# HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



People Helping Animals and Unimals Helping People

Dear Friends of the Animals.

It is hard to believe another year is behind us but when I look back at all that was accomplished during this time I am extremely proud of Helen Woodward Animal Center and our staff. We never forget that none of this work would be possible without the amazing support of our friends in the community. This first post-COVID year brought a lot of challenges and opportunities for program growth and repositioning with the ability to have in-person meetings and activities. Of course, Helen Woodward Animal Center was one of the few places that didn't close during the pandemic and where every employee continued our dedicated work for the animals, whether in the kennels or behind a desk.

One of the most memorable events of the year was the arrival of dozens of beagles from a laboratory breeding facility in Virginia - a facility where they had lived their lives without the feel of the sun on their faces or grass at their feet. It simultaneously broke our hearts and lifted our spirits to see these amazing dogs as they healed, connected to their foster families and found their new forever homes. We are once again reminded of the incredible resiliency and unconditional love that these beautiful animals have to offer and we are honored to be able to provide them with a voice.

When it comes to fighting against all odds and unconditional love no animal touched our hearts more than the incredible Cleo. This days' old kitten came to us fighting for her life with no mother and limited odds of survival through bottle feeding. Matched up with a new mom cat named Ballerina who took Cleo in as her own, this scrappy little fighter fit right into the litter and before we knew it she was getting stronger and healthier with each passing day. When it came time to find a new forever home for Cleo we received dozens of applicants from around the country moved by her special story, but her new family was a perfect fit having owned a hairless cat before and extremely accustomed to their special needs. Cleo was delighted to find canine and feline siblings in her new home as well as devoted pet parents to make sure that she was able to live her best life.

Of course, the other programs here at the Center have been extremely busy trying to get back to where they were prior to COVID. Pet Encounter Therapy reached thousands of visitors in the past year and have returned to most of our original client partners. Unfortunately, many PET programs closed down during COVID and have not restarted so ours is more important than ever before. Therapeutic Riding is trying to recoup their volunteers and get back up to their original student count of 75 students prior to the pandemic - currently we are at around 50-55 riders and are looking to add more staff and horses to continue our expansion efforts. Our pet food delivery program, AniMeals, has never been busier with new senior clients who are impacted by inflation as we continue our ongoing efforts with Feeding San Diego to help families in need who are forced to choose between putting food on the table and caring for their beloved pet.

Thank you for your support throughout the pandemic and for never losing sight of the lifesaving work of the Center!

For a more humane world.

Michael M. Arms President and CEO

#### **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





VOLUNTEER

Giving your time at any of our

fundraising events or donating your

skills or experience to help at the

Center are just some of the many

ways you can help pets in need! To

learn more, visit animalcenter.org/

volunteer

Facebook: Helen Woodward Animal Center Twitter: @hwac Instagram: @hwac TikTok: @hwanimalcenter YouTube: @hwac LinkedIn: Helen Woodward Animal Center



President / CEO Michael M. Arms

#### **Board of Directors**

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Helen Woodward Animal Center PO Box 64, Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067 FAX (858) 756-1466 animalcenter.org



### **HOW CLEO THE SPHYNX** FOUND HER PERFECT FAMILY

When Cleopatra first arrived at the Center, she was a malnourished and frail young kitten in desperate need of help. While bottle-feeding Cleo, a staff member had the thoughtful idea to pair her with a new mom, and the plan worked out perfectly. Bellarina took Cleo in as her own and helped our medical team nurture her back to health.

While Cleo made her recovery, Center staff knew that she would need a special family to adopt her - one that would be aware of the extra work it takes to care for a Sphynx cat.



Christina Dworsky and her family not only have experience with Sphynx cats, since they already have one named Biggie, but they also have extensive experience with all kinds of cats. The Dworsky's have fostered over 300 cats

and kittens including "bottle babies" who, like Cleo, once needed around-the-clock care. When they first met, it was love at first sight as Cleopatra melted into Christina's arms.

"We are just over the moon," said Christina Dworsky on adoption day. "We are so happy and so amazed that this all worked out, and we are just overjoyed."

Nowadays, Cleopatra is loving life in her new home with her pet siblings. The Center is dedicated to orphan animals like Cleopatra and providing them the life-changing help they need to find their happily ever after.

