



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**ANIMAL CARE
& CONTROL** | redefining
CARE

FAITHFUL *friends*

SPRING 2022



DREAMS CAME TRUE AND GAVE GEORGE A NEW VIEW ON LIFE!

George is an 11-month-old Siberian Husky who was surrendered by his owner. He had a very painful eye condition called entropion. Entropion is an abnormality of the eyelids in which the eyelid rolls inward. This inward rolling often causes the hair on the surface of the eyelid to rub against the cornea resulting in pain, corneal ulcers, perforations, or pigment developing on the cornea which can interfere with vision.

Entropion surgery is complicated, and the Foundation paid for specialized surgery to repair George's eyes. He is now out of pain and looking forward to joining his new forever home.



Today is the Day! Happy 100th Birthday to Betty White

Celebrate the life of **Betty White** by making a donation to your favorite animal welfare organization.

Donate to the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation:

lacountyanimals.org/give

EIN 95-3909782

REMEMBERING BETTY WHITE

Betty White, the beloved actress and devoted animal advocate, passed away just a few weeks before what would have been her 100th birthday. In honor of Betty's lifelong compassion for animals, a national grass roots campaign sprung up to celebrate her legacy on her 100th birthday. **Animal lovers were encouraged to donate to an animal charity of their choice in Betty's memory, and the Foundation received more than \$6,000 in gifts in her honor.** What a meaningful way to celebrate her legacy and help the animals she cared about so much. It is a testament to the affection and admiration so many people had for her and her impact on animals. **Betty, thank you for all you did to advance animal welfare! Your memory is a blessing to all.**

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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 approximately 25,000 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. EIN: #95-3909782

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER SHELLI AMBER WEEKES



For many years, Shelli Amber Weekes lived a double life. By day, Shelli was a Human Resources professional in the County of Los Angeles. Among her positions in the County, she was the first Civil Rights Liaison for the Fire Department, Human Resources Manager for the Department of Animal Care and Control, and later, the Director of Human Resources for the Department of Public Health.

By night, Shelli was performing as jazz vocalist “Amber Weekes” in clubs around Southern California, at the New Rochelle Jazz Festival in New York, Caesar’s Palace, and recording.

Finally, in January of 2019, she retired from the County of Los Angeles and has put all of her efforts into her life as a recording artist. She has released three albums so far, which have all received national and international airplay and very favorable reviews.

A DONKEY RIDESHARE

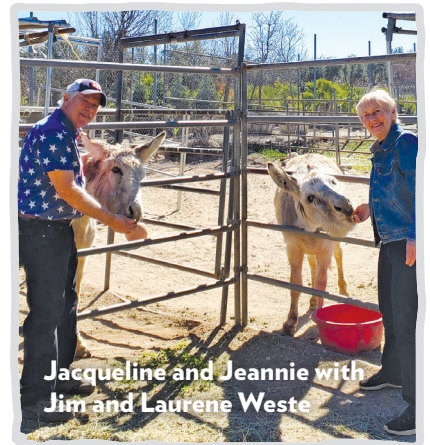
Earlier this year, DACC became aware of two donkeys in need of assistance — 22-year-old Jeannie and her 12-year-old daughter, Jacqueline. Their elderly owners were no longer able to provide the care they needed, and the donkeys needed a new home that could provide the nutrition and other attention required. Santa Clarita Mayor Laurene Weste, who also serves on the Foundation’s board of directors, is very experienced in rehabilitating animals and willingly offered to provide the donkeys with a new home. The only problem was that neither party had an available trailer, and it had been many years since the donkeys had even been in one. They were also unaccustomed to regular handling and there was concern they could be difficult to control.

DACC recognized the opportunity to provide a good outcome for the donkeys and offered to trailer them to their new home. Castaic Animal Care Center manager Fred Agoopi arranged a full team of officers, a veterinarian, and experienced equine handler Blair Dugan (also a board member of the Foundation). The veterinarian was on site in case the donkeys needed sedation, but they proved to be more cooperative than expected.

