



WOODS
HUMANE SOCIETY

WINTER 2019

SHELTER TAILS

*Celebrating
the Human-
Animal Bond*



Cocoa & Cora: A Tale of Two Sisters

2018 By The Numbers

Spay Day and more

Cocoa and Cora
Adopted 11/23/18
Photo Credit: The Shutterbugs



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From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, Woods Humane Society has grown in impact and service at an astonishing pace the past few years. With an unwavering commitment to saving lives, we thank you for your vital support that is moving us toward a time and place where all pets are in homes where they are loved and valued.

2018 marked a number of accomplishments for us including the launch of SLO County's first-ever public spay/neuter clinic in Atascadero and the placement of more than 3,000 dogs and cats in loving homes. We are also immensely proud to report that our North County team celebrated the major milestone of more than doubling annual adoptions since our merger in 2017. The ability to place more animals than ever before into loving homes in our community feeds our passion to do this work that can be both heartbreaking and rewarding. We see time and time again that there is much more good in this world than not, and we are profoundly grateful to every donor, adopter, volunteer, and staff member that makes this work possible.

As we look ahead, Woods is committed to maximizing our impact for the animals with laser-like focus on four important areas:

- 1. Adoptions:** We want to continue to increase adoptions and decrease the length of stay of animals in our program so that we may use our resources to save as many lives as we possibly can.
- 2. Spay/Neuter:** With the launch of SLO County's first public spay/neuter clinic, we are grateful for the opportunity to not only emphasize the importance of spaying and neutering dogs and cats, but ensuring that the services are accessible and affordable to all who need them.
- 3. Foster Cultural Change:** There are animals in our community that suffer abandonment, neglect, and sometimes even abuse. Elevating the standards by which animals are cared for and teaching compassion through our humane education efforts, are true investments in creating a humane community.
- 4. Raise Funds:** All of the above costs money and is made possible entirely through the generosity of our donors. Woods receives no government funding and we count on donations to cover the cost of caring for each of the precious animals that come through our doors each year seeking safe shelter and a second chance.

Woods has come so far and we truly strive to get better and better at what we do. As we continue to grow in our lifesaving work, we thank each and every one of you for your generosity, compassion, and ongoing support. You are our true partners in this endeavor and we hope you take great pride in making a meaningful difference for the animals.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill M. Tucker".

Jill Tucker, CAWA, Executive Director



Jill and her buddy Becca

Yay, it's Spay Day

Woods Humane Society celebrated our first ever "Spay Day" on Sunday, December 9th at our new Spay / Neuter Clinic in Atascadero. Our clinic team, led by Dr. Leslie Sklena, along with volunteer veterinarians and support staff from the community, partnered with North County Paws Cause and successfully spayed and neutered 44 community and feral cats. Spay and neuter surgeries are crucial to helping manage the community cat population, specifically in North San Luis Obispo County where this is a known problem for some.

We're already planning our next dedicated Spay Day on Sunday, February 10th and plan to perform up to 50 spay/neuter surgeries. We will be opening up appointments to the public during this event. Woods Humane Society will spay/neuter, rabies vaccinate and ear tip feral and community cats for \$25. Please call (805)464-5034 or email ncclinic@woodshumane.org for more information about our local Spay Day event.

FUN FACT: Spay Day USA, created by the Doris Day Animal League in 1955, brought the importance of spay neuter to the forefront and allowed organizations to showcase the lifesaving work they did in their communities. February 26, 2019 will mark the 25th annual World Spay Day, and is recognized by nearly 70 countries around the world.

WHS	12.9.18
	Spay Day
PUBLIC	Female: 21
RESCUE	Male: 23



YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

2018 was a phenomenal year for Woods Humane Society. Here are a few of the highlights:

3,023 animals found loving homes

1,058 dogs

203 puppies

971 cats

791 kittens

Our surgical team performed **4,630** spay and neuter surgeries and we opened the doors to SLO County's first-ever public spay/neuter clinic.

5,587 children participated in one of our Humane Education programs.

We celebrated a **98%** live release rate

548 cats, dogs, puppies and kittens were fostered until ready to enter into our adoption program.

