



WOODS
HUMANE SOCIETY

FALL 2016

SHELTER TAILS

Celebrating the Human Animal Bond

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We're Growing Again

A Helper Like Me -
a note from Mally

The Gift of Time
and Talent

Photo Credit: Mimi Ditchie



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From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

If you have received this newsletter and are taking the time to read this message, then we know something very important about you. You're one of us. You have great compassion for animals and share our vision of ensuring their wellbeing and creating a future where every dog and cat has a loving home.

There is truly nothing more powerful than a shared vision and this is evidenced by the rapid progress we are making as an organization. Our staff, volunteers, donors, and adopters have made it possible for Woods to serve more animals and people than ever before! Our adoption program, spay/neuter clinic, and humane education program have just completed a record-breaking fiscal year. Woods' long-awaited expansion project is underway, and in a few short months, we'll be enjoying our new state-of-the-art cattery and expanded administrative wing.

The sky is the limit and with your support, Woods' rapid evolution will transform the lives of countless animals for decades to come. We are making great progress toward our goal of creating a low cost spay/neuter clinic in northern San Luis Obispo County, and are actively searching for property that will enable us to build a permanent adoption center, spay/neuter clinic, and humane education center to serve the North County community.

As an animal lover you always want to know how you can help. Your support is needed to fund the day-to-day costs of caring for up to 1,800 animals seeking safe haven and new homes this year. Funds are needed to help us ensure that spay/neuter services are truly accessible and affordable to those who need them. Donations are needed to complete capital projects and ensure the infrastructure exists to meet the needs of our community. Volunteers are needed to help out in virtually all areas of our operation. Adopters are needed to stream through our doors and provide permanent, loving homes for our pets. As one of us, as a member of Team Woods, we know you stand shoulder to shoulder with us to help us make extraordinary progress for the animals. We are so grateful that we can count on your support.

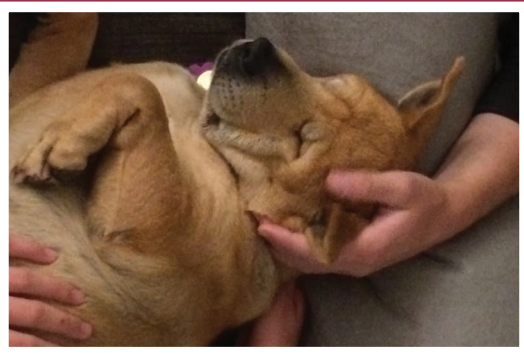
Thank you for making a difference!

Best wishes,

Jill Tucker
Executive Director



Jill and her best buddy
Ryder McPuppypants



Mally has people to love her - and she love them, too



Mally is an excellent supervisor, especially when there is cooking to be done



Mally loves sparkles and she'll always be able to find her way home

A Helper Like Me

Mally's been adopted four times in the last six years but this time we're confident she's with her forever family. In 2010 she came to Woods Humane Society from a shelter in Kern County and pretty quickly found a home. Sadly, five years later she showed up at SLO County Animal Services so we brought her back to Woods. After two unsuccessful attempts to integrate into a new family, in May she hit the jackpot. Here's what she had to report a month later:

To All My Very Good Friends at Woods Humane Society,

I miss you all, but wanted to let you know how much fun I am having at my new home. My people love me and I love them! I finally have the jewelry I have always wanted - a new sparkly tag with my name and all the information about where my HOME is! I have a special soft bed right next to my girl's bed, so I can watch over her at night. I know she sleeps better with me taking care of her, and I like being with her, too! I have another special soft bed in the living room near the fireplace, so I can always be near my people.

Even though I have such snuggly beds, I bet you will all be surprised to know that I don't spend much of the day in my bed any more...I think I know why puppies act so crazy sometimes - it's fun!! I taught my people about playing chase and tug-of-war. They laughed a lot! It's a good thing they have me to show them about the finer things in life!

I LOVE going in the car and my new people take me fun places! So far, my favorite place was the beach - SO many things to sniff! I don't know why that water kept trying to get me - I don't like that so much, but oh the smells of the seaweed and sand and shells...it was wonderful! I wanted to climb the rocks with my girl, but apparently that's easier if you have only 2 feet, so I just watched.

