

# Our Animals

VOL. 102, NO. 1 SPRING 2008

*The Award-winning Magazine of The San Francisco SPCA*

## The San Francisco SPCA: 140 Years of Progress for Animals





SAN FRANCISCO  
**SPCA**  
139TH YEAR

The San Francisco Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2500 Sixteenth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
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Founded April 18, 1868

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## Our Animals

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# The Spirit of 1868

BY JAN MCHUGH-SMITH, PRESIDENT, SAN FRANCISCO SPCA

**A**pril 18, 2008 marks  
the 140th anniversary  
of the founding of The  
San Francisco SPCA.

From the human stand-  
point, nearly everything  
about San Francisco has  
changed in that time (for the  
better, most of us would like-  
ly agree – think  
indoor plumbing and  
electric lights). From  
the animals' view-  
point, too, nearly  
everything has  
changed. And thank  
goodness! Whether  
dragging hugely  
heavy streetcars,  
hauling loads of rub-  
ble and lumber, or  
pulling wagon-  
mounted steam  
engines for the early  
fire department, hors-  
es did so much of the  
heavy lifting in the  
1800s. Meantime, few  
dogs and cats knew  
about life indoors;  
even as “pets,” these  
animals typically

were on their own, largely ignored.

As the status of animals has changed –  
that is, improved, thanks in large meas-  
ure to the ceaseless work of The  
SF/SPCA – so has this organization's  
focus. The things we do and how we do  
them have evolved (and our activities  
have vastly expanded), yet the spirit of  
1868 remains. The SF/SPCA, only the  
fourth such organization founded in the  
country and the first one established  
west of New York state, is still a driving  
force for change.

Consider The SF/SPCA's many accom-  
plishments in just the year leading up to  
this anniversary.

Construction of The Leanne B.



Roberts Animal Care Center is  
well underway. The 140-year  
history of The SF/SPCA can  
be seen as a continuous  
answer to a single question:  
What's best for the animals?  
This new, state-of-the-art,  
44,000-square-foot veterinary  
facility represents our

resounding 21st-cen-  
tury response to that  
question. Our com-  
mitment is steadfast.  
The SF/SPCA will  
provide more and  
better medical care  
for San Francisco's  
cats and dogs, includ-  
ing those without  
homes, reaffirming  
The SF/SPCA's role as  
a lifesaving friend to  
the animals.

Speaking of lifesav-  
ing, San Francisco's  
numbers for 2007  
show more wonderful  
progress. Intakes are  
down and adoptions  
are up. To start with,  
500 fewer cats and  
dogs entered the care

of the City's shelter, San Francisco Ani-  
mal Care and Control, last year. That's  
500 animals SF/ACC didn't have to take  
care of or find homes for or transfer to  
The SF/SPCA. Meanwhile, in the latest  
chapter of this remarkable public-pri-  
vate partnership, about 2,300 San Fran-  
cisco cats and dogs were transferred  
from the taxpayer-supported SF/ACC to  
the privately funded SF/SPCA, where we  
looked after them and found homes for  
them.

But that's not all. The SF/SPCA also  
works with dozens of other animal  
agencies – municipal shelters, humane  
societies and rescue groups – through-  
out the region and sometimes beyond.

Jan with Pepito

CHARLOTTE FIORITO, FIORITOPHOTO.COM





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The mission of The San Francisco SPCA is to save and protect animals, to provide care and treatment, to advocate for their welfare, and to enhance the human-animal bond.



During the same one-year period, The SF/SPCA took in more than 1,100 additional cats and dogs from these sources. Not only did this mean new homes for more than a thousand animals, it relieved some of the burden faced by these other animal-care groups.

The SF/SPCA's first obligation is always to "our" animals, the animals in our City. As we approach our 140th anniversary, we are doing right by them; in addition, we are reaching out in a significant way to animals in other places.

Remember that by keeping this organization strong, you keep our entire cause vibrant. The leadership shown by The SF/SPCA has inspired other groups large and small to take action. You as a supporter of The San Francisco SPCA should know that you have an impact on not only the animals of San Francisco, but on animals everywhere. Thank you for your generous and continued support!

To help us celebrate this milestone, you're invited to The SF/SPCA's special Open House during the weekend of April 19-20. On Saturday we'll mark the tenth anniversary of the opening of Maddie's Pet Adoption Center (yes, it's been ten years already) and on Sunday The SF/SPCA's many programs will be featured. Stop by to see just how vigorous this 140-year-old organization has become!

For the animals,

— Jan McHugh-Smith, President, SF/SPCA

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On the cover: Before there were bulldozers (or buses, dump trucks, delivery vans, fire trucks or cars), there were horses. SF/SPCA file photo.



# I Found My Heart in San Francisco

*In this San Francisco SPCA love story, it's one change of heart after another, all for the better.*

BY CHRISTINE ROSENBLAT, SF/SPCA

LAURIE ROUTHIER, SF/SPCA (4)



Roofus,  
pooch in  
boots

The first thing children ask about when Roofus ambles into their classroom is his fancy footwear. Those red and black hiking boots with rubber traction soles and light-reflecting strips fastened with Velcro around his ankles make quite the fashion statement.

But Roofus's boots are not for looks nor are they intended for traversing the great outdoors. This functional paw-wear prevents the huge yellow Labrador – Roofus weighs 100 pounds – from taking a tumble and ending up sprawled on the shiny floors of the schools he visits as part of The San Francisco SPCA's Humane Education Program.

"I have no idea why Roofus has butter paws," remarks Shelley

Smith, who adopted him from The SF/SPCA more than two years ago. His veterinary exams didn't turn up any balance problems. Perhaps, in the eight-and-a-half years of his life before she adopted him, Roofus had little experience with slick surfaces. Shelley noticed that even hardwood floors sent Roofus slithering and sliding, so she bought him his footwear. "I think he was happy when I put them on him, once he realized he wasn't going to fall down," she says. "He never tries to kick them off."

His new boots give Roofus a good grip on smooth surfaces; they also symbolize the far better footing he has in life. Before his encounter with The SF/SPCA, Roofus was on a slip-

pery slope downward. In fact, that he's alive at all is a bit of a miracle. That he found Shelley makes it all the more so.

\*\*\*

Roofus first came to The San Francisco SPCA from the Calaveras Humane Society in August, 2005, as part of the Society's LifeLinks Program, which rescues dogs and cats from overburdened regional shelters where their chances of adoption, or survival, are slim.

Shelley, working as an Animal Care Attendant at The SF/SPCA at the time, was on duty the day Roofus and several other dogs arrived from Calaveras County. It was a day that turned out to be very special for her. First of all, it was her birthday. Secondly, when she spotted Roofus, she was drawn to him immediately because she loves big dogs and he was the biggest dog she had ever seen. Indeed, at nearly 140 pounds Roofus was too big, so obese he could hardly walk.

Roofus was checked in to The SF/SPCA, where his medical team soon learned that the neglect this dog had suffered went deeper. One of his ears hosted a messy infection, and his coat was infested with fleas and ticks. In addition, a suspicious lump on his face would need surgical removal plus a biopsy. But a blood test revealed the worst news: Roofus had an acute case of heartworm, a gruesome and hazardous condition.

This parasitic disease is transmitted to cats and dogs by mosquitoes that carry the tiny



heartworm organisms. When an infected mosquito bites a cat or dog, the miniscule heartworm larvae are released into the victim's bloodstream, where they grow. The adult worms actually develop inside the animal's heart and can literally clog it and major blood vessels (each worm may be several inches long), leading to heart failure, lung problems, and complications involving the liver and kidneys. Untreated animals die.

Heartworm appeared in the national spotlight after Hurricane Katrina. People and animal agencies across the country offered to take in orphans from the storm, and a large proportion of the animals rescued from that Gulf Coast disaster – in addition to undergoing starvation, dehydration and abandonment – required treatment for heartworm, including two dozen Katrina casualties cared for by, and eventually adopted out from, The SF/SPCA. San Francisco's chilly climate is inhospitable to the immature heartworm organisms, which require sustained warmth, but the disease is prevalent in many other parts of California, and Calaveras County, located east of San Francisco in the rolling hills of the state's Gold Country, is one of those areas. Preventing heartworm is simple; it involves regular dosing with protective medication. Unfortunately, curing an existing heartworm infestation is almost as dangerous as the disease.

Treatment for heartworm is a two-stage process; the adult heartworms are dealt with first.

The powerful anti-heartworm prescription, derived from arsenic, begins to kill the worms. However, at this point things get perilous because as the worms die and break apart, they lodge in the lungs and arteries and block even more blood vessels than before the



treatment began. In addition, while they are being eliminated from the dog's body by the animal's immune system, the worms release foreign substances into the dog's circulation. A large amount of inflammation and swelling usually occurs at this time and, despite the dog's discomfort, the animal must rest and be kept very quiet for four weeks.

At the end of that month, the remaining larvae are eliminated by the use of a common heartworm preventative, and a few months after the beginning of the entire therapy, the dog is retested to determine if a second treatment is required.

The SF/SPCA shelter veterinarians feared that Roofus had endured heartworm disease for a long time. So, assuming he survived the cure, how much damage had been done to his heart? And how long had this canine senior citizen carried around so much excess weight? Thirty or forty extra pounds alone would seriously tax his heart, never mind its being attacked directly by parasites. Realistically, how much time did Roofus have left on Earth? The SF/SPCA had acquired an

old, seriously overweight dog with an advanced case of heartworm – what would you do?

They began heartworm treatment immediately. And Shelley, knowing that his convalescence would be lengthy, offered to foster Roofus during his healing and recuperation. The following day she took him home with her.

\*\*\*

Just as Roofus's life started over in San Francisco, so did Shelley's. More than once.

