The Joys of Fostering

Several years ago I got a call from a worried receptionist at a local business. A small dog was hanging out at a construction site and running into traffic. The receptionist was concerned for her safety, but was unable to catch her. I set a small trap, put in some tasty food, and in a few hours I had my dog.

Poor Fara was traumatized. She was wondering where her family was and why she was relying on scraps from compassionate construction workers. I quickly took her home, settled her into a quiet bathroom, and began calming her down. Within a day, she was my best friend.

Unfortunately, Fara was not my first, or last, foundling. These pups are terrified, but warm up quickly with a warm bed and yummy food. After they settle in and get medical care the next step is finding a home. And that’s the hard part!

I’ve had many foster dogs and cats come and go, but the hardest to let go of are those I’ve found. Watching the metamorphosis from terrified canine to warm, snuggling pup is heartwarming, and it can be difficult to send them on their way. But I continue to do it, knowing that the next dog needs my help too.

When I ask people if they are interested in fostering, the response is often “I couldn't let them go” or “I'd keep them all”. It can be difficult to let go. Many foster families focus on the good they are doing, and think about the next pup that will need their help. As foster mom Elizabeth Barton says, “The ups of fostering are the joy of being welcomed by a happy dog when you come home and seeing their personalities change from frightened to enlightened. It’s wonderful to come home everyday to see how you’ve helped them and how thankful the dogs are for that. The only downside is getting attached to the new furry companion, but knowing they’re getting adopted to a forever home that will love them makes it all worthwhile.”

Long time foster mom Cindi Drake says, “Fostering dogs is very rewarding even though it can be challenging sometimes. But that’s the great thing about fostering, you can help...”
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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If you’re interested in fostering an animal, please email dogs@yolospca.org or cats@yolospca.org for more information. - Sharon Montooth, YCSPCA Employee
#Uberpuppies and the Yolo County SPCA

In April, we were approached by the alternative taxi service, Uber, to participate in an innovative service to UC Davis students during finals week. Due to the immense success of a similar event bringing kittens to San Francisco residents, Uber wished to bring puppies to stressed-out UCD students for relaxation and to show off the wonderful adoptable pets in our community.

On June 9th, two shiny SUVs, bearing the stickers “#uberpuppies,” drove the streets of Davis and visited students who requested a visit using the Uber app. The Yolo County SPCA rode in one car with 4 poodle mix puppies and our friends from Yolo County Animal Services rode in a car “delivering” a pit bull mix and 2 adoptable kittens! Demand for the visits was high and both cars continued for 3 hours visiting students who had rushed to their phones requesting some time with the puppies and kittens! Students were also asked to donate using the Uber app and Uber matched all donations. In the end, the Yolo County SPCA received over $350, which helps us provide medical care and find homes for these animals! Thank you so much to Uber and UC Davis students for making such a wonderful event happen! - **Anamarie Johnson, YCSPCA Volunteer Coordinator**

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**Hot, Hot Sun**

Ah, Summer! The glorious time of year for evening walks and outdoor parties. It doesn’t feel quite as idyllic in the middle of the day, however, when you’re cranking the A/C or running errands in the hot sun. Keep in mind that your furry friends feel the same, and they have even less ability to sweat than you do! Pause on hot days and think about your comfort. Would you walk across that parking lot barefoot? Too hot? Then neither should your pet. Think about the temperature it was in your car before you started cranking the A/C. Would you want to sit in 100 plus degree heat? No? Then neither should your pet. While your pooch will love the early morning walks or evening outdoor events, leave him home and comfy for those sweltering day events. If you have to bring them along, bring water for your furry friend and try to imagine going through the day in their paws, not yours. We all know this, but it is easy to forget. Keep an eye out for animals in parked cars or otherwise suffering from the heat, and don’t be afraid to speak up for them! We are their voice when they don’t have one. - **Jill Souza, YCSPCA Employee**
**In Memoriam**

Ivy was rescued from a field as a small kitten in 2001 and quickly became a beloved pet. She was sweet, affectionate, playful, and quirky. Over the last 5+ years she was a great help in assessing and teaching many foster dogs about cats and always gladly accepted new dogs in her territory. She was diagnosed with intestinal lymphoma in June 2013. With treatment and medication, she had mostly good times for almost a year until she finally lost her battle to the disease in May 2014.

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**Tiberius the Escape Artist Cat**

In early May, Sunday moved herself and her three cats from Woodland, California to Salem, Oregon. When she was in the process of moving, her cat, Tiberius, slipped out of the house. Despite a frantic search, she could not find him. She was forced to leave for Oregon without him, but she called the Yolo County SPCA to report him missing and arranged for her neighbor, Chrissie, to leave out food and water for him. There were sightings of him, but he was so scared he would not come to Chrissie or anyone else. Chrissie contacted the Yolo County SPCA to borrow a humane cat trap so she could catch poor Tye Tye. He was so hungry he went right into the trap!

