



WOODS
HUMANE SOCIETY

FALL 2018

SHELTER TAILS

*Celebrating
the Human-
Animal Bond*

North County
Spay/Neuter
Clinic is Open

Daphne Fahsing:
A Legacy with Impact

The Multiplication of
Humane Education

Hazel (top)
Adopted 12/27/17

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From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

Individual acts of compassion define the degree to which we are a humane society. Together we have accomplished so much because of the kindness of countless members of our community. Each and every day, people make choices that they often don't realize make a very meaningful impact. The person who decides to be late to work one morning in order to save a dog running loose in the street has helped not only that dog, but the family who is missing it, or the new family waiting to adopt. The person who volunteers their time to trap feral cats and bring them in for spay/neuter may feel as though their efforts are small in the face of a large challenge, but are truthfully driving major, meaningful change. The family that decides to welcome a new pet to their home and chooses to adopt rather than purchase a pet, has not only helped their chosen animal, but has opened a space in the shelter that will allow another pet to take its place. The staff members at Woods Humane Society who experience both the joy and heartbreak of helping animals in need, work tirelessly to do their part in ensuring that our animals receive the best care possible while they await permanent homes. The donor who writes out a check to Woods Humane Society, knowing in their heart that these vulnerable creatures deserve our help, provides resources that truly save lives.



Jill and her best buddy Ryder McPuppypants

We are all spokes of a larger wheel that is creating a humane community and steadily building momentum with each passing day. As you read this newsletter, we are celebrating the opening of SLO County's first public spay/neuter clinic. This investment will offer benefits for years to come providing our residents affordable services and helping to ensure that area pets do not suffer from the consequences of overpopulation. As Woods Humane Society finds homes for more pets than ever before in our history — more than 3,000 this past year — we know this is the direct result of all of those smaller decisions and acts of kindness made by our compassionate community.

For whatever role that you play, we thank you for your compassionate action that affirms to the animals that they matter, that they are valued, and that people are kind.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill M. Tucker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized.

Jill Tucker, CAWA
Executive Director

No More!

Things were pretty grim for little Carbon. She must have been confused and overwhelmed when she found herself in a crowded LA shelter with her seven newborn puppies. Then to be loaded into a van with dozens of other dogs! But through it all she knew she had a job to do — take care of her babies. She was a great mom.

The intake team at Woods Humane Society got to work as soon as they heard she was coming and by the time she arrived her foster family was ready and waiting to provide Carbon and her little ones with a safe and loving refuge. Our veterinary team made sure they were all healthy and then off they went.

Although she now had quiet and stability, Carbon was scared and understandably reluctant to trust the people around her. Determined to do all she could for Carbon, the foster family's teenaged daughter would sit and read to the frightened mother.

When the puppies were about six weeks old and eating solid food, Carbon came back to Woods. She spent some time in a quiet corner of our shelter working with our trainers to mitigate her fear and build confidence. Almost as soon as she was available for adoption, Carbon was on her way to a forever home. When they were eight weeks old we found great permanent homes



With love and patience, Carbon gained confidence.

for all of the puppies... and one lucky pup was adopted by Carbon's new family!

Best of all, before they left for their forever homes, Carbon and her puppies were spayed or neutered. For this little family, and the thousands of other animals we spay or neuter each year, there will be no more unwanted litters — no more frightened, abandoned mothers.



A happier, healthier life for Carbon's puppies

DID YOU KNOW?

Woods Humane Society transferred 460 cats and dogs from the San Luis Obispo County Division of Animal Services last year. We bring in animals almost every day and work closely with county staff to provide a safety valve when their shelter nears capacity. This partnership saves lives!



From humble beginnings.....
the dream is now a reality

The Doctor is In!

Ensuring that spay/neuter services are both accessible and affordable is critical to creating a humane community. Over the years, the Cashin Surgery Suite at Woods in SLO has performed thousands of surgeries each year. With a jam packed schedule, our ability to provide these services to the public has been severely limited.

