

# PAW PRINTS

March 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #21

## World Sparrow Day, March 20th, 2016

World Sparrow Day is celebrated on March 20, 2016. World Sparrow Day is a day designated to raise awareness of the House Sparrow and other birds common to urban environments, and of threats to their populations. It is an international initiative by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organizations across the world.



The idea of marking a World Sparrow Day came up during an informal discussion at the Nature Forever Society's office. The idea was to earmark a day for the House Sparrow to convey the message of conservation of the House Sparrow and other common birds and also mark a day of celebration to appreciate the beauty of the common biodiversity which is taken so much for granted. The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010 in different parts of the world.

World Sparrow Day also has a broader vision to provide a platform where people who are working on the conservation of the House Sparrow and other common birds can network, collaborate and exchange conservation ideas which will lead to better science and improved results.

### "1000 HOUR CLUB"

KCAS is so proud to announce and congratulate Rhonda Montgomery, a volunteer with the shelter since June of 2014 who has achieved another milestone of 1000 hours of volunteer time.



# ZIP



# ZAP



# &

## Our Take

Zip: Welcome to Our Take. A column with information for all animal lovers and animals alike.

Zip: You are correct Zap. Today's topic is not about digging holes.....

Zip: Awww come on Zip.....tell them all about getting dirty.

Zip: {sigh} Anyways, we are going to talk about a very serious subject..... Chocolate poisoning!

Zip: Zip, I am impressed.....You put a lot of thought into this.

Zip: Yes Sir. Chocolate Poisoning is serious. Especially around the holidays, very little chocolate that is ingested by your favorite animal could cause serious and even fatal injuries.

Zip: Zip.....isn't that Theobromine poisoning?

Zip: You are correct. Theobromine is the enzyme that is in the cocoa plant. Now when the cocoa plant is refined the amount of Theobromine is diluted, but not enough. Even diluted this stuff can still cause physical damage.

Zip: Now if I am not mistaken Zip, it is also in tea and cola product too!

Zip: That's true, but the dilution is even more in those. When your animal get a hold of as little as ¼ ounce of chocolate, serious adverse reactions can begin almost immediately. The first signs of theobromine poisoning are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and increased urination. These can progress to cardiac arrhythmias, epileptic seizures, internal bleeding, heart attacks, and eventually death.

Zip: From Zip and myself, keep the chocolate away from us!

### VOLUNTEERING

Do you know of anyone who would like to volunteer? We are looking for some key volunteers who like to help with our Bed making project on Thursday afternoons.

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](mailto:jeffg@co.kern.ca.us)



MARCH BIRTHDAYS	DAY
OT PESINA	3
KAILYNN RITCHIE	6
JILL STARICKA	9
AMORIE MARTIN	16
SAMANTHA THREWIT	16
RAYMOND RICHARDSON	19
MCKENNA CONROY	21
CRYSTAL STRUCKHOFF	25
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# Volunteer Spotlight

By Darlene Lacava

I have done various things during my 10 years working for Starbucks. I did not intend the Starbucks job to last that long, but found myself loving the company. Outside my Starbucks duties, I have donated time to feed the needy, as well as participate in the All-American Clean-Up, Toys for Tots, and many other things. I always felt so good knowing that I was doing something important, something good for someone, everyone, or no one but myself.

I do take many walks and/or runs. Along the way, when the animal shelter moved close to my house, I often would see people in blue and green shirts running about; I would see the huge signs on the windows with words like foster, rescue, adopt. I'd always pass by and wonder, does my love for animals belong there? I was terrified of shelters. Yet I would find myself, after the lights were off and the parking lot empty, peering inside the windows, my eyes lighting up like the proverbial child's in a candy store, or on Christmas morning.

Taking some time away from Starbucks, I thought it was about time to wander up and actually open the door. Walking to the counter, nervous, curious and anxious, I finally asked for a volunteer application. There was a staff member holding a kitten, which I could certainly relate to. I had just finished bottle-feeding and raising a kitten on my own, and even found it a wonderful loving home. I melted while filling out the application. I returned to the counter, where they'd asked me to submit the form to Jeff. Man, did I ever start to get the sweaty hand syndrome! Why was I so nervous? I still may never know. The best part: the whole thing was a breeze. When I was asked, "can you meet me at Gosford tomorrow?" I would have literally jumped for joy if I wasn't so scared of how silly it would look. I took great joy in telling my friends and family of my excitement.

Since then, all I've wanted to do is more! I became a foster mom. I want to spend more hours there. I have met some of the hardest working, most devoted people, and I've become one of them. It has changed me in the best way. Finally, after all the causes I donated my time to find to, I found where I am happiest. To volunteer, you take the time to create, and make the difference in each one of the animal's lives. Some may think that a volunteer washing dishes may not help, but such seemingly small efforts are part of a much bigger picture. Same goes for the shelter. I didn't think they tried so hard to save these animals, but they always fight hard, and it is real. Volunteering for this shelter is by far the best thing that I could have ever done. While I try to recruit volunteers, some people think they won't have the time. Sometimes the shelter doesn't even ask much, like just a few hours. But volunteering for just one day could change your life. Not only yours, but the animals'. They need you, and as much as you may not think, you will come to need them.

## 3 Questions We All Want to Know!

- 1. If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live?** I would return to my home town. Mariposa nothing like having Yosemite in your own back yard.
- 2. If you just won the California lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on?** I would like to do many things. Make sure I have a large enough property to save as many animals I can, set up my daughters college fund, and that she will be taken care of, then help as many homeless people I could. Then make sure that my family can be taken care of as well.
- 3. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?** I would fly. There is so much beauty in this world, I would want to fly wherever I wanted, and see it from a different view than the ground. To marvel at this wonderful place we sometimes take for granted.



### Coordinator's Corner

Oibrithe Deonacha  
Howdy! Márta ceiliúradh againn Lá Fhéile Pádraig agus na tráthanna spraoi. Eile 'saoire' a ithe agus a bheith Merry. Is féidir leat gur chuala freisin 'Íodh Márta' an téarma. Cad roimh an lá Naomh, Pádraig, ar an 15ú Márta ar a dtugtar an Rialóir lae Rómhánach dúnmharaíodh Julius Caesar in 44 RC.

### TRANSLATION

Howdy Volunteers!  
March we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the fun times. Another 'holiday' to eat and be merry. You may also have heard the term 'Ides of March'. What preceded St. Patrick's day, on March 15th is known as the day Roman ruler Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC.



"Only a group effort by all will make No Kill come to fruition."

### "Redemption"

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, we were very happy to host a NO KILL EVENT with special guest speaker Nathan Winograd.

At the request of Animal Control Commissioner Gary Blackburn, Mr. Winograd came to Bakersfield to talk about his book and his film, Redemption.



(L to R) ACC Blackburn with Nathan Winograd



After the film, a town hall meeting was held and many of the 100 people in attendance asked questions and took pictures with the author.

