A Look Back at 2013

It is always nice to look back at the previous year to see what we did to help the animals in need in our community. It is my pleasure to share with you that we helped over 4,400 animals in 2013. We are able to help so many animals because of the efforts and support of our wonderful staff and volunteers and from those who provide financial support and donate and shop at our thrift store, which continues to be our main fundraising source.

Proceeds from the YCSPCA Thrift Store fund our office at Yolo County Animal Services (YCAS) where we provide additional support to the animals and employees at this facility. Our staff oversees the adoption of the adoptable shelter animals, the lost/found pet program, and coordinates the transfer of animals who are not able to be adopted out of the shelter with rescue organizations. They also oversee and manage the Community Cat and Barn Cat Programs, which provide options for cats that might not be suitable as household pets but are at risk of euthanasia in a shelter environment. During 2013, our staff helped facilitate the rescue of 469 dogs and 394 cats, the transfer of 180 cats and dogs to other shelters, and the adoption of 530 cats and 434 dogs. Through the community cat and barn cat programs, 214 cats were returned to their origin, and 31 more were placed in barn homes. Even more exciting was helping 59 cats and 605 dogs be reunited with their owners.

Our foster home program enables us to care for animals that sometimes just need love and socialization in order to become adoptable and many times can save them from dangerous situations or even euthanasia. Our volunteer caregivers nurture many homeless dogs, cats, puppies and kittens, some of which are sick, injured or underage, until they are ready to be adopted. While the Yolo County SPCA gives support by providing food, medications, veterinary care and guidance, foster families open their homes to these animals for
what can sometimes be long periods of time. Because of the wonderful network of foster homes, close to 200 dogs and puppies and over 200 cats and kittens were adopted last year. Providing low cost spay and neuter services to the companion animals of income-qualified Yolo County residents is an important priority for our organization. We are fortunate that some veterinary clinics provide us with discounted services for our foster animals. Animal Wellness Center and Yolo Veterinary Clinic allow us to bring in many dogs of clients in need. We also continued monthly trips to Animal Spay and Neuter Clinic in Auburn and were able spay/neuter over 520 cats in 2013.

We continue to provide financial support to the Sacramento Area Animal Coalition for their voucher program that issues vouchers to income qualified residents of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Our donations specifically target Yolo residents and in 2013 we funded the spay/neuter of almost 600 animals of income-qualified clients. Of these clients almost 60% were from Woodland and West Sacramento; two cities we specifically want to target since the greatest number of animals coming in to our local shelter are from these two communities. These efforts ensure that we are playing an active role in getting as many animals in Yolo County spayed and neutered as we can.

It is gratifying to realize that our efforts assisted over 4,400 animals in need in Yolo County last year. We are fortunate to be able to do this with our wonderful staff, volunteers and the support of our community. In 2014 our goal is to create as many options as possible for the animals in need in our county. Thanks to the contributions of our members, volunteers, employees and the public we are working together to create a more humane tomorrow.

Kim Kinnee,
YCSPCA Executive Director
Kitten Season

If you’ve fostered cats or been involved in cat rescue, then you’ve heard a lot about kitten season. As a long time foster home for Yolo County SPCA, I can’t speak for other areas of the country, but I can tell you about my experience in Yolo County. The term ‘kitten season’ is a misnomer; it creates confusion and implies that there is only one season in the year where you might expect to see lots of kittens being born. I have come to find that it is, indeed, the opposite. There are plenty of kittens being born year-round, with a brief respite from some point in December through (hopefully) late February. I have begun to mentally dub this period the ‘non-kitten season.’

For those of us fostering kittens, this period helps us to better keep up with the demand for foster home space, and acts as a chance to showcase the incredibly awesome juvenile or adult cats we foster who often sit ignored while smaller kittens are available. How is this period relevant to those of you not rescuing kittens? It’s the ideal time to spay or neuter that stray hanging around; it’s also the ideal time to convince a friend that their cat doesn’t need to have multiple litters in the coming months. It is ALWAYS a good time to get a cat fixed, but being proactive and making that happen during “non-kitten season” will help our county, and its felines, stay one step ahead. - Jill Souza, YCSPCA Spay/Neuter Coordinator

Shop to Benefit the Yolo County SPCA

We now have two new ways that you can donate to the Yolo County SPCA while getting some awesome products!

ResQThreads is a New York based startup that produces and sells rescue-related clothes and accessories. The founder, Bailey Schroder, was inspired to create the company after adopting her amazing Chow Chow Charlie, who has also become the design inspiration for the company and its coffee off-shoot, Dapper Dog Coffee. Every time you buy a shirt, coffee, or bag, you can donate to the Yolo County SPCA and show off your rescue pride!

