SFSPCA



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Our Animals

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Tiana, adopted in June 2026.

This issue of *Our Animals* is dedicated to the life and legacy of Rich Avanzino.

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The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

201 Alabama Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 | (415) 554-3000
Founded April 18, 1868

Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure every companion animal has access to quality medical care, compassionate shelter, and a loving home.

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CEO's Message



On September 20, we lost a remarkable leader, visionary, and friend of the San Francisco SPCA. Rich Avanzino shaped the future of animal welfare by challenging convention and championing ideas that would change how animals are cared for and how they find homes. Under his leadership, the SF SPCA advanced innovative approaches to adoptions, preventative veterinary care, volunteer engagement, and spay/neuter programs, influencing animal-welfare organizations across the country.

One of Rich's most enduring legacies began with a dog named Sido. When Sido's guardian stipulated in her will that her dog be euthanized after her passing, Rich and the SF SPCA challenged the decision in court. Rich's tenacity led to landmark legislation and the creation of the SF SPCA Sido Pet Protection Program, helping ensure pets are protected if they outlive their guardians.

To me, Rich was an idol, mentor, and friend, generous with his counsel and relentless in his optimism. His ideas transformed the lives of companion animals, and they continue to guide our work today, from expanding access to spay/neuter services to helping animals make their way into loving homes.

We dedicate this issue of *Our Animals* to Rich, in honor of his extraordinary legacy and the enduring impact of his vision. The stories within these pages reflect the compassion, innovation, and commitment to animals that defined his life's work.

You'll also meet Kylie Raymond, RVT, whose work strengthens our transfer partnerships and helps ensure adoptable cats and dogs arrive safely at the SF SPCA. We will share the story of Rosie Posie, a sweet puppy from San Francisco Animal Care and Control, whose journey included care from our Shelter Medicine team before she found her family. You'll read Legacy Society Member Grace Wood's story of adopting her cat, Nella, from the SF SPCA Holiday Windows at Macy's, a reminder of the unexpected magic of meeting your match. Finally, you'll follow three very different animal journeys that all led to the same destination: home.

Your generosity supports animals on their way home and helps us build a future where every animal has a safer path to get there.

Thank you for paving the way for our animals.



Jennifer Scarlett, DVM
CEO



A Voice for Animals

ALL ABOUT AB 2010 THE SNIP ACT

Since our founding, the San Francisco SPCA has helped change the future for animals through advocacy. In 2026, that commitment continues in a new California law expanding access to spay/neuter services.

Earlier this year, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2010, the Spay and Neuter Improvements for Pets Act, also known as the SNIP Act, into law. It was introduced by Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria, co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, and co-sponsored by the San Francisco SPCA, ASPCA, Animal Balance, and the San Diego Humane Society. The SNIP Act removes a regulatory barrier to high-volume spay/neuter clinics and authorizes Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital (MASH) clinics.

Why does that matter? In rural and under-resourced communities, limited access to spay/neuter services can mean hours of travel and long wait times for an appointment. By allowing qualified veterinary teams to operate in appropriate temporary spaces without requiring a dedicated surgical room, the law creates more opportunities to bring spay/neuter services closer to the animals and families who need them, while maintaining veterinary health and safety standards.

More accessible spay/neuter services can prevent unplanned litters, reduce pressure on shelters, and address animal overpopulation at its source. Just one week after the SNIP Act takes effect, the SF SPCA will put the new law into action by hosting California's first spay/neuter clinic made possible by the legislation: a free, three-day clinic that will take place January 8–10, in Kerman, a city in Fresno County.

This progress reflects the legacy of Rich Avanzino, who championed high-volume spay/neuter when it was far from standard practice in animal welfare. Rich's devotion to animals challenged conventional thinking and turned compassion for animals into practical solutions. His efforts transformed animal welfare and laid the groundwork for the advocacy efforts we continue today.

Through Shelter PALS, the SF SPCA advocacy initiative, we work alongside lawmakers, veterinary professionals, and animal-welfare organizations to effect policy and legal changes that improve the lives of animals. And you can be part of it. By being part of the SF SPCA community, you help us turn bold ideas into meaningful change, carrying forward the work Rich championed throughout his life. Thank you for turning your love for animals into lasting change.







Remembering Rich Avanzino

SF SPCA PRESIDENT 1976–1999

Rich Avanzino devoted his life to creating a better world for animals, and he had the courage to make that vision a reality. While he was president of the San Francisco SPCA, he challenged long-held assumptions about animal welfare and transformed our organization into a national leader. His pioneering work in adoptions, spay/neuter programs, preventative veterinary care, and volunteer engagement inspired lasting change far beyond San Francisco.

