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.
In the last issue of Our Animals, we introduced you to our new Peek-a-Boo program, which is one of the ways that we’re making it a priority to help shelter animals with behavioral and medical problems. Staff members who are part of the Peek-a-Boo program are committed to helping our most bashful shelter dogs gain confidence and socialization skills. Animals who are fearful or experiencing medical troubles sometimes just need a little extra TLC before they can find their forever home.

Throughout the last year, we’ve focused significant resources on helping cats and dogs with special medical and behavioral needs, and we’re happy to share these lifesaving results:

- Between July 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013, behaviorally challenged dogs accounted for 61 percent of the 455 dogs that we transferred from San Francisco Animal Care & Control.
- Our staff has also been focusing on special-needs cats by offering volunteer classes on under socialized kittens and body language, growing our office foster program, and appointing sponsors for senior cats through our Sophisticats Club.
- In addition, homeless animals received more than $2 million in charitable medical care during the 2012–2013 fiscal year.

Raven is one of the hundreds of dogs who gained enough confidence through the Peek-a-Boo program to be adopted. When Raven came to the San Francisco SPCA, she was so under socialized that she would quiver when someone entered her kennel. The Peek-a-Boo team spent countless hours working with Raven, helping her build self esteem, and we’re happy to report that she’s found her forever home. When she returned recently for a follow-up behavior visit, she walked into our shelter wagging her tail, happily greeting everyone, and taking treats from whomever offered.

We’ve also been striving to accommodate more animals like Kennet, who are suffering from medical problems. Kennet came to our shelter as a month-old kitten. While he was in our foster program, waiting to become old enough for adoption, it became apparent that something was wrong with his hind legs. He ran more like a rabbit than a cat, and our veterinary team determined that some pinching in his spine prevented him from using his hind legs independently of each other. After specialized surgery and several weeks of recovery in an SF SPCA staff member’s office, Kennet is now a happy, healthy kitty who loves to run and play.

Raven and Kennet are just two examples of why we’re committed to developing programs that help animals with special needs. Because of these programs, and because of your support, animals like Raven and Kennet are getting a second chance.

We’d also like to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to outgoing board chair Jennifer Chung, who made a significant impact during her tenure and gave back so much to the organization. Jennifer will stay on as vice chair. We are pleased to welcome Daniel Levitt into the board chair position. Daniel previously served as treasurer of the board and we look forward to making great things happen with Daniel.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER SCARLETT, DVM
Co-President

JASON WALTHALL
Co-President

Dr. Jennifer Scarlett and Jason Walthall
Mother Nature once again proved that she’s a dog lover! The weather was spectacular for our third annual The Whole Enchihuahua, and Dolores Park was packed with thousands of happy revelers.

The May 18 event was bigger than ever, hosting a dozen vendor partners, seven rescue partners, and SF SPCA activities such as Ask a Vet, Ask a Trainer, dental checks, a rally course and, of course, our adoptable dogs.

The pièce de résistance, however, is always the remarkably creative runway costume contest. More than 50 pooches strutted their stuff, and this might have been the best showing yet. Ace, a recently adopted rescue dog, took the crown dressed as, well, an Ace of Hearts!

A big thanks to everyone who came out to support our celebration of the mighty Chihuahua and to everyone who took advantage of our two promotions from March through May: free Chihuahua adoptions and free Chihuahua spay/neuter. Over the three months, more than 100 Chihuahuas found new homes, and 800 were spay/neutered. Big thanks to our partner, 7x7, and to our sponsors: Zipcar, Method, CPMC Sutter Health, K-9 Scrub Club, Pet Camp, and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. And a round of applause to our volunteers who came out to make the day a huge success!

Maddie’s® Pet Adoption Days

Our second year of participating in Maddie’s Fund’s national adopt-a-thon was even more successful than we anticipated. Over the two-day event in June, 83 cats and 53 dogs (136 total) found new homes. Nationally, more than 6,500 animals found homes. Maddie’s Fund asks rescue organizations to waive all adoption fees throughout the event, then makes a donation to participating rescues based on the total number of animals adopted. In the Spring 2013 issue of Our Animals, we recapped the success of our Be Mine Adopt-a-Thon, which also is a limited-time waived-fee adoption event. Over the past few years of experimenting with the effect of price promotions on adoption numbers, we’ve found that promotional events like this are an effective tool for finding animals great homes. Thank you to Maddie’s Fund for making this event possible and for supporting the cat and dog rescues that participate.