We have also recently partnered with local Superior Farms Pet Provisions that sells all natural lamb and venison doggie treats. All of their doggie models were rescued from Central California shelters, which we obviously love. Shop online and use the code “YOLOSPCA” and they will donate 10% of the purchase amount to us! - Anamarie Johnson, YCSPCA Volunteer Coordinator

www.resqthreads.com

www.superiorfarmspet.com
In Memoriam

Topsie

I lost my Topsie on February 12th. She was my monkey, my clown, my mama’s girl. Where ever I was, she was right there looking up at me with her big brown eyes. She was one happy & tough little girl who left us way too soon. I feel so blessed that she was in my life. I love you & miss you Monkey, R.I.P.

Petipaw

Petipaw was rarely on his own. He was usually under a pile of foster kittens or cuddled with Riesling or one of the other cats. He taught our volunteers that being different isn’t bad. He was deaf and as a foster kitten people thought he was pretty but once they found that he was deaf they didn’t want to touch him. As if it was communicable. He was always in my lap and we napped together. I miss him.

Why so many Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas?

Many visitors to animal shelters are curious: Why are the dog populations so dominated by these two “breeds”? Here are three reasons:

1) Everything is a “pit bull” or a chihuahua. “Pit bull” is not a breed of dog. As used by the public and by shelters, “pit bull” is a catch-all term used to label any dog over 25 lbs. with a short coat and a square-ish head. Some people do use “Pit Bull” to refer specifically to the American Staffordshire Terrier (an American Kennel Club-recognized breed) or the American Pit Bull Terrier (a United Kennel Club-recognized breed), but this is not the common usage. Dogs falling under this label for the most part represent mixed-breed dogs that may or may not have any APBT or AST in their lineage. Likewise, many dogs under 15 lbs. with short coats are likely to be labeled a Chihuahua or Chihuahua mix. This lumping of dogs, most of which are mixed-breed, into a small number of categories contributes to the appearance of a homogenous shelter population.

2) Pit bull-type and Chihuahua-type dogs are popular! The dogs you see in the shelter all came from our community.

3) Pit bull-type dogs have lower adoption rates. There are many reasons pit bull-type dogs take longer to find homes than other breeds; the most commonly cited reason for not considering a pit bull-type dog is the (inaccurate) belief that they are dangerous dogs. Even when an adopter would like to adopt a pit bull-type dog, many insurance companies have discriminatory policies that make it difficult for home owners and renters to own pit bull-type dogs.

What can you do to address the plight of pit bull-type and chihuahua-type dogs? Treat each dog as an individual, deserving of individual consideration. Adopt or foster one of these dogs. Volunteer with or donate to a shelter or rescue group. Give your business to insurance companies and property owners who do not discriminate by dog breed. Speak out against breed-specific legislation. Homeless animals are created by our communities, and community involvement is the key to saving as many as possible. - Kelly Lee, YCSPCA Employee
Loose Dogs: What Should I Do?

We’ve all been there—you drive by a dog on the side of the road and realize no owner is around. You want to help, but are not sure how to proceed. What can you do?

1. Keep yourself safe. If it’s not safe for you to stop, don’t. If you have young children in the car, think carefully about allowing an unfamiliar dog in your car. A lost dog can be a scared dog, a scared dog may bite or bolt into traffic. Be safe.

2. Evaluate the dog from a distance. Is it wagging it’s tail and approaching people in a friendly manner? Can you see tags on the dog? This may be a dog that requires a simple phone call to an owner.

3. Often, the dog is unfriendly or scared. If you don’t see tags, you may not be able to reach an owner. Always have a plan before you attempt to contain the animal. Are you comfortable taking it to animal control? Are they open, or will you have to keep the dog overnight? Will you keep the dog until an owner is found or will you find a new owner? Find out what your rights and responsibilities are for the dog and owner. Take the dog to a vet and get it scanned for a chip. Veterinarians do this for free. Have a solid plan.

We don’t advise capturing a dog that does not appear friendly, but there are things you can do to help the animal.

1. Knock on a few doors in the neighborhood and see if someone knows the dog. Focus on homes with open gates.

2. Contact Animal Control and see if anyone has reported a lost dog.

3. Many communities use social media to locate and advertise lost and found animals. Search facebook, wiki pages, and the local newspaper.

It’s important to understand the limitations of animal control agencies and rescues. Almost all animal control agencies have space and budgetary constraints and must make difficult decisions about how to best allocate their resources.

