Andie MacDowell & Rainey Qualley
Shine a light on pet adoption on Remember Me Thursday®...
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 50 years, our no-kill Center has provided humane care and adoption for orphaned 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.

THE ANIMALS

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DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS,

It continues to be a challenging time for animal welfare organizations around the country so we are especially grateful to our friends and supporters who have helped us continue our lifesaving work throughout the United States. Although even our adoption numbers are down here at the Center, we are continuing to transfer as many animals as possible to the safe haven that is Helen Woodward Animal Center. Our hearts are breaking as we hear about the struggles that groups are facing from the COVID-19 pandemic to the limited adoptions due to inflation and the ever-increasing cost of living. Many families are barely able to put food on their table and gas in their car, much less consider bringing a new pet into their home.

Beyond the current crisis in our own backyard, the Center continues to offer assistance to our good friends in Ukraine who have now been hit with the most recent impact of the war. Unfortunately, we have been able to offer funds for not only medical supplies and food for the evacuated animal shelters in the area but also help with temporary shelters that can be built to offer protection from the elements and a safe space for them during this time of additional upheaval and violence. So many of you have joined us in solidarity to ensure that our human and animal friends in Ukraine know they are not forgotten and that their lives mean as much to us as the precious lives of animals here in the United States.

In addition to the normal travel that we have been doing to help groups around the country with The Business of Saving Lives we had a wonderful group join us here in San Diego in June. In fact, we had representatives from New Zealand, Canada, Mexico and all over the United States. The Center continues to be a resource for all of these groups – providing everything from sample grant proposals to press releases so that they can utilize our expertise to expand their efforts with limited resources. We are excited to see that so many organizations are taking advantage of this opportunity including our recent visits to the Atlanta area, a Zoom for South Dakota and an upcoming trip to Idaho.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who made the Spring Fling a huge success this year in particular our Chairs, Jan Conn and Sharon McDonald, Restaurant Chair, Ann Disney, and the entire Fling Committee. I would also like to offer my gratitude to all of you who bought tickets and tables, purchased auction items, and made donations to support our lifesaving Adoptions program.

The months ahead will continue to be difficult times but together we can make a difference for animal welfare around the globe.

For a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms
President and CEO

DON’T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE...

Every issue of Helen Woodward Animal Center’s The Companion magazine is filled with stories about the relationships between people 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.”

BE INFORMED

Be in the know of events and fundraisers happening in our community, and across the globe. Subscribe to our e-newsletters, by visiting animalcenter.org/newsletter.

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: Helen Woodward Animal Center Twitter: @hwasanctuary Instagram: @hwasanctuary YouTube: @hwasanctuary LinkedIn: Helen Woodward Animal Center

VOLUNTEER

Giving your time at any of our fundraising events or donating your skills or expertise to help at the Center are just some of the many ways you can help pets in need. To learn more, visit our website at animalcenter.org/volunteer.

Medical MEOW-ICÉS

Danny is a 7-month-old Domestic Medium Hair kitten whose experience at Helen Woodward Animal Center included months of mysterious medical conditions. Danny had first come to Helen Woodward Animal Center this past February where he had a brief stay in foster care and almost immediately found a home. This ‘happily-ever-after’ would be short lived for Danny as days later he was returned to the Center with suspected cancer. Due to his long feral history, cats are known to hide pain and illness for fear of appearing vulnerable. Throughout the next month, Danny’s varied symptoms were diagnosed and treated, first pneumonia and then what appeared to be signs of ataxia (a disorder that affects balance, coordination, movement and reactivity). After periods of improvement and remission and resolving symptoms, Danny began to struggle moving his right hindlimb. At long last, our mysterious kitten couldn’t hide his true medical condition any longer.

Adoptions department veterinarian Dr. Zoe Schaefer, conducting testing which revealed a part of his femur had developed Avascular Necrosis. In other words, Danny’s femur was dying. Helen Woodward Animal Center’s veterinary staff immediately scheduled to have board-certified surgeon, Dr. Reinke, remove the dying tissue and replace it with a healthy piece of bone. After the surgery, the medical staff placed Danny on two weeks of cage rest to recover before sending him out to foster care to rebuild the muscle he lost and regain his range of motion.

