

## May is National Guide Dog Month



National Guide Dog Month is a celebration of the work of guide dogs in the United States as a way to raise awareness, appreciation and support for guide dog schools across the United States. It was established in 2008, as a fundraising drive to benefit non-profit guide dog organizations.

National Guide Dog Month was first inspired by Dick Van Patten, who was impressed by the intelligence and training of guide dogs. During a visit to the campus of the Guide Dogs of the Desert in Palm Springs, California, Van Patten was blindfolded to experience how guide dogs provide assistance and mobility to blind people.

After learning that the costs to raise and train a guide dog exceed \$40,000 and can take up to two years, Van Patten was inspired to help raise awareness and money for guide dog schools. Van Patten who passed away in 2015 served as an honorary Board Member for the Guide Dogs of the Desert.

Through his pet food company Van Patten's Natural Balance Pet Foods has underwritten all costs for the promotion of National Guide Dog Month to ensure that all money raised would directly benefit non-profit, accredited guide dog schools in the United States.

In 2008, Van Patten enlisted the support of the Petco Foundation, to organize a fundraising campaign through their retail stores. The San Diego based retailer piloted the first guide dog fundraiser in the Southern California area to benefit the Guide Dogs of the Desert, based in Palm Springs, California.

In 2011, the non-profit guide dog schools in the United States listed by IGDF were listed as beneficiaries of National Guide Dog Month. 100% proceeds will be donated to the following guide dog training facilities

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Guide\\_Dog\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Guide_Dog_Month) (modified)

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### **Calendar of Events**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Shelter Clinic - 530pm

May 10<sup>th</sup> – Shelter Clinic – 530pm

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Shafter Vaccination Clinic – 9am – Noon – Mannel Park

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Mother Day

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Shelter Clinic – 530pm

May 17<sup>th</sup> – ACC Meeting – CAO's Office – 6pm

May 24<sup>th</sup> – Shelter Clinic – 530pm

May 29<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day (Shelter Closed – Quick Clean in effect)

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Shelter Clinic – 530pm



**ZIP**

# OUR TAKE



**ZAP**

ZIP: (AAAAACHOO!) arf!

ZAP: MEOW – EWWWWW stay away.....you're contagious!

ZIP: I'm not contagious! Just allerbees!

ZAP: You have what?

ZIP: Allerbees.....

ZAP: I think you are saying Allergies. It is that time of the year. Lots of pollen in the air.

ZIP: Dabsit Allerbees. Pobbin.....lots and lots of pobbin.

ZAP: Great.....you're sick and I have to be stuck in this room with you and now I'll be sick! And you are making NO sense!

ZIP: Oh tome on! Ids not tat bad, id it!

ZAP: Oh it's beyond bad. I bet you didn't get any allergy medicines either huh!

ZIP: Mebincines would habe been a good thought.

ZAP: Animals have many issues since most of us live outside much of the time. Allergies being the biggest one since pollen is not our friend.

ZIP: NO PREND AT ALL!

ZAP: Hush Zip.....you sound too funny and not making any sense.

ZIP: (AAAAAACHOO!) ARF!

ZAP: Another big issue for us being outside and in our area is Valley Fever. Like our human partners, we can get Valley Fever too. It can be just as or more dangerous to us. Fever, lethargy and lack of appetite are just some of the main symptoms.

ZIP: Pounds like allerbees!

ZAP: Umm yeah Allergies. It does, but Valley fever is a spore that attacks the lungs and with our human partners, it is also diagnosed wrong too.

ZAP: Thanks for reading, gotta get Zip some medicines to make him feel better! Have a great month.

# TRAINING



# TIMEOUT

## Valley Fever in Animals

Coccidioidomycosis is an infection caused by the *Coccidioides immitis* fungus. It is an uncommon but deadly disease that primarily occurs in dry, hot climates like those found in parts of the western and southwestern U.S., especially Southern California, Arizona, southwest Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah, as well as in Central and South America. Coccidioidomycosis is also known as California fever, desert fever, and most commonly, valley fever.

Coccidioidomycosis can affect many types of mammals, including humans. It occurs more often in dogs than cats. The condition is not zoonotic, meaning it can't be passed from animal to human or human to animal.

