As a sophomore at Colorado State University, I am often overwhelmed by the abundance of community involvement and volunteer travel opportunities offered. Trying to decide where to dedicate my time can be extremely difficult as I contemplate which career interests to pursue. However, my passion for animal rescue and interest in Latin American language and culture made becoming involved with VIDA a no-brainer. VIDA (Volunteers for Intercultural and Definitive Adventures) is a non-profit organization that facilitates sustainable and ongoing public health services to needy communities in Latin America by bringing people together through service learning. Along with 28 of my fellow CSU students, I was fortunate enough to join the VIDA staff on their most recent service trip to Nicaragua this past December. As volunteers, we served developing, low-income communities in Nicaragua by assisting the VIDA staff in setting up clinics in local schools and churches where we offered free medical and veterinary services. This particular VIDA trip consisted of two teams of volunteers; the veterinary team and the medical team.

My ten-day adventure with VIDA began in Managua, Nicaragua. There, the volunteers were taught what procedures to follow during clinic, had the chance to meet the amazing VIDA staff, and practiced some Nicaraguan slang. However, our service trip truly began when we traveled to our first clinic destination, Masaya, Nicaragua and moved in with our wonderful host families. My clinic days began with waking up at 6:30 am to a breakfast of rice, beans, and plantains prepared by my host family and some shaky attempts at early-morning Spanish speaking with my host brother. Then, all of the volunteers and VIDA staff would load and board the bus in our scrubs and “DJ Lester” (a local Nicaraguan and my favorite
Yolo County SPCA Mission:

To continuously improve the welfare of animals in the community through programs that promote the adoption of homeless animals into permanent, loving homes; humane education; spay/neutering; and the trapping, altering, and releasing of feral cats. Thanks to the contributions of our members, volunteers, and the public, we can create a more humane tomorrow.

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member of the VIDA staff) would wake us up with the loudest of his remixed tracks. After arriving to what looked like an abandoned, old school, we would set up our mobile clinic.

As a member of the veterinary team, assisting in vaccinating and spaying/neutering cats and dogs, I had no idea how hands-on my work was going to be until our first clinic day. A pair of vet team volunteers would be assigned to an animal and greet the owner. We were independently in charge of preparing him/her for surgery. After administering de-worming medication, flea treatment, vaccines and an anesthesia “cocktail”, we would intubate and insert a catheter. One of the coolest parts of my experience was getting to assist the veterinarians in surgery, where we were given one-on-one instruction on how to perform spays and neuters and how to suture. Our tasks during surgery and recovery also involved monitoring the animal carefully. This was extremely important, because animals were not hooked up to any monitors. The lack of resources on our trip meant that we had to be very resourceful and a little creative when treating the animals.

While the animals at the clinic in Masaya were mainly dogs, our patients at our next stop, Diriamba, Nicaragua were almost all farm animals! We traveled around a rural community in Diriamba, bringing de-worming and vitamin vaccines to farms for their cows, pigs, and horses. Again, the lack of resources meant that we had nothing but ropes and the farm hands to help us restrain the animals while we administered nutrient and de-worming vaccines. Wrangling and vaccinating the pigs was a total riot and probably my favorite clinic experience.

The animals I encountered on this service trip were malnourished and many had contracted diseases or parasites not often seen in the U.S. simply because their owners didn’t have the proper resources to provide for their animals. The ability to not only improve the lives of so many animals through spay and neuter, de-worming, vaccinations, and treatment of diseases, but also to educate so many about proper animal care, was an extremely rewarding experience.
Volunteer Spotlight: Hannah Greenspan

Hannah Greenspan has been volunteering with the Yolo County SPCA for the past year. She LOVES being with all the cats and kittens, and participates in Saturday adoption events, fostering kittens, and helping with almost any task we have need for. Every Saturday adoption event seems to end up being an adventure with lots going on, and Hannah is always in the middle of things ready to help. Hannah is a senior at UC Davis studying Animal Biology. In her “spare time” she runs a dance group on campus called Unbound Progression and is doing an internship with the Yolo County SPCA.

New Pit Bull Programs at Yolo County Animal Services

Although you’d never know it from their big, goofy smiles, dogs classified as “Pit Bull mixes” have a hard time in shelters. Due to the negative public perception of bully breeds, these dogs take longer to find homes- and while they wait, many start to feel the stress of prolonged kenneling. At the Yolo County Animal Services (YCAS) Shelter in Woodland, the Yolo County SPCA is teaming up with shelter volunteers, staff, and local Pit
In Memoriam

Dodger you were my caretaker cat. Your purr was my lullaby. I miss you.