No more! We are pleased to report that at long last, we have opened a brand new spay/neuter clinic at our North County location in Atascadero. Demand for these services has been sky high as surplus pets have flooded local shelters year after year. At the new Woods North County Spay and Neuter Clinic, we now have the ability to perform 20+ surgeries per day, utilizing industry best practices for high volume, high quality services.

Our medical team, led by Woods' Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. Leslie Sklena, has decades of experience performing safe surgeries. Our doctors are able to operate more quickly, reducing the amount of time the pet is under anesthesia, thus reducing risk. Careful monitoring,



effective pain management, and gentle handling are other key components that help create a positive experience.

As our generous supporters, we ask that you spread the word about the availability of the services, as well as for your financial support of this program. Providing high quality services is costly and your donations are needed to keep these services in reach to those that need them the most. On behalf of all of the animals and pet parents that will benefit from having affordable spay/neuter services right here in SLO County, we thank you for your support!

Why spay or neuter your pet?

One of the most important decisions you'll make is to spay or neuter your cat or dog. Spaying—removing the ovaries and uterus of a female pet or neutering—removing the testicles of your male dog or cat—offers lifelong health benefits and can vastly improve your pet's behavior. Not convinced yet?

1. Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.

Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats.

2. Neutering provides major health benefits for your male. Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.

3. Your spayed female won't go into heat. Many female felines go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. They yowl and urinate more frequently—sometimes all over the house!

4. Your male dog won't want to roam and will be better behaved. An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate, including escaping from the house or yard. Free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

5. Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation. Every year, well over a million cats and dogs in this country are euthanized or suffer as strays. Spaying or neutering prevents unwanted litters!
(Adapted from information provided by the ASPCA)

Make an appointment today at www.woodshumane.org/spay.

Daphne Fahsing:

A Lifetime of Advocacy, a Legacy with Lasting Impact

In 1977 when Daphne Fahsing wrote a letter to the editor of the Atascadero paper expressing her concern about animal overpopulation, she never in her wildest dreams could have imagined that one day a clinic dedicated to providing affordable spay/neuter services would bear her name. The letter was just another way that she was trying, as she often said, “to make the world right.” But that heart-felt letter was the spark that led to the organization she co-founded called Action for Animals’ Rights, later known as North County Humane Society. Though the group’s accomplishments were far reaching - from the rehoming of 54 goats rescued from San Clemente Island to a campaign which led to the accreditation of the Atascadero Zoo - it was fighting overpopulation that was always central to Daphne’s efforts. In 1979 the small group launched a spay/neuter program which soon gained the support of the SLO County government and continues to this day.

Even as a girl in England Daphne would bring home stray cats, but a lifetime spent caring for animals was

not enough for her. That is why she included spay/neuter funding in her will. Daphne’s commitment and planned gifts from other farsighted supporters have made the Daphne Fahsing Spay/Neuter Clinic a reality. A legacy with a lasting impact!

You can create a legacy by making a planned gift to Woods Humane Society — leave a bequest through your will or trust or name us as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement assets. Your generosity and vision will ensure that we can continue to “make the world right” for animals in our community. When you let us know you have included us in your estate plan we will welcome you into our Legacy Circle, invite you to enjoy an annual donor luncheon and, with your permission, acknowledge you in our newsletter.

For more information visit www.woodshumane.org/legacy or contact Gabrielle Amster at giving@woodshumane.org or (805) 543-9316 x 33.