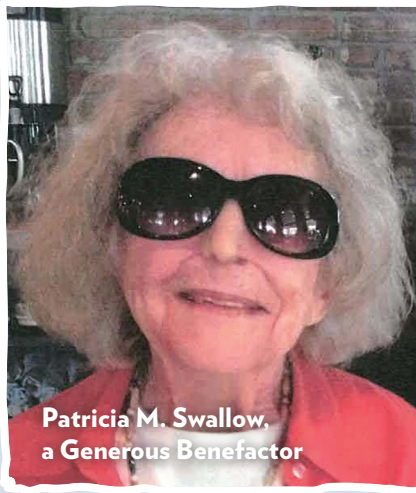
Jeannie and Jacqueline are now in the excellent care of Jim and Laurene Weste. They have gained weight and are learning “donkey manners” so they can be safely and lovingly cared for.



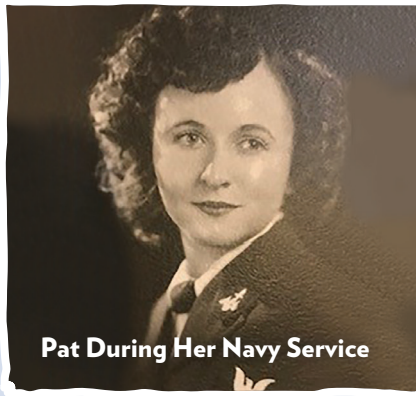
Jacqueline and Jeannie at Their Former Home



Jacqueline and Jeannie with Jim and Laurene Weste



Patricia M. Swallow,
a Generous Benefactor



Pat During Her Navy Service

PATRICIA M. SWALLOW'S LEGACY OF LOVE

August 5, 1923 – June 7, 2021

Patricia (Pat) Swallow thoughtfully remembered the Foundation in her will, leaving a significant gift that will allow the Foundation to help thousands of animals in need. Ms. Swallow was a devoted Catholic, animal lover, Dodger fan, and loved travelling the world. She proudly served her country in the U.S. Navy from 1944 – 46 and worked as a legal assistant to prominent Pasadena attorney Emil Steck, Jr. for more than 40 years. She was born and died in her little house in Beachwood Canyon that never had heating, air conditioning, or washer and dryer.

Described by close friend Olivia Roberts as, “a beautiful and feisty little 4’10” red-haired spitfire who was a force to be reckoned with,” Pat believed in the good work of the Foundation and ensured that more opportunities will be made to help the animals. **The Foundation is grateful for Ms. Swallow’s kindness and knows her memory is a blessing for all animals.**

DIRECTOR

Marcia Mayeda
Administrative Office
5898 Cherry Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90805
562-728-4610

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

GRETCHEN BUCK BEQUEST HELPS DOGS KICK UP THEIR HEELS

Gretchen Buck was a devoted animal lover who wished to continue helping animals even after she passed. Through her estate planning, Ms. Buck left a generous donation to help animals at the Agoura Animal Care Center. Her donation has allowed the center to make many enhancements for the animals. Most recently, the large dog play yard was renovated with artificial grass, so the dogs had a more appealing place to play. Other projects funded by Ms. Buck included a catio for cats to safely enjoy the fresh air outdoors and bask in the sunlight, an advanced kennel sanitation system, renovation of the education pavilion where youth are taught about compassion to animals, and more. Legacy gifts such as Ms. Buck’s create meaningful and lasting opportunities for enhancing the care of the animals, and the Foundation is grateful for her support.



Agoura After



Agoura Before

Follow us



PLAYTIME FOR CATS!

The Foundation recently funded another catio, this time at the Castaic Animal Care Center. Catos allow cats to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine while remaining safely confined. The Castaic ACC's cats and kittens can access their catio through pet doors installed in the windows of the Weste Wing, the free-roaming indoor cattery. Now cats can bask in the sun, climb, and play with toys outdoors. This behavior enrichment program reduces stress and makes for happier, healthier kitties. If you or someone you know would like to adopt a cat or kitten, DACC has many wonderful kitties from which to choose. Visit the DACC website at www.lacountyanimals.gov.



ALWAYS PREPARED

Emergency response for animal rescue is a constant responsibility of DACC. Wildfires, mudslides, and other disasters occur with little notice and DACC must respond immediately to rescue and shelter animals displaced by these events. The Foundation has supported DACC through the purchase of rescue vehicles, trailers, and emergency supplies to ensure the animals have everything they need during these circumstances.

