



FAITHFUL SPRING 2019

PAWSITIVE STEPS ACADEMY

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The girls are taught a variety of positive attributes such as selflessness, patience, and reliability that will bode well for them upon their exit from juvenile camp. The kittens receive personal attention, nurturing, and ultimately a loving home. The program is a win-win for all involved.

Chief Deputy Probation Officer Sheila Mitchell



In September 2018, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control launched Pawsitive Steps Academy, an innovative foster program developed in partnership with the Probation Department and Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, and Health Services. The first of its kind, the program pairs underage kittens in need of temporary care with juvenile girls at Camp Scott probation camp in Santa Clarita. As part of an eight-week program, the girls learn animal care, behavior, and animal medical care while taking care of the kittens on site. In addition to animal care the program teaches them valuable leadership skills, teamwork, problem solving, and gives them an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings through creative writing.

Pawsitive Steps Academy recognizes the importance of the human-animal bond and its positive effects on the emotional well-being of adolescents. While the girls receive wrap-around services such as mental health counseling, school programs, and much more, the kittens provide an extra level of comfort and responsibility. Many of the girls at Camp Scott have experienced trauma and some form of abuse; the kittens bring therapeutic benefits, allowing them to heal and to learn to comfort themselves. The girls work closely with Animal Care and Control facilitators and are responsible for monitoring the health of the kittens, reporting on their progress, and helping to find them homes. At the end of the eight-week program, the girls receive a certificate and participate in a graduation ceremony, which they help plan and host. The girls write poems and stories cataloging their experiences, describing how the program

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AVOIDANCE



One of the most commonly presented behavior concerns in cats is litterbox avoidance. Litterbox avoidance is defined

as when a cat urinates or defecates inappropriately outside of the litterbox. Most often this is seen as sudden behavior change in cats who have previously been reliable with their litterbox use. However, at times it is also seen in younger cats.

As with all sudden changes in behavior, if your cat stops reliably using his or her litterbox out of the blue a veterinary appointment is in order. Medical conditions such as urinary tract infections or some metabolic diseases may make your cat feel as if he or she needs to eliminate more urgently, thus making it difficult to make it to the litterbox in time. Once seen by a veterinarian, and if no medical cause is found, the next step is to start looking at environmental and behavioral causes.

With litterbox use problems, there is frequently an event that can be tied to the start of the behavior change. Looking back at the history, a major life change is often noted just prior to the start of the new behavior. Some examples include moving to a new home, a new baby, or the addition of another pet to the family. Sometimes the trigger is less obvious and may simply be a new stray cat in the neighborhood. Identifying the event that caused the change in behavior is useful information to have when trying to find a solution the inappropriate elimination, but it is not always necessary.

When determining a plan to resolve litterbox avoidance issues, the first step is to determine the motivation for not using the litterbox. The three

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The Los Angeles County
Animal Care Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable foundation that supports the animals served by the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control. The Animal Care Foundation provides help to more than 70,000 animals each year. Through the leadership of a volunteer Board of Directors, money raised by the Animal Care Foundation is used in many ways to enhance the care and increase the adoption of unwanted animals.

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PAWSITIVE STEPS ACADEMY continued ...

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helps them to cope with being at camp, and work through challenging feelings. After graduation, the girls serve as mentors to the next cohort of participants, training them to take on the tasks and care of the kittens.

The goal of the program is two-fold, to provide an outlet for at-risk kittens brought into shelters and to provide comfort and skills to girls in probation camps. The ultimate goal is to create educational and career opportunities for the girls once they leave camp. Many of the girls have expressed interest in pursuing jobs at Animal Care and Control and keep in touch with the department representatives. The program is incredibly heartwarming and rewarding for all involved. Probation staff remark that the girls are calmer, more engaged, and they express that they enjoy having the kittens in their workspace. Animal Care and Control staff and volunteers involved in the program express deep gratitude at witnessing the girls interact with the kittens and blossom into collaborative team members and leaders. In addition to being a unique program, Pawsitive Steps Academy highlights the power of collaboration within government; five county agencies worked tirelessly to develop and implement it.