Woods University provided training for **409** dogs and puppies

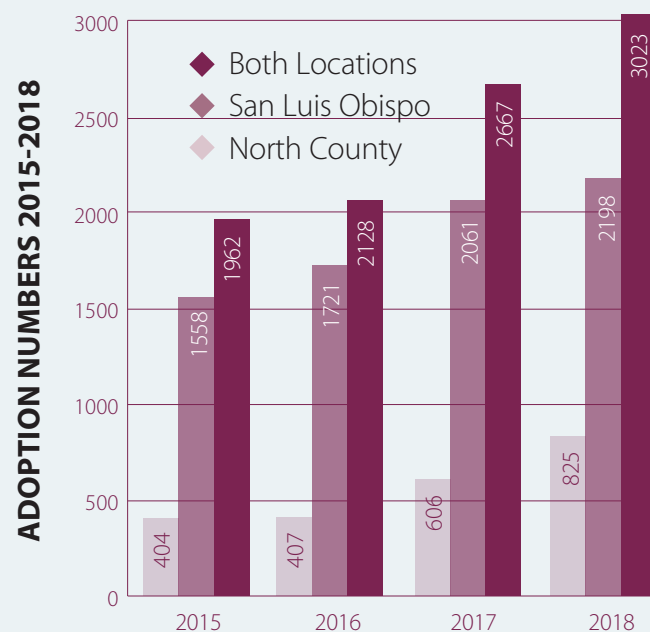
Volunteers gave **27,797** hours of service at both our shelter locations, equivalent to **14** full-time staff positions!

Your support is paramount to our successes! Thank you for all the many ways you helped us enrich thousands of lives, not only for our animals, but also for the people who gave them loving homes. Together, we can do so much more in 2019!

Thank you!



BY THE NUMBERS



WHERE OUR ANIMALS CAME FROM IN 2018

- ◆ SLO County Animal Services • 422
- ◆ People who needed help to rehome a pet • 1,461
- ◆ Transfers from shelters in nearby crowded shelters • 1,217

INCOME 2017/2018

- ◆ Bequests • \$2,028,672
- ◆ Donations • \$901,047
- ◆ Grants • \$124,946
- ◆ Retail Sales • \$59,526
- ◆ Fees for Services • \$582,523
- ◆ Special Events • \$279,181
- ◆ Interest Income • \$506,829

Total Income \$4,482,724

EXPENSES 2017/2018

- ◆ Program salaries and wages • \$1,523,918
- ◆ Veterinary • \$591,062
- ◆ Operational Expenses • \$723,317
- ◆ Management and general • \$228,027
- ◆ Fundraising • \$216,205

Total Expenses \$3,282,529



Helex, the 3000th animal adopted in 2018



Stewart was lucky adoption number 814 for Atascadero – officially DOUBLING their adoptions since we merged!



Awarded a certificate of Recognition from the County of SLO on the grand opening of our spay/neuter clinic.

A Tale of Two Sisters

Cocoa and Cora arrived at Woods together, both sweet, mature Labrador Retrievers with fun-loving demeanors. They grew up together from pup age on and came to us from a loving home with Eduardo, known as "Eddie", a gentleman who affectionately called them his "girls". For 11 years they were by his side enjoying the life every dog hopes to live, but when Eddie fell ill from cancer in late 2018 he was no longer able to care for them. Eddie made the difficult decision to surrender them to Woods with the hope that they would find a new home and family that would love them just as much.

The shelter experience must have been a shock for these much-loved dogs but, as a bonded pair, Cocoa and Cora were kept together, finding comfort in each other while patiently waiting to meet their future adopters. Woods shared their story and photos on Facebook and Instagram and they instantly became internet sensations! Little did Cocoa and Cora know, they were about to fill a void for a lovely retired couple searching for a companion.

Marianne and Larry had owned Labrador Retrievers their whole lives, and had been searching for another one to grace their home after their two sweet Labradors, Sadie and Rosie, passed away two years ago. Similar to Cocoa and Cora, they were sisters who spent their lives together. They planned to adopt another Labrador, as they were fond of their good-hearted nature and temperament, but hoped to find a more mature, senior

pet to join their family. Marianne really wanted a four-legged friend to keep her company during the day, go on walks with her, and tend to the large, luscious garden that encompasses her backyard. It didn't take long for these two sisters to pull on their heartstrings. When they saw Cocoa and Cora's Facebook post, they just knew these two were a perfect fit for their home.

