

Critter Chronicles Volume 5, Issue 3



Pet Expo Success!



Our wonderful volunteer taking a quick break from all of the excitemnet!

This year's America's Family Pet Expo was filled with adoption fun and many happy endings! With lots of adorable animals available for adoption, visitors had their



Adorable "Sandy"

chance to meet and greet some of OC Animal Care's finest. With 18 animals finding their forever homes, it was a very successful event. Two especially sweet successes were the adoptions of "Capone" and "Norman," volunteer and staff favorites that had been at the shelter for over two months. These handsome cats were as sweet as can be and they each held their own in a room dominated by dogs! It was easy to see why they had become staff and volunteer favorites. Both adorable



All bundled up!

boys found a family to call their own. All 18 animals are now enjoying their forever homes! Thanks to all of the staff and volunteers for making Pet Expo a weekend full of heartwarming adoption successes!



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We're Here for You!
OC Animal Care
(714) 935-6848
After Hours Pick-up
(714) 935-7158
Visit Us Online
ocpetinfo.com

Find a forever friend



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Volunteer Spotlight

The Not So Heartbroken Volunteer

By: Kate Schlentz



Karmine, the 6 month old Cairn Terrier mix, stole my heart today. Last week it was Max, the 4 year old Lab. The week before it was Marley, the Foxhound mix. Don't even get me started on Cookie and Carla the 9 year old Chihuahua sisters. It happens every time I put on my volunteer shirt and

make my way down to the shelter.

Since my husband, Greg, and I started volunteering at OC Animal Care a lot of our friends and family have asked us, "How do you do it? Doesn't your heart break every time you go there." Nope. Our hearts have never been more full. Do we want to take all of them home? Yes. Do we constantly ask ourselves would one more be too much? Yes. However, we leave the shelter with smiles and warm, fuzzy feelings, not tears and broken hearts.

Our only son was adopted from the shelter almost three years ago. Flea, a Cairn Terrier mix, is one of the many reasons that we decided to start volunteering. He has given us so much love and happiness that we wanted to give back to his friends that haven't found forever homes. We walk dogs. We scoop poop. We administer rubs and talk in baby voices. Our role at the shelter is not difficult. It is not glamorous. It is not even paid! But as all of us, volunteers know it is extremely rewarding.

So... "NO!" to all of you who have asked. No it is not heart breaking. Volunteering at the shelter is quite the opposite. It reminds me that for every one person in this world who neglects, abandons or abuses an animal, there is a staff member, a volunteer or a community member there to step in to love, protect and provide the life that all of these animals deserve. Puppy kisses from Karmine remind me. A wagging tail from Cricket reminds me. A handshake from Max reminds me. Every time I set foot into the shelter at least one dog reminds me why I do it. The dogs, cats, rabbits and all the animals at the shelter appreciate us.

Wanted: Foster Families!



ach year, once the weather begins to warm up, kittens pour into OC Animal Care by the litter. While some kittens are quickly put up for adoption, others are too young to be placed in their permanent homes. Kittens weighing less than two pounds cannot be adopted as they are

too young to be spayed or neutered. This is where our dedicated foster homes step in. Foster Caretakers provide food, shelter, socialization and love to underage kittens until they are big enough for adoption at the shelter. Usually, kittens stay in their foster homes for one to two weeks. In 2009, 526 animals were placed into foster homes and given a second chance at finding their new forever families. If you're interested in our Foster Caretaker program, please attend one of our upcoming orientations. Orientations will be held at OC Animal Care at 10:30 a.m. on May 29, June 26, July 24 and August 28 or contact our volunteer coordinator at (714) 935-6194.

Our Volunteers Have Spirit!



n April 15th, five OC Animal Care Volunteers received the Spirit of Volunteerism Award from the Volunteer Center of Orange County and the Orange County Register. The Spirit of Volunteerism Awards celebrates the commitment and innovative service of

volunteers to charitable organizations throughout Orange County. It recognizes those who give the precious gifts of time and talent to improving lives and strengthening our community. The nominees were treated to a luncheon and ceremony on April 14th, held at the Grand Ballroom in the Disneyland Hotel. Nominees also received a special certificate of recognition for their service. OC Animal Care volunteers are also dedicated to educating the public about the importance of spaying and neutering and responsible pet ownership. A big "Congratulations" and a "Thank You" to the five OC Animal Care nominees: Nick Winters, Stacey Winters, Adrian Sauvageot, Bob Womack and Melinda Miller!

"Promoting Life, Promoting Adoption"

Adopt-a-Pet



Name: Desi ID: A1018130 Age: 3 years Breed: Schnauzer Mix Desi is a charmer and an absolute cutie! He is looking for a forever family to call his own!





Name: Rock
ID: A1014376
Age: 1 year
Breed: Pit Bull Mix
Rock may be a big boy,
but he has an even
bigger heart! Give him
the home he deserves!

best friend!



