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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This time last year, we were gearing up for our 145th anniversary festivities — a notable milestone for us and a wonderful celebration of the San Francisco SPCA’s accomplishments. The 145th anniversary gave us a chance to review our organization’s contributions to animal welfare. We put together a timeline chronicling the breakthrough moments in animal welfare (which you can find at sfspca.org/1868), and we were reminded of the concentration of innovations that originated here in San Francisco and at the SF SPCA.

In the year since, we have kept with our honorable tradition of pushing the limits to save more lives. Though our adoption center had been completing more and more adoptions each year, we knew that we were reaching our maximum threshold for growth. Despite our desire to increase our adoptions, there was simply no way to increase our lifesaving capacity in the existing space. The space in the adoption center was, after all, the bottleneck.

So after almost a year of planning and six months of construction, we reopened our newly improved adoption center. There is nothing quite like it anywhere. If you haven’t yet visited us to check out the indoor dog park, the exquisite San Francisco-themed cat condos, and the new touch-screen kennel cards, please visit us soon. This space is more than just pretty; it is also efficient — so much so that we will be able to increase adoptions by an estimated 20 percent, to more than 6,000 animals a year. Please read more about it on page 12.

The summer of 2014 ushered in another innovation — the honorary dedication of the 200 block of Alabama Street as “Rescue Row”— the only street in the country to commemorate the lifesaving work of animal welfare organizations. Our block, which the SF SPCA has occupied since 1890 — before the “block” itself was established — also houses Muttville Senior Dog Rescue, Northern California Family Dog Rescue, Loup Garou, and San Francisco Animal Care and Control. In the space of a few hundred yards, over 8,000 animals find a new start each year.

Thanks to the perseverance of doggedly determined Muttville board member Patty Stanton, Supervisor David Campos presented the resolution to give our block the honorary name of “Rescue Row.” The street was officially dedicated in a ceremony on May 31. Check out the photos from the event on page 9.

We also spent some time reworking our website to improve the search function for adoptable animals and make the site optimized for cell phones and tablets, since over 20 percent (and growing) of our visitors are looking at our site on a mobile device. Plus we have a robust new Spanish section of the site, designed to address the needs of our Spanish-speaking community.

Thanks to all the staff, donors, volunteers, and partners who help make amazing things happen every day at the SF SPCA! We couldn’t do it without you.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER SCARLETT, DVM  
Co-President  
JASON WALTHALL  
Co-President

Jason Walthall and Dr. Jennifer Scarlett
On any given day, Alison Lane is kept very busy as the foster coordinator at the San Francisco SPCA. Whether she is packing up some tiny kittens in desperate need to get out of the shelter and into the safety of a foster home or taking healthy kittens that are ready for their forever homes back from foster parents, she does things in an amazingly efficient way and always with a smile on her face.

Despite her busy schedule, Alison always makes time for volunteers. We have foster volunteers who are about to celebrate 20 years with the program in part because of the support and encouragement from Alison and her team.

Thank you, Alison, for all you do for the tiny babies who need our support to survive.

Gloria, separated from her mother and only half a pound, needed around-the-clock care.

Gloria faced an uphill battle to survive. As a newborn puppy, Gloria required bottle feeding because her mother could not care for her. At 2 weeks of age and a mere half-pound, Gloria was transferred to a second foster home. She developed an upper respiratory infection, which is quite common in foster animals, but also pneumonia, which is much more serious. Gloria’s life was hanging in the balance.

Like Gloria, many of the animals in the San Francisco SPCA’s Foster Care Program are orphaned, sick, and in need of special care. Since the late 1970s, the foster program has been adapting to meet the needs of the San Francisco community. Alison Lane, Foster Coordinator, has managed the program for the past 13 years, playing an instrumental role in its expansion. She works closely with Laura Mullen and Angie Yen; both are foster associates specializing in neonatal animals. In 2013, over 1,400 animals were fostered through the program, which was a 12 percent increase over
We are well on our way to increasing these numbers again this year.

Foster parent volunteers open their hearts and their homes to animals in every stage of life. From newborn kittens and puppies to terminally ill cats and dogs, the SF SPCA foster program provides hope for them all.

In 2008, we realized the need for providing care for terminally ill animals who are not suffering, but because of their conditions are not good candidates for adoption. We created the “fospice” (foster/hospice program) within the foster department to save more lives and provide comfort and care for these animals.