Bowie, you certainly had some challenges in your short life. But you greeted us each morning with your sweet doggy smile, your wagging tail, and always ready to give us lots of love. We are grateful for the time you spent with us. You are deeply missed.

Rest in peace sweet silly Lily. We miss you and love you very much. Love from your forever family, Corey and Anna

Bull advocacy groups to help these dogs thrive while in the shelter, and find loving homes more quickly!

In December 2012, the YCSPCA worked together with Chako Pit Bull Rescue, a Sacramento-based rescue organization, to bring Chako’s “Santa Paws” giving program to YCAS. Chako donated a wonderful variety of interactive toys and chews to help keep the dogs busy in their kennels while they wait to find homes.

The YCSPCA and YCAS are also working with Pit Bulls Against Misinformation (PBAM), a Sacramento-based Pit Bull advocacy group, to “market” Pit Bull mixes in need of adoptive families. Over the last few months, PBAM has successfully used social media to place several shelter Pit Bulls in need in foster or adoptive homes! PBAM also worked hard to set up YCAS’s very first Pit Bull off-site adoption event, which took place in early February. Volunteers from YCAS and PBAM worked together to show off a few of YCAS’s Pit Bulls at Wag Hotels’ West Sacramento location. All involved had a great time, and the event even generated some donations to the program!

Are you interested in helping YCAS’s Pit Bulls? We can always use more volunteers to work with the shelter dogs (and cats)! Applications for becoming a YCAS volunteer can be found on the shelter’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ycas.shelter), under the “Volunteer” tab. If you can’t volunteer but would like to help in some other way, the program can always use monetary donations (see our “How to Donate” tab on YCAS’s Facebook page), or donations of materials like Natural Balance dog food rolls, and food dispensing toys such as large black Kongs.

Kelly Lee, YCSPCA Employee
Kids Who Care

Ms. Tabor teaches first grade and Ms. Lovelace teaches sixth grade at Edna Batey Elementary School. Their classes are buddy classes, with the sixth graders acting as mentors to the first graders. They wanted to do something to help animals and decided to make recycled cat toys to make the lives of the cats better at Yolo County Animal Services. Most of the students have dogs, but some have cats as pets. The cat in the picture below is Randall, the first grade class mascot. The classes said that they liked animals and wanted to do good things for the school and the world. They want to tell other children to be kind to animals, take care of their pets well, and make sure that their pets are all fixed. The classes enjoyed working together on a project to help animals without homes. We wish all animals had what they needed to be happy.

Eliza Meyer is 8 years old and in the third grade. She worked for her grandparents to earn money to donate to the Yolo County SPCA. She likes to listen to animal stories because her favorite things are animals. She wants to tell other children that dogs can save their lives and also that she LOVES dogs. - Shelley Bryant, YCSPCA President

Barn Cats for Hire

Have you heard rustling in your backyard at night? Does the fruit on your trees get eaten before you have a chance to harvest? Do you think that you may have unwelcome visitors of the rodent variety? Are you interested in green vermin and rodent control? If so, Yolo County Animal Services and the Yolo County SPCA may have your answer. Altered, vaccinated and eartipped backyard and barn cats are available to solve your problem. In return for food and shelter and after a short period of confinement, you will have green, fuzzy feline rodent control. To see if this solution will work for you email barncats@yolospca.org for an appointment.

Looking to Donate your Vehicle?

We have partnered with Donate Local!

DonateLocal.com
1-877-4-A-DONATE

Your donation will help us serve the animals of Yolo County!
Recycle Jeans to Make Dog Toys!

Dog toys can be made from old jeans or any pants that are made of tough fabric. You can use your own older jeans or do as I did and get a pair at the Yolo County SPCA Thrift Store. Cut the legs off and then cut or tear them into strips. You can tie knots over and over until you get a ball of fabric or you can tie the ends and braid the strips to make a tug toy. The possibilities are up to you.

