OUR MISSION
The mission of the San Francisco SPCA is to save and protect animals, provide care and treatment, advocate for their welfare, and enhance the human-animal bond.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT
Printed by a Forest Stewardship Council-certified printer on 30 percent post-consumer-waste, recycled paper.
Many of you have read our recent annual report with the theme of “Making Connections.” We are stronger together, working side by side with our partners, volunteers, staff, and donors.

This theme continues into the new year. In March, we partnered with Humane Society International (HSI) to help 57 dogs rescued from horrific conditions and certain death on a Korean dog-meat farm. HSI worked closely with the farmer, who had been breeding dogs for 20-plus years, to convert his farm to humane crops.

The 57 dogs included Korean Jindos, beagles, poodles, and large Tosas. They spent their entire lives in small, filthy, crowded cages exposed to all weathers. Starting on March 16, the dogs were flown in four shipments from Seoul to SFO, and from there they were immediately transported to the San Francisco SPCA for housing, medical care, and evaluation. Three of our neighbor shelters — the Marin Humane Society, East Bay SPCA, and Sacramento SPCA — stepped up to take dogs into their shelters. Fifteen of the dogs remained with us.

You may have noticed our adorable cover girl, Molly, who was one of the 15 dogs who entered the SF SPCA adoption program. She was the first one adopted, just over a week after she arrived from Korea. The couple who adopted her have adopted from us twice before and live on a 20-plus acre home, where Molly will have lots of room to run around and plenty of neighbor dogs to play with.

They said one of the reasons they were moved to come and adopt Molly is that she can serve as “an ambassador/conversation starter for the choices we make with farm animals in the USA.” They also gave a generous donation and signed Molly up for our Puppy Manners class.

In February, HSI reached out to us with only a few weeks’ notice to prepare for the arrival of these animals. But our world-class, never-cease-to-amaze staff and volunteers stepped up to the challenge and received and cared for all 57 dogs.

Thank you as always for supporting our good work. We could not step up to these challenges and opportunities without your continued support.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER SCARLETT, DVM
Co-President

JASON WALTHALL
Co-President

Jason Walthall and Dr. Jennifer Scarlett
There’s a foster program for underage and sick kittens, but what about the undersocialized and shy kittens who are old enough for adoption but not social enough to be adopted? The San Francisco SPCA has a program aimed at this special population. The Kitten Socialization Program assesses incoming kittens and rates them on their level of comfort and outgoingness. Kittens who show higher levels of shyness and wariness toward people are placed into the program for specialized attention and daily evaluation to monitor progress.

One of the conference rooms on the Mission Campus has been modified with large enclosures containing plenty of toys and room for volunteers to interact with the kittens, who spend several hours each day in the special enclosures. Meetings continue as usual in this conference room (also known as “Kitty City”), so the kittens can be around people and

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At first, Calvin hides in the corner, unsure of the volunteer and how to interact with her.
In no time, Calvin approaches people, looking for attention.

As time passed, Calvin started coming out of his shell. Instead of cowering in the corner, uncertain of human interaction, he actually started approaching people for pets and love. With his newfound confidence, Calvin was moved out of Kitty City and graduated to our adoption center. Within two weeks he found his forever home.

As a 65 percent increase or an additional 73 kittens adopted because of this program. Pam Floquet, a longtime donor and volunteer who specializes in socializing shy kittens, says, “The most rewarding part of the program is seeing the transition. You put so much energy, time, and love into these kittens, and they come around and bond with you. You have to be extremely patient, but it always pays off.”

We are about to be inundated with kittens as we approach the warmer months known as “kitten season.” These kittens come from a variety of sources, ranging from San Francisco Animal Care and Control and the Stockton shelter to kind members of the public. The Kitten Socialization Program also works closely with our Community Cares Program (CCP) to trap feral mom cats and their kittens. We spay the mom cat, give her vaccines, tip her ear to show she has been taken care of, and return her to her colony. The kittens stay in our care to be socialized and adopted.

Because we are ramping up CCP efforts to trap more mom cats with their kittens, we expect to have even more kittens for the Kitten Socialization Program this year.

We expanded the program this year, thanks to generous donors who enthusiastically stepped up to support this successful program. Leslie and Brian Baker doubled their gift to $10,000 this year and also volunteer to socialize the kittens, and Kate Schapiro made an additional gift of $5,000. We are very grateful for their generous support.

