



WOODS
HUMANE SOCIETY

SPRING 2016

SHELTER TAILS

Celebrating the Human Animal Bond

ADOPTIONS have soared!

Old dogs,
new tricks

and much
more...





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Volunteer Coordinator

From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

I can't even begin to express how grateful I am to each and every one of you that has so generously chosen to support Woods Humane Society this past year. Your contributions have made a very meaningful difference in allowing us to take in, care for, and adopt out more animals than ever before.

It was such an honor to join the Woods team last February, and this year has been a whirlwind of excitement and growth as we have ramped up our efforts to save even more lives. Over the past eight months, our dedicated team has managed to increase adoptions by 80%!



Jill and her best buddy
Ryder McPuppypants

We have opened our doors to more animals than ever before and have broadened our practices to take in a wider variety of dogs and cats to include many that have special needs. Maintaining a wide variety of animals in our facility has helped increase our foot traffic and reduce the length of stay of all animals in our program. Your support has enabled us to provide extra care to senior animals as well as those with special medical or behavioral needs.

On the horizon are a number of initiatives that will continue to expand our impact for the animals and people in our community. In 2016, our facility will be undergoing a remodel and addition that will dramatically improve our cat adoption center and add much-needed office space to support the work of our staff and volunteers. The new cattery will offer a variety of feline housing options that will provide greater flexibility to take in cats that are shy, prefer to be housed separately, or have special medical or dietary needs.

Woods is also actively seeking property in northern San Luis Obispo County to open a second facility that will address the area's most pressing needs. First and foremost, our priority is to get a low-cost spay/neuter clinic up and running as quickly as possible.

We are immensely proud of our accomplishments in 2015 and the promise of the future. Thanks to your support, our adoption program, spay/neuter clinic, humane education program, community outreach, and Woods University dog training services are helping to foster a more humane community.

On behalf of all of us here at Woods, thank you for making a difference!

Best wishes,

Jill Tucker
Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW



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5

2015 was a record breaking year at Woods Humane Society.

Here are a few of the highlights:

• Adoptions soared! **894** dogs, **76** puppies, **415** cats and **173** kittens found new homes for a total of **1,558!**

• Our surgical team performed **3,438** spay and neuter surgeries and **93** dental procedures

• **2,563** children participated in one of our Humane Education programs

• We celebrated a **99.6%** live release rate

• In its first year, Woods University graduated **193** dogs and puppies

• Volunteers gave **10,500** hours of service, providing crucial support in every aspect of our work

Thank you for making a difference in 2015! We're excited to work together to have an even bigger impact in 2016!



A Little Help From Our Friends

1558. That is the number of adoptions that took place at Woods Humane Society in 2015, more than ever before in our 60-year history. We've cheered as each cat and dog has found a new, forever family.

How did we do it? With lots of help from others!

- Continued our close collaboration with SLO County Animal Services transferring 165 dogs and 194 cats into our adoption program.
- Partnered with shelters and rescues in high-risk communities saving 530 highly adoptable animals from overcrowded shelters.
- Broadened our acceptance policy to include owner-surrendered cats.
- Depended on our rapidly growing Facebook community to help spread the word about our animals, which helped to dramatically increase foot traffic to our shelter and find homes for hard to place pets - 17,000 new people have "liked" our page in 2015.
- Relied on our amazing volunteers to work alongside us as we nurtured the growing number of animals in our care.
- Reached out to our generous community to help us provide top quality care for the dogs and cats.
- Worked with adopters who came out in droves, opening their hearts and homes to our shelter animals while our knowledgeable team helped them find just the right match.
- Offered adopters on-going support to help ensure a successful transition.

As we pushed ourselves to do all that we could to save even more lives, our community stepped up. We are so grateful to each and every person who helped us do so much.



Help us drive adoptions!

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



Bonnie

You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks!

Bonnie and Clyde came to Woods last spring. They had spent all of their nine years together on a ranch and since they were outdoor dogs they weren't housetrained. As senior dogs with less than perfect manners we knew they might be hard to place but they were very affectionate and had so much to give – they quickly won the hearts of staff and volunteers alike!

They needed a little help along the way. Clyde was a little too possessive of his toys, so our Behavior and Training Coordinator set up a program to help him learn a more relaxed play style. Bonnie developed a limp which turned out to be an infected joint. For six weeks, our veterinary team nursed her back to health.