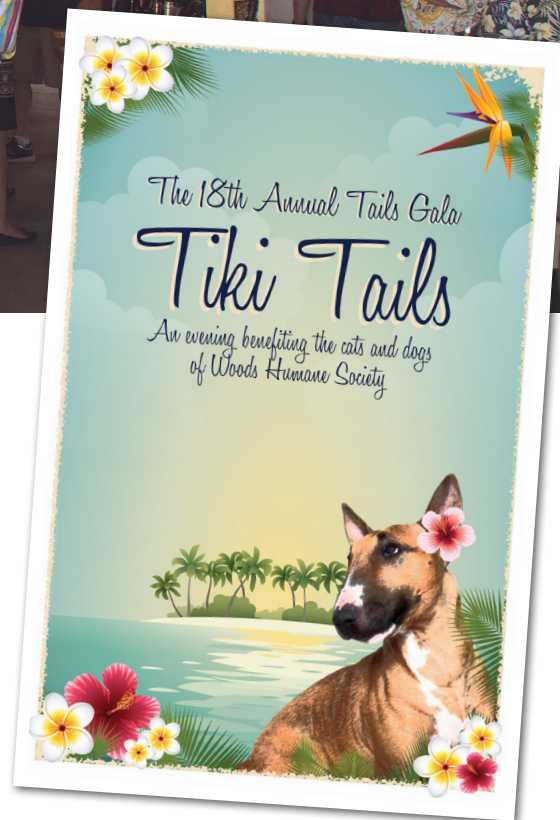
Daphne Fahsing, helping to make the world right



The 18th Annual Tails Gala - Tiki Tails

Generous friends, ideal weather, and a spectacular setting – June 9th was an exceptional night for homeless pets in our community!

**Be sure to save the date for Tuscan Tails -
Saturday, June 8, 2019.**



SAVE THE DATE

THE 26TH ANNUAL WIGGLE WAGGLE
WALK FOR WOODS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

MITCHELL PARK, SLO

WWW.WOODSHUMANE.ORG/WALK2018



We invite you and your canine buddy to join us for a 1-mile walk through downtown San Luis, a pet fair, costume contest, the Doggie Fun Zone and more! Register and set up your fundraising page to make this year's walk a mammoth success.

The Multiplication of Humane Education

Cal Poly Partners with Woods to Bring Humane Education to More Elementary Schools

In a perfect world, concepts like humane treatment of animals and spaying and neutering to stop the overpopulation of pets would be a standard part of elementary school curriculum for all children. In a perfect world, this education would lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of homeless and mistreated pets in the future.

And in the winter of 2017-18, we got one step closer to that perfect world.

For the first time, Cal Poly's College of Liberal Studies (the college for pre-Credential students who want to become teachers) partnered with Woods Humane Society's Humane Education Department to bring humane curriculum to more SLO County elementary schools.

Woods' school outreach program typically consists of just one educator, visiting one classroom at a time with one dog at a time. The Cal Poly Apprenticeship course, aided by a generous grant from Mary L. Bianco and the MOCA Foundation, helped to multiply that effort six times over.

Under the stellar leadership of Anne Marie Bergen, Science Teaching Specialist in Cal Poly's College of Liberal Studies, and Jamie Relth, Woods' Humane Education Coordinator, the six students enrolled in the course received college credit to learn all about Woods Humane Society, how to safely handle shelter dogs, and how to teach kids about the most essential pet welfare themes: safety, responsibility and overpopulation.

After a thorough orientation, shadowing and workshopping process held at Woods, the "apprentices"

worked in teams of two, alternating between the roles of Canine Handler and Humane Educator, to bring appropriate Woods dogs to classrooms from Nipomo to San Miguel.

Not only did the one-hour-long interactive lessons help improve kids' knowledge of pet care, but they also gave the Cal Poly future-teachers valuable opportunities in real classrooms. Even the host teachers in the classrooms reported back with enthusiasm. One teacher said, "The kids loved it, the information was appropriate, and the dog was a sweetheart! Thanks so much for providing this service to our kiddos! I adopted a dog from Woods 13 years ago. Right before this presentation, we had to put him down at the ripe old age of 14 ½. He was the best gift to our family!"

Overall, the pilot program, which continued with the same student-teachers through the Spring Quarter in 2018, was a success and helped the Woods Humane Education Department reach a new record of teaching nearly 5,600 local children in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (an increase from 4,300 the previous year).

