

PAW PRINTS

April 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #22



The celebration of National Volunteer Week at KCAS will culminate on Saturday, April 16, from 10 am – 2 pm with a big and busy OPEN HOUSE so the community can see what we do, how we do it and where we do it.

This year's open house will feature a volunteer-led tour of our facilities. The tour will include a stop at the Administration Building for an abbreviated Orientation for potential volunteers who want to learn more details about how they can help with our life-saving programs.

We are extremely excited to partner with KRAB radio this year. Danny Spanks will be with us doing a live remote from 10 am – Noon and we will be having adoption specials all day: \$20 for dogs, \$10 for cats.

Volunteers will be at all stations to help with customer service and to explain some of the things that are done specifically by volunteers. We want the public to learn about our great volunteer program, how we are able to accomplish the great things we do for our animals and how, as volunteers, YOU and they are part of our vision and our goal to become a NO KILL FACILITY!

Before going to the Admin Building for the Orientation, we will take people to the puppy and cat rooms. Then they'll visit with a medical staff person, meet the horses, learn about our dish disinfection process and see our linen rooms.

SUMMER TIME IS COMING!

For the last two years, during summer break, many of our volunteers have left us because of college and other such things. We ask our volunteers to be helpful and please make sure to inform the Volunteer Coordinator of their schedule changes or plans to resign from the shelter volunteer program.

This also applies to vacations at any time of the year. As soon as you know of your vacations plans please let us know ASAP.

ZIP



ZAP



&

Our Take

ZIP: Welcome to Our Take, an informative column for all animal lovers and animals alike.

ZAP: Thank you Zip.....our column this month is all about fleas!

ZIP: Perfect subject, flea bag.....HAHA.....get it...Fleabag!!

ZAP: You know if we weren't related.....sigh.....FLEAS! Those mangy critters. They get on you and bite. With the warm winter we have had this year their population is going to explode.

ZIP: (scratch scratch) I'm starting to itch!

ZAP: Oh stop it.

ZIP: I am serious.....I'm all itchy now. (scratch scratch) I think I need Frontline.

ZAP: Oh Zip, calm down. You do not have fleas. You joke around and this is what you get.

ZIP: FRONTLINE DESK 2....AISLE FOUR.....BEULLER!!

ZAP: Zip, you don't have fleas but keep scratching away.....you will be in quarantine in no time....Fleas are nasty critters. Your vet can recommend shampoos to use, and obviously Frontline works. Dawn dish soap is a winner, too. Fleas are fast critters so when you are washing, be prepared to get those guys while they are moving. Oh yeah they can jump a great distance.....ok...maybe in their eyes. A flea dip may be the trick that works on your forever friend too.

Frank the Flea: Excuse me I have a delivery for Zip?

ZIP: AHHHHHHH It's a flea. Zap save me.....Woof Woof Woof.....

ZAP: He is not a bother.....where did he gooooooooo MEOUCH!!!! Dang fleas ...

ZIP: I told you!

ZAP: Frontline AISLE FOUR!!!!

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 might be interested in helping out with this and other fun projects, then ~~this~~ KCAS is the place to be.

Ask those interested to contact Jeff George at 661-868-7130 or email at jeffg@co.kern.ca.us.



| APRIL BIRTHDAYS | DAY |
|-----------------|-----|
| Carissa Bridgen | 1 |
| Martha Redstone | 13 |
| Jamielyn Pacada | 22 |
| Kaila Groshens | 27 |





Volunteer Spotlight

By Robin Roland

I have been volunteering at Kern County Animal Services for almost 6 months. I have experienced many changes in the last year of my life, so these have been quite interesting times. I came to an impasse and was re-evaluating my priorities. I knew this was my time to be of service to others. I love to work with young people and those who struggle with hurts and hang-ups, but I had always had a special kindred spirit with animals especially pups and dogs. What would be the best way to be my best self for others? Animals need a voice more than any of us can understand. I had heard of Animal Services and thought “this is it.” Turns out I was right on.

