



FAITHFUL friends

SPRING 2018

PETSPACE PARTNERSHIP

The Anneberg PetSpace opened on June 24, 2017 in the Los Angeles community of Playa Vista. It is dedicated to the celebration and study of the relationship between people and their pets, and the importance of the human-animal bond. PetSpace is the latest extension of Wallis Annenberg's philanthropic work, which has long supported organizations and projects dedicated to improving the well-being of people and communities in Los Angeles, surrounding regions and throughout the world.

The PetSpace is a state-of-the-art home for advanced animal learning systems, and a peaceful and serene setting for animals awaiting their forever homes

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control is honored to be in partnership with PetSpace. Through this partnership, we are able to offer services to a greater area of the County. Animals at PetSpace are brought there from the Department's Downey, Carson/Gardena, and Baldwin Park animal care centers.

While at PetSpace, animals are spayed/neutered and provided with daily activity. An in-house veterinarian and animal care staff monitor the health of its residents. The rescued animals will be given behavioral, medical, and physical therapies they need in order to prepare them to be adopted into their forever homes.

"They are really, literally, a life-saving resource for us," said Allison Cardona, deputy director of the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control. "Animals that are older, have arthritis, are injured, or can benefit from a higher level of care that we can't provide are prime candidates to be taken from County care centers and placed at PetSpace, where a wide array of services and medical treatments are available. These include aqua therapy, socialization training, dental care, surgical options, and more. They all help to rehabilitate animals, increasing their chances of adoption. They are able to take animals that wouldn't have a second chance," Cardona said of the new PetSpace.



A kitten gets some TLC in the medical suite.

CATS GET TO SPREAD THEIR WINGS



Cats now have more opportunities for exercise and reduced stress

Thanks to a generous grant from the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation, the Department has been able to add portals between adjoining cat cages so our cats can have double the space they had before. This allows them to have a completely separate compartment for their litter box, away from their food and resting areas. The Department has noticed a significant decrease in illness, as the reduced stress from having more room has had positive effects on the cats' health. The portals can be shut, so a cat can be confined on one side of its "condo" and cleaning doesn't require removing a cat from its cage (increasing stress and the possibility of transmitting germs). Staff and volunteers report much happier and less stressed cats, which contributes to a faster adoption rate for our furry feline friends!

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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 60,000 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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RESCUE ON THE 605



A grateful owner and his relieved dogs are reunited.

On March 16, 2018 at about 11:45 A.M., officer Armando Ferrufino was driving on the 605 Freeway when he saw two dogs running in between lanes of moving traffic. Officer Ferrufino obtained the assistance of the California Highway Patrol to slow traffic and began attempting to call the dogs to him.

The dogs appeared scared and confused as motorist tried to avoid hitting them. Officer Ferrufino was able to get close to one of the dogs and slowly knelt down, with his arms open wide and called the dog to him. The male, white and brown, pit bull began to slowly walk (shaking) towards him, looking for safety. Officer Ferrufino immediately took him into his arms and secured the dog in his vehicle. With the assistance of another motorist he was able to pick up the second dog, a male black and white Siberian Husky. Both dogs were rescued with no injuries and transported to the Downey Animal Care Center.

Both dogs had microchips and the ACC immediately identified their owner. He was grateful that Officer Ferrufino was able to rescue his dogs off of the 605 freeway, and to have them back home safely.

PETSPACE continued...

Continued from Page 1

A visit to PetSpace promises to be a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable experience. With the goal of pet adoption, 40 adoptable dogs and cats are available for adoption. These animals are housed in their own adoption suites featuring state-of-the-art interactive digital displays called PetBooks. With just a touch, the PetBooks provide visitors with the answers to questions about each animal and they will learn what's needed to care for them and how much it will cost over a year's time.



Grooming demonstrations are provided to the public.

DACC Director, Marcia Mayeda says, "We are so grateful for the amazing partnership we have developed with the Annenberg Foundation! Wallis Annenberg's vision has transformed the animal shelter experience, and the PetSpace facility is a model to celebrate the human/animal bond. I know that there will be many happy people with new family members thanks to the adoption program at PetSpace, and look forward to many years of working together to bringing people and animals together in compassion."