Name: Roxy
ID: A1012432
Age: 11 years
Breed: DSH
Roxy may be an older
gal, but she still has lots
of love to share. Meet
this sweetie today!



Name: Sally
ID: A1015825
Age: 2 years
Breed: DSH
Sally is a loving girl who
can't wait to meet you.
Visit Sally today and fall
in love!



Name: Sal
ID: A1017432
Age: 1 year
Breed: Short Hair
Sal is as cute as can
be. If you're looking for
a loving rabbit, come
visit him today!

OC Animal Care makes every effort to promote all of the wonderful animals we have available for adoption. At the time of publication, these animals were in need of lifelong homes. All adopted animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped prior to leaving the shelter. If you are interested in adopting a pet, please visit us online at ocpetinfo.com, or simply come down to the shelter!

Volunteers "Give a Day" to OC Animal Care



Volunteers proudly show off their hardwork!

On January 1st, Disney announced its Give a Day, Get a Disney Day program in hopes to inspire volunteers to give back to their community. Through this program, Disney encouraged more than 1 million community members to join volunteer efforts in their neighborhoods. During their day of service, volunteers had the opportunity to complete special projects at local organizations. In return, volunteers earned a free ticket to Disneyland or Disneyworld. OC Animal Care participated in this program by offering five family-friendly volunteer days from January to March.

Participating families made special signs for the animals, beds for the kitten nursery, toys for the cats, and fruit kabobs for the

bunnies. In addition, individual volunteers participated by holding collection drives for towels, blankets and much needed supplies. Through this program, more than 200 community members donated their time to assist the animals at OC Animal Care. Their commitment to the animals and our shelter is very much appreciated. Thanks to all of the volunteers that participated in this program!



The dog kennels never looked so good!



Cathy's Corner



With all of the information available about spaying and neutering, you might think that kitten intake at the shelter would be down. On the contrary, in 2009 the shelter took in more than 1,000 underage kittens that were not old enough for adoption. You might ask what happens to those kittens. In years past, they may have been euthanized. Thankfully,

this is no longer the only option. Thanks to more than 142 foster volunteers and the new kitten nursery, these kittens get a second chance for a forever home and are great examples of OC Animal Care's "Promoting Life, Promoting Adoption" philosophy.

The addition of a kitten nursery has played a huge role in saving underage kittens. The nursery now has sixteen cages to house underage kittens and nursing moms. These additional cages mean that more kittens can be saved for foster homes, sent to rescue groups or raised until big enough for adoption. In 2009, OC Animal Care saw a 7 percent increase in fostered animals. In addition,

more than 800 nursing moms with litters and orphaned kittens were picked up by rescue groups.

Increasing the number of foster caretakers has also helped to save more kittens. Today, there are more than 140 foster caretakers, an increase of 25 percent from 2008. Foster caretakers provide a safe and loving environment for the kitten to grow and become socialized. It is not difficult to become a foster caregiver and it is very rewarding. Kittens that weigh more than 1.5 pounds are sent to foster volunteers until they are big enough for adoption; which can generally take between 2-4 weeks. My husband John, who has been fostering since 2006 said, "Animals are great stress relievers. It's a joy to watch them play and they give you their love so willingly. Sometimes, it's hard to give them up but I know they are going to find a great new home thanks to my efforts."

The goal for 2010 is to continue to increase the numbers of foster caretakers at OC Animal Care. To help reach this goal, we need your help. If you want to be part of this rewarding program, contact Katie Ingram at (714) 935-6194 or katie.ingram@occr.ocgov.com.

Pet Fair 2010 is Coming!



Animal Care is J "Going Green" for our annual Pet Fair . on Saturday, June 19, 2010. We expect to have animal lovers of all kinds, breed rescue groups, wildlife exhibitors, live animal demonstrations, vendors with the latest . in pet care products to pamper your pets. Pet Fair 2010 will be held at OC Animal Care from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The theme .

for this year's Pet Fair is "Pawsitively Green." Our goal is to encourage our community to think of ways to incorporate a "green" way of living; including pet care! Last year we were able to host over 60 vendors, 2,000 visitors, and placed nearly 70 animals into their forever homes. This year we anticipate an even bigger crowd of visitors. For more infortmation, please visit our website at www.ocpetinfo.com or call (714) 935-6848.

