

National Black Cat Appreciation Day August 17th



At KCAS, we LOVE black kitties—but the sad truth is that not everyone feels the same way. Due to outdated (and incorrect) myths and superstitions, black cats have a really hard time getting adopted. That’s why we were so glad to learn that Monday

August 17, is Black Cat Appreciation Day!

To celebrate this holiday, the ASPCA put together just a few of the many reasons we appreciate these raven-coated kitties:

- Black cats go with everything—and they’ll never go out of style!
- You can tell your kids you adopted a miniature panther.
- Their fur won’t show on your little black dress.
- In most cultures, black cats are a sign of good luck.
- Black cats are just as loving, sweet and wonderful as any other cat!

We hope you will join us in celebrating Black Cat Appreciation Day by heading out to KCAS with your family and friends on Monday Aug 17 and taking home a black cat. All cat adoptions this month are just \$5!

Thanks to <http://blog.cheezburger.com/community/black-cat-appreciation-day-august-17th/>

& <http://www.aspc.org/blog/celebrate-black-cat-appreciation-day-on-august-17>

August Training Tips

Dog Training Tip #1 & #2

1. BE CONSISTENT

Whenever you’re training your dog, it’s important to get as many family members involved as possible so everyone’s on the same page. If you are telling your dog “off” when he jumps on the couch and someone else is saying “down,” while someone else is letting him hang out up there, how on earth is he ever going to learn what you want? Consistency will be the key to your success.

2. LISTEN TO YOU DOG

Learn to listen to your dog. If your dog appears to be uncomfortable meeting another dog, animal or person, don’t insist that he say hello. He’s telling you that he isn’t comfortable for a reason, and you should respect that. Forcing the issue can often result in bigger problems down the line.

Thanks to <https://www.petfinder.com/dogs/dog-training/dog-training-tips/>

My Volunteer Story



By Rhonda Smith

Hi, my name is Rhonda and I am a Kern County Animal Services volunteer. I have always loved animals and have adopted and rescued quite a few over the years. My last 2 dogs came from the Kern County Animal shelter, and I even adopted a horse from KCAS a couple years ago.

I have been a volunteer for over a year now. I groom the horses and work in the puppy room. I love both areas. I love to see the change in personality in the puppies as well as the horses when they can begin to feel better physically and realize that there IS still someone out there that loves them.

Is it hard to work there and not fall in love with every one? YES. But knowing that most will be adopted and go to live with new loving families is very rewarding. There is always something new and exciting each day.

<u>AUGUST BIRTHDAYS</u>	
Rhonda Montgomery	1 st
Shawn Fernberg	3 rd
Apryl Brown	5 th
Gabriela Martinez	8 th
Sarah Heredia	12 th
Deborah Waits	28 th

With the horses I remember an older Arabian mare. Her lower jaw had been badly injured and had not been taken care of and therefore had not healed properly before coming to KCAS. She was very sweet and craved love & attention. I always have horse treats in my car and she learned that very quickly. I remember pulling up to the corrals one morning and she trotted to the gate to meet me. Usually I will get my equipment out and groom them before giving any treats. But she was so cute standing there waiting. I called her Love Bug. Instead of getting my stuff out I got some treats and walked to her stall....I asked if she wanted a "cookie", she neighed and nodded her head. It was so sweet to develop a bond like that with an animal that had probably previously been neglected.

Will my next pet come from KCAS? Do I enjoy working



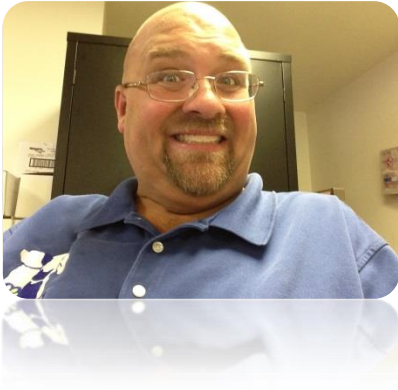
there? Absolutely. All of the staff and other volunteers are so friendly and make it easy to be a part of a great organization. I want to get socialization training soon, so I can take the dogs to the play area for exercise. And also learn to bathe the dogs, so the groomer can make them beautiful for their new homes. I hope to be there for a long time to come.

WE NEED TOWELS & NEWSPAPER!!!

Kern County Animal Services is in dire need of bath towels & newspapers. The towels are used for soft bedding for the cats and dogs.

The newspapers are used in our puppy cages to help eliminate waste and cross contamination issues. Needless to say, we go through a lot of newspapers daily! Please spread the word about our needs!

Coordinators Corner



WOW! Take a deep breath and smile. Puppy and kitten season is essentially over...for now.

But do not get too comfortable as it will be back again soon.

Between the changes to the hold times, having dual kennels and the sheer number of puppies that came in this year, my second year at the shelter was very challenging.

The kitten situation was just as crazy. Over the last six weeks, there was hardly an empty cage and if one did become empty, it filled very quickly.

Once again, I beg of you as volunteers to be advocates for our animals. Part of that is to inform everyone you know about the benefits of spaying and neutering, a key element in tackling our animal overpopulation problem.

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"Cats have 32 muscles in each ear. This allows them to eavesdrop on your conversations and help plot your demise!" Denis Leary, Comedian

I wanted to give you a mid-year report on volunteers and hours,

which was also presented to the Animal Control Commission on July 17th. We are attaining some great results for the program.

(Note that the 2014 totals represent a nine month time frame for recruitment and data collection time frame during which the volunteer program was re-started and built. The 2015 numbers are for only 6 months, through the end of June.)

2015 Mid-Year Totals

Core Volunteers	4076 hrs.
2014 Tot	6085 hrs.
Work Release	2885 hrs.
2014 Tot	1532 hrs.
EPP/Welfare to Work	244 hrs.
2014 Tot	1090 hrs.
One Day Volunteers	143 hrs.
2014 Total	176 hrs.

2015 Grand Total	7348 hrs.
2014 Total	8883 hrs.

Look at those numbers! Overall, in the first 6 months of 2015, we have almost equaled the entire 2014 monthly volunteer hours. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this wonderful record, which the Animal Control Commissioners also found quite amazing.

As of this newsletter our current total number of active volunteers is 119.

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The California Distinguished Women's group stopped by the shelter again this year with homemade blankets.

Thanks to these ladies and their desire to help through community service, 15 dogs were treated with a very special blanket to sleep on.

