A Day at the Yolo County SPCA Office

The day begins with eight new voicemails, two dozen messages in the email inbox, a bucket of orphaned kittens in the lobby, and a dog found tied to the shelter gate. For the Yolo County SPCA staff stationed at Yolo County Animal Services, it is another day at the office.

For years, YCSPCA has provided rescue, adoption, and lost & found coordination services at the shelter, supplementing the work of shelter staff in the effort to save lives. Throughout the years, YCSPCA staff have helped find positive outcomes for thousands of animals who, for one reason or another, would not have succeeded in the shelter environment. More recently, YCSPCA has assisted in managing the shelter intake to prevent overpopulation, or even keeping animals out of the shelter entirely by helping owners find needed resources or by providing rehoming advice.

The three current staff members are Angela Kinn, Kelly Lee, and Hannah Greenspan. Angela is the office manager and focuses primarily on cat rescue while Kelly focuses on dog rescue and behavior. In addition to supporting Angela and Kelly, office assistant Hannah keeps the database of adoptable animals up to date and manages the lost-and-found. All three counsel adopters, providing advice and resources while also making sure the match is a good one. The list of daily duties by no means ends there.

When a bucket of kittens comes through the door, for instance, YCSPCA jumps into immediate action. They interview the finder to make sure the kittens were truly abandoned by their mother, and if they are, photographs are taken while shelter staff take care of the kittens. Those photographs are sent out with a rescue plea to dozens of rescue partners. If a rescue partner is willing and able to take the little orphans in, YCSPCA coordinates transport for the kittens to wherever they need to go.

For cats and dogs eight weeks and older brought in either by Good Samaritans or animal control field officers, the process is less immediate but no less important. YCSPCA shelter staff first help an animal during its “stray hold,” the three-day period that an owner has to redeem his or her pet. All new arrivals are checked against lost pet reports for any potential matches. If a potential match is made, the owners of the
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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lost pet are contacted and asked to come see if the match is true. Our staff also keep old reports on hand, just in case, and sometimes this dedication pays out by reuniting pets lost months or even years ago with their families! They apply the same dedication to animals who come in with some form of identification, which often means following confusing microchip information trails for potential leads.

When the stray hold is up, cats and dogs are given a behavior evaluation by shelter staff. At this point, YCSPCA staff already have an idea of the options each animal might have, but for animals who will not be going up for adoption at the shelter, rescue options can now be pursued. As with the orphaned kittens, photos are taken and a rescue plea is sent out by email. YCSPCA staff help arrange vetting and transport.

Of course, whether an animal is ready for the adoption floor is not always a clear decision. Some cats and dogs are a little too shy, a little too rowdy, or a little too particular about their ears or tails or any number of other quirks. Angela, Kelly, and Hannah help these borderline candidates by either personally working with them or by recruiting the help of experienced volunteers.

No matter the chaos that walks through the shelter doors—roosters, iguanas, pythons, and tarantulas make the occasional appearance—the YCSPCA shelter staff, like all of us here, are poised to help. - Becca Gimlett, YCSPCA Volunteer Coordinator

Tailwaggin’ and Tasting Success!
Our Tailwaggin’ and Tasting event held at the Turkovich Family Wines Tasting Room in downtown Winters, on Saturday, June 7th, was fantastic! Many people came by to sample lovely Turkovich wines, taste their delicious cheeses, and purchase some great silent auction items, our t-shirts, and magnets. And of course, they were able to visit some of our adoptable (and adorable!) dogs. Lester’s Organic Bakery provided organic dog snacks for sale with proceeds benefitting the Yolo County SPCA. We are grateful to the staff at Turkovich for inviting us out and for all of their help in making this such a successful Tailwaggin’ and Tasting event! - Kim Kinnee, YCSPCA Executive Director

Hannah Greenspan and a YCAS volunteer feed new arrivals
Kids Who Care

Yasmene Christofori-Munir is a 12 year old sixth grader at St. James School in Davis. As the Social Justice Coordinator on the Student Council, she thought it would be a great idea to have a donation drive for the Yolo County SPCA because she loves animals and she knew that the other students and their parents did too. She proposed the fund drive to her student council and to the principal of the school, Mr. Greer. Both the council and Mr. Greer approved Yasmene’s idea.

During the week of September 29th, students, parents, teachers, and staff dropped off many donations in the boxes set up at the front of the school. Over 130 items were donated, including many bags and cans of dog and cat food, treats, cat and dog toys, leashes, collars, harnesses, beds, blankets, a scratching post, and a beautiful cat carrier.