Join us in this lifesaving program by making your own gift. Buy an item from the Kitten Socialization Program’s wish list to provide care and enrichment to the kittens: bit.ly/BTwishlist. You can also donate online at sfspca.org/donate, or call us at 415.554.3029 to designate your gift to the Kitten Socialization Program.
Jeff Wichmann and his family have an illustrious connection to the animal world. In the early 1960’s, Jeff’s father, Dr. Robert Wichmann, developed a vaccine for one of the most contagious diseases in dogs, parvovirus. This vaccine has saved hundreds of thousands of dogs’ lives. Today, Jeff is the president and owner of PHL Associates, the Davis, Calif., company his father founded, which has been a leading producer of animal vaccines for over 54 years.
There were a lot of animals around the house Jeff grew up in. While his family owned many dogs, his father was known for coming home with some very unusual surprises. Jeff laughs when recalling the day his father brought home an alligator and an ostrich. As a kid, Jeff loved helping his dad in the lab and being surrounded by goats, sheep, bulls, and chickens on the property. Early on, he felt protective of these animals and cared deeply about their welfare.

“Just the opportunity to get a tour of the SF SPCA is something very special. To think that you can support their mission with a donation is even more special.”

— Jeff Wichmann

Today, Jeff continues his father’s tradition of keeping animals healthy, through innovation and planning for the future. Some of PHL’s oldest licensed products are being modernized with new technology and quality standards. While Jeff has launched the sales of his company’s products worldwide, he maintains business with PHL’s loyal customers of 54 years right here at home in California. And the family legacy in the lab will continue. Jeff’s son, Tyler, has been working hand in hand with his dad and will take over the reins in the next 10 years.

Last December, Jeff came to visit the San Francisco SPCA’s Mission Campus for the first time. He shares, “Just the opportunity to get a tour of the SF SPCA is something very special. To think that you can support their mission with a donation is even more special.” When it comes to the act of giving, Jeff believes the honor is all his. As a lifelong animal lover, he takes pleasure in seeing his donations working and having a positive impact at the SF SPCA. “If that doesn’t make you feel good, then nothing will.”

At home, Jeff and his wife have a 1-year-old Australian Shepherd dog named Lucy. Jeff’s says she’s “spoiled rotten” and to her, the meaning of life is love and food.

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MORE ON PARVOVIRUS

Canine parvovirus, commonly known as parvo, is a highly contagious gastrointestinal disease that is often fatal in puppies. Unvaccinated adult dogs are also at risk of contracting the disease. Parvo strikes in two ways. Initially, the virus attacks rapidly dividing cells in a dog’s body, affecting the intestinal tract. Parvovirus can also attack the white blood cells, and when puppies are infected, the virus can damage the heart muscle and cause lifelong cardiac problems. Dogs who develop the disease show symptoms of the illness within three to seven days. Symptoms include lethargy, fever, lack of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Parvo is an incredible sturdy virus. It’s highly resistant and can be transmitted by anything that has come into contact with an infected dog’s feces. The virus can survive for months on surfaces such as floors, food bowls, shoes, and clothing. Diluted bleach and Accel are disinfectants known to kill the virus.

Currently, there is no cure for parvo — prevention by immunization is the best defense. The SF SPCA recommends preventing parvo in two ways. First, puppies should begin their vaccinations at 6 to 8 weeks old until they are 4 months old. It’s also important to balance a puppy’s need for socialization, training, and play with caution about exposure to the disease. Puppies shouldn’t be placed on the ground in parks or other public spaces until they receive a complete series of parvovirus vaccines. It’s also recommended not to introduce your puppy to unknown dogs. Adult dogs should be up to date on their booster shots to prevent infection.

While parvo is not as rampant as it was when Dr. Wichmann developed the vaccine, the SF SPCA still treats and saves approximately 25 dogs a year who enter our shelter infected with canine parvovirus.
Events

Adoptable Pet Day

Save the date: Adoptable Pet Day on Saturday, Aug. 15!

Save the date! NBC Bay Area and the San Francisco SPCA invite you to “Adoptable Pet Day” on Saturday, Aug. 15. NBC 11 is partnering with local animal organizations to help empty Bay Area shelters and find animals their loving forever homes. The SF SPCA will help spearhead the event with NBC to make it the largest Bay Area adopt-a-thon yet! Follow our Facebook page for details — facebook.com/SFSPCA.

Good Dog Art Show

“The Puppy” by André Kertész, donated by Ruth Silverman.