Learn more about the Annenberg PetSpace by visiting <https://www.annenbergpetspace.org/>

A GOLDEN HOME FOR HIS GOLDEN YEARS

Orville was 8-years-old when he was found on the streets of Hawaiian Gardens. He didn't look like the average pit bull. He was emaciated, covered with fleas and was having difficulty walking. Department officers checked him for a microchip to identify his owner, but there was none. He needed medical care, nutrition and a safe place to rest.

Over several weeks' time, Orville began to get his strength back. He was introduced to playgroups and was found to have good social skills with both people and other dogs. He was neutered and micro-chipped in anticipation of possible adoption in the near future. Meanwhile, he had stolen the hearts of the staff at the Downey Animal Care Center.

Once his rehabilitation was complete, Orville was selected to be part of a very special adoption event. DACC was invited by Susie's Senior Dogs, a local rescue, to participate in an event that offered only senior dogs for adoption.

Many people who seek to adopt a pet look at the young, cute dogs and cats without paying any attention to the older animals. This is a common mistake because older animals have so much to offer a family. They don't have to be potty-trained and they are not destructive. They are more mature, have an easygoing attitude, making them easier to introduce into new homes.

The senior dog event was held on November 4th, 2017 in Cheviot Hills. Even though Orville was a favorite at the Downey care center, he had not been adopted, perhaps due to his age. There was television coverage of the event and Orville was featured on a live segment on KTLA 5 the morning of the event. He then spent the afternoon charming visitors at the park. The event was a huge success – 16 adult dogs found their forever homes!

A couple in Nevada, Ariel and Margaret, had seen an announcement about the adoption event on social media. They took a chance and drove from Las Vegas to see if they could find the right dog for them. They were looking for an older dog and fell in love with Orville the minute they saw him. Alison Waszmer, the DACC Behavior and Enrichment Division Manager, spent time with them and answered questions about Orville and other dogs. At the end of the event, Ariel, Margaret and Oliver (Orville's new name) headed home to Las Vegas to start their lives together.



Oliver is loving life in Nevada, going on hikes and being spoiled by his new family.

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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

Downey
11258 S. Garfield Avenue
Downey, CA 90242
562-940-6895

Lancaster
5210 W. Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93536
661-940-4191

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



DOWNEY ACC GETS THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

In order to make some of their longer-stay animals more noticeable to potential adopters, the Downey ACC staff and volunteers prepared gift bags for adopters of these dogs, and many found new homes for the holidays!

FIRE HEROES



Every year, the State of California falls victim to devastating fires. As 2017 came to a close, three fires overwhelmed the State once again. The Thomas, Creek, and Rye fires collectively engulfed and destroyed over 250,000 square miles, leaving burned, black hillsides in its wake.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) contributed greatly to animal and public safety during and after the fires' devastation. The Los Angeles County Equine Response Team (ERT) was also activated to support DACC field response and sheltering efforts. Twelve horses were saved during the Creek Fire in Sylmar by DACC officers, in addition to many treasured pets that attempted to escape the fire. Housing was provided for many of these pets at DACC's Downey, Castaic, and Agoura Animal Care Centers. Horses and other large animals and livestock were taken to Pierce College and the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. Sadly, some of these animals had severe burns and were under intensive veterinary treatment for burns, smoke inhalation, dehydration and stress. The Department and Foundation are grateful for the extraordinary efforts made by equine veterinarian Dr. David Ramey to treat these victims.

Additionally, AnimalSafe trailers were deployed to the Sylmar Recreation Center with the American Red Cross. These specialized trailers house up to 120 dogs/cats and are temperature controlled. This allows for the pets to be in close proximity to their owners who were being sheltered by the American Red Cross. These trailers were used again the following month, when rain caused massive flooding and mud slides in the vulnerable fire areas.

The Foundation's Noah's Legacy fund was established to assist people and their pets in emergency situations. To date, over \$100,000 has been donated to provide funding and resources for disaster relief, and specifically these three devastating fires. With these funds, the Foundation will purchase four new livestock trailers so more animals can be evacuated more quickly, and will sponsor several staff and volunteer emergency response trainings so more people are prepared to assist during these disasters. If you are interested in becoming an emergency assistance volunteer, please contact ERT@animalcare.lacounty.gov.

If you would like to help and learn more about Noah's Legacy, please check the ACF website at <http://lacountyanimals.org>.



Staff and volunteers worked around the clock to rescue and care for displaced horses.