The *Coccidioides immitis* fungus is found in upper layers of soil, but several inches deep where it can withstand high temperatures and lack of moisture. The fungus works its way to the surface after a rainy period or soil disturbance of some kind. Once on the soil's surface, the fungus forms spores that are spread by wind and dust storms. Pets can acquire coccidioidomycosis from inhaling the soil-borne fungus.

The infection starts in the respiratory tract and then frequently spreads to other body systems. In the lungs, the spores are round globules that exist as parasites until they grow big enough to break open, releasing hundreds of endospores that travel to other tissues, and continue the process of growing, rupturing and spreading throughout the body.

If the endospores get into the lymphatic and circulatory systems, they create a systemic infection. Coccidioidomycosis sets in from one to three weeks after exposure.

Treatment of valley fever depends on the extent of the infection and clinical symptoms. If the condition is widespread, traditional treatment involves aggressive anti-fungal therapy for up to a year. Other drugs, including cough suppressants and steroids, may also be prescribed to treat individual symptoms. In animals that aren't responding well to drug therapy, a drug level measurement test can be performed to determine how well the medication is being absorbed.

Affected animals should be fed a high quality species-appropriate diet, preferably fresh, to help maintain body weight. Activity should be restricted until symptoms begin to subside. Antibodies should be monitored every three to four months until they return to a normal level.

Unfortunately, valley fever is one of the most dangerous of the fungal diseases, and the prognosis for most animals is guarded or grave. Sadly, while many dogs improve following a course of anti-fungal drug therapy, relapse is common.





## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT LYNETTE COLEMAN**

Hi!! My name is Lynette Coleman, I was born in Delta, Colorado but moved to Bakersfield when I was 9 months old. Growing up I was raised without pets, but I knew that I wanted my children to have the opportunity to grow up with pets. Over the years we have had four dogs, and my girls have learned the joys and heartaches of having a pet. Currently we only have one dog, a Welsh Corgi, named Koda who just turned 13!

I'm happily married to my husband of almost 23 years and have two incredibly smart and beautiful daughters. Both girls will be graduating over the next month and a half, one from Cal State Fullerton and the other from Centennial High School. My family means everything to me, I chose to be the stay at home mom/ room mom/ PTO mom, but those chapters are long gone! I have always felt my calling is to be a volunteer in one form or another.

In June 2016, I decided to become a volunteer here at Kern County Animal Services with my younger daughter, Maddi. She had been looking for a job, but wasn't having any luck, so we decided to volunteer together. When August rolled around, she went back to school but I decided that I wasn't finished with my time at the shelter. In January, I became a Volunteer Ambassador for the cat room and I love it! I recently started working in the puppy room as well and just love seeing all of their adorable faces!

### **If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live?**

For me the most important thing would be to live close to my family, however I would love to live in South Lake Tahoe!

### **If you just won the lottery, what is the one thing you would spend money on?**

I have a hard time trying to narrow this down to one thing! The practical side of me would want to make sure that my family was taken care of but the philanthropic side would want to give it to charities that hold a special place in my heart!

### **If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?**

I would like to have the power of Apparition; teleportation for all non-Harry Potter fans. I can be a little impatient at times and feel my time could be put to better use rather than sitting in a car or a plane for hours trying to get to my destination. Also, if I could teleport then I could live wherever I want but still be able to be close to my family whenever I wanted!

