CRITTER CHRONICLE

BAKERSFIELD SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | SPRING 2013 | FREE

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Community support makes a difference

Greetings Friends,
What an incredible time at the Bakersfield SPCA!

Our Furry Paws & Foggy Nights fundraiser at the Petroleum Club was our best year yet, we assisted Supervisor Perez and KCAC with a spay/neuter and vaccine clinic in Lamont, and the following weekend we neutered 50 dogs and cats at our annual "Puttin' on the Dog" event … all in one month of frenzied activities.

The Spring Kids & Critters Day Camp is underway, and we are now gearing up for our week-long Summer Camps, which will be held July 10 through August 2.

Our Annual Book Sale will be located in the same spot this year at 3501 Mall View Road, and it begins with a preview night on Friday, April 26 and runs through Saturday, May 25. So mark your calendars!

Due to a wonderful grant, we were able to get heaters into banks of our kennels that did not have them previously.

The Eagle Scouts will be redoing our Nursery Trailer (which has been disintegrating) so that our young babies have a better chance of survival away from the harsh elements and noise. This wonderful group is donating all of their time and materials to ensure it all gets done.

We have so many supporters that help take care of not only our animals as they wait for their forever family, but also the incredible community members that buy us bleach, paper towels, laundry soap, etc. … all of the things we always need. Some of the kids hold bake sales, lemonade stands or just ask for gifts for our fuzzy friends. CSUB held a Valentine's drive for us and brought lots of needed supplies!

Speaking of forever families, some of our long term guests finally have a new home. One of our dogs had been here almost four years, while one of our cats had been here close to three! We get so excited when any animal gets adopted, especially for those that have just been waiting for that special family to look into their eyes and know they need a real home outside of a kennel.

Until next time,
Peace, Love and Blessings,

Julie Johnson
Executive Director

Reggie and many more dogs and cats are available for adoption today.

Come by our Adoption Center to meet the pets waiting for a forever home!

ADOPT TODAY!

The Adoption Center is open
Tuesday through Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FEES
Dogs – $100
Cats – $60
Includes shots, ID microchipping, bag of food and new leash!

THOR
Since January 2011

I would love to be part of your family.

Hello: From the Board President

Greetings and warm wishes,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the sunny days of the approaching Spring.

Spring puts the Bakersfield SPCA in preparation mode for our upcoming Book Sale. The Annual Book Sale is a major fundraiser and requires months of preparation and hundreds of volunteer hours for staffing the sale.

If you find that you have spare books to donate or would like to volunteer some time to work the Book Sale please contact the shelter at 323-8353. Each year, your generosity allows shelter staff to assist more than 2,000 companion animals find new forever homes. Thank you!

Please take the opportunity to encourage your friends and neighbors to spay/ neuter their pets.

Spring also brings puppy and kitten season to our door — this is a burdensome time. We can only absorb so many litters and then sadly we are forced to turn them away. The solution to this problem is spaying and neutering dogs and cats before we get into crisis mode. Please take the opportunity to encourage your friends and neighbors to spay/neuter their pets.

We are always happy when a cat gets a new home or a puppy is adopted — that is the easy part. With that said, I want to thank the staff and shelter volunteers that make the daily effort to clean, feed and care for the dogs and cats that have been lucky enough to find shelter at the Bakersfield SPCA. It is an awesome experience to observe these wonderful people as they go about their day offering comfort to dogs and cats that have been placed into a strange environment.

Thanks to the front office staff for kindly dealing with the sad hearts of those searching for their lost pets or gently dealing with the pet owners that bring their dying beloved pet to the shelter to be put down. Your kindness inspires me!

Last but not least, I want to thank each of you that support the Bakersfield SPCA. We appreciate you keeping your support on a local level where there is so much work to be done. The more than 200 dogs and cats that call Bakersfield SPCA their temporary home thank you. The pets that found homes through your help thank you. The pets that were reunited with their owners because you supplied them with a safe shelter while they waited to be found thank you.

Take care and be well,
Laurie Weir
Board President

It's BOOK SALE time!

Book lovers mark your calendars! The BSPCA Annual Book Sale preview night is **Friday, April 26**. The sale runs through **May 26**.

This is the largest fund raiser of the year for our organization.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the sale should contact Chuck Nordstrom at (661) 323-8353 ext. 10.

3501 Mall View Road,
Suite 113 and 114

Monday — Saturday
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sundays
Noon to 6 p.m.

New books stocked daily!

GINGER
Since August 2012

RUSTY
Since July 2012

VALERIE
Since April 2012

Jackie's training tips

When I teach an obedience class, I explain to my students that I am there to teach them how to teach their dog to be a well behaved canine citizen — it is the greatest gift you can give your dog. I use the example of my childhood. My parents told me when to eat, sleep and go to school. All the bills were paid, I always had a safe, secure and comfortable place to call home, and all I had to do in exchange was be kind and obedient. It was a wonderful time in my life.

Dogs that do not have manners and are destructive or out of control are one of the many reasons that our shelters and rescues are at or above maximum capacity. My passion is to teach basic obedience to keep dogs in their homes, not to have them turned in or returned to shelters because they were destructive, dangerous or a burden to their families.

With as few as eight-one hour long classes, you and your dog can learn basic obedience and problem solving that will insure that your dog has a forever home. Some of the areas I focus on are:

Give clear commands. Dogs want to please if they understand what is being asked of them. No one likes to be nagged, and if you are constantly repeating yourself and pulling on your dog's collar with little or no results, you are nagging.

Everyone in the house should use the same command words and be consistent. If sit only means sit once in awhile, you probably will be frustrated long before your dog learns how to sit.

Teaching your dog should be fun and full of rewards. Whether it is a treat or praise, be generous with your rewards. I use gambling as an example. We put money in a machine hoping for a big payoff, sometimes we get it, sometimes we don't, but we keep repeating that behavior. A dog will eagerly repeat a behavior with the hope of getting a treat, sometimes they get it, sometimes they don't.

Keep training fun and upbeat. You will get so much more out of your dog by keeping training fun and upbeat. Think of when you were in school. If your teacher was long winded and boring, you learned very little. If they were fun and upbeat, class was fun and you learned a lot. In every class we had over achievers, under achievers and class clowns. Obedience class is no different. Every dog will not learn at the same pace.

Research your breed if you are looking for a dog. If you have an active lifestyle, don't choose a Scottish Terrier with two inch legs to go hiking with you. If you want a "couch potato," you don't want a Border Collie.

In closing, remember the "three second rule." If you are praising or disciplining your dog, it must be within three seconds of that behavior or your dog will not understand why he is being praised or disciplined. Always end training on a good note telling your dog he is the "**best dog in the world!**"

Jacqueline Aguilar, Owner
Oh My Dog Grooming, Boarding and