LEGACY SOCIETY TEA

Ninety guests at the 2013 Legacy Society Tea enjoyed Adoptions Director Laurie Routher’s talk on “Happy Tails: A Celebration of SF SPCA Adoptions.” After Laurie’s presentation, SF SPCA Co-Presidents Dr. Jennifer Scarlett and Jason Walthall joined her for a lively Q&A conversation.

The delicious high tea was held on Thursday, April 11, in the Franciscan Room at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel.

The Legacy Society was created to honor donors who remember the SF SPCA with a legacy gift. Their support ensures our long-term financial strength and our capacity to continue our lifesaving work with homeless cats and dogs far into the future.

For information about joining the SF SPCA Legacy Society, contact Sandy Irber, Planned Giving Manager, at 415.554.3027 or sirber@sfspca.org.
It was a gorgeous San Francisco day on Sunday, June 2, as we set sail for the 9th Annual Dog Day on the Bay, which benefits the SF SPCA’s Puppy Dog Tails literacy program.

Once again, Hornblower Cruises & Events generously donated the San Francisco Belle for the occasion. All-star chefs prepared a delicious feast, and guests danced with their four-legged friends while enjoying the beautiful view of San Francisco and the Bay.

Our Animal Assisted Therapy teams mingled with guests, while children enjoyed reading to our pups by the Puppy Dog Tails Reading Room.

Special thanks to Hornblower Cruises & Events for their loyal commitment year after year, and their effort in making this event a huge success. We’re especially grateful to them for helping us raise money for Puppy Dog Tails, a vital program that helps improve children’s literacy in schools.

We also thank our media sponsor KSFO and the Sloat Garden Center for providing a rooftop relief area for the pooches. Here’s to another successful event, and we’ll sail away with you next year!
Events

Taking Pride in the SF SPCA

It was an exciting and proud day for the San Francisco SPCA as we marched on Sunday, June 30, in the historic SF Pride Parade again this year! Market Street was filled with joy and celebration as our staff, volunteers, and partners walked along the parade route. The streets thronged with over a million people celebrating the recent Supreme Court decisions, and a few of our staff were celebrating recent marriages. Our “Same Love” theme was echoed throughout our contingent on our T-shirts, signs, and through our cheerful energy. So many people came out to support our mission and to spread same love across San Francisco! The SF Pride Parade represents equality, diversity, and love, and we are so honored to be a part of it every year!

Thanks to everyone who contributed, participated, and helped make this event a huge success! Cheers to another colorful year!

145th Anniversary Party

Save the Date

We’ll be celebrating our 145th anniversary in style with a whole weekend of events. Look for more details about our celebrations:

- Friday night: Cocktail party hosted by 7x7
- Saturday: Carnival with bands, games, food, prizes, tours, history, presentations, and more!
- Friday–Sunday: Fee-waived adoptions featuring hundreds of loving cats and dogs
When we transferred Bonny, a 3-year-old Chihuahua mix, to the San Francisco SPCA from San Francisco Animal Care & Control, she was so nervous and stressed that she didn’t eat for four days. We knew she’d have a long road ahead before she could be placed in a new home, but we didn’t realize just how difficult it would be until she received a complete medical exam.

The veterinarian who examined Bonny heard a loud heart murmur and ordered additional diagnostic tests. It was discovered that Bonny had moderate to severe pulmonic stenosis, meaning that her heart valves were narrowed between her heart and lungs. With surgery to open the passageways, there was a good chance that she could live a normal life, but the expensive procedure would have to be performed by a specialist.

We needed to raise the funds quickly for Bonny’s lifesaving surgery. We shared Bonny’s story on Facebook and received an outpouring of support. The community rallied behind Bonny by sharing, donating, and offering words of encouragement. Within three weeks we raised $3,465!