Training for such emergencies is equally as important as responding itself. Recently, DACC participated in an emergency evacuation drill in the city of Thousand Oaks, which contracts with DACC for animal services. DACC deployed its command post for communications, its inflatable tent for temporary sheltering of small animals, and one of its small animal rescue trailers.

DACC is highly accomplished in responding to urgent needs such as these, and the Foundation ensures the animals receive all the care and resources they need. **They stand ready to help animals whenever they are needed.**

THE CRISIS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

People often ask me why I didn't pursue a career in veterinary medicine because I love animals so much. I had indeed considered it and was an avid reader of James Herriot's books about being a veterinarian in 1930's and 40's Yorkshire, England. I also worked for a veterinarian when I was in high school and enjoyed my job tremendously.

However, I also recognized that I would face some challenges as a veterinarian that I would not be able to reconcile. The first was that pet owners were sometimes unable to pay for service. I knew I could never turn away an animal in need, so I would either go bankrupt giving away my services and medicine or be fired by the practice owner. The other challenge was that I had little interest in science and knew the rigorous education program would be very unappealing! Fortunately, I found my calling in animal welfare and do a job I love.

Perhaps it's a good thing that I chose not to pursue veterinary medicine because the past several years have seen a shift in this field, making access to care more difficult and frustrating for both veterinarians and pet owners. Many people have reached out to me about how to find veterinary care, describe how long it takes to get an appointment, and comment on the long lines they see outside of veterinary hospitals. I have heard stories of pets in medical crisis being driven from hospital to hospital by their frantic owners, desperate to get medical care for their animal, only to be turned away because staffing or resources weren't available to help them. So, what is going on?

The veterinary medical profession has been experiencing several unique challenges for the past several years. First, there is a shortage of veterinarians available to provide medical care. There are only 32 accredited colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S., compared to 155 accredited MD-granting institutions, and 37 accredited DO-granting institutions. There just aren't enough schools to graduate enough veterinarians to practice. Veterinary hospitals are having difficulty finding veterinarians to place on staff, which means they don't have the personnel to provide services to your pet.

More veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians are also leaving the field faster than new ones can replace them. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the turnover rate of veterinarians is 23%, twice that of physicians, and the turnover of veterinary technicians is 26% compared to 19% of registered nurses. The added stress of providing services during the pandemic placed even more demands on an already difficult and often emotionally draining profession. This leads to a growing net loss of trained professionals to provide veterinary medical care.

The COVID-19 pandemic had impacts on how veterinarians can provide care. Physical distancing and COVID-19 safety precautions created procedural difficulties that reduced the number of patients that could be seen each day. Shortages of medical supplies that were diverted for human medicine made it necessary to postpone elective surgeries or wellness visits, and now pet owners are trying to make up for the lost time by getting those services.

There is also a greater demand for veterinary services. Many people added new pets to their families during the pandemic, creating even further need for veterinary services. Owners able to work remotely

spend more time with their pets, noticing subtle physical changes they would not have otherwise noticed had they been working outside the home all day. These observations led to more requests for veterinary examinations. A lot of pet owners had more disposable income during the pandemic and put that money back into their animals, obtaining more services for their pets and further increasing the calls for veterinary care.

Most people outside the veterinary medical profession are unaware of the mental and emotional challenges faced by these professionals. Veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians choose their profession to save lives but may be forced to euthanize treatable animals because the owners are unable or unwilling to pay the cost of treatment. (For more on pet health care costs, read my May 2021 blog post here: animalcare.lacounty.gov/pet-health-care-costs).

Many veterinarians are asked to provide care or medicine for free, and then are harassed or cyber-bullied if they don't. A 2014 survey by the AVMA found that 20% of veterinarians were cyber-bullied, had negative online reviews, or knew colleagues who did. That year, Dr. Shirley Koshi, a Bronx veterinarian, died by suicide after being harassed over a stray cat by a person who went so far as to lead demonstrations outside her clinic, write online attacks, and file a lawsuit against her, severely damaging her business. That same year, internationally renowned veterinarian, animal behaviorist, and author Dr. Sophia Yin also tragically died by suicide. Following Dr. Yin's death, the organization Not One More Vet was formed to address the rate of veterinarian suicide and provide resources to veterinarians struggling or considering suicide.