This resilient kitten did exceptionally well in foster care, restoring his muscle lost and revealing that he was ready to be a fantastic companion to whoever adored him. Danny no longer had vision response issues and once he rebuilt his strength, could comfortably move about his foster home with ease.

Danny returned from foster care after only a day’s time at the Center and found his forever home. Danny is just the latest case of Helen Woodward Animal Center’s dedication to each and every animal that comes through its doors, and our commitment to working with each animal, no matter how long, until their true happily-ever-after is secured.

Danny hangs out with his new furry family.
Adorable animal hands-on opportunities to practice parasitology. They will also get several lessons to life.

This camp is great for any child interested in working with animals, but not sure which field they want to go into. Whether they are interested in veterinary, husbandry with Animal Care Camp and veterinary care with You Can Be A Veterinarian Camp. Each camper will learn all about what it takes to keep our 70 animal ambassadors healthy and happy through training, enrichment, diet preparation, and more.

Philanthropic Pet of the Year Award

It was a magical night in Italy on June 10th when Rancho Santa Fe’s finest gathered to support Helen Woodward Animal Center and our lifesaving programs for pets and people in need. The auction was full of fun items and adventures as the guests indulged in the open bars and tasty hors d’oeuvres from local restaurants including The Fish Market and Oyster Bar. The evening transitioned into an exciting live auction featuring trips to Hawaii, Big Bear, as well as special experiences including a Beverly Hills Sheriff ride-a-long and a Girls’ Getaway to DC, with a Nordstrom shopping spree. We are so grateful for those special items that helped to sponsor our lifesaving Adoptions program for medical costs and veterinary care. The evening ended with dancing and live music by Haute Chile and a wonderfully generous fundraising total of almost $300,000 from our animal loving friends! Special thanks to Fling Chairs, Jamie Carr and Sharon Tice McDonald and Title Sponsors, Jim Hooker and Portia Metras.

PAWmicoz

It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s… A pack of furry superheroes?!

Our special events and programs.

Therapeutic Riding Horse Show

Welcome to the Wild West-Pony Express!

On Saturday, June 3 riders, instructors, volunteers, family members, and friends gathered in Rancho Santa Fe to celebrate Helen Woodward Animal Center’s annual Therapeutic Riding Horse Show. This special day is an opportunity for the students to showcase what they have learned during their weekly lessons for their loved ones. “This is always my favorite day of the year,” stated Therapeutic Riding Program Manager Courtney Mellor. "The pride and joy these riders feel when they share their accomplishments on the back of an adaptive horse who has become a true friend is moving. It is such a clear example of how much animals and therapy can give to one another.” This year’s theme was the Wild West Pony Express and the students showed off their horseback riding skills as they steered through the sandstone fences and rode around wild buffalo in Wyoming. From there, they sped through Rubirosa’s Rin in Nevada without losing their mail bag and arrived in Sacramento, where they were awarded for their bravery and riding skills with a ribbon and trophy. The annual Therapeutic Riding Horse Show and program would not be possible without the generosity and support of our community, volunteers, and sponsors throughout the year. A special thanks to Evergate Stables for donating the ribbons and trophies that were presented to Rider Board Member and executive, Tonia Hill, Jessica and Griffin Matterson of The Sandler Foundation, and long-time friend and supporter Valerie Viterbi. A special thank you goes out to Jagger and Kristi from Magic 92.5 who donate their voices to encourage this event and make it extra special for our riders every year. If you would like to learn more about Therapeutic Riding or donate to support our life-changing work please go to - The Benefits of Equine Therapy & Hippotherapy (animalcenter.org).

Paws for Patriots

Sponsored adoptions for our military heroes.

This past 4th of July was a day for bbq’s, beach days, and spending time with family and friends but we must never forget that we are not only able to make military families happy, we can also make our pets happy. This holiday our proud sponsor, KayBella Cares, underwrote the cost of adoptions for all active duty and veteran military members and their families that wanted to adopt a new furry family member. This is how we contribute, scan the QR code below to donate today.

It’s been months since the Nova Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine collapsed, flooding much of the southeastern region with water and displacing thousands of people and their pets. Due to the latest crisis for animals in the region, Helen Woodward Animal Center pledged $3,000 to help with flood relief, in particular shelter and medical supplies, and encourages the community to contribute what they can to the cause. animalcenter.org.