Shelley grew up in the Antelope Valley area of Southern California, in a small town near Edwards Air Force Base, and moved to San Francisco several years ago to pursue a master's degree in literature. Because she'd had dogs all her life and missed their company, she began volunteering at The SF/SPCA, an activity that gave her a satisfying emotional outlet. "I was studying literature, which I still love," Shelley explains, "but I just felt much more useful volunteering here than I did in the classroom.... I'm not saying that isn't useful, but I much preferred the time spent here." So much so that not long afterwards, she took a

*Roofus and  
Kathy on  
the job*



## Saying hello

part-time job in the shelter, caring for the animals.

Even that didn't make the grade for Shelley, though; she wanted canine companionship at home, too. As a busy graduate student (with a part-time job to boot), she wasn't prepared to adopt, so she did the next best thing, foster. She is one of those caring individuals who step in and open up their hearts and homes to sick or recuperating homeless animals, looking after them until they are ready to return to The SF/SPCA to find permanent homes. By the time Shelley spoke up to host Roofus, she had an impressive record as an SF/SPCA foster parent.

When a full-time animal care job opened at The SF/SPCA, Shelley found this quite tempting. She wasn't prepared to both work full-time and carry a graduate-level course load, so she realized she had a big decision to make. Shelley followed her heart and voted for the animals. She quit graduate school and became a permanent member of the adoption staff at The SF/SPCA, which is how she first encountered Roofus.

In all, Shelley fostered Roofus

for more than two months, and because the treatment for heartworm requires a tranquil life, their days were quite sedate. "He couldn't exercise much," Shelley recalls. "We did a lot of car rides, some training stuff, and I took him for very short walks every day, but other than that it was just R & R."

Of course, it soon became clear where all this togetherness was leading. "I didn't intend to adopt him. If someone had told me that I would have a giant, yellow Labrador, well...!" Shelley trails off, smiling. "But I have an affinity for older dogs and he was giant and old, and he's such a good dog. He has a lovely temperament – not that he's not a rascal at times – but once I got him [as a foster dog], I decided he was going to be my dog."

On October 24th, 2005, nearly three months after arriving at The SF/SPCA, Roofus was declared medically free of heartworm; Shelley formally adopted him that same day. By then, she had brought him in twice for additional tests, exams and follow-up veterinary work (the lump was a benign tumor); The SF/SPCA took care of his \$1,600 medical bill. Shelley now concentrated on getting Roofus down to a healthy size, although he had already lost some weight during his convalescence with her, despite his doctor-ordered sedentary existence. She also focused on his tendency to eat garbage – all garbage! "We're still working on that," Shelley comments wryly.

Early the next year The SF/SPCA's Humane Education Manager needed a super-friendly dog to interact with a troupe of schoolchildren who were visiting The SF/SPCA, and since Shelley's new pet fit the bill, she was asked if Roofus could be borrowed for the occasion. Roofus's demeanor and disposition wowed every-

one, and he quickly became an official member of the Humane Education's Dog Talk Program. Provided on request and free of charge to all San Francisco schools, The SF/SPCA's Dog Talk, aimed at children in grades 2 - 5, is a half-hour presentation where youngsters get to interact with a friendly dog while they learn about canine safety.

Roofus was teamed up with SF/SPCA volunteer Kathy Brody, who has been giving Dog Talks for a number of years. "Roofus hadn't had any experience, but we tried him in the schools and he was a natural, just fantastic," Kathy says proudly. "He's great with the children, so he's a good dog for them to meet, especially those who are meeting a dog for the first time." Kathy, who had previously worked with two other Dog Talk pooch veterans, Eliza Doolittle and Finley, now became Roofus's colleague and devoted friend.

Twice a week Kathy collects Roofus from Shelley and together they visit schools (public and private) or libraries to present Dog Talk. "The children learn how a dog looks at the world, so they can better interact with him," Kathy explains. "It's so important, not just for children but for adults as well. Roofus always behaves. Shelley says he's very mischievous and playful, but when he's working I haven't seen him that way. He's very serious about the whole thing!"

Kathy can usually persuade the children, some of whom have had bad experiences with dogs, or are culturally unreceptive to canines, to come up and meet Roofus. "Sometimes it will have to be with a teacher or another friend, but it is very seldom that a child won't meet Roofus after watching his or her peers meet him," Kathy reports. "The important thing



is that when children get the information, it helps them understand dog behavior and body language. For instance, I tell them to never stare at a dog – when dogs are staring at each other they're challenging one another. How to meet a dog is my next thing – when you put your hand out and let them smell it, that's a doggy 'hello.' The third thing is what to do when a loose dog, with no leash and no person, runs up to you. Those are the three things I cover, no matter what."

Kathy has also enlisted the youngsters in helping Roofus overcome his garbage-eating proclivity. "When I walk him into the classroom, his head is in every waste basket," Kathy relates. "He's strong, too ... and right away he's locating the lunches, the food, the crumbs! We've started to say 'leave it' when he thrusts his head into a garbage can. At the end of a class, I have him do a 'down' and then I put small treats along his front legs, and the kids all call out 'leave it.' This is hard for him, but he does it. We wait quietly for a few seconds, and he's salivating, and then the children cry out 'take it' and he does, and they feel really good because they were the teachers!"

In 2006 Shelley Smith again felt her heart tugging more strongly in a certain direction, and she made another major career adjustment, choosing to enroll in a graduate program after all: The SF/SPCA's renowned Academy for Dog Trainers. After six grueling weeks, she emerged as a fully accredited dog trainer; she now works professionally at The SF/SPCA and Pets Unlimited, another San Francisco animal welfare agency, as well as running her own private training business. Roofus, her constant companion, is welcome in all her job settings, and Shelley is

proud of his achievements. "He loves the jobs," she smiles fondly. "He loves to see Kathy, loves the classroom, loves children and loves the hospital visits as well."

Yes, hospital visits, too. Combining humane education and animal assisted therapy, Kathy Brody and Roofus recently began visiting UCSF's Moffett Hospital as part of their Dog Talk schedule. "We go to the acutely ill children on the 6th and 7th floors," Kathy explains, "and we do our classroom presentation (in the hospital schoolroom). We've also started doing bedside visits for children who can't get out of bed ... and if they like, Roofus will climb onto the bed and lie next to them."

Such a sweetheart of a dog. How could anyone have given him up? We can only hope that his original guardian was desperate and had no other options. Perhaps Roofus's person meant well but became incapable of looking after him. Maybe his person died and well-meaning friends or neighbors brought Roofus to the animal shelter as a last resort.

Adding to the mystery, whoever surrendered this dog also turned over his registration papers. That's right, Roofus is a true-blue yellow Labrador retriever, a pedigreed pooch in boots.

It's funny how life works out sometimes. Just as Shelley decided that pursuing a particular piece of paper wasn't as important as she thought, so Roofus's fancy papers turned out to be unimportant at a critical juncture in his life – though they did reveal his exact age. Shelley's 100-pound lovebug turned 11 earlier this year.

Kathy Brody recalls a touching moment in a hospital hallway when Roofus exerted his considerable canine charisma: "There was a little boy at the



hospital who had terrible cerebral palsy and who had a constant tremor," Kathy says. He was going down the hall in his wheelchair, his mother walking close behind, and Kathy brought Roofus near him so he could look at the dog.

"All of a sudden," Kathy remembers, "[the boy] leaned over the side of his chair and grabbed onto Roofus's back fur and held on" – not the safe way to say hello to a dog! Yet Roofus seemed to know not to move and stood perfectly still while the little boy hugged him. Ready to intervene, Kathy let the silent encounter continue after she noticed that the boy had completely stopped shaking; she wanted this magical moment between child and dog to last as long as possible. Then Kathy looked at the mom and was surprised to see her crying. In response to the quizzical look on Kathy's face, the mother explained through her tears that she'd never, ever seen her son stop shaking.

"Sometimes," Kathy adds thoughtfully, "I almost feel that Roofus is giving back for having been saved at The SF/SPCA." 🐾

**Roofus and Shelley**

# The San Francisco SPCA: 140

According to the story, The San Francisco SPCA was born in the cries of a distraught pig.

It happened at the corner of Washington and Sansome streets in San Francisco on a spring day in 1868.

Prominent local banker James Sloan Hutchinson was making his way along Sansome when he witnessed a horrifying sight. A boar had broken away from a drove of swine, and Hutchinson watched as two

men on horses chased the panicked pig, roped its front and hind legs, and dragged the terrified, squealing animal along the rough cobblestones. Aghast, Hutchinson stepped in to the street and forced the horsemen to stop their cruelty.

The incident crystallized Hutchinson's concern over widespread animal abuse. Aware of the establishment of the country's first animal protection agency two years earlier, he immediately went to the State Legislature with a bill that made cruelty to animals a crime and provided for the incorporation of "anti-cruelty societies" in California. Governor Haight signed the measure into law on March 30th.