A highly demanding workload, demanding and difficult clients, financial pressures of running a profitable business, deep emotional and mental stress, and a shortage of trained professionals have all led us to where we are today. What can a pet owner do? Take advantage of annual visits which can be scheduled in advance; remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Plan ahead for your medication refills; Most refills can be requested by email and can be done weeks in advance. Be patient with scheduling delays. Have a plan for emergency care in advance and discuss your plan with your veterinarian. Pet-proof your home and keep an eye on your pets, especially puppies and kittens. A lot of emergencies are preventable. And above all, be kind to your veterinary medical professionals. They are equally as devoted to your animals as you are and are doing the best they can during these difficult times.

Marcia Mayeda

You can subscribe to Marcia's blog here:
animalcare.lacounty.gov/directors_blog



The Association for
**Animal Welfare
Advancement**



Certified
Animal Welfare
Administrator

Memorial Gifts

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donations.

Lisa Allison – in memory of Barney
Sharon Aloni-Galasso – in memory of Betty White

Christina Anderson – in memory of Christina Anderson

Christine Arias – in memory of Oreo & Ditto

Teri Armstrong – in memory of Betty White

Shelli Asper – in memory of Betty White

David Bachelis – in memory of Betty White

Danielle Bailey – in memory of Betty White

Carole Bakshi – in memory of Betty White

Nick Bangar – in memory of Betty White

David & Sheryl Bass – in memory of Betty White

Paulette Bennett – in memory of Betty White

Becky Bethke – in memory of Betty White

Sharon Blackburn – in memory of Betty White

Janice Bloom – in memory of my mother,
a true dog lover

Linda Bousquet – in memory of Betty White

Deborah Boynton – in memory of Bob Carr

Rochelle Bracken – in memory of Betty White

Daniel Brescoll – in memory of Betty White

Linda Breverman – in memory of Betty White

Christina Brown – in memory of Betty White

Robert Brown – in memory of Betty White

Joyce Brummet – in memory of Betty White

Edie Bryant – in memory of Betty White

Darla Bucchalla – in memory of Logan & Lola

Annie Butalia – in memory of Betty White

Pamela Butler – in memory of Betty White

Lindsay Call – in memory of Betty White

Theresa Carbonel – in memory of Betty White

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Catherine Cassandro – in memory of Betty White

Olga Chavira – in memory of Betty White

Gilbert Cisneros – in memory of Betty White

Leigh Clausen – in memory of Murphy Mayeda

Christina Cobb-Dozier – in memory of Betty White

Bridget Cole – in memory of Betty White

Ashley Combs – in memory of Betty White

Rachel Contreras – in memory of Betty White

Pamela Cooke – in memory of Betty White

Kelly Crowe – in memory of Betty White

Lani Currado – in memory of Geri Stuart

Darrell & Judy Danford – in memory of Missy

Joel & Kari Daniel – in memory of Pup & Kozie

Tania Daniels – in memory of Betty White

Julie DeBenedictis – in memory of Betty White

Megan DiStefano – in memory of Betty White

Dorothy Ditzel – in memory of Betty White

Dinah J. Dunaway – in memory of Betty White

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David Hayes – in memory of Betty White

William Brett Henderson – in memory of Betty White

Bobbi Herman-Warman – in memory of Betty White

Sara Blalock Herrera – in memory of Betty White

David & Ramona Hickey – in memory of Cricket & Peanut

Claudia Hoffman – in memory of Betty White

Mary Holt – in memory of Betty White

Tamara Holt – in memory of Betty White

Alan Hopkins – in memory of Lolita Hopkins
McCoy-Galicia

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Amy Hudson – in memory of Betty White

Billie Hunter – in memory of Betty White

Jason Hyde – in memory of Rick Rivera

Mendal Hyde – in memory of Peaches
Dracos-Tice

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Dayna Jones – in memory of Betty White

Janine Jones – in memory of Betty White

Millie Jones – in memory of Cody

Gail Kaneshiro – in memory of Betty White

Henri E. Kenyattta – in memory of Sian

Kester Family – in memory of Kathleen Kester

Linda Klauss – in memory of Betty White

Donna Koch – in memory of Murphy Mayeda

Shannon Koeller – in memory of Betty White

Kelly Kolibas – in memory of Betty White

Robert Kollar – in memory of Janice Kollar

Alysia Komar – in memory of Betty White

John Kovach – in memory of Betty White

Joan Kraus – in memory of Betty White

Tammy Kudratt – in memory of Betty White

Debbie Kugelman – in memory of Betty White

Kathryn Lambert – in memory of Betty White

Thomas Lamog, II – in memory of Tyson,
Patchez & Lupe

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Tiffany Laurel – in memory of Betty White