The SF SPCA was lucky to be one of the hosts of the Good Dog Art Show, a monthlong silent auction and celebratory benefit event organized by Creative Rescue. A portion of the gorgeous art exhibit was displayed in the Mission campus hospital atrium in February. Not only does the fine artwork feature dogs, but the sales proceeds go to us! Artists included William Wegman, Jessie Tarbox Beals, Elliott Erwitt, André Kertész, Nicholas Nixon, and many others.

MADDIE’S PET ADOPTION DAYS

Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days is back! This year’s weekend celebration will be May 30–31, featuring adoption centers in California, Nevada, and Wisconsin. The San Francisco SPCA is kicking things off with a cocktail party on Friday, May 29, at our Mission Campus.

Adoption fees will be waived all weekend to help animals find their new homes. Last year, we sent home 128 animals during Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days. Let’s double that number this year. See you there!

Find your soul mate at this year’s Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days, May 30–31.

PRIDE

Join SF SPCA staff, volunteers, and four-legged friends at the 45th Annual Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28.

The San Francisco SPCA is celebrating the 45th Annual SF Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28, and we would love for you to join us! This year's parade theme is “Equality Without Exception.”

We are looking to make our parade group bigger than ever! Floats, balloons, dogs, cats, witty puns — be part of the fun on this celebratory day! If you and your pup would like to join SF SPCA’s parade group, please contact anewkirk@sfspca.org.
Every February, in honor of Spay/Neuter Month, the SF SPCA celebrates the mighty Chihuahua, a breed that represents approximately half of all dogs in Bay Area shelters. The Spay/Neuter Clinic on our Mission Campus offered free spay/neuter surgery to all Chihuahuas from February until the end of April. As of mid-March, we had booked 120 surgeries!

For those who did not have a Chihuahua yet, no problem! We also offered free adoptions for all Chihuahuas over 6 months old. Thirty-five Chihuahuas have gone to a forever home since mid-March. To help spread the word, we partnered with Univision to reach the Spanish-speaking community. We were even featured on the local morning show, “Al Despertar.” By showcasing the importance of spay/neuter, we hope to stop overpopulation.

Despite the rain and the postponement of the SF SPCA cocktail party, we had an incredibly successful Be Mine Adopt-a-Thon! Every year, we celebrate the month of love by offering free adoptions for our cats and dogs. Many visitors braved the rainy weekend to find their perfect valentine. We had 92 adoptions, up from last year, and raised over $5,100 from retail, the bake sale, and donations. Congrats to all the adopters and their new furry family members!
When Noodle suddenly found himself in the intensive care unit of the San Francisco SPCA hospital, he probably thought he woke up in heaven. A belly full of food, soft blankets everywhere, gentle scratches behind the ears, and finally some pain relief — things were really turning a corner for this little dog.

The day we first saw Noodle, eyes closed and shivering in misery, we couldn’t help but feel sorry for this little guy. Another shelter asked us to take him in because his extensive medical needs exceeded the options they had available. Noodle was found roaming the streets all by himself, and his mange had been untreated for a long time. By the time Noodle was rescued, he had lost most of his fur, and his itchy, crusty skin was bright red and hot to the touch. Just imagine the excruciating discomfort this little guy had to endure for so long!

But all of this was about to change. Noodle devoured the treats that contained his medications with unparalleled enthusiasm, and within just a week, the bloody scabs on his face and body began to heal. He suddenly showed interest in toys and felt well enough to chase tennis balls. His ears started to perk up when we called his name, and his appetite for treats only continued to grow. Soon, he would spend his days in staff offices, where he was showered with attention, love, and — you guessed it! — more treats.

It will take quite a while until his fur grows back to reveal the posh little Chihuahua that we’re sure is hiding within, but we also believe Noodle isn’t that concerned with such vanities. He even carries his blue cone with an air of ennui. What really matters to him is the lifesaving, compassionate care he received at the San Francisco SPCA — and he can’t wait to find a loving family to call his own. Until that day arrives, we will be there for him every step of the way.
On the first day that the Feline Wellness Center opened, a family brought their two cats to see Dr. Polly James,” said Erika Dokman, RVT, Nursing Care Manager. “When I stepped into the exam room, the two cat buddies were so relaxed they were grooming each other! I was overjoyed to see my patients so at ease. I feel like this is a testament to how having a feline-focused area in our practice can make a huge difference for our patients and helps take the fear out of medical care.”

Many cat guardians — 39 percent — say they only visit a veterinarian if their cat is sick. And 41 percent only visit a veterinarian for vaccinations. In fact, dogs are more than twice as likely to have an annual exam compared to their feline counterparts.

