

PAW PRINTS

July 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #25

World Snake Day is July 16th

World Snake Day is celebrated on July 16, 2016. Unfortunately many people do not like snakes and have bad associations about them. Snakes are said to be conniving and - there even is an old expression: "snaky". But they are beautiful and to some extent endangered animals.

World Snake Day recommends that we get rid of those prejudices. Animals are never mean or ugly - they all have their place in the world's ecosystem.



People often do not like and fear what they do not know. Therefore World Snake Day should be celebrated by learning about snakes - how they look, where they live, what they do, which ones are dangerous and so on. Zoos or Snake Farms are good places for that.

While they might give many folks the heebie-jeebies, snakes deserve some credit. This is why July 16 is designated as World Snake Day.

Plenty of people who care for snakes as pets will certainly be celebrating their legless companions, but even folks with the worst ophidiophobia (fear of snakes) ought to take some time out of their day to think about the contributions these amazing animals make in the world.

The position of snakes in the food chain is a particularly important one — they do a phenomenal job of controlling populations of insects, amphibians and small mammals like rodents. This is especially important considering many of these animals, especially mice and rats, are notorious disease carriers.

Still convinced that snakes are the horrifying creatures of your darkest nightmares? To honor these slithering reptiles (and maybe change your opinion), MNN brings you a photo roundup of some seriously cute baby snakes! Who knew something so feared could be so adorable?



Credit

<http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/world-snake-day/25438.html>

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/blogs/celebrate-world-snake-day-with-adorable-baby-snakes>

ZIP



ZAP



Our Take

ZIP: WELCOME TO OUR TAKE!! National Just One Day event was held in June at many shelters throughout the nation. We are so excited that many of our friends and relatives have been adopted and have new forever human families.

ZAP: You are so correct Zip. I know that 16 family members of mine were adopted just on that day. I have this really shy nephew that would play dead all the time when someone would come around. Even he got adopted.

ZIP: Play Dead? Really?

ZAP: Don't judge, ZIP! Remember your uncle, the one who thought he was a mouse dressed up like a dog??

ZIP: Anyway ZAP we are so very happy that we have so many family members that found their families on just that one day, the one day that shelters who help with this mission go "NO KILL" for Just One Day!

ZAP: Another special day/month is July and the 31st. It's National Mutts Day and even though there is one day to celebrate it, many shelters go all out for a month long celebration with the mindset that mutts are a perfect breed of animals too.

ZIP: Very true ZAP. One of the things we have to work towards is to help end the senseless mixed breeding that goes on in our cities. In many countries mixed breeds are not given a chance to find a forever home and only breeds with proven genetic lines of DNA are allowed to survive and bred.

ZAP: That's a real sad situation.

ZIP: So sad. You as an advocate can do so much. Help with Spay & Neuter clinics. Help with licensing and most importantly, help those who need assistance if you can do so.

ZAP: Thank you ZIP. By the way...next month....I am on vacation. There will be a guest commentator, but I am not going to let you know who is coming to assist you. YOU DESERVE IT!!

ZIP: Oh man.....cruel cruel world.

VOLUNTEERING

Do you know of anyone who would like to volunteer? We are looking for some key volunteers 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 KCAS is the place to be.

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



JULY BIRTHDAYS	DAY
Reanna Willis	3
Rebecca Vega	5
Crystal Alvarez	9
Mark Robertson	13
Michelle Fabbri	14
Tiffani Rawles	17
Tricia Lamas	23
Mary Boyer	24
Megan Reyes	27
Kimberly Taylor	29
Chloe Boyd	30
Isaiah Dawood	30



Volunteer Spotlight

Taylor Krok

Hi! My name is Taylor Krok. I moved frequently growing up, and now love living in downtown Bakersfield. I am a senior at CSUB and I am studying Sociology, Human Services and Child Adolescent Family Studies. I am a preschool teacher by day and Chinese delivery driver by night. I have always had a passion and empathetic nature with animals and the environment.

As a child, I told everyone I knew that I was going to be a zoologist and marine biologist! That was until I learned most of these scientists rarely have the daily contact and friendship with animals like I had dreamed. I discovered KCAS's volunteer program at a booth during the fair!

My training and recruitment as one of our Petco cat adoption ambassadors was quicker, and the duties more fun than I had imagined! I own three felines myself: Nube, Zorra and Nueva (and also an unnamed blue betta fish). My love for my cats and admiration of the species allows me to spend the hours at our Petco station just loving on our intakes! Volunteering, and especially representing Animal Services as an institution, is very important not only to me, but for the shelter itself and our animals therein. The time invested in the livelihood and adoption of these animals saves their lives! We know that each animal adopted has an incredible impact on their new family, and then in return at their loving, forever home.

We also know that Kern County has some of the worst statistics in the United States for animals without a proper place to live. As a result, many animals are left unhealthy, at-risk and unneutered, leading to costly solutions and the overuse of euthanasia. We volunteers, as a union, execute crucial responsibilities in the act of saving lives in this county. Our positions are as essential as they are overwhelmingly rewarding. LOVE, guiding energy and THANK YOU to our lime-green tee team! "No Kill by 2020!"

3 Questions We All Want to Know!

If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live? I would live in FernGully, the Australian rainforest of the animated film of the same name (for those who watched 90's cartoons). Yes, either as Crystal or one of her friends.

If you just won the lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on? I would finally be able to pay, in full, for the rest of my education!!!

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why? I would be Jean Grey. She is a telepath and has telekinetic powers. Her alter egos, love interests, best friend Queen Storm, and founding position of the X-men are equally as drawing.



Coordinators Corner

What do you think happens when you have 24 volunteers, 20 staff members, 11 hours and 130+ animals finding their forever homes?

You have Just One Day. Our yearly event when we are open for 11 hours, on June 11th and have all the animals available for adoption ready to go home for only 11 dollars.

Normally any adoption is a success, but when you have more than 130 animals leave the shelter in one day because people want and desire an animal, that makes it a phenomenal day for all.

In the first three hours we had more than 300 people come through the doors and 41 animals adopted.

With those base numbers for the morning, we had more than 800 people come to the shelter for the whole day. Perhaps we can attribute the number of visitors and adoptions to the day of the

week, a Sunday, because in 2015, when our visitor count and adoptions were down by almost 20%, the event was held on a Thursday.

In 2014, the event was held on a Wednesday and our visitor and adoption counts were very similar to 2015's.

One of the best things that we saw on this great day was we had fifteen future adoptions paid for by people who were so very kind in their generosity. Fifteen future adoptable animals will receive that opportunity to get their forever home just because they were selected by very kind people.

A very productive day was had and very happy day for many families and their brand new animal family members that were adopted.

KRAB RADIO DOG BLOG

If you have not yet heard, Danny Spanks of KRAB Radio, who is a HUGE

animal advocate, has been coming to the shelter since the middle of February and has been featuring a number of our dogs on a "Dog Blog" each week.

In the 16 weeks since Danny has been coming to the shelter, we have had about a 94% adoption rate of the dog "stars." Thanks, Danny Spanks and Tori Vasquez, for your weekly visits and for featuring these dogs on the blog (<http://krab.iheart.com/>).

We believe that the more exposure that the animals get, the better chance there is for them to get adopted.

The dog blog is featured weekly on KRAB Radio website.

Thank you to Danny and Tori for their hard work and dedication to the animals.

**KEEP THE FAMILIES OF
LAKE ISABELLA IN YOUR
THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS**