer or an employee of an organization or clinic to show that they have hands-on experience in the care of animals. A veterinarian will need to specialize in small or large animals and that decision will dictate additional training and work experiences needed to build a career.
It is always a good time to take a moment to think about estate plans and who would care for your pets if you were no longer able to provide for them.

Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Pet Bequest Program is a valuable service, that with a sufficient gift from your estate, can provide for the care of your cat or dog upon your passing with no questions asked and with every effort made to place it in an appropriate new forever home.

We will provide for any of their health care needs while they are at Helen Woodward Animal Center and ensure the best quality of life possible, as well as the ability for the pet to return to the Center at any time if their adoptive home is no longer able to keep them.

For more information on the Pet Bequest program please call Kelly at 858-756-4117 X 350.
Over 40 times per month, the specially trained pets of the Pet Encounter Therapy program bring the unconditional love and non-judgmental affection that only our animal friends can provide to people in need throughout San Diego County. Our specially trained animals and volunteers travel to hospitals, shelters, skilled nursing facilities, and more to bring joy to the days of individuals going through illness, rehabilitation, or other circumstances separating them from their own home and pets.

One special type of visit the Pet Encounter Therapy program has been offering for over five years is a Bus Tour trip to the Center. For these trips, residents at nursing homes or other residences come to the Center in their own facility vehicle and get to enjoy the company of a wide variety of pets without ever having to disembark. Having the animals brought right onto the bus is beneficial for a number of reasons. In addition to the many positive impacts of interacting with the animals such as stress reduction and enhanced mood, bus tours provide an opportunity to get out into the community and enjoy the scenic drive to and from Helen Woodward Animal Center, as well. Some groups make a day of it and head to lunch after their time at the Center while others make additional stops before or after their visit. By staying on the bus, we save time and avoid the anxiety that loading and unloading may cause for those with mobility concerns, and maximize their time interacting with the animals.

For our staff, bus tours enable the program to reach more clients than if we were to travel to the facility in our own vehicle. An average facility visit takes 2-3 hours including loading animals, travel time, and the visit itself, while a bus tour usually takes about one hour total. This enables us to schedule bus tours even on busy days when we otherwise would not be able to fit in another visit. In addition, we are able to include many more types of animals that normally might not be able to travel to a facility, such as chickens, alpacas, and miniature ponies (the alpacas and ponies just peek in at the door!).

Currently we have 2-3 bus tours out to the Center per month, but thanks to the generous support of the Lucky Duck Foundation, the program is rapidly expanding and we look forward to adding additional visits to our schedule soon.

"FOR MANY OF THESE PARTICIPANTS, THIS MAY BE THEIR ONLY OUTING IN THE COMMUNITY ALL MONTH. IT’S WONDERFUL TO SEE THEIR FACES LIGHT UP AS EACH NEW ANIMAL IS BROUGHT ON THE BUS."

— ROBIN COHEN, P.E.T. PROGRAM MANAGER

To learn more about the Pet Encounter Therapy program please visit www.animalcenter.org/pet
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If your business is interested in reaching an audience of generous pet lovers, there are many opportunities to get involved at both the Spring Fling Gala and Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon. From naming opportunities to vendor booth space, there is something for businesses of every size.

Please contact Steve Miller at 858-756-4117 x312 or stevem@animalcenter.org for details.

This year we’re heading to the shore and back in time to celebrate and raise funds for pets and people in need “On the Boardwalk” at the 27th annual Spring Fling Gala. On June 6th, 2015 guests will join us for live and silent auctions, dinner from nearly 20 of San Diego’s top restaurants, and dancing and live music. You won’t want to miss the festivities, hope to see you there!

Helen Woodward Animal Center and Blue Buffalo present the 10th Annual

SURF DOG SURF-A-THON

SEPT. 13, 2015 @ DEL MAR DOG BEACH

Dog Surfing Competition & Beach Day!

TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION CONTACT
858-756-4117 X350 OR EMAIL KELLYR@ANIMALCENTER.ORG
The van pulls up after a long, hot drive from Arizona with puppies and adult dogs from our good friends at Help Animals Lives Today (HALT) rescue in Kingman, Arizona. Today they have brought us about 30 canines that are anxious after their long trip. The cages are unloaded and they are stacked in the Adoptions hallway that has our shared exam room/vet tech staff office, as well as one small surgery room with an attached recovery area. Our staff works quickly to examine each animal, scan their paperwork, evaluate their health and behavior, and decide where they need to go next.

The hallway is open to the public, so many visitors stop the staff to ask about the pets and look into the cages. Our staff must make sure the public are not touching the animals—which could spread disease—while maintaining their workflow in spite of the disruption. The animals need to be out of their crates and placed in kennels or taken to foster homes as soon as possible, and the visiting staff from HALT needs to know when they are able to leave. They must be sure all the animals will stay at Helen Woodward Animal Center before they can depart for Arizona. It is a hectic time and there is only one exam room, a small surgery suite and no private area for the visiting transfer group to talk to our staff. As transfers continue to increase and Adoptions numbers grow exponentially, we know this challenge will only become more urgent in the months and years ahead.

The plans to rebuild the Adoptions building as part of Helen Woodward Animal Center's Campaign for Caring are in their final phase of approval and we can't wait to get started. The story above illustrates one of the most pressing needs of this part of the project which is the medical facilities for our adoptable animals. There is simply not enough space for the veterinary staff to examine incoming cats and dogs, deal with day to day foster rechecks, evaluate daily medical issues for our adoptable animals, provide vaccinations and microchips, and perform the surgical procedures required including spay/neuter surgeries. Not only are our veterinary staff and veterinarian unable to have more than one small exam room to share, but the surgical suite and recovery area combined is only a little larger than most closets, and smaller than many!