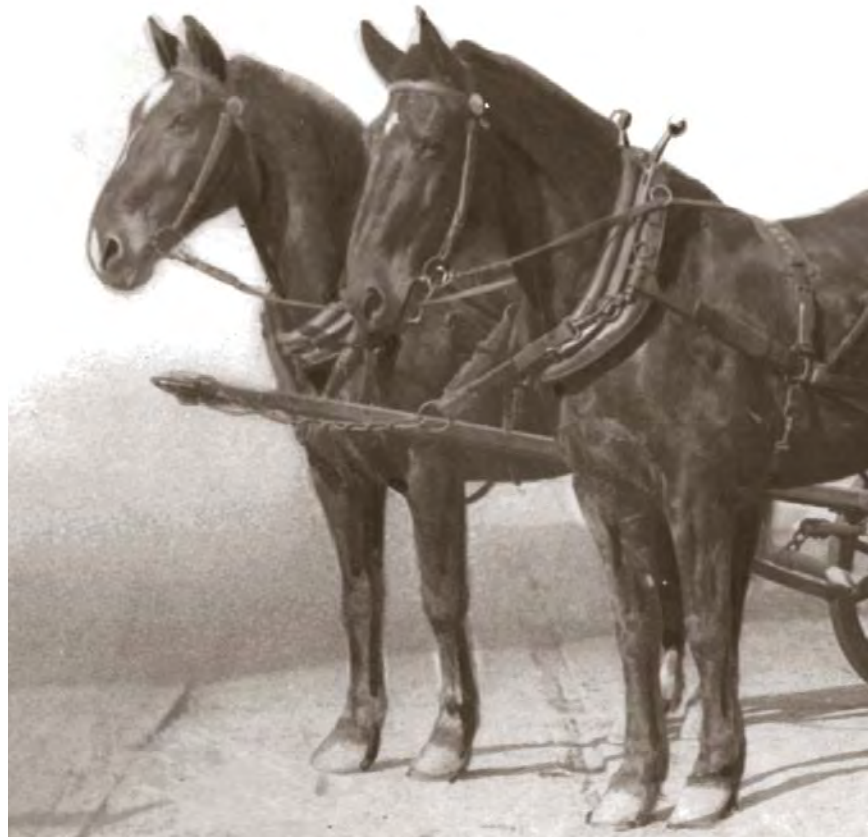
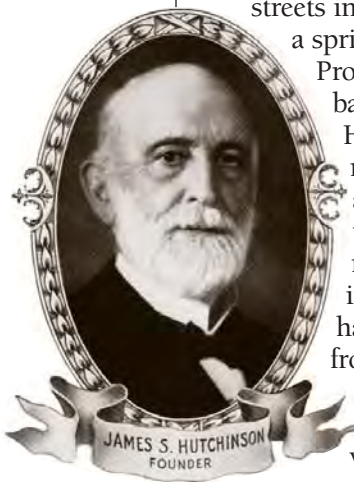
Hutchinson then rallied 15 like-minded citizens to form

The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and on April 18th, the 16-member San Francisco SPCA received its charter from the State of California. It was only the nation's fourth humane society, and the first one west of New York state.

Only a few weeks elapsed between the howl of that frightened hog and the founding of this noble initiative, but the fledgling organization had taken on a project of incalculable magnitude and duration. In this rough-and-tumble pioneer town, the brutal handling of food animals and the mistreatment of draft horses were unquestioned facts of life. The

young SF/SPCA nevertheless got right down to business, dispatching newly appointed humane officers all over the City. Seeking not only to enforce the new anti-cruelty laws but to instill a new point of view among the entire populace, the Society was soon distributing educational literature as well. Only ten years after the Society's inception, The SF/SPCA had prosecuted 53 cases, obtaining convictions for all but six of them.

Though outright cruelty was now illegal, mere abuse was still part of everyday existence. One example was the suffering endured by horses pulling overloaded streetcars up and





# Years of Progress for Animals

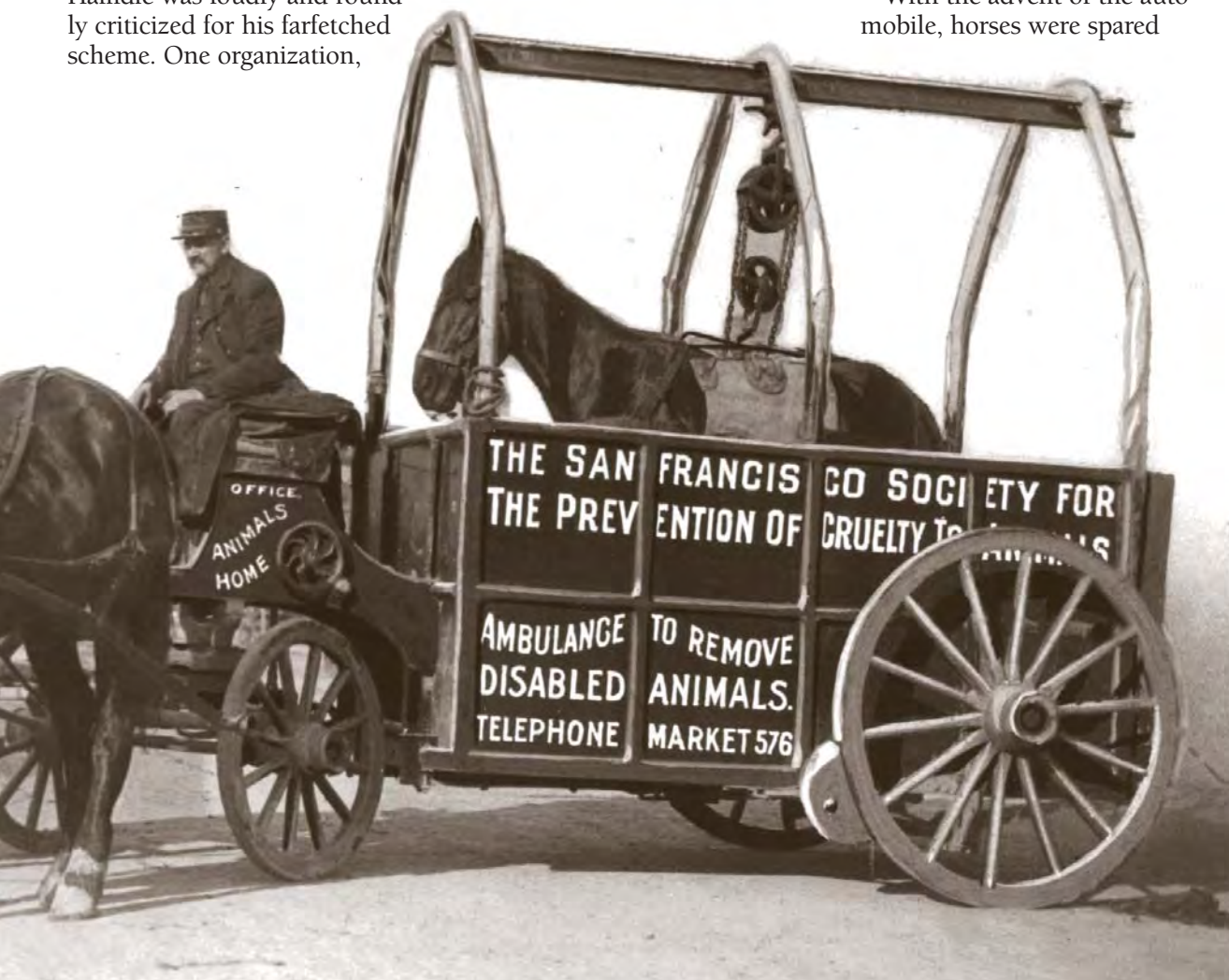
down the City's steep and slippery hills. Strain and injury were frequent among these animals. So were accidents. One man, after witnessing hour horses being dragged backward behind a streetcar whose brakes had failed, worked frantically to free the mutilated animals, then vowed to do something about it. He came up with the idea of a streetcar drawn not by horsepower but by underground cable. Andrew Hallidie was loudly and roundly criticized for his farfetched scheme. One organization,

however, thought highly of Hallidie's notion of "cable cars": The San Francisco SPCA.

In 1906, disaster hit the City. In the days and weeks following the great San Francisco earthquake, SF/SPCA staff were kept constantly busy ministering to animals and humans. Our wagons and ambulances transported supplies to people in need, and moved people in fire-threatened dwellings to safety. Water

troughs for the continuously needed work horses were erected by The SF/SPCA, and Society officers made sure that horses were rotated and well-rested during this time of intensive use. The Society rescued countless horses trapped in burning stables, and veterinarians attended to their injuries. The SF/SPCA also cared for frightened, confused and often injured dogs and cats who survived the calamity.

With the advent of the automobile, horses were spared





*This 1892 photograph shows the original SF/SPCA buildings at Alabama and 16th Streets. Note that while electricity and phone service have arrived, along with tracks for the No. 22 streetcar, the street is unpaved.*

their drudgery, and the Society's concern began to shift to the other animals of our City.

From The SF/SPCA's beginning, humane legislation has been a priority. At the state and local levels, the Society has lent its support or led the way for progressive legislation on behalf of animals. In the early days that meant banning dog and cock fighting, preventing horses' tails from being "docked," and penalizing peo-

ple who overworked horses or show animals. We went on record in 1916 vigorously opposing the sale of unclaimed stray animals to teaching institutions (a practice known as "pound seizure"), and the City passed our position into law in the 1930s.

Mr. Hutchinson would likely be impressed by the comprehensive code now in place for the well-being of animals. It's illegal to abandon a dog or cat.

## When Lobbying was Hazardous to your Health

From a report by William P. Scott, the Society's Secretary, 1872: "At the last meeting of the legislature an amended Bill was introduced in the Assembly to increase the powers of your Society, and altho' it met with persistent opposition from interested persons, it finally passed both houses of the legislature and was signed by the Governor..."

"This act was obnoxious to the Dog and Cockfighters who delighted in the demoralizing spectacle of witnessing dumb animals worry and kill each other, and to show their antipathy to the wholesome provisions of the law assaulted your agent on three different occasions."

Penalties for conducting a dog fight are severe. The steel jaw trap is banned in San Francisco, as is animal sacrifice. For the benefit of people and animals alike, City residents are prohibited from keeping exotic animals such as an alligator or mountain lion as pets. Anyone who leaves an animal in a vehicle that becomes too hot can be cited and fined (and an officer can break into the vehicle if an animal's life is in danger). The same is true for anyone who transports an animal unsecured in an open vehicle. Older San Franciscans are entitled to discounts for adoptions and dog licenses. And, thanks to lengthy legal and legislative battles led by The SF/SPCA, a little dog named Sido was saved from a death decree in the will of her owner.

Yet the laws are only part of the protection San Francisco's animals enjoy. Because thanks to the Society that James Sloan Hutchinson founded, an incredible array of services and programs serves the cats and dogs of our City.

The SF/SPCA today fights pet overpopulation with a low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic that has performed more than 125,000 surgeries, including free surgeries on at least 15,000 feral cats. His Society orchestrates a massive education effort directed at all age levels, from presentations aimed at pre-schoolers to animal-intensive summer camps and from newspaper columns to radio and television spots and a popular Web site.