Veterinary appointments can be stressful for both cats and their human caretakers. As a result, many cats don’t receive an annual exam. Unfortunately, that’s bad news for our feline friends. All cats should receive an annual wellness exam, regardless of whether they live exclusively indoors or have the occasional outdoor adventure. Senior cats or those with chronic conditions should get checkups more frequently.

Cats are masters of disguise and are particularly adept at hiding illness — a trait that evolved to serve them well in the wild. Because health problems can be difficult to spot, regularly seeing a veterinarian is essential to ensuring that your cat lives a healthy, happy life.

To make trips to the veterinarian’s office easier, in January 2014 we opened our Feline Wellness Center at the Pacific Heights Campus. It’s been an incredible success, and the response has been tremendously positive!

Our patients are huge fans of having a cat-only space, and caring staff ensures that the quiet, soothing environment is more like a feline spa than a traditional veterinarian’s office. We even keep the exam rooms stocked with warm towels and Feliway, a synthetic pheromone that promotes relaxation.

The cat-approved veterinarians at our Feline Wellness Center understand your cat’s needs. Our goal is to reduce the stress of a typical veterinary visit — for both you and your cat.

Learn more and make an appointment at sfspca.org/fwc.
In June we will celebrate the first anniversary of the San Francisco SPCA Square One foster program. In just a year, the Square One team has done so much to help adult dogs who cannot thrive in a traditional shelter environment. With a little TLC and extra attention, Square One has helped dogs overcome their challenging backgrounds and special needs. This program creates a bridge between the shelter and a permanent home by partnering with local and national rescue groups and through foster placements.
“Square One ensures that every treatable animal gets a fair shot at being adopted,” says Frances Ho, Animal Transfer and Partnership Associate. “It is truly rewarding to see the hardest cases finally find their forever homes.”

Jack-a-roo, an Australian Shepherd mix, is one of many dogs who has been given a second chance through the Square One program. His journey began in 2012, when he was adopted as a puppy at the SF SPCA. It was clear that Jack-a-roo was extremely energetic, silly, and lovable. Unfortunately, after two years in a wonderful home, he had to be surrendered back to the SF SPCA due to household issues. It was not an easy thing to do for both parties, but it was the best option for Jack-a-roo.

At his second round at the SF SPCA, medical staff discovered that Jack-a-roo suffered from bilateral hip dysplasia, making him a special-needs pup. Hip dysplasia is a common condition in dogs, involving abnormalities in the hip joint. It causes leg bones to move around too much, resulting in pain. There are no preventive measures for hip dysplasia, simply a healthy lifestyle and pain management. Luckily, Jack-a-roo is a very handi-capable, active dog who enjoys being his happy-go-lucky self.

As a special-needs dog who does not do well with other animals in the household, Jack-a-roo was a tough case for Square One. The team had to find a patient, pet-experienced family to train and manage his health. After 194 days at our center, Andrew Walker walked through our doors and instantly fell in love with Jack-a-roo (he now calls him Jack). Not only did Andy have a great backyard in the suburbs with no other pets, he also had experience with Shepherd mixes. It was a Square One match made in heaven!

“Jack is a very cuddly and affectionate boy,” says Andy. “He goes for at least one long walk each day and enjoys savoring the smells, sights, and sounds of our suburban setting. All in all, things are going great so far. I would like to thank everyone at the SF SPCA for your wonderful support.”

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Another heartwarming story is Pumpkin. It took nearly a year at the SF SPCA, but Pumpkin’s story, similar to Jack’s, shows how TLC, patience, and perseverance can save a life.

When the stray, 1-year-old terrier mix was brought to the SF SPCA last year, the team had no idea how the little 8-pound dog would touch so many lives.

Pumpkin came to the SF SPCA in March 2014. He was a frightened and nervous little guy who spent most of his time cowering in his kennel. Pumpkin also had a knee condition called luxating patellas, causing him to hop rather than walk. As a shy dog who required a very slow and patient approach, it was going to take a very special adopter for Pumpkin to get his second chance.

To help Pumpkin relax and become more sociable, he was placed in a homely environment with a volunteer foster parent. His foster mom soon concluded that not only did Pumpkin think he was a cat, but he was also afraid of the dark, loved watching TV, and loved snuggling even more!

One Friday afternoon, Pumpkin made his first TV appearance on the local news on the weekly “Perfect Pet” adoption segment. He wasn’t exactly the most TV-friendly guest — he growled the entire time, on live TV! But then something wonderful happened. After hearing him “purr” on TV, a woman called the SF SPCA eight times and sent four emails within one hour. It was love at first sight, and she just had to meet him.

