People Helping Animals
and Animals Helping People
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 day’s 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 her 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 to focus on serving 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

Dear Friends of the Animals,

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. Ballerina 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.

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The AniMeals program began in the mid-1980’s when a volunteer for Meals-On-Wheels learned that a client 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 low-income 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.

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**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!

**MEMBER ME THURSDAY®**

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 help us deliver $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 contest with the help of 4,192 of organizations nationwide who participated during the holiday season.

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The Great Beagle Rescue

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 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-and-greets. 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.
HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER
FINANCIALS 2022

The surplus funds that are raised for Helen Woodward Animal Center go towards building the endowment for our future and into the “Campaign for Caring” to rebuild the various facilities at the Center.

HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER
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animalcenter.org

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

BLIZZARD
Adopted March 19, 2022

NEMO & DORY
Adopted September 3, 2022

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.