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
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CONTENTS

pg. 3
Co-Presidents’ Letter

pg. 4
What’s Wrong with the Prong?

pg. 5
LiLou, the Therapy Pig

pg. 6-7
Events

pg. 8
Stabilizing Cat Colonies

pg. 9
Donor Profile: Sylvia Saunders

pg. 11–12
San Francisco and Beyond

pg. 12
A Future for Shiloh

pg. 13
Stockton’s Record-Breaking Year

pg. 14
Meet Two of Our New Veterinarians!

ABOUT THE COVER
Blaze is a chatty sweetheart who makes new friends instantly. No surprise he was with us for only 6 days before being adopted.
You did it! Your investment in the San Francisco SPCA is paying off. This past year, surrenders of animals to shelters citywide declined, euthanasia hit record lows, and the citywide live release rate (the percentage of animals in shelters that reach a positive outcome like adoption) hit 93 percent. San Francisco has cemented its place as the most humane major city in the U.S. for cats and dogs.

It’s a testament to you—and to the power of Vision 2020, our strategic plan to end animal homelessness in San Francisco by the year 2020. Proactive programs that get ahead of abandonment issues really do make a difference. A difference to the numbers, yes, but also to the lives of thousands of animals and people.

Our first responsibility will always be to the animals of San Francisco. But even as the statistics in the city break new records, drive two hours east to the Central Valley and there are hundreds of thousands of perfectly friendly and healthy dogs and cats needlessly dying in shelters. This is why our efforts to partner with these struggling shelters and get them on the road to no-kill are so important. In just three years, our work with the municipal shelter in Stockton helped take the live release rate from 32 percent to 82 percent, saving over 6,000 lives a year.

The San Francisco SPCA is fortunate to have so many dedicated and longtime supporters. As we near our 150th anniversary, it becomes clear that our success owes so much to the foundation that was built by the people who have supported the SF SPCA over all those decades. We’d like to take a moment to remember and honor two very important former board members who recently have passed away.

Katherine Hellman Black (1937–2016) loved her native San Francisco and all animals, but particularly dogs and horses. Katherine was a valued member of the SF SPCA Board of Directors from 1977 to 2009, and then was on our Emeriti Board from 2009 until her death. During that time, she was a generous donor and board member, volunteering her time and giving back to the community she loved.

Her love of horses prompted Katherine to take over the care of the horses in the San Francisco Police Mounted Unit once they were retired. For more than 35 years, Katherine continued the SF SPCA’s historic commitment to care for retired SFPD police horses by housing them on her ranch in Sonoma to spend their waning years in pasture.

Fillmore Marks (1929–2015) served on our Board from 1993 to 2009 and was subsequently named an Emeritus Board Member. He and his wife Barbara are permanently recognized in the Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center with an exam room named in their honor. He was often found over the years walking his dogs Reggie, Samson, and Victor. His last dog, Cody, was adopted from our Mission Campus Adoption Center in 2014.

In all we do, we hope to honor their memories. Thank you for all you do to build our legacy and improve the lives of people and animals.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER SCARLETT, DVM  
Co-President

JASON WALTHALL  
Co-President

Jason Walthall and Dr. Jennifer Scarlett
Earlier this year, we launched a new campaign to educate the community about the physical, emotional, and behavioral harm that prong collars cause. Despite what some trainers or pet store employees might promise, prong collars are neither safe nor humane.

“We continue to regularly see prong collars on dogs throughout San Francisco,” said Dr. Jeannine Berger, Director of Behavior Resources at the San Francisco SPCA. “Most owners don’t want to hurt their dogs—they want to do the right thing. There’s a huge need for community education.”

Prong collars are designed to inflict discomfort and pain, and we want dogs’ visits to be as pleasant as possible. Vet visits are already stressful for most dogs, even without the added pain of a prong collar.

