LOVE IN COMMON

SAN FRANCISCO SPCA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017
Home Is Where You Make It

I grew up as the daughter of an enlisted Navy sailor, and every few years my parents, two brothers, and I moved from state to state, or more often, country to country during my childhood. Whether we were in the Aleutian Islands, Okinawa, or the backwoods of Oklahoma, our beloved animals Wimpy, Sylvester, Shorty, Amos, and Calico made every move less frightening, less unknown. No matter where we landed, it always felt like home thanks to them.

After roaming around the globe for school, a stint in the Peace Corps, and various residencies and fellowships, it is San Francisco that I now call home. The characteristics that make me love this city are likely what you love about it as well: it's a little weird, it's a little revolutionary, it's a little fearless. These are the same attributes that I love about this organization, as if after nearly 150 years, the San Francisco SPCA has been imbued with the spirit of the city itself.

But what makes the SF SPCA home? It’s the animals and the people. Our 400-plus employees, 1,800 volunteers, and thousands of donors like you make the SF SPCA a safe, loving home for more than 5,000 animals each year, if only temporarily. We touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of people each year through our community outreach efforts, youth programs, Animal Assisted Therapy, adoptions, behavior and training, and veterinary care. And we are humbled by what they give back: limitless love to animals.

When I think back to my childhood and the stress of all of those transitions, I am grateful to my family, including Wimpy, Sylvester, Shorty, Amos, and Calico, for providing the loving foundation that encouraged me to approach each change as an opportunity for adventure, rather than a setback. And that’s what we do here, provide a loving foundation as we shepherd animals on to loving new homes and happy lives.

Thanks to each of you for what you do to make our work here possible. Your generosity whether it be with your time, your financial resources, or your corporate support is instrumental in making the lives of thousands of animals and the people who love them better, safer, and full of love.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Scarlett, DVM
President
WELCOME
HOME

Jennifer Scarlett, DVM
President
& her dog Huri
How One Lucky Dog (Plus 5,241 Other Animals) Found a Home

What happens to a crippled pit bull puppy abandoned in the lobby of the SF SPCA? If you happen to be Waffles, a lot of good things!

We'll never know what possessed this puppy's previous guardians to abandon him. Thankfully, they brought him here and, whether they knew it or not, the SF SPCA was the saving grace for young Waffles.

Afflicted with Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome (or what we humans call “runner's knee”), Waffles underwent surgery so he could walk and play comfortably. Once ready for adoption, Waffles met Layla and Marc, a couple who had been looking for a pit-type dog to adopt so they could do their part in dispelling some of the myths associated with bully breeds with their friends, family, and neighbors.

Layla credits Waffles’ boundless energy with helping her stay committed to her fitness routine for her June 2017 wedding. This couple declared their commitment to each other, and they also made a lifelong commitment to Waffles by pursuing his ongoing medical care and enrolling him in training classes to manage his boundless puppy energy.

Waffles isn't the only lucky dog to have a happy ending, but there are always more who need our help. The SF SPCA Intake team finds adoptable animals all over California. Because of your generosity, we have the facilities, the staff, and the medical capabilities to make sure dogs like Waffles can find their way to loving, forever homes.
Committed to Keeping Pets and People Together

As a supporter of the SF SPCA, you know that we have long advocated spay/neuter as a critical component to ending animal homelessness. The SF SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic first opened its doors in 1976 and remains key to helping us fulfill our mission. And while spay/neuter and our other prevention programs like our mobile vaccine clinics and Community Cares Program are important components in the successes we’ve achieved—like the citywide live release rate of 93 percent—we are always asking if there are ways we could be doing more.

We are seeing a nationwide reduction in intake and euthanasia. We know that we can point to robust spay/neuter efforts for getting us there. Another key component to reducing shelter intake is surrender prevention—helping to keep animals in their homes, with the people they already know and love. For the past several years, we have been working to address some of the most common reasons for surrender by providing access to low-cost medical care, behavior resources, and counseling to help keep pets in an ideal home—the one they are already in.

Most people, when faced with behavioral or medical issues, give up their pet only as a last resort. We’re focusing on outcomes for animals and the people who love them by making medical care and behavior resources accessible to all through clinics, classes, financial aid, preventative care, and access to information. Putting safety nets in place helps us keep these families whole.
Drew Cottrell  
I was inspired to volunteer after adopting my dog Beulah. She helped me discover my passion for dog behavior and training, and the SF SPCA has been the perfect place to learn and give back. I'm most inspired by seeing dogs get healthy and gain confidence, leaving the shelter in better shape than they arrived.

Sonia Jacob  
As a lawyer, I was incredibly stressed out. I couldn't have a pet in my own home, so I started volunteering at the SF SPCA. But spending time here became much more than a de-stressor. I'm learning so much about animal behavior, science, and human interactions. I love seeing once shy, scared animals become happy, sweet pets and get forever homes.