In the short time since the program launched it has already received

recognition at the national level. Maddie's Fund and Petsmart Charities awarded grant funding to cover medical care, supplies, and transportation. The program was selected as a speaker session at the 2019 Association for Animal Welfare Advancement Management Conference and Pawsitive Steps Academy is a wildcard contender for a 2019 Petco Foundation Innovation Showdown Grant. The long-term goal is to expand the program to other probation camps and to serve as a model for other communities.

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We are so excited about our partnership with the Probation Department. Pawsitive Steps Academy saves the lives of vulnerable kittens while teaching valuable skills to young women, in an educational and supportive environment. The opportunities for expansion and replication of its success are tremendous, and we look forward to seeing this program flourish.

Animal Care and Control Director Marcia Mayeda

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The Pawsitive Steps Academy demonstrates the good that can be accomplished when agencies collaborate with a goal to help those in need. It not only provides supportive care to kittens, so they can be adopted, but also gives valuable skills and knowledge to young women improving their lives within the probation setting and afterwards. We look forward to seeing continued success helping youth and kittens as it expands to other sites.

Environmental Health Interim Director Brenda J. Lopez



SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE REPORT

The Woolsey Fire required an unprecedented response from DACC. DACC was the lead agency in rescuing and caring for 800 displaced animals. DACC also had to evacuate the Agoura Animal Care Center due to threat from the fires (all animals were safely relocated and the ACC was not damaged).

The Foundation's Noah's Legacy fund, established to provide financial assistance for the rescue and care of animals during emergencies, received many generous donations. The Foundation will be purchasing a mobile medical response vehicle to provide first aid in the field, and has purchased three additional livestock trailers for rescues.



The Woolsey Fire was the most devastating and damaging fire in the history of Los Angeles County. DACC and the Foundation are grateful to the mutual aid agencies that supported DACC's efforts, our wonderful volunteers, and the generous donors who provided donations of money, food, and supplies to help the animals and their families get through this terrible situation. It is rewarding when communities come together to help, and DACC and the Foundation will continue to be here for the animals!











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ANIMAL CARE CENTER LOCATIONS

Agoura 29525 Agoura Road Agoura Hills, CA 91301 818-991-0071

Baldwin Park 4275 N. Elton Avenue Baldwin Park, CA 91706 626-962-3577

Carson/Gardena 216 W. Victoria Street Gardena, CA 90248 310-523-9566

Castaic 31044 N. Charlie Canyon Road Castaic, CA 91384 661-257-3191

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Palmdale 38550 Sierra Highway Palmdale, CA 93550 661-575-2888

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PROTECTING ANIMALS & ENFORCING THE LAW

CASE #1: Officers from DACC's Lancaster Animal Care Center impounded 13 extremely ill Chihuahuas. The dogs were emaciated and sickly from living in severe hoarding conditions.

The DACC officers were alerted to the hoarding by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The homeowner was arrested by sheriffs for threatening a water district employee with bodily harm for shutting off his water due to non-payment. He was also found to have illegal firearms in his possession.

All dogs were seized by authorities. The Chihuahuas were taken to the Lancaster ACC where they were brought back to health. All were adopted — including puppies that were born at the care center!

The offender pled to one felony count of criminal threat, three counts of felony possession of firearms and three counts of felony animal cruelty. He was convicted and sent to state prison for seven years.

CASE #2: Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control officers responded to a call regarding underweight livestock. Dalton Celauis of the Val Verde area of Los Angeles County was arrested due to the malnourished condition of three horses and a cow on his property.

The defendant pled to one count of felony animal cruelty and one count of misdemeanor animal cruelty. He has been ordered to complete 24 hours in animal neglect classes, 30 days of community service, and he will be sentenced to three years of summary probation. During this period of time, officers may inspect his premises without a search warrant. If he does not complete the classes and community service he will be sentenced to three years of formal probation. In addition, the defendant may not care for or possess animals for ten years and must pay restitution.

The animals, which were seized by DACC, were nursed back to health and all adopted.



CASE #3: A man in the inland empire was found by DACC officers to be hoarding animals. Several of the animals died and some were so ill that they were humanely euthanized. The remainder of animals were seized and he was remanded to a state mental hospital for more than a year.

When he was in the hospital, doctors determined that he had a heart valve condition that would have killed him had he not been placed in the hospital. He subsequently had open heart surgery that saved his life.