# News & Notes

## MILESTONE HOURS (as of March 31)

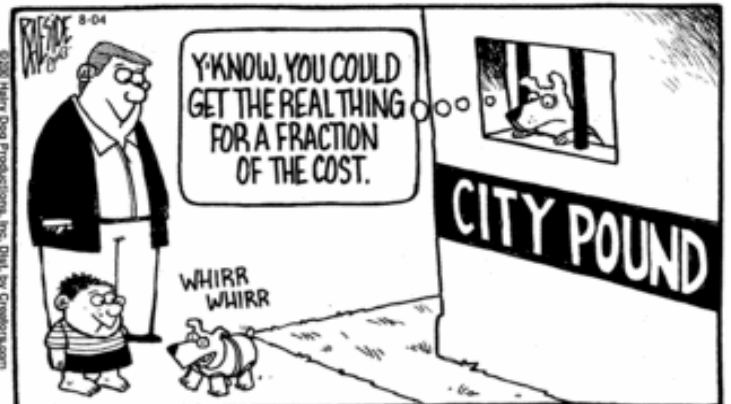
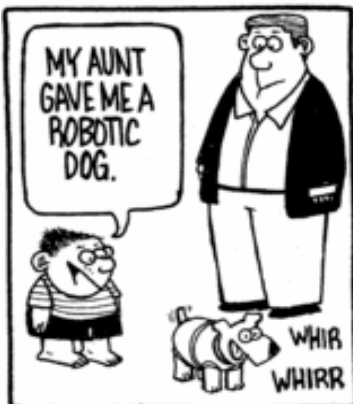
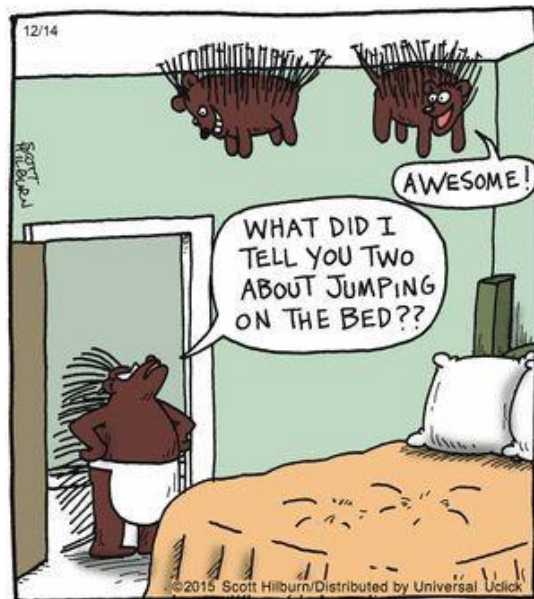
Rhonda Montgomery	2017	Rhonda Smith	426
Deborah Waits	819	Ben Neal	440
Shawn Fernberg	815	Rowena Yong	406
Crystal Struckhoff	582	Teddi Rawles	371
Barbara Fowler	553	Stan Cameron	309
Megan Reyes	554	Nancy Ballinger	302
Barbara Beckstrom	484	John Harrer	301



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY BIRTHDAYS	DAY
Haylee Moore	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Jordyn Lane	12 <sup>th</sup>
Lynette Coleman	13 <sup>th</sup>
Becky Rueda	15 <sup>th</sup>
Taylor Koronka	16 <sup>th</sup>
Nancy Ballinger	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Rosy Rodriguez	29 <sup>th</sup>
Mason Kimmitt	30 <sup>th</sup>
Caitlin Roque	31 <sup>st</sup>
Taylor Krok	31 <sup>st</sup>

MONTHLY HOURS REPORT	April
Core Volunteers	1354
Employment Prep Program (EPP)	315
Mexican American Opp. Foundation (MAOF)	345
Work Release	672





# Coordinator's Corner

MAY THE FOURTH (FORCE) BE WITH YOU!

In January of 2015, we started a program for volunteers called the Ambassadors. This program was designed to assist me with the large numbers of volunteers that come on board to help train them in the various areas, primarily in the puppy and cats rooms.

Over the last two years the program which started out with three very excited people has grown to ten who go through a very strict training process and spend a wonderful 5 hour training session on a Saturday learning different facets of the shelter.

This past week one of the Ambassadors had to resign from service due to her college education and soon to be move away from Bakersfield.

Emily Barclay (formerly Emily Mayes) starting volunteering with us in November of 2014 and was asked to be an Ambassador in September of 2015. She primarily helped in the cat rooms and learned both cats and puppies.

We want to wish Emily our best and a heartfelt thank you for all the hard work and dedication to training all of the new volunteers that came your way. Good luck on your future endeavors.

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On March 24<sup>th</sup> at approximately, 930 in the morning, Rhonda Montgomery our first Ambassador that help kick off the program achieved a milestone that no one, including myself and anyone would have imagined, an incredible 2000 hours of volunteering.

Rhonda started to volunteer with us in June of 2014 at the request of Rowena Yong, pushed Rhonda to talk with me. She filled out a volunteer application and soon after the orientation, Rhonda became a volunteer with the shelter and not long after, she took on the role of Ambassador.

Next time you see Rhonda, make sure you congratulate her on this achievement. In recognition of her achievement, we will be naming a puppy room in her honor.