“D” is for Dog
Reading goes to the dogs

On the Feral Front Lines
Fighting for feral cats

The Smile Machine
A four-footed healer

The Cats’ Meow
New pussycat products

Sittin’ by the Dog of the Bay
Canines and humans at sea
I’m delighted to welcome and introduce to you Jan McHugh-Smith, The San Francisco SPCAs new President, chosen earlier this year by the Board of Directors in a unanimous vote. She’s only the eighth president in the Society’s 139-year distinguished history, and the first woman in the post.

Jan McHugh-Smith comes to us from Boulder, Colorado, where she was the CEO of the Humane Society of Boulder Valley for the past 12 years. She took that organization on a journey remarkably similar to The SF/SPCA’s, transforming it into a model for adoptions, behavior training and sheltering programs. In addition, she is a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA), chaired the Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies, and has served on the national board of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA). So not only is Jan an experienced executive, she is already a nationally recognized leader in animal welfare. Her appointment is great news for The SF/SPCA and the City of San Francisco.

– Richard Dirickson, Retiring Board Chairman, SF/SPCA

I don’t doubt that the world can change. I’ve seen it with my own eyes. Twenty-three years ago, I took my first paid job in the animal field, as a kennel technician (cage cleaner). At that time, people still referred to animals shelters as the “pound” where unwanted and stray animals were held until their time was up and they were euthanized. Sure, some of the animals were adopted out, but despite our best efforts, we couldn’t convince enough people to get their pets spayed and neutered, and not enough people came to our shelter to adopt. So, to the never-ending dismay and anguish of all of us who worked directly with the animals, the euthanasia continued.

Furthermore, few people questioned the status quo. Euthanasia was considered the main method of dealing with pet overpopulation. Limited resources added to the problem; medical treatment and space to isolate sick animals in the shelter were scarce. And adopting a homeless animal wasn’t the norm for people seeking to add a new pet to their household.

Today, across the country in communities large and small, the general public has undergone an attitude makeover. People now demand that their local animal shelters actually shelter the animals, protect them, provide them a decent level of care and make genuine efforts to find them homes. And citizens are putting their money where their mouths are, allocating tax dollars or their own donations toward better care of homeless pets.

Also, adopting a cat or dog from a shelter is no longer the exception; it’s the right thing to do. Spaying and neutering is the right thing to do. Saving every life you possibly can is the right thing to do.

In Boulder, we introduced many of the same services SF/SPCA supporters have long known as problem-solving programs.
We built a new facility that gave us additional treatment space and increased our clinic services, especially spay/neuter surgeries. We raised money to buy a van and started a mobile adoption service. We hired dog training and cat counseling experts to advise the public on how to fix pet behavior problems and thus keep pets they might otherwise give up.

We found, as San Francisco did, that helping people solve their little problems with their pets went a long way toward solving our big problems with discarded animals. On the behavior front, for example:

- If the neighbors say your dog barks incessantly while you’re at work, no, you don’t have to get rid of the animal. Most likely, your dog is bored and has too much energy, so take the dog on vigorous walks, engage in play sessions, and teach your pet to play with chew toys. Here’s some literature that describes how to do that. Result: the neighbors’ ears are saved and so is the dog.

- If the cat uses the couch as a scratching post, no, you don’t have to get rid of the animal. Just get a scratching post, even a small one, and teach the cat to use it—follow the step-by-step instructions on this flyer. Voila: the couch is saved and so is the cat.

Through such behavior advice and similar services, we made friends with many of the people we assisted. And we learned, as in San Francisco, that when our humane society rallied to help animals, the community rallied to help us. Donations went up, volunteering became popular, and adoptions soared. Boulder reached life-saving work. The difference between yesterday’s dream and today’s reality is that now we KNOW we can do it!

For the animals,

– Jan McHugh-Smith, President, SF/SPCA

The San Francisco SPCA

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit animal welfare organization dedicated to saving homeless dogs and cats, to providing lifesaving care and treatment to dogs and cats in need, to helping pets stay in loving homes, and to cultivating respect and awareness for the rights and needs of animals and the importance of the human-animal bond.

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On the Cover: The San Francisco SPCA pledges to place every cat or dog in a good home, so when SF/SPCA staffers say about an animal, “He won’t last long,” they mean that the dog or cat will be adopted pretty darn quickly. Sure enough, cover dog Chase lasted here only ten days (including time out for neutering) before getting a great home. This adorable mix of retriever (and setter?) came to The SF/SPCA from the Manteca Animal Shelter as an eight-month-old adolescent, so aptly-named Chase required an adopter willing to handle 40 pounds of pure energy. Two months later, Chase’s new “mom” reported back: “He’s doing great, we love him, he’s fully trained, he’s very good, and he loves the dog park.” Photograph by Charlotte Fiorito, fioritophoto.com.
Michele Blunt needs to run an errand after work today, but instead of buying a loaf of bread or a quart of milk on her way home from the office, she’ll swing by The San Francisco SPCA and pick up three cats. Three feral cats, that is, freshly “fixed.”

Each post-operative animal will be in its own portable cage, each cage covered with an old blanket. At home this evening, Michele will place the three occupied cages on the floor of her garage, provide the cats with food and water, and then leave them be until morning.

As the cats recover from their spay and neuter surgeries over the next few days, she’ll return these essentially wild animals to where she captured them – an abandoned “light industrial” area overgrown with weeds, basically an invisible pocket of the urban jungle where the cats feel at home because, of course, it’s the only home they have known. Michele will most likely never encounter any of the animals again. Not to worry, however. A volunteer caretaker – someone as committed to cats as Michele is – will feed them regularly and watch over the colony for the rest of the cats’ lives.

Welcome to San Francisco, the city that knows how to care for animals no one else cares about – feral cats. Thanks to The San Francisco SPCA’s Feral Cat Assistance Program, now in its 14th year, a remarkable safety net is in place for these animals.

A feral cat is either a cat who has lived its whole life with little or no human contact and so avoids people, or is a stray cat who was lost or abandoned and has reverted to a wild state and shuns people. Although it’s illegal in San Francisco to abandon animals, it still happens. Left to fend for themselves, some of these cats manage to survive,
mate and create offspring (not surprisingly, animals that are abandoned are seldom spayed or neutered). The SF/SPCA’s Feral Cat Assistance Program aims to help people take care of the existing cats and to prevent those cats from reproducing. The cornerstone of the program is Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR: capturing the cats one at a time, bringing them in for spay/neuter surgery, then releasing them (with one ear tipped for identification) back to what they know as home, which may be a back yard, alley or nothing but a parking lot.

To people unfamiliar with TNR, this seems a tedious, haphazard, even inefficient approach. But it’s hard to argue with the results. The numbers aren’t merely impressive, they’re spectacular.

In the year before The SF/SPCA’s Feral Fix began, the City’s animal shelter, San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SF/ACC), had little choice but to “put to sleep” more than five thousand cats, a large proportion of them feral and, therefore, unadoptable. Twelve years later, the total was less than 800. That’s an 85% improvement.

Are there holes in the feral-cat safety net? Yes, but one by one those holes are being repaired as people in their own neighborhoods step forward, volunteering to do their part to look after feral cats. The SF/SPCA program provides not only free spay/neuter surgery and vaccinations, it offers close connections with other SF/SPCA services such as the foster program (underage kittens are taken care of in homes until ready for adoption) and cat behavior (kittens that exhibit feral behavior are socialized so they can be adopted). Also critically important, The SF/SPCA puts feral-cat volunteers in contact with each other so they can coordinate their efforts.

Michele’s story illustrates beautifully how far the program has come.

Michele’s a newcomer. She first showed up at The SF/SPCA early in 2004. A lifelong cat fan, she’s always had pet felines. As a way to do more for cats and as a release from her day job (“thirty-two years in the customer-service business,” she laughs), Michele originally volunteered in Maddie’s Pet Adoption Center as a cat socializer, visiting and playing with kittens for three hours at a time. (Yes, it is a tough job, but someone’s got to do it. How about you? Call 554-3087.)