He pled to the charges against him and is ordered to attend 24 animal neglect classes, report regularly to an assigned probation officer, continue treatment with a mental health professional, and he may no longer care for or possess animals for the next ten years. Additionally, he must pay restitution and is subject to search and seizure without a search warrant for the term of his probation.

DREAMS COME TRUE

The "Dreams Come True" program provides financial support for special surgeries, procedures, and medications for animals in our care. It is funded by the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation and saves the lives of pets whose medical illnesses or injuries are too extensive and too costly to treat through the normal course of DACC veterinary services. For more information, visit the ACF website at lacountyanimals.org.

Josie

A beautiful yellow Labrador Retriever was brought into the Castaic Animal Care Center (ACC) with a badly broken leg. Josie had been hit by a car on the freeway. Only 10 months old and very scared, she was lucky that passerby Jon Duncan rescued her and took her where he knew she would be helped.

DACC's own Dr. Bijula Yusin examined Josie and diagnosed her with a coxofemoral luxation of her right leg, adding that femoral head osteotomy surgery would be required. In simpler terms, it is the removal of the "ball" part of the ball-and-socket that makes the hip joint.

Josie's owner was located but he was unable to pay for the surgery she needed and surrendered her to the ACC. Dr. Yusin believed Josie would be a good candidate for the 'Dreams Come True' program.

The Dreams Come True (DCT) program provides special surgeries, procedures, and medications for animals in the County's care. It is funded by the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation (ACF) and saves the lives of pets whose medical illnesses or injuries are too extensive and too costly to treat through the normal course of the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) veterinary services.



Meanwhile, Jon Duncan had inquired about Josie and stated that he would like to adopt her and give her the follow-up care she would need after the surgery. Once she stabilized, Jon took Josie home to continue her rehabilitation and to welcome her to her forever home. He keeps in contact with the Castaic ACC team and continues to be grateful for the care they gave her.

After

GROOMING GIVES HOPE

Lucy and Woofie are two lucky dogs! When they arrived at DACC's Downey Animal Care Center, they weren't looking their best. In fact, they were so desperately in need of baths and haircuts that they were immediately chosen to be recipients of the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation's Grooming Gives Hope program.

The Grooming Gives Hope (GGH) program provides grooming for pets at our animal care centers who have arrived with overgrown, matted, and dirty fur. Grooming greatly increases their comfort by relieving the pain that matted fur can cause. It also can reveal underlying medical concerns and gives them critical TLC to help their true personality's blossom. Not only does it make them happy and more visually attractive, it also increases their chances of being adopted.

Lucy, a 6-year-old Terrier and Woofie, a 2-year-old Maltese were adopted within days of their grooming to their forever homes. Lucky, indeed!



Alter

Before

Voofie

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Alicia Abbott - in memory of Taffy O'Grady Yvonne Acosta - in memory of Dusty Zachary Aisley - in memory of Earl Metzner Valerie Alter - in memory of Fish T. Dog Stacey Amshel - in memory of Dinah Cheryl Anderson - in memory of Midnight Chelsea Archuleta - in memory of Zeus & Angel Marie Christine L. Arias - in memory of Oreo & Ditto Paul Aronzon - in memory of Butterscotch Joyce Asher - in memory of Nancy Rehm Megan Auster-Rosen - in memory of Rachel Auster-Rosen

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The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions made in memory of loved ones.

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Rebekah Zinn - in memory of Sandy Soti

Amber Zinser - in memory of Buddy, Buster & Cinder

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HONORARIUM GIFTS

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and Girlie Victoria Burtrum - in honor of Penny Heffernan Iean Caprio - in honor of Savannah

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Von Edwards - in honor of Ricky Martinez Robin Elie - in honor of Lexi & Roxie Hunter Barry Ellis - in honor of Carole Cassoff Harolyn Erickson - in honor of Robyn Ludwin Martha Feninger - in honor of Shadow Esther Estrada - in honor of Brandie Robert Esworthy - in honor of Bob & Anna Esworthy Robert & Anna Esworthy - in honor of Steve Esworthy Sean Everett - in honor of Booker Dean