Marcy Lebovitz – in memory of Betty White

Art Ledesma – in memory of Betty White

John Leite – in memory of Betty White

Erica Lewis – in memory of Betty White

Hsin Liao – in memory of Hero

Elizabeth Limon – in memory of Betty White

Kerstin Llamas – in memory of Betty White

Gail Long – in memory of Betty White

Marcella & Onesimo Lopez – in memory of Betty White

Margaret Lopez – in memory of Betty White

Melissa Lopez – in memory of Betty White

Tina Bertacchi Love – in memory of Betty White

Blanca Lush – in memory of Milo & Shyra
Jennifer Martinelli Mac – in memory of Betty White
Victoria Maltsev – in memory of Danielle
Helen Maravilla – in memory of Dolce
Veronica Marquez – in memory of Betty White
Joan Marshall – in memory of Betty White
Carol Martinez – in memory of CeCe
R. Mason – in memory of Betty White
Jennifer Matinas – in memory of Betty White
Ellen Maves – in memory of Betty White
Marcia Mayeda – in memory of Sterling Golightly-Ward
Keli McAllister – in memory of Betty White
Travis McBurney – in memory of Betty White
Liena McCord – in memory of Betty White
Carrie McGurn – in memory of Betty White
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Stephanie Moench – in memory of Betty White
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Gary Monje – in memory of Betty White
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Selena Gutierrez
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Domino
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Murphy Mayeda
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Betty White
April Moreau – in memory of Betty White
Helga I. Morgan – in memory of Teddy
James Morgan – in memory of Betty White
Carrie Morrill – in memory of Betty White
David Murakami – in memory of Betty White
Janette Murayama – in memory of Mickey
Nancy Nakamoto – in memory of Betty White
Daniel Navarro – in memory of Betty White
Adam Neubauer – in memory of Betty White
Therese Neustaedter – in memory of Rocky & Max
Burton Newman – in memory of Betty White
Jonathan Ng – in memory of Shaggy
Kimvan Nguyen – in memory of Betty White
Cheryl Oberon – in memory of Betty White

Roxana Ocegueda – in memory of Betty White
Amy O'Leary – in memory of Smudgy Kyte
Mercedes Olivera – in memory of Betty White
Lindsay Olson – in memory of Betty White
LaCie Orona – in memory of Betty White
Anthony & Rose Ortega – in memory of Buck
Cassandra Palone – in memory of Betty White
Mary Pantoja – in memory of Betty White
Joan Park – in memory of Aimee & Buster
Stephen Parks – in memory of Sophie
Eugene Paulish – in memory of Betty White
Gary & Barbara Pecorelli – in memory of Duke Sheeran
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Selena Gutierrez
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Domino
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Betty White
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Murphy Mayeda
Danielle Peel – in memory of Betty White
Alyssa Perez – in memory of Betty White
Andrea Polak – in memory of Betty White
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Olivia Roberts – in memory of Patricia Swallow
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Melinda Schaffner – in memory of Betty White
Hilary Schardein – in memory of Betty White
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Robin Silverman – in memory of Betty White
Dawn Sites – in memory of Betty White
Mark Snyder – in memory of Ruby Holman
Nikki Stacy-Weiner – in memory of Betty White
Jean Stains – in memory of Calvin & Tess
Angela Stern – in memory of Betty White
Elizabeth Stothers – in memory of Indy & Dustamen
Elizabeth Stothers – in memory of Chopper & Gerty
Thomas Stubbs – in memory of Betty White
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Denise Walton – in memory of Betty White
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Hilda Weintraub – in memory of Mysterio Quan
Toni Weireter – in memory of Betty White
John & Martha Wengert – in memory of Rascalito
Susan Whempner – in memory of Betty White
Lynn White – in memory of Betty White
William Whitehead – in memory of Betty White
Christina Whitlatch – in memory of Betty White
Lisa Williams – in memory of Betty White
Dora Wong – in memory of Bernice
Clariss Yadegarian – in memory of Sevook
Carol Young – in memory of Betty White
Harry Young, IV – in memory of Betty White
Anna Yu – in memory of Earmuffs
Crystal Zamecnik – in memory of Betty White & Kari
Dolores Zimmerman – in memory of Betty White