KCAS is such a unique place. Everyone is so very concerned and kind. The staff has loads of experience, but most of all the staff and volunteers have huge hearts. They are always there for these wonderful creatures from cats, dogs, horses, pigs, feathered friends, etc.

I am in awe when I hear employees talking about what they can do to make a life better or find a forever home for an animal so deserving. They are busy, but they always pay attention. I have learned so much in just the short time I have been here. There is such a need for assistance and I now understand what it takes to provide such care. Just a few hours here and there is awesome, but mostly what is needed is compassion. I have been privileged that I have had the time to be a small part of that.

I have a mentor that once gave me advice. He said – Each day you must be emotionally, physically, and spiritually kind to yourself...but more importantly, be ALL OF THESE THINGS to those who cannot take care of themselves. To me this means our innocent animals. We are lucky to share our planet with these wonderful beings.

I recently received my Socialization Training Coaching Certification and I’m now working on a project to reunite lost/missing pets with their families. I wish I could do more.

I have seen many rescues and adoptions, this gives me hope. We need to remember that we can create new memories of hope and joy for these wonderful animals that might have otherwise never had a choice. They bring us such love and loyalty, so much more than we can ever give to them.

I just want to thank Jeff G., Rhonda M., Susan R. and all the ones who remind me that we can all make a difference.

3 Questions We All Want to Know!

- 1. If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live?** I used to work in the travel industry, and Hawaii was my specialty. I have been to all the islands at least once but many times to Maui, I love it there. When I’m there I feel peaceful and at one with nature, it’s beautiful.
- 2. If you just won the California lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on?** I would buy a villa in Maui, I would travel the world, and I would help out family and friends. Oops that’s more than one thing!!
- 3. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?** I think the power of healing, this is for all the obvious reasons.



Coordinator's Corner

When I was an itty bity boy,
(yeah can you picture that?)
we had a scout song that was
called the Penguin song. I wish
I could have remembered this
when it was National Penguin
month.

Penguins Attention!
Penguins Begin.....Right
Arm...Left Arm....Really can
you see, a Penguins life for
me....etc etc.

It's sorta like a hokey pokey
type of song that eventually
has all your limbs moving
around and around and you,
the kid, are moving and
twisting like crazy.

The reason I bring this up is
that there are so many
different facets of this shelter
and we are constantly moving.
When we move and things are
in sync, change occurs and
change is good.

When WE change, it brings
challenges. Our minds, bodies
and souls thrive on that kind of
thing.

THE BIG MOVE

If you have not seen it as of
yet, the puppies and cats have
switched spots.

Puppies are in the former cat
rooms and the cats are in the
former puppy room and the
dogs.....well they're still..... in
the dog area.

We have made some changes
based on the suggestions of
Target Zero, the No Kill Facility
experts who have encouraged
us to explore some of our
housing and programmatic
options.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week is
upon us again, and yes we will
be having an open house for
the public to see what we do
and what we have.

When I was brought on as the
Volunteer Coordinator, there
were several volunteers on
paper, and six responded. By
the time I met all six, three
were still with us here at the
shelter. So I had some work
on my hands to make this
program vibrant and
successful.

In a short 24 months, the
shelter has made dramatic
changes, the word has gotten
out that we have a vibrant,
awesome volunteer program
that is now boasting of more
than 150 volunteers.

The volunteers have taken
over many areas of the shelter
to make sure the staff has

adequate time to handle the
other duties that come up.

The core volunteer program
had more than 11,000 hours of
service time to the shelter in
2015 areas of animal care for
puppies, cats and horses.
Cleaning and maintenance
including washing dishes,
folding and maintaining the
linen, linen sheds, parking lot
control, clinics on both
Wednesday nights and
Saturday off sites and
socialization.

READING PROGRAM

We are in the early stages of
the cat reading program. We
are looking for a catchy name
for this program as we will
have school aged children
come to the shelter with their
parent partners and read to
the cats for a few minutes. I
invite each of you creative,
clever volunteers to send me
your suggestions.

We are looking for a retired
teacher or two to assist us
with this venture. If you know
of one that may want to spend
some time with the animals
and kids in making this
program a success, please
contact the Volunteer
Coordinator.