- Shelley Bryant, YCSPCA President

Thank You Notes from YCSPCA Volunteers

Dear families and friends,

This is a thank you letter for all of the people who work behind the scenes in the animal rescue world. Those of us who rescue and foster homeless animals do a lot, but without the support of our husbands, wives, children and friends we would not be able to do nearly as much. You help us transport animals and equipment, feed and socialize them when we are away and most importantly help us deal with the emotional turmoil that is animal rescue. - Emily Taylor, YCSPCA Board Member

Dear Kenny,

I remember the first couple of times I had to head out to work when we started dating and always telling you that you didn't need to come with me to work, and you just saying, "Yes I do since it is important to you." I bet you regret it now...little did you know that you would so fully integrate yourself into Saturday placement that now no one, including me, can imagine not having you volunteer one of your weekend days to work, yet again. Thank you so much for all your help!

Anamarie, and I assume most of the Saturday placement crew

Dear Garret,

Thank you for helping socialize feral cats in order to help them become adoptable. Thanks to your extra time and effort more cats have been able to find their forever homes!

Nissa

Dear Jason,

Thank you for all that you do to help me with our fosters as well as our private zoo. The scared, and sometimes ill, little souls who come to our home, leave healthy, happy and much more confident.

You have never told me “no” when I have asked to bring another “tiny in need” home. In fact, you recently brought home your first “off the street” rescue.

I still have to remind you to put down the kittens and let them walk otherwise they will never learn. But nothing gentles a kitten better than you carrying them around and purring to them while holding them close to your chest.

Thank you so much, Jason. Not only for understanding how big of a part of my life rescue is, but for making it a part of yours as well.

Lydia

Dog toys can be made from old jeans or any pants that are made of tough fabric. You can use your own older jeans or do as I did and get a pair at the Yolo County SPCA Thrift Store. Cut the legs off and then cut or tear them into strips. You can tie knots over and over until you get a ball of fabric or you can tie the ends and braid the strips to make a tug toy. The possibilities are up to you.

- Shelley Bryant, YCSPCA President

Soap for Hope Proceeds Benefit Animal Rescue Groups

Carolyn Waggoner

two Calusa Avenue
Davis CA 95618

(530) 756-934

longtime@yellow.com

Let Them Eat Cake!

Gourmet Cupcakes Speciality Cakes

310 C Street
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 790-CAKE
Dear Adam,

Thank you for everything that you do for the Yolo County SPCA, and for me. I want you to know how much I appreciate your help with the foster animals. You help me care for them in our home, transport them to placement, and pick them up from the shelter. Thank you especially for taking care of everyone for the week that I am away at science camp with my class.

Emily

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Esmeralda’s Very Happy Ending

Esmeralda came to the YCSPCA when she was just 7 weeks old and missing her back left paw. She had difficulty walking and maintaining her balance, so when she was big and healthy enough, she had the rest of her back left leg amputated. To add to her troubles, preoperative x-rays revealed her front left leg also had an abnormally healed fracture. Esmeralda was a total sweetheart, even while recovering from her surgery, and learned very quickly how to get around; she had difficulty jumping, but could climb the cat tree faster than anyone else! After a few months in foster care, Esmeralda was very lucky to find the perfect forever home where she can be pampered like the princess she is!

- Leslie Bauer, YCSPCA Secretary

The YCSPCA Thrift Store has Expanded!

Our dreams have come true! On February 22nd, we held our Second Annual Fashion Show at our new “Suite A” location - a long awaited expansion of our thrift store. The public was able to catch a sneak peek of the store the day of the Fashion Show. After much paint, some time, and sweat, we had a new place! Staff and volunteers triumphantly salvaged the place and dubbed it our new addition.

March 1st, 2013 was our official grand opening for the public. Suite A carries some of our “high-end” items that are still at affordable prices, just at a different location. The items in this store vary and include clothing, furniture, and “antique” items. Now you can find us at two different locations! - Romina Muñoz, YCSPCA Thrift Store Employee
YCSPCA Membership Application
I want to help the Yolo County SPCA save abused, injured, and abandoned animals.
I have enclosed my tax-deductible gift of: (Checks payable to Yolo County SPCA)
[ ] Senior/Student/Junior - $10
[ ] Individual - $15
[ ] Family - $25
[ ] Business - $50
[ ] Contribution Only - $____

Your Name: __________________________________  Phone: ________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _______________________________________________________________
Email Address: _______________________________________________________________

Be sure to check out our website at yolospca.org for membership benefits or to sign up online!

Yolo County SPCA
P.O. Box 510
Davis, CA 95617

info@yolospca.org

Creating a More Humane Tomorrow!

Thank you for your continued support!