His Society treats ownerless, friendless animals to the best in medical care. His Society runs an extensive Adoption Outreach Program and a well-staffed Animal Behavior Program to help “unwanted” or “difficult” animals find their way into loving homes. His Society grants financial assistance to thousands of pet guardians who lack the resources to provide veterinary care for their animal companions. (Last year alone, The SF/SPCA’s charitable medical services totaled well over \$1,000,000.)

His Society runs a Hearing Dog Program that trains homeless dogs to be living hearing aides, placing them with deaf or hearing-impaired people all over California, virtually free. His Society saves hundreds upon hundreds of kittens every year thanks to an at-home Foster Care Program. His Society offers a large Animal Assisted Therapy Program, bringing the gentle presence of animals to people in medical facilities all over the City, free. His Society sponsors the Academy for Dog Trainers, which attracts students from all over the nation

(and beyond) to learn humane and effective techniques that the graduates then teach to others in their respective regions; while here, the students practice on the homeless dogs at The SF/SPCA.

And with all this, Hutchinson’s Society still cares for horses. All the trusty steeds retired from the San Francisco Police Department receive lifetime care at a country ranch, courtesy of The San Francisco SPCA.

And so it was that one man’s activism, inspired by cries from an innocent pig, sparked the humane movement in the western United States and launched The San Francisco SPCA, which has become one of San Francisco’s most enduring and respected institutions as well as a national leader in saving homeless cats and dogs. A bronze plaque on Clay St. at Leidesdorff Alley, across from the Transamerica Pyramid, commemorates this historic event.

In 140 years The San Francisco SPCA has come a long way for animals. With your commitment, we’ll go further still.

## Looking Back: Protecting Life and Providing Love for 140 Years

**1868:** James Sloan Hutchinson founds The San Francisco SPCA and lobbies the California State Legislature to pass a bill making cruelty to animals a crime.

**1869:** The SF/SPCA is staffed with 36 volunteer humane officers.

**1877:** The SF/SPCA prosecutes 53 animal cruelty cases and obtains 47 convictions.

**1884:** The SF/SPCA designs and constructs a horse ambulance, the first of its kind in the West.

**1888:** The San Francisco Board of Supervisors receives a petition signed by more than 18,000 citizens demanding that the public pound be placed under SF/SPCA control.

**1890:** The SF/SPCA builds two small wooden buildings, including an “Animals Home” at 16th and Alabama streets.

**1891:** The SF/SPCA adds a horse-drawn “Dog Wagon,” providing the first transportation for animals picked up in the street. SF/SPCA Trustee John Partridge is appointed San Francisco’s “Poundmaster.”

**1898:** The SF/SPCA hires its first full-time female employee, Miss M. E. McGraw. She visits schools, conducts classes in humane education and organizes Bands of Mercy, groups of children who meet regularly to exchange facts and stories about humane care of animals.

**1903-1904:** The SF/SPCA successfully lobbies for a new state law forbidding the use of spiked bits on riding horses.

**1905:** A court order gives The SF/SPCA full responsibility for animal control services in San Francisco.

**1905 - 1907:** California passes laws requiring humane transport of animals and outlawing cockfighting, dog fighting and docking of horses’ tails.

**1906:** The SF/SPCA comes to the aid of animals imperiled by San Francisco’s devastating earthquake and fire. The SF/SPCA saves hundreds of horses from burning stables, and rescues more than 300 lost dogs suffering from hunger and thirst.

**1911:** The SF/SPCA is chosen to host the annual convention of the American Humane Association, meeting for the first time west of the Rockies.

CONTINUED



## Animal Control: Acting as San Francisco's "Poundmaster"

In the late 1800s, San Francisco's city-run pound was a dismal place. Employees, known as "poundmen," were paid by the number of animals they impounded. They seized pet dogs from the arms of women and children, broke down fences to take horses and cattle, and treated the impounded animals brutally.

The San Francisco SPCA brought the abuses to light, and the citizens of San Francisco presented the Board of Supervisors with a petition demanding that the pound be placed under SF/SPCA control. Signed by 18,000 people, it was San Francisco's largest public petition to date. In 1891 SF/SPCA Trustee John Partridge was named City Poundmaster. However, political battles over control of the pound continued until 1905, when a court order finally gave The SF/SPCA full responsibility for animal control services in San Francisco.

Eighty-four years later, in 1989, The SF/SPCA turned the job over to a new city department, San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SF/ACC). Creation of this new agency made many more resources available to the City's animals. The move also allowed The SF/SPCA to focus its energies on pioneering programs for the treatment and adoption of homeless cats and dogs. Meanwhile, SF/ACC built a city shelter and established itself as one of the nation's leading municipal animal control agencies.

In 1994 The SF/SPCA and SF/ACC joined forces in a pact to guarantee a home for San Francisco's adoptable cats and dogs. Each year, more than 2,000 animals are transferred from SF/ACC to The SF/SPCA, where they stay until they find a home. Working together, The SF/SPCA and SF/ACC have made San Francisco the nation's safest city for homeless cats and dogs.



## Power of an Image: The Story of Our Symbols

Of all the problems Henry Bergh faced in the 1860s, designing an emblem was not the biggest, but he knew it was important.

As founder of the first Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the United States (the original SPCA was established in England in 1824), Bergh sought to inculcate a new consciousness – be kind to animals – and to enforce new laws forbidding cruelty. And he wanted to incorporate those messages in the symbol for this new kind of organization, not an easy assignment.

In the modern world we're accustomed to "logos" (short for logotype), employed by for-profit and nonprofit entities alike to establish a "look" or "corporate identity." In the 1800s, however, a logo had a bigger job to do. Since many people couldn't read, a company's logo often pictured its product and, as we might say today, made a statement about



the quality of that product – for example, furniture that was sturdy and long-lasting, metalwork that was finely finished, wagon wheels that were well-made and durable. The logo became a short-hand way to both convey information and elicit a feeling. In only a glance, the audience could quickly grasp its meaning.

The etching Bergh commissioned depicts a monstrous moment, though one that was commonplace at the time. A heavily laden cart has proven too much for the horse pulling it and the animal has collapsed. Yet even as the helpless horse is sprawled on the ground, still harnessed to its overwhelming burden, a man lifts a club to strike the defenseless creature, a barbaric as well as senseless act. A guardian angel, however, has raised her hand to stop the club's swing.

Significantly, the angel also carries a sword, representing punishment in the form of the new laws. The implication is clear: should a perpetrator of cruelty not respond to a simple, humane plea to stop, the law can and will be enforced.

This “avenging angel” symbol, as it came to be known, was made available to other humane societies as they sprouted across the nation in the late 1800s; each independent organization that chose to



adopt the logo simply added its own name in the band circling the scene, as did The San Francisco SPCA, only the fourth SPCA founded in the United States, and the first one created west of

New York state.

It's a remarkable piece of art that tells a story, even conveying a moral lesson. This small picture became a powerful symbol that not only identified these new organizations but proclaimed their beliefs and illustrated their principal activity.

The logo well represented The San Francisco SPCA for more than 100 years, even decades after the era of horse-power had evolved into the Automobile Age. By the late 1920s horses were rare clients at The SF/SPCA, where resources had shifted to dogs and cats. Still, this dramatic scene in a circle remained The SF/SPCA's public signature until well past the middle of the 20th century in deference to our heritage.

Finally, in the 1970s The SF/SPCA created an updated emblem to represent its new focus on canines and felines. More abstract than the original SPCA symbol, the new one nevertheless tells in a flash what the organization is all about. The new logo, only about 30 years young at this point, may well serve The SF/SPCA for another 100 years.



*A rescue in progress*

**1913:** San Francisco's last horse-drawn street-car rolls up Market Street, driven by Mayor James Rolph, Jr.

**1914-1917:** During World War I, The SF/SPCA is part of the national Red Star Animal Relief, raising funds to aid horses used by the armed forces. Red Star supplies horse ambulances, bandages, medicines and veterinary supplies, and is credited with saving the lives of countless horses on the battlefield.

**1918:** Lottie G, an elderly horse who served the San Francisco Fire Department, is the first horse retired to the SF/SPCA Animals Home Farm. Instead of being sold, retired Fire and Police Department horses can now spend their golden years on quiet country ranches, thanks to The SF/SPCA's new “pensioners’ fund.”

**1919:** San Francisco's last horse-drawn fire engine is replaced by a gasoline-powered one.

**1924:** The SF/SPCA Animal Hospital opens to the public.

**1932:** The SF/SPCA replaces its many structures with a single, block-long, Spanish Mission-style building that is still home to The SF/SPCA today.

**1941:** After the attack on Pearl Harbor, people and pets are evacuated from Hawaii. Animals are shipped separately from people, and in many cases their first stop is San Francisco. The SF/SPCA receives and cares for these pets until they can be reunited with their families throughout the country.

**1955:** The SF/SPCA establishes an Education Division to formalize its longstanding commitment to humane education.

**1962:** The SF/SPCA breaks ground for the Memorial Shelter Project to expand and upgrade its shelter and hospital.

**1976:** The SF/SPCA establishes a low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, the first in San Francisco.

**1977:** The SF/SPCA Animal Hospital intro-

CONTINUED



*Mrs. Marguerite Doe Courtney pulling first horse in box stall of hospital she generously donated to the SFSPCA.*

## Animal Hospital: Intensive Caring Then and Now

For years after the end of the Great War (World War I), The San Francisco SPCA tried to raise the funds to build a desperately needed animal hospital, to no avail.

Then, SF/SPCA member Marguerite Doe Courtney came forward with more than \$30,000 for the project (a veritable fortune in those days). She made the donation in honor of her father, J. Sanborn Doe, who first taught her to love animals.

The model facility opened its doors on November 8, 1924. "Nothing that human ingenuity could devise or money buy that is necessary for the comfort of animals has been omitted," proclaimed the announcement in *Our Animals*.