Marianne and Larry woke up early the morning of our Black Friday "Clear the Shelter" event and anxiously waited for our doors to open to meet Cocoa and Cora in person. When they met, they just knew that these two sisters were the meant to come home with them. She shared that Cora looked exactly like Sadie, and that Cocoa resembled Rosie in her sweet and playful demeanor. They enthusiastically completed the adoption while Woods staff informed Eddie's family that his "girls" were going home. In the early afternoon, shortly after hearing that Cocoa and Cora would be safe and loved, Eddie passed away peacefully with his family at his side.

Family and friends said that they cannot remember Eddie without remembering his four-legged family. The only time he was without canine companions was while he served in the Navy. In 2007, Eddie brought Cocoa and Cora into his life. They were joined a few years later by Ginger, a lovely mixed breed who Eddie found on a hike, clinging to life. He tenderly nursed her back to health and she

became a rambunctious addition to his family. When Eddie was first diagnosed with cancer in May 2018, it was Ginger who left the family first, lovingly surrendered to Woods where she quickly found a home.

It was much more difficult for Eddie to part with his "girls" and he kept them by his side until the last possible moment. It was only the week before his death that he allowed his family to entrust Woods with their care and placement.

Cocoa and Cora's new home includes a life full of family and love. Scott, their oldest son, Sharon, his wife, and their three kids also live with Marianne and Larry in their ranch-style home. Quickly,



Cora bonded with Scott and spends most of her time with him. When she hears his truck pull into the driveway, she is instantly at the door to greet him. Cocoa has taken a fondness to Marianne and spends most of her time on the couch with her as she reads. Marianne enjoys watching dog shows too, and was surprised that Cora likes to watch television shows and often barks at the dogs on the screen. She shared that Cocoa is the opposite, and is very mellow and pays no mind to the television. Both Cocoa and Cora enjoy following her around as she pulls weeds in the garden, and she is thankful that they practice good etiquette and don't like to dig up plants, as Sadie and Rosie used to do.

This story of compassion, companionship, love, and loyalty touched many of us at Woods quite deeply as it illustrates the very essence of why we do this work. By helping animals we help people. It is our greatest wish that all animals would be loved as deeply as Cocoa and Cora, and as we work toward that goal, we extend our sincerest gratitude to you, our supporters, for making it possible.



Cocoa and Cora outside.



Marianne and Cocoa



Marianne, Cora, Cocoa, and Larry

SAVE THE DATE

Visit our website or follow us on facebook and instagram to learn more about all of these events.

SHARE THE LOVE FOUNDATION

SHARE THE LOVE FASHION SHOW

March 1 and 2, 2019

Formerly known as the Phyllis Madonna Musical Revue and Fashion Show, the Share the Love Fashion Show is a 32-year

tradition that will take place March 1-2, 2019, at the Alex Madonna Expo Center in San Luis Obispo. Woods Humane Society is lucky to announce that we are one of three beneficiaries for this show-stopping event. For more information, visit STLFoundation.com



DANCING WITH OUR STARS

Supports Humane
Education

March 21 – 23, 2019

Help support Kiwanis International Stars Jan

Lynch and Charlie Bradley in this year's 10th Annual Dancing with Our Stars. Proceeds will support Woods' Humane Education Program. Vote now and help us reach our goal of \$32,000 : \$10 = 1 vote! <https://kiwanis-woods-48406.causevox.com/>. For more information/ tickets, visit FriendsOfTheAtascaderoLibrary.org/DWOS



Wine4Paws.com™

WINE 4 PAWS April 6 and 7, 2019

Join us for our 11th year where we invite you to indulge in a weekend of wine tasting to benefit the homeless cats and dogs of Woods Humane Society.

With over 80 wineries taking part you are sure to find the perfect spot to kick back and relax.



THE 19TH ANNUAL WOODS GALA – TAILS OF TUSCANY

June 8, 2019

Nestled among the grape vines, we gather together again at Ancient Peaks Winery's Oyster Ridge for

this year's Tuscan celebration. Join us for a delightful dinner, auctions, music and great company.