Dedicated volunteers provide a loving home for fospice animals, while the SF SPCA provides all food and medical attention needed. With a network of over 230 foster and fospice volunteers, we can expand our walls and save thousands more lives.

Gloria’s story has a happy ending. After spending countless hours with Gloria, providing for her every need, her loving foster parents adopted her. Gloria now lives the good life, playing on the beach with her brother Logan.

The more volunteers we have, the more lives we can save. Please contact the foster department at foster@sfspca.org to become a foster volunteer. Can’t foster, but want to help? Check out the foster wish list on Amazon to ship items directly to the foster department, or donate at sfspca.org/donate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGES OF FOSTERING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NURSING MOMS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whenever possible, we keep nursing mothers together with their litters. Foster volunteers take the entire family home temporarily to provide a safe space for mom to care for her babies. Once weaned, the kittens remain in foster care until available for adoption, and the mother is spayed and put up for adoption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOTTLE BABIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>When very young babies are brought in without a mother, foster volunteers and staff bottle-feed and provide round-the-clock care for them.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FEEDING SCHOOL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The transition from nursing to solid foods can be challenging. It’s important to monitor eating habits, weight gain, and energy levels in all foster animals, especially in this transitional phase.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SELF-FEEDERS</strong></td>
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<td>Once puppies and kittens are eating on their own, foster parents have the easier task of monitoring for illness and socializing, which is a fancy way of saying lots of cuddle and play time. Proper socialization ensures that fosters become upstanding canine and feline citizens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>READY FOR ADOPTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Once the foster animals are healthy and at an adoptable weight, they are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and put up for adoption. Needless to say, these cuties don’t linger long in the adoption center.</td>
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</tbody>
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Gloria enjoying the beach with her brother Logan.
"We knew we could do even more," said Jennifer Scarlett, DVM, co-president of the SF SPCA. "Our space was limited, and wait times were approaching an hour. People were going home frustrated and buying pets online, often unknowingly, from puppy mills."

Taking on new challenges is what has made the SF SPCA one of the top animal welfare organizations in the country, so the board of directors seized the opportunity to undertake a major remodel rather than simply focus on maintenance and minor repairs. The board appointed a campaign committee, chaired by Susan Atherton, to raise more than $3 million in six months to cover renovation costs at the Caroline Read Center while continuing to raise funds to support all of our other programs — from spay and neuter and medical care for shelter animals to youth education and adoptions.

"We were delighted that many longtime supporters, board members, and new friends were excited about our efforts to save even more lives," said Atherton. "We had just a few months to reach our campaign goal, and I..."
have been thrilled by the incredible generosity of our supporters.”

Cutting-edge sheltering techniques abound in the new adoption center, and campaign donors are recognized in innovative ways throughout the renovated space. A new donor wall in the Maddie’s Visitors Lounge lists top donors to the organization and their lifetime giving levels.

“Our goal is to remind our visitors that what we do depends on their generosity,” said Jason Walthall, SF SPCA co-president. “Over the past 146 years, our donors have helped us become the safest major city in the country for dogs and cats. And we’re not stopping anytime soon. The remodel of our adoption center is a tangible demonstration of what the future holds for animal welfare.”

Donor Spotlight: Caroline Read

Peter Read and his family made a generous gift to the Saving Their Lives Campaign to recognize his mother, Caroline Read, for her lifelong devotion to animals, which she inherited from her parents and passed along to her children and grandchildren. To recognize this extraordinary generosity, the adoption center building will now be called the Caroline Read Center.

Caroline fondly recalls, “My father used to carry his favorite dog everywhere. You would think that little puppy didn’t have legs!” When she became a mother, Caroline shared this passion for animals with her children, other family members, and friends. The Read home was always bustling with the happy commotion of their menagerie of pets.

Today, her own beloved companion, Olivia, was rescued from a municipal shelter. When Caroline first brought her home, Olivia was skinny, matted, and painfully shy. “Olivia was my shadow for weeks while she gained her confidence back,” Caroline said.