But several months into her volunteer stint, she learned of the feral cat program, which got her thinking about the predicament of feral cats. She knew the animals she worked with in The SF/SPCA’s adoption center were destined for the safe harbor of a good home. For ferals, that was definitely not the case, and that’s when Michele said to herself, “Here’s where I can really help.”

Michele began paying closer attention to the “stray” cats in her own neighborhood, and when she discovered a cat in trouble (the panicked animal had a paw caught inside its collar), she wanted to do something, but, “I was paralyzed. I didn’t know what to do.”

At least she knew where to call. Mary Ann Buxton, The SF/SPCA’s Feral Cat Program Coordinator, helped Michele save the cat. Michele liked this rescuer role, and Mary Ann soon became Michele’s instructor, explaining the feral facts of life, including TNR. “It’s like teaching someone a foreign language,” Mary Ann remarks.

So when Michele got involved about two years ago, she not only got a coach, she encountered a whole network of people committed to the cause of feral cats. Today, Michele’s volunteering has switched from indoors to outdoors. And it is a measure of how far the program’s come that Michele has become a specialist.

Michele, as a volunteer, doesn’t feed any feral cat colonies beyond her back door nor does she foster mom cats with their nursing kittens. Instead, she prefers to be one of the few volunteers who captures cats. Not with her bare hands or with a lasso, but with the portable wire-mesh cages that are the hallmark of TNR.

Michele’s been doing this for about two years, so she’s an expert. Her capturing of the cats, combined with her spay/neuter shuttle trips and post-surgery care, has evolved into a routine service that she’s provided, she estimates, for more than 100 ownerless felines. The amount of time she puts in compares with her old volunteer job at Maddie’s; she also gets to work from home and with other people taking
care of feral cats.

Contrast this to the bad old days not even 20 years ago, when it was considered all but impossible to do anything for feral cats other than, as an act of mercy, feed them and then watch powerlessly as they reproduced, compounding the dilemma. The traditional state of affairs is that one person takes on this formidable humane chore alone, feeding the cats, occasionally capturing one (usually because the animal is too sick to get away) and paying for medical care by a private veterinarian, even while witnessing new kittens appear, adding to the burden. (See sidebar.)

Now there’s a network, a system, coordination and communication, printed and online materials, one-on-one help, a division of labor, even workshops for the public. Part of The SF/SPCA’s Feral Cat Assistance Program is a unique and effective partnership with SF/ACC that saves the lives of many, many feral cats. And the collective knowledge about feral cat care and colony management covers an amazing repertoire of skills and techniques, from Michele’s specialty, how to lure a wary adult cat into a humane wire-box trap, to the weeks-long process of winning over a feisty feral kitten so it can be adopted.

Here’s an example of what not to do. You, as a kind-hearted person who discovers a litter of two-week-old kittens under the bushes, might, as a natural act of generosity, put out food nearby for the mom cat to find and enjoy. Rather than welcome the offer, however, the mother cat may interpret this invasion of space as a potential danger to the kittens and, one by one, she’ll move them, probably to a spot where you’ll never find them again. Thus an opportunity to help the cats – to have the mother spayed and released and the kittens domesticated and adopted into good homes – will have slipped through your well-meaning fingers.

When Michele first called The SF/SPCA’s Feral Cat Assistance Program, she didn’t know what she could do or how to start. Now she’s part of the safety net. She sets a good example. Please get involved. Your help is needed.

The Feral Cat Assistance Program offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, such as trapping, recovery, colony management, transportation, and advocacy. We especially need trappers and recovery sites, so give us a call at (415) 522-3539 if you would like to help out and join our Cat Assistance Team. Thank you!
Barbara Miller almost laughs when she considers how things were 20 years ago. “The difference is night and day!” she declares. Barbara was one of a handful of people who cared about feral cats long before the issue received much publicity. When the Feral Cat Assistance Program was created, The San Francisco SPCA consulted Barbara and others like her who were already working tirelessly by themselves looking after colonies of abandoned cats. The most urgent need by far was for some kind of discount spay/neuter service; thus The SF/SPCA’s Feral Fix program was born, offering free spay/neuter surgeries for unowned felines.

Barbara is still very much on the front lines, feeding and keeping an eye on “her” feral cats. And thanks to the enormous effort that she and many others have put into Trap-Neuter-Return, she reports that in her colonies there have been no kittens in the last two years, an astonishing achievement. “It’s just wonderful,” she says. “We’ve come such a long way.”

Martha Hoffman is another feral cat caretaker who’s been there “since the beginning”—in other words, since before The SF/SPCA established formal services for feral cats. Martha remembers when a free spay/neuter day at The SF/SPCA was a very special occasion; at the beginning, those precious opportunities came only every few months. Though she’s a retiree, Martha still works five days a week—she watches over five different colonies, visiting each group of cats once a week, and she has seen dramatic progress firsthand. One of her colonies originally contained somewhere between 45 and 90 animals. Now she counts 11. Another colony had 27-30 cats; today she counts four. It’s all due to Trap-Neuter-Return, made possible (and practicable) by The SF/SPCA.

“It’s a smooth, streamlined thing now,” she marvels.

Like Michele Blunt (see main article), Toni Sestak took an indirect route to helping feral cats. Toni never managed a feral cat colony herself. Rather, she began (“only” 13 years ago, as she puts it) by socializing cats—“though it wasn’t called that then,” she remembers. By handling and playing with and talking to kittens of feral mom cats, she was able to “take the rough edge off” the youngsters, making them suitable for adoption as pets. Toni soon started fostering the babies at home, and then, because she had the time, she decided to volunteer “just for the summer” at the City shelter, San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SF/ACC), which had a much smaller fostering and socialization program than The SF/SPCA.

That was many years ago. Toni’s volunteer career has since taken a quantum leap forward. Today, cell phone constantly at her side, Toni’s on call seven days a week, and though you might find her at home, she’s more likely at SF/ACC, or sometimes at The SF/SPCA. Her brain is now one of the hubs in the feral-cat caretaking world, and she spends much of each day training, explaining, coordinating, teaching other people the fostering and kitten-taming skills necessary to help stem the tide of “extra” and “unadoptable” cats. She even started a new nonprofit organization, Toni’s Kitty Rescue, to raise money for supplies.

As she has from the beginning, Toni works closely with Mary Ann Buxton and Joanne Kipnis at The SF/SPCA’s Feral Cat Assistance Program so that they’re all “on the same page,” delivering the most services to the largest number of animals.

As Toni’s case illustrates, one of the most gratifying aspects of The SF/SPCA’s initiative is that these knowledgeable caregivers can share their hard-earned expertise with new volunteers. Barbara Miller, for example, has become the Martha Stewart of cat colony management. She’s one of the lecturers in The SF/SPCA’s Feral Cat Workshop series put on each year. Barbara emphasizes that part of the modern agenda for people who care about feral cats is to not keep to themselves. Her talk includes many pointers on how to involve the neighbors so that protecting feral cats (and preventing new ones from coming along) can be a group endeavor—and thus a more effective one for the animals.

“We’ve made enormous progress,” says Barbara, “and I feel so very good about it.”

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead, US anthropologist and author (1901 – 1978)
When a new specialist named Izzy joined the prestigious medical staff at one of the world's premier health-sciences universities, the appointment was not without controversy. One doctor pointedly voiced his skepticism by asking, "Why did you get a neurotic poodle?"

While Izzy is a poodle of some sort, she's not neurotic. She's just a dog, a 2-1/2-year-old, 15-pound canine adopted from The San Francisco SPCA who happens to be the first on-staff animal assisted therapist at the University of California, San Francisco Children's Hospital.

