

# BOO PRINTS

October 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #28

## National Fire Pup Day, October 1st



National Fire Pup Day is observed each year on October 1. This is a day designated to recognize our canine firefighters, the four-footed members of the fire department. In the United States, Dalmatians are commonly known as firehouse dogs.

It all began when the use of Dalmatians as carriage dogs was transferred to horse-drawn fire engines. In the days of the horse-drawn fire carts they provided a valuable service, having a natural affinity to horses. They would run alongside the horses, or beneath the cart axles.

Today, the Dalmatian serves as a firehouse mascot and is sometimes used to educate the public in fire safety. The horses have long since gone, but the Dalmatians, by tradition, have stayed. As a result, in the United States, Dalmatians are commonly known as firehouse dogs. Dalmatians are still chosen by many firefighters as pets, in honor of their past. The Dalmatian is also the mascot of the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity. In the past, Pi Kappa Alpha has been known as the firefighters' fraternity, and this is why they both share the Dalmatian as a mascot.

### "Anheuser-Busch dog"

The Dalmatian is also associated, particularly in the United States, with Budweiser beer and the Busch Gardens theme parks, since the Anheuser-Busch company's iconic beer wagon, drawn by a team of Clydesdale horses, is always accompanied by a Dalmatian carriage dog. The company maintains several teams at various locations, which tour extensively. Dalmatians were historically used by brewers to guard the wagon while the driver was making deliveries.

### **101 Dalmatians**

The Dalmatian breed experienced a massive surge in popularity as a result of the 1956 novel *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*. The Disney animated classic released in 1961, later spawned a 1996 live-action remake, *101 Dalmatians*. In the years following the release of the sequel *102 Dalmatians*, the breed suffered greatly at the hands of inexperienced owners. Many well-meaning enthusiasts purchased Dalmatians often for their children without educating themselves on the breed and the responsibilities that come with owning such a high-energy dog breed. Dalmatians were abandoned in large numbers by their original owners and left with animal shelters.

ZIP



ZAP



&

# Our Take

ZIP: WELCOME TO OUR TAKE!!

ZAP: Hey Zip.....It's Halloween and it's time to have a boo-tastic time.....CANDY CANDY CANDY!!!

ZIP: Now Zap.....most candy is really bad for us.....especially chocolate.

ZAP: You sure are a fun sucker. Can't ever do anything!

ZIP: (sigh) Yes true....but we do have some cool costumes on.....HUH!

ZAP: HMPH! Not even a catnip flavored salt water taffy?

ZIP: Well...catnip anything is just crazy....but salt water taffy! The sugar content alone is horrible for any animal, even small amounts of sugar can rot our teeth and even give us diabetes.....just like our humans.

ZAP: Ok....what about those cute little snickers?

ZIP: ZAP!!! I just said no chocolate and NUTS!!! Another big no no!

ZAP: Man, Zip, we can't have any fun.....why do we even celebrate Halloween? No candy.....No cool costumes.....

ZIP: Oh come on.....Zap, look at your costume. That is super-duper!!

ZAP: Yeah....sure my costume. At least I was nice with yours! I'm a girly Minion!

ZIP: It's a bird, a plane it's MINION CAT!

ZAP: Oh sure.....I'll remember minion cat.....yeah.....loading claws NOW!



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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS	DAY
Sarah Abate	4
Alexa Garcia	9
Alyson Gil	10
Apyrl Tovar	13
Michelle Fabbri	21
Rhonda Smith	24
Gabby Salazar	29





# Volunteer Spotlight

Nancy Ballinger

HOWDY FOLKS, MY NAME IS NANCY BALLINGER. I HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERING AT THE SHELTER FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF. COMING IN TO WORK HERE ON SATURDAYS IS PROBABLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY WEEK. I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE ANIMALS AND SINCE I CAN'T BRING THEM ALL HOME, I COME IN HERE TO DO MY LITTLE PART OF TAKING CARE OF THEM HERE. I TRY TO LET THESE FUR BABIES KNOW THAT NOT ALL HUMANS ARE BAD AND SHARE POSITIVE HUMAN INTERACTIONS WITH THEM SINCE MOST OF THESE ANIMALS HAVE HAD LESS THAN AWESOME EXPERIENCES WITH PEOPLE.