TEACHING COMPASSION

The Department is grateful to author Lisa Wiehebrink and her husband Henry DiCarlo for donating copies of Lisa's book, "Love Me Gently" for DACC to distribute to all adopters with children. "Love Me Gently" helps children ages three and up discover the meaning of unconditional love, compassion, and kindness toward animals, specifically dogs. It is essentially a kid's guide to man's best friend that captures common, real-life challenges a young boy has with his newly adopted puppy. Each dilemma is a learning opportunity that is met with a solution that "makes them both happy," a recurring and charming theme throughout the book. Simple lessons include allowing the dog to eat uninterrupted, patience in training, gentle handling, and safety around the house for both child and dog. Young readers are empowered and encouraged to make good choices as they learn the responsibilities of caring for a pet.



Families with their books donated by Lisa Wiehebrink

The books are available in English and Spanish. Educating young children is important so they interact safely and humanely with the family dog. Thanks to Lisa's book, these lessons are explained to ensure successful and lifelong adoptions!

PREVENTING LOST HORSES DURING DISASTERS

On March 3, 2018 the Los Angeles Animal Care Foundation's Noah's Legacy fund sponsored a microchip clinic for horses at the Barrel Springs Arena in Palmdale. The Department worked closely with the Equestrian Trails International (ETI) Corral 138 Barrel Springs Riders - Antelope Valley. Dr. David Ramey spent four hours microchipping approximately 60 horses. The microchips will be invaluable aids during emergency evacuations, so the horses can be identified and reunited with their owners. There was no charge to the horse owners, except for the \$15 registration fee they will pay the microchip company to register their horses. DACC and the Foundation encourage all pet owners to microchip their animals so they can be reunited if they become separated.



Corral 138



Microchips can ensure horses will be reunited with their owners after evacuations.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Patricia Anesetti – in memory of Merwyn Anesetti
 Christine Arias – in memory of Oreo & Ditto
 Susan Benavidez – in memory of Minnie & Ginger Eudy
 Alexandra Boton – in memory of Mochi
 Jaason Bragg – in memory of Roger Neuhaus
 Eric Bray – in memory of Bray
 Donna & Mark Briskie – in memory of Gina, Sinbad, Brittany & Thor
 Mary Sherwood Brock – in memory of Omar
 Andrea Burchell – in memory of Amanda Olvany
 Erin Carmody – in memory of Ben Kunkel
 Deebbie Cassettari – in memory of Katie Braathen
 Emily Chi – in memory of Ham Solo
 Laura Cohen – in memory of Henry & Max
 Elizabeth Dewey – in memory of Cathy
 Christina Dominguez – in memory of Buster, Taylor, Chelsey, Sugar & Samy
 Tara Donnelly – in memory of Nemo Stegman Hahn
 Colleen Douglas – in memory of Angus & Macy
 Jaclyn Dunt – in memory of Spruce
 Philip & Sherri Ellman – in memory of Chloe
 Penny Emerson – in memory of Marie Edelstein
 Beverly Ann Factor – in memory of Star, the wonder dog
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 Lisa Fentum – in memory of Baloo
 Debbie Fintz – in memory of Sadie
 Alison Galloway – in memory of Jed
 Sunhi Garber – in memory of John Bondon
 Alfred Garcia – in memory of Ninja
 Jessica Garcia – in memory of Bones, Jim, Berlioz, Toulouse & Cleo
 Nina Garcia – in memory of Abby
 Daniel Glicker – in memory of Goldie & Tina
 Christina Green – in memory of Sammy, Midnight, Josie & Gwen
 Sara Grewal – in memory of Morgan Earp
 Diane Gunther – in memory of Oreo Shah Amiri
 Diane Gunther – in memory of Manny Ross
 Sally Hall-Schmauss – in memory of Teddy Lanski
 Hart High School – in memory of Keira Boyd
 Errollyn Hewett-Braham – in memory of Sable
 Winglei Ho – in memory of Gizmo Ho- Shih
 Susan Hunter – in memory of Lucas
 India Inez – in memory of Glock Yokoyama
 Katie Ingersoll – in memory of Daisy
 Millie Jones – in memory of Cody
 Jennifer Judd – in memory of Grady
 Rebecca Kirsch – in memory of Belle Doolittle
 Cheryl Knight – in memory of John Kormalis
 James Knight – in memory of Hobak
 Donna Koch – in memory of Tonka Lechner
 Mitchell & Ann Kolacinski – in memory of Honey
 Bettina Kotrich – in memory of John Casper
 Lisa Kruse – in memory of Bam Bam