And that particular pediatrician, so leery about Izzy's personality, is now one of the little dog's biggest fans. He calls regularly requesting that she visit his patients.

This story of a doctor's conversion from deep doubt to blatant enthusiasm is told by Jim O'Brien, who is a registered nurse at UCSF-Children's, the hospital's Patient Care Manager for the Pediatric/Hematology/Oncology Department, and Izzy's proud adopter. "We call Izzy the 'smile machine,'" Jim says fondly. "She's not just for patients, but staff, too. She lightens everyone's load."

How does a dog lighten everyone's load? Simply by being herself. Izzy provides unconditional love to the children on her ward, children of all ages who are suffering serious illnesses and are undergoing lengthy and often debilitating treatment. A visit from Izzy can be a ray of joy and hope for these youngsters – and their parents – in an otherwise bleak day.

And it also means that Izzy is on the receiving end of countless kisses and cuddles – not a bad deal for her, either. "They all adore her," says Jim. "And when they find out that she's a rescued dog, it makes her even more endearing."

Indeed. This fluffy little dog, now a fixture in the corridors and wards at the UCSF Children's Hospital, has come a long way from the unkempt stray who was found wandering the streets of Fresno in early 2006, and who ended up in the Fresno animal shelter. While there, her luck further improved when she was spotted by a talent scout for The SF/SPCA Hearing Dog Pro-

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE ROSENBLAT, SF/SPCA

Dr. Izzy doing what she does best: delivering TLC.
Since 1978 The SF/SPCA Hearing Dog Program has been training dogs to be “ears” for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. These eager animals alert their humans to vital everyday sounds such as the doorbell, alarm clock and smoke detector. In addition to this valuable service, the dogs provide their new guardians with two other priceless commodities: companionship and a sense of independence.

It takes months of labor-intensive work to train each dog and a weeklong class to train their new guardians; yet, other than a small application fee and a $100 class payment, the dogs are placed free. All expenses are borne by The SF/SPCA. For anyone with a disability who can’t attend the class in San Francisco, individualized at-home instruction is available. Qualified applicants are accepted from anywhere in California or Nevada. Nearly 800 ordinary dogs have become SF/SPCA Hearing Dogs.

One of the Hearing Dog Program’s hallmarks, consistent with the mission of The SF/SPCA, is that it seeks top talent from among the “lowest” of recruits – homeless dogs in animal shelters all over Northern California. Requirements are nevertheless stiff. Dogs must be friendly, curious, and trainable, yet not fearful or aggressive. It’s not an easy combination to come by, especially in the stressful surroundings of a shelter.

Yet Izzy made the cut and was soon on her way to The SF/SPCA.

SF/SPCA Hearing Dog trainer Francis Metcalf worked with her the first few weeks. “She was always very, very friendly,” Francis recalls, “but undersocialized and nervous about a lot of things.” As Francis began training Izzy for the sound-response work required of a Hearing Dog, he noted that the loud ringing of the phone and alarms made her anxious. “One of my things with training a dog to be a service dog is that if I feel they’re not happy doing the work, then I don’t want to train them to do it, because they should want to do it,” Francis explains. “I began to feel that perhaps Izzy would be happier in some other role.”

That “other role” was just around the corner. For some time, Jim O’Brien had nursed a dream to employ an on-staff canine therapist at the Children’s Hospital. He had witnessed the difference that the monthly visits of The SF/SPCA Animal Assisted Therapy dogs made in the lives of the sick children on his floor, many of whom had been in the hospital for a long time and were far away from home. “Some of them had pets at home and missed them terribly, so the therapy dogs filled a void,” Jim says.

Jim talked to Lila Param, director of the hospital’s Center for Mothers and Newborns, and they decided it was time to do something about making Jim’s idea for a live-in service dog a reality. They knew that the dog would have to be very special. Jim was familiar with The SF/SPCA because of its AAT visits, and the Society had the added benefit of being a local organization which he could call on for help with the dog, if needed. He contacted Christopher Bergman, Director of the AAT Program at the time, and a meeting was arranged between Jim and the people at The SF/SPCA who had the most experience with assistance dogs, the Hearing Dog Program.

At this time Francis was still following the original plan to train Izzy as a Hearing Dog. But when he heard Jim’s request for a dog with the perfect bedside manner, Izzy
Jim’s 13-year old dog, Carlo – and become acquainted with transition into her new home caretaker. Francis helped her and Jim became her official graduated from The SF/SPCA, kids.” In February, 2007, Izzy and she was a magnet for the [and] the elevators like a pro, great! She met all the staff, she handled the interview and she was laughs. “She came for a 2 _ smile machine,” O’Brien arranged to see how Izzy and fell for her right away. Next, a visit to the hospital was Izzy and she was simmering, and I began to think she could be the perfect dog for the hospital.”

Like the Hearing Dog Program, this assignment had its own set of stiff requirements. The hospital wanted a smallish animal, light in color. A single-coated dog would less likely activate human allergies (as opposed to a dog with an undercoat, like a golden retriever, which would shed more). Above all, of course, the dog had to be gentle and sweet but confident; and comfortable with any sort of touching and manipulation – a tall order for any canine.

In December, during a second meeting between Jim and Francis, Jim was introduced to Izzy and fell for her right away. Next, a visit to the hospital was arranged to see how Izzy would respond to that environment.

“From day one, Izzy was a smile machine,” O’Brien laughs. “She came for a 2-hour interview and she was great! She met all the staff, she met the CEO. She handled the carts, the shiny, waxed floors [and] the elevators like a pro, and she was a magnet for the kids.” In February, 2007, Izzy graduated from The SF/SPCA, and Jim became her official caretaker. Francis helped her transition into her new home (and become acquainted with Jim’s 13-year old dog, Carlo – no problems, thank goodness), and after a period of adjustment, Jim began bringing Izzy to his office every day. In the meantime, Francis continued training her – this time on the job at the hospital.

These days, Izzy leads the life of a busy professional. She arrives at the office with Jim around 8:30 in the morning wearing her chic work gear – a candy-pink harness and leash – with her ID card (with photograph), attached to her collar. In honor of her status as the hospital’s first canine employee, and so she could be entered into the computer system, she is officially identified as “IZZY, ADOG.” She hangs out in Jim’s office, greeting staff members and visitors. Because she’s still officially in training – three handlers are working with her now – she and Francis keep getting together a couple of times a week. During lunch hours, Izzy and Jim take a walk together or play ball, and then the afternoon is filled with meetings or visits with the children, with whom she works one-on-one, three days a week. “She’s always interested in kids’ hands,” Jim notes, “mainly because they always have food, or who knows what else, in them. I think they probably smell so wonderful to her, so she always goes up and licks their hands, which is very endearing.”

Like any loving dad, Jim is enormously proud of Izzy’s achievements and is pursuing other accomplishments for her. “We’re going to get her Good Canine Citizen certification and we’re talking to the Delta Society to get their approval, too,” he reports. “I feel 100 percent comfortable with the training she received at The SF/SPCA, but just to have these other people sign on… gives everyone a higher level of comfort, especially the parents.”

Jim would like to add two more live-in service dogs to UCSF Children’s Hospital, one for the general pediatric ward, and the other to work with outpatients in the facility’s schoolroom. “As things work out with the program, we see more and more need,” Jim explains. “Some of the kids who come in regularly – for dialysis, for example – need to keep up with their school work, because some are at high risk for not completing school.” Francis is now on the lookout for an outpatient pooch who can engage with the youngsters during their lessons and offer them unconditional affection and encouragement while they try to balance schoolwork and their treatment.

Jim is excited about the prospect of other therapy dogs joining Izzy at the hospital, and he envisions a long-term relationship with The SF/SPCA for the supply and training of these dogs. “I can’t thank The SF/SPCA enough,” he says warmly. “I’ve seen the magic Izzy gives to kids. I hope she’s the first of many.”