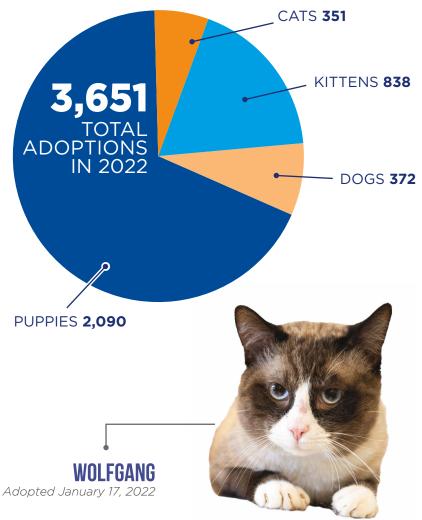


### ADOPTIONS



2022 was particularly difficult for the animal welfare community as we dealt with decreased adoptions, increased surrenders due to a combined effect of inflation, gas prices, and concern for a future economic downturn. Another residue effect of COVID is more kittens and puppies being born due to the lack of sterilizations that took place during COVID. With that in consideration, we are happy to say that 3,651 pets found their homes. We are grateful for the support

of the community during these times as we continue to focus on areas of the country with limited resources and orphaned pets in dire need of help in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and at home in California. The team transported over 3,300 pets to the Center utilizing transporters and partners from across the country. In addition to weekly efforts in rescuing pets, last summer the Adoption Team participated in rescuing 43 beagles from a lab-testing breeding facility in Virginia. We transported from the East Coast and were able to send all of the Beagles to foster homes, thanks to our amazing foster volunteers. After receiving thorough medical exams and care, as well as spending a few weeks decompressing in their foster homes, we adopted all 43 Beagles out to carefully-selected homes. This year the Adoptions Team will continue to focus on saving lives and supporting those whose values align with the Helen Woodward Animal Center. As the Adoption Team looks to the future one area is certain, the continued need to save lives and the Center is ready for this monumental task.



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### **ANIMEALS**



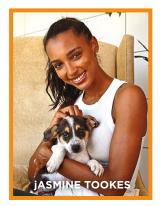
The AniMeals program began in the mid-1980's when a volunteer for Meals-On-Wheels learned that a client 805 was sharing her delivered food with her pets and that there was no service in place to address this issue. Since then, we have been providing no-cost pet food to lowincome individuals, disabled

military personnel and homebound seniors by partnering with organizations like Meals on Wheels, Jewish Family Services and Wounded Warriors. We are currently serving an average of 850 pets monthly within the Greater San Diego area.

We knew that COVID's financial impact on San Diego would be significant and we needed to expand AniMeals to meet the growing need so we partnered with Feeding San Diego. In 2022, we traveled to 5 different Feeding San Diego events, where we were able to distribute food to 2,098 pets.

### **AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

### **REMEMBER ME THURSDAY®**



REMEMBER ME 2022's THURSDAY® (RMT) took place on Thursday, September 22 as animal lovers across the world united their voices for orphan animals by honoring those pets we have lost and those waiting for their forever homes in shelters. Social media postings using the hashtags #RememberMeThursday and #SeeTheLight, as well as candle-lighting ceremonies. proclamations and even flag raisings, reminded the world that

orphan animals need our help to raise awareness of their plight. The campaign, started only ten years ago by Helen Woodward Animal Center, has touched over 190 countries and has made over 2 billion social media impressions. For San Diegans, this special day was honored locally at Helen Woodward Animal Center's outdoor education pavilion and included words from RMT founder and Center President and CEO Mike Arms, a reading of the official RMT poem,

a heartfelt international candle lighting and a virtual ceremony featuring representatives from such countries as Panama, Estonia, Mexico and Croatia. In addition to here in the United States, news networks picked up the story in North & South Africa. Great Britain, India, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, Japan, Italy, India, Canada, Netherlands, Malaysia,



Australia, Mexico, Singapore, and more. This year's Remember Me Thursday® Official Spokesperson, Jasmine Tookes, an international supermodel and entrepreneur, utilized her strong social media presence by promoting the 10th Annual Remember Me Thursday® campaign to over 6M fans. Joining Tookes were over 100 animal-loving celebrities, bloggers, influencers and social media-famous pets creating personal and meaningful posts asking the world to participate on the special day.

HERE ARE THE IMPRESSIVE STATS FOR THIS

**PROGRAM IN 2022:** 

AVERAGE CLIENTS SERVED EACH MONTH

POUNDS OF FOOD DELIVERED

737.160

12,286

AVERAGE PETS SERVED

PER MONTH

**MEALS SERVED** 

IN 2022

TOTAL PETS SERVED

145,435

498

### HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS®

The Home 4 The Holidays ® annual adoption campaign was a huge success. Helen Woodward Animal Center is excited to recognize Stray Love Foundation, Camrose Animal Alliance Rescue Society & Friends of Orange County's Homeless Pets as winners for the Home 4 the Holidays contest! Our partners at Save This Life helped us deliver



contest winners

\$25,000 in lifesaving funds to these three rescue organizations as part of their commitment as a contributing sponsor to the Home 4 The Holidays contest.