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

Barbara LaSala – in memory of Michael Gross
 Lore Lawrence – in memory of Truman
 Jennifer Lee – in memory of Kenneth P. Hahn
 Gary Lightbody – in memory of Frank R. Andrews
 Yvonne Liu – in memory of Toby
 Bree Long – in memory of Carole Spivey
 Rebecca Lucas – in memory of Tali
 Denise Lytle – in memory of Brandy
 Naira Maltazyan – in memory of Kenneth P. Hahn
 Sydney Mann – in memory of Cody
 Katelin Mantia – in memory of Bailey
 Rebecca Maynard – in memory of Grace Rumley
 Elroy & Terri Morris – in memory of Patience DeGroot
 Midori Okamoto – in memory of Zoey
 George Oriel – in memory of Kelly Long
 Jennifer Painter – in memory of Montenergra, Baildana & Candente de Dios
 Roger Pasarow – in honor of Luke & Judy
 Paola Pedrazzoli – in memory of Bebe
 John Perez – in memory of Arlo Pear
 Pico Canyon Social Club – in memory of Keira Boyd
 Pico Canyon Social Club – in memory of Gilda Kim's Mother-in-Law
 Sarah Pratt – in memory of Louise Doty
 Harvey Price – in memory of Leah
 John Ramsey – in memory of Mia & Bridgette
 Rhodamin Resella – in memory of Baby & Colby
 Diedra M. Riggs – in memory of Sadie & Lynch
 Amelita Sage – in memory of Free
 Eileen Salmas – in memory of Isis & Midnight
 Delia Sarmiento – in memory of Fogey
 Charles Sergis – in memory of Mac McCauley
 Jerry Shannon – in memory of Queenie
 David Shelton – in memory of Julie Rosenbloom
 Mary Sheridan – in memory of Holly
 Shari Siegler – in memory of Joan Ririe
 John & Donnaalee Simon – in memory of Ally
 Patricia Slack – in memory of Shadow
 Mercedes Smith – in memory of Kelly Long
 James Snell – in memory of Joan Floyd
 Gregory Sonoda – in memory of Fuzzy, Pokey, Dusty & Casey
 Lisa Stein – in memory of Morgan Appleton-Hartman
 Elizabeth Stothers – in memory of Chopper & Gerty
 Tabellario Family – in memory of Marian Hibbard
 Roberta Toporoff – in memory of Jasmine
 Rachael Trimble – in memory of Franklin Danger Dresler
 Brent Warren – in memory of Kelly Long
 Richard & Lesley Watkins – in memory of Spike
 Vanessa Ying – in memory of Raven
 Annie Yiu – in memory of Kayla
 Anna Yu – in memory of Willie

HONORARIUM GIFTS

Edward Altemus – in honor of Arthur
 Aret Aramian – in honor of Charlie Kabaklian
 Kerri Arnold – in honor of Hazel Lindgren
 Jose Arteta – in honor of Lola
 Krizia Ayoub – in honor of Paisley
 Gabriele Baldridge – in honor of Jill Richardson's Birthday & Boots
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 Chris Barrett – in honor of Clark Barrett
 Elissa Barrett – in honor of Missy
 Gabriella Baring – in honor of Allison Bogeaus
 Laura Bates – in honor of Cohen & Remi
 Jacqueline Bension – in honor of CJ & Shotgun

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following gifts made in honor of special people and animals.

Rosalind & Alfred Berger Foundation – in honor of Samantha Berger
 Denise Berthiaume – in honor of Irene & Robert Siedlik
 Barbara Blankenship – in honor of Kery & Leo
 Gayle Blansett – in honor of Janice & Greg Milliken
 Andrew Bloomgarden – in honor of Hadley Zeavin
 Brady Corporation – in honor of Laura Drenth
 Diane Breitman – in honor of Diamond 1 & Diamond 2
 Eric Brown – in honor of Jill S.
 Amanda Calderon – in honor of Hazel
 Sam Carpenter – in honor of Melissa Hyams
 Daria Castellanos – in honor of Hazel
 Sandra Castro – in honor of Louie

HONORARIUM GIFTS cont.