Flooding doesn’t just cause massive amounts of property damage like you’d expect. It also leads to widespread illness and disease – meaning that although animal retrieval and rescue may be successful, those saved often suffer from preventable emotional and physical trauma. On Saturday, June 3 riders, instructors, volunteers, family members, and friends gathered in Rancho Santa Fe to celebrate Helen Woodward Animal Center’s annual Therapeutic Riding Horse Show. This special day is an opportunity for the students to showcase what they have learned during their weekly lessons for their loved ones. “This is always my favorite day of the year,” stated Therapeutic Riding Program Manager Courtney Mellor. "The pride and joy these riders feel when they share their accomplishments on the back of an adaptive horse who has become a true friend is moving. It is such a clear example of how much animals and therapy can give to one another.” This year’s theme was the Wild West Pony Express and the students showed off their horseback riding skills as they steered through the sandstone fences and rode around wild buffalo in Wyoming. From there, they sped through Rubirosa’s Rin in Nevada without losing their mail bag and arrived in Sacramento, where they were awarded for their bravery and riding skills with a ribbon and trophy. The annual Therapeutic Riding Horse Show and program would not be possible without the generosity and support of our community, volunteers, and sponsors throughout the year. A special thanks to Evergate Stables for donating the ribbons and trophies that were presented to Rider Board Member and executive, Tonia Hill, Jessica and Griffin Matterson of The Sandler Foundation, and long-time friend and supporter Valerie Viterbi. A special thank you goes out to Jagger and Kristi from Magic 92.5 who donate their voices to encourage this event and make it extra special for our riders every year. If you would like to learn more about Therapeutic Riding or donate to support our life-changing work please go to - The Benefits of Equine Therapy & Hippotherapy (animalcenter.org).
A Relentless Pursuit of Happiness

Traveling all the way from Oklahoma in January this year, lab-blend puppy Pepsi had a sweetness and pop of personality that made him an instant staff favorite. Pepsi's arrival, however, began with a troubling discovery and a bit of a medical mystery. A large lump on his neck caused discomfort and made movement difficult for him. Medical exams revealed an inflamed salivary gland that continually filled with fluid. This condition most frequently results from trauma to the salivary gland. However, the cause of that trauma is rarely able to be identified. While we may never know what caused this, at the very least we knew we would do everything we could to help him.

Helen Woodward Animal Center is dedicated to every animal that comes through our doors and will take every step possible to provide the very best life for each orphan pet. Shortly after his diagnosis, Pepsi underwent the recommended surgery for removal of the salivary mucocele with hopes for a swift recovery. Additional medical steps were taken to ensure his comfort. Unfortunately, only months later, Pepsi's surgical site began to look exactly as it had before his surgery.

Seeking out the expertise of a specialist was the next step. A thorough consultation and several medical tests revealed that Pepsi's salivary mucocele was recurring. While rare, the recurrence of Pepsi's sialocele was something our medical team knew was possible, and the Center resolved to continue treating Pepsi as many times as he needed to fully recover. Pepsi underwent a second surgery to remove the last traces of the gland. Perhaps because of the difficult location of his salivary gland, which used to sit right under his jaw, Pepsi's second surgery did not resolve this issue and again his salivary gland began to refill with fluid. A third surgery was scheduled to explore the surgical site and replace a drain to help relieve the swelling. Luckily, there was light at the end of the tunnel. After the third surgery, Pepsi's medical team realized that his condition had downgraded from a sialocele to a seroma. A seroma is a common occurrence, especially following a surgical procedure. Essentially, Pepsi's surgical site is directly connected to an area of high mobility, which caused interruptions in the healing process and resulted in a buildup of serous fluid—not salivary fluid. Thus meant that Pepsi was, in fact, healing, his sialocele was finally gone and no longer producing saliva.

In the months we have known Pepsi, he has shown us constant love and gratitude, and we are honored to be a part of his story. In spite of the pain and discomfort he has endured, Pepsi has always remained sweet, good-natured, and incredibly brave. It is not easy to undergo so many surgeries, but Pepsi never shows any discomfort or discontent. In fact, the longer we get to know him, the more he seems to love life. Pepsi is forty-five pounds of gruff, but that never stops him from rolling onto his back for a belly rub, or curling up in your lap for a cuddle.