Yasmene and her parents brought these wonderful donations to our placement event on Saturday, October 4th. The majority of these items have already been distributed to our foster homes! According to Yasmene, “It was my proposal to do the donation drive for SPCA, but it only succeeded because my school supported the idea and because children, parents, and teachers made generous donations. I hope we can make this an annual event. We admire the SPCA and are glad for its work!”

We, too, hope that this continues to be an annual event. We admire and thank Yasmene for her thoughtfulness and the St. James community for its generosity! - Kim Kinnee, YCSPCA Executive Director

Bingo Benefits Yolo County SPCA

Supporters and friends of the Yolo County SPCA are invited to play BINGO in a special benefit. This special afternoon of Bingo is sponsored by the Davis Odd Fellows, with all proceeds going to the YCSPCA. Doors open at noon, and games begin at 1pm on Sunday, December 14th, at the Odd Fellows Hall, 415 Downtown Davis.

This is a fun and easy way to spend an afternoon with friends and family! The Davis Odd Fellows are licensed by the City of Davis to run real Bingo games, and prizes up to $250 per game are awarded. Players purchase their Bingo cards for $20 for the entire afternoon (there is also an economy pack available for $12). In addition to Bingo, players may purchase instant cash winner pull tabs (for 50 cents each) and extra bonus sheets (for $1 each). Only those 18 and older may attend Bingo at the Odd Fellows Lodge.

The more folks who come out to play Bingo on December 14th, the more funds we will raise for the YCSPCA, so bring your friends, family and neighbors and enjoy an afternoon of fun. - Lea Rosenberg, YCSPCA Board Member
Discover Davis
The Yolo County SPCA and many other local vendors welcomed back UC Davis Students at Discover Davis on October 1st. This exciting event, coordinated by the Davis Chamber of Commerce and Davis Downtown, was held at Central Park in downtown Davis. With Farmer’s Market bustling, music playing, and the UC Davis Band-uh marching, it was a great opportunity to greet students as they began their fall 2014 quarter. We were happy to promote the activities of the Yolo County SPCA, recruit volunteers, and share the wonderful shopping opportunities our thrift store provides. - Kim Kinnee, YCSPCA Executive Director

Empty Our Shelter
Although the kennels were not empty at the end of the last day, those behind the Empty Our Shelter event at Yolo County Animal Services Oct. 17-19 are calling it a success with 35 adoptions in 21 hours—an animal off to a new, loving home every 36 minutes.

“Our whole community rallied to make this happen,” said Kathy Anderson, Volunteer Programs Coordinator for the shelter. “We tried something new and had fantastic results.”

This year, the Yolo County shelter teamed up with four other Greater Sacramento agencies for the event, which is part of a nationwide ASPCA campaign called MegaMatch, with a goal of 500 adoptions over the weekend. The four other agencies—Sacramento City Shelter, Sacramento SPCA, and Happy Tails—won the event last year.

By the end of this year’s MegaMatch event, 449 dogs and cats from the region found their homes during the Empty Our Shelter weekend, including the 16 dogs and 19 cats from Yolo County. The record for the most adoptions in one day, set at 16 from last June, is now 17.

The success was not just all in the forever homes either. “The event was not only an opportunity for adoptions but also a great time to spend with all the other volunteers!” said Celia Zamorano, a shelter volunteer who helped staff the event. “Had a great time with [everyone]!”- Becca Gimlett, YCSPCA Volunteer Coordinator

Greetings from our New Volunteer Coordinator
Greetings! My name is Becca Gimlett, and I am the new Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for the Yolo County SPCA. I bring with me a love for animals, a passion for volunteering, and a healthy if not quite plentiful enough amount of cat hair.

I am very glad, and extremely excited, to be back with the YCSPCA. Last year, I had the joy of working with the YCSPCA staff at Yolo County Animal Services while the shelter participated in the ASPCA Rachael Ray $100k Challenge. When the
Challenge ended, I left to join the “Real World” I had heard so much about. As it turns out, you can take a gal out of animal rescue, but you can never take animal rescue out of a gal.

To be entirely truthful, I think I was doomed the moment I began volunteering at Yolo County Animal Services back in June, 2012. I was still an undergrad at UC Davis, and really, truthfully, I was just looking for something to do in my free time. Just a few hours here and there, because I missed my pets back home and I had a teensy amount of experience in behavior and training, and it was the right thing to do.

Volunteering turned out to be a lot more complicated than just playing with dogs and cats. But guiding me through it the first few days were some of the most wonderful people I have ever met and ever will meet: My mentor volunteers. By the 4th of July that year, I was so thoroughly hooked that I very nearly lived at the shelter for the rest of the summer. I continued to live there, practically, well into the fall, winter, and spring.