I supervise lots of stuff my girl does. I especially like to supervise when she has friends over and they have snacks...oh there is so much to clean when kids have snacks! I take my work very seriously!

I'm also a great supervisor of the big people. They are nice folks, but, really, how did they ever do any cooking in the kitchen without me there to watch over them? I am the expert peanut butter taster and, I really must admit, I believe the smell of tri-tip comes straight from my dreams! I help them when they have computer work to do, too. I curl up under the desk and make sure everything is just fine. Yup, they sure do need a helper like me!

I guess you guys were wondering why my family came to Woods to find me. Both of their dogs were very old and died within a month of each other and then they didn't have any pets. My people were so sad, but now I keep them smiling and they make me smile! I'm planning on being with them and keeping them smiling for a long time!

I hope you're all having fun, too! Thanks for taking such good care of me until my family found me!

Love,

Mally



Mally sleeps right next to her girl's bed so she can watch over her at night

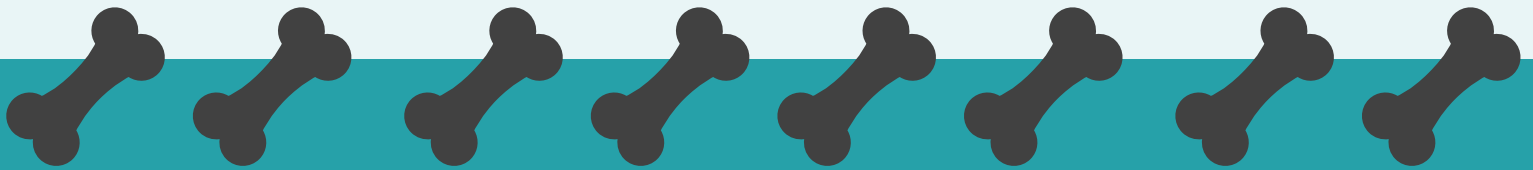
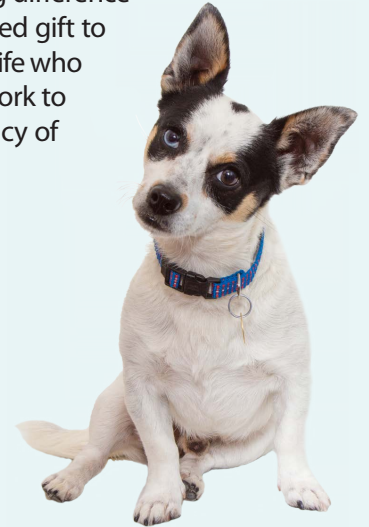


Planned Giving: A Generosity of Spirit

So many of us are fortunate enough to share our lives with animals. The gift of the unconditional love of a dog or the honor of being chosen by a cat...our animals display a generosity of spirit which makes our lives fuller and richer.

For many who have chosen to include Woods Humane Society in their estate plans, it is a desire to honor this spirit that leads to the decision to make a lasting difference for animals. We hope that you will consider making a planned gift to Woods Humane Society to pay tribute to the animals in your life who have given so much. Your gift will allow us to continue our work to save the lives of homeless pets in the future and ensure a legacy of compassion and kindness for homeless animals.

For more information,
please contact Jill Tucker, Executive Director
at (805) 543-9316 x 20 or jtucker@woodshumane.org.