As of July 1, 2016, both SF SPCA campuses will be prong-collar-free environments. Visitors whose dogs are wearing prong collars will be asked to remove them while they’re on the premises. We’ll provide a humane alternative to wear during the visit.

Prong collars can also harm your relationship with your dog and lead to long-term behavioral problems. If pain is experienced during everyday activities, like walks and vet visits, dogs can begin to associate an owner’s presence with fear and discomfort.

At the SF SPCA, we support positive reinforcement training. Positive reinforcement uses treats, toys, affection, and attention to reward dogs for desired behaviors. Any behavior can be taught through positive reinforcement.

The good news is that there are many safe, humane, and effective alternatives to aversive training techniques and equipment.

At the SF SPCA, we support positive reinforcement training. Positive reinforcement uses treats, toys, affection, and attention to reward dogs for desired behaviors. Any behavior can be taught through positive reinforcement.

There’s never a good reason to resort to inflicting pain or fear when training your dog. If you need help, we have many training and behavior resources available.

To learn more, visit sfspca.org/prong.
LiLou, the Therapy Pig with the Can-Do Attitude

Our Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) program has a history of welcoming different species, including chinchillas, a bearded dragon, a turtle, guinea pigs, and now a pig! LiLou is the first pig since the program started in 1981.

LiLou isn’t just any pig. As LiLou’s mom, Tatyana Danilova, is quick to point out, she’s a city pig. The unique team of LiLou and Tatyana completed AAT training in November. They join more than 300 dog, cat, and rabbit teams who visit more than 91,200 people at schools, hospitals, retirement facilities, and even SFO each year.

As with all of our AAT teams, Tatyana and LiLou went through our full training and evaluation before starting visits. Jeff Murray, AAT Dog Trainer, completed LiLou’s assessment using the same basics as our canine assessment, and LiLou was in a training class with three dogs.

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Prospective therapy pets must be interested in and eager to approach people and accept handling, regardless of the person’s age, gender, race, size, mobility equipment usage, and apparel. Thanks to Tatyana actively socializing LiLou from the start, LiLou passed with flying colors, and the team was ready for mentored visits to round out our training requirements. We had high hopes, but it was impossible to predict how the visits would go.

Meeting LiLou makes people imagine having their very own companion pig. As with any pet, the decision to bring a pig into your life is a big one, but Tatyana advises people to do thorough research before taking the plunge.

Those high hopes were more than satisfied on their most recent mentored visit to Buena Vista Manor House. LiLou went through her repertoire of more than 10 tricks—including playing piano—and soaked up praise from the clients.

“Most people have never met a pig, and literally everyone wanted to interact with her,” said Dianne Bates, AAT Mentor. That came as no surprise to Tatyana, who is accustomed to fielding questions while people marvel at her smiley urban pig on daily walks.

Meeting LiLou makes people imagine having their very own companion pig. As with any pet, the decision to bring a pig into your life is a big one, but Tatyana advises people to do thorough research before taking the plunge.

Tatyana is firm in cautioning, “Pig ownership is not for everyone. While pigs are cute and adorable, they do require extra time, discipline, responsibility, and reasonable expectations.” When that commitment can be made, however, pigs have much to offer as companions and therapy pets.

*To learn more about joining the AAT program with your own pet, visit sfspca.org/aat.*
More than 400 guests and 200 dogs graced the red carpet at the Annual Bark & Whine Ball. March 16 marked 19 years of canines in cummerbunds, top hats, and bow ties, all to support the Cinderella Fund, an initiative to care for the medically neediest dogs and cats at the SF SPCA.

Wine flowed freely and water bowls were topped off. Dogs danced way past their bedtimes while the humans tried to capture every moment with cameras and cell phones.

Whether they walked on two legs or four, everyone came dressed to impress and enjoyed the finest cuisine. A special thank you to Purina for spoiling our furry friends with divine nibbles at the dog bar.