Most of the original building was devoted to horses (including a specialized operating room for them), but that soon changed as dogs and cats became the predominant patients. Numerous renovations over the years plus constant equipment upgrades kept pace with veterinary progress. Today, The SF/SPCA Animal Hospital is one of the largest veterinary care centers in the city, dispensing more than 20,000 treatments annually to animals of San Francisco residents and in support of the local veterinary community. And through our many innovative charitable programs (including the Emergency Veterinary Care Fund, Homeless

Services Program, Senior Partnerships, and Pet-A-Care), our Hospital also provides our city's needy animals with more than a million dollars of free medical services every year.

Despite this workload, for the past 25 years our Hospital has received the highest ranking possible from the American Animal Hospital Association. The AAHA inspectors' checklist of 800 standards covers every aspect of medical care, from services, staff, equipment and medical procedures to thorough and complete record-keeping. The exceptional level of care and client service provided by the Society's facility places it among the top 12% of all veterinary hospitals in North America.

Unfortunately, The SF/SPCA Animal Hospital long ago outgrew its space, and for years The SF/SPCA made plans and sought funding for a new, larger medical building.

Then, an extraordinary gift



## Honoring the Horses

From *Our Animals*, Sept., 1911: "... the ninth of this month San Francisco was the scene of the greatest parade of work horses ever held to that time. For three hours the equine toilers that take so important a part in our city life passed in a steady file before the grandstand.... Two thousand and sixty-nine of them there were and 986 drivers. While along the eight miles of sanded streets that made up the route of the parade, held back by ropes and detachments of police, over 200,000 people stood watching division after division file by. Never before had the humble work horse been tendered such an ovation."





*Architectural drawing of entrance to The Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center*

from the late Mrs. Leanne B. Roberts, who served on The San Francisco SPCA Board of Directors for 15 years, together with donations from her family and hundreds of other SF/SPCA supporters, turned the dream into reality.

Now under construction and scheduled to open in 2009, The Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center will offer all of San Francisco's cats and dogs the most advanced and comprehensive medical services. An intensive-care ward with telemetry will monitor vital signs of critical patients. Direct digital radiology and ultrasound capabilities will complement two modern in-house laboratory rooms with advanced diagnostic equipment. The Feral Cat Assistance Program will receive much-needed dedicated space. And a new surgical suite will double the capacity of the existing Spay/Neuter Clinic. In addition, referral service to a nearby specialty practice, San Francisco Veterinary Specialists, Inc., will provide our City's cats and dogs, including the homeless ones, with the best medical care possible.

On the occasion of this

140th anniversary, The SF/SPCA salutes with extreme gratitude the rare and generous impulses that created our first hospital more than 80 years ago and that will give birth to our new world-class veterinary care center in the very near future.

## Historical Honor Roll

Few enterprises that began in 19th-century San Francisco survive, but you may be surprised by how many names you recognize in this selected list.

- 1849** Boudin Bakeries
- 1852** Wells Fargo Bank
- 1853** Levi Strauss & Co.
- 1863** Cliff House, Heald College, Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.
- 1865** Both the Chronicle and Examiner, Gump's
- 1868** San Francisco SPCA
- 1868** S. Martinelli & Co., Guittard Chocolate Co.
- 1870** Sherman Clay & Co.
- 1874** Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro (law firm)
- 1875** Palace Hotel
- 1893** Ghirardelli Chocolate Co.
- 1896** Anchor Steam Beer Brewery



*The SF/SPCA around 1920*

duces Pet-A-Care, providing discounted veterinary services to qualified low-income San Franciscans. At the urging of The SF/SPCA, San Francisco bans steel jaw traps, California's first such ordinance.

**1978:** The SF/SPCA establishes the first humane society-based Hearing Dog Program.

**1980:** The SF/SPCA begins one of the nation's first Adoption Outreach programs, setting up mobile adoption centers throughout the city so cats and dogs can meet more potential adopters. The SF/SPCA establishes the Foster Care Program, nurturing underage, sick or injured cats and dogs in volunteer foster homes until they are old enough or well enough to be adopted.

**1981:** The SF/SPCA sues to stop the state from killing deer on Angel Island. With help from The SF/SPCA, more than 200 deer are relocated to the Mayacamas Mountains. The SF/SPCA establishes the first humane-society based Animal Assisted Therapy Program.

**1982:** The SF/SPCA establishes the Sido Program, finding new loving homes for dogs and cats whose owner/ guardians have passed away.

**1983:** The SF/SPCA Animal Hospital establishes the Emergency Care Fund to assist low-income San Francisco residents whose pets have a life-threatening illness or injury. The SF/SPCA begins the Pet Loss Support Group for people grieving the death of a pet.

**1984:** The SF/SPCA establishes a free Behavior Advice Line, providing the public with help managing pet behavior issues, as well as referrals to qualified trainers and behavior specialists.

**1987:** The SF/SPCA launches Holiday Windows, an annual event that brings adoptable cats and dogs to downtown store windows between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

CONTINUED



*Retired  
SFPD horses  
at their  
SF/SPCA  
ranch*

## Animal Ambulances: Rolling to the Rescue

**I**n 1884 The San Francisco SPCA built a horse ambulance, the first of its kind in the West. The unique vehicle

was used for horses before ambulances were used for people. During its first month in operation, the ambulance came to the aid of six disabled horses. In those days, San Francisco roads were primitive and poorly maintained. The ambulance frequently rescued horses who had fallen into ditches and

excavations on city streets

After The SF/SPCA took charge of the city pound in 1905, it introduced a horse-drawn, small-animal ambulance for stray dogs and cats. As horse power gave way to gasoline power, The SF/SPCA implemented motor-driven ambulances for horses and small animals. In 1943, The SF/SPCA had four ambulances, equipped with short-wave police radio receivers, to pick up strays. And by the 1980s, The SF/SPCA maintained a fleet of large, modern vans custom-fitted with all manner of lifesaving equipment, even a quick-inflating raft for on-water rescues.

While no longer in the rescue business (the City's Department of Animal Care and Control now handles this duty), The SF/SPCA still retains one horse ambulance, though it's been many years since it transported any equine passengers. This vehicle's newest feature, the cab, itself more than 30 years old, is attached to the back of the original horse-



## A Rough Start

**T**here was enormous resistance to the new anti-cruelty measure. Even judges sworn to uphold the law were slow to realize that something new had been written into the nation's moral as well as legal codes. This attitude, which today seems unbelievable, was encountered in the Society's first arrest case, reported in the minutes of June 20, 1868: "... after a lengthy trial during which the defendant was proven to have unmercifully beaten and otherwise ill-treated his horse, the Justice ruled that a man has a right to punish his horse to make it useful to him as its owner, and dismissed the case."





drawn ambulance, which was modified over the years with new side panels and a removable top. In the early 1980s, the ambulance was used to help the deer on Angel Island. After the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the ambulance delivered supplies to hard-hit animal shelters throughout Northern California. For many years, it

was also used to transport Police Department horses to the SF/SPCA retirement ranch.

These days The SF/SPCA horse ambulance enjoys semi-retirement, trotted out only for special occasions such as parades and ceremonies. Look for it during The SF/SPCA's 140th-anniversary weekend celebration.



## He Meant Business

Capt. Burns, the Society's first Humane Officer, was not a man to be trifled with. From a newspaper clipping dated November 6, 1877: "On Tuesday morning special officer Burns found that a horse being driven by a potato peddler by the name of J. U. Sullivan was unfit for work, and the possessor was arrested and ordered to take the animal into town. He refused. Burns put on the handcuffs, tied the reins to the bracelets and started the horse for town, thus forcing Sullivan to follow. The wagon and harness were left behind."

**1989:** After 84 years as San Francisco's animal control agency, The SF/SPCA turns the job over to a new city department, San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SF/ACC), allowing The SF/SPCA to focus its resources on pioneering programs for the treatment and adoption of homeless cats and dogs. The SF/SPCA begins spaying or neutering all dogs and cats prior to adoption.

**1991:** The SF/SPCA launches the Open Door Program, helping people find pet-friendly housing and encouraging landlords to open their doors to responsible tenants with pets.

**1993:** The SF/SPCA begins the Feral Fix program, providing free spay/neuter surgery for San Francisco's feral cats.

**1994:** The SF/SPCA and San Francisco Animal Care and Control partner in a pact to guarantee a home for all of San Francisco's adoptable cats and dogs.

**1998:** The SF/SPCA opens the groundbreaking Maddie's Pet Adoption Center, where dogs and cats awaiting adoption live in light, airy comfortable rooms.

**1999:** The SF/SPCA establishes the Academy for Dog Trainers, offering comprehensive, leading-edge education for dog behavior and training professionals.

**2001:** The SF/SPCA is profiled on "The Visionaries," a national public television series about people and organizations driving positive social change.

**2002:** The SF/SPCA's "9 Lives" video how-to series on managing feral cats is released. The SF/SPCA establishes LifeLinks, working with Northern California shelters that are overburdened, transferring animals that might otherwise have to be euthanized to The SF/SPCA for adoption.

**2003:** The SF/SPCA's Police Horse Retirement Program celebrates 85 years of service.

**2004:** The historic Adoption Pact between The SF/SPCA and SF/ACC reaches a milestone – no adoptable dogs or cats have been killed in San Francisco for ten straight years.

**2005:** Dogs at Sea: The SF/SPCA's first Dog Day on the Bay.

**2006:** The SF/SPCA's Spay/Neuter Clinic observes its 30th anniversary year by performing 6,497 surgeries, all of them heavily subsidized, the vast majority of them free.

**2007:** The SF/SPCA begins constructing The Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center. Shortly after hiring its first female president, The SF/SPCA also elects a woman as Chair of the Board for the first time.



## Good Will Toward Animals – and Be Specific.

**M**aking San Francisco SPCA animals a beneficiary of your will, trust, life insurance, or IRA is a powerful way to protect innocent lives far into the future. Be sure to use the SF/SPCA's full corporate name: "The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals." This prevents confusion with other animal organizations that contribute little or nothing to our efforts. Suggested wording: I give to The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my

estate (or, if insurance policies, land or other property, please describe).