One of Rich's most transformative contributions was championing veterinary medicine in animal shelters. He helped advance the idea that animals should receive veterinary care throughout their shelter journeys, giving them the treatment they need to heal and prepare for adoption. From spay/neuter surgery to complex medical procedures, this approach helps more animals find loving homes while reducing the medical and financial barriers prospective adopters might face. Alongside his commitment to preventative care and getting animals out of shelters and into homes, Rich helped establish a more comprehensive vision for animal welfare.

Rich's legacy lives on in the animals who find loving homes, the families who can access veterinary care, and the animal advocates who continue to push for a more humane world. It also lives on through you. Your generosity gives the SF SPCA the means to turn bold ideas into meaningful change, carrying forward the work Rich championed throughout his life.

As we honor Rich, we invite you to join us in advancing his vision. Together, we can honor his legacy by championing new possibilities, increasing access to veterinary care, and ensuring more animals have the chance to thrive.



A pair of cats, a new beginning, and a lifetime of companionship ahead.

THE ROAD HOME

Meet Beau, Jasper, and Archie

When you adopt a cat or dog from the San Francisco SPCA Adoption Center, the moment can feel wonderfully simple: you meet, you fall in love, and you head home together.

What happens before that moment is anything but simple.

Behind every adoption is a network of people paying attention to the details. Our Intake team coordinates transfers and transportation. Our Shelter Medicine team assesses animals, provides medical care, and identifies needs that might not be obvious at first glance. Our Animal Care team ensures that animals are comfortable and cared for each day. Our Shelter Behavior team helps animals build skills and confidence. Our foster volunteers open their homes. Our shelter volunteers provide thousands of hours of enrichment, socialization, and medical assistance. And our adoption counselors get to know each animal and help prospective adopters understand what life with that particular animal might look like.

There are also people working hundreds of miles away from the SF SPCA, ensuring our animals have safe journeys to a second chance.

Kylie Raymond, RVT, is one of those people. Based in California's Central Valley, Kylie works with shelters and animal-welfare organizations throughout the region as the SF SPCA Source Shelter Assessment and Transfer Register Veterinary Technician (RVT).

She spends much of her time at partner shelters, examining animals who could benefit from transfer to San Francisco and using her training to provide hands-on care and medical expertise. This support is especially valuable to shelters without a dedicated care team on staff or nearby. Kylie also builds relationships with shelter teams and ensures animals arrive with the medical information and care they need.

During her time with these shelters, Kylie has seen the enormous pressure they face as they care for more animals than their facilities can hold, while also navigating limited access to resources. Yet, even under that pressure, shelter teams continue to show up for every animal in their care. As Kylie puts it, "I wish I could scream that from the rooftops: how much they love the animals that come in through their doors."



A kitten arriving at the SF SPCA, ready for a fresh start.



A kitten being examined for ringworm during an intake exam.

That level of care is at the heart of the SF SPCA Source to Home team's work. This team manages the process that takes adoptable cats and dogs from source shelters and rescues to loving homes. Their goal is to help animals move through the shelter system efficiently and humanely, while also addressing the conditions that bring animals into shelters in the first place.

This approach builds on a legacy of rethinking what's possible for shelter animals. Under the leadership of former president Rich Avanzino from 1976 to 1999, the SF SPCA helped advance innovative adoption programs that influenced animal welfare nationwide. That legacy continues today through our Source to Home team, which connects animals with the care and resources they need while helping create more pathways to adoption.

The impact of this work extends far beyond the animals who arrive at the SF SPCA. This year, the SF SPCA aims to facilitate 5,500 adoptions from our adoption center, while also helping drive a 10% increase in adoptions across our broader network of shelter and animal-welfare partners. Every successful adoption creates room for another animal in need, both here in San Francisco and in the communities where our partners are caring for more animals than their shelters were built to hold.

Across California, shelters are in crisis as too many animals enter the system without enough space, veterinary resources, or pathways to adoption. A lack of affordable spay/neuter services means unplanned litters keep entering shelters. Limited access to veterinary care can make treatable conditions more serious, and families may struggle to get the care their pets need to stay healthy and at home. A shortage of veterinary professionals adds another layer of pressure, particularly in communities that already have limited access to care.

That is why each animal's journey home is also part of a larger effort to build a stronger animal welfare system: one where more animals receive the care they need, more pets can stay with their families, and more shelters have the space and resources to help animals in need.

No single organization can do that work alone. The SF SPCA works closely with shelters and animal welfare organizations throughout California. That includes local partners like San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SFACC), as well as shelters across the Central Valley and other parts of the state. Together, these partnerships strengthen the sheltering network and help move animals, resources, and expertise to where they are needed most.

