

PAW PRINTS

February 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #20

Polar Bear Day February 27th, 2016

Polar Bear Day is observed on February 27, 2016. It celebrates the world's largest bear and land carnivore. The polar bear is a bear native largely within the Arctic Circle encompassing the Arctic Ocean, its surrounding seas and surrounding land masses.



The polar bear is classified as a vulnerable species, with eight of the nineteen polar bear subpopulations in decline. For decades, large scale hunting raised international concern for the future of the species but populations rebounded after controls and quotas began to take effect.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, the polar bear is important as an indicator of arctic ecosystem health. Polar bears are studied to gain understanding of what is happening throughout the Arctic, because at-risk polar bears are often a sign of something wrong with the arctic marine ecosystem.

<http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/polar-bear-day/11952-world.html>

"500 HOUR CLUB"

We are excited to announce the addition of three new members to the 500 hour club. In November, **Volunteer Ambassador Deborah W.** made this distinction and was honored at the January ACC Meeting. In December **Volunteer Ambassador Tricia L.**, made this honor and in January **Volunteer Jacob C.** made this honor. If you see these volunteers around the shelter, make sure you congratulate them on a job well done!



ZIP



ZAP



&

Our Take on Animals

Zip: Volunteers, since I have a Master's Degree in Catnip-ology, we are going to talk about this wild, crazy, & so lovable plant.

Zip: Great Zip....let's waste the valuable time of the volunteers on a weed!

Zip: Now Zip, yes technically it is a weed, but so is grass, the same grass that you love to roll around in.

Zip: Point taken.

Zip: Now Zip.....listen to this. As with Catnip, many of the plants that we use daily are or once were considered to be a weed of some sort. Catnip is derived from the mint family. MMMM mints. I like mints.

Zip: So Zap you're telling me that it's edible?

Zip: Yes it is and it's edible to the cat and also to our humans. Our humans are known to make a tea with it.

Zip: So you eat it and our humans drink it. Interesting! I have seen you and how you react to it after you eat some. Do our humans dance around like you do when they drink it?

Zip: You know Zip, I have to say NO! Our humans use it as an herb and they use it for relaxation.

Zip: HA HA HA....you dance around like a crazy cat and our humans sleep.

Zip: Yes Zip, that's correct. That's all for this month! Next month Zip will talk about digging holes.

Zip: Really Zap.....digging holes.....

Zip: Meoutta here!

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	Day
Abigail Kenefsky	7
Maggie Sanchez	10
Macy Moore	14
Ben Neal	20
Kristen Danley	22
Kimberly Mason	25
Tabitha Sanchez	26
Dahlia Langendoerfer	27



Volunteer Spotlight

By TRICIA LAMAS

It was about a year ago I found myself at a crossroads. I needed to be useful, to give to volunteer my time to a wonderful cause. One of the many passions I have is for animals, especially dogs. So how could I say no as my sister encouraged me to come on board at KCAS as a volunteer? I will be forever grateful I did!

As a young girl growing up, until this past Christmas we'd always had a dog or two....or three. Our Furbabies were family, very special to us. R.I.P. our last (but not least) old girl Roxie who passed on Christmas. And until a new furbaby joins me on my journey, working with the shelter animals fills a huge void.

I have enjoyed meeting and working alongside many volunteers. Together folding linens, washing dishes, and eventually it lead to working in our puppy kennels. Dogs/puppies being a passion of mine, it just seemed so right to be caring for them. From cleaning kennels, bathing puppies, feeding/watering, stocking supplies to making chew toys makes for a busy yet very rewarding time spent.

I was very honored a few months ago to become 1 of 3 currently trained volunteer ambassadors. We train new volunteers in the cleaning procedures and care of our puppies and cats as well as dishwashing and folding linens that we use for bedding for all the animals.

To add to this great experience I had the pleasure of fostering one of our pups! The reward in the end was being a part of the process of her finding her furever home. It is an honor to be a part of KCAS as I believe we all have something in common. We love the precious voiceless Furbabies and desire for them to be loved and cared for.

3 Questions We All Want to Know!

- 1. If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live? Near the Coast with a lighthouse.**
- 2. If you just won the California lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on? Several No Kill Animal Shelters in various parts in the US.**
- 3. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why? The power of Healing for all human and animal suffering/illness**



Coordinator's Corner

Happy Valentine's day to all!

With the emergence of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other such online media, the whole world has become a huge connected bunch.

In the past, there was a saying about the six degrees of separation. Meaning that within six connections, you could meet up with just about anyone in the world.

There was even a documentary a few years back regarding this, in which a young man was a little more than just a fan of Drew Barrymore. He wasn't a dangerous stalker, but adorned his apartment with pictures of her and had all of her movies, etc etc.

What he did over a couple of months was to make those connections work for him, and eventually he got his meeting with Drew Barrymore.

So why do I bring this up? The internet has connected us to a wide variety of topics and created unprecedented openness in communication. It has also opened all of us up to deep scrutiny.

Many people still believe that the internet is or can be private because you make your settings this way, but that is not the case. The internet is and will never be truly private.

This brings up one of the most important documents that you signed during orientation, the Confidentiality Agreement.

The document states that information you hear, see or read is confidential and your knowledge of that information must stay that way. No matter how you feel about what may happen here at the shelter.

What you post on Facebook or when you link yourself to one of our sites off of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or any other media source could constitute breaking of the confidentiality agreement

Confidential information obtained and disseminated in any form can be grounds

for dismissal from the volunteer program.

Similar to identity theft, the information that is obtained is like stealing, no matter what subject it is.

I do not want to lose even one volunteer, because each of you makes such a difference in the lives of our animals. But **HEED THIS WARNING:** when it comes to the business side of things that occur at the shelter, everything is confidential.

While I do not want to lose you, dismissal will occur immediately if you break this agreement.

Think before you post online. Think before you make a statement that may or may not be correct and make sure you think before you share, forward or link to a site on any social media platform regarding animals and personnel here at the shelter.

I am looking out for the best interest of the shelter, the Volunteer program and the volunteers that make the lives of our animals just a little bit better.