An SF SPCA staff member, Dr. J.J. Louie, fostered Bonny in her office as she prepared for surgery. In the quieter environment, Bonny began to relax and come out of her shell. She slowly became more comfortable outside of her crate, especially if Dr. Louie brought out a package of treats. Bonny even made friends with the resident cat, and often they’d cuddle up together on Bonny’s bed.

When Bonny was transferred to the University of California, Davis, for surgery, everyone at the SF SPCA hoped for the best. We wouldn’t know how successful the surgery was until the day after, when the cardiologist could perform another ultrasound.

The follow-up ultrasound showed that the surgery had worked! There was a 70 percent reduction in the severity of Bonny’s heart problem. A reduction of 50 percent or more is considered an excellent result.

But the good news didn’t stop there. An SF SPCA volunteer who had visited Bonny nearly every day, and who had also donated to the campaign, decided to adopt her. As soon as Bonny was done recuperating at Dr. Louie’s house, she went straight to her new home.

Paige Wilcox, Bonny’s new guardian, says that Bonny is doing great. Just as she did at her foster home, Bonny has made friends with the resident cat — who’s 22 years old! Although she’s still timid, Paige says that Bonny is becoming more confident and loves going on quiet walks around the nearby lake. And when Paige comes to the SF SPCA to volunteer, she often brings Bonny to visit her foster mom, Dr. Louie.

As the pioneers of the no-kill movement, we remain committed to finding a home for every healthy dog and cat in San Francisco. We are proud that, thanks to the support of the community, we can stretch that commitment to help critically ill animals like Bonny, too.

To read more stories like Bonny’s, follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/sfspca
History of *Our Animals*»

A Look Back at *Our Animals*

Times have changed drastically since the quarterly publication first hit stands, priced at just 10 cents per issue. Fun fact: *Our Animals* was originally called *Our Dumb Animals*.

One example of how times have changed: In the January 1951 issue, *Our Animals* suggested ways to manage pets in the event of an atomic bomb attack. The article states that small animals have a better chance of survival due to their agility and size.

Another change is the publication’s evolution from focusing on all animals to our animals. Issues from the mid-20th century feature articles about all sorts of animals, including birds, cows, and racehorses. Today, *Our Animals* primarily focuses on household pets.

While the publication has certainly changed, one aspect of it has remained constant throughout the years — our gratitude and appreciation of our donors and volunteers, which we make sure to express in each and every issue.
**Our Animals** has been around almost as long as the SF SPCA itself. The majority of the **Our Animals** collection, dating back as far as 1911, was donated by the SF SPCA to the San Francisco Public Library, where it resides today.

“Employees of the San Francisco Society will soon begin the work of erecting a sanitary water trough for horses at Beale and Bryant streets. The trough will be similar in design to the eighteen others now in use in various parts of the city, and is being installed at the request of a large number of teamsters employed in the district. The teamsters circulated a petition among themselves, which was signed by a score or more drivers and forwarded to the Society. The men claimed that there was no place for them to water their teams nearer than Battery and Market streets, and that often the animals were compelled to suffer because they had not the time to drive that distance to give them a drink.”

“Officer W. Minton found a goat hitched to a cart which a photographer used to induce children to sit in while having their photos taken. When the goat was moved the hoofs were so badly worn that it could not walk without evidence of pain. It was brought to our hospital in our ambulance and treated for several days by our veterinarian. It will have to be kept in a soft pasture until the feet get in proper condition to stand our pavements.”

“He’s on horseback, he’s in a car, up a pole, down a wall — no kiddies, it’s not Superman, it’s just the humane officer in the field, on his regular round of duties. He never knows where “the field” will be when he starts out in the morning. Prepared for anything, he takes the calls which have accumulated since the night before; from then on he can be reached via police radio. There are city officers and country officers, whose work may differ. The San Francisco SPCA has both, since the adjacent rural areas of San Mateo County are also served by the Society.”

“The prolific nature of cats, coupled, perhaps, with their innate independence, has made them their own worst enemies, at least in the sense of responsibility which human beings feel for them, which, in general, is at a rather low level.”