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None of this would be possible without our good friends at Critter Lovers at Work (CLAW). We want to thank them for putting this fabulous event together and for their unwavering support of the SF SPCA. Since its inception, the Cinderella Fund has allowed us to care for hundreds of animals that would not be with us today if not for this program. We thank all of the supporters, donors, volunteers, and friends who have contributed to make that happen.
Valentine’s Day WAS ANYTHING BUT LONELY

Love was in the air at our Lonely Hearts Valentine’s adopt-a-thon as couples, singles, and everyone in between filled the Mission Adoption Center. Whether it was for a cat scavenger hunt, the pitie kissing booth, the bake sale, or just to cuddle with some kittens, hundreds of people partook in the celebration.

From February 12–14, we raised more than $5,000, and 99 animals found forever homes. Among them were long-term dogs Poppy and Beyoncé and three long-terms cats Sylvie, Alaric, and Lemur.

Now that’s sweet enough to cure any lonely heart.

NBC’S CLEAR THE SHELTERS

Save the date! On July 23, the San Francisco SPCA will participate in NBC’s Clear the Shelters event, an initiative to save animals across the country. We will waive adoption fees for all of our animals all weekend long. Last year it was our most successful adoption weekend ever, finding forever homes for 111 animals. Please join us this year, and let’s see if we can beat that record.

Art for Animals

Art for Animals’ Sake (AFAS) is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit fostering empathy for all living beings through unique art programming. AFAS is producing a traveling art and education exhibit to raise awareness for some of the most vulnerable and under protected members of our animal family, the rat. The Rattie Uprising will open at the SF SPCA Mission Campus on May 20, 2016 with fun educational information, original artwork, and hands on arts opportunities. For more information visit artforanimalssake.org/.
It’s hard to say how many cats can be born from one cat and her offspring because of the variables involved. However, some calculations indicate that in seven years, one female cat and her offspring can produce thousands of kittens.

No matter how you do the math, cats can reproduce at an alarming rate overwhelming shelters with kittens, and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the most effective and humane strategy to prevent cat overpopulation.

Approximately 30 volunteers and staff members of our Community Cares program (CCP) humanely trap feral cats and free-roaming, friendlier cats and transport them to our Spay/Neuter Clinic for sterilization, vaccination against rabies, and ear-tipping to show that they have been spayed or neutered. We have developed a customized database that allows us to track where cats are coming from and where colonies are being managed.

We know that this proactive approach has been successful and has made a significant difference to our community and to the well-being of cats in San Francisco. The number of cats coming into the SF SPCA and SF Animal Care & Control is down 30 percent over the past eight years. We can attribute this directly to the work we’ve been doing with TNR.

Kitten season—the warmer months when more kittens are born—is upon us. If you see kittens, do not pick them up; their mom cat is likely out finding food and will return. Instead, email Community Cares Program Manager Erin Kerley, ekerley@sfspca.org, or call 415.522.3539 so we can trap the entire family.

“I am continually impressed with the SF SPCA staff’s knowledge of feral cats and the organization of this unique program,” said Lisa Forslund, one of our trapping volunteers. “Volunteering with CCP is something I was meant to do, and I’m sorry I waited so long to find an outlet for my passion.”

Want to be an active part of the solution to help community cats? Visit sfspca.org/ccp to learn more and find out how to donate items from our CCP wish list.
I’ve had cats all my life. My parents loved animals and taught me to love and respect them, too. The only time in my 85 years that I have not lived with a cat was when I was in college at UC Berkeley. I made my first San Francisco SPCA adoption in 1966—50 years ago! My most recent SF SPCA adoption was Sugar Bear in 1998. He was an 8-week-old, formerly feral, underage kitten who had been fostered by a wonderful SF SPCA volunteer. I hate to think of what kind of life this incredibly gentle, sweet, people-friendly cat would have had if it had not been for the foster program. Without a doubt, it would have been a short and stressful life.