Remember, the San Francisco SPCA, founded in 1868 as a private and independent nonprofit, is a stand-alone organization that has made our city the national leader in saving the lives of dogs and cats. You are all our animals have. Please contact Katy Volz at the SF/SPCA, (415) 554-3027 or [kvolz@sfsPCA](mailto:kvolz@sfsPCA), with any questions.



## Pet Press

- Comcast on Demand  
Pet Care Tips
- FETCH The Paper  
Pets of the Month &  
Event Listings
- KSFO 560 AM  
Weekday mornings  
around 8:40 am
- KGO Channel 7  
Morning News  
Third Friday of the  
month around 11:25 am
- San Francisco Advertiser  
10 Pets of the Week
- San Francisco Bay  
Guardian  
Featured Pet of the Week
- Marina Times  
Pet of the Month &  
"Kibble & Bits" column
- BAY WOOF  
Event Listings
- KOIT 96.5 FM Website  
Pet of the Week
- The City Star  
Pet Corner

## AnimalUpdate

- KCBS All News 740 AM  
Sunday: 1:35 pm,  
3:36 pm, 9:22 pm.  
Monday: 1:53 am

## Tails of Devotion

A Look at the Bond Between People and Their Pets



Emily Scott Pottruck • Foreword by Amy Tan

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*A San Francisco SPCA-sponsored bill aims to extend legal protection to companion animals throughout California.*



"This is a great step forward in protecting pets throughout California," said Jan McHugh-Smith, President of The San Francisco SPCA. "SB 685 will provide the legal basis

to make certain that the careful planning of pet owners is carried out and that pets continue to be cared for and safeguarded even after the passing of their owners.”

Currently, although California has recognized pet trusts for many years, these are only “honorary” trusts with no enforcement capability. SB 685 makes pet trust law consistent with other trust law by requiring trustees to carry out trust instructions regarding pets, and by incorporating oversight to guarantee performance.

“The passage of the Pet Trust Bill will bring peace of mind to pet guardians who are seeking to ensure that their companion animals will not be abandoned in a shelter if their people predecease them,” McHugh-Smith said. She added that The San Francisco SPCA has operated its Sido Program for some years as another way of providing a measure of certainty for guardians about the long-term future of their animals. The SF/SPCA pledges to find another loving home for dogs and cats enrolled in the Sido Program.

The bill, initiated at The SF/SPCA by Dr. Renee Pittin, SF/SPCA Legislative Liaison, is also supported by the Humane Society of the United States, several Bay Area humane societies and other advocacy groups.

SB 685 will be heard next in the Assembly Judiciary Committee before moving to the full Assembly for consideration. Assuming passage there, the bill will then go to the Governor; his signature will make it law.

For more information about The SF/SPCA's Sido Program, visit [sfspca.org](http://sfspca.org) or call Katy Volz at The SF/SPCA, (415) 554-3027. 🐾



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## Annual Cat & Dog Statistics and Live Release Rate Formula SF/SPCA 2007 Annual Report

|  | Dog  | Cat  | Total |
|--|------|------|-------|
| <b>A Beginning Shelter Count (01/01/07)</b>  | 48   | 208  | 256   |
| <b>INTAKE (Live Dogs &amp; Cats Only)</b>  |      |      |       |
| From the Public  |      |      |       |
| Healthy  | 83   | 234  | 317   |
| Treatable - Rehabilitatable  | 16   | 17   | 33    |
| Treatable - Manageable   | 46   | 83   | 129   |
| Unhealthy & Untreatable  | 9    | 0    | 9     |
| <b>B Subtotal Intake from the Public</b>   | 154  | 334  | 488   |
| Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition   |      |      |       |
| Healthy  | 66   | 608  | 674   |
| Treatable - Rehabilitatable  | 35   | 1197 | 1232  |
| Treatable - Manageable   | 14   | 157  | 171   |
| Unhealthy & Untreatable  | 0    | 2    | 2     |
| <b>C Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs within Community/Coalition</b>  | 115  | 1964 | 2079  |
| Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition  |      |      |       |
| Healthy  | 416  | 303  | 719   |
| Treatable - Rehabilitatable  | 203  | 98   | 301   |
| Treatable - Manageable   | 109  | 25   | 134   |
| Unhealthy & Untreatable  | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| <b>D Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs outside Community/Coalition</b>   | 728  | 426  | 1154  |
| <b>E Subtotal Intake from Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia</b>   | N/A  | N/A  | N/A   |
| <b>F TOTAL INTAKE [B + C + D + E]</b>  | 997  | 2724 | 3721  |
| <b>G Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable Only)</b>  |      |      |       |
| <b>H Adjusted Total Intake [F minus G]</b>   | 997  | 2724 | 3721  |
| <b>ADOPTIONS (Only dogs and cats adopted by the public)</b>  |      |      |       |
| Involving Dogs and Cats From Animal Control and Traditional Shelters   |      |      |       |
| Healthy  | 683  | 277  | 960   |
| Treatable - Rehabilitatable  | 88   | 1532 | 1620  |
| Treatable - Manageable   | 20   | 568  | 588   |
| Unhealthy & Untreatable  | 2    | 4    | 6     |
| <b>Subtotal Adoptions Involving Dogs and Cats from Animal Control and Traditional Shelters</b>                                 | 793  | 2381 | 3174  |
| Involving Dogs and Cats From the Public and Other Organizations  |      |      |       |
| Healthy  | 115  | 275  | 390   |
| Treatable - Rehabilitatable  | 8    | 11   | 19    |
| Treatable - Manageable   | 0    | 17   | 17    |
| Unhealthy & Untreatable  | 2    | 0    | 2     |
| <b>Subtotal Adoptions Involving Dogs and Cats from the Public and Other Organizations</b>                                      | 125  | 303  | 428   |
| <b>I TOTAL ADOPTIONS</b>   | 918  | 2684 | 3602  |
| <b>OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations within Community/Coalition</b>  |      |      |       |
| Healthy  | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| Treatable - Rehabilitatable  | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| Treatable - Manageable   | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| Unhealthy & Untreatable  | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| <b>J TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs within Community/Coalition</b>   | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Community/Coalition  |      |      |       |
| Healthy  | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| Treatable - Rehabilitatable  | 3    | 0    | 3     |
| Treatable - Manageable   | 9    | 8    | 17    |
| Unhealthy & Untreatable  | 46   | 3    | 49    |
| <b>K TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs outside Community/Coalition</b>  | 58   | 11   | 69    |
| <b>L RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN</b>  | 7    | 41   | 48    |
| <b>DOGS &amp; CATS EUTHANIZED</b>  |      |      |       |
| <b>M Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</b>  | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| <b>N Treatable - Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</b>  | 1    | 14   | 15    |
| <b>O Treatable - Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</b>   | 9    | 19   | 28    |
| <b>P Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</b>  | 12   | 45   | 57    |
| <b>Q TOTAL EUTHANASIA [M + N + O + P]</b>  | 22   | 78   | 100   |
| <b>R Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable Only)</b>  |      |      |       |
| <b>S ADJUSTED TOTAL EUTHANASIA [Q minus R]</b>   | 22   | 78   | 100   |
| <b>T SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES [I + J + K + L + S] Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable Only)</b> | 1005 | 2814 | 3819  |
| <b>U DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE</b>  | 1    | 23   | 24    |
| <b>V TOTAL OUTCOMES [T + U] Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable Only)</b>                | 1006 | 2837 | 3843  |
| <b>W Ending Shelter Count (12/31/07)</b>   | 39   | 95   | 134   |

# SF/SPCA by the Numbers

In August 2004, a group of animal welfare industry leaders from across the nation met at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California. Their purpose was to build bridges across varying philosophies among those involved in animal welfare, to develop relationships and create goals focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the U.S.

A common vision for the future was adopted – the Asilomar Accords. The Accords set forth guiding principles for animal welfare organizations to work together to save the lives of all healthy and treatable companion animals. To achieve this, there is a national effort for all organizations that shelter animals to utilize the same statistical record keeping.

Utilizing the Asilomar Accords reporting system, the chart on this page shows a 97% live release rate for The San Francisco SPCA. The Live Release Rate for a single agency = Adoptions + All Outgoing Transfers + Return to Owner/Guardian divided by Total Outcomes excluding owner/guardian-requested euthanasia (unhealthy and untreatable) and dogs and cats that died or were lost in the shelter/care.

The chart on the next page shows the results of our combined efforts in San Francisco: The SF/SPCA's successful partnership with San Francisco Animal Care & Control (working together under the Adoption Pact) and with local rescue organizations resulted in a live release rate of 85%, among the highest of any urban area in the nation. The Live Release Rate for a coalition = Adoptions + Return to Owner/Guardian divided by Total Outcomes excluding all outgoing transfers, owner/guardian requested euthanasia (unhealthy and untreatable), and dogs and cats that died or were lost in the shelter/care.

All figures are for cats and dogs only; nearly 40% of the animals taken in by ACC, as the City's shelter for all animals (domestic and wild), are not cats or dogs. For more information visit: [www.asilomaraccords.org](http://www.asilomaraccords.org) 🐾



While the San Francisco coalition's statistics, as compiled according to the Asilomar Accords guidelines, are quite good, they do not tell the whole story. Beyond these numbers, The SF/SPCA took in 1,154 additional animals (line D from the other chart) and ACC took in seven more, as reported below. Therefore, 1,161 "extra" cats and dogs, most of them from outside San Francisco County, enjoyed happy endings last year thanks to our coalition's life-saving endeavors.

