



**WOODS**  
HUMANE SOCIETY

SPRING 2017

# SHELTER TAILS

*Celebrating the Human-Animal Bond*

Better Together - Woods  
and NCHS have merged

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Spay/neuter clinic  
coming to North County

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Alice and Alba,  
inseparable sisters

Koi  
Adopted 9/10/16

Photo Credit: Mimi Ditchie



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# From the Director's Desk

*Dear Friends,*

We are feeling tremendous momentum here at Woods. Can you feel it too? Thanks to you, Woods Humane Society is making rapid progress for the animals. More dogs and cats than ever before are making their way through the Woods adoption program. We achieved an 80% growth in adoptions and have managed to sustain that rate for the last year and a half.

We are deeply grateful to our community for opening their hearts and homes to homeless pets and so generously contributing to help ensure that the animals that need us most are able to receive our care.

We have an incredible year ahead as we continue to make massive strides toward ending pet homelessness on the central coast. Our friends at North County Humane Society held strong to their own vision of doing their absolute best for animals in the community and made the heroic choice to join forces with Woods so that we can unify and deliver incredible results for more dogs, cats, and people on the central coast. Together we are better, stronger, and far more effective.

As we kick off 2017, we joyfully anticipate further leaps of progress for the animals. Our expanded cattery in San Luis Obispo will enable us to help more cats while ensuring we are able to provide the safest, most comfortable environment possible to help our felines thrive and find homes more quickly.

The North County community will at long last have accessible, affordable spay/neuter services. Additionally, with the momentum of our adoption program, and the wonderful people that open their hearts and homes, we'll be able to save thousands more animals.

We couldn't do one bit of this without the support of our community. With no government funding, we rely upon your generous donations to do this important work. We are deeply grateful to each and every one of you that has contributed to Woods. On behalf of all of the animals and people we serve, thank you for making a difference!

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 and prominent.

Jill Tucker  
Executive Director



Jill and her best buddy  
Ryder McPuppypants



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

2016 saw growth in every aspect of our work.  
Here are a few of the highlights:

**1,721** animals found new homes

**1,021** dogs      **423** cats  
**91** puppies      **186** kittens

**3,725** spay and neuter surgeries

**2,955** children participated in one of our Humane Education programs

**99.2%** live release rate

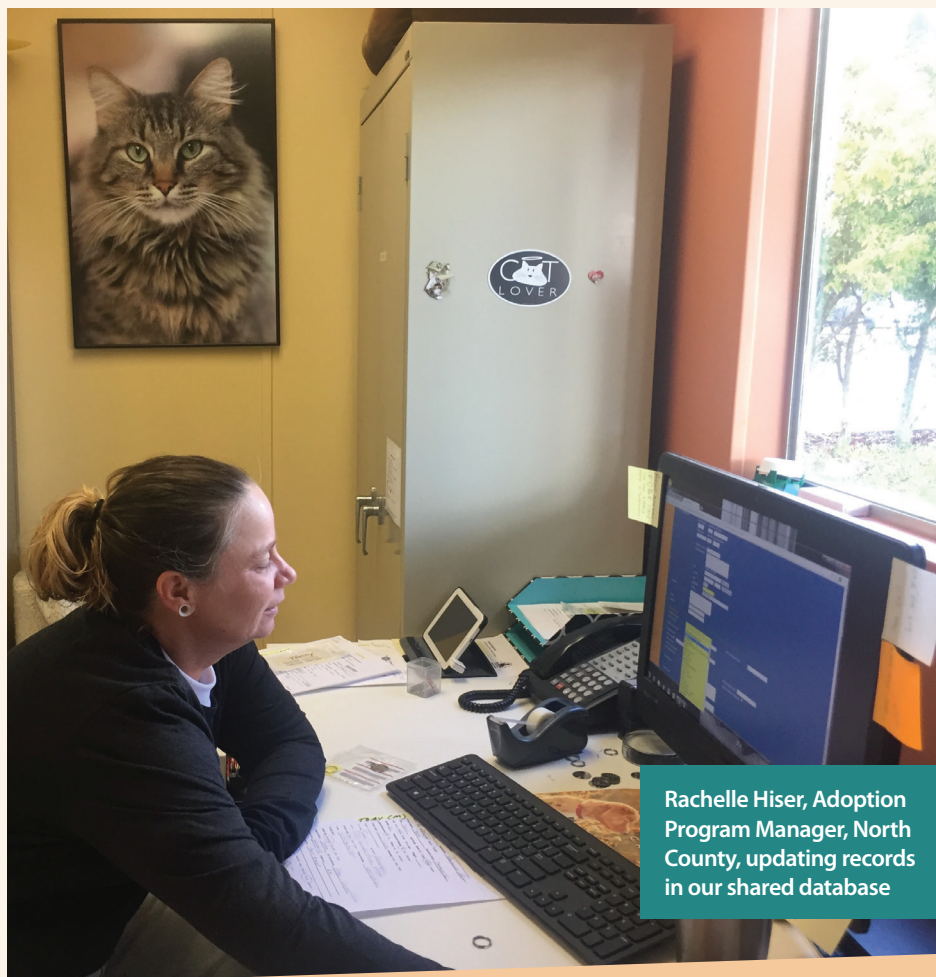
**333** dogs and puppies served at Woods University, **57%** increase over 2015.

