

National Train Your Dog Month January 2015

The fifth annual National Train Your Dog Month in January is to promote training the family dog to have everyday manners!

In 2010, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) began the National Train Your Dog Month campaign. The APDT thought it was long overdue to dedicate a month to bringing awareness to the importance of socialization and training, and most of all, to inform the public that training your dog can be easy and fun! January is the perfect month because so many dogs and puppies are adopted or purchased from breeders and brought home during the winter holidays.

The event is designed to promote the importance and benefits of training dogs to become happy and healthy companions. Too many dogs are turned into animal shelters each year for behavior and training issues that could be easily solved with proper socialization and positive, gentle, science-based methods of training. Moreover, we want the public to know that training your dog is not just beneficial, it's *FUN!*

We hope that trainers; shelters; dog sports enthusiast; veterinarians; groomers and most of all, dog owners will help us celebrate the joy of training and enjoying a healthy relationship with your companion dog not only during January's National Train Your Dog Month, but throughout the rest of the year as well!

Taken from <https://apdt.com/>

Training Tips for 2015!

Take your dog with you when you go shopping. There are many stores that allow dogs. Always call first to make sure of their dog-friendly policies.

Take your dog on car rides. Even if you have a quick errand to run, such as to the bank or to a drive thru restaurant for food, take your dog along!

Practice sitting politely when guests come over every time a friend or relative visits.

Practice sit and down stays while you are watching TV; on the phone; cooking; eating dinner; working at home on your computer, or while your children are doing their homework.

Practice stays when you go to pick your children up from school or from extracurricular activities. Arrive a few minutes early and take your dog out on leash and have them stay while watching the busy parking lot full of children.

Use all of your dog's behaviors to earn him "what he wants." Make getting anything that your dog desires a learning opportunity!

Taken from <https://apdt.com/>

My Volunteer Story



By Martha Redstone

Hello, my name is Martha Redstone. I started working as a volunteer in July 2014.

During the school year I work as an elementary music teacher and have more free time in the summers, so it was a good time for me to start.

During the school year I have been working mostly on Saturdays. I've always loved dogs and learned to love cats as well. Twenty years ago I lived in Alaska and worked for a few years at a Vet Clinic in Anchorage. It was fun assisting the doctors, vet techs, and clients there. I remember taking dogs out for walks in the snow quite a bit.

One time there was a big moose walking nearby when I went out. Another time, I helped to work on an Iditarod sled dog that came in.

Paola Reyes	11 th
Jennifer Rhodes	13 th
Sheree Berry	17 th
Danielle Taylor	21 st
Patrick Wasson	22 nd
Emily Mayes	23 rd
Elena Dorsey	24 th
Corinne Yoder	31 st

Since I came to Bakersfield, I have missed working with pets in a facility. I have had my own dog, Chester since 2008 and used to have a cat as well. Both were adopted from a shelter. I knew that going to work at KCAS would make me want to adopt another, so in August, I added Louise to my family. Each pet has its own personality and it is always interesting getting to know them. I've learned to accept each one as they are, and not as I expect them to be.

They all respond so well to love and attention, and give me loads more love back in return. I can always spend time with them if I want to improve my outlook on life.

As a volunteer, I have helped to supply, clean, feed, water, care for pets, and assist visitors and workers at KCAS.

Anything I can do to be of service to people and pets makes me feel good. I've also



helped at vaccine clinics and read to children at a local library. My hope in doing these things is to help make these pets lives a little better each day I can, and make a difference in our community. I always feel better when I've done something to help in any way. A wise person once told me that I can't solve all the problems in the world, but I can start by doing something in my own little part of the world. Thank you KCAS, for giving me the opportunity to do this!

(Picture of Louise and Chester)





Coordinators Corner

Volunteers! A bright new day is shining as we start a New Year.

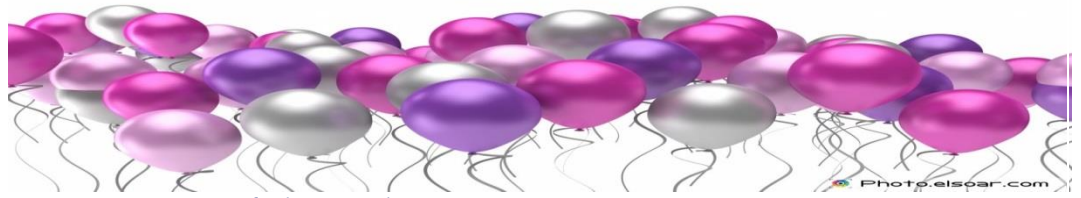
In 2015, I will be expanding our volunteer focus to large projects in the shelter and I will be asking many of you to participate in some of these projects.

I would also like to see our program focus more on having a visual presence in the community. A great start was the participation of volunteers in both the recent NOR and Bakersfield Christmas parades.

I want to expand volunteer opportunities at the shelter by creating new positions that will allow some volunteers to participate in areas that have previously been strictly limited as "STAFF ONLY" responsibilities. Many of you have hidden talents & interests that we should be using to assist specialized staff who will welcome your help. Stay tuned.

The vision for this program is endless and I am looking forward to working with all of you in 2015 for a stronger program.

Happy New Year 2015



State of the Volunteer Program (Calendar Year 2014)

The following section is for all volunteers and readers to see the progress that has been made since my hiring. This is for the calendar year ending 2014:

Head Count

Recruited Volunteers 183

- Active	85
- Leave of Absence	22
- Resigned w/ notice	32
- Resigned w/o notice	36
- Never started	8

Other Volunteers 122

- Walk in Volunteers	57
- Work Release	48
- EPP	11
- ROC	5
- MAOF	1

Total Volunteer Hrs 8242

- Recruited Vols.	5271
- Work Release	1311
- EPP	961
- MAOF	369
- Walk In Vols.	173
- ROC	157

EDITORS NOTE: All Volunteer hours will be updated at the end of December

WE NEED TOWELS!!!

The Kern County Animal Shelter is in dire need of bath towels. With the constant use, we have a lack of towels to provide comfort to the animals. Talk to everyone you know to see if they can donate some gently used bath towels.

WE NEED TREATS!!!

The Kern County Animal Shelter is also looking for treats for cats and dogs. Speak with your friends, family and neighbors about our needs and maybe we can help just one more animal to have a better day here at the shelter.

CONGRATULATIONS

With the departure of Director Schull, no organization is successful without a leader. While we wish Ms. Schull the best of luck in her new position, we are excited to have Nicholas Cullen appointed as the new Interim Director of KCAS. Many of you know Nick; make sure you congratulate him when you see him.