An adopter sees the result of these partnerships: an animal waiting behind a condo door, ready to meet their person. What they may not see is everything that happened before that moment, or just how far that animal may have traveled to get there.



Upon arrival, our team conducts initial exams, identifies health concerns, and determines what care each animal needs.

Beau's Journey to Campus

Beau's journey began more than 200 miles from the San Francisco SPCA, at Kings County Animal Services in Hanford, California.

Like many of our partners, Kings County Animal Services is caring for far more animals than its facility was designed to hold. The shelter has capacity for about 90 dogs and 50 cats, but is currently caring for around 160 dogs and 75 cats, with a team of just 10 staff members. In a shelter operating well beyond capacity, animal transfers can create much-needed room to care for remaining animals.

Kylie arrived at the shelter as part of her regular work with our partners. This work involves visiting shelters to identify animals who might benefit from a fresh start in San Francisco. Kylie examines potential transfers from "nose to toes," paying close attention to their health, body language, and individual needs. She also works closely with shelter staff, reviewing medical records and gathering information to make decisions about each animal.

Angela Ramiro, VP of Shelter Operations at the SF SPCA, explains that "we receive requests for hundreds of animals to be transferred per day, and we can't say yes to every animal. Sheltering is like emergency medicine in that way. You're encountering a lot of animals who need care at once, and you have to find a way to get care to as many animals as possible."

Many shelters lack the veterinary staff or resources to treat certain illnesses and injuries. In these cases, transferring a sick or injured animal to a shelter with more veterinary capacity, like the SF SPCA, can increase the chances that an animal makes a full recovery.

Beau, a tabby kitten, was one of those animals. Beau was fondly named after Beau Maxwell from *Off Campus*, a book series that has since become a hit television show. Kylie often names animals after books she has read, in part because she knows that a memorable name can help an animal stand out and connect with a potential adopter.

Beau, along with his mom and siblings, arrived at the SF SPCA in particularly rough shape. All four kittens were sick with panleukopenia, a severe and highly contagious viral disease. On top of that, Beau had another challenge: injuries to both of his eyes had caused significant discomfort and blindness.



Beau received treatment at the SF SPCA and was ready to find a loving home after he recovered.

Our Shelter Medicine team performed intake exams and began addressing medical concerns. Thanks to medical information shared by Kylie and Kings County Animal Services, our Shelter Medicine team knew exactly what to expect when Beau and his family arrived, so they could act fast when delivering care. This continuity of care is an important part of what makes a transfer more than just a trip from one shelter to another.

Beau and his siblings recovered quickly from their panleukopenia, but Beau's eyes were another matter. Our veterinarians determined that his injuries were severe enough to require bilateral enucleation, a surgery to remove both of his eyes.

For a kitten who had already traveled hundreds of miles and overcome a serious illness, it was another formidable hurdle. But Beau had people in his corner every step of the way.

After surgery, Beau began doing what kittens do best. He romped around his condo. He insisted on frequent cuddles from our staff and volunteers. And he played with lots of toys—even though he couldn't see them!

Then, after everything it took to get him to our adoption floor, Beau found the home he had been waiting for. His adopter saw his photo on social media and rushed to our adoption center to meet him. For her, it was love at first sight.

Jasper Learns to Be a Good Boy

Although our transfer partnerships span the state of California, many of our animals start their journey closer to the SF SPCA, specifically just around the block.

Jasper, a gray-and-white Terrier/Pit Bull mix, came to us from SFACC, our closest partner in San Francisco. The SF SPCA and SFACC work together to help animals move through the city's shelter system and into homes, with each organization bringing different resources and expertise to the journey. Our team does walkthroughs at SFACC seven days a week to transfer cats and dogs and fill our available condos with adoptable animals.

When Jasper arrived at the SF SPCA, he had plenty of puppy energy, along with some behaviors that could make it difficult for him to settle into a new home. He was reactive, jumpy, and mouthy, and he hadn't quite mastered the finer points of good manners.

These behaviors didn't mean Jasper was a poor candidate for adoption. It just meant he needed some time and support to become the best version of himself.

Our Shelter Behavior team worked with him regularly, helping him build manners, skills, and confidence. He joined group walks to practice his leash skills and participated in doggy playgroups, where he could work on his social skills with other dogs.

During Jasper's time at the shelter, our team also learned more about his personality, helping us understand what kind of home would be the best fit for him.

"When people think about an adoption counselor, they may picture the time spent helping adopters meet animals and complete an adoption," Angela explains. "There's a lot more happening behind the scenes. Our team spends time getting to know the animals in our care so we can confidently introduce them to the right families."



Jasper worked with the SF SPCA Shelter Behavior team to build essential skills and prepare for life in his new home.