Chrissie brought Tiberius to Yolo County SPCA for safekeeping, whereupon we coordinated with Sunday to get him to Oregon. Sunday contacted Alaska Airlines to make the arrangements for him to fly to Portland, so she could pick him up at the airport. On Friday, May 30th, one of our wonderful employees volunteered her time to bring him to the Alaska Airlines Air Cargo at the Sacramento International Airport and off he went to be reunited with his mom. Although the experience was stressful, it was short-lived and in no time he was back in his mom’s loving arms again!

Sunday shared with me a photo of the Airstream trailer she is currently living in until they move into their new house. I’d say Tye and his buddies Bitter Blue and Dani are happy campers for sure! Sweet Tye loves to be held and purrs readily; we were touched by what a sweet, loving kitty he is and love how dedicated his mom was in getting him home to her.

- Angela Kinn, YCSPCA Lost and Found Coordinator
Humane Lobby Day

On Wednesday, June 11th, the Humane Society of the United States hosted its sixth annual California Humane Lobby Day. The Yolo County SPCA, along with many other organizations such as the ASPCA, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, Sacramento SPCA, Santa Cruz SPCA, Bakersfield SPCA and the Marin Humane Society, was proud and honored to be a sponsor of this important event to help make a tremendous difference for animals. This year, a Humane California Fair was held on the South lawn of the State Capitol from 11am-1pm. It provided an opportunity for visitors to learn more about HSUS’s programs active in California such as Pets for Life and the Stop Puppy Mills Campaign. Partners and Sponsors of Humane Lobby Day also had information on hand about all of their programs.

This event provided an opportunity for animal advocates to meet directly with their assembly member and state senator about legislation that significantly impacts the lives of animals. By attending this year’s Humane Lobby Day, constituents were able to meet with their representatives to discuss the promotion of Meatless Mondays, opposing a bill that would liberalize the killing of wild pigs and not require humane methods, and support a bill to prohibit the use of toxic rodenticides in wildlife protected areas.

The Yolo County SPCA was once again proud to attend and support the HSUS in this year’s California Humane Lobby Day and help make a difference in the lives of animals in our state.

If you would like to stay current on humane legislation and other animal advocacy issues, we encourage you to be a member of the HSUS and ASPCA online communities. Together, we can create a more humane tomorrow. - Kim Kinnee, YCSPCA Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight: Elizabeth St Goar

When did you start volunteering?
I started volunteering with the SPCA in the fall of 2009. I was traveling a fair amount and I liked the idea of having cats at my house when I was home but didn’t think that it was fair to have an animal full time when I was away a lot. Fostering allowed me to do that. Now I foster cats and kittens and I also take photographs of the adoptable dogs and cats.

What is one of your favorite memories/fosters?
The first batch of kittens I took in were healthy but their mom had given her all to her kittens. She was skinny and had matted hair, but over the months, she got healthy and showed that she was a beautiful cat!

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I volunteer at a cooperative photography gallery in Sacramento. I do photography mostly while traveling. In the summer I play golf and in the winter I ski.
Kids Who Care

When eight-year-old Dylan Schwagerus was planning his first Holy Communion, he decided that instead of gifts, he would like his friends to donate dog and cat food to animals in need. He didn’t seem to miss the “typical” gifts at all; he said it was fun to see his friends arriving with bags of cat food! Perhaps Dylan’s generosity stems from having a cat of his own, Coco, and although he knows his kitty is well-fed, he wanted to make sure others were too.

Dylan enjoys going camping, making videos, animals, and going to school at St. James School in Davis, and he loved meeting the Yolo County SPCA adoptable cats when he dropped off his donations! He would like to tell other children that God wants us to help all living things and that includes animals. Dylan, the animals of Yolo County thank you for your generous donation. - Sharon Montooth, YCSPCA Employee

Now I Know my ABCs!

The Yolo County SPCA is often asked why we want our cats to live in inside-only homes. The reason: the cats are safer, and it makes for nicer cat neighbors. What can harm outside cats, and why should you keep them inside? Just turn to your ABCs!

N is for neuter which we can “fix” with one stitch!
O is for owl who takes a cat he sees
P is for poison such as antifreeze
Q is for queens who produce dozens of cats
R is for ringworm that will drive you bats
S is for spay; she doesn’t need to meet a stud!
T is for ticks that suck their blood
U is for unknown, the worst fate of all
V is for veterinary bills, no more trips to the mall
W is for worms, they’ll make kitty feel bad
X is for x-rays, the cost will make you sad
Y is for yowling, it’ll get your neighbors mad quick
Z is for zoonoses, they’ll make you sick

Our cats can sing: “Now I know my ABCs, keep me safe and inside PLEASE!”

- Shelley Bryant, YCSPCA President
Need a little more cute in your life?

Yolo County SPCA’s

Bogo 50% off kitten adoptions!

Now when you adopt two kittens, get 50% off the second adoption fee! What better way to introduce twice the fun and twice the cute into your home?

View our adoptable animals online at: www.yolospca.org
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!