Upcoming Events

- 5/1/10 Big Sunday Volunteer Event at OC Animal Care (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- 5/13/10 Licensing Amnesty Event at the Placentia City Hall (1 p.m. 4 p.m.)
- 5/7/10 Cinco De Mayo Event at the Stanton Community Center (5 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.)
- 5/8/10 Licensing Amnesty Event at the Villa Park Civic Center (9 a.m. 3 p.m.)
- 5/11/10 Licesning Amnesty Event at Friendly Animal Hospital in Huntington Beach (10 a.m. 3 p.m.)
- 5/13/10 Licensing Amnesty Event at the Placentia City Hall (1 p.m. 4 p.m.)
- 5/15/10 Licensing Amnesty Event at the Silverado Community Center (9 a.m. 11 a.m.)
- 5/20/10 County of Orange's Green Fair at the Santa Ana Civic Center Plaza (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
- 5/29/10 Foster Caretaker Seminar at OC Animal Care (10:30 a.m.)
- 5/31/10 Memorial Day, OC Animal Care Closed
- 6/12/10 Animal Wellness Event at the Anaheim Convetion Center (10 a.m. 2 p.m.)
- 6/19/10 PET FAIR AT OC ANIMAL CARE (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- 6/26/10 Foster Caretaker Seminar at OC Animal Care (10:30 a.m.)



Adopting a Pet with Your Significant Other? Read These Five Tips Before Adding to Your Family

 Do some research – Couples should discuss what types of pets that they want before making any rush decisions. Researching online, in books and at pet retailers can provide great input on what types of

dogs and cats would be the best fit. Energy level, coat length, medical issues, dietary and grooming needs should also be considered.

Designate responsibilities – Decide early on who is going to be responsible for training, feeding, daily care, exercising, grooming and veterinary care. Remember that a pet is a part of a family and couples should

share the responsibilities. Although owning a pet is a very rewarding experience, it is also a lifetime commitment.

3. Check local shelters and animal rescue groups for the perfect match – There are hundreds of great pets available for adoption at local shelters and rescue groups. These organizations generally have a huge selection of animals of all breeds, shapes, ages and personalities. These animals deserve a second chance to find their forever families. Couples should take the time to visit organizations together to be sure they find their perfect match.

 Purchase supplies and pet-proof the home – After deciding on their new pet, couples should prepare for their arrival. Pet food, bowls, toys, a leash and



time to make it as safe as possible.

5. Consider the Importance of Veterinary Care - Veterinary care can be very expensive and couples should budget accordingly. Pets should be microchipped, spayed/neutered, receive yearly vaccines and an annual physical. These costs can add up, but are worthwhile to ensure a pet can live a long and vibrant life. Couples should consider starting a savings fund or purchase pet insurance to prepare for unexpected medical costs.

Say "Hello" to our New Volunteers

Chimal Care experienced a great turnout at the January volunteer orientations. More than 90 potential volunteers attended the two orientations, packing the room each time to near full capacity. At the orientations, potential volunteers were given an overview of OC Animal Care's services, departments and mission. In addition, attendees were presented with information on all of the available volunteer positions. OC Animal Care volunteers assist with exercising, handling, grooming and training available animals, cleaning and socializing kittens in the nursery, providing customer service, and assisting at both on and off-site events. At the orientations, volunteers are also given a tour of the facility by OC Animal Care staff

and volunteers. They also have the opportunity to ask questions about the program. After the orientations, 63 new volunteers were selected to join the program. This brings the current number of active OC Animal Care volunteers to 401. Please join us in welcoming the new volunteers to the program!

If you are interested in joining the volunteer program, please plan on attending one of the next orientations at OC Animal Care on Saturday, July 3 at 10 a.m. or Wednesday, July 7 at 6 p.m. An RSVP will be required to attend the orientation and space will be limited. RSVP's will be accepted from June 1st – June 20th. Please call (714) 935-6194 for questions or to RSVP.



Celebrating Success

Animal Care takes great pride in promoting our success in adopting our animals into forever homes. We often receive updates from visitors that tell us heart warming stories of how they were either reunited with their lost pet, or had found the perfect companion to take home. Here is the success story of "Rocky" and how he found his forever home, as told by his new family...



"Rocky" smiles for the camera!

ast April, I lost my beloved dog, Kes, to inoperable tumors. As an active OC Animal Care Volunteer, I began fostering kittens. After returning my six foster kittens for adoption, I walked through the available dog section. Rocky was calmly sitting at the front of his kennel. I scratched his head through the bars. Before leaving, I mentioned my interest in adopting him to a staff member, but I also expressed my need to think it over for a few days since I was not in the market for a dog this soon. Later that week, he was still there, almost one month to the day he was surrendered, so I adopted him. I took him to the vet and to get groomed. Later in the week, we went back to the vet and Rocky got eight teeth extracted, a thorough cleaning and antibiotics injected into two areas of his gums to save an additional two teeth that otherwise would have also been extracted. He is worth every penny. He is so mellow and just goes with the flow. You don't even notice that he's 15 years old! Every morning when we go for a walk, tons of people comment on him. People even slow down to get a better look. Children laugh and giggle when they see his new lion cut. He's also made a new friend at a bus stop close to our house who likes to say hi and give him a friendly pat. Never let age or minor health issues deter you from adopting an extended family member into your clan.

~Michelle Coffelt



"Rocky" before he got his "groom" on!



"Rocky" looking quite handsome with his new lion cut!