Be safe, know your limitations, and thank you for helping the animals! - Sharon Montooth, YCSPCA Employee

Hardest To Adopt

If only we could explain to our foster animals why we bring them to Petco. We’d say, “this is how you are going to find your forever person; someone to love you always.” Too bad they don’t understand. We are pre-programmed to find baby animals cute. In terms of adoptability of a cat, this means that the smaller, the better. If a kitten doesn’t get adopted promptly at an adoption event (which often happens if there are more kittens than people to adopt them), they may make it to adulthood in our foster homes. Being an adult, black (or a more common color), shy in new situations, sensitive to dogs or sensitive to commotion are just a few things that keep awesome cats from showing their true potential at an adoption event. Want a professional tip? Read the bio. They are written by those who have lived with the cat and know them best; that will be your cue to whether a particular feline is your match. Jill Souza, YCSPCA Spay/Neuter Coordinator
Volunteer Spotlight: Lauren Bishop

When did you start volunteering with the Yolo County SPCA?

I started volunteering with Yolo County SPCA pretty recently actually - in July 2013. I kind of fell into volunteering with YCSPCA when a friend of a friend found a dog and couldn’t keep her; I offered to take the dog until a permanent home could be found. I contacted Sharon, the YCSPCA foster dog coordinator, who agreed to take her into the foster system if I fostered her. Cali got adopted two weeks later, and the rest is history!

What do you do with the Yolo County SPCA?

I do many things with YCSPCA. I started out just fostering dogs and volunteering on Saturdays. Now, I also am a member of the YCSPCA Board. I am now learning how to counsel adoptions! Helping out with the adoption events at Petco is the highlight of my week. I love being with all the happy dogs and all the people who are just as passionate about animal rescue as I am.

Do you have pets of your own?

I have a blonde spaniel mix named Addy who I adopted from Kritter Kamp Rescue in Elk Grove. She is the light of my life and the apple of my eye! My family also has Kobe, who is a brindle pit and Dutch shepherd mix, who we adopted from Yolo County Animal Services last year. He is such a strong boy who loves nothing more than to cuddle on the couch. We call him our tiger-bunny! I have also had 11 foster dogs who each have left a little bit of themselves with me and have taken some of my heart with them.

Why do you enjoy volunteering with us?

I feel that animal rescue is that one, true passion that will guide my life. Volunteering with YCSPCA and Kritter Kamp Rescue in Elk Grove has helped me develop my passion, find ways to expand my knowledge, and has given me some really great role models and inspirations. Without the guidance, encouragement, (and realism) that my fellow volunteers and animal-lovers have shared with me, I don’t think that I would have been able to achieve what I have so far. I have helped some really
amazing dogs come out of their shell and get adopted. I have spent countless hours at all times of the day cleaning, socializing, playing, talking to people about dogs, and doing whatever needs doing! I come home exhausted, but smiling from ear-to-ear.

And of course, the really big reason I enjoy volunteering is the ANIMALS. I love watching dogs go from timid little creatures to excited full-of-life beautiful beings. They lift up my spirit and remind me of how I want to live my life.

Pixie: The “Not So Feral” Kitten

In a little corner of Yolo County, my family cares for a small “community” cat colony. Some of these cats are wild, others were left there by humans.

One of my nieces became particularly attached to a young, fluffy female that she named “Pixie”.

Pixie was not born into the colony - she was dropped off there by someone who saw other cats already living in that spot. Pixie was much more tame than the other cats there. She had to learn how to live outside, and how to get along with the other colony cats.

As spring approached we realized it was time to get Pixie spayed before more kittens began arriving!

Getting Pixie into a cardboard carrier at her colony site was easy - she likes being petted and held by her feeders.

The real problems began later at my house. We were trying to transfer Pixie into a cage in preparation for the next day’s cat spay clinic. During this process, Pixie escaped and began “flying” around the room!!

We quietly left the room, allowing the cat to calm down and feel safe again. A few hours later Pixie wanted to be petted, then she went calmly into the cage. And continued to “talk”, giving play and love!

Upon her return from the vet, Pixie was very glad to be with her humans. Pixie clearly preferred an indoor lifestyle.

One of the other colony feeders had room for another indoor cat - he was quite eager to add Pixie to his family. Pixie arrived at her new home last week and was greeted warmly! - Kim Pruett, YCSPCA Board Member

Please join us for some Tailwaggin’ and Tasting at the Turkovich Family Wines Tasting room at 304 Railroad Avenue in Winters, on Saturday June 7th. You can enjoy some lovely Turkovich wine and visit some adoptable dogs from the Yolo County SPCA from 12-5pm that day! While you can enjoy the wine for free, all donations to wine tasting will be welcome and given to the Yolo County SPCA.

Lester’s Organic Bakery will also have some organic dog snacks for sale, with proceeds benefitting us as well. So take a lovely drive out to Winters and enjoy some Tailwaggin’ and Tasting on Saturday, June 7th! We hope to see you there!

www.turkovichwines.com
Thank you for your continued support!

Creating a More Humane Tomorrow!