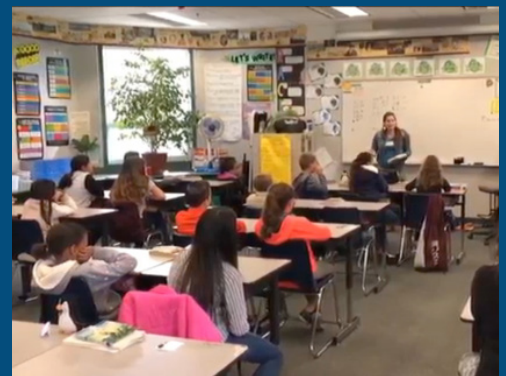
Perhaps the most exciting outcome of the course, however, was seen at a meeting held in late spring on the Cal Poly campus. The room was packed with bright-eyed Liberal Studies Majors interested in enrolling in the program this winter. With the continued support of Cal Poly and fearless leader Professor Bergen, the apprenticeship course promises to bring us closer to that perfect world with each passing schoolyear.



Poly students learning by doing!



Jamie, Woods' Humane Education Coordinator, models a lesson.



Engaging the next generation of animal advocates.

Two Paths to Success at Home!

Woods University provides training for dogs waiting for adoption and for pets already living in our community.

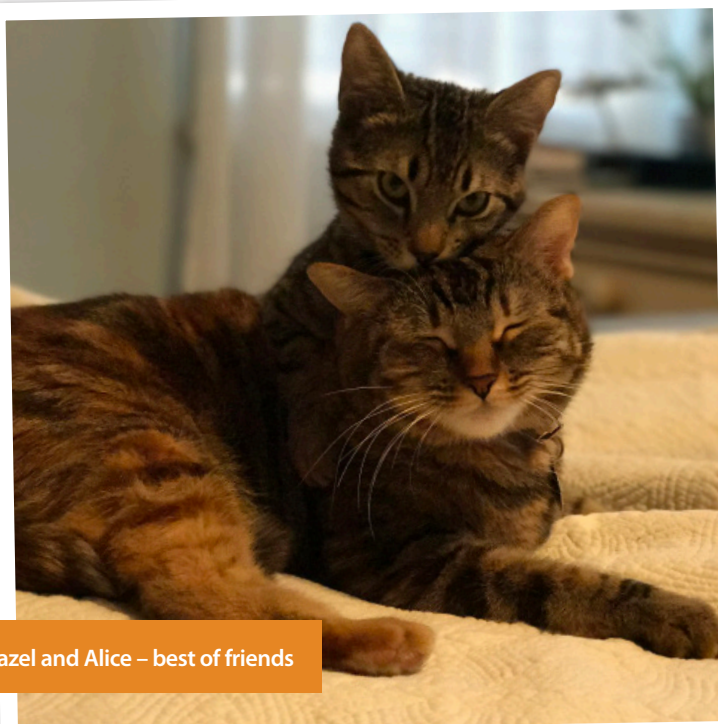
Our trainers and staff pay close attention to any behavioral issues that we see in the dogs who are at the shelter. By identifying potential stumbling blocks and taking steps to remediate before a dog is adopted, we increase the chance for success.

Because unmanaged behavioral issues can mean that dogs end up in shelters instead of staying in a home, our professional trainers offer solutions to help people and pets overcome unwanted behaviors. Using positive reinforcement, our classes for the public include basic manners, intermediate training, and specialty classes for feisty or fearful dogs. All are focused on helping dogs achieve success at home.

Learn more at www.woodshumane.org/WoodsU.



A little training goes a long way toward creating a successful relationship



Hazel and Alice – best of friends

Sometimes it's hard to predict what will happen when you bring a new pet into your home...sometimes it's better than you could ever have imagined.

"Our little baby is doing amazing! We named her Hazel and she has worked magic on our anxiety ridden cat Alice! Alice has taken her in as if she was her own and they have an incredible bond. They're always together and Alice is now much calmer and happier than she's ever been! This couldn't have worked out better!"

**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.