Of all the animal visits over the years that have brought some measure of lightness to his patients, Jim recalls one in particular as the most poignant. There was a nine-year-old girl who was dying of cancer and who just wanted to have her pet Chihuahua with her all the time. Hospital policy allowed pets to visit, but only for a couple of hours at a time. Jim persisted on the girl’s behalf and her small dog was brought into the hospital, where the dog lived and kept the girl company for three months. Jim remembers, “The dog gave that child such happiness at the end of her life.”

immediately sprang to mind. Nevertheless, Francis wasn’t at all sure that she was right for the job, and he wasn’t yet prepared to offer her to the hospital. “But behavior is always changing, and I saw she was very comfortable in a social role, very playful, quite a clown, and a real crowd pleaser,” Francis recalls. “She loved kids and her confidence had really grown… So my thoughts began to shift, and I began to think she could be the perfect dog for the hospital.”
Good for You! And for Animals!

Welcome to The San Francisco SPCA’s Land of Easy Giving

Got Stuff?

Your used goods will do great things for animals!

Help Our Animals Find the Road Home

Donate your car to The San Francisco SPCA
Call 1-866-473-7722.

Stock Tip

Don’t sell stock or mutual fund shares. Rather, transfer them to The SF/SPCA. There is no capital gains tax, the full amount is also tax-deductible, and more of your money goes to work helping our animals. Another tip: When you do this, please tell us. We’ve recently received a few gifts of stock, but we have no idea from whom!

Call Katy Volz at The SF/SPCA, (415) 554-3027 or kvolz@sfspca.org.

BART Tickets for Animals

Send them to The San Francisco SPCA. The SF/SPCA can redeem the tickets, and spend the money caring for animals. Deposit your tiny tickets in the special jars at The SF/SPCA or use the envelope at page 16. Every little bit helps when an animal is looking for a ticket to a new home!

Your second-hand stuff – clothing, toys, collectibles, record albums, furniture and office equipment – can do great things for animals. Donate your used, salable goods to the Community Thrift Store, and when the store sells them, part of the proceeds will go to The San Francisco SPCA.

It’s a whole lot easier than a garage sale, and you get a tax deduction for your donated items. Plus, it’s a fantastic deal for the animals. During one recent year, The SF/SPCA’s homeless cats and dogs got $14,000 this way.

For details, contact San Francisco’s Community Thrift Store directly (open 7 days a week), and tell them you want your stuff to fetch funds for The SF/SPCA. The store is at 623 Valencia St.

Your used goods will do great things for animals! Call the store today at (415) 861-4910.
The Cats’ Meow

Three fabulous new feline-related products from The San Francisco SPCA. For your shopping convenience, Maddie’s Pet Adoption Center opens at 11 a.m. seven days a week, or visit The SF/SPCA’s E-store (and see our entire CATalog – with doggie goodies, too!) at www.sfspca.org/shop/index.shtml.

**Foster Care poster**

Celebrate life! With help from a computer program, talented SF/SPCA foster volunteer Joe Fierst created this ingenious and delightful poster using 900 individual photos of SF/SPCA foster kittens. Printed on heavy paper at standard poster size (24” x 36”), this work of art (and expression of love) is suitable for framing (and very close-up inspection). Unique! $15 (discount for SF/SPCA volunteers)

**9 Lives**

Learn how you can get involved to help control the population of feral cats and make their lives better with this professionally produced, comprehensive how-to DVD (3.75 hours) using the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) approach to the care and humane management of feral cat populations. Buy it for yourself or for an animal shelter you know. $20 for one, $60 for six.

**Kitty Noodle**

Invented by Lisa Sorini, a Cat Care Attendant at The San Francisco SPCA, the Kitty Noodle has been used for years to entertain SF/SPCA felines. Gently twist, drag or dangle the Kitty Noodle’s bright rubber tubing and it jiggles and wiggles, producing tail-like movements sure to prompt a pupil-popping response from your pussycat. The pliable tubing also gives the cat something to sink its teeth into so, at the end of a play session, s/he can traipse off triumphantly with prey.

Noodles are assembled by SF/SPCA staff and volunteers, so all Noodle profits benefit homeless animals at The SF/SPCA. The electric colors (including dazzling orange, deep hot pink, and loud lime) go with the nature of the Noodle – fun! – and also make the toy easy to locate for us humans whose homes are, ahem, not kept Martha-perfect.

Online, our Noodles are sold in bunches of four (give ‘em as gifts, share with friends!) for $20 plus S&H.
A an apple for the teacher? No, thank you, but a bone would be nice, especially since the teacher in question is a rather rare breed, in more ways than one. Cha Cha, a female Portuguese water dog, is the first tutor in a new San Francisco SPCA reading program called Puppy Dog Tales.

It takes a friendly, laid-back dog to provide reassurance, comfort, and motivation to elementary school children, especially those whose first language is not English, as they learn to read. There’s nothing like a friendly canine tutor, such as Cha Cha, who can be patted and hugged, and who rewards every effort with a loving lick, to support a child as she learns her ABCs – and Ds!

Puppy Dog Tales was created by Jennifer Emmert, Program Manager of The SF/SPCA’s Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) program, which has employed animals to aid in the recovery and rehabilitation of patients in hospitals and psychiatric, pediatric, and senior facilities since 1981. Puppy Dog Tales, while heading in a distinctive direction, is very much grounded in the therapeutic paradigm. It also meshes neatly with The SF/SPCA Humane Education programs, which teach humane values to children and foster positive interactions between them and companion animals. And it’s a service that the AAT program, with its large number of volunteers and friendly dogs, is uniquely qualified to provide.

Jennifer is bursting with enthusiasm about the possibilities of the new reading program. “I was shown an article about a similar program in Utah,” she recalls. “It was for grade-school children at beginning or remedial reading levels. I thought it was a terrific idea, and one that could really be applicable here in San Francisco, with its diverse population.”

Many children from other cultures (and their parents, too) are frightened of dogs. In their native countries, dogs frequently have diseases or are used as a food source, so placing these children in close proximity with a dog can mean overcoming an enormous cultural barrier. “A program like Puppy Dog Tales presents a good opportunity to break down stereotypes and educate minority or immigrant families about dogs in this country. And if it promotes literacy, that’s an added bonus,” Jennifer notes.

She took her idea to Toni Bernardi, the San Francisco Public Library’s Director of the Office of Children and Youth Services, who was instantly supportive of the plan; in fact, the Library had been interested in implementing a similar program for some time. Carla Kozak, who is responsible for children’s services at the Chinatown branch of the Library, was equally enthusiastic. To get some idea about how the program might work, Carla asked several teachers with whom she works to suggest specific children who could benefit from a reading program like Puppy Dog Tales.

Carla set up an informational meeting with some of these children, and Jennifer “borrowed” Widget, a co-worker’s adorable two-year-old mutt, for the occasion. The assembled youngsters were enchanted by little Widget, and many of their anxieties about dogs went out...
the window. Soon Jennifer and Carla were working together to prepare the pilot of Puppy Dog Tales.

Back at The SF/SPCA, Jennifer found enormous volunteer interest in the new program. Most AAT volunteers have their own dogs, many of whom had been thoroughly temperament-tested and were already visiting different facilities.

After some deliberation, Jennifer chose Kathleen Jose, a former second-grade teacher, and her dog Cha Cha to be the first human/dog team in the pilot program. Kathleen has been an AAT volunteer for 18 months, and five-year-old, 45-pound Cha Cha was an exceptionally well-trained, friendly dog, and a seasoned veteran of traditional AAT outings. She is a certified CGC (Canine Good Citizen), having passed an extremely difficult test that requires an extended “down stay” – critical for a reading program. She’s also listed as a Certified Therapy Dog with Therapy Dogs International.