Elisa Ezor - in honor of Maverick & Sophie Cameron Grant Fehr - in honor of Gracie Maria & Adalberto Fernandez - in honor of Charlie Allyn Field - in honor of Sarah Field & Zoey Natalie Fleming - in honor of Woody John Foden - in honor of Dixie & Brit Derek Forbes - in honor of Shannon Forbes Lucy Ford - in honor of Cal Wiggin Gregg Forman – in honor of Vicki Foreman Stay Fortner - in honor of Pepito Foerster Erin M. Foster - in honor of Laura Flett

Julia Foster - in honor of Tammy Lemelle Timothy Free - in honor of David Free Sarah Frier - in honor of Miranda Helely Fumiko Fukuzawa - in honor of Hanako IV Shane Gagnon - in honor of Brandi Gagnon Randall Galmish - in honor of Paisley Vincent Gannuscio - in honor of Zaida Duran Susan Garvey - in honor of Quinn Cathleen Gehrke - in honor of Maggie Corrigar Lisa Getson - in honor of Deke the Westie Joanie & Tom Getz - in honor of Bubbles & Roomer Rosenberg Jilliane Gilbert - in honor of Coco Ibraheim Laurel Goins – in honor of Dr. Chuck Crawford Shahna Gooneratne - in honor of Jane Bos Kelly Gore - in honor of June Kelly

Sharon Greaves - in honor of August Terjeson Melissa Gregory - in honor of Terry & Margaret Jenkins Norh Griffith - in honor of Anna McCourt Ige Gustavson - in honor of Tammy Gustavson's Birthday Kelly Hach – in honor of Frankie Miller Marnie Harper - in honor of Lori & Rhea Burroughs Sabrina Harper – in honor of Isi Chicken Pablo Eri Hashimoto - in honor of Nico Westley & Patricia Haskell - in honor of Tom Webb Family for Equipe Rescue Robert & Patricia Hedges - in honor of Rabbi Suzanne Singer's Birthday

Whitney Hicks - in memory of Chloe T. Daniel Hofstedt - in honor of Laura Garrison's T. Daniel Hofstedt - in honor of Arya & Garfield Kim Holland - in honor of Lynn Mortime Angelica Hopkins - in honor of Scott

Equipe Rescue Elizabeth Howell – in honor of Margaret Howell Carol Hubbird - in honor of Linda Heitkamp Bettina Hubby - in honor of Bellmer Maryann Huetinck - in honor of Crystal Elena Ingold - in honor of Snowflake Sandi Jacoby - in honor of Tim Swan Eric James - in honor of Mark Thompson

Justin Hovinen - in honor of Tom Webb Family for

Eric James - in honor of Chamley Rian Eric James - in honor of Sandra Leibowitz Diana Jecker - in honor of Lucy Rebecca Jenkins - in honor of Indy Jacy Jennings - in honor of Tim Rozon Linda Johnston - in honor of Cody & Sammy Anne E. Josephson - in honor of all family pet

James Kaplan - in honor of Anne Karten Krista Kasten - in honor of Samantha Kaster Myra Kayser - in honor of Dianne Pendley Ethan Kelley - in honor of Hannah Perkins Beth Kellman - in honor of Javy Gordon Kristi Kenny - in honor of Buddy Sapna Khandwala - in honor of Stillwater Sciences, Los

Angela & David Kilcrece - in honor of Tom Webb Family for Equine Rescue

Kathline King - in honor of my staff at L.A. County Parks & Recreation Planning Division Laurel King - in honor of Roo Lynda Kinney – in honor of Karen Brenner Brown Lorie Kligerman - in honor of BamBam Haley Klinkert - in honor of Nanny Strong Lynn Kollar - in honor of Oreo Susan Korn - in honor of Scupper Susan Korn - in honor of Sarah MT & Emily Gilbert Cynthia Kryc - in honor of Simon

Linda Kvaw - in honor of Maryanne Stephanie LaFranchi - in honor of Beau Victoria Lane – in honor of Austin Kevin Lantz - in honor of Harrison Ford Dennis LaPak - in honor of Douglas Titus Desiree Lapin - in honor of L.A. Fire Department Edlynda LaRochelle - in honor of Monique & Rick Haffey

Judith Lawenda - in honor of Jack & Theodore Rosen Berta Leon – in honor of Pumpkin Felice Leonhardt - in honor of Sid & Carla Leonhardt Sara Leslie - in honor of Alex Sandra Leslie & Suzanne Lawler