## 2007 Calendar Year (January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007)

### LIVE INTAKES

|                                  | ACC  | SF/SPCA | Total |
|----------------------------------|------|---------|-------|
| <b>Stray &amp; Public Intake</b> |      |         |       |
| Dog .....                        | 2161 | 158     | 2319  |
| Cat .....                        | 4339 | 340     | 4679  |
| Total Cats & Dogs .....          | 6500 | 498     | 6998  |

### TRANSFERS

#### ACC Transfers to SF/SPCA

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Dog .....               | 111  |
| Non-Feral Cats .....    | 1958 |
| Feral Cats .....        | 264  |
| Total Cats .....        | 2222 |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 2333 |

#### All Other Rescue Intake

|             |   |      |      |
|-------------|---|------|------|
| Dog .....   | 0 | 728  | 728  |
| Cats .....  | 7 | 426  | 433  |
| Total ..... | 7 | 1154 | 1161 |

Total Agency Intake ..... 6507 ..... 3721

#### All Other Rescue Transfers

|                         |     |    |     |
|-------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Dog .....               | 284 | 58 | 342 |
| Cat .....               | 144 | 11 | 155 |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 428 | 69 | 497 |

### OUTGOING

#### Adoptions

|                         |      |      |      |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| Dog .....               | 322  | 918  | 1240 |
| Cat .....               | 849  | 2684 | 3533 |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 1171 | 3602 | 4773 |

#### Redeemed

|                         |      |    |      |
|-------------------------|------|----|------|
| Dog .....               | 931  | 7  | 938  |
| Cat .....               | 252  | 41 | 293  |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 1183 | 48 | 1231 |

#### Died or Lost in Shelter

|                         |     |    |     |
|-------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Dog .....               | 5   | 1  | 6   |
| Cat .....               | 112 | 23 | 135 |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 117 | 24 | 141 |

#### Guardian Requested Euthanasia

|                         |     |   |     |
|-------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Dog .....               | 152 | 0 | 152 |
| Cat .....               | 142 | 0 | 142 |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 294 | 0 | 294 |

#### Shelter Euthanasia

|                         |      |     |      |
|-------------------------|------|-----|------|
| Dog .....               | 363  | 22  | 385  |
| Cat .....               | 654  | 78  | 732  |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 1017 | 100 | 1117 |

#### Total Euthanized

(Including Guardian Requested Euthanasia)

|                         |      |     |      |
|-------------------------|------|-----|------|
| Dog .....               | 515  | 22  | 537  |
| Cat .....               | 796  | 78  | 874  |
| Total Cats & Dogs ..... | 1311 | 100 | 1411 |

Uno



HIROSHI SHIMIZU, SF/SPCA (2)



Clarke

# Good for You! And for Animals!

*Welcome to The San Francisco SPCA's Land of Easy Giving*

JOHNPAUL SLATER

## Help Our Animals Find the Road Home



Donate your car to  
The San Francisco SPCA  
Call 1-866-473-7722.

**O**ur car donation agency, Car Program LLC, will help make your tax-deductible car donation to The SF/SPCA quick and easy. Your car doesn't have to be in working order and it generally can be picked up at any location. Call 1-866-473-7722 toll-free.

(Problems? Contact Claire St. Romain at (415) 554-3072 or [estromain@sfsPCA.org](mailto:estromain@sfsPCA.org).)

## Stock TIP

**D**on't sell stock or mutual fund shares. Rather, transfer them to The SF/SPCA. There is no capital gains tax, the full amount is also tax-deductible, and more of your money goes to work helping our animals. Another tip: When you do this, please tell us. We've recently received a few gifts of stock, but we have no idea from whom!

Call The SF/SPCA Development Department toll-free at (800) 426-4110 or e-mail [development@sfsPCA.org](mailto:development@sfsPCA.org).

## BART Tickets for Animals



Do you have a collection of leftover BART tickets with just a dime or two on them?

**S**end them to The San Francisco SPCA. The SF/SPCA can redeem the tickets, and spend the money caring for animals. Deposit your tiny tickets in the special jars at The SF/SPCA or use the envelope at page 16. Every little bit helps when an animal is looking for a ticket to a new home!

MARTHA MCNUITY



## Got Stuff?

*Your used goods will do great things for animals!*

**Y**our second-hand stuff – clothing, toys, collectibles, record albums, furniture and office equipment – can do great things for animals. Donate your used, salable goods to the Community Thrift Store, and when the store sells them, part of the proceeds will go to The San Francisco SPCA.

It's a whole lot easier than a garage sale, and you get a tax deduction for your donated items. Plus, it's a fantastic deal for the animals. During one recent year, The SF/SPCA's homeless cats and dogs got \$14,000 this way.

For details, contact San Francisco's Community Thrift Store directly (open 7 days a week), and tell them you want your stuff to fetch funds for The SF/SPCA. The store is at 623 Valencia St.

Your used goods will do great things for animals! Call the store today at (415) 861-4910.



# “Steppin’ Out with my Doggy”

**T**he Bark & Whine Ball was a hoot (and a howl). This one-of-a-kind, coat-and-tie (and tails) evening draws diners, dancers and dogs, dogs, dogs. Put on by the all-volunteer Critter Lovers At Work, the annual pooch-centered party is a fun-raising affair to benefit The San Francisco SPCA's Cinderella Fund, which provides veterinary care to homeless dogs (and cats, too).



Cheryl Baxter, Susan Kulik with Max, Montine Felso with Sidney, David Watterman

John Brandes with Opal, Shane Busch with Abby

Andrew Freeman with Daisy and Tulip



(left) Zoe (without Karen Charles) and Chloe (without Marla Caplan)



Photography by Charlotte Fiorito, Fiortophoto.com



(on left,  
from top)  
Priscilla  
Schlesinger  
and Nancy  
Trogman  
(President of  
CLAW)

Nancy with  
Robert Noble

Co-Chairs of  
the Ball  
Susan Christ-  
man & John  
Mounier with  
Lucy

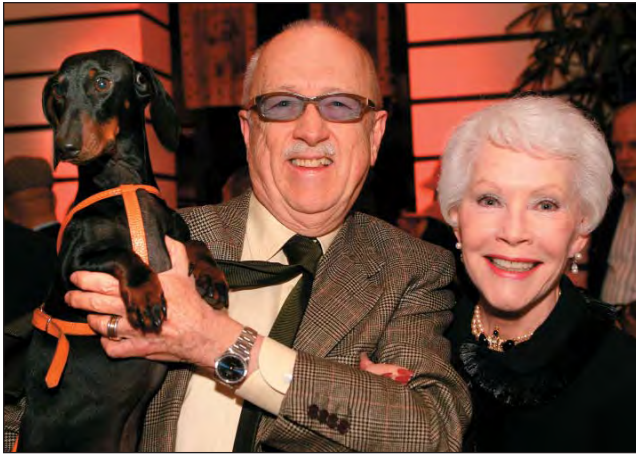
(on right,  
from top)  
Max and  
Moritz with  
Gia and  
Goetz Boje

Sandra  
Farris with  
Baby, Dr.  
Mat Kiisk

Tongues and  
tails are  
wagging:  
Clarence and  
Humphrey  
Brill







(on left, from top down)  
Duchess,  
Wilkes  
Bashford,  
Jeanne Taylor

Jeanette  
Roach, John  
Capizzi,  
Terri  
Murphy-Mino

Jan McHugh-  
Smith,  
Catherine  
Brown (Chair  
of SF/SPCA  
Board)

Elsie Fletcher  
with Jessica

(on right,  
from top)  
Caroline  
Read with  
Chica

Dr. Ricki  
Pollycover  
with Petunia,  
Dick  
Behrendt  
with Ella



# Miracle on O'Farrell Street

*You never know where an afternoon of San Francisco SPCA volunteering will lead.*

BY JUDI BASOLO, SF/SPCA VOLUNTEER

© LORI A. CHEUNG, THEPETPHOTOGRAPHER.COM



*Two SF/SPCA kittens take a break from cavorting in the Macy's Holiday Windows. Quiet, temperature-controlled quarters keep animals in comfort while passersby get a good look.*

**C**all it serendipitous, astonishing, or purr-fectly poignant. I wouldn't have believed it if it hadn't happened to me.

Normally, I'm a San Francisco SPCA volunteer one afternoon a week at Maddie's Pet Adoption Center, matching felines to adopters, but at Holiday Windows time, I take off extra time from my commercial real estate agent career to don a plush red-velvet Santa cap and a bright red Macy's-SF/SPCA jacket, and I stand outside the store on the sidewalk for hours at a time.

Whatever the weather (and sometimes it's really chilly out there), I adore the crowds, the hustle and bustle, the bubbly holiday spirit, and I love getting into a conversation with a complete stranger about something we both find irresistible: our animals. Simply surveying people's faces as they realize the windows are filled with real cats is amazing. I tell them that what they're seeing is not just window décor but an animal yearning for a loving home. Many a quiet shopper suddenly comes to life and stops to tell me all about their cat at home or a pet who died years ago or sometimes very recently. It's rewarding to me to be able to listen to their stories and witness the unending love they have for their animal companions. Truly this is a wonderful time of year.

Anyhow, there I was standing near *The Christmas Carol* window, selling my umpteenth



tin of SF/SPCA chocolates – people can be shy about putting money into the donation jars that we volunteers carry, but they're happy to pay for a tasty treat for themselves that will also benefit the animals – when I noticed from outside the window an SF/SPCA employee removing one of the kittens from inside the window, which could only mean one thing. This kitten was going to an adoption interview, and since kittens rarely flub their interviews, this young cat was likely going to a new home – fantastic news.

But all was not happy on the horizon. The remaining kitten – a twin of the first one, both about four months old – started jumping around, careening over the miniature velvet Edwardian bed. These antics quickly gathered a group of onlookers who thought this entertainment was just meowvelous.

For years I've lived with cats, and I didn't think this kitten was leaping with delight. She (or he) was agitated, distressed, upset. This youngster's sibling – and playmate and companion – had just been taken away, leaving this kitten totally alone.

Watching her (or him) react to the departure, I wondered if I should say something to an SF/SPCA staff person. Right then, a woman with a camera dangling from her shoulder and a teenager (maybe her son?) in tow meandered over to *The Christmas Carol* window, and said to me, "I fostered that little girl kitten with her brother. Where is he?"

I needed a few moments to process this information. This woman had fostered this kitten? This woman I'd never seen before, who was not wearing any visible SF/SPCA identification, had just

PAUL GLASSNER, SF/SPCA



Penny and Desmond (or Desmond and Penny)

approached the windows at the exact time that one of the two siblings was being adopted; she had hosted in her home these same two kittens, yes, the ones in this window, the one window out of the six that I was standing in front of. What were the odds?