**11,665** hours logged by volunteers, an **11%** increase over 2015.

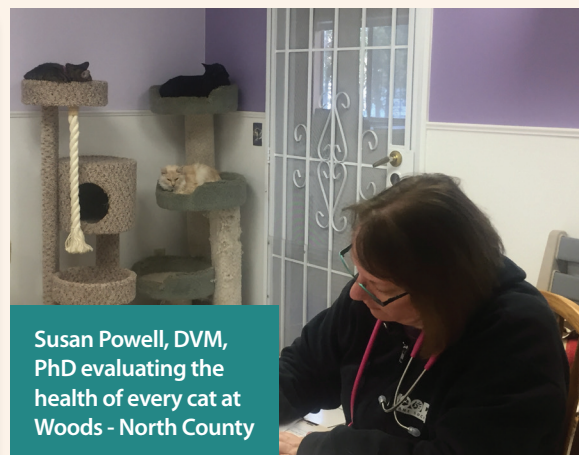
**1** merger

We are honored to join forces with the animal-loving community in North County





Rachelle Hiser, Adoption Program Manager, North County, updating records in our shared database



Susan Powell, DVM, PhD evaluating the health of every cat at Woods - North County



Rachelle and Heather Massoni, Shelter Medicine Coordinator making sure every cat is vaccinated

## BETTER TOGETHER

Imagine a community where every dog and cat has a loving home. Imagine a community where families are able to experience the joy of animal companionship and have the resources needed to take great care of their pets. That's our vision and we are now one step closer to making it a reality.

Woods Humane Society and North County Humane Society are now one. Following overwhelming approval of the North County Humane Society's membership on November 29, 2016 the two organizations completed the legal requirements to merge. As of January 1st, the Atascadero shelter

is operating under the name Woods Humane Society – North County. All existing programs will continue at the Atascadero facility and there will be no interruption of services for the cats or the community!

For decades both organizations have provided vital services for animals in San Luis Obispo County and together we know that we will be better able to meet the needs of the North County community.

Together we look to a better, brighter future for homeless pet.





Jill Tucker, Executive Director and Martha Pedersen, Board Member with plans for the new spay/neuter clinic in Atascadero

## Another Step Closer

Addressing pet overpopulation and supporting people who wish to be responsible pet owners...two of the reasons Woods Humane Society is so very pleased that plans for a new low-cost spay/neuter clinic are well underway. Architectural plans have been drawn up, permits are in progress. If all goes as expected, the clinic will be up and running by summer.