That guidance continues beyond the adoption itself. Adoption counselors can help adopters understand an animal's needs, set realistic expectations for life together, and connect them with resources that can support the animal as they settle into their new home.

"Our team spends time getting to know the animals in our care so we can confidently introduce them to the right families."

After some time and lots of learnings, Jasper's perfect family came along. His adopters had been looking for a dog who needed a little extra behavioral support. After meeting him, they saw his potential and fell completely in love.

Today, Jasper is enjoying his new home and busy investigating every square inch of his new surroundings. He enjoys walks around the neighborhood, meeting new people, and has even discovered something particularly fascinating: his family's swimming pool.

For Jasper, all that training and patience helped turn puppy energy into the start of a happy life with a family ready to give him all the support he needs.

Archie Gets the Gift of Time

Not every animal that arrives at the SF SPCA is entirely ready to meet their future family. Shelters can be a scary and unfamiliar place for many animals. For that reason, foster homes are a crucial way to help animals feel more comfortable and show their true personality outside of the shelter.

This was certainly true for Archie the cat.

Archie's journey began in an overcrowded Los Angeles shelter. Frightened and shut down, he was unsure whether people could be trusted. When he arrived at the SF SPCA earlier this year, he was so fearful that even basic handling was nearly impossible.

Angela explains that "sometimes the cats who struggle the most in the beginning are the ones with the deepest capacity for love once they feel safe. He was never impossible. He was scared. He just needed someone to see past that fear."

To help Archie, our Adoptions and Client Care Team Lead, Reilly Brown, took work home with her and welcomed Archie into foster care.

It was not an overnight success. Building trust with Archie took time, consistency, and a willingness to accept tiny victories as major milestones. Reilly gave him space when he needed it and kindness every step of the way.

Slowly, Archie began to relax. In the comfort of his temporary home, he started to reveal glimpses of the sweet boy our staff knew was there all along.

Foster care also helped our team better understand what Archie needed to thrive. Along the way, he received important medical care, including neuter surgery and the removal of several diseased teeth.

Then, once Archie was ready, our team focused on finding him the right match.

"Sometimes the cats who struggle the most in the beginning are the ones with the deepest capacity for love once they feel safe."



Time in foster care gave Archie space to decompress, build confidence, and get ready for life with his future family.

With help from Animal and Client Care Associate Sara Louie and our Virtual Adoption Program, which connects potential adopters with available animals via video chat, Archie found his person. Archie went home with a wonderful gentleman who understands that trust takes time and is ready to give Archie exactly that.

Today, this sweet orange cat has what he needed all along: a home, a patient person, and the time and space to begin again.

Making Room for More Possibilities

Beau, Jasper, and Archie each arrived at the SF SPCA with very different needs. Beau needed lifesaving medical care. Jasper needed training to learn some better manners. Archie needed time to feel safe.

Their journeys looked different, but none of them happened alone.

The collective strength of the shelter network is critical to ensure more animals get the care they need and the homes



Animal transfers and shelter partnerships strengthen the animal-welfare system, helping more animals find loving homes.

they deserve. When animals move through this network, the goal is not simply to move them from one shelter to another. It is to connect them with the resources they need and, ultimately, with a home where they can thrive.

Animal transfers and adoptions can create breathing room for overcrowded shelters, but they also reveal a much bigger challenge.

Animal shelters across the nation are working with limited space, limited staffing, and limited access to veterinary care. Across many communities, barriers to accessing veterinary services include cost, transportation, difficulty navigating the veterinary care system, and a shortage of veterinary professionals. When routine care and spay/neuter services are out of reach, unplanned litters increase, treatable medical problems become emergencies, and more animals enter already-overcrowded shelters.

That is why our work does not stop at our shelter's doors.

Smart Ways to Give Before Year-End

Make the most of your charitable giving with these tax-smart ways to support animals.

GIVE FROM YOUR IRA

If you're 70½ or older, you can make a gift directly from your IRA. At 73, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can also satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). **IRA gifts must reach the SF SPCA by December 28** to allow the funds withdrawn from your account before the end of 2026 and to count toward your RMD.

GIVE APPRECIATED STOCK

Donating stock held for more than one year may provide an income tax deduction while avoiding capital gains tax on the appreciation.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND (DAF)

Recommend a grant to the SF SPCA from your DAF or consider setting up recurring grants to support animals year-round.

For personalized guidance, contact Director of Planned Giving, June Hom, at (415) 430-3251 or jhom@sfspca.org.
Please consult your tax advisor or financial professional about your individual circumstances.



Spay/neuter surgery is a vital preventative procedure that helps prevent unplanned litters and reduce the number of animals entering already-burdened shelters.