We are pleased to announce, Pepsi's third surgery was successful and he was adopted to a fantastic family from La Jolla.
Andie MacDowell is an acclaimed actress who received accolades for her role in Sex, Lies, and Videotape and has appeared in several notable films, including Groundhog Day, St. Elmo’s Fire, Four Weddings and a Funeral, and Magic Mike XXL. In addition to being a Loral spokesperson, she recently starred in the Hallmark Channel drama series Cedar Cove and the anime film Granite Mountain. Off-screen, Andie enjoys time with her, family, horses, many pets including rescue dog, Ava, and is a supporter of many charitable causes. 

Rae Gun Qualley is an American actress and music artist. She releases and阵容 music under the name Ramford. She is a lifelong lover of animals, and has been vegetarian for 17 years. Taking care of animals brings her so much joy! She currently has 3 cats named Jesus, Myrtle and Wizard and a dog she adopted from Helen Woodward Animal Center named Arlo as well as 59 backyard chickens. She also fosters kittens for her local shelter.

Have you always been an animal lover? Andie MacDowell: From a very young age I was one of those kids that wanted every pet. I grew up in a small town rather than a metropolis, but I had to have everything: ducks, rabbits, dogs, cats, horses. There’s so many stories about me and animals, but the greatest thing that happened was when my parents went through a divorce. I lived with my father until I had to leave. My inclinations were much more nurturing than a lot of other things. I’ve always had a particularly soft spot for... Loving animals as a kind of escape and comfort me. I can feel the boost of serotonin from the love that I receive from them and love I return.

Rae Gun Qualley: Absolutely! I lived in Montana as a young child where we had horses, cows, chickens, pang, bunnies, dogs and plenty of cats (which I’ve always had a particularly soft spot for). Loving animals as much as I do, I’ve been vegetarian for 17 years now. It brings me so much joy to take care of animals!

What was your first pet? AM: My first pet was a puppy born in our flower garden from a stray dog. Her name was Butterball. I was very young and my child life a little chaotic. I was taking care of my baby. I was probably five years old. The mother dog nipped at me and to this day I don’t know what happened to the mother dog. I don’t know what my mother did. I was too young, but we kept Butterball. My inclinations were much more nurturing than a lot of people around me.

RQ: We had pet cats and dogs for as long as I can remember. But the first pet that was “mine,” which I was allowed to name, was a fluffy white and brown cat called Sally Diamond Ring.

What pets does your family currently have? AM: My only pet at the moment is my little dog that I rescued. She is the love of my life. I’m having the most fun training her, spending a lot of time with her and reading about how to be the best partner. I would love to get another horse and hope to be able to do that sometime in the near future.

RQ: I have 3 cats, 1 dog, and 5 backyard chickens. Plus foster kittens for my local shelter as often as I can.

How do you feel that animals have impacted your life or the lives of your children? AM: While raising my children, I allowed them to have all kinds of pets. For a while, we lived in Montana, and had a variety of different kinds of animals. We’ve always had some kind of pet. We had cats or dogs, and the love that my children received from them I understood deep to my core. I also loved watching my children return that love, understanding, and the responsibility of having a pet.

RQ: Growing up with animals taught me compassion, how to be gentle and attentive, loving unconditionally, as well as a great sense of responsibility. Especially when it comes to baby kittens!

What drew you to Helen Woodward Animal Center? AM: My daughter Rainey Qualley is a very active community in Los Angeles, volunteering to help foster kittens and helping get the word out about different animals that need to be adopted. It is through my daughter that I learned about the Helen Woodward Animal Center.

RQ: I was lucky enough to find my dog, Arlo through the Helen Woodward Animal Center. They do incredible work and treat their animals with love, respect, and such great care.

Why do you think Remember Me Thursday® provides an important message? AM: adopting pets from shelters rather than buying from a breeder or a pet store is something that I am so passionate about. Each year over 1.5 million shelters animals are euthanized because they can’t find their homes. It’s staggering! And that absolutely breaks my heart. When you adopt a cat or a dog from a shelter, not only are you saving their life, but you free up space to care for other animals in need. When buying animals from breeders, you perpetuate the terrible cycle of unwanted and unwanted pets being killed for no reason. Not only that, but even if you’re looking for a specific breed, its so easy to find any kind of dog or cat in a shelter already. So there’s really no excuse not to.

RQ: Posting on social media is an obvious way to spread the message. But also, word of mouth! Reminding friends who may be looking for a pet to check out animal shelters!