Sharon Glick  
For five years I've been a volunteer with the SF SPCA, where I'm currently a Cat Matchmaker. It's a great feeling to be part of the work done by this amazing organization that finds forever homes for loving animals. It's especially rewarding to see the special connection that suddenly forms between an adopter and a cat or kitten.
Our Volunteers Are Lifesavers

Without the tireless work of our volunteers, we simply wouldn't have been able to send 5,242 animals to their new homes, care for 1,537 foster and fospice animals, make more than 6,000 Animal Assisted Therapy visits, treat 4,372 animals through our Community Cares Programs, or do so many of the other things they help us do on a daily basis.

Amanda Rotondo
As a volunteer and foster parent, I love how organized and supportive the SF SPCA is. So many organizations just hand you a pet and say, “Here you go, good luck!” Here you have dedicated staff to help you at a moment’s notice and a huge network of other foster parents to help you, too. It’s amazing.

Laura Satkamp
Volunteering at the SF SPCA brings me into contact with my community on a daily basis allowing me to help both people and animals. Together, the members of our staff, the clients we serve, and the animals we treat create something unique and positive. I am honored to be able to serve my community in this way.

Kevin Hu
Keeping animals healthy and happy is critical to giving them their best shot at finding a home. Our Shelter Medicine team goes to incredible lengths to save, treat, and take care of every animal that we can. Working with and learning from some of the most passionate and knowledgeable veterinary experts is a privilege.
Bringing the Human-Animal Bond to All San Franciscans

When primatologist Jane Goodall flew through San Francisco International Airport, she requested a meeting—not with dignitaries or the press, but with LiLou the Pig. LiLou and her guardian, Tatayana, are star members of the Wag Brigade, the teams of animals and volunteers that keep travelers at the San Francisco International Airport happy, centered, and stress free. And LiLou also happens to be the first airport therapy pig in the country.

With more than 1.5 billion media hits, LiLou has become a social media darling. But every one of our Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) animals is a superstar. Over the past year, these patient, calming animals have offered their therapeutic charms to more than 110,000 people in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and veterans’ facilities.

This year, AAT launched three programs to serve new communities and spread the benefits of spending time with animals. These programs deepen the reach of AAT to serve those in our community who otherwise would not have access to animals:

- AAT now reaches people who are homebound, most of whom are receiving hospice care, through its AAT at Home program. Some of the clients in this new program have had to give up their own animals, and they are especially moved by visits from the AAT at Home teams.

- AAT also works with multiple units at the San Francisco County Jail. Unlike the vast majority of our clients served by AAT, the people we visit through our partnership with the SF Sheriff’s Department (and in some cases in conjunction with the SF Department of Health) have no other opportunity to engage in the human-animal bond.

- Young clients at the MacAuley Institute face a variety of mental health concerns and AAT is helping them cope. Interacting with our trained therapy animals provides patients with access to the therapeutic benefits of the human-animal bond, often resulting in reduced anxiety and a greater sense of well-being.
Companies that Care (and Why We Love Them)

In a survey of hundreds of Bay Area residents, we found that 70 percent think the SF SPCA is a chapter of a national organization. It isn't. There is no national SPCA. And, as an independent nonprofit, we do not receive any city, state, or federal funding. We depend entirely on the support of generous individuals, foundations, and corporate donors to keep our doors open and our lifesaving programs afloat and growing.

One of our most generous, longtime supporters is Nestle Purina PetCare Company. Purina believes pets and people are better together, which is why they support our mission to increase pet adoptions and find every adoptable animal a new home. Purina generously donates enough food and litter for our entire population at the SF SPCA—more than 5,000 animals each year. But Purina's passion and commitment goes beyond the SF SPCA. Each year, they find ways to give back in a big way. In 2016, Purina donated $31.2 million in monetary funding and product (totaling 13 million pounds of it), to pet-related and community organizations. Purina is committed to creating a better world for animals and their people through innovative programs, access to resources, and investment in communities.

Corporate donations really do change lives. Thank you to Purina and all of the corporations who contributed to the SF SPCA. Our corporate partners make an incredible impact on the lives of animals, and we couldn't be more grateful.
Purina donates food and litter for more than 5,000 SF SPCA animals each year
How Your Money Makes Miracles Happen

When you make a donation to the SF SPCA, you’re helping us touch a staggering number of people and pets. In fact, each year we reach 250,000 people—nearly one third of the population of San Francisco—through the programs and services we provide for the community. Thanks to your generosity, one in three of your neighbors—and likely an even greater number of animals—are living better lives filled with cuddles, love, and joy, all made possible because of you!