Helen Woodward Animal Center along with Blue Buffalo aims to encourage people to adopt their next pet instead of buying one from a pet store or backyard breeder. 972,091 pets found their forever homes during the Home 4 the Holidays\*campaign with the help of 4,192 of organizations nationwide who participated during the holiday season.



In 2022, our Education programs progressed as we were able to transition more to our normal systems as the restrictions of COVID19 continued to wane. It was a joy to see all the children's faces again and we saw a large resurgence in our largest birthday party package. In fact, one birthday girl, Olivia Lee, decided to raise money for her birthday

party by playing her cello at the Poway Farmer's Market. Lee

had not quite reached her goal by the day of her party and she had the wonderful idea to put on a concert with her friends for some of our barnyard animal ambassadors at the Center to help her reach her fundraising goal and the animals loved it.



Our scout programs blossomed this year as many troops made

their way to the Center to earn badges or perform community service. While here many of the scouts pushed their comfort zone by meeting some scaly friends, recognizing the importance of all living things, even the ones we might be a little scared of at first. Of course, no year in Education would be



complete without Critter Camps. Throughout the year campers spent their school breaks with us, meeting our variety of animal ambassadors and discovering how these animals play a role in their natural ecosystems and what we can do, no matter our age, to work to protect them.



While we began the year with miniwith dog/board retriever, parking, vendor assistance, kid's orientations, we are excited that activities, photography, social media, judge's assistance, gate due to COVID restrictions being keepers and more. As a special thank you to all volunteers lifted, we have returned to our participating with the event, each volunteer received a lip regular orientations on Saturdays balm with the Surf Dog logo as well as complimentary food with no sign-up limits and we have and drinks throughout the day. seen an increase in attendance and interest from the community. We look forward to it when organizations come and lend a hand at the Center, Harrah's donated volunteered hours brought some of their employees to help work with our Education department on Giving Tuesday, November 29th. They helped with craft preparation, sorting and pricing items in our Orphaned Objects resale bU people volunteered shop and in the AniMeals department with food packaging. In May, a volunteer group from the Air Force helped our in 2022 for the Center. Education department with deep cleaning the barn area and the alpaca and sheep enclosures. Our Surf Dog Surfa-thon was a big success with over 185 volunteers helping

## **HUMANE EDUCATION**

Through each program and each participant, we take one more step to the goal of teaching compassion for all life, big or small, and help people of all ages recognize they have the power to make positive change!

> ,599 participants attended our humane education programs in 2022, comprised of 6,460 adults, and 13,139 children!





### VOLUNTEERS

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### **SERVICES**



### **COMPANION ANIMAL** HOSPITAL

Helen Woodward Animal Center's state of the art Companion Animal Hospital is a small animal facility open to the public for treatment for cats and dogs. Our hospital not only takes care of the public's pets which

account for over 12,500 interactions in 2022 but it also provides services to populations in need. Over \$100.000 of donated services were received by the military families served through the military fund at the hospital. We are happy to report we welcomed over 1,600 new patients to our facility and hope to see more new furry faces!



### Over **12,500** visits to Helen Woodward Animal Center's **Companion Animal Hospital**

#### **CLUB PET BOARDING**



In 2022, Club Pet returned its focus to our boarding pets as our community returned to traveling. Our daycare was still a popular activity for many dogs in the local area. We continued to grow our grooming clientele with a full-time groomer taking care of 683 pets over the year. Our boarding

income was 28% higher than 2021. We cared for 6,608 dogs and 258 cats over the year and had 3,748 daycare reservations. We continue to strive up to provide quality care for each pet with us making Club Pet their home away from home.



### EQUINE HOSPITAL

Equine Hospital provides Dur exceptional care to our equine population 24/7 365 days a year. Our equine patients range from Olympic competitors to International show horses to the beloved backyard horse. We offer 100% digital radiography

including abdominal radiographs. We have a three and a one- meter endoscope for a variety of procedures including examining for gastric ulcers. Our surgical suite is completely equipped for fracture repair, colic surgeries, sinus surgery, laparoscopic and arthroscopic surgeries. We are also one of only two hospitals on the west coast providing a recovery pool for post anesthesia recovery.





#### THERAPEUTIC RIDING **PROGRAM**

The Therapeutic Riding Program lends independence and mobility to a person with disabilities who may be otherwise restricted. The ability to work with these magnificent animals, both mounted and from the ground,

gives tremendous physical and psychological benefits, especially for those previously denied the usual scope of outdoor activities. We are happy to report, our Therapeutic Riding Program provided 1,708 lessons to 55 students. These lessons include both private and group lessons to our mounted students, but also include unmounted Equine Assisted Learning lessons too. The primary goal of this unmounted program is to teach and support life skills through guided horse interactions. One of our favorite days

in 2022 was our annual horse show. Our students were able to show off their progress to family and friends at our Safari Adventure themed event. The annual horse show is such an exciting day for students, staff, volunteers and spectators alike.