Judy Leung - in honor of Genki Laura LeVee - in honor of Susan Heisler's Birthday

Shannon Leyden - in honor of Cayanne Eleanor Lipsky - in honor of Abby & Wyatt Morgan Lisner - in honor of Iris & Walter Manker Barclay & Denise Livker - in honor of Forest & Angel Valerie Lockwood – in honor of Finnegan Kathleen Loftman - in honor of Patricia Hedges Theresa Loo - in honor of Stoli Stefanie Lu - in honor of Mitch Woolley & Mome Vivian Luu - in honor of Cotton Ball Jill Macklem - in honor of Wynonna Earp Mary Jo Maichack - in honor of Dianne & Pete Barker-

Lara Mainella - in honor of the Svendsen Family Pam Majidy - in honor of Naachos, Nestle & Monkey Kristine Marcey - in honor of Kris Kay Mason - in honor of Dana Hopper Christiana Matyasik - in honor of Chico Randi Mayestrand - in honor of Brenda Ferrell Annick Mayer - in honor of Sophie Moore's Birthday and for Judas, Moses & Minnie Elaine McCarthy - in honor of Chloe & Max Colombo

Janis McCarthy - in honor of Sadie Brandi McCormick – in honor of Moosh Asgharnia Ryan & Emily McKean - in honor of Tom Webb Family for Equine Rescue Shauna McKenna – in honor of Laura McKenna Kari McMullin - in honor of Espi Bagwell

Carrie McNitt - in honor of Lady Carrie McNitt - in honor of Duke & Meghan Leslie Medina - in honor of Bernie's 80th Birthday Rebecca Medina - in honor of Sarah Fisher Ash Mehta - in honor of Oreo Silvia Figueroa Mendoza – in honor of Yogi

Eleanor Mennell - in honor of Stewart Jean's Birthday Christine Meyer - in honor of Maddi Beth Milham - in honor of Ian Zimmerma Paula M. Miller - in honor of Dr. Lisa Newell, DVM Richard Mitchell - in honor of Andy Marchewka Janis Miya - in honor of Miss Kitty Brandon Moberg - in honor of Sky Graziella Monteiro – in honor of Maxie Elena Moreno - in honor of Iulian Mose

Phil Moser - in honor of James Moser Holly Moskowitz - in honor of The Wall Family Mary Moxon - in honor of Michael Hirsch Michelle Moyer - in honor of Amy Cribbs Maureen Mullen - in honor of Finn Gonzalez Iodi Murphy - in honor of Lisa Clontz.

Ronald Murray - in honor of Charlie Greenwood Claudia Natasia - in honor of Leroy, Truffles, Snuffles, Heffalump & Scott-Febur Suzanne Nichols - in honor of Snickers Brown

Katie Norris - in honor of Alexa & Natasha Dymek Rylee Norton - in honor of Bailey Norton-Taylor Heather Osting - in honor of Lilly Heather Ott - in honor of Dorian Frankel & Lee Wallman

Stephanie Paddock - in honor of Yuffie & Bode Michael Paige - in honor of Michele Paige Eric Pancoska - in honor of Lavla Ryan Roger Pasarow - in honor of Judy

Jennifer Patton – in honor of Mary Pattiz Michele Patton - in honor of Phil & Joyce DuPriest Freddi Paulsrud - in honor of Jessica Paulsrud Frances Payley (Retired State Senator) - in honor of William Koehler (Mayor of Agoura Hills) and Harry Schwarz (Council Member of Agoura Hills) Brittany Pedugo - in honor of M. Gray's 4th Birthday Kathryn Pellegrino - in honor of Bram Klaus Coleman's 1st Birthday

Lariah Perara - in honor of Meow Meow Aide Perez - in honor of Sisi Olquin Jennifer Peters - in honor of Molly Carey Mattthew Peters - in honor of Mark Peter Matthew Peters - in honor of Stephanie Stephens Nadine Peyser – in honor of Leea Martha Philippoff - in honor of Samson Molly Picillo - in honor of Etta Helen Porcaro - in honor of all the babies of Greg & Diane Adams Bradley Portnoy - in honor of Steve Portnoy