After 323 days in the shelter, Pumpkin finally found his forever home! Thanks to the many people who never gave up on him, Pumpkin and his new loving mom are happily living together in San Francisco.

You can save a dog like Jack or Pumpkin. Email squareone@sfspca.org or call 415.522.3562 for more information.

“Square One ensures that every treatable animal gets a fair shot at being adopted. It is truly rewarding to see the hardest cases finally find their forever homes.”

— Frances Ho, Animal Transfer and Partnership Associate

Pumpkin, sweet as pie, goes home after 323 days in the shelter.
Catsy Cline was adopted from us in 2001 and spent 12 years in a loving home, but in early 2014 her family was evicted. Like many in San Francisco, they couldn’t find affordable pet-friendly housing. So at the age of 14, Catsy was back in our shelter and looking for her second chance.

At the SF SPCA, we’re seeing an increasing number of pet owners being forced to surrender their dogs and cats because of housing issues. In fact, housing is now the second most common reason animals are surrendered to us (the first is allergies). As the market continues to tighten, pet-friendly housing is becoming even scarcer.

Most of the housing-related surrenders we’re receiving are from the Mission District, followed by Hunter’s Point and Sunset. The Mission has received a significant amount of media coverage because of the increasing number of evictions happening within the neighborhood. Until recently, there was an untold side of the story: Tenants aren’t the only ones losing their homes — pets are, too.

Catsy was just one of more than 220 animals who’ve entered our shelter in the last year because of housing problems. Unfortunately, it’s often difficult to find homes for senior pets, and Catsy was no exception. She spent 10 months in our Mission Campus Adoption Center before she finally got her lucky break.

In February, several media outlets started talking about the influx of surrendered animals we were experiencing because of the housing crisis. Luckily, Linda and Stan were watching the news the night that KRON 4 broadcast the story, and after hearing about Catsy, they knew they had to meet her.

It turned out to be a perfect match, and only a few days after the story aired, Catsy finally found her forever home. The couple says that

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Catsy will live the rest of her golden years in Brentwood in Contra Costa County, where she’ll have several window perches where she can sunbathe and watch birds fly by.

If you’re struggling to keep your pet because of housing issues, we can help. Visit our website for tips and advice on how to keep your animals safe during the housing crisis.

The couple says that Catsy will live the rest of her golden years in Brentwood in Contra Costa County, where she’ll have several window perches where she can sunbathe and watch birds fly by.
Protect Your Pet with the Sido Program

The SF SPCA offers pet owners an innovative way to plan for their pet’s future. When pets outlive their guardians, cats and dogs enrolled in the Sido Program are welcomed into our Adoption Center. They will receive exceptional care and attention while we work to place them in their next loving home.

The Sido Program is named for Sido, a dog who was condemned to die in her owner’s will. Over 30 years ago, the SF SPCA led the charge to save Sido’s life and helped pass legislation specifically aimed at saving her life and obtained a court ruling stating that it is illegal for a person to order a dog destroyed in a will.

To enroll your beloved cat or dog, contact the Development Office at 415.554.3029 or development@sfspca.org.

Do You See Cats?

Do you see or feed cats in your neighborhood? Cats with no particular home or owner? These are some of San Francisco’s community cats.

The easiest and most effective way to control the cat population is to spay and neuter.

- The population stabilizes; no more kittens.
- The behaviors associated with mating, such as yowling or fighting, stop.
- The cats are vaccinated before being returned to their outdoor home.

The San Francisco SPCA spays and neuters community cats for free. Call us at (415) 522-3539.

The SF SPCA Community Cat Program works to manage the feral and free roaming cats of San Francisco. If you need assistance with your pet cats, please call our veterinary hospital at (415) 554-3030.
JOIN US
Friday, May 29th
5 pm to 10 pm for

DOGS ON THE CATWALK

A fashion runway show featuring looks for people and pets. Vegan apparel by Claire Farwell London, Jill Milan, and Betabrand. Live music from Sit Kitty Sit, vegetarian/vegan food trucks, and free cat and dog adoptions!

Free adoptions continue through the weekend for Maddie’s® Pet Adoption Days.

Get your FREE front row seat. RSVP: sfspca.org/catwalk

DOGS ON THE CATWALK
FRIDAY, MAY 29TH 5 PM – 10 PM • 201 ALABAMA ST.