### PETS WITHOUT WALLS



In 2022, the Pet's Without Walls mobile veterinary unit visited 37 sites throughout San Diego, provided veterinary care to over 525 pets of those experiencing homelessness, seniors, and low-income individuals, administered over 607 life-saving

vaccinations, performed 47 spay/neuter surgeries and created new organization partnerships with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) and the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation to target transitional housing developments and low-income senior citizens and veterans.

We participated in the North County Stand Down Event in October which provided veterinary care to over 50 pets of homeless veterans, sponsored by Kahoots. This program saves hundreds of animals from owner surrender and euthanasia each year and is an absolutely indispensable resource for the community we serve. We hope to continue to provide this life-saving service as long as we can in pursuit of growth and expansion to reach pets and people every day.



### P.E.T.



The Pet Encounter Therapy (PET) program is an animal-visitation program that provides opportunities for people with special needs to experience unconditional love and a variety of physical, psychological and social benefits when interacting with specially trained therapy

animals. In 2022 PET provided 202 off-site visits, 51 on-site visits, 8 hospice visits and 13 Zoom visits to the San Diego community which translates to over 6,970 interactions where clients received the incredible love and healing that only animals can provide. Here is just one example of what your support of PET provided in 2022. In September we received a request to visit a hospice client with a cat. There is only one cat currently working in PET but thankfully Lt. Dan Walker is exceptional when working with medically fragile clients. The visit was with an elderly gentleman and it was incredible to watch as Lt. Dan sat in his little bed at the man's side and stayed still for over a half an hour as the man gently pet him. The man just kept repeating "such a beautiful kitty" and would drift asleep for a few minutes and then wake up to start petting again. It was an honor to give him the gift of Lt. Dan's love.

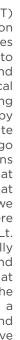


#### **ORPHANED OBJECTS DESIGNER RESALE** SHOP

Orphaned Objects is a boutique style resale shop where all the sales benefit the pets and programs at Helen Woodward Animal Center. The resale shop has many unique items with something for everyone, whether it is designer furniture, housewares, clothes, jewelry, shoes handbags and more. We have grown our important relationships with local consignment shops who donate items they are unable to sell to help our mission. Our partners include: My Sister's Closet & Attic, Home Consignment Center in 4S Ranch, EDIT Consignment Boutique in Rancho Santa Fe, Maroufi Fine Rugs and Antiques in La Jolla, Country Friends Consignment Shop, Savvy Interiors, Silk & Spero and Nicole Miller. A new online revenue channel was started in 2022 to increase our sales reach and is continuing to grow year to year. The platforms we are selling on include: The RealReal, Ebay, Poshmark and Offer Up. Our donors can drop off their goods during business hours and get a tax receipt for their donation and even arrange a pick up for large items. Every purchase helps the pets and programs at the Center. For consumers, the desire to reduce their negative impact on the planet through buying second-hand is not only more sustainable but stylish, too.

**52,8 IU** items were kept out of the landfills and reused to their full potential

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### THE GREAT BEAGLE

Over 4,000 beagles at a Virginia mass-breeding facility, intended to be sold for lab testing, received a chance at freedom and a full life in part thanks to Helen Woodward Animal Center. An undercover investigation at the breeding facility revealed horrible and inhumane animal treatment. On July 21, 2022 the Department of Justice removed the first 432 beagles, with some making their way to the West Coast. Helen Woodward Animal Center was honored to assist 43 of these beagles, providing medical checks before sending them to foster homes in preparation for adoption.

Because of the huge intake, the Center needed many supplies to send off with foster families. A call for help went out to the community, and the community stepped up in a huge way by purchasing hundreds of items from the Center's Amazon Wish List and raising nearly \$40,000 to help with the beagle rescue.

"These beagles are just some of many animals we've been honored to help this year." said Helen Woodward Animal Center's VP of Development, Renee Resko. "I think the sheer number of them has really been eye-opening to so many people and has helped remind the public how many lives need rescue."



Before becoming available for adoption, the Center ensured that all of their medical needs were met, including spay and neuter surgeries. To reduce stress caused by being exposed to crowds, the Center took a gentle approach to adoption meet-andgreets. Potential adopters were asked to request an

appointment and fill out a special application to determine their compatibility with a rescue beagle.

One by one, each beagle is moving onto bigger and brighter futures with their forever families. Before coming to the Center, they had never been on grass or even been given a toy. Today, with thanks to the Center and all who support us, they are learning the meaning of love.



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Our full audited financials are available on-line at **animalcenter.org** The above financials are provisional. 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.