

SHELTER TAILS

Burr
Adopted July 2020
Photo Credit: Annette Sheely

Wiggle Waggle Goes Virtual
Sheltering In The Time of COVID

Wummy's Journey

From the CEO

Dear Friends,

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to feel a sense of community. All of us at Woods Humane Society continue to be so touched by the support we receive each day. From our generous donors who continue to fund our services and programs, to our amazing volunteers who give their time and dedication, to our compassionate fosters who love and care for animals in need, we are so incredibly grateful for the support we receive.

This year has been one of never-ending adaptation. Each day we start anew, determining the best way forward. As we navigate the changes, we do so as a collaborative team and we never lose sight of why we do what we do.

So far this year we have watched 1,481 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens make their journey to their forever homes. Along the way they have received food and shelter, love and support from our animal care team, medical treatment from our veterinary team and guidance from our training staff.

At Woods, not only do we feel a sense of community but it is something that is palpable every day when we step into our shelters. Nothing we do would be possible without our network of support and now more than ever we want to say thank you for all that you do for the animals who call Woods Humane Society their temporary haven.

Sincerely,



Neil Trent
Chief Executive Officer



Neil and Evie

Our Board of Directors



Mike Terry, President



Kandy Noel, Vice President



Terry Miron, Treasurer



Marcia Torgerson, Secretary



Charlene Rosales, Past President



Ty Green



Jan Lynch



Dr. Jo Campbell

Get Ready for a **BRAND NEW** Wiggle Waggle Walk for Woods

This year we're going virtual and anyone, anywhere can participate. And you can walk, run, kayak, bike or stroll... whatever you'd like!

You'll sign up as an individual or as part of a team and then set your challenge. Your supporters can pledge for each mile you run, each hour you kayak or simply make a donation in honor of your participation.

We'll have weekly challenges, a costume contest, activity tracking, fun giveaways and, most of all, you'll be supporting an organization that works to get wiggling, wagging tails into warm, loving homes.

For more information, visit WoodsHumane.org/Walk2020.



What a Celebration!

After making the decision to cancel our 2020 Tails Gala we wanted to create an alternative event that would be fun, engaging, and would help the homeless cats and dogs of SLO County... and since we were about to celebrate our 65th year, we decided to throw an online party and Woods Anniversary Celebration was born.

This week-long event was our first-ever virtual fundraiser and it featured an amazing auction, interactive events and a live art performance, all in support of Woods Humane Society. And thanks to the generosity of our donors, our social media family and our sponsors, our virtual event was an incredible success.

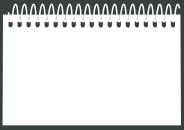
With your amazing support of our fundraising and our auction, we raised more than \$80,000 for homeless pets!

SAVE THE DATE For Tails Gala 2021

We hope that you will dress in your dapper best and join us on May 15, 2021 for Roaring '20s – A Tails Gala and an unforgettable evening under the stars.



SHELTERING IN THE TIME OF COVID



Adoptions and intakes are only available by appointment.

Dog training at Woods University takes place with smaller class sizes and masks, and physical distancing is required.



Staff scheduling has been modified to ensure as few employees in the shelters as is necessary at any given time.

Broad COVID-19 reporting requirements have been implemented among staff, including mandatory self-quarantine as well as negative test results before returning, if any exposure occurs.



Customer Service completes adoption applications with the adopter over the phone to make sure we are thorough with counseling and are reducing person to person interaction at the time of appointment.



All cat appointments are one hour and only one person is permitted in the lobby to process paperwork.



Staff sanitizes the lobby between appointments, wiping down countertops, chairs and pens.

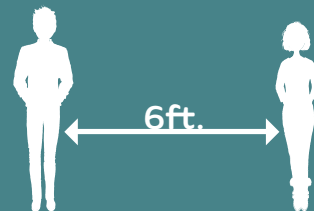
Each day we have enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures, paying close attention to entry and exits, high-touch common surfaces and common areas.



Dropoff and pickup for surgeries and fosters is now curbside.



All dog appointments are one hour and take place in the parking lot or our outside play yards.



Plexiglass sneeze guards are at counter tops where interactions with public are taking place, new signage is outside buildings and floor stickers mark social distancing requirements.

Staff and visitors are required to wear face masks at all times and hand sanitizer stations can be found throughout the buildings.



tiny, terrified and overwhelmed

That was how kitten Llana appeared when she arrived at Woods. She came from a hoarding situation and was one of 30 kittens, in addition to 30 adult cats, who needed to find a clean, safe and loving home. Llana moved quickly through our system and was soon on the adoption floor. She was adopted by a family with two young children who, while out of school and sheltering at home during the pandemic, had been dreaming of bringing a kitten into their home.



Now named Penny, her adopter shares: "Penny has brought so much joy and entertainment to our family. We are completely in love! The kids adore her so much and tending to her every need has really developed their sense of responsibility. Having Penny around makes staying home so much more exciting."

"Who needs screen time when you have a kitty to cuddle, play with and just stare at."



Each year, we prepare for Kitten Season, which in California can often be year-round. Sounds like cuteness in abundance but Kitten Season isn't quite like that, especially for the kittens, and the people who take care of them. And unwanted litters of kittens come to Woods several ways.