Truth be told, I don’t think I can properly express the impact volunteering has had on my life. It led me into a career I had never before considered and dramatically altered the roadmap of my life. It introduced me to a community of kind, compassionate, dedicated people and it made me a stronger, better, more genuine human being.

Think of it like this: In a lifetime, the average person may only get the honor of knowing a few dozen dogs and cats, but because I am an animal rescue volunteer, I have helped hundreds and been touched by thousands. I still remember their names.

Now I’m a volunteer coordinator. I hope I can help our volunteers have an experience even a fraction as enriching, rewarding, and empowering as I did. And maybe, if I am lucky, I will have the privilege of fostering a love of animal rescue so deeply into a few of our volunteers that they too will be always be brought back to homeless, hurting paws in need of a helping hand. - **Becca Gimlett, YCSPCA Volunteer Coordinator**

Tanner has been volunteering with the Yolo County SPCA for about a year, and his parents couldn’t be prouder. “He considers this his job,” says his mom, Tina, who explained Tanner hates to miss our Saturday adoption events.

For Tanner, it’s all about the dogs. “I like dogs,” he says when asked about why he began volunteering. “I want to help dogs.”

And help dogs he does. Tanner is always one of the first volunteers to arrive, the last to leave, and eagerly helps wherever he is needed. When visitors pass by, he is quick to introduce the dog or dogs in his care.

His current favorite is Cinnabun, a young terrier mix who is “small and cute and easy to be with.”

It’s no surprise at all that Tanner is thinking about being a veterinarian when he grows up! - **Becca Gimlett, YCSPCA Volunteer Coordinator**
YCSPCA Annual Meeting
The Yolo County SPCA will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, December 4th, 2014 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held at the Pilsner Room at Sudwerk, 2001 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618.

The election of Board members and officers will be held during the annual meeting. The nominees for the Board as of the time of publication of this newsletter are: Leslie Bauer, Kerry Duncan, Kim Pruett, Lea Rosenberg, Laurie Siperstein-Cook DVM, and Emily Taylor. Their statements of qualification will be available during the meeting and are available on our website yolospca.org. Nominations for eligible candidates will also be accepted from the floor at the time of the meeting.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Kim Kinnee, Executive Director, at 530-902-6264 or at info@yolospca.org.-Kim Kinnee, Executive Director

Vanillape’s Transformation

When you are in animal rescue, you never know what each day will bring. One such day, a friend and I were visiting a local county shelter. My friend happened to be the very passionate foster/rescue coordinator. As we were walking through the rooms and peeking in each kennel, I spotted a dark shadow with copper colored eyes peering back at me. The shadow appeared to be a cat under a large, matted coat. We were concerned that she may not receive the more extensive and specialized care she would need to be adoptable, so I gathered her right up and took her home and she became a Yolo County SPCA foster kitty.

The first task was grooming. My fiance and I spent 4 hours shaving all the mats off, most of which were filled with leaf litter, burrs, stickers, and detritus. We were not sure how well she was able to relieve herself due to the extensive matting. She was so tolerant through all the fussing. Under all the knots and filth was a very sweet Persian kitty. We started calling her Princess Vanillape Von Schweetz. Vanillape seemed quite pleased with the name, so it stuck.

Due to previous neglect and the extensive matting, Vanillape had an eye infection, skin wounds, and a skin infection. She had a nail that had been torn and had to be removed. Despite her poor condition, her personality quickly blossomed. Vanillape is a sweet, gentle, patient kitty with a sense of humor. Each day of soothing baths, good food, brushing and snuggling brought her outer beauty to the surface. She enjoyed couch cuddling, but also loved to explore the house and play in boxes.

After a dental cleaning and several weeks of spa-level body restorative care, Princess Vanillape Von Schweetz was ready to meet her public. She was an instant favorite with the fabulous volunteers helping with the adoption events and Vanillape’s easy going, adaptable personality made it easier for her to meet new people. She met her wonderful forever friends and went home a much changed kitty: From a dirty, depressed, lost kitty to a Princess destined to be spoiled like the royalty she is. She is truly a diamond found in the rough.-Lydia Caronna-Craig, YCSPCA Board Member
Please join us for a Bingo Benefit for

Yolo County SPCA

Sunday, December 14th - 1 p.m.
Doors open soon after 12 noon
The Odd Fellows Hall
415 Second Street, Downtown Davis
Parking is plentiful and free
Seating is limited. Cash prizes for winners.

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<th>Pull-Tabs</th>
<th>Snacks &amp; Fun</th>
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Bingo game packs can be purchased at the door for $12 or $20 per pack. You may purchase as many as you wish.

Win up to $250

Instant winner pull-tabs and bonus games available for $1 each.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF),
Davis - Lodge Number 169

All proceeds of Bingo after expenses go to the Yolo County SPCA!
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!