The Puppy Dog Tales Reading Program will be launched on June 1 at the Chinatown branch of the San Francisco Library. A space has been set aside with lots of cushions for the children and a dog bed for Cha Cha. Teachers in the neighborhood elementary schools have chosen six children (with their parents’ blessing); their reading levels have been assessed and appropriate books chosen. Kathleen will facilitate each 90-minute session, acting as the medium between Miss Cha Cha – who will ask questions and dispense praise – and the children. And all the kids will have their own one-on-one time with their shaggy canine instructor.

Puppy Dog Tales consists of six weekly sessions – an introduction, four substantive classes, and a wrap-up meeting at which the children will receive a certificate from Cha Cha. If the pilot goes well, Jennifer would like to offer the Puppy Dog Tales Reading Program to other San Francisco Public Library branches, as well as expanding it to a semester-long program.

The Mission branch has already expressed interest in Puppy Dog Tales. Perhaps lots of small children around San Francisco will soon be singing: Now I know my ABCs, When can the puppy dog play with me?

Reprinted by permission, this article originally appeared in Bay Woof, a free monthly newspaper for Bay Area dog lovers. You’ll find copies of Bay Woof at pet supply stores or online at bay-woof.com.
Puppy Dog Tales, Chapter 1

The news quickly spread through the Chinatown branch of the San Francisco Public Library: There was a DOG in the special room set aside for the new Puppy Dog Tales Reading Program. A crowd of excited, curious children were soon peeking through the door at Cha Cha as she stretched out calmly on her red dog bed.

Two of the children who’d been chosen to take part in the first session of Puppy Dog Tales hurried into the room, quickly chose a book from those displayed on the table (all about dogs, naturally), and snuggled up beside Miss Cha Cha and her assistant, Kathleen Jose. Clearly, Kevin and Lauren were enthralled by Cha Cha and delighted to be reading to her. The next youngster on the schedule was a bit late for his session but he had a logical reason: he’d stopped on the way to buy Miss Cha Cha some special treats! Even so, Calvin was reluctant to get too close to her, so he read “Dogzilla” while seated on a chair.

Serena was next to read. She was hesitant about approaching Cha Cha as well, so she also sat on the chair for her reading session. Nevertheless, as her confidence grew, she finally plucked up the courage to offer Cha Cha a thank-you treat. Then Mi Jia and Chloe arrived. At first, Mi Jia was a little tentative about approaching Cha Cha, but his enthusiasm for learning was so infectious that he soon was happy to pat his shaggy mentor. Chloe, on the other hand, was very cautious and read her story while keeping her distance.

It was clear from the first session of Puppy Dog Tales that the children were all very eager to read, even if some of them were unsure about their new canine coach. If all goes well, by the end of the program they’ll think that nothing could be better than curling up with a good book and a warm puppy dog.
Animals don’t pay taxes – and if you donate IRA funds to animals at The San Francisco SPCA, you won’t, either.

The year will be over sooner than you think and along with it a once-in-a-lifetime chance to save money on taxes while saving animals’ lives. Transfer up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to The San Francisco SPCA totally free of federal taxes.

This offer from the U.S. Government is good only during 2007, and the transaction must be completed (not just initiated) before year’s end. A simple form can do the job; ask your IRA custodian or a tax advisor for details. For general information, contact Katy Volz at The SF/SPCA, kvolz@sfspca.org or (415) 554-3027.

Meantime, we wondered: if pets did pay taxes, would their forms be any easier to fill out than ours?....
**San Francisco SPCA Pet Income Reporting Form 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Microchip number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Filing Status**
- 1 Single pet
- 2 Filing jointly with other pets
- 3 Formerly feral
- 4 Gender: Male
- 5 Female
- 6 Beyond all that (happily neutered)
- 7 Dependent

**Exemptions**
- I am exempt from:
  - 6 external parasites (fleas, ticks, ear mites, etc.)
  - 7 internal parasites (worms, etc.)
  - 8 outdoor dangers (cars, pesticides, theft, loss, etc.)

**Allowances**
- I am allowed on:
  - 11 kitchen counter
  - 12 dining room table
  - 13 top of fridge
  - 14 bookshelves

**Income**
- 17 Dry kibble
- 18 Moist kibble
- 19 Wet food and other regular income
- 20 Stolen hamburger, caviar, and other incidental income
- 21 Tuna treats for tricks
- 22 Ticket sales (performing cat)
- 23 Income from making biscuits
- 24 Pet-ty cash
- 25 Catnip and other over-the-counter substances

**Capital gains and appreciation of assets**
- 26 Appreciation of personal assets
- 27 Appreciation of scratching post
- 28 Interest in mouse toys
- 29 Interest in feather toys
- 30 Appreciation of guardian for 4 a.m. feedings
- 31 Interest in sunny spots
- 32 Interest in clean laundry, warm from the dryer
- 33 Appreciation of birds not yet fully appreciated
- 34 Did you have any capital gains last year or this year?
- 35 Energy-release credit (unreported nocturnal activities)

**Credits and Deductions**
- 36 Credit for not yawning at veterinarian’s
- 37 Deduction for catnip toys lost under couch
- 38 Credit for bug control
- 39 Compensation for being a muse
- 40 Spay pay (credit for neutering)
- 41 Self-cleaning credit
- 42 Adoption credit
- 43 Overall credit for being a great cat
- 44 Credit for allowing people to pick you up
- 45 Credit for self-restraint
- 46 Behavior allowance (if family moved or other trauma)
- 47 Gross losses (e.g., hairball)
- 48 Gross gains (e.g., fish)
- 49 Credit for toilet paper or newspaper recycling (shredding)
- 50 Credit for deposits in litter box (safe deposits)

**Withholding**
- Check all that’s being withheld from you:
  - 50 love
  - affection
  - devotion
  - adoration
  - playtime
  - exercise
  - training time
  - treats
  - petting
  - stroking
  - brushing
  - toys

**Schedule C (cat):**
- 51 wake human(s)
- 52 eat breakfast
- 53 self-groom
- 54 sleep
- 55 stay awake 10 mins.
- 56 snooze
- 57 climb cat tree
- 58 catnap
- 59 interactive play
- 60 rest
- 61 snack
- 62 siesta

If too many things are being withheld from you OR your life does not largely conform to Schedule C, submit form 540-MEW, Appeal to Human for Additional (but not too much) Indoor and/or Social Activity (more information at 554-3000 or www.sfspca.org).

**Your tax tip:**
- 52 Your total tax tip

Under penalty of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it’s clean, just the way I like it.

Your paw print (front right)

(If you are polydactyl, please use larger area on back of form)

Holy Day of Bastet

For Acts of Privacy notice (pursuant to Litterbox Dignity Code), see page 629.