Building Capacity Beyond Our Walls

Creating more pathways home also means helping animals receive care before they ever need to enter a shelter.

Spay/neuter surgery is one of the most effective ways to reduce shelter intake over time. A single spay surgery can prevent an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 animals from entering the shelter system during an animal's lifetime and the generations that follow. That makes expanding access to spay/neuter a humane, proactive way to help communities care for their animals while reducing pressure on shelters.

Across California's Central Valley, the SF SPCA is helping make this important surgery more accessible. Last fiscal year, we spayed/neutered and vaccinated 24,290 cats and dogs across the Central Valley through SF SPCA-sponsored and supported clinics. SF SPCA-sponsored clinics typically serve between 25 and 65 animals per day, with pop-up locations held throughout the region, including Fresno, San Joaquin, Tulare, and Kings Counties. These clinics provide spay/neuter services for animals connected to our Community Ambassador and Mobile Vaccine Clinics, as well as animals in partner shelters and foster-to-adopt homes.

The SF SPCA commitment to preventing shelter intake through spay/neuter surgery reflects a legacy of forward-thinking animal welfare championed by Rich Avanzino. Today, expanding access to these services across California's Central Valley carries that work forward, helping communities care for their animals while easing pressure on the shelter system as a whole.

The SF SPCA is also investing in long-term capacity alongside our shelter partners. At Fresno Humane Animal Services, a new dedicated surgery suite will expand access to care for both shelter animals and owned pets in the community, thanks to a generous gift to our Access for All campaign.

For the first time, Fresno Humane will have an on-site space for spay/neuter surgeries and other medical procedures, reducing its reliance on outside clinics. Bringing this capacity in-house will mean less time spent transporting animals and less stress for animals in their care. It will also help shelter animals receive spay/neuter surgery more quickly, allowing them to become available for adoption sooner.

Together, these efforts address access to care challenges from different directions: bringing spay/neuter services directly into communities while helping shelter partners build the capacity to provide more care themselves.

The need for greater access to spay/neuter services is also shaping statewide solutions. California recently enacted AB 2010, the Spay and Neuter Improvements for Pets Act, known as the SNIP Act, which removes a regulatory barrier to high-volume spay/neuter services and gives these clinics greater flexibility to operate in communities. This law expands access to care by making it easier for qualified veterinary teams to provide high-volume spay/neuter services in more locations.

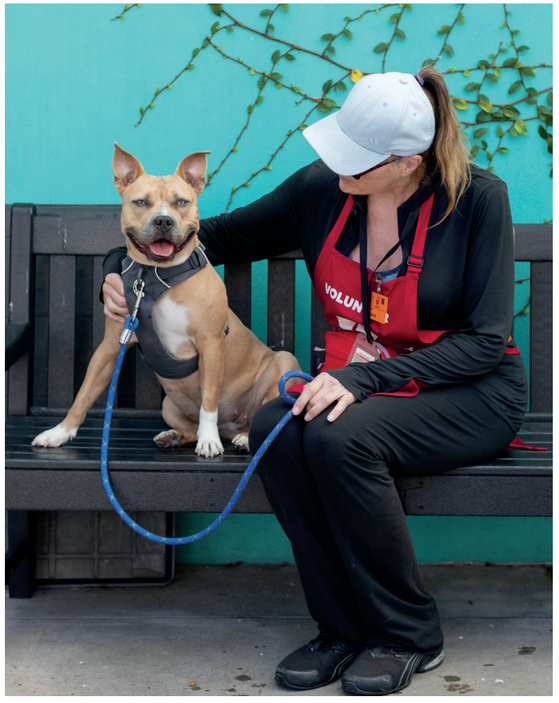
Animal welfare is not a series of isolated shelters. It is a connected ecosystem, and what happens in one community can affect animals and shelters hundreds of miles away. Expanding access to spay/neuter and veterinary care helps address the challenges upstream, giving more pets the care they need to stay healthy and at home while reducing the number of animals who enter shelters in the first place. When shelters have the resources, capacity, and veterinary support to care for the animals who do arrive, more animals can move through the shelter system and onto the next chapter of their journeys.

The Journey Doesn't End at Adoption

Anyone who has adopted an animal knows how that first night home is only the beginning. You learn your pet's quirks and discover a routine together. You learn their fears and favorite words. You may also take a breed ID test to discover all the puzzle pieces that make your pet one-of a kind.

And often, you wonder about everything that happened before adoption day.

For some adopters, those answers reveal an extraordinary journey. An animal might have traveled hundreds of miles. They might have arrived sick or injured. They might have needed surgery, training, foster care, or simply time to understand that the people around them were there to help. Behind every one of these journeys are incredible staff and volunteers who care for animals every step of the way and generous donors who make this work possible.