Found Kittens: Well-intentioned citizens find litters in our community and bring them to Woods hoping we can provide medical care and adoption services.

San Luis Obispo Division of Animal Services: In 2005, Woods entered into an agreement with the County to accept no less than 300 adoptable companion animals each year from Animal Services in an effort to curb their euthanasia rate. We work closely with them to actively confront kitten overpopulation.

Mom Spay Program: Woods waives the spay surgery fees for privately-owned female cats in exchange for accepting their litters into our adoption program. We'll provide a spay surgery for the mother for free, who then returns home.

Many of the kittens who find their way to Woods are too young to place for adoption. Luckily for them, we have a foster program in place, allowing these babies to flourish in private homes. During the height of kitten season, each of our shelters can have up to 100 kittens in the foster system!

Once the kittens are old enough to be weaned, and weigh enough to be spayed or neutered, we bring them back to our shelters where they wait to find loving homes. In 2019, Woods Humane Society placed 1,005 kittens into loving forever homes!



RESILIENCE BEYOND

Being a member of the Woods team means more than just having a job you enjoy. It means being part of a larger community. One of compassion and care for living creatures beyond what we have in our kennels or even in our own homes. Being a member of the Woods team is something special; we share a bond and enthusiasm for caring about pets that extends outward to our personal lives, online and throughout our communities. Many of us are active members of Facebook groups for lost and found pets, due to our strong drive to see pets and people come together as families. Many of our Woods team spend their personal time assisting with reuniting lost pets with their owners, offering advice to distraught owners on how they might retrieve their lost pet and guiding finders of

stray animals on reuniting them with their family. This is how we came to know about the story of Wummy.

When a concerned citizen posted a photo of a ragged looking bully breed dog, with chopped-off ears, tied by his hips to a post in the middle of a winery field, it shocked many people. The finder had called Animal Services to come retrieve the dog, but also posted his photo to a Lost and Found Pets page on Facebook on the off chance that someone was looking for him. Although he looked fierce, the finder quickly realized the dog was anything but, and by the time an Animal Control Officer had come to seize him, his story had circulated far and wide on social media.

Animal Services held the dog for the required impoundment time to allow an owner to come forward to claim him but when no such owner came forward, he was quickly transferred to Woods for our adoption program. So many of the Woods team had been following his story and upon meeting this large, wiggly, googly-eyed weirdo, he was dubbed with the name Wummy and it stuck like glue. Wummy is a funny name for a funny dog. A dog that makes you smile no matter what kind of day you are having. A dog who wants to slobber all over your face with kisses the instant he meets you. A dog who, despite the treatment he had received in his past, loves each and every human he encounters with unchecked enthusiasm.

Sadly, on the flip side of Wummy's incredible personality and exuberance for life, we found a variety of health concerns. Wummy arrived at Woods underweight with an apparent urinary tract infection, enlarged prostate and dental disease. Additionally, shortly after his arrival, Wummy began to exhibit signs of kennel cough. The Woods medical team jumped into action and began the process of running lab tests and treating his ailments. For two weeks, Wummy was showered with love and affection by the Woods team, who enjoyed every incredible moment of his stay. While he was under veterinary care, the team spent time learning all about Wummy's likes and dislikes, what types of toys he likes (ALL of them!), what his favorite treats are (ALL of them!) and what types of activities he might enjoy with a new family (ANYTHING with his humans!).

During this time, a young family came to Woods and asked at the front desk about the dog who had been left tied to stake in the middle of a winery field. They

had gotten a chance to meet him very briefly, during his stay at Animal Services and were interested in adopting. We explained he was under veterinary care and awaiting diagnosis. We explained he may have lifelong health issues. We explained that not knowing anything about his past, we could not guarantee how he would behave in a home with children. This loving family knew all of that, and while they appreciated our complete transparency about his situation, they were fully prepared to accept Wummy, and all of his challenges, into their family. They were eager to accept our adoption support services of training consultations as well as discounts on Woods University training classes if they needed it. They thought long and hard about his possible health challenges and happily accepted that adopting a dog meant making them part of your family, and taking on all the responsibilities that includes.

Everyone who met Wummy loved him instantly. The absolute joy he found in any time he could spend with people was palpable. While the Woods team could have focused on his past and the sad story of his abandonment, we believe it is far more beneficial to focus on his possibilities. We knew that there was so much more to this special dog than how he ended up at Woods. His story had many more chapters to be told! It was with happy hearts and many cheers that we sent Wummy off to his new life with his adopters. Follow-up reports from his new family show Wummy to be an adoring and affectionate constant companion to the children. He still loves all the toys. He still loves all the treats. He still snores in his sleep and enthusiastically slobbers kisses on everyone he meets. He is finally, without a doubt....home.

MEASURE

WRITTEN BY SUE BERRY
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



1,481

Number of animals (so far) who have found loving homes in 2020

423



463



126



469



HELP US DRIVE ADOPTIONS!

The more you share and comment, the faster our cats, dogs, puppies and kittens find loving homes.

Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



**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.