Do not shred, bite or play with this form. (OK to sit on it, though.)
### 1040-DOG
San Francisco SPCA Pet Income Reporting Form 2007

#### Filing Status
1. [ ] Single pet
2. [ ] Filing jointly with other pets
3. [ ] Formerly stray
4. Gender: [ ] Male  [ ] Female  [ ] Beyond all that (happily neutered)
5. [ ] Dependent

#### Exemptions
I am exempt from:
6. [ ] external parasites (fleas, ticks, ear mites, etc.)
7. [ ] internal parasites (worms, etc.)
8. [ ] outdoor dangers (consistent use of leash)

#### Income
9. [ ] Gross gains (e.g., long-lost rediscovered yucky tennis ball)
10. [ ] Gross losses (e.g., yucky tennis ball)

#### Credits and Deductions
11. [ ] Dry kibble
12. [ ] Wet food and other gross income
13. [ ] Flying disks, chews, tennis balls, squeaky toys
14. [ ] Stolen roasts, turkeys and other incidental income
15. [ ] Canine couture
16. [ ] Compensation from herding or watching
17. [ ] Rollovers and other tricks for which biscuits were received
18. [ ] Performance fees (star dog)
19. [ ] Pet-ty cash

#### Capital gains and appreciation of assets
20. [ ] Appreciation of personal assets
21. [ ] Appreciation of assets of other dogs
22. [ ] Appreciation of guardian’s bed
23. [ ] Appreciation of buried treats not yet fully appreciated
24. [ ] Did you have any capital gains last year or just minor ones?
25. [ ] Energy-release credit (beach and dog park visits)

#### Withholding
Check all that's being withheld from you:
43. [ ] love   [ ] affection   [ ] devotion
   [ ] adoration   [ ] playtime   [ ] exercise
   [ ] training time   [ ] treats   [ ] petting
   [ ] stroking   [ ] brushing   [ ] toys

#### Schedule D
44. [ ] walk human(s)   [ ] eat
   [ ] inspect indoor territory
   [ ] social play (dog park/beach)   [ ] obedience work
   [ ] eat
   [ ] snooze   [ ] watch TV

#### Withholding
45. I sleep on:
   [ ] floor   [ ] couch   [ ] pet bed   [ ] human bed   [ ] human

#### Withholding
46. Your total tax bite

Under penalty of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it smells great.

Your paw print (front right)

Dog day

For Paperwork Reduction notice (for those through with paper training), see page 631. Do not drool upon, paw at or urinate on this form.
Forget about gold watches. Carrots and apples were the much-appreciated retirement gifts for three San Francisco Police Department Mounted Unit horses, Chub (age 20), Ernie (25) and AAA Andy (15), who hung up their saddles (and shoes) on April 10, 2007. The horses were officially turned over to San Francisco SPCA President Jan McHugh-Smith by SFPD Chief Heather Fong at an official signing ceremony at the Mounted Unit’s stables in Golden Gate Park. The SF/SPCA has been providing lifetime care for police horses that are retired due to age or illness since 1918.

Accepting the horses on behalf of The SF/SPCA, McHugh-Smith noted the long relationship between the Society and the horses of San Francisco. “For much of its 139-year history, The SF/SPCA cared for the horses of San Francisco, and we’re continuing that tradition,” she said. “I think it’s very appropriate that my first official function as President of The SF/SPCA is to accept these deserving horses into our remarkable retirement program.”

Since the inception of this service nearly nine decades ago, the animals have beenrehomed at ranches in rural counties in the greater Bay Area. For the last 25 years the retirement retreat has been a beautiful 40-acre ranch in Sonoma County. The extraordinarily generous owner of the ranch, Mrs. Katherine Black, a long-time member of The SF/SPCA Board of Directors, offers its green fields as a haven for these worthy animals. Chub, Ernie and AAA Andy will join five others already happily settled at the property.

As the officially retired horses moseyed away to greener pastures, they were seen off by their handlers, Officers Bill Sims (Chub), Bruno Pezzulich (Ernie), and Chris Olocco (AAA Andy). The officers expressed their gratitude to The SF/SPCA for providing a “golden years” sanctuary for the horses, where the animals can just … horse around.

Mrs. Black is paid $1 per day per horse (try finding stabling services at that rate in the Bay Area!) by The SF/SPCA. The cost of the horses’ food — 10 tons of hay each year — and veterinary care is also provided by the Society, with funding from its many loyal and generous donors.
**Annual Cat & Dog Statistics and Live Release Rate Formula**

**SF/SPCA 2006 Annual Report**

**A Beginning Shelter Count (01/01/06)**

- **Dog**: 37
- **Cat**: 144
- **Total**: 181

**Intake (Live Dogs & Cats Only)**

- **From the Public**
  - Healthy: 48
  - Treatable – Rehabilitatable: 4
  - Treatable – Manageable: 36
  - Unhealthy & Untreatable: 8
- **Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia**: 731
- **Subtotal Intake**: 728

**Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition**

- **Healthy**: 490
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 26
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 33
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 8
- **Total**: 527

**Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition**

- **Healthy**: 23
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 11
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 16
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 4
- **Total**: 54

**B Subtotal Intake from the Public**

- 728

**C Total Outgoing Transfers**

- **To Organizations within Community/Coalition**: 117
- **To Organizations outside Community/Coalition**: 516
- **Subtotal Total Intake**: 834

**D Total Outgoing Transfers to Organizations within Community/Coalition**

- **Healthy**: 30
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 41
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 44
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 8
- **Subtotal Total Intake**: 127

**E Subtotal Intake from Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia**

- **N/A**: 126
- **N/A**: 26
- **N/A**: 8

**F Total Intake**

- **B + C + D + E**: 728

**G Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)**

- **Healthy**: 490
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 26
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 33
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 8
- **Total**: 527

**H Adjusted Total Intake**

- **F minus G**: 728

**Adoptions (Only dogs and cats adopted by the public)**

- **Involving Dogs and Cats From Animal Control and Traditional Shelters**
  - Healthy: 30
  - Treatable – Rehabilitatable: 41
  - Treatable – Manageable: 44
  - Unhealthy & Untreatable: 8
  - **Total**: 127

**Subtotal Adoptions Involving Dogs and Cats from Animal Control and Traditional Shelters**

- **Healthy**: 115
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 138
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 63
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 8
- **Total**: 208

**Subtotal Adoptions Involving Dogs and Cats from the Public and Other Organizations**

- **Healthy**: 508
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 183
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 63
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 8
- **Total**: 772

**I TOTAL ADOPtIONS**

- **Healthy**: 562
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 2495
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 3162
- **Total**: 3777

**OUTGOING TRANSFERS**

- **To Organizations within Community/Coalition**
  - Healthy: 30
  - Treatable – Rehabilitatable: 41
  - Treatable – Manageable: 44
  - Unhealthy & Untreatable: 8
  - **Total**: 127

- **To Organizations outside Community/Coalition**
  - Healthy: 115
  - Treatable – Rehabilitatable: 138
  - Treatable – Manageable: 63
  - Unhealthy & Untreatable: 8
  - **Total**: 208

**TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS**

- **Healthy**: 415
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 1632
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 381
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 8
- **Total**: 2063

**L RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN**

- **Healthy**: 13
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 39
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 52
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 48
- **Total**: 126

**DOGS & CATs EUTHANIZED**

- **Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)**: 12
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)**: 5
- **Treatable – Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)**: 7
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)**: 7
- **Total**: 31

**T Subtotal Outcomes**

- **Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)**: 731
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)**: 2632
- **Treatable – Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)**: 3360
- **Healthy (Live Dogs & Cats Only)**: 480
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable (Live Dogs & Cats Only)**: 2646
- **Treatable – Manageable (Live Dogs & Cats Only)**: 3188
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable (Live Dogs & Cats Only)**: 437
- **Total**: 14360

**U DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE**

- **Healthy**: 41
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 41
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 41
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 41
- **Total**: 165

**V Total Outcomes**

- **Healthy**: 731
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 2632
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 3360
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: 437
- **Total**: 7360

**W Ending Shelter Count (12/31/06)**

- **Healthy**: 48
- **Treatable – Rehabilitatable**: 208
- **Treatable – Manageable**: 256
- **Total**: 512

---

**SF/SPCA by the Numbers**

In August 2004, a group of animal welfare industry leaders from across the nation met at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California. Their purpose was to build bridges across varying philosophies among those involved in animal welfare, to develop relationships and create goals focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the U.S.

A common vision for the future was adopted – the Asilomar Accords. The Accords set forth guiding principles for animal welfare organizations to work together to save the lives of all healthy and treatable companion animals. To achieve this, there is a national effort for all organizations that shelter animals to utilize the same statistical record keeping.