What do you plan to do to get the word out about Remember Me Thursday®? AM: A lot of people don’t realize how important it is to adopt. Encouraging people to do so helps animals in shelters everywhere!
FOREVER FRIENDS  
Betty & Bob Hess

Like so many of the generous benefactors that remember Helen Woodward Animal Center in their estate plans, we did not have the opportunity to meet Betty and Bob Hess. We asked their niece, Kat Domet, to provide some thoughts and memories with us about her aunt and uncle. She said that both believed that animals were to be treated with the utmost love and tenderness and after deciding early on in their marriage NOT to have children they “parented” many animals, mostly dogs. She did remember them visiting Helen Woodward Animal Center on one occasion and she felt they must have been very moved by our mission to remember the Center with such a generous gift. Bob and Betty’s last pet was a white terrier of sorts named "Nerdy" and she was their baby, the love of their lives. They also had a Dachshund many years ago named "Harsey", along with several other dogs. Kat shared that all of Betty’s favorite charities had to do with animal well-being. She also spared no expense in her care for her own pets. Kat only wished every animal owner would follow in their footsteps. She was kind, compassionate and loving towards all creatures great and small. Her final gesture of generosity and kindness was exceptional. I felt relieved to have her on my team. Dr. Oviedo’s initial examination ascertained that Choop had advanced liver failure, an affliction common to Westies. She suggested two immediate actions: take her off regular dog food, which has grains, such as copper, which can accumulate in the liver, and to follow up with more blood work and an ultrasound to rule out a tumor or cirrhosis. The ultrasound revealed no tumors and the liver did not appear to have any significant scarring, which was good news. On the other hand, her blood tests showed her liver numbers were literally off the chart.

Dr. Oviedo informed me that Choop’s liver failure could be from a number of possible sources, including hepatitis. Rather than suggest some extreme regimen of antibiotics, which could have serious side effects, Dr. Oviedo suggested that we put Choop on supplements for her liver and her gall bladder, focus on her diet, and then retest her blood to see if any changes. I then bought a book on what to feed – and not feed – dogs suffering from advanced stage liver failure. After a month of giving Choop fresh cooked meals of ground turkey and chicken, vegetables and potatoes, I went back for new blood work and was happy to learn from Dr. Oviedo that Choop’s liver numbers, while still elevated, were down by almost 50%. Dr. Oviedo encouraged me to continue what I was doing, and a month later Choop’s liver numbers were almost normal. Dr. Oviedo said I would not need to retest Choop for another six months! I don’t believe that Choop is cured, and she does occasionally have a bad day. If she has several bad days in a row, I just bring her back to Dr. Oviedo and her team to make sure it’s nothing serious. They immediately make time to see her, usually on the same day that I call, and when we come in, they always treat Choop like their favorite dog, even though I am sure they treat every dog that way. Thanks to Dr. Oviedo and her team, Choop is back to her happy, feisty, Westie self and she and I are likely to have many more years together.

-Nancy H.
EVENT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER
1-30 Paws in the Ranch - Happy Cat Month
10 Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon
16 Foster Orientation
16 Animal Care Camp
17 You Can Be A Veterinarian Camp
22-24 Orphaned Objects Seasonal Changeover Sale
28 Remember Me Thursday®
30 Foster Orientation

1-31 Paws in the Ranch - Halloween Costume Sale
7 Animal Care Camp
8 You Can Be A Veterinarian Camp
14 Semi-Annual Tack Sale
20-22 Orphaned Objects Sustainable Fashion Weekend Sale
23-27 Fall Critter Camp
14, 21, 28, 29 Hall-O-Ween Harvest Family Festival

OCTOBER
10/1-11/12 Hall-O-Ween Harvest Family Festival (by appointment only)

10 Animal Care Camp
5 You Can Be A Veterinarian Camp

14, 21, 28, 29 Hall-O-Ween Harvest Family Festival

NOVEMBER

4 Animal Care Camp
5 You Can Be A Veterinarian Camp

7 Animal Care Camp
8 You Can Be A Veterinarian Camp
14 Semi-Annual Tack Sale
20-22 Orphaned Objects Sustainable Fashion Weekend Sale
23-27 Fall Critter Camp
14, 21, 28, 29 Hall-O-Ween Harvest Family Festival

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Jim Hooker & Portia Metras Hooker
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