Peter, a longtime member of the SF SPCA Board of Directors, wanted not only to recognize his mother, but also to inspire other generations to create legacies for our four-legged friends. As Olivia sniffed around the newly reopened adoption center for the first time with Peter and his mother, Caroline shared her wish that Olivia could have spent her time in a shelter like ours. “I’m so happy that more pets will get their second chance here. I couldn’t think of a better gift for me or legacy for our family.”

The future for pets like Olivia is much brighter because of the Read family and their tremendous investment in the SF SPCA. As Caroline said, “We love your work. You all have your noses in the right direction.”

With the support of the Read family and the San Francisco community, we can’t wait to see where our noses lead us next!
Our grand reopening celebration may have been held on the notoriously unlucky Friday the 13th, but the night marked the beginning of continued good fortune for the animals of San Francisco.

Over 2,000 Bay Area residents came out to toast the newly remodeled adoption center in the Caroline Read Center and view the improvements firsthand. A diverse group of people from all over the Bay came to adopt, marvel at the new space, see the SF-themed cat trees, sit in the new dog park, grab dinner at one of the food trucks, or stop by our photo booth to take a picture to mark the occasion.

Standing in front of a trolley car full of felines, Daniel Paul shares why he crafted each tree as a tribute to our city.

“San Francisco has always been at the forefront of animal welfare,” he said. “Just as the Transamerica building is symbolic to the city, so is our adoption center. We have been here for 146 years. We are woven into the fabric of the city.”

Thank you to sponsors Subaru, Zoetis, Zipcar, IDEXX, and of course 7x7!
RESCUE ROW LIVES UP TO ITS NAME AT MADDIE’S PET ADOPTION DAYS

Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days was the brainchild of Dave and Cheryl Duffield and a fulfillment of a promise they made to their beloved Miniature Schnauzer, Maddie, 20 years ago. Through their charitable foundation, Maddie’s Fund, the Duffields have generously gifted tens of millions of dollars to underwrite adoptions across the country.

The weekend-long event that began in the Bay Area in 2010 has grown to include more than 590 cities. In just two days, May 31 and June 1, more than 15,000 animals were adopted, well over the goal of 10,000 and 78 percent more than last year’s impressive 8,432.

Here at the San Francisco SPCA, we were setting our own record. Despite moving back into our newly remodeled adoption center only the night before the big event, we opened our doors wide Saturday morning and, between our Mission and Pacific Heights campuses, outpaced last year’s adoptions by finding homes for an astonishing 128 animals!

A quick glance down Alabama Street between 15th and 16th Streets shows why this stretch of road was recently given the honorary name of Rescue Row by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. “This street is unique in that it physically houses the San Francisco SPCA, SF Animal Care and Control, Muttville, and Family Dog, but perhaps even more special is what it stands for,” says VP of Marketing and Communications, Cynthia Kopec. “The collaboration between all these rescues is the reason San Francisco has been able to achieve an unprecedented 91 percent live release rate and why we continue to be the safest major city in the nation for homeless pets.”

Dr. Aldridge at the Legacy Society Tea

Very few things would bring Dr. Jack Aldridge out of his well-deserved retirement unless it was an opportunity to speak about his passion for charity care — veterinary care for the beloved pets of guardians who can’t afford to pay. This spring, Dr. Jack and his wife, Connie, also a retired veterinarian, flew to San Francisco from their new home in Iowa for the annual Legacy Tea, where they reconnected with former clients, former colleagues, and Legacy Society donors — many of whom had been clients of his during his 37 years as Director of Veterinary Services.

Jack brought with him stories about how the SF SPCA’s commitment to the animals we treat is still unique and not based on a guardian’s ability to pay. Jack played a leadership role in ensuring that pets that come to us for care are saved from euthanasia, have necessary lifesaving surgery, recover from car accidents, and are given supportive care for serious contagious diseases.

When Dr. Jack retired in September 2012, he set up a special fund to help guardians with pets who need urgent care but are short on resources. Leaving a legacy is what the Aldridges wanted when it was time to move closer to their family in Iowa. Dr. Jack served as an inspiration to the scores of Legacy Society donors at the tea who are also leaving a legacy to animals in their estate plans. “We are grateful for the bequests we receive each year from generous donors that enable us to continue our nationally recognized programs that have helped make San Francisco the safest major city in the country for dogs and cats,” said Sandy Irber, manager of the Legacy Society.