Michael Chamberlain – in honor of Jane Mahaffey
Carmen Chavez – in honor of Monika Bhasin
Patricia Chomori – in honor of Axel-Rose
Cherie Clair – in honor of Pax
Victoria Cole – in honor of my 4 rescue dogs
Jill Cook – in honor of Boscoe
Regan Copeland & Nikki Ianiro – in honor of Susan Steen
Krista Cunningham – in honor of Seth & Mariah Cunningham
Tracy Ann Curtis – in honor of Lucy
Kirk Cuttrell – in honor of Marsha Cuttrell
Grace Danish – in honor of Gibson
Steven Day – in honor of Popeye
Donna Deiss – in honor of Alyssa Deiss
Jon De La Torre – in honor of Derek Alviso
William Dennis – in honor of Shirley & Karen Vernon
Steve & Sherry Denunzio – in honor of Delilah
Marcos Dominguez – in honor of Gorda
Shannon Doolin – in honor of Erin Corbett
David Easson – in honor of Frank Passamano's Christmas Charity
Robin Elie – in honor of Terri Wachter
Rosena & Jeffery Emanuelli – in honor of Zelda
Robert Esworthy – in honor of Bob & Anna Esworthy
John Fodon – in honor of Greta & Matt Kernicky
Minerva Garcia – in honor of Vicious
Sonya Garcia – in honor of Danali, Oralia & Maricruz (Thomas Fire)
Nancy Gaydosh – in honor of Joan Starr & John Jones
Donna Gilbert – in honor of Zola
Shahna Gooneratne – in honor of Jane Bos
Elton Greig – in honor of Snowball & Faya Chamberlain
Laurie Griffiths – in honor of Spryo, Ginger & Lily
Jill Guess – in honor of Ohana Baskin
David Hamilton – in honor of Oliver
Jan L. Hannah – in honor of Bryan & Ana Hannah
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Suzanne Hoest – in honor of Meg
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Michelle Humphrey – in honor of Madeline Chetkovich's Birthday
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Meena Jambulingam – in honor of Solomon
Robertta Jennings – in honor of Frank Passamano
Katherine Johnson – in honor of Leo & Pollo
Elizabeth Johnston – in honor of Garvey Johnston
P. Christopher Kelly – in honor of Elizabeth Ruoti
Georgia Kiel – in honor of Valerie Moule
Marina LaFountaine – in honor of Artemis
Juliana Lares – in honor of Jack
Alvin Larsen – in honor of Buster Boy
Mary Laumar – in honor of Claudette
Chris Lencioni – in honor of Lisa Ball
Grace Lennon – in honor of John Stamos the Cat
Linda Levinson – in honor of Maureen Baum
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Cindy Perida – in honor of Pepita
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The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following gifts made in honor of special people and animals.