I enrolled Sugar Bear in the Sido program eight years ago. Knowing that he will be cared for if I go before he does has taken a great load off my mind. Considering his advanced age and multiple medical conditions, I expect that if the situation should arise, he might be entered into the SF SPCA’s Fospice (foster hospice) program, which, like Sido, is such a brilliant and innovative program.

For years I was an SF SPCA volunteer, also volunteering at San Francisco Animal Care & Control. At both places I worked with cats—socializing, fostering, and helping with adoptions. Volunteering is a fulfilling experience in many ways. I loved helping and also getting to know other volunteers and staff. Although I gave up volunteering a number of years ago when my husband became seriously ill, I have remained good friends with several people who I met during my years as a volunteer.

“Volunteering is a fulfilling experience in many ways. I loved helping and also getting to know other volunteers and staff.”

— Sylvia Saunders

The SF SPCA is a city treasure, and I’m happy to be able to support it.

Sylvia Saunders is a California native who grew up in Coalinga. Sylvia’s career was in public health, working internationally with the March of Dimes and the United Nations. She is also a member of the SF SPCA Legacy Society, having named the Society as a beneficiary in her estate plan. She notes, “The reason that I do so is to continue my support for the SF SPCA. It is a natural thing to do.”

To find out more about the programs Sylvia mentions, visit sfspca.org/sido and sfspca.org/fospice.
In early March, we were thrilled to publish the 2015 citywide statistics that measure intake (the number of animals entering the shelter system) and positive outcomes (the number of animals that find a forever home). We have reached a tremendous and unprecedented milestone: The city of San Francisco has a new live release rate of 93 percent—2 percent higher than last year, and the highest of any major city in the U.S. This incredible accomplishment was only possible because we—the SF SPCA and all of our amazing supporters—rallied together on behalf of homeless animals.

This is a testament to the effectiveness of Vision 2020—the SF SPCA’s plan to end animal abandonment in San Francisco by the year 2020. Since we launched Vision 2020 in 2012, citywide intake has gone down about 10 percent, and the citywide live release rate has increased from 88 percent to 93 percent. You have helped San Francisco continue to be one of the most progressively humane cities in the world.

Although the finish line for eradicating animal abandonment in San Francisco is within our sights, we know we can’t stop there. The success of Vision 2020 allows us the breathing space to reach beyond our city borders and help animals outside of San Francisco.

Over the past few years, we’ve enumerated the details and successes of our partnership in Stockton—a city so blighted that it was forced into bankruptcy. Over the course of our three-year endeavor, Stockton Animal Services’ (SAS) live release rate has increased from 32 percent in 2012 to 82 percent in 2015 (see page 13 for more on SAS).

While our strategy and approach in San Francisco, and now in Stockton, has been methodical, strategic, and persistent, we also recognize the need to be a safe harbor for animals in crisis everywhere. In the first few months of 2016, three cases in particular highlighted this need.

“The Golden Girls”
In January, our intake team jumped into action upon learning that a breeder in Sonoma County was selling her property after the death of her husband. This meant that 12 yellow Labs would be losing their home as well. Within days, the 12 senior Labs, who we dubbed “The Golden Girls,” were at the SF SPCA, making their way through their Shelter Medicine screenings, having dental work and other procedures done, and at long last, spayed. They were now ready for their new forever homes.

“The Dumpster Puppies”
It was the SF SPCA intake team who again came to the rescue of six Border Collie puppies who were heartlessly thrown in a garbage bag and left to die in a dumpster in Merced. When a local businesswoman went to take out her trash, she noticed a bag moving in the dumpster and called the authorities. Marti Watts, Shelter Manager, spearheads our intake team. She heard about the pups and offered to...
When a local businesswoman went to take out her trash, she noticed a bag moving in the dumpster and called the authorities. Marti Watts, Shelter Manager, spearheads our intake team. She heard about the pups and offered to bring them to the SF SPCA to find their forever homes.