“A good many owners are thankful for the services of the SPCA in rescuing their pets. To our humane officers it is an everyday occurrence. During Be Kind to Animals Week, a Fremont School teacher had told her class how the SPCA rescues animals. That night a wandering cat obliged by climbing a telephone pole in front of the school. He was still there next morning when the children arrived. Without prompting, one of them went to the school office and asked if he could call the SPCA. Humane Officer George McPherson went on the case, climbed the pole and had the cat down in no time. Soon after, he was surprised to receive a letter. ‘Dear Mr. McPherson,’ it read, ‘We are very grateful to you for saving the cat on the pole. We were afraid, after his being there all night, that the cat might lose his balance.’”

“Every day Sido greeted the morning with enthusiasm. On workdays she would jump for joy as we headed for the office. As my working partner, Sido was always by my side. Whether I was commuting, making the rounds through our building, greeting guests, laboring over the budget, absorbed in staff meetings or juggling telephone calls, my canine friend’s loving presence made the job experience all the more enjoyable. And when Sido sensed we were going for a walk or out to play, she shed all sign of the advanced age and became a pup again, her expressing and movements full of boundless energy and excitement. Just by being herself, Sido demonstrated all the things that are wonderful about pets — loyalty, friendship, affection.”
SHELTER ANIMALS:
A Day in the Life

Have you ever wondered what a day is like for shelter animals at the San Francisco SPCA, or what happens when an animal is brought through our doors? Let us introduce you to Juniper, who’s transferring to the SF SPCA from another shelter, and Teddy, who’s ready for adoption.

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Juniper’s Intake Day

When there’s space available at the SF SPCA, we often help overcrowded shelters by transferring some of their animals into our adoption program.

Amanda Newkirk, the SF SPCA’s shelter supervisor, and her team regularly travel to partner shelters to pick up animals. During a recent visit to Stockton Animal Services, she helped Juniper, a 4-year-old tabby, and 14 other cats.

“On the way back to the SF SPCA, there was horrible traffic,” Amanda said. “I arrived several hours late, long after the staff had planned to go home. I thought I’d have to unload and care for all the cats myself, but I got back to discover that several colleagues had stayed late to help the new feline arrivals. It was one of my favorite SF SPCA moments.”

Juniper was given food and water while he waited for his basic health check. The veterinarian checked his overall body condition, teeth, heart, and whether or not he had been neutered. Two of the contagious diseases that the veterinarian is looking for in new shelter arrivals are ringworm, which is a fungal disease, and panleukopenia, which is often fatal.

After Juniper was given a clean bill of health, he was moved into quarantine, where he remained until the shelter veterinarians were certain that he didn’t have a contagious disease.
Teddy Becomes Adoptable

Teddy, a 3-year-old Chihuahua mix, went through the same process after being transferred to the SF SPCA from San Francisco Animal Care & Control. As soon as the veterinarians cleared him from quarantine, he went to our Spay/Neuter Clinic.

The neuter procedure was simple, and Teddy was asleep for about an hour. He remained in the clinic’s recovery area for a few hours before moving to the Adoption Center.

Teddy moved into a kennel with two other friendly dogs who were about the same size. Being housed with playmates decreased his anxiety, making it easier for him to meet potential adopters.

That afternoon, a veterinary technician visited Teddy during her daily rounds to make sure he wasn’t experiencing any complications from surgery.

Finally, it was time for some fun! An SF SPCA photography volunteer took Teddy on a walk to help him work off some energy, and then into the photo studio to have his picture taken. The picture went on both the website and Teddy’s kennel card, which gives his basic information to potential adopters.

That evening, several volunteer matchmakers played with Teddy and got to know him so they could introduce him to potential adopters who might be a good fit. After only a day in the Adoption Center, he was already well on his way to a new home.

Interested in helping animals like Juniper and Teddy? Volunteer with us! Get more information at sfspca.org/volunteer.

The SF SPCA offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, and all make a true difference to the animals in our care. To get started volunteering or to learn more about volunteer opportunities at the SF SPCA, please attend one of our upcoming information sessions. You only need to attend one session and there is no need to RSVP.

Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
SF SPCA Training Annex, Near 243 Alabama St. — look for purple door.

Monday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
SF SPCA Adoption Center, 250 Florida St.

Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m.
SF SPCA Veterinary Hospital Atrium, 201 Alabama Street, 2nd floor.

Thursday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
SF SPCA Adoption Center, 250 Florida St.
Volunteering »

Spotlight on Volunteers

There are many ways to get involved with the San Francisco SPCA — as an adopter, a client of our veterinary hospital, a parent of a child in our youth programs, or as a volunteer, donor, or follower on Facebook and Twitter. People who engage with us tend to be passionate about their animals and about animal welfare in general, so we often find that they support us in multiple ways. Meet just a few of the committed volunteers who inspire us.

“I’m proud to be able to tell people I volunteer here. It’s clean, the cats aren’t in cages, and the people are caring.”
— Vicky Berol

Vicky Berol socializes a kitten.

Vicky Berol, cat volunteer

Vicky Berol and her husband, Marshall, have been donors to the San Francisco SPCA for over two decades because they love what we do here. Native San Franciscans, they’ve watched the SPCA “grow in stature and philosophy” over the years.

“I was living in an apartment, working too much, so I couldn’t be a responsible dog guardian. But I wanted that connection with animals, specifically dogs.”
— Gina Lee

Vicky grew up with both cats and dogs, but her work life was not conducive to having a dog, so she and Marshall raised three Siamese cats. The cats lived long, healthy lives of between 18 and 22 years. Vicky and Marshall currently share their home with three cats: sisters, former feral kittens, who are now 7 years old. “I’m fearful they’ll outlive me,” Vicky says. “I want to know that they’ll be happy, comfortable, and safe, so I signed up for the Sido Program,” which ensures that cats and dogs will be cared for if their guardians predecease them.

One of the things Vicky likes about the SF SPCA is that we’re “constantly educating people.” She’s looking forward to taking our Shelter Medicine Power Hour training class.

Vicky Berol socializes a kitten.
Leaving the corporate world gave Vicky the opportunity to get more involved. For the past five years, she has been a dedicated cat socializer in the shelter, where she also shows cats to potential adopters. Seeing “the inner workings” of the shelter has given her even more respect for the organization. “I’m proud to be able to tell people I volunteer here,” Vicky says. “It’s clean, the cats aren’t in cages, and the people are caring.”
Gina Lee, dog volunteer

Gina Lee grew up with animals, and with volunteering, but she’d never combined the two until 14 years ago, when she moved to San Francisco and began working with dogs at the SF SPCA. “I was living in an apartment, working too much, so I couldn’t be a responsible dog guardian. But I wanted that connection with animals, specifically dogs.”

Gina took advantage of the opportunity to attend a lot of SF SPCA dog training classes, as well as assist in public classes. Eventually she found her niche training other volunteers.

She’s best known for leading the Beginning Shelter Dog class, the first class dog volunteers take. In that class, she teaches new volunteers how the shelter operates, introduces them to the concept of positive reinforcement training, and supervises volunteers’ first hands-on experiences with the dogs.

Teaching those classes allows Gina to leverage the canine behavior knowledge she has gained to bolster the overall volunteer community to give dogs the exercise and stimulation they need.

One other place that knowledge has proven useful is at home, where Gina lives with Bella, an 80-pound Weimeraner mix she rescued from an L.A. shelter. Gina says she’s “equipped to work through behavioral issues with Bella” thanks to all that she has learned as a volunteer.

Michele Furey, dog volunteer

Of course not every volunteer has been at the SF SPCA for over a decade; Michele Furey’s first day at the shelter as a volunteer was on January 27 of this year. “I live there now. It’s my happy place.” Most recently, Michele logged 20 hours over the course of one weekend adopt-a-thon. During a normal week, she volunteers three days for a minimum of six hours each.

Hearing that, it’s hard to believe she was hesitant to volunteer, but she was. “I thought it would make me sad. Ninety-nine percent of the time, it doesn’t.” (The other 1 percent? Realizing that the work of protecting animals is never done.)

“I usually walk in the door and ask one of the ACA’s (Animal Care Associates), ‘What do you need?’ I do a lot of work with the shy and traumatized dogs. You can’t explain to them, ‘You’re OK now,’ [which] makes it more challenging. Watching them begin to feel safe and happy is my favorite thing.”

Michele’s rescue activities aren’t confined to the walls of our shelter: She regularly visits her two horses in Novato (they had been abused and were scheduled for euthanasia when she stepped in to save them), and she lives with a bonded pair of cats she adopted from the SF SPCA. “Animals are defenseless,” she says. “If you’re not helping them, you’re culpable.”
Our pets are like our children, so when they are sick or injured, we want to make sure they immediately get the care they need. But what if you couldn’t afford the bill? What if your beloved pet was denied care because of your financial circumstances?

In almost every community in the country, if a dog or cat needs urgent care and the guardian doesn’t have the cash or credit to pay at a private clinic, the animal will not get treatment. These animals may be euthanized, surrendered to a shelter, or suffer without access to care. Fortunately, the San Francisco SPCA regularly prevents this heartbreaking scenario thanks to our Charity Care Program and the John P. Aldridge Fund for Charitable Animal Care.

Dr. Aldridge, who served as our Director of Veterinary Services for 37 years, inspired us to launch this special fund when he announced his retirement in October 2012. Dr. Aldridge is the personification of dedication and compassion, and always provided the highest quality care that put the welfare of the animal first, regardless of the guardian’s economic circumstance.

Unaffordable vet care is one of the top reasons animals are abandoned in San Francisco. The SF SPCA Veterinary Hospital is the leader in preventing such abandonment.

The Aldridge Fund was launched with generous gifts from Dr. Aldridge and board member Eric Roberts, who seeded the fund with $50,000 and pledged to match all new gifts up to $50,000. Thanks to hundreds of generous contributors, we far exceeded our goal and raised more than $196,000 to help guardians and animals in need, like Sasha.

Sasha is an 8-year-old Shepherd mix who was recently admitted to our hospital after becoming gravely ill for an unknown reason. Sasha’s guardian, Ryan Hetrick, was beside himself. “Sasha is my baby and my favorite thing in this world,” he said. “So I got very emotional when we weren’t able to diagnose the problem.”

After several tests and many tears, we performed surgery to find the cause of Sasha’s illness. We discovered a small sock in her intestine as well as a cancerous tumor on her neck.

“Even though the situation looked bleak, the SF SPCA vet staff never wavered, explored every option, and took extra time to keep me informed every step of the way,” adds Ryan. “It was just luck that we found the tumor at the same time. Testing proved it was cancerous, and had it not been removed, would have killed Sasha in a matter of months.”

Sasha spent six days in our hospital and is now well on the road to recovery. Our hospital staff worked with Ryan on a payment plan and helped him apply for an emergency care grant that’s covering a portion of his vet bill.

“The San Francisco SPCA gave my dog world-class care, and everyone I dealt with was compassionate and honestly cared about me and Sasha,” he said. “They did everything imaginable to comfort me and keep me positive through one of the most trying weeks of my life.”

Sasha is just one example of the nearly 50 animals that have received the care they need due to our Charity Care Program and The Aldridge Fund. Everyone at the SF SPCA, and all of the animals and guardians supported by The Aldridge Fund, are very grateful to the donors who contributed to the fund. We plan to keep The Aldridge Fund going so that the crucial safety net it provides is always available when the dogs, cats, and guardians of San Francisco need it.
CAUTION

Escalators can cause serious paw injuries to dogs!

Smaller dogs should always be carried on escalators.

Larger dogs should wear booties, which are available at most pet supply stores.
SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 5th 2013

SAN FRANCISCO SPCA
145th ANNIVERSARY
CARNIVAL

• Music & Entertainment
• Prizes
• S.F. History
• Carnival Games
• Beer Garden
• Photo Booth
• Costume Contest
• Family Fun
• Food Trucks
• Free Adoptions

SABTURDAY
OCTOBER
5th

Alabama Street between 16th St. and Treat