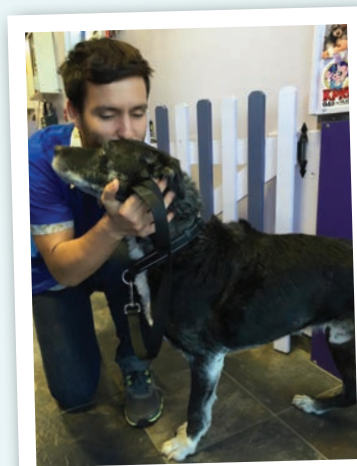
When summer came around, they were both great favorites with the children who attended our Critter Camp, spending a couple of hours each day one-on-one with a child who taught them basic commands and cajoled them through an agility course.

Then on a day in September, Bonnie accompanied one of our Pet Visitation volunteers to a senior care facility. That is where she met Carl, who worked at the center and after a few visits he decided to give her a home of her own. She still accompanies him to work to bring her own special kind of caring to the seniors there.

Clyde had to wait a little bit longer to find a home, but he too ended up with just the right person and, like Bonnie, frequently accompanies his owner to work at a local dog grooming business. Our worries about his ability to transition to living in a home were unfounded – he is a perfect gentleman! Clyde stops by Woods from time to time, looking sleek and pampered. He attended C.H.A.R.M. School at Woods University and is planning to attend Beyond Basics, working towards his AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate.



Clyde



Clyde, loving his new life



Petey relaxing on a hike outside of the shelter – volunteers help keep our animals happy and engaged



A little love goes a long way



Always a project or two

The Impact of Volunteers

Volunteers at Woods Humane Society have always spent quality time with the cats and dogs, making sure that they were well loved until a forever family came along. But over the last year, our Volunteer Coordinator has systematically looked at everything that happens at Woods to figure out how to provide volunteers with more opportunities.

The results have been phenomenal. In addition to making sure every animal gets some individual attention every day – holidays included – volunteers are now filling key roles and making it possible for us to care for even more for homeless pets.

From thousands of loads of laundry to daily help in surgery; from kitten wrangling to promoting our adoptable animals; from admin chores to cleaning every inch of the shelter; from bathing and grooming to maintenance and repairs, volunteers are having a vital impact!

Want to volunteer?

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



Getting ready for a new home



PETS FOR VETS

Veterans and active-duty military members and their families give so much to our nation. Woods Humane Society, in partnership with Paws for a Cause, Cayucos Rotary and New Life K9s, is doing a little something to give back. Pets for Vets, a fee-waived adoption program, is our way of supporting veterans and military families while providing a second chance for shelter pets. It is our hope that the quiet, unconditional love of a pet will bring joy and companionship to those who so deserve it.

SAVE THE DATE

April 9th & 10th 8th Annual Wine 4 Paws

Mark your calendars for the eighth annual Wine 4 Paws weekend! Held at 70 pet-loving wineries throughout San Luis Obispo County, participating wineries will share their proceeds with Woods Humane Society, and many will host special events - a great time for a great cause.

For more information, visit www.wine4paws.org.



WOODS LEGACY CIRCLE



Your decision to include Woods Humane Society in your estate plans now will impact the lives of countless homeless animals in the future.

Leaving a gift of cash or property in your will or trust, naming Woods as a primary or secondary beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan, setting up a charitable trust or gift annuity – there are many ways to leave a legacy gift.

You may want to work with your attorney or financial advisor to determine what makes the most sense for you and your family. Please consider joining other compassionate individuals in our community and become a member of the Woods Legacy Circle.

For more information about making a planned gift, or to let us know that you have already included us in your estate plans, please contact Jill Tucker, Executive Director at (805) 543-9316 x 20 or jtucker@woodshumane.org.

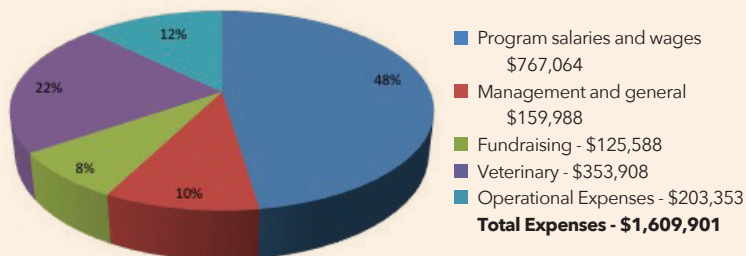
We would like to acknowledge the visionary members of our community whose legacy gifts have come to Woods Humane Society in 2015. These gifts are providing life-saving resources for homeless animals in our community.