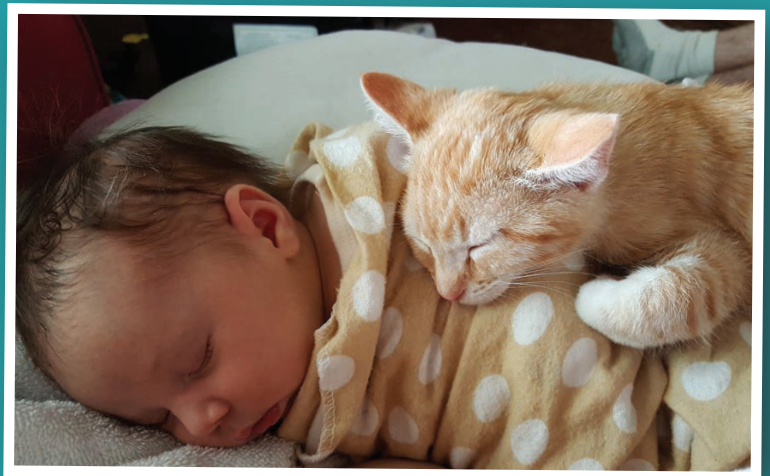


Friends for Life

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Butterscotch, one of the hundred kittens who came through Woods this summer was adopted in July and quickly found her place in her new family.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



A new space for happier, healthier cats and even more adoptions



Housing options for cats of every temperament

Though we and many in the community still refer to our building as “the new shelter”, it has been over 11 years since we relocated. During that time our understanding has evolved about how to create the best environment for shelter animals to 1) ensure their wellbeing and 2) promote adoptions. It is with these twin goals that we have embarked on a remodel of our cat adoption area.

The new cattery will provide a greater variety of cat housing options to ensure that cats of every temperament can be taken into the adoption program. We’ll have the perfect spot for the shy cats, the social cats, the rowdy cats, the loners, and even cats who have a cold. Most importantly, our new feline housing options will help reduce stress and elicit the best possible behavior from our cats, so that they are adopted quickly, freeing up space to take in more cats!

We’ll also be adding much-needed room for humans as well. The Woods adoption program has grown substantially and in response to the increased number of adoptions our staff has grown. The new space will include additional offices, a work area for volunteers, and a conference room.

Woods will remain open during the construction process and we’ll have lots of wonderful cats and dogs waiting for a forever home. The project should wrap-up around the turn of the year.

If you have the ability to donate \$2000 or more, there are a variety of naming opportunities available. Celebrate your love for animals or make a donation to commemorate an important person or pet in your life. Please contact Jill Tucker, Executive Director at (805) 543-9316 x 20 or jtucker@woodshumane.org.

Does My Dog Need Training?

Dogs are never too old to learn. And a well-trained dog can easily be taught to follow the rules of the household. Training builds confidence, improves communication, enhances your mutual bond, and adds enrichment to your dog's life. So...why wouldn't you?

At Woods University we are committed to the Positive Reinforcement Method of dog training. It is a reward-based humane method that's a highly effective way for dogs to learn free from stress or fear of retribution. We train for success...not failure, so that training is fun, fast and fair.

New classes are starting all the time so please visit our website and sign up today at www.woodshumane.org/WoodsU.



Working with your dog toward a mutual goal is a wonderful way to bond



A calm welcoming training facility for you and your dog

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, October 22, 2016

9 am - Noon

Mitchell Park, San Luis Obispo

The 24th Annual Wiggle Waggle Walk for Woods

Register and set up your fundraising page today.

Together we can have the most successful Wiggle Waggle Walk ever! www.WoodsHumane.org/walk2016

Volunteering: The Gift of Time and Talent

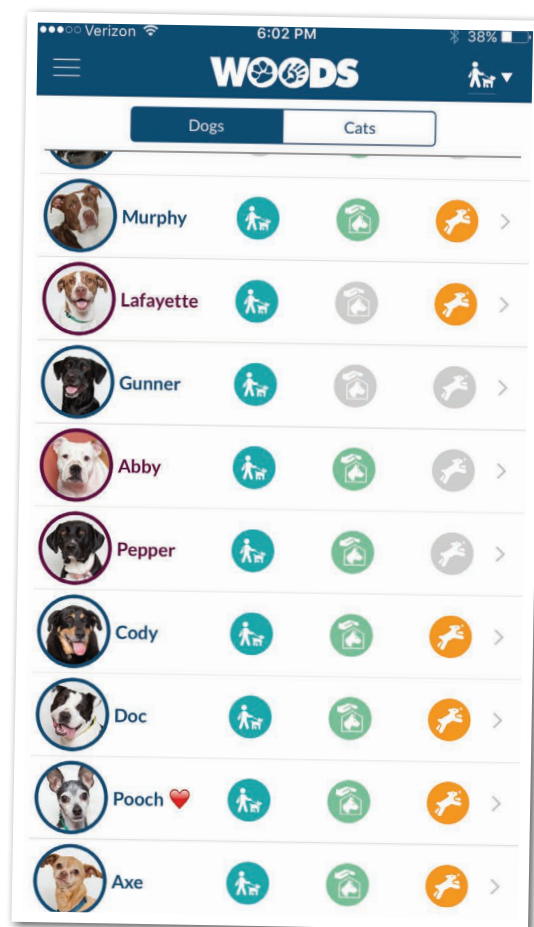
Each and every volunteer at Woods Humane Society plays an important role in helping