Korea Dogs, Take Two
In February, Humane Society International called Northern California shelters with an urgent need to find places for 64 young dogs rescued from a Korean dog meat farm. These dogs, bred for food, and many of whom had never been out of their stacked wire cages, were terrified and in various stages of illness from neglect and unsanitary conditions. For the second time in a year, we opened our doors to rescued Korean dogs as a rest stop on their long flight from Seoul to SFO. Most of the dogs continued their journey on to San Diego, but 21 stayed here and are working their way through our system of medical care, behavioral assessment, and adoption. As of press time, 19 of these dogs have found loving forever homes.

These incidents, like so many others, illuminate the need for organizations like the SF SPCA to remain nimble and reactive in the face of urgent and unexpected needs. As the benefits of Vision 2020 continue to materialize and there are fewer abandoned animals in San Francisco, it allows us to reach beyond our immediate community to help other areas in need. It also highlights the importance of being integrated into the greater animal welfare community locally, nationally, and internationally. Lastly, these cases underscore the value of donors’ contributions in touching the lives of so many animals. None of these efforts would be possible without your support.
Shiloh’s story with the San Francisco SPCA began in December with a visit to the SF SPCA Veterinary Hospital on the Mission Campus. Her owner was unable to care for her any longer, and a family member was concerned about Shiloh’s quality of life. Shiloh, a grumpy-faced Persian, had matted fur and hair loss, a flea infestation, conjunctivitis, and was underweight. Considering these issues, the owner decided that it was best to surrender Shiloh to the SF SPCA.

Many people envy cats for their well-known skill of taking long naps with great leisure and seemingly no guilt. At 3 years old, Shiloh is a master of this skill. While in our care, she was fostered on campus by one of our staff members. She made herself at home and took immediate ownership of the office, enjoying lounging on the desk in the sun and chatting to whomever happened to enter the office.

A head-tilt was noticed, and while endearing, was a possible sign of something more serious. After lab tests and exploratory surgery, it was discovered that Shiloh also had liver disease and early signs of kidney disease. While she was not suffering, her physical symptoms were manifesting, including her tilting head. Sadly, these results meant she would not have the long life we had hoped for her.

This poor prognosis would mean euthanasia at many shelters, but the SF SPCA has an alternative for animals like Shiloh. She was entered into our Fospice program, a combination of fostering and hospice care, which provides a new future for cats and dogs that have life-limiting diseases and whose conditions prevent the SF SPCA from seeking adoptive homes for them. Now at home with Sarah and Matthew, new Fospice volunteers, Shiloh is enjoying luxurious naps in the sun and loving care.

Sarah remarked, “She loves lounging and stretching on the couch for nap time, running around in circles chasing her tail, and curling up on the table to watch the world go by. She often takes adventures at night around the house, and can sometimes be found peeking out of drawers. Taking care of a Fospice cat is such a beautifully rewarding experience. We feel grateful each day we spend with Shiloh, knowing all the love we give her comes back a thousand times to us.”

Fospice volunteers have huge hearts and incredible strength. We are so grateful that they are willing and able to step in to care for animals in their last days, and we’re glad we can support their efforts by providing medical care and food. Shiloh’s life may be only a short glimmer, but the SF SPCA, Sarah, and Matthew will be there for her every step of the way to make sure each moment is filled with comfort and love. And of course, naps.

If you are interested in becoming a Fospice parent, please visit sfspca.org/fospice.
When we embarked on our partnership with Stockton Animal Services, we couldn’t have guessed that within only 3 years, we would be able to report that SAS’ live release rate has shot up to 82 percent from just 32 percent in 2012. That translates to not just thousands of lives saved, but illustrates how a cultural change at SAS has paved the way for a multitude of record breaking successes. Adoption numbers were higher than ever before, major improvements were made to the shelter itself, and SAS’ services continued to grow and expand. And more than 3,500 homeless animals were adopted by loving families, compared to 1,294 in 2012. Finally, since 2012, the number of lost animals being returned to their owners has doubled. All of this was accomplished with more than 11,000 animals taken in at SAS.