Lisa Portnov - in honor of Carmine Susan Portnoy - in honor of Steven & Ellen Portnoy Susznne Preissier – in honor of Nic Cyndi Puerto - in honor of Sunny

Stephen Putnam - in honor of Tm Webb & Famil Linda Rapp - in honor of Angel Rufus & Oliver Catch Briggs Courtney Raterman - in honor of Jamie Manne

Raymond Rath - in honor of Teddy Bear Rhonda Raulston - in honor of Ernest Cohen Geoffrey Reinhard - in honor of Mollie Nicky Reinhard - in honor of Jerry & Carol Garrett

Terri Renwick - in honor of Sandra Younger Christine Remy - in honor of Jerry Carlson Jackson Reynolds - in honor of Vicky Herman Brett Rickaby - in honor of Kiernan McCaffrey Ashley Rispler - in honor of Caitlin Minges

Ashley Rispler - in honor of Ursula Hyman Jeffery Rodino - in honor of Melanie Pritchard Kirsten Rosenberg - in honor of Carol Rosenberg Karen Rosenhoover – in honor of Jack Joan Ross - in honor of Cassie the House Rabbit Elise Rubenstein - in honor of Joe Tuchmayer Robyn Rulios - in honor of Benji

Gita Runkie - in honor of Sarah Lekosky Phyllis Ruth - in honor of Joann Vermeyer Cassie Sadinski - in honor of Cari Malver Nancy Salcido - in honor of Isaac Pak's 1st Birthday Erika Samuelson - in honor of Halie Samuelson Jason Schmidt - in honor of Andy's Birthday

Marley Schneier - in honor of Charley Melissa Schoonmaker - in honor of Seina Katherine Schroeder - in honor of Milton Schroeder Laura Schultz - in honor of Riley Ritu Sehgal - in honor of Zuma Allison Shank - in honor of Kat Barrell

David Shelton - in honor of Alvin Rosenbloom for Chanukah Marilyn Shenker - in honor of Mondo Robert T. Sherman - in honor of Wolf

Rachel Silva - in honor of Ashley Kliment Rachel Silva - in honor of Summer Seiness Alexandria Sivak - in honor of Jimmy Riley Smith - in honor of Sara Rice Robin Smith - in honor of Belle Kenneth Snyder - in honor of Dana Martin

Margaret Snyder - in honor of Physicians at Northcoast Dermatology Gregory Sowders - in honor of Rocky Lynne Stahler - in honor of Banjo & all of our dogs, cats

horses & donkeys Lara Stewart - in honor or Cheryl Tichon Mary Stromberg - in honor of Erick Miseroy Rachael Sweeney - in honor of Archie Davis Nancy Taylor - in honor of Penny Pin & Bobby

Chloe Thomas - in honor of the Thomas Family Animals Stacy Tobin - in honor of Kailey Tobin Danielle Tornabene - in honor of Banjo, the Comfort

Sandra J. Taylor - in honor of Dody Tyneway

Joseph Tuchmayer - in honor of Ryan, Christine, Elise

& Mark Tuchmaver-Rubenstein Elizabeth Tyson - in honor of Dana Walden

Edna Guzman Valentine - in honor of Tequi's Birthday Patricia Valese - in honor of Finn Kim Wagner - in honor of Gracie English Walker - in honor of Donna Buchanan

Kerry Walsh - in honor of Oscar Mrs. Wang's 3rd Grade Class - for Noah's Legacy Disaster Relief

Aileen Ward - in honor of Pippa & Katie Diane Weiss - in honor of Linda Dowell's Birthday Frances P. Welch - in honor of Steve Welch Lori Welch - in honor of Christy Wolfe Xueqin Wen - in honor of Andres Bonett Michael Whitaker - in honor of Piper & Lani Tina Wilkie - in honor of Shirley Wilkie

Charles Witkowski - in honor of Ben & Ashley Hempel Bella Wong - in honor of Cleo Michael Wunderman - in honor of Lenny Barin Alan Zabaro - in honor of Patricia Zabaro Cheryl Zakarian, Lytle Take & Stamper - in honor of

Dr. Tunzi & Staff John Zambricki - in honor of Bella & Banjo

Jiazhen Zhu - in honor of Youko Qu

2019 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

DIANE KIRBY

On a visit to the Lancaster Animal Care Center (ACC) on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning, you might happen upon a blonde-haired woman with a warm and inviting laugh. No doubt she'll be assisting in the clinic surgery suite while helping a dog wake up from an anesthetic haze, cleaning a kennel, or even prepping medicine for a veterinary technician. Woven between her clinic duties is a tapestry of foster support, new volunteer guidance, mentorship, and teambuilding.