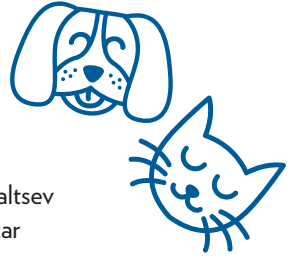


Honorarium Gifts

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

Sharon Aloni-Galasso – in honor of Zooey
Erin Aved – in honor of Mr. Vazquez & Mango
Richard & Priscilla Benson – in honor of Ziggy
Mike Burkes – in honor of Hunter Burkes
Lindsay Call – in honor of Bailey Barker
Andrea Cassidy – in honor of Jordan Gartsbeyn
Andrea D'Auria – in honor of Sofie & Rockwell
Jeffery & Rosena Emanuelli – in honor of Zelda
Harold & Gloria Estabrook – in honor of Duke & Jack
Karin Fischbach – in honor of Joan Long
Jim Flores – in honor of Cassie, Coco, Chandler & BJ
Andrew & Judy Fried – in honor of Belvedere
Jean-Philippe Garneau – in honor of Danielle Repokis
Adam Goldberg – in honor of Blanche
Karin Guerrero – in honor of Lucy Lai
Kim Hargrave – in honor of Coby
Lloyd Hartley – in honor of Steve Greenberg
Nicholas Jackson – in honor of Nick, Mandy & Radar
Becky Kemp – in honor of Eleanor Duff Howard's Birthday
Joshua Konrad – in honor of Ryan Beardsley

Jessi Laird – in honor of Tom Bergeron
Mark Liebhauser – in honor of Coco
Henry Lin – in honor of Chocho
Nicole Long – in honor of Hannah Long
Ernest Mack – in honor of Bailey
Victoria Maltsev – in honor of Timothy Maltsev
Calbert Marroquin – in honor of Maia Lazar
April Moreau – in honor of Phoebe
Linda Nexon – in honor of Cindy Nexon
William & Mary Pechie – in honor of Tiger Lilly
Kara Plotz – in honor of Karen Joseph-Sujishi
Alejandra Rich – in honor of Ikaika, Cocoa & Malika
Francisco & Carolyn Rodriguez – in honor of Monkey
Guadalupe Rojas – in honor of Tito
Evan Shahak – in honor of Kristin Walsh
Ema Shuton – in honor of Obie
Debbie SooHoo – in honor of Kona
Mary Stromberg – in honor of Claudia Spelman
Joyce S. Watanabe – in honor of Marcia Mayeda's 20 years with DACC
Lisa Woung – in honor of Maotse, Beenie & Elvis



HELPING COMMUNITY PETS

DACC and the Foundation are making greater inroads into helping pets in the community. Recently, DACC hosted a "Vet@ThePark" in Rimgrove Park in La Puente. Between the hours of 9 am – 12 pm, DACC was able to assist 94 pets obtain their wellness vaccinations, dewormings, flea and tick medications, and microchips. Staff also provided pet owners with resources for low-cost spay/neuter and distributed pet food and supplies.

DACC continues to provide low-cost vaccination and microchip services to pet owners so their pets may remain healthy and identified in case the pets become lost. A healthy and identified pet population elevates animal welfare as well as public health. **More information about services can be found on DACC's website at: animalcare.lacounty.gov/vaccinations.**



STAR'S DREAMS CAME TRUE

Star came to DACC with a fractured tibia. Her injury was so complicated that it required either amputation or an involved surgery to be performed by a private veterinarian. Thanks to the Dreams Come True fund, Star received her surgery and is now a happy and healthy pup. Her pet parent William Michael Kopp reports:



Star After

"She is the most amazing, smart, incredibly happy puppy I have ever seen, and we have had dogs my entire life. She loves to play in our big yard and explore, and her leg has healed amazingly over the week I brought her home!



Star Before

I am forever grateful that she was saved by surgery and that generosity has led her into my life. She will be a loved and cherished member of our family forever! Thank you all for what you do!"

We are glad that Star is living the good life in a forever home and wish her and Mr. Kopp many years of happiness together.