CARING COMPANIONS

If something happens to you, what happens to your pets?

Nobody likes to think about it, but what would happen to your beloved pets if you died or became unable to care for them? Who would provide a loving home? Who would know their daily routines, favorite treats, medical needs and what makes them feel safe and loved?

Every year mystified animals whose owners have passed are brought to Woods by caring family and friends. They want what's best for the animals but know less about their needs, unique personalities and disposition. A pet in an unfamiliar environment without their creature comforts can be a stressful experience. For this reason, Woods created the Caring Companions Program, where you, the owner, complete an extensive profile for your pet detailing all the things that you would like for us to know and how to best care for your pet in your absence. Our Adoptions team is dedicated to finding the right home for your beloved companion.

To gain some tips on planning for the unexpected and/ or to learn more about our Caring Companions program, we hope you can attend our next luncheon, held on March 12 at the Monarch Club, 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo, CA. From 12:00pm to 1:30pm. Contact Emily L'Heureux at (805) 543-9316 ext. 33 to RSVP for this event or for more information.



WOODS HUMANE ALLIANCE

January-December 2018

We gratefully acknowledge this generous group of donors dedicated to providing support for the homeless cats and dogs on the Central Coast.

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(\$5,000.00 to \$9,999,999.00)

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A Legacy of Giving



We would like to acknowledge the visionary members of our community whose legacy gifts have come to us in 2018. These gifts are providing life-saving resources for homeless animals in our community, and we are ever so grateful.

Lucille Brughelli
Janet Dee Cloak
Betty Jean Dodson
Laura Knox Trust
Frank Light

Norma Petersen
Lynn Riedinger
Sharyn Sugarman
Richard Weiss
Virgina and Ray Wysock

For information about leaving 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.

Training for Dogs of All Ages



Woods Humane Society is dedicated to providing the best standard of care to all animals that pass through our adoption program and want to extend as much support as possible to our adopters. Michelle Rizzi and Eric Stockam, our Behavior and Training staff team, are certified by the Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CPDT) in positive reinforcement training techniques that can help dogs with a range of behaviors from basic obedience and enriching their social skills to other more complicated behaviors.

We encourage you to enroll in a class that fits you and your dog's needs the best. Woods University offers:

- **Two basic training classes — C.H.A.R.M. (Changing Habits and Reinforcing Manners) School and Petite Pals** (geared towards canines under 25 pounds) where dogs of all ages can learn basic obedience skills and enjoy playing with other dogs;
- **Puppy Social Hour** (manners and Socialization for puppies 10 weeks to 5 months) meet every Saturday with a focus on socialization, desensitization, and handling;
- **Feisty Fido** (a highly structured class for dogs who are reactive to other dogs) every dog is not right for the dog park, but walking your dog around the neighborhood should be fun, not embarrassing or dangerous. A dog must be pre-qualified before entering this class, please call for more information;
- **RELIEF for the Fearful Dog** (Relaxing Exercises to Lower Inhibitions and Ease Fear) best for dogs who are generally comfortable around other dogs, but exhibit a high level of fear towards people. It will help build confidence by careful exposure to the world around them;
- **Fun-gility** (great opportunity for dogs who have completed a basic manners class or have equivalent knowledge of basic skills). This class combines a fun way of challenging your dog with agility exercises while improving his/her focus and attention on you;
- **Anti-Jump Party** (teach your over-zealous dog to stop jumping) We will have snacks and we will have fun...that's why we call it a party;
- **Beyond Basics** (intermediate obedience training for dogs who have been through a basic manners class or have equivalent knowledge) Upon graduation all dogs are eligible to test for their Canine Good Citizen Certificate (CGC), awarded to your dog directly from the AKC, gaining recognition by landlords and insurance companies across the country.

Interested in scheduling a more individualized training session? Please take advantage of the opportunity to work one-on-one with one of Woods Humane Society Trainers to overcome your dog's unwanted behaviors. To make an appointment, please call (805) 543-9316 x 24. Learn more about our Woods University classes or enroll at woodshumane.org/WoodsU.

Help us drive adoptions!

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

Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



**Woods
Humane
Society**

875 Oklahoma Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA
(805) 543-9316

2300 Ramona Road
Atascadero, CA
93422
(805) 466-5403

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.