Her name is Diane Kirby. She is a rock at the Lancaster ACC and we are so very thankful and proud that she has been selected 2019 DACC Volunteer of the Year! Diane has given nearly nine years of her time (more than 13,000 hours) helping the Lancaster animals. As Foster Lead, she opened her own home and heart to 154 foster animals in 2018 alone!



Diane Kirby

She is always the first to arrive at events in the morning and the last to head home when the day is done. She sets up kennels faster than a magician, is able to calm a nervous cat who is over-stimulated by the noise at an event, and provides excellent customer service. We will always be grateful for all she does for the staff, volunteers, animals, and the community.

TOM WEBB

Tom Webb has been a volunteer with DACC's Equine Response Team since early 2000. He has shown dedication to the team with his commitment to be active in the equestrian communities. He has participated in multiple DACC emergency responses, including the Creek and Woolsey Fires.

Tom, who became a horse lover as a toddler, was assisting DACC and the growing number of large animals arriving at Pierce College Equestrian Center when he needed to tend to his own family, animals, and home. Tom and his wife own and care for four to six horses at any given time at their small ranch. He unfortunately lost his workshop with many belongings on his property, while 17 homes in his community were destroyed.

Tom has been chosen for this recognition because of his many qualities including: accountability,



Tom and a friend

can-do attitude, compassion, customer service, integrity, leadership, professionalism, respect for diversity, responsibility, commitment to service, hours of service, and care for the animals. His love of equines and experience in caring for and training them has made him a tremendous asset to the Equine Response Team and the recipient of the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award.

THE ACF PROVIDES COMFORT AND CARE FOR ANIMALS



Livestock Trailers. ACF recently purchased three livestock trailers in which these animals can be transported during a fire, flood, or other emergency.

Washers & Dryers. Some of the most valuable equipment at the seven DACC ACCs is equipment that animals and visitors never see. Ensuring that the animals in our care have comfortable, clean beds is imperative to their well-being. The ACF purchased two industrial-sized washers and dryers each for both Downey and Carson ACCs.

Dishwashers. Keeping the animals' food and waters sanitized is critical to preventing disease. The Foundation purchased commercial dishwashers for the Carson and Downey ACCs so the animal care teams could properly disinfect and clean the animals' bowls.

LITTER BOX AVOIDANCE continued ...

Continued from Page 1

primary motivations we see are substrate (type of cat litter) preference, location preference, and unclean/overused litterbox. The easiest to resolve is the unclean or overused litterbox. If this is the cause, ensuring the litterbox is scooped and washed more frequently should resolve the issue. In multicat households, adding additional litterboxes may be helpful. The general recommendation is one litterbox per cat, plus one extra.

If adding litterboxes or cleaning more often does not resolve the issue, the next step would be to determine if the concern is a substrate preference. Many cats will use the same litter for their entire life with no problem, or even switch fluidly between various litters — some cats are more finicky. To determine if the problem is the substrate, you will want to do a preference test by providing the cat with multiple litter boxes with different types of litter. Clumping, non-clumping, unscented, corn, or processed newspaper are a few options. Line the litter boxes up in one location and let the cat investigate. Note which litter box they opt to use first. This would indicate the type and brand of litter your cat would prefer. Begin using this litter in their normal litterbox.

If your cat seems to not care about different litter types, but is still eliminating in a different location, try placing a litter box in that spot. If the cat uses the box in that location, then it can be considered a location preference. If it is not convenient to have a litterbox in that location you can try to very slowly inch by inch move the litterbox to a different spot, preferably within the same room.

If after all of these steps, your cat is still not using the litterbox, it is time for a visit to a veterinary behaviorist. A trip to the veterinarian behaviorist can help you identify if there are stressors impacting your cat's litterbox uses.

Litterbox issues can be hard to live with! Following these steps can help make both you and your cat happier.