



# LEGACY SOCIETY NEWS

## Creating a Legacy and Finding Love

Sometimes, life has a way of reminding us of what really matters. It was one such moment that prompted Legacy Society members Rachel Aloy and Scott Karczewski to think about the lasting impact they wanted to have on the world, and the people and pets they'd leave behind.

Rachel and Scott are guardians to Charlee, the dog they adopted from the SF SPCA. Sweet Charlee came into the couple's life not long after Rachel's mother passed away, followed by their beloved dog, Doobie. These heartbreaking events reminded the couple "of how unpredictable life and death are," Rachel said.

As she closed out her mother's estate, Rachel appreciated how thoughtfully her mother had prepared for her own passing. She said, "I need to do this for Scott and myself. I'm in my late 40s and Scott is 50. You just don't know what life is going to throw at you."

Rachel found the online estate-planning tool, FreeWill, which partners with the SF SPCA. "It was so easy to use," she said. "I really appreciated how it walked me through the process." The couple planned for the future care of their pets and named the SF SPCA as a beneficiary. "Because animals are



*Scott, Charlee and Rachel living their best lives together.*

so much a part of our life," Rachel said, "it was a no-brainer."

### CHARLEE'S CHOICE

When June Hom, Director of Planned Giving, called to thank Rachel and Scott, Rachel shared that she might be ready to adopt again. That's when they learned about Charlee. In their meet-and-greet, Scott said he and Rachel felt an immediate connection with Charlee. "Every animal I've had in my life has chosen me," he said. "Charlee did the same thing with us. Animals have their own minds and souls, and they need to choose their family."

Charlee is one the many animals who come to us every year

from the Central Valley via the California Human Animal Transport Team (CHATT), a coalition of Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Area shelters. This helps our Central Valley partner shelters free up space as they struggle to keep up with the influx of animals, due in large part to diminishing access to veterinary care, especially spay and neuter services.

Impressed with our work to support animals near and far, Rachel and Scott became monthly donors. "It's so clear how much SF SPCA cares about animals," Rachel said. "To be able to help even just a little—if we can, that just makes sense." 🐾

# Message from the Director of Planned Giving



**June Hom**  
Director of Planned Giving

*The Legacy Society honors  
those who include  
the San Francisco SPCA  
in their estate plans.*

*Members' generous  
commitments help ensure  
cats and dogs have access  
to care and a loving home  
for years to come.*

Learn more at [sfspca.org/legacy](https://sfspca.org/legacy)

**F**all is here, and with the changing season, I'm reflecting on how much our organization has grown. Over the past 155 years, we've established ourselves as a trusted ally for San Francisco's cats, dogs, and the people who love them. Increasingly, we also help communities in the Central Valley and across California.

I'm truly excited to see where this new road takes us as we work tirelessly to increase access to veterinary care, support programs for animals, and strengthen the human-animal bond.

Transformation is a theme that inspires us in this issue of Legacy Society News. You'll read about Legacy Society members and donors Rachel Aloy and Scott Karczewski, who put their estate in order after losing both Rachel's mother and their beloved dog, Doobie. These losses brought them closer to the San Francisco SPCA, where they adopted Charlee, one of our sweet Central Valley shelter dogs.

You'll also read about our recent advocacy work in support of California Senate Bill 669. This bill will expand the ability of Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) to administer vital vaccines, improving access to vaccines and providing crucial services to some of California's most under-resourced pets and their people.

Finally, because you never know where life will take you, we offer guidance on updating your will. A lot might have changed since you created yours, and you'll want to be sure your estate plans still reflect your desires.

Through the generosity of our Legacy Society members, the SF SPCA continues to transform the care of animals in our communities and across California.

Thank you 🐾

**Freewill can help you  
create a legacy of love.**

Start your legacy at [sfspca.org/freewill](https://sfspca.org/freewill)

**FREEWILL** 





# Senate Bill 669, Which Will Expand the Role of RVTs, Passes

California Senate Bill 669, which expands access to vital vaccines and medications to companion animals throughout California, has passed!

The bill, sponsored by the Sacramento SPCA and actively supported by the San Francisco SPCA, is part of our new strategy to focus on legislation that will address the state's crisis in access to veterinary care.

## LEADING SOLUTIONS FOR ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE

"Our goal is to shift the narrative from a worsening veterinary crisis in California to one where we have solutions," said Barbara Schmitz, Animal Advocacy Counsel at the SF SPCA. "They're solutions that are going to help save lives and prevent suffering. They're also going to ease some stress that shelter workers, veterinarians, and veterinary nurses are feeling."

SB 669 will allow trained, educated and experienced RVTs to administer vaccines under the indirect (offsite) supervision of a licensed veterinarian. This legislation will allow RVTs to administer vaccine clinics, expanding access to vaccines at a time when disease outbreaks are occurring, and providing crucial services to some of California's most vulnerable pets.

## SB 669 WILL SAVE LIVES

"We're seeing outbreaks of parvovirus and distemper in puppies and dogs," said SF SPCA VP of Nursing Sara Taylor, RVT. "These diseases are highly contagious and survival rates are very low, but they're preventable—if we can just get out there and offer this most basic preventative medicine."

Under the new legislation, SF SPCA RVTs can mobilize community vaccine clinics into veterinary deserts in San Francisco and California's Central Valley. "There is a profound lack of access to even basic care in many parts of California," said Diana Borghi, RVT and SF SPCA Hospital Nursing Care Manager. "This law will help animals live healthy lives and stay with the humans they love."

"Our strategy is to deepen access to care for our communities," said Sara. "Registered Veterinary



(L to R) Kylie Ramos (Central Valley Community Engagement Manager) and Caitlin Gutoff (RVT and SF SPCA Shelter Medicine Manager) with shelter dog

Technicians can absolutely be a part of the solution for greater access to care. Being able to go out and offer basic veterinary care is living out our mission and will save a lot of lives."

## HELP US IMPROVE ACCESS TO CARE FOR ALL PETS IN CALIFORNIA

You can make a difference when you lend your support to our advocacy work on behalf of animals. Visit [sfspca.org/about/advocacy/](https://sfspca.org/about/advocacy/) for the latest updates and to learn more. As always, your financial support sustains this important work to make the world a better place for animals and the people who care for them. 🐾



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## LEGACY SOCIETY NEWS

# Top Five Reasons to Update Your Will

You have a will, so you can relax and rest easy, right? Not necessarily.

If your will is outdated, it might actually cause more harm than good. Estate planners advise us to review our wills every few years—or more frequently if any of the following situations have occurred.

### 1. FAMILY CHANGES

Marriage, divorce, death, a new baby (or pet) might affect your preferred distributions, who should act as guardian for your dependents, and who should be named as executor or personal representative of your estate.

### 2. RELOCATING TO A NEW STATE

Laws in different states vary and might impact your current will. Consult an estate planner who is well versed in local legislation.

### 3. ENSURE YOUR PETS FUTURE

Enroll your pets in the SF SPCA's Sido Pet Protection Program.

### 4. CHANGES TO YOUR ESTATE'S VALUE

Financial standing evolves over time. If your estate value differs from when you wrote or last updated your will, you'll need to revisit your distributions. Consider making a gift now from your DAF or IRA account so you can see the impact in your lifetime.

### 5. SUPPORT A FAVORITE CAUSE

If you've developed a deep connection to our mission, you can make a future gift from your estate to the SF SPCA. Or, if you're a "Secret Admirer" who has already named us in your estate, we invite you to let us know and to join the Legacy Society!

**Contact us for sample language you can share with your estate planner and for more information about the Legacy Society and Sido programs. 🐾**



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