

PAW PRINTS

January 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #19

Penguin Awareness Day January 20th, 2016

Penguin Awareness Day takes place on January 20, 2016. Penguins are a group of aquatic, flightless birds living almost exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere, especially in Antarctica. Highly adapted for life in the water, penguins have counter shaded dark and white plumage, and their wings have evolved into flippers. Penguins spend about half of their lives on land and half in the oceans.



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Penguins are superbly adapted to aquatic life. Their vestigial wings have become flippers, useless for flight in the air. In the water, however, penguins are astonishingly agile. Penguins' swimming looks very similar to bird's flight in the air. Within the smooth plumage a layer of air is preserved, ensuring buoyancy. The air layer also helps insulate the birds in cold waters. On land, penguins use their tails and wings to maintain balance for their upright stance.

Penguins either waddle on their feet or slide on their bellies across the snow, a movement called "tobogganing", which conserves energy while moving quickly. They also jump with both feet together if they want to move more quickly or cross steep or rocky terrain.

<http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/penguin-awareness-day/18429.html>

"NO KILL" Coming to KCAS!

On December 15th, and with overwhelming approval from the County Board of Supervisors, Director Cullen advised the Board that in all areas of the shelter, the main responsibility of staff and volunteers alike is to think outside the box and become more proactive to help bring this goal to fruition.

Outlining many points of achieving this goal, Director Cullen presented that all areas of the shelter and their main responsibility is to think outside the box and become more proactive in our jobs to help bring this to fruition. See the Coordinators Corner for more details.

ZIP



ZAP



Our Take on Animals

Hey KCAS Volunteers, I am Zip and that mangy critter over there is Zap!

Really Zip.....mangy!

Truth tells all Zap!

ZAP: Volunteers, we are here to talk to you about animal welfare, information and maybe even a joke or too. We all know that Zip will not get any of them!

Zip: HUH!

Zap: See what I mean volunteers!

Zip: Whatever Zap.

Zap: Normally, we would banter this much, but we are just being friendly and show you how smart I am.

Zip: (sigh) Yes friendly, that is the truth, but I am the smart one.

Zap: Yeah right.....

Zip: When is the last time you did something for your forever family?

Zap: Just this morning.....I left them a.....

Zip: Enough of that.....anyway volunteers, we will be much more professional next month!

Zap: Hairball.....all I was gonna say was hairball.....

VOLUNTEERING

Do you know of anyone who would like to volunteer? We are looking for some key volunteers who like to do admin work primarily in the morning hours.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in helping out with some projects, then this is the place to be.

Have them contact Jeff George at 661-868-7130 or email at jeffg@co.kern.ca.us



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS	Day
Katie Staricka	1
Paola Reyes	11
Patrick Smith	11
Valerie Ramirez	15
Phillip Juarez	16
Emily Schmidt	17
Sheree Berry	17
Emily Barclay	23
Elena Dorsey	24
Larry Anderson	25
Andrea Guendulain	26
Teddi Rawles	29



Volunteer Spotlight

ALEX CORDERO

My family has always been very interested in helping animals and we have been rescuing them for as long as I can remember. It was this most recent summer when I decided that I wanted to do something other than sleep-in until noon every day. While looking online for volunteer opportunities, I found the shelter's website and instantly knew that this was where I wanted to spend my extra time. I filled out application and received a call from Jeff the next day saying that orientation was tomorrow. After orientation I was even more excited, especially after seeing all of the animals and how kind Jeff and the other volunteers were.

After a few weeks, I was invited to start cleaning the cat rooms where I spent most of my summer mornings making sure the kennels were cleaned, the cats were fed, and the rooms were restocked. It is a very challenging and tiring job but the sense of accomplishment you feel after cleaning is definitely worth it. I worked the cleaning shifts every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and sometimes, even Saturday for several weeks until school came around. After every single one of those shifts I felt like I had made a difference. Once school started I had to cut down on my shifts but I was able to do several other jobs around the shelter like working with the puppies and even became a socialization coach, which are both so much fun.

Becoming involved with the shelter has been one of the best decisions that I have ever made. Knowing that you are making a positive difference in an animal's life and being apart of something bigger than yourself is a great feeling. I hope to continue volunteering at the shelter until I go off to college and one day hearing of it becoming completely no-kill.

3 Questions We All Want to Know!

1. If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live? **NEW YORK CITY**
2. If you just won the California lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on? **College Tuition**
3. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why? **Invisibility – So I could spy on people.**



Coordinators Corner

NO KILL KCAS!

Briefly on the first page, I mentioned that Director Cullen laid out the plans to make us a no-kill facility in five years.

While this is a huge undertaking, if anyone can do this, we can!

Our part isn't all that hard! We just continue to do what we do best and that is to provide the best care and cleaning possible to all of the animals and eliminating all potential diseases and sicknesses we can.

We have been issued a goal to conquer between now and June 30th.

Director Cullen has challenged us to recruit more volunteers, 75 in fact. Now it is my job to accomplish that, but I ask all of you to think outside the box and let me know what you think could

be some unique resources for recruiting.

High school recruiting is not very innovative since we have so many high school students that apply as it is, so we need methods that are unique and "different."

Also we are looking to find some key people that want to assist with administrative duties in the morning. We have some new programs associated directly with the volunteer program and need some people to take this on.

Finally I am adding a story about what we deal with day in and day out as members of KCAS. This story is about animal hoarding and the sad, bad results that come from it

ANIMAL HOARDING

People who collect far more animals than they can provide proper food, shelter, sanitation and veterinary care for are known as animal hoarders.

Hoarders often start out with good intentions, but become overwhelmed. They may be incapable of recognizing or admitting to the deplorable living conditions of the animals in their care. This is a grave and scary situation

for the animals because they are usually confined and have no way to escape an unhealthy environment.

More than an eccentricity, animal hoarding is a serious psychological condition. Hoarders typically possess obsessive and controlling tendencies associated with mental illness.

Animal hoarders may:

Collect large numbers of animals, despite their inability to care for them properly

Have a preoccupation with rescuing animals

Be in a state of denial about the horrible living conditions of the animals and themselves

Fail to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter, and veterinary care, often resulting in illness and death from starvation, spread of infectious disease, and untreated injury or medical condition.

Edited from <https://redrover.org/node/1124>