The chart on this page details The San Francisco SPCA’s first efforts utilizing the Asilomar Accords reporting system with a 98% live release rate for the organization. The Live Release Rate for a single agency = Adoptions + All Outgoing Transfers + Return to Owner/Guardian divided by Total Outcomes excluding owner/guardian-requested euthanasia (unhealthy and untreatable) and dogs and cats that died or were lost in the shelter/care. I [3162] + J [0] + K [48] + L [52] + T [3333] x 100 = 98%.

The chart on the next page celebrates The SF/SPCA’s successful partnership with San Francisco Animal Care & Control (working together under the Adoption Pact) and with local rescue organizations, resulting in a live release rate of 82%, among the highest of any urban area in the nation. The Live Release Rate for a coalition = Adoptions + Return to Owner/Guardian divided by Total Outcomes excluding all outgoing transfers, owner/guardian requested euthanasia (unhealthy and untreatable), and dogs and cats that died or were lost in the shelter/care. I [3162] + J [0] + K [48] + L [52] + T [3333] x 100 = 82%.

All figures are for cats and dogs only; nearly 40% of the animals taken in by SF/ACC, as the City’s shelter for all animals (domestic and wild), are not cats or dogs. For more information please visit: www.asilomaraccords.org.
Adoption Pact Statistics for SF Department of Animal Care and Control (ACC) and The SF/SPCA
January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

While the San Francisco coalition’s statistics, as compiled according to the Asilomar Accords guidelines, are quite good, they do not tell the whole story. Beyond these numbers, The SF/SPCA took in 809 additional animals (line D from the chart on page 4) and ACC took in ten more, as reported in the Transfers section below. Therefore, 819 “extra” cats and dogs, most of them from outside San Francisco County, enjoyed happy endings last year thanks to our coalition’s lifesaving endeavors.

**LIVE INTAKES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>ACC</th>
<th>SF/SPCA</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stray &amp; Public Intake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>2303</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>2398</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>4726</td>
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<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
<td>7029</td>
<td>371</td>
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**TRANSFERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>ACC</th>
<th>SF/SPCA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACC Transfers to SF/SPCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>117</td>
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<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Feral Cats</td>
<td>2063</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Rescue Intake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
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<td>Cat</td>
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<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
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<td>Total Agency Intake</td>
<td>7039</td>
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<td>All Other Rescue Transfers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>366</td>
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**OUTGOING**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>ACC</th>
<th>SF/SPCA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redeemed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
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<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
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<td>Died or Lost in Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
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<td>Cat</td>
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<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cats &amp; Dogs</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Euthanasia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Shelter Euthanasias</td>
<td>1331</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1402</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Euthanized (Including Guardian Requested)</td>
<td>1697</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1768</td>
</tr>
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</table>

What are the chances that San Francisco’s adult cats, such as Starfire, photographed at last year’s SF/SPCA Holiday Windows at Macy’s, will find great new homes? Excellent.
Recent San Francisco SPCA Events and Coming Distractions

**Hats Off to Helping Animals**

The 5th Annual “Hats Off” Fashion Show & Luncheon, hosted by the volunteer group of fundraisers, CLAW (Critter Lovers At Work) and benefiting The SF/SPCA Cinderella Fund, was held on June 7th at Postrio Restaurant. A capacity crowd of guests, many of whom wore wide-brimmed, summery hats trimmed with flowers, mingled in the charming, garden-like setting.

Judy Ranzer and Nancy Medina co-chaired the event, and San Francisco’s own Hat Lady, Jan Wahl, acted as MC. A live auction included a special copy of Emily Scott Pottruck’s Tales of Devotion, autographed by the celebrities included in the book, that fetched $1,700 toward SF/SPCA charitable veterinary care.

**Legacy Tea**

Held in the splendid Oak Room of the Westin St. Francis Hotel, The San Francisco SPCA’s annual Legacy Tea reception honors generous, thoughtful animal lovers who have made The SF/SPCA part of their estate plans -- that is, by will, trust, IRA or life insurance beneficiary designation or other “planned giving” arrangement. Attendees were treated to a private talk by new SF/SPCA President Jan McHugh-Smith. For information about joining our Legacy Society, contact Katy Volz, kvolz@sfspca.org, (415) 554-3027. Katy also runs The SF/SPCA’s Sido Program, a free service that can help you plan for your pet’s welfare as well.

**Pride Parade**

As per tradition, The San Francisco SPCA Horse Ambulance led the SF/SPCA delegation in the annual Pride Parade down Market Street, to the friendly waves and rave reviews of enthusiastic crowds.

**Dog Days of Summer**

The San Francisco Giants hosted some special guests at one of their ballgames in August at AT&T Park: some 700 dogs (that’s about one for every Barry Bonds home run). San Francisco SPCA veterinary staff and dog monitors ensured a safe outing for the large canine contingent. Among the festivities: a costume contest. Truman, seen here in his “Hairy Potter” outfit, was a finalist.
**THURS., OCT. 25, 2007**

**Shop ‘til You Drop for the Animals**

The San Francisco SPCA is one of 14 Bay Area charities that will benefit from “The Shopping Benefit,” Bloomingdale's biggest shopping event of the year, to be held at the San Francisco and Stanford stores on Thursday, October 25, 2007. This is a great opportunity for The SF/SPCA to raise funds for our shelter animals.

A select number of complimentary tickets, which include a $5 donation coupon, will be made available to The SF/SPCA and other participating organizations. Bloomingdale's will donate $5 to us for each coupon returned on our behalf on “The Shopping Benefit” day. The organization that has the largest number of its coupons turned in will receive an additional bonus of $5,000 from Bloomingdale's. Shopping has never been more valuable!

Ticket/coupons will be mailed in early October. If you would like to receive one, please e-mail Nikki Mannes at the SF/SPCA, nmannes@sfspca.org. And remember to bring the coupon with you when you visit either Bloomingdale's store!

There is no purchase necessary for The SF/SPCA to receive the $5 donation from Bloomingdale's and the chance to earn the extra $5,000 -- just turn in the coupon. However, all tickets entitle you to 15% savings throughout the store, or 20% off when you spend $300 or more on your Bloomingdale's card (some exclusions apply). Guests without a ticket can also participate in the shopping madness by purchasing one for $10 at the door on October 25. This donation will be equally divided between each participating charity. Shoppers can also register to win a luxurious trip for two to Fiji.

Bloomingdale's stores will be open to the general public during the day-long event and will feature live music, fashion shows, cooking demonstrations, and family-centered entertainment. Participating organizations, including The SF/SPCA, which will be based at the San Francisco store, will raise funds for their programs while educating shoppers about their services.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 20, 2007**

**Pet First Aid Class**

Offered by the American Red Cross, in cooperation with The SF/SPCA. Register at www.sfspca.org or call SF/SPCA Public Information at (415) 554-3050. $50.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 20, 2007**

**Feral Cat Workshop**


**SATURDAY, OCT. 27, 2007**

**Hearing Dog Graduation**

11 a.m. at SF/SPCA, 243 Alabama St. See sfspca.org or call (415) 554-3000. Free.

**NOV. 2-4, 2007**

**SF Harvest Festival**

The San Francisco SPCA is the select charity of the 2007 San Francisco Harvest Festival, the largest arts and crafts show on the West Coast. Attendants can meet and buy directly from 300 top artisans and buy their unique products, as well as enjoying entertainment and delicious festival cuisine. The SF/SPCA will be selling shopping bags. Conference Exhibition Hall, 635 8th St., San Francisco. Call (415) 447-3205 or visit www.harvestfestival.com for tickets and information.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 17, 2007**

**SF/SPCA Santa Paws!**

Have your pet’s photo taken with Santa. There will also be a special hour for cats only. See sfspca.org or call (415) 554-3000. All proceeds benefit The SF/SPCA.