Margaret Balducci
Alan Bryant
Grace Doubek
Deborah Emery
Frank and Ruth Fertig
Jean Hanna

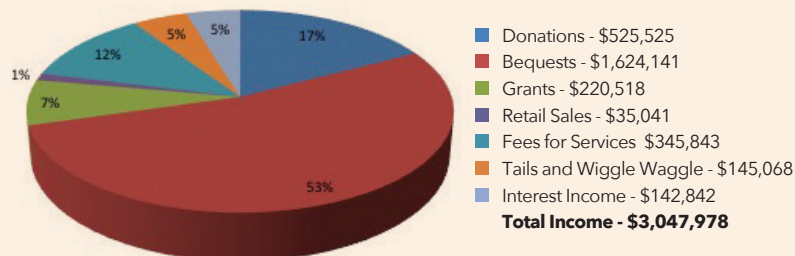
Grace Meelker
Carol Norton
Tim O'Keefe
Pamela McDonald
Don and Patricia Scott
Dorothy Walker

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FISCAL YEAR 2014/15

Expenses



Income



Humane Education Comes of Age

As part of our mission at Woods, we are working hard to offer humane education to the children of SLO County and to offer events and experiences that strengthen and nourish the human-animal bond. In 2015, we reached more than 2,500 kids, increased enrollment in existing programs, and expanded our program roster to create an appropriate offering for every age group of children. We look forward to building even further upon this foundation in 2016!

- **NEW** - Kids 4 K9s, a monthly Saturday program where kids ages 7-11 learn about canine safety, body language, training, and enrichment.
- **NEW** - Book Buddies, a free, weekly animal-assisted reading program, offers children of reading age (recommended for 6+) the chance to help soothe Woods cats by reading aloud to them.
- **EXPANDED** - Critter Camp! From June through mid-August, Critter Camp enrollment increased from 160 children to 200 children in 2015. Each child enjoyed the memorable opportunity of working one-on-one with shelter animals for an entire week..
- **EXPANDED** - Youth Crew, a youth volunteer program for kids ages 12+, now meets weekly on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., in addition to one Saturday per month. Participants lead Woods' new Kong Enrichment program for our dogs, help the staff with daily tasks, learn about animal safety and kennel enrichment and get ample opportunity for hands-on interaction with our cats and dogs.
- **EXPANDED** – School Visits! Woods now offers a free, three-session Humane Education course with a Woods Canine Ambassador to elementary classes across the county. Age-appropriate lessons cover safety, responsibility and overpopulation.

DID YOU KNOW... Kids can celebrate their birthdays at Woods Humane Society! The Birthdays that Benefit program offers birthday "party animals" the chance to tour Woods, meet Woods animal ambassadors, play games, make dog or cat-themed crafts and enjoy cake, all in our decked out Community Room!

Learn more at woodshumane.org/HumaneEd



Learning compassion at camp



Enriching the lives of shelter dogs



Providing socialization for cats while enhancing reading skills for kids



We would like to express our sincere appreciation for this group of generous donors who provide major support for the homeless dogs and cats of the Central Coast.

WOODS HUMANE ALLIANCE

January-December 2015

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 Thomas and Kim Vetsch
 Jodie Wakefield
 Cindy and Jesse Wallace
 Jennifer Watson
 Laurie and Steven
 Weymann
 Elizabeth and James
 Whitehead
 Bob and Dodie Williams
 Rueben Zabala



All the smart dogs know where to go.

At Woods University, we're committed to Positive Reinforcement Training. Dogs learn faster, without fear of harsh punishment, and there's no better way to ensure that training is fun... for both you, and your dog. We offer a variety of classes including:

- Petite Pals • Beyond Basics • Fiesty Fido
- C.H.A.R.M. School • Puppy Social Hour



With new classes starting regularly, it's always the right time to sign up! To learn more about Woods University, visit WoodsHumane.org/WoodsU.

**Woods
Humane
Society**

875 Oklahoma Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA
ph: (805) 543-9316
f: (805) 543-9524

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.