We want to break ground on this exciting renovation but we need your help. There are many naming opportunities still available at all levels and Renee Resko, Vice President of Development, would be more than happy to share them with you. Please contact her at 858-756-4117 Ext. 347 for more information on how you can be a part of this exciting project to save more lives.

Visit www.animalcenter.org/capitalcampaign, to learn more about the Campaign for Caring.
In February 2015, we were contacted by the Wounded Warrior Battalion West on Camp Pendleton for any help we could offer to a soldier and his family who were struggling with the cost of caring for his service dog. The dog had become essential to this returning warrior’s daily routine, helping him cope with the ins and outs of a life that now includes a disability.

“IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP THESE SOLDIERS FOCUS ON RECOVERY AND ON THEIR FAMILIES, WE ARE EAGER TO DO SO. THEIR SACRIFICE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM IS OVERWHELPINGLY IMMEASURABLE. THIS IS A VERY SMALL THANK YOU.”

— ERIN ODERMATT, ANIMEALS PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Since that initial call, the program has enrolled 10 returning soldiers through the Recovery Care Coordinator Office (RCC) and Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) this year. As program manager Erin Odermatt notes, it is important to remember that by helping these service dogs we are assisting not only the soldiers they serve, but also their spouses who might be full-time caregivers and their children who have come to see the dog as a member of the family.

In addition to these new clients, the AniMeals program has seen tremendous growth over the past year, increasing from an average of 341 pets and 179 people assisted each week in January 2014 to 681 pets and 413 clients at the end of January 2015. With a simple delivery of pet food each week, we can make sure that all pets receive nutritious meals and that the owners who love them are free from the stress of worrying where their pet’s next meal will come from.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

With the tremendous increase in clients over the past year, the amount of food needed each week has drastically increased as well. Business service groups and anyone else interested in donating food or organizing a pet food drive, are encouraged to contact Erin at erino@animalcenter.org or 858-756-4117 x341.
FEEL GOOD AND PAY LESS IN 2016!

VEHICLE OR STOCK DONATIONS COULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT TAX SAVINGS

If you just paid a big tax bill to Uncle Sam, we want to take this time to remind you that a donation of a vehicle, furniture, or any other item of value is an excellent way to support Helen Woodward Animal Center while potentially bringing down the amount you owe on your taxes. Whether you are doing spring cleaning and are ready to get rid of that older vehicle sitting in the driveway or perhaps furniture you are keeping in storage, don’t forget how beneficial those items can be to support Helen Woodward Animal Center and our programs for animals and people in need.

Gifts of stock and other appreciated assets can provide a significant benefit to the Center, as well, and a valuable tax savings for you. We are happy to handle all the details for you on any of these gifts, so please just give us a call at 858-756-4117 X 350 and ask for Kelly.
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 Kelly at 858-756-4117 x350, or kellyr@animalcenter.org to donate:

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

**MONTHLY DONATIONS - BECOME A LIFE SAVER**
Monthly donors support our work throughout the year with recurring monthly gifts.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS**
To help reduce costs, our programs are always in need of items to support their activities – from towels and blankets for the animals to office supplies.
www.animalcenter.org/wishlist

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**
A gift that will help save the lives of orphan pets is a wonderful way to remember a special person or pet. We will send a special card notifying the recipient of your gift. With your gift of $100 or more, we will place an engraved gold leaf on our “Tree of Life.”
www.animalcenter.org/memorial

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS**
Give the gift that saves lives!
www.animalcenter.org/donate/donate_alt_gift_cards.aspx

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

**VEHICLE DONATIONS**
Take the hassle out of selling your old car, truck, motorcycle or other vehicle – donate it to Helen Woodward Animal Center! Our simple, hassle free program will take care of all the paperwork, pick up your vehicle, and send you the documents needed for a tax deduction while providing valuable funds to help the animals!
www.animalcenter.org/vehicle_donation

**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

**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 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

Honor a special person or pet who is no longer with us by lighting a virtual candle on our beautiful new “I Remember You” website: www.irememberyou.org

www.animalcenter.org/vehicledonation
Upcoming EVENTS

JUNE 6
27th Annual Spring Fling Gala
JUNE 15-AUGUST 21
Summer Critter Camp
JUNE-AUGUST
Surf Dog Lessons
JULY (TBA)
‘Paw’micon
JULY 12
Del Mar Race Track Fashion Boutique
JULY 19
Del Mar Race Track Family Fun Day
AUGUST 15
Volunteer Orientation
SEPTEMBER 13
Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon
SEPTEMBER 24
Remember Me Thursday

MISSION STATEMENT
Helen Woodward Animal Center’s passionate belief that animals help people and people help animals through trust, unconditional love, and respect, creates a legacy of caring. Sharing this philosophy with others, the Center inspires and teaches, locally and globally, the importance of the animal-human bond.

animalcenter.org

CALLING ALL SURF DOGS!
REGISTER TODAY FOR DOG SURFING & STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING LESSONS.

• Dates in June (20), July (19, 25) and August (9, 22)
• 50 Min. surf classes and 70 Min. paddle boarding classes
• Lessons just $45, discount on additional lessons
• Register online www.animalcenter.org
• For more info call 858-756-4117 x350

Special thanks to our friends and neighbors SURFDOG, INC. of Encinitas.

All proceeds benefit Helen Woodward Animal Center, a non-profit organization, where people help animals and animals help people.