**STARTING NOV. 17, 2007**

**Holiday Windows at Macy’s**

San Francisco SPCA adoptable animals will once again be the stars of the Union Square shopping district. We’ll need lots of volunteers! See sfspca.org or call (415) 554-3087.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 2007**

**Expert Dog Training from Jean and Janis — free!**

Learn to train like an expert using the almost magical clicker. Bring your best friend and learn from SF/SPCA trainers and award-winning authors Jean Donaldson and Janis Bradley. Three hours of “demos” and one-on-one coaching. As long as your dog is comfortable resting in a crate for part of the time, and can interact with new people, he or she can participate in this workshop. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at The SF/SPCA.
**Gifts of Love**

All gifts to the Society in honor or in memory of a person or pet are gratefully accepted, and we will gladly notify others of your thoughtfulness.

**In memory of:**
- Ira, from Amanda Watson
- Louie, from Paul Williams

**In honor of:**

To give a Gift of Love, send your contribution of $50 or more to The SF/SPCA, 2500 16th St., San Francisco, CA 94103. At your request, your memorial or honorific gift will be printed here. Contact Cynthia Howland, Development Coordinator, at (415) 554-3029 or chowland@sfspca.org for details.
More orange juice?” the friendly waiter offered. “Champagne, too?” he added. “And would your dog like another bottle of beer?”

Ah, cruising. So this is what effortlessness feels like.

Quiet, leisurely, luxurious and surprisingly affordable, cruising is now so popular a form of vacation that Americans voyaged via water vessel more than ten million times during 2006. But of all the worthy ships plying the seven seas, only one cruise accommodates — nay, embraces — canine companions: Dog Day on the Bay, the once-a-year Sunday brunch cruise put on by Hornblower Cruises & Events and The San Francisco SPCA.

On May 6, 2007, the San Francisco Belle, biggest boat of the Hornblower fleet, set sail with a contingent of nearly 500 passengers and some 200 of their pooches.

The third annual Dog Day on the Bay took place on a postcard-perfect day, an elegant, two-hour, champagne-enhanced excursion with fantastic views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge, gourmet cuisine and impeccable service for people and their furry first mates.

Once everyone had posed for their pre-boarding photos, the mixed-species group embarked and soon discovered that the Belle is a triple-decker delight.

To start with, the ship had
On-board shopping

World’s most scenic potty spot

Bow Wow
Doggy Buffet
been outfitted with canine customers in mind: deck railings covered with protective netting, an SF/SPCA veterinarian and technician aboard, plus a complement of experienced SF/SPCA dog monitors. Slipping and sliding were no concern because all outdoor deck surfaces sported non-slip floors, and indoor areas, plush carpeting. No worry about sea legs.

The boat’s two capacious main levels each featured a lavish brunch spread for people and a Bow Wow Doggy Buffet. The topmost level, the sun deck, afforded spectacular 360° views and a shaded lounge area; for the dogs there was also an expanse of fresh sod known as the poop deck for the obvious reason. For an extra $20 donation to The SF/SPCA, you could have a strolling artist sketch your pet’s portrait.

Dogs feasted at their bill of fare: cubes of Monterey Jack and cheddar cheese, lamb- or beef-flavored dog-food rolls, and snack strips with the taste of bacon or sausage. As a special indulgence, Hornblower chefs also dug into recipes from The SF/SPCA’s Toys & Treats book and prepared Beefy Bacon Dog Bones and Apple Peanut Butter Frisbees. And, yes, the beverage bar for four-footed guests even included Happy Tail Ale, a beef-flavored, non-alcoholic beer just for dogs.

Humans had a field day with food as well, everything from fresh baked goods to seafood, all cheerfully washed down with mimosas. Shopping is part of the modern maritime experience, too; the Puppy Pleasures boutique had it all, such as Doggles, protective eyewear for pooches. Some savvy radio, TV and newspaper reporters were also aboard (they’re smart –
they smelled a good story).

Regular sailors know that for a typical outing on the Bay, “al fresco” means El Freezo. Happily, it was one of those rare days between the rain of spring and the fog of summer when you could be out on the deck wearing a top or T-shirt and still feel comfortable. Even as the ship steered straight through the Golden Gate, passengers lounged outdoors, enjoying the sun and sea air, the sailboats and seagulls. You could almost reach out and touch Alcatraz Island.

Please join us next year, won’t you? Proceeds from this splendid and relaxing event benefit the homeless dogs and cats at The San Francisco SPCA. Besides, wouldn’t you like to know just how many strawberries, blueberries and pieces of fresh-cut cantaloupe and honeydew you can eat? 🐶

The San Francisco SPCA thanks generous sponsors of this unique event: Hornblower Cruises & Events, Sloat Garden Center, Fetch the Paper and Happy Tail Ale. Onboard shopping was provided by Puppy Pleasures.
San Francisco # 1 (again)

On April 29th of this year, Parade magazine, the incredibly popular Sunday supplement that comes with 400+ newspapers nationwide, including the San Francisco Chronicle, and that reaches 70 million readers each week, had a short but sweet message for its huge audience: San Francisco is the most humane city in the nation.

A new survey called the Humane Index, created by The Humane Society of the United States, ranked the country's 25 largest metropolitan areas in 12 categories, including companion animals, animal advocacy, Congressional leadership on animal issues, even the number of vegetarian restaurants per capita. San Francisco earned first place by a wide margin. Besides winning the overall honor, the San Francisco Bay Area took the top ranking in three of the categories, and was in the top ten for several others.

The Bay Area's preeminence as a compassionate and caring place to live reflects its community of supportive citizens who care deeply about animals. And the foundation of lifesaving policies put in place by The San Francisco SPCA is another major contributing factor.

According to the index, the San Francisco metro area (San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont) is twice as humane as the average large metropolitan area.

Doggie Road Trip

Talk about tough assignments. A writer for Modern Dog, a slick (and thick) national "lifestyle magazine for urban dogs and their companions," said she and her dog drove more than 20 hours (presumably from the magazine's headquarters in the far northwest) to personally research a story about where to shop, eat, stay and play in San Francisco. Things got really ruff for them after they checked in to one of our city's posh and pooch-friendly hotels because they then had to traipse all over town visiting dog parks (Ft. Funston is a "picturesque, oceanside marvel"), shopping at pet supply shops (from the cool to the quaint), and eating at Fido-friendly restaurants (one had a "sunny patio," another felt like a "cozy Paris café") – all "to sniff out the city's best ideas for a day of doggie nirvana." Such a sacrifice! But Esther, the writer's dog, enjoyed the lengthy field trip.

In the same issue of Modern Dog – the publication is aimed at "the unrepentant dog lover" – some tough dog-behavior questions were answered by five nationally prominent trainers, including, of course, The San Francisco SPCCAs own Jean Donaldson, founder of The SF/SPCA's Academy for Dog Trainers.

Three in a Row

The San Francisco SPCA was voted Best Local Animal Rescue by readers of the Bay Guardian's annual Best of the Bay survey – for the third straight year. We thank all the Guardian readers who gave us their vote of confidence. And we thank The SF/SPCA's supercharged staff and volunteers who make life for San Francisco cats and dogs the best it can be!

By the way, the Guardian generously runs a Pet of the Week feature every issue, a free advertisement for SF/SPCA animals seeking good homes (see listings below).

Pet Press

Comcast on Demand
Adoptable dogs and cats

FETCH The Paper
Pets of the Month & Event Listings

KSFO 560 AM
Weekday mornings around 8:40 am

KGO Channel 7 Morning News
Third Friday of the month around 11:25 am

San Francisco Advertiser
10 Pets of the Week

San Francisco Bay Guardian
Featured Pet of the Week

Marina Times
Pet of the Month & "Kibble & Bits" column

Noevalley.com
10 pets of the week

KOIT 96.5 FM Website
Pet of the Week

The City Star
Pet Corner

Animal Update

KCBS All News 740 AM
Sunday: 1:35 pm, 3:36 pm,
9:22 pm. Monday: 1:53 am