to keep things running smoothly. Whether they're doing laundry, cleaning kennels, helping with administrative tasks or spending time nurturing our cats and dogs, their help is essential.

Once in a while, a volunteer comes along who makes a different kind of contribution and Vanessa Forney certainly falls into that category. She started volunteering while working on her master's degree in Computer Science at Cal Poly. She needed to develop a project and noticed our system for keeping track of which dogs had received special attention each day was less than perfect. Her solution was an elegant app that volunteers and staff can access on their phones as well as on an iPad stationed on site. It shows at a glance which dogs have been walked, had time in the play yard or had someone visit with them in their kennel. Staff and volunteers can enter notes detailing training goals, preferences and progress. It even keeps track of when dogs have had a bath!

It didn't take long before volunteers discovered they could check the app at home, allowing them to make a special trip to Woods on days when there are a lot of dogs who still need some quality one-on-one time. As a result more dogs receive the daily attention that is so important to keeping them stimulated and socially connected to people.

Vanessa has finished her degree and moved on to a job with Google but she doesn't plan on giving up on her passion for helping animals. She hopes to make her app available to other shelters so that they too can engage volunteers in the vital work of keeping shelter dogs happy, healthy and adoptable.



Everybody had a walk!



Vanessa used her technological expertise to improve the lives of shelter animals

Want to volunteer?

Learn more and fill out an interest form at www.woodshumane.org/volunteer or give us a call at (805) 543-9316 x 22.

Everyone can put their phone to work for the animals! Join us on Facebook and Twitter – the more you share our cats and dogs the faster they find homes.



Help us drive adoptions!

Join us on Facebook and Twitter – the more you share our cats and dogs the faster they find homes.



Humane Education: An Investment in the Future

Woods Humane Society recognizes that a future without pet overpopulation, homelessness, abuse, or neglect begins with our children. We are working to inspire the next generation of animal advocates by offering a wide range of programs geared for toddlers to teens, at our facility and in classrooms throughout our community. We'd like to share some thoughts and artwork from a few of our program participants.

Learn about all of the programs for children available at Woods at www.WoodsHumane.org/HumaneEd



"I have always loved animals, and I would tell my mom all the time that I wanted to volunteer at an animal shelter. I think it is so great to come home knowing that I've helped lots of animals and the community. Coming in every Tuesday for Youth Crew has made a big impact on my life, when I get to see all the dogs and cats that have a little harder time getting adopted than the others. It makes me feel so warm inside to know that they found a great home."

--Whitney, age 12



"I grew up going to Woods. When I turned 8, I donated all my birthday money to the Shelter. I spent three summers at Critter Camp. It's now an honor to be on the Youth Crew. I've learned a lot about helping animals and Woods is helping me be a better person!"

-- Jordyn, age 12



"My experience in the Woods Humane Society Youth Crew makes me feel like I am making a difference for animals in my community. When I see loving animals in need of a good home, I always want to help them, and Woods has enabled me to do that by learning to socialize the animals and help shy ones come out of their shell. I have also gotten the opportunity to teach younger children how to approach and be safe around animals, which is great because then I know both the animals and the young children will be protected. I have learned so much from Woods, and I love going there."

--McKenna, age 12

**Woods
Humane
Society**

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Our Mission

To serve, protect and shelter homeless companion animals; To place animals in humane environments; To promote responsible pet ownership, provide humane education and reduce pet overpopulation; To celebrate the human-animal bond.