“In just three years, we’ve seen major improvements that have not only saved lives, but have significantly enhanced the quality of life for shelter animals at SAS,” said Dr. Jennifer Scarlett, SF SPCA Co-President. “We couldn’t have done this without strong community support.”

Adoption numbers were higher than ever before, major improvements were made to the shelter itself, and SAS’ services continued to grow and expand. And more than 3,500 homeless animals were adopted by loving families, compared to 1,294 in 2012.

Drastic improvements were made in the housing provided for animals waiting to be adopted. A dedicated cat adoption room was opened so cats are no longer housed next to dogs, and newly installed cat cages are double the size of the previous ones. These changes help to significantly reduce the stress experienced by shelter animals.

Another milestone for SAS was winning a PetSmart grant to perform approximately 800 spay/neuter surgeries and host 10 wellness clinics. The clinics will continue to run through August 2016, and 1,000–1,500 vaccines are being provided free of charge. These services are targeted at one of the most underserved neighborhoods in Stockton. SAS hopes the clinics will help prevent unwanted litters, while also reducing the spread of infectious diseases like parvo.

“Last year was amazingly successful for SAS, and we have even more planned in 2016,” said Phillip Zimmerman, SAS Manager. “We just hired a new volunteer coordinator and we have many exciting adoption events in the works.”

Learn more about SAS at facebook.com/StocktonAnimalShelter.
Meet Two of Our New Veterinarians!

Our Pacific Heights Campus is continuing to grow and expand. We’ve welcomed several new veterinarians to the team, including Drs. Layton Reid and Keith Farquhar. Both joined the San Francisco SPCA last year.

Keith Farquhar, DVM
Dr. Farquhar worked as a deputy sheriff and K9 handler before deciding to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

“When my dog became sick, the veterinarian who treated him inspired me to change careers,” explained Dr. Farquhar. “I remember watching her perform a surgery and being in awe of it all. She later became my mentor.”

Dr. Farquhar moved from Montana to Colorado for veterinary school, and then spent many years at private practices in Northern California before joining the SF SPCA.

“I enjoy working at the SF SPCA because it allows me to contribute to animal welfare on a bigger scale,” said Dr. Farquhar. “My efforts to help animals extend beyond the patient who’s right in front of me—I’m helping animals that I’ll never meet and their owners as well.”

Layton Reid, DVM
Dr. Reid grew up on the east coast of Canada, on a cattle farm, which is where his love of animals began.

“I consider myself lucky to have had an upbringing where I was around wonderful pets and farm animals,” said Dr. Reid. “It gave me an appreciation and respect for all animals and how they enrich our lives.”

After finishing veterinary school at Atlantic Veterinary College, Dr. Reid spent 10 years in a family-owned practice in Southern California before coming to the SF SPCA.

“After deciding to move to San Francisco, I was looking to join a practice that had something special. After reading all of the great stories about the SF SPCA helping low-income pet owners, the homeless, and HIV-positive communities, I knew it was the place I wanted to work—a place with both great medicine and great heart. I’m excited to be part of the Pacific Heights team, and I’m looking forward to the year to come!”

To learn more about our veterinary team, visit sfspca.org/hospital.
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.

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 centers. 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.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Join the San Francisco SPCA Legacy Society

Bequests and charitable trust gifts from forward-thinking individuals play a crucial role in the SF SPCA’s continued ability to sustain our crusade to change the future of animal welfare.

For more information, contact the Development Office at 415.554.3029 or development@sfspca.org.
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+ Muttville
+ SF Animal Care and Control
+ Family Dog Rescue
+ Animal Care and Adoption Network
+ Palomacy, and more rescues!