Mona enjoys some cuddles with SF SPCA volunteer Deirdre K.

Adopters often become some of the strongest advocates for shelter animals, because they know firsthand the incredible impact animals have on our lives. One pet's love can inspire thousands more acts of kindness for animals.

That is why adoption is so important.

Adoption alone cannot solve overcrowding, close gaps in access to veterinary care, or fix every problem animals face. But it can be a catalyst. It connects a person to an animal's story, and that bond can grow into compassion, action, and advocacy.

That broader vision reflects a legacy of progress at the San Francisco SPCA: pairing the work of finding homes for animals with efforts to prevent suffering, expand access to care, and create lasting change. It's a commitment that continues through every animal who finds a home and every community that gains the resources to care for its animals.

The journey home is made possible by many hands and paws. But once an animal reaches home, their story can continue to travel. It can motivate someone else to adopt, open their home to a foster animal, or support a shelter. One animal's journey can inspire many more.



Thanks to donor support, the new SF SPCA transport truck helps more animals get one step closer to home.



Donate Your Vehicle to the SF SPCA!

Got a car you're not using? Donating your vehicle to the SF SPCA is easy, free, and might be tax-deductible.

Whether it's a car, truck, or even a boat, funds from the sale of your car support lifesaving care for pets in need.

sfspca.org/donatevehicle

SFSPCA

A Pet's Journey to Their Forever Home

Each cat or dog's path—from arriving in our shelter to leaving us for their new, loving home—can be a fast, direct track, or it can be slower and winding, involving more care and attention as needed for their physical or behavioral health.

1

Buddy arrives at SF SPCA from California's Central Valley

2

Nose-to-toes exam by the Shelter Medicine Team

Buddy is diagnosed with parvo and receives lifesaving care

3

Animal Care Associates care for and feed Buddy

4

Volunteers spend time with Buddy

5

Buddy is scared and shut down in the shelter, so he moves to a foster home to decompress

6

While in foster care, Buddy receives support from our behavioral team to help him cope with big-city noises

7

Adoption Counsel and Care associates pair Buddy with his forever family

They meet Buddy through a Virtual Adoption and pick him up from the SF SPCA

Legacy of Impact

A CONVERSATION WITH GRACE WOOD, SF SPCA LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER



How did you get involved with the SF SPCA?

It was really through the adoption of my cat, Nella, from the SF SPCA Holiday Windows at Macy's Union Square.

What role do animals play in your life today?

I just love animals. It's pretty simple. Nella is a great companion, and it's very important to me that we take care of our animals and are kind to them because they're so vulnerable (and wonderful)!

What was it like adopting your cat Nella from Holiday Windows?

It was a magical experience. About three years after my cat Ella died, I thought I was ready for another kitty. I tried some "kitty dating," but none worked out. Then I had a strong intuition to see a performance of *The King and I* in San Francisco. I even found a $20 bill in the BART parking lot. After the show, I thought, "It's Christmas. I should go look at the Macy's windows." Somehow, I ended up in the back room with the adoptable animals, and there she was: Nella. And she looked just like Ella! It was one of those moments. I think animals pick us; I really do. She let me hold her for an hour. The whole adoption experience was lovely. Everyone was so kind, thoughtful, respectful, and efficient. They made it quite easy, and I've been impressed with the organization ever since.

What inspired you to name the SF SPCA as a beneficiary in your estate plan?

I got serious about estate planning about four years ago and decided to research organizations that are meaningful and important to me. The SF SPCA popped right up. I don't know what my legacy will be in terms of finances, but I really like the idea of using it to care for animals. We need to do that. June [Hom] was also wonderful to work with, and that's why I decided to do it.

What impact do you hope to achieve as a member of the SF SPCA Legacy Society?

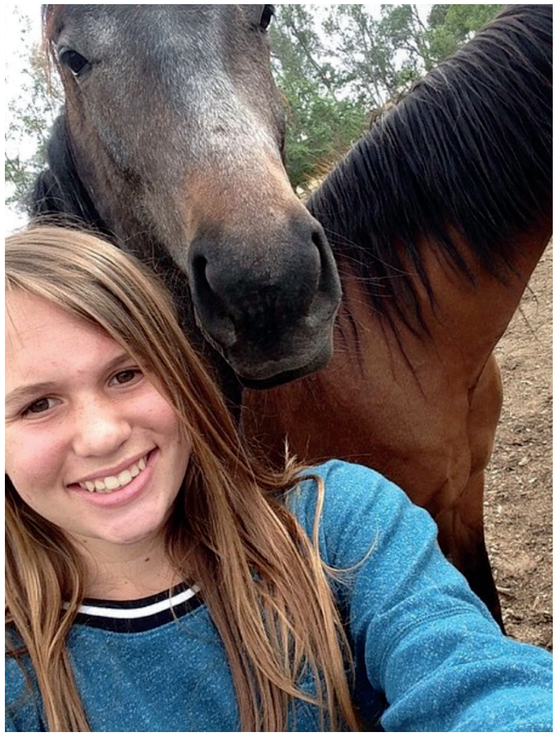
I'd like to support the organization, support animals, and support people. I love veterinarians and people who care for animals. Everyone at the SF SPCA, all of you, are very special human beings. I want to help ensure this important work continues, and I'd like to be a part of it.