I HAVE LEARNED QUITE A BIT SINCE BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, TRAINING WAS MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE THAN I IMAGINED IT WOULD BE, A VERY PLEASANT SURPRISE! I HAVE COMPLETED SOCIALIZATION TRAINING AS WELL AS THE BREED ID WORKSHOP. NOT TOO LONG AGO I WAS ASKED TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR AND WAS BEYOND THRILLED TO TAKE ON NEW THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. I ENJOY TRAINING NEW VOLUNTEERS AND WELCOMING THEM TO THIS AMAZING TEAM OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE SHELTER. THERE'S A LOT OF SPECIAL THINGS GOING ON HERE RIGHT NOW AND IT'S SUCH A THRILL TO SEE THIS SHELTER GROWING MORE & MORE EVERYDAY.

AT HOME I HAVE 2 DOGS, CHESTER & GEE. AND I HAVE QUITE A FEW CATS. MY KIDS HAVE JUST ABOUT EVERY TYPE OF PET YOU CAN IMAGINE ~ FISH, FROGS, LIZARDS, SNAKES, MICE, HAMSTERS, A RABBIT AND PROBABLY SOME I'M FORGETTING. I HAVE TAKEN IN QUITE A FEW ANIMALS OVER THE YEARS. SOME WERE BROUGHT TO ME BY FRIENDS, SOME JUST SHOWED UP ON MY PORCH. SOME HAVE STAYED WITH ME AND SOME HAVE BEEN REHOMED. IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED THAT I HAVE SOME SORT OF "BAT SIGNAL" THAT SHINES UP FROM MY HOUSE TO LET ALL THE WAYWARD ANIMALS KNOW WHERE I LIVE. WHATEVER THE CASE, I JUST LOVE HELPING ANIMALS AND WILL GLADLY KEEP HELPING THE VOICELESS ANIMALS OUT THERE.

## Questions We All Want Answered!

**If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live?** Some where tropical. Nowhere in particular, just a warm, sunny, island somewhere.

**If you just won the lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on?** I would establish a ginormous animal sanctuary on that tropical island I want to live on and fly in rescued animals to live with me in Paradise. OK, not sure about the island paradise thing but I would buy property (a lot) to establish a large animal rescue, probably somewhere here in California.

**If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?** I think I would want some sort of super healing power. That would be so awesome to be able to heal people/animals and take away their sickness and pain!



Happy Halloween!! Ok...I know it's early, but.... Ok...I tried to find a cool picture of a costume, and I thought of IT the clown.....unfortunately, with the bald head.....I look more like Bozo the Clown.

So outside of looking goofy, let's get onto the business part of this message.

We have had an influx of new volunteers over the last couple of months and we have had many of the long timers leave, but the training we are providing for you to learn and take with you is very important to follow.

For those of you who are working, when you started, you were trained by an employer in some capacity. That cost to you is never seen, but let's take it this way.

The 2015 value of a volunteer in any capacity is \$23.56 per hour. That's a lot of money. So when you are

given an opportunity to learn one of the animal processes, the volunteer program is spending a ton of resources on you to take the next step in development.

When this program was built, I knew this was a major factor to it.

I believe in professional development for every volunteer that wants it. This is why I send out videos for you to watch occasionally and invite volunteers out for trainings, like socialization.

So when you are trained to take care of animals, make sure you learn, understand and perform at the highest level for those who have no voice!

### **Boo-tastic Ways!**

Just like the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve, Halloween can be traumatic for your animals too.

Dogs especially. Many breeds will bark at about anything. Some will not, but if you think about this, any noise that is annoying to a dog can make them scared.

Door bells ringing, kid screaming and scary masks will make dogs scared.

My long-time companion that you learned a couple of months back had died, hated anyone with hats. You wore a hat and he would hunch up, growl and bark showing his teeth. EVEN ME!

Once the hat was gone he was friendly as can be. Not sure why that was an issue.

So think of your forever friends and make sure that you protect them from the scary beings roaming around your neighborhood looking for all the treats on Halloween.

Have a safe Holiday.

# Coordinator's