Phil Moser – in honor of Julian & Michelle Moser
Jordan Neeley – in honor of Madison & Mikey Smith
Erik Nelson – in honor of Opal Garetto-Barnett
Claire Nichols – in honor of Alison Brett
Jane Norton – in honor of Bert
Hae Oh – in honor of my NHMLAC Education & Programs Staff
Lisa O'Kelly – in honor of Cindy Brooks
Lynn Peckham – in honor of Biff
Lesli Preuss – in honor of Harvey
Angie Ramos-Miller – in honor of Madison & Carly
Joanna Rawley – in honor of Mia Bacigalupi
Janice Rear – in honor of CeCe
Doretta Risolo – in honor of Grace Bosserman
Wendi Roberts – in honor of Layla
Wendi Roberts – in honor of Abby Warren
David & Teresa Rodriguez – in honor of Rufus
Polux & Carmen Rojas, Jr. – in honor of Blue
Elizabeth Romo – in honor of Brownie
Kathryn Rowbotham – in honor of Ellie & Jack Smith
Victoria Scharen – in honor of Bear Griffin
Sandra Schnarr – in honor of Kath Soucie
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Rob Schrab – in honor of Julie Darmody
Rob Schrab – in honor of Ben Jacobson
Rob Schrab – in honor of Blair Kohan
Rob Schrab – in honor of Gabbie Specter
Jamie Senella – in honor of Kimberly Arranga
Shoshanna Seruya – in honor of Gray Cappy Mugsy Ness
Leslie Shelman – in honor of Nina Sherwood's Found-aversary
Robert T. Sherman – in honor of Wolf
Edward & Della Shimasaki – in honor of JoJo
Terri Shute – in honor of friends who care for feral cats
Sierra Smith – in honor of the workers who take care of every animal every day
Lauren Stava – in honor of Ripley Costello
Ben Stearns – in honor of Dutch
Sophia Steilen – in honor of Sargent Pepper
Paul Stonehouse – in honor of Sanka
Mary Stromberg – in honor of Erick & Janice Miseroy
Dawn Summerford – in honor of Bob & Milo
John Swett – in honor of Oreo
Gina Testa – in honor of Megean, Denny & Dustin Kukawsky
Janet Thomsen – in honor of Philip Ellman's Birthday
Emma Tolkin – in honor of Poppy
Karen Tomei – in honor of Kelli Maestro
Kristi Turchi – in honor of Kathy Glikzman
Sunanda Vadapalli – in honor of Truffles
Jessica Vierra – in honor of William & Nancy Salyers
Janice Votava – in honor of Juliana Smith
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Ben Weisner – in honor of Eitan Weisner
Inga A. Welemin – in honor of Fred VanBerkum
Noel Wells – in honor of Callie Connolly
Carol & Marc Whaley – in honor of Susan Friend LeTourneur's 50th Birthday and her volunteer work
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Elizabeth Wilson – in honor of Jennifer Smith
Harold & Emma Wilson – in honor of Molly
Mathew Winchester – in honor of Harold Carlson
Mathew Winchester – in honor of The Stone Family
Mathew Winchester – in honor of The Carlson Family
Mathew Winchester – in honor of The Arena Family
Charles Witkowski – in honor of Ben & Ashley Hempel
Eileen Yeho – in honor of Trudy Finke
Tia Younginger – in honor of Siddharth Parekh
Aaron Zoelick – in honor of Abigail Heckert



RESCUED RED TAILED HAWK RETURNED TO THE WILD

During a search by Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) officers in July, 2017, a Red Tail Hawk was discovered in the backyard of a residential property. The hawk was being kept in a small, wire cage with one perch. There was no food. There was no water. The bottom and sides of the cage were caked with feces and feathers, and dust was being blown into the cage by an adjacent exhaust fan.

The officers noted that the hawk was significantly underweight and that her breast bone was protruding through a patch of feathers on her chest. Her beak looked as though it was broken. She quietly and curiously watched the officers' every move. She had been in the cage for approximately 6 months and was very ill due to neglect and complete lack of sustenance.

The DACC officers called upon partners from the California Wildlife Center (CWC) for assistance in assessing the bird's condition and ensuring she would get the care she needed. The CWC veterinarian determined that the hawk would need the care of a wildlife specialist, so the hawk was transported to CWC in Malibu.

During the initial observation of the bird, Dr. Duane Tom, DVM determined that she was significantly underweight, at 810 grams, her wings were atrophied (the muscles had shrunk from lack of use) and she continued to molt, or shed her feathers, due to the stress of her condition. The hawk was too weak to undergo a complete routine exam, so she spent 3 ½ months in the care of Dr. Tom and his staff. She was kept indoors and cared for until she could regain her strength.

Once she had regained her strength, she was transferred to an outdoor area where she could flap her wings again and continue to build her muscle strength by flying on a creance (a cord attached to the bird so that it can fly but not get away) in a local park. Her examination showed that her beak had not been broken but intentionally filed down so that she could not bite. Thankfully, her beak was now healing well.

Although her rehabilitation was a slow but steady process, she continued to gain weight and her final test, which would determine whether or not she ready to be released, was the ability to hunt and capture her own food. Approximately 130 days into her recovery, she did exactly that. She caught and ate a mouse that had been released into the enclosure. She was finally ready to be released back into the wild.

So, on November 20, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., weighing in at a stunning, fully-feathered 1100 grams, the Red Tail "Lady Hawk" was released at King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas. It was an emotional moment for those who had spent many hours tending to her rehabilitation and who had grown very fond of her. There was a collective gasp as she took flight, climbing high over the trees and circling once over the heads of the CWC staff and the animal control officers who had saved her life. She appeared to be expressing a final thank you before she disappeared into the sky.

Note: Hawks are very common in the rural areas of Los Angeles County. They are a protected species and illegal to have as a pet; hawks would be dangerous in a residential setting and could cause significant injury to persons and their pets. Only licensed falconers may possess these birds with proper skills and licensing.