JOIN THE SF SPCA LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society was created to honor its members for their commitment to saving and improving the lives of animals. If you would like to learn more, or if you have already included the SF SPCA as a beneficiary in your estate plans, please **contact June Hom at (415) 430-3251 or jhom@sfspca.org**.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Power of Care



KYLIE RAYMOND

Source Shelter Assessment & Transfer RVT

How long have you worked at the SF SPCA?

I began working for the SF SPCA in May of this year.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have three cats and two dogs! Two of my kitties are tripods, and I have a 17.5-year-old childhood cat. My two dogs are also special needs. Both have musculoskeletal issues and require close monitoring and lifelong medications.

What one word embodies the SF SPCA for you?

Dedication. When I think of the SF SPCA, I think of a multi-faceted organization dedicated to its community, animals, shelter partners, and employees—and to improving the care for shelter animals through legislative change.

What led you to a career in animal welfare at the SF SPCA?

I have been in the veterinary industry for 10 years. Each clinic I've worked for has done work with local shelters to help care for extensive medical cases. I began delving deeper a couple years ago by volunteering my time to trap-neuter-return (TNR) events and helping small shelter medicine teams by assisting with surgeries. When I saw a full-time position was available at the SF SPCA, I jumped at the chance to join the team.

What's a typical day for you at the SF SPCA?

My typical day involves working together with our source shelters. I drive to locations, examine animals, arrange transport, and upload all source documents to our shelter-management software. My job is to continue to strengthen the relationships with our partner shelters so we can best help each other and help as many animals as we can. While I'm on-site, I also help provide medical care by administering vaccines and medications, implanting microchips, and identifying animals who need urgent medical attention. I may also help with bathing or grooming when needed. When my schedule allows, I also assist with spay/neuter events through Animal Balance.

How does our focus on access to care impact your work?

We are able to take on many special surgery cases that our source shelters cannot handle. The SF SPCA also helps by sponsoring regular spay/neuter and vaccine clinics in the communities around our source shelters to increase access to care and help with population control.

Is there anything else you want people to know about the SF SPCA?

I would like people to know how much this team genuinely cares about the people and the animals we work with. Whether it's owned pets, shelter animals, staff, or clients, everyone is treated with the utmost respect. The SF SPCA is a wonderful organization that truly aims to make a difference in the care of shelter animals and the advocacy for veterinary care workers who spend their time helping these animals.

"WHEN I THINK OF THE SF SPCA, I THINK OF A MULTI-FACETED ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ITS COMMUNITY, ANIMALS, SHELTER PARTNERS, AND EMPLOYEES—AND TO IMPROVING THE CARE FOR SHELTER ANIMALS THROUGH LEGISLATIVE CHANGE."

The Sido Pet Protection Program



We are grateful for the leadership and vision of former SF SPCA President Rich Avanzino, who created the Sido Program to ensure that pets will be cared for and loved—no matter what the future holds.

ENROLLED CATS AND DOGS RECEIVE:

- Medical and behavioral intake examination and treatment
- Adoption services to rehome your pet
- Foster placement, if necessary
- A lifetime of FREE medical, dental, and behavioral care at the SF SPCA Veterinary Hospital after adoption

Scan below to learn more, or visit sfspca.org/sido.

SF SPCA

FROM HEALING TO HOME

Rosie Posie's Story

Rosie Posie recovering after surgery.

AT JUST TWO MONTHS OLD,

Rosie Posie had already been through more challenges than any puppy should. This adorable Terrier/Pit Bull mix arrived at the San Francisco SPCA from San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SFACC), our city's municipal shelter. Through our close partnership with SFACC, we transfer animals to the SF SPCA daily, helping provide the care they need, prepare them for adoption, and connect them with loving homes.

HEALING WITH A SIDE OF TREATS

When Rosie Posie arrived, our Shelter Medicine team gave her a thorough intake exam and assessed several large, full-thickness wounds on her legs and shoulder. Her wounds needed extensive cleaning, treatment, and surgery. Rosie received bandaging and plenty of medical attention as she began her recovery.