The new facility will be named the Daphne Fahsing Spay/Neuter Clinic in honor of the founder of North County Humane Society and will be located at 2300 Ramona Road in Atascadero, across from the existing cat adoption center. When completed, the new clinic will ensure affordable and accessible spay/neuter services in the North County.

*Help us drive adoptions!*

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

Join us on Facebook and Twitter!





# LOOKING UP



Things are looking up for the cats at Woods Humane Society! Completion of the new cattery means that we now have more and better options for the cats at our facility. The newly remodeled space allows us to provide the type of housing that best suits the personality and temperament of each cat. There are individual condos for the shy cats and loners, rooms for 2 – 6 cats for the more socially inclined, and rooms for litters of kittens. We even have a separate area for cats with colds so everyone will stay healthier.

Of course, the best option is a forever home with a loving family. By creating a less stressful environment we know our cats will be able to put their best paw forward so they can quickly find their way into the heart of the perfect person.

CHECK OUT OUR PROGRESS IN 2016!



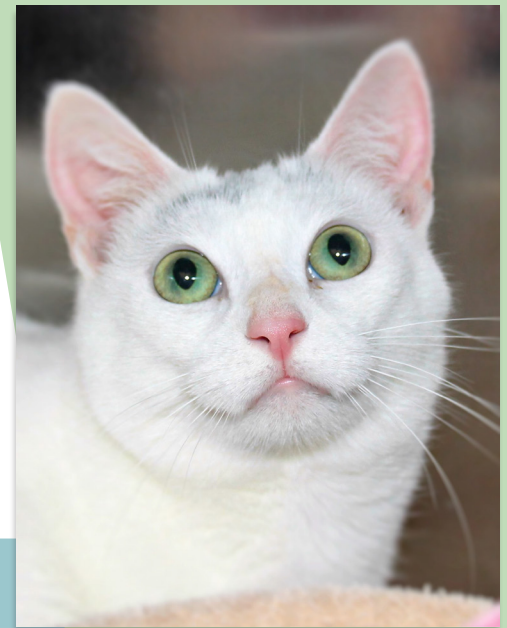
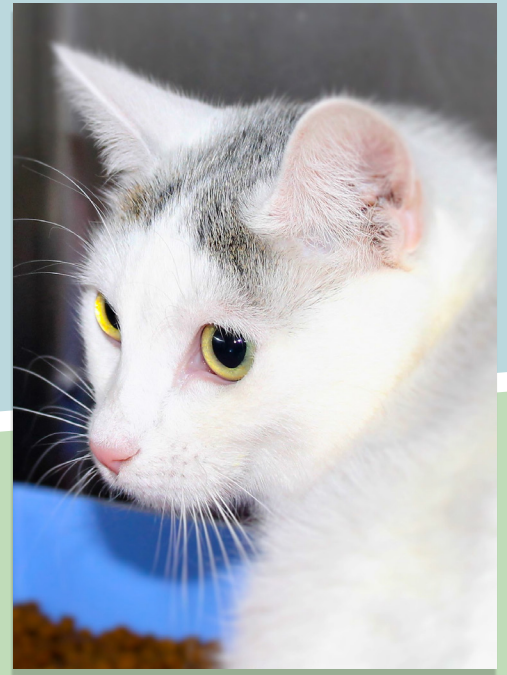


# SISTERS, SISTERS

Alice and Alba had a very rough start in life, found at just a few weeks old they needed lots of help. Because their mother was not being cared for, she had no milk for them. Fortunately, they were all brought to the North County Humane Society. With regular care and feeding their mom bounced back and before too long found a home. Alice and Alba were taken in by a staff member and bottle fed until they were old enough to feed themselves. Then, back at the shelter, the sisters waited in vain for a family of their own.