Yet within a moment of her quick statement, she confirmed what I'd thought, that these two kittens belonged together. My mind in motion and knowing time was of the essence, I told her, "You'd best get into our adoption center right away and you can meet the person who is adopting the male kitten. The adopter will want to know all about him and you're a wonderful source for this information." The woman didn't know where the adoption quarters were, so I left my sidewalk chocolate-selling post to escort her into the store, meandering past the cosmetics counters and back by the elevator, to our humble adoption room where, I was hoping, she could meet her foster kitten's new parent.

Already I was beginning to feel like I was part of movie, some kind of "White Christmas" story.

Cindy the foster mom and I quickly introduced ourselves on our way into the store and when we arrived at the adoption room, we saw the boy kitten in the arms of a smiling potential adopter by the name of Christine. Both of these women turned out to be working professionals, too, Cindy in academia, Christine in sales, and all got along famously.

Pretty soon every one of us in the room, volunteers and staff alike, were all ears while Cindy told us how the kittens were rescued in Alameda when just inches long and weeks old. Part of a litter of five, they were captured with their feral mom in the yard of an apartment complex, and Cindy and her son fostered the family (her son's first animal volunteer experience) for nearly four months and decided to keep one kitten (bringing their own home's resident feline population to three) while two other kittens got East Bay homes. These two Macy's-window siblings were part of a new arrangement between the SF/SPCA and Island Cat Resources and Adoption (ICRA), a non-profit, all-volunteer group in



**SF/SPCA dogs also participate in the Holiday Windows adoption campaign.**

Alameda. The kittens hadn't found a home through ICRA efforts, so The SF/SPCA agreed to take them. The feral momma cat, Cindy reported, has since been spayed, released and seen back in her neighborhood.

It's not often an adopting cat parent can learn first-hand their feline's entire familial history. All of us were wide-eyed over this happenstance.

And what unerringly would bring Cindy to *The Christmas Carol* window at that very moment? She asked the ICRA volunteer who delivered the kittens to The SF/SPCA to try to find out when her foster babies would be in the windows, and the ICRA person had called Cindy that very morning to say Friday was the day. "See them today," the volunteer told Cindy, because the adorable duo would probably get adopted easily. So, while Cindy waited for her son to get out of school at noon, she

went online and saw her two little ones lounging their beautiful room! Cindy said, "I couldn't wait to get here and hoped we wouldn't incur a bridge traffic delay!"

Yes, The SF/SPCA had installed Web cameras in two of the six Macy's windows so people could see the adoptable animals on their computers, but again one must ask, what were the odds that Cindy's foster kittens would be placed in one of those camera-ready rooms and that she would be at home that day and that her son would be off early from school so they could venture into the City? This scenario could only be created in a Hollywood movie.

And what about Christine? Her story was just as unlikely.

Christine lives in Mountain View, where she works from home. But her sales territory consists of half the West Coast, so she also travels frequently; in fact, she visits

clients in San Francisco only two or three times a month. This day, she was not only on her way to a business meeting in the City, her client was Macy's itself. Walking down O'Farrell Street to her Macy's meeting around 11 in the morning, she noticed *The Christmas Carol*-themed window furnished with a comfy carpet, an Edwardian overstuffed bed and tapestry wing-back chair. But it wasn't the decor that caught her eye, even though she and her beau Steve had moved into their first house less than three weeks earlier and she was starting to think about such things. No, the energetic male kitten caught Christine's eye, causing her to stop and revel in his kitten antics.

"We had eye contact that kept him on my mind all day throughout my meetings," says Christine. "I decided that if it was meant to be, the little flame-point guy would still be there when I returned en route to get my car out of the parking garage." As holiday luck would have it, when Christine passed by again around three that afternoon, the little pussy-cat was still present.

What Christine didn't know is that the kitten's littermate was also in this Edwardian bedroom scene but, being less of an exhibitionist than her brother, the sister was lounging slightly behind the Dickens-era bed. Christine never saw her.

I decided I'd best put my savvy cat match-making skills to work – it was time to have a heart-to-heart talk with this potential parent about adopting both kittens. "But I've never had a cat," Christine told me, "and one is fine. I only came to get one."

Imagine, I'd just met an adult human who'd never



experienced the joys of living with a cat! I'd heard there are such people.

Bearing in mind that this was Christine's first cat and that the thought of two kittens was debatable for her, I was confident I could give her a first-hand overview of life in a multiple-cat household, particularly from the perspective that we were both working women who often didn't return home at 5 p.m. I know well the delights and dangers of a living with one, two or three cats as I'm commanded by three former SF/SPCA felines: Baci, Guido and Yolo.

"So you'll scoop the poop box a little more, you'll purchase a few more cans of food each month," I said. "And truth be known, it will give both kitties what they've only known, a home together, while you and your beau will each have a cat on your laps! Won't you please consider taking both kittens?" I can get pretty passionate about this topic.

More fun facts: Christine's last pet experience (with a dog) concluded ten years ago. And though her partner Steve self-identifies as a cat guy (he had one cat while growing up), he'd had no felines in his life the past 15 years. Finally able to share life with an animal in their new house, the couple had discussed getting a dog but were at an impasse. She wanted a small dog; he preferred a large one.

After our cat chat, Christine stepped outside Macy's to call Steve to tell him the situation she was pondering. Now think about this: she'd called him only minutes before to say she'd walked by a window and seen a playful kitten she decided to adopt, something that was not on her to-do list that day. Moments later she's calling

him again to discuss bringing home two kittens. Steve never balked, Christine told us, and told her to adopt them both.

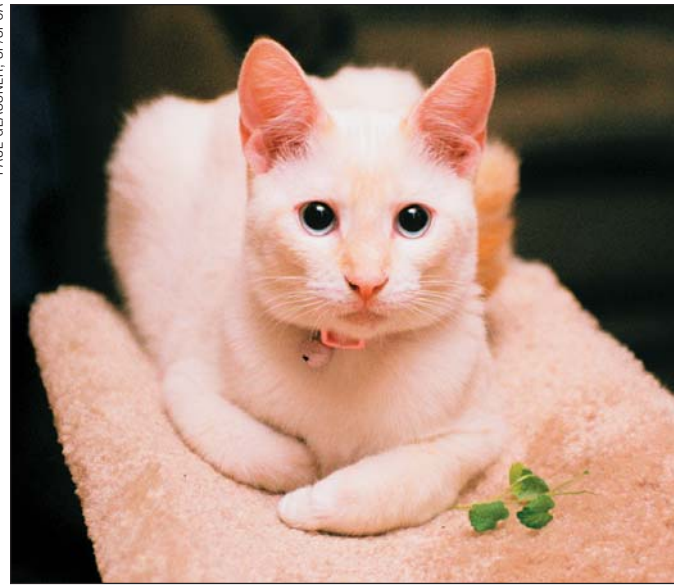
Cheers went up in the adoption room. A staffer went back to the window and fetched the girl kitten, who was clearly delighted to see her brother again. Cindy's son took pictures, and former foster mom Cindy and new kitten mom Christine avidly exchanged contact info and hugs before bidding adieu and heading home in their different directions.

Christine had parked in the Fifth and Mission garage and it would have been too much for her to manage two bulky cat carriers (with live cargo) in addition to her heavy satchel, especially in high heels. So, to complete this very special adoption, a group of volunteers gave Christine kitty curbside service, delivering to her car the kittens (and all their free caboodle) when she pulled up to Macy's – on O'Farrell Street, of course.

The miraculous chain of coincidences doesn't stop here, as these two kittens have SF/SPCA notoriety for life. Desmond was The SF/SPCA's 4,000th Holiday Windows adoption and his insistent sister Penny follows right behind as our 4,001st. So, as you see, these two miracle meowsters created their very own Christmas story with a purrfect ending.

Desmond and Penny, as they are now called, are happily ensconced in their new Mountain View abode. "I can't imagine now having only taken the male," Christine says. Now she talks about laughter and love just like I do. I don't think Christine and Steve have formally "decorated" their home yet, but it's full of cat toys and treats.

PAUL GLASSNER, SF/SPCA



The flame-point twosome are so identical that without their blue and pink collars, neither Christine nor Steve can tell the kittens apart, albeit Penny and Desmond have dissimilar personalities: The roles they seemed to have while in the windows have reversed. Penny excels in running the house while Desmond is content as a kicked-back lovebug type guy. Christine revels in watching the kittens enjoy their tandem exploring and hourly wrestling matches while ending their day always cuddled together. "They sleep in a pod," Christine says. "It appears everybody is content."

The cats are named after two characters in Christine and Steve's favorite TV show, "Lost." That's cute, but really, it's kind of far-fetched because thanks to Cindy and her son, ICRA, The SF/SPCA, Macy's, and Christine and Steve, these two kitties were found and cared for again and again until they landed in the safest harbor of all, a fantastic home.

Mmmm, maybe we should submit this script to Hollywood for consideration as a screenplay. Nah, why bother? No one would believe it. 🐾

*Relaxing at home (due to the pink collar, this must be Penny).*

*Hornblower Cruises & Events 4<sup>th</sup> Annual*

# **DOG DAY ON THE BAY**

## **SF/SPCA BENEFIT CRUISE**

### **SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2008**



Photography by  
Charlotte Fiorito  
fioritophoto.com

**Join Hornblower Cruises & Events  
and the San Francisco SPCA for a  
one-of-a-kind nautical day on the Bay**

Treat your furry friend to a day on the Bay with a two-hour, dog friendly cruise featuring a Bow Wow Buffet, exclusive Water Bars, and a Doggie Relief Area (a.k.a "The Poop Deck") complete with sod. Guardians and friends will indulge in a gourmet buffet and free flowing champagne to celebrate a day on the Bay with their best friend. A portion of Dog Day on the Bay proceeds will benefit cats and dogs at the San Francisco SPCA. Limit one dog per person.

Boarding 11:00am • Cruising 12:00pm to 2:00pm



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