But Rosie Posie? She had other priorities.

Despite everything she had been through, this little puppy was much more interested in treats and cuddles than her medical chart. Our staff and volunteers happily obliged. As her wounds healed, Rosie Posie filled her days with the important business of being a puppy: accepting snacks, soaking up affection, and charming everyone she met.

Below: Rosie Posie's Gotcha Day.





Rosie Posie arrived at the SF SPCA with serious wounds. Treats and cuddles quickly became highlights of her recovery.

NEXT STOP: HOME

Once she recovered, Rosie Posie made her way to the SF SPCA Adoption Center, ready for the next part of her journey to a loving home. It didn't take long. Before she knew it, Rosie Posie was adopted by a lovely couple who were ready to give her the happy, healthy life she deserved.

Rosie Posie's journey from SFACC to the SF SPCA and, finally, to her new home is one example of how our Source to Home team supports animals every step of the way. From medical care and rehabilitation to adoption and beyond, every part of that journey is made possible by a community that believes that all animals deserve a second chance.

For Rosie Posie, that journey ended exactly where it belonged: in a loving home, with lots of treats and cuddles in her future.

Celebrating the Human-Animal Bond

The bonds between people and their pets begin with the journey home. In the stories that follow, our community celebrates the animals and people whose lives come together through care, compassion, and connection.

Keith, Philip, Misty, and Pearl

Adopters, Donors, and Legacy Society Members



We came to the SF SPCA to adopt Pearl shortly after losing our beloved 17-year-old cat, Misty—also an SF SPCA alum—to lymphoma. Misty brought us boundless joy for nearly two decades, and losing her left our home empty. While we hadn't planned on adopting again so soon, meeting Pearl was love at first sight. We knew she needed a forever home, and we needed her. Pearl has brought life, energy, and healing back into our home, filling the silence left after Misty's passing with unconditional love and playful happiness. Pearl and Misty have taught us to practice patience, embrace play, and, above all, remember that even after profound loss, we can always find the capacity to love.

Guy, Karl, and Smokey

Volunteer

Karl and Smokey have been brothers, best friends, and selective hosts since I adopted them from SFACC in October 2018, when ACC occupied its old building across from the SF SPCA. ACC named them perfectly: solid-gray Karl after San Francisco's fog, and Smokey for his black smoke tabby coat. At home, they are the sweetest, most affectionate cats imaginable. Visitors might question whether they exist, however, because the moment a stranger arrives, both vanish into their witness-protection program. As an SF SPCA volunteer, I have always loved shy cats because home is often where they truly blossom. Karl, Smokey, and the cats before them have also taught me about consent, body language, and humor: ask politely, read the room, and never assume the belly is public property.





Will, Tara, Red, and Rowdy

Adopters

Red joined the family in March 2020. Even though he was adopted in Seattle, he is a loyal San Francisco 49ers fan. He loves to play, and he makes going out and enjoying the world an adventure. Red has taught us a lot of patience. Training a dog takes time and trust, but it is extremely rewarding. Then came Rowdy (formerly Carol), our kitten from the SF SPCA. We loved her from the moment we saw her photo. She is playful, full of energy, and makes us laugh every day as she explores the world around her. Her big brother, Red, has learned lots of patience dealing with her antics, and it's been so special to watch their relationship grow. We are so grateful to the SF SPCA for bringing her into our lives.



Jennifer and Raven

Board Member, Adopter, and Donor

Raven came home with us in June 2026 from the SF SPCA. She is a shy little girl from Fresno but is becoming more confident each day in small ways. It's been super fun to see her personality emerge. At first, she would just hang out in her bed and barely explore our home. Over the past few months, she has expanded her boundaries, and it's really rewarding to see her get comfortable doing new things. She surprises us all the time with her agility, speed, and intelligence. We are excited to learn more about her.

Celine and Squishy

Adopter

I adopted Squishy from the SF SPCA last winter. My last dog, Della, was a Rottweiler too, and she made me fall in love with the breed. My favorite part of rescuing a dog is watching their personality slowly take shape. Squishy has come into her own since I brought her home, and it's been one of the highlights of my year. I want her around for as long as possible, and helping more dogs get that time is a part of why I founded my company, Loyal. Our mission is to develop the first longevity drugs for dogs so they can live longer, healthier lives, and having Squishy by my side is a daily reminder of what that extra time can mean.



SFSPCA

201 Alabama Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Change service requested.

SFSPCA



'Tis the season for twinkling lights, warm hearts, and tiny paws!

From November 20–December 31, experience the magic of Holiday Windows—where adorable puppies and kittens bring a little extra wonder to Union Square.

Scan here to learn more about San Francisco's furriest holiday tradition →