

For Immediate Release

Contact: media@woodshumane.org, (805) 543-9316 ext. 13

Woods Humane Society Announces New CEO, Emily L'Heureux

Lifetime Animal Advocate and Record-Breaking Fundraiser to Helm SLO County's Top Nonprofit

San Luis Obispo, CA (June 1, 2023) — [Woods Humane Society](https://www.woodshumane.org) is excited to announce its new Chief Executive Officer,



Emily L'Heureux.

“The Board of Directors is thrilled to officially announce Emily’s promotion to the role of CEO this month,” says Board President Kandy Noel. “Emily brings a passion for animal welfare advocacy and a long, successful career in business management to this important position. She has a deep knowledge of our organization’s history, mission, vision and values, and has proven to be an effective leader and collaborator. For all of these reasons and more, she has the full and enthusiastic support of the Board.”

Noel explains that L'Heureux has already made an indelible impact on Woods Humane Society. She has increased donations by more than 40%; nearly doubled social media engagement to 80,000+ followers; overseen multiple, individual fundraising campaigns that have broken organization records; and has personally secured six-figure gifts that will have a lasting effect on the future of the organization.

Notably, as Director of Development, L'Heureux navigated a time of unprecedented fundraising and operational challenges during the pandemic and led Woods Humane Society to receive increased donations and community support crucial to continuing to fund its operations, fulfill its mission in the San Luis Obispo County community, and perform up to 3,000 adoptions per year.

After three months as the Interim CEO, L'Heureux says she is honored to take this next step with the organization. “I came to Woods because I believed it to be the most dynamic, progressive and impactful animal shelter I had ever seen. I knew there was no better place to join if I wanted to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals. This is the exact same inspiration that drives me today. It is an incredible honor for me to now lead, and also continue to *serve*, this great organization. I am completely committed to building upon Woods Humane Society’s proud legacy of high-quality animal care and community impact.”

As a lifelong advocate of adoption and community service, stemming from her early years of volunteering and fostering rescue animals, L'Heureux is passionate about connecting with, inspiring and empowering generous supporters

and animal lovers to fuel the life-saving and transformative work of animal welfare. Originally from the Central Valley, she says she has always had a house full of rescued animals and her current group includes four-year-old shepherd-mix Ranger and kitten Nirmal, both adopted from Woods.

In addition to her tireless work for homeless animals, she currently serves as Vice President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (San Luis Obispo chapter), is a founding Board Member of Junior League of the Central Coast, and is a member of the South County YMCA Advisory Committee.

Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA, 93405, and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero, CA, 93422, and is open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. For more information about Woods, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

For media inquiries or high-resolution images, please contact Media@woodshumane.org.

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About Woods Humane Society

Founded in 1955, Woods Humane Society is a privately funded, non-profit, animal sheltering and welfare organization located in San Luis Obispo County, California that annually places up to 3,000 dogs and cats into loving homes. All animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped prior to being placed for adoption. Visit www.woodshumane.org to view available animals, donate, or learn more. To meet adoptable animals, visit 875 Oklahoma Avenue in San Luis Obispo or 2300 Ramona Road in Atascadero daily from 12-5 p.m.