- Animals adopted: 5,242 homes with more love (and pet fur).
- Community Cares clinics: 2,423 animals with a new “leash on life” after getting free vaccines, medical care, their bits clipped, and a whole lot of love.
- Citywide live release rate: 93% of homeless animals in San Francisco have a positive outcome.
- Charitable care provided: $5 million spent to help keep animals safe, healthy, and happy (with the people who love them).
- Pets and people served by Behavior & Training: 5,245 calm, confident, courteous, and content canines and cats (yes, we do offer cat classes).
Our Fiscal Year in Review

Over the past fiscal year, we received funds from various sources that totaled $37 million—that’s an 11 percent increase over last year and it allowed us to further grow our key programs and services and continue to redefine our capacity for care and what it means to be an advocate for animals and the people who love them.

We take our fiscal responsibility very seriously—90 cents out of every dollar donated goes directly to support our programs. We’re proud that we’re well regarded both here in our hometown (the San Francisco Chronicle named us the top Bay Area charity) and by all the major charity evaluators. These independent organizations review nonprofits and only certify those that meet the highest standards of accountability, program effectiveness, transparency, and financial management. GuideStar awarded us with the Platinum Seal, its highest level of recognition; Charity Navigator rated us as the top large animal welfare organization in the United States (and gave us a perfect score on financial performance); and, of the more than one million charities operating in the United States today, we are one of only 0.02% that have been awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence. With so many nonprofits competing for your dollars, we appreciate your support and, in return, you can rest assured that your donation to the SF SPCA is spent on furthering our mission and not peripheral activities. Thank you—the animals we save, the lives we change, and the communities we touch are all made possible because of you.

Revenue

$37 million

- $13M Contributions & Bequests
- $3M Investment Income*
- $21M Fees for Services & Merchandise

Expenses

$37 million

- $21M Hospitals
- $5M Spay/Neuter & Shelter Medicine
- $2M Companion Animal Programs
- $4M Adoption
- $2M Public Education & Advocacy Programs
- $3M Supporting Services

* excludes non-cash charges of $2M in depreciation
Your Support Is Helping to Transform Lives

In our ever-changing world, there is one thing that remains constant—you are lifesavers by helping animals in need and changing the lives of the people who love them. Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting us so we can continue to deliver innovative, effective, and compassionate care. We are immensely grateful for your support and hope you feel pride in the achievements made possible by your generous donations. On behalf of the thousands of vulnerable animals we rescue each year, we offer our profound gratitude for supporting the SF SPCA—your local, independent nonprofit animal welfare organization.

"Welcoming animals into our homes makes us more human because caring for them requires kindness, patience, and love. I support the SF SPCA as a donor, volunteer, adopter, and hospital client because I have seen over and over again how much its mission of saving animal lives enhances the lives of the people and the community it serves."

Jennifer Lee, Donor with Posey Montoya
“Cats and dogs are amazing creatures that bring us so much joy. We’re committed to play a part in addressing root causes of animal abandonment and to help our furry friends find loving homes. We are so impressed at how effectively the SF SPCA pursues its mission and are proud to support such a well-managed organization.”

Steve Pegors & Trista Berkovitz,
Donors with Niner

“I’ve been fortunate enough to be able to be an animal guardian, and this has added so much color and depth to my life. When I had the opportunity to do some volunteer work, I immediately chose the SF SPCA because of its long and respected history of championing animals and their rights. It is my way of paying it forward to the spirits of the animals who gave so much to me.”

Doris Chew,
Donor with Shaolin
“We support the SF SPCA as it holds a valuable role in the community of San Francisco and has made an enormous difference in the lives of many animals. Without the SF SPCA, our special needs pit bull may not have received the second or third chance she needed prior to us finding her.”

Tracy & Kyle Vogt, Donors with Charlie & Millie

“We have always loved animals and deeply appreciate the work of the SF SPCA. When our son Charlie asked to volunteer with the animals, we really started to see the SF SPCA’s magic up close. The animals love people coming in to spend time with them, and the volunteer program taught Charlie how to engage and socialize the animals, thereby helping to make them more adoptable. It has been so rewarding to work with the SF SPCA and see our son experience the joy of giving back and the reciprocal importance of the human-animal bond.”

Holly & Charlie Farrell, Donors with Dozier
“We are committed long term to encouraging and supporting the SF SPCA’s humane practices and invaluable contribution to life with pets. We are especially grateful for our kitty, Lucca, adopted 16 years ago, and the compassionate care he receives today from Dr. Lawson.”

“Guido Piccinini & Rebecca Schumacher
Donors with Muffin & Mittens

“We are committed to the SF SPCA because of its world-class approach to animal welfare, including veterinary services, its novel adoption center, and its extensive dog training programs. We are proud contributors to the Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center, the second-largest veterinary hospital in North America and its new CT scanner. And last, but by no means least, our 13-year-old dog Annie, a rescue, has had all her veterinary care at the SF SPCA and has participated in many of the training courses there.”

“Dan Levitt, M.D., Ph. D., Past Chair of SF SPCA Board of Directors & Bonnie Levitt, Donors with Annie

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