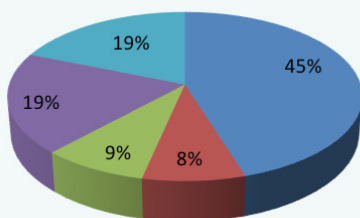
Last summer, as the partnership between North County and Woods Humane Society began to grow, Alice and Alba were two of the cats who were transferred to the Woods shelter in San Luis Obispo. Since they were a bonded pair we needed to find someone who was willing to adopt both of these shy girls. Again they waited, but just before Thanksgiving a family came in looking for two cats for their two daughters. It was the perfect fit – sisters to love and care for sisters.

At Woods, beautiful Alice figured out that people weren't so bad; Alba was very shy and relied on her sister to make her feel secure



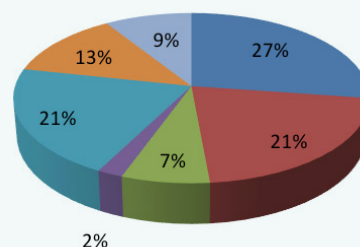
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FISCAL YEAR 2015/16

### Expenses



■ Program salaries and wages - \$977,654  
 ■ Management and general - \$177,194  
 ■ Fundraising - \$182,980  
 ■ Veterinary - \$418,324  
 ■ Operational Expenses - \$203,353  
**Total Expenses - \$2,163,35**

### Income



■ Donations - \$549,151  
 ■ Bequests - \$428,698  
 ■ Grants - \$141,350  
 ■ Retail Sales - \$41,402  
 ■ Fees for Services \$417,415  
 ■ Special Events - \$253,606  
 ■ Interest Income - \$182,617  
**Total Income - \$2,014,239**



## ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

Chances are if you've been to Avenal you were just passing through on your way to the 5. This town in the central valley may not be a tourist destination but it works very hard to save all of the stray animals who arrive at the municipal animal shelter in an unrelenting flow. When a volunteer there learned that Woods Humane Society was taking in cats and dogs from other shelters she reached out to us and a new partnership was formed.

Tilapia was with the first group of dogs to come to us from Avenal. We made sure she was healthy, performed her spay surgery, got her up to date on her vaccinations and gave her a microchip. Three days after she entered our adoption program she had a new name, Harley, and was on her way home with Tia and Scott. As first time pet owners they weren't quite sure what to expect but they loved her instantly and were delighted with how quickly she settled into their family.

About a month later, Sidney also arrived from the shelter

in Avenal. Tia spotted her picture on our website and fell in love all over again but another family adopted Sidney before Tia and Scott arrived to meet her. As sometimes happens, after a few weeks Sidney's adopters made the difficult decision to bring her back to Woods. Our staff, remembering Tia's interest gave her a call and the very next day, Sidney, now Hershey, was on her way home. Tia reports:

"We are one big happy family now and they're two peas in a pod. They play together wonderfully and watching them cuddle makes my heart melt. I believe they're long lost litter mates!! I just want to thank you guys for giving us a call letting us know she was available. You've really impacted our lives for the better and we are very grateful!"

We at Woods Humane Society are also very grateful to you – our generous, open-hearted community – for all that you do to ensure happy new beginnings for dogs like Harley and Hershey.





## WOODS LEGACY CIRCLE

We would like to acknowledge the visionary members of our community whose legacy gifts have come to Woods Humane Society in 2016. These gifts are providing life-saving resources for homeless animals in our community.

Jeanne Hutchinson  
Charles Lofgren  
Carol Norton  
Vivian Pace  
Virginia and Burt Polin  
Barbara Rebel

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

## SAVE THE DATE

**April 8-9, 2017**

### 9th Annual Wine 4 Paws Weekend

70 participating wineries will do their part to help homeless pets – all you have to do is gather a few friends to do a little wine tasting and then take home a bottle or two...or three...

*Details at [wine4paws.org](http://wine4paws.org).*

**June 11, 2017**

### 17th Annual Tails Gala

Tails is coming to North County! Mark your calendar for June 11th and plan to join us for a BBQ at the beautiful Santa Margarita Ranch. Keep your eye on our website for details or, to be sure to stay updated, send an email to [jmiller@woodshumane.org](mailto:jmiller@woodshumane.org).



# WOODS HUMANE ALLIANCE

January-December 2016

We gratefully acknowledge this generous group of donors who have provided major support for the homeless cats and dogs on the Central Coast.

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 Betty Sanders  
 Doug Shaw  
 and Annie Shanks  
 Shine The Light  
 Harry Shlaudeman  
 Roberta and Jerry Silbert  
 Norma and James Sinton  
 Betty Skatoff  
 SLO Skiers  
 Nancy D. Smith  
 Pamela Smolarski  
 Carolyn Snyder  
 Therese Solimeno  
 Amanda Sorensen  
 Christopher  
 and Claudia Sorensen  
 John Spurgeon  
 Drew and Anna Squyres  
 Allen and Jo Ann Stanfield  
 Leslie Stanley  
 In Memory of Donna Starritt  
 Karen Steves  
 Joyce Stockton  
 Daniel Stubbs  
 Marco Sturken  
 Patrick Summers  
 Darleen Sumner  
 Ron and Barbara Sutton  
 Talley Farms  
 Heather Tarango  
 Patricia Taylor  
 Linda Teeple  
 The Stones  
 The Tax Gals  
 David and Justine Thomas  
 William and Wynn Thomson  
 Alyce Thorp  
 Marissa Todd  
 Evelyn Tolin  
 Louis and Lynette Tornatzky  
 Bob Toth  
 Trinity United Methodist  
 Church  
 Ke-Ping and Susan Tsao  
 Susan Tucker  
 United Voluntary Services  
 Thrift Store  
 Sean and Terry Vahey  
 Vivian Vella  
 Nancy Walters  
 Jennifer Watson  
 Ginger Wesner  
 Karen and Harold Westbrook  
 In Memory of Bob Wiley  
 Jodi and Mark Whittaker  
 Erik and Staci Wilkins  
 Bob and Dodie Williams  
 Linda and Richard Williams  
 Steve and Eve Williams  
 Marsha Willingham  
 Linda Wilson  
 Stacy and Jacob Wimberley  
 Jaclyn Wishnow  
 Jack Witter  
 Rex and Janice Wolf  
 Mary Pat Woodling  
 Kathy Young  
 Lynda Ziegler



Proud artists doing their part to help find Sprite a home



Hard at work!

## The Art of Adoption

This fall, Woods' Humane Education program got artsy to support adoptions.

Modeled on the popular Art Bar concept, the new, monthly "Paint for Pets" program is a group painting class for kids that benefits one special animal at Woods through artistic promotion and adoption sponsorship. Generously funded by The MOCA Foundation and Mary L. Bianco, in collaboration with the Central Coast Autism Spectrum Center, the program teaches kids how to recreate a local artist's portrait of one of Woods' adoptable dogs or cats.

Our first program featured Sprite. The participants, many of whom are on the autism spectrum, learned about Sprite's story and then got to see him in real life as he walked on leash around the "art studio" in Woods University. Guest Artist Allyson Hibler walked them through how to recreate her adorable painting of Sprite on their own canvases. At the end of the program, the class took a group photo holding up their portraits so that Woods could help promote Sprite and his fee-waived adoption on social media channels.

For more information about programs for children visit [www.woodshumane.org/HumaneEd](http://www.woodshumane.org/HumaneEd).



Sprite's adopters got to take home his portrait



## What's for you at Woods University?

Winnie the Poohdle is very proud of his Canine Good Citizen Award! He was adopted from Woods Humane Society at the end of 2015. Winnie and the woman at the other end of his leash, Anne Sinsheimer, have since attended two classes at Woods University: Petite Pals and Beyond Basics.

Sign up for classes with your canine companion at [woodshumane.org/WoodsU](http://woodshumane.org/WoodsU)

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Humane  
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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.