“We invite everyone who has named the SF SPCA or Pets Unlimited in their estate plans to join our Legacy Society,” said Irber. “Our annual event is a wonderful opportunity to hear from our co-presidents and to meet the wonderful people who share a love for animals and are leaving a legacy on their behalf.”

Please contact Sandy Irber, Legacy Giving Manager, at 415.554.3027 or sirber@sfspca.org if you would like information about joining the Legacy Society or about making a gift for charity care.

Dr. Jack Aldridge with his wife, Connie, and SF SPCA Co-President Jason Walthall.
When Dr. Betty Carmack started the San Francisco SPCA’s pet loss support group in 1982, she had recently lost Rocky, her Dachshund. As Carmack worked through her grief, she realized that there was very little support for those who had lost a pet.

“Back then pet loss wasn’t talked about, and I would have given anything to have some form of support to validate my experience,” explained Carmack.

Inspired by a TV show that featured a social worker discussing how he helped clients deal with pet loss, Carmack realized she could use her nursing background to do the same. “His recognition of the importance of this service was so inspiring that I approached the SF SPCA and offered to start a support group.”

For the last 32 years, Carmack’s group has met every month. Everyone is welcome, and the meetings give participants a place where they can feel safe while having their grief acknowledged and honored.

“Pet loss can be disenfranchised — we know that. I am truly grateful that I was able to provide a time and space for grievers to find support,” Carmack said.

Carmack, who is also a former board member of Pets Unlimited, is now stepping down from her role, and Dr. Cori Bussolari will begin leading the meetings in August.

The SF SPCA’s Pet Loss Support Group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 7:30–9:00 p.m. Free, no reservation needed. For details, visit sfspca.org/pet-loss-support.

Dr. Cori Bussolari is an associate professor of counseling psychology at the University of San Francisco. She has a strong background in bereavement and also runs a private counseling practice. Bussolari says that clients will often visit her to discuss the loss of a pet, because they feel like they don’t have anywhere else to turn.

“I’m incredibly grateful to be given the opportunity to lead the SF SPCA’s pet loss support group,” said Bussolari. “The universality of the group is key — being able to express your emotions to others who can understand and relate helps provide validation. This group is exceptionally important for those who are grieving the loss of a beloved animal.”
Sharpie, a sweet Shar Pei, came to us as a guardian surrender from ACC. Not only had she been with her guardian since she was a puppy, she was also suffering from Shar Pei-prone medical problems. Both led her to be incredibly nervous and timid in our shelter.

Happily, our Adoptions team and doctors got straight to work. First, our Shelter Medicine Department assessed her ailments, which included skin irritation, an ear infection, and swollen hocks. Next, Adoptions made sure she felt comfortable in her environment. Multiple behavior tests were conducted, and she passed with flying colors. She is a Shar Pei lover’s dream!

Sharpie healed nicely and came out of her shell more with every encounter. By the time she left our adoption center she was healthy, happy, and ready for her second chance. We’re happy to report that after her rough beginning at the shelter, she’s finally found her forever home.

A Miracle for Mouche

When Mouche’s guardians left him with friends while they went on vacation, they never imagined they’d return home to find that their beloved cat had gone missing.

Unfortunately, 3-year-old Mouche escaped through an open door and was hit by a car, suffering severe trauma. San Francisco Animal Care & Control (ACC) found Mouche and took him in, and he was quickly transferred to the San Francisco SPCA’s veterinary hospital for care.

Mouche suffered from a fractured jaw, fractured leg, and serious tongue injury. He had a microchip, but the impact of the car had broken it. As we nursed Mouche back to health, we continued to hope that his guardians would come looking for him.

When Mouche’s family returned, they immediately started searching, and luckily came across his picture in a lost-and-found binder at ACC.

After three weeks in our hospital, there were tears from staff and volunteers alike as Mouche was finally reunited with his family.

Sharpie the Super Shar Pei

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Remodeled Adoption Centers

A Stunning Facelift
FOR BOTH ADOPTION CENTERS

Electronic kennel cards, new condos, and a dog park — these are just some of the new features that are part of the San Francisco SPCA Adoption Center remodel at the Caroline Read Center.

Construction launched in January of this year to remodel the 15-year-old building in the heart of the Mission that houses cats and dogs available for adoption. We are happy to announce that the remodeled space is now open to the public with many new features that bring the adoption center into the future.

The new center houses a beautiful indoor dog park and San Francisco-themed cat condominiums. Our condos were the first of their kind in a U.S. shelter when they were first installed in 1998. Through this remodel, we have increased our capacity by 20 percent, which will allow us to help more than 6,000 animals find loving homes each year.

Besides the construction improvements, interactive technology has been installed for both cats and dogs to advance the adoption process. Electronic kennel cards are available for every animal and display their age, background, personality, and bonus photos or videos. This is designed to better help individuals meet their perfect pet and reduce wait times for prospective adopters. Televisions have also been placed throughout the adoption center to showcase animals that have been longtime residents as well as upcoming events.

These improvements will make the adoption center a safer, cleaner, and more appealing space for our shelter animals and potential adopters — leading to happier, healthier animals and, ultimately, more adoptions.

The SF SPCA Mission campus was not the only one that received a facelift. When the SF SPCA merged with Pets Unlimited earlier this year, both parties were excited to join forces with a
like-minded nonprofit organization dedicated to the same lifesaving work. Everyone agreed that the Pacific Heights adoption center, now called the SF SPCA Adoption Center Pacific Heights Campus, would require some significant investment since it was last renovated more than 15 years ago.

Since that last renovation in the late 1990s, thousands of animals lived in the shelter before going on to their forever homes. And as you might expect, the space had suffered significant wear and tear. Our recent renovation of the Pacific Heights adoption center and adjacent public spaces focused on painting, deep cleaning, fixing window leaks, repairing damaged walls, and improving lighting. These improvements will make the adoption center a safer, cleaner, and more appealing space for our shelter animals and potential adopters — leading to happier, healthier animals and, ultimately, more adoptions.

We could not be happier about our new SF SPCA adoption centers at the Mission and Pacific Heights campuses. We hope to see you at one (or both) of our revamped adoption centers this summer!

The new center houses a beautiful indoor dog park and San Francisco-themed cat condominiums. Our cat condos were the first of their kind in a U.S. shelter when they were first installed in 1998.
Dr. Mason & Dr. Gervais

IN VETS WE TRUST

GOOD VETERINARY MEDICINE RESULTS FROM YEARS OF EDUCATION. GREAT VETERINARY MEDICINE COMES FROM A TRUSTED FRIEND.

Nowhere is this more apparent than at our Pacific Heights veterinary hospital, Pets Unlimited. Two veterinarians — Drs. Kathy Gervais and Tom Mason — have dedicated a combined 45-plus years to providing compassionate care to our clients and patients. When the San Francisco SPCA and Pets Unlimited merged on March 1, animals and colleagues alike benefited from their expertise and shared wisdom.

“With our combined resources and expertise, both homeless and homed animals will have increased access to veterinary care with a veterinarian and friend,” said Dr. Mason.

In the early 1990s, Kathy and Tom joined the veterinary team at Pets Unlimited for the complex medicine, pace, and challenge of a 24-hour practice. But they both stayed for the charitable mission and their clients.

“When I started at Pets Unlimited, we had just started offering round-the-clock care. I walked into a crazy environment on my first overnight shift and never left,” said Kathy. “I look forward to seeing my clients and friends walk through our doors every day.”

Tom agrees. “I’ve watched generations of pets and families grow up and grow old. I’ve given a puppy his first vaccine and been there to send him across the Rainbow Bridge. And I feel honored to have been there for every cold, ear infection, and emergency along the way.”

As our veterinary hospitals merge software and share expertise, Kathy and Tom’s dedication to our clients and charitable mission has only increased. “When our veterinary team first heard about the merger, we couldn’t imagine a better opportunity for a brighter future for the animals of San Francisco,” said Kathy.

Tom explained, “With our combined resources and expertise, both homeless and homed animals will have increased access to veterinary care with a veterinarian and friend.”

Dr. Tom Mason charms a cat in the Feline Wellness Center at Pets Unlimited.

Dr. Kathy Gervais
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.

Protect Your Pet with the Sido Program

Smaller dogs should always be carried on escalators.

Larger dogs should wear booties, which are available at most pet supply stores.

CAUTION

Escalators can cause serious paw injuries to dogs!
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAN FRANCISCO SPCA

on the adoption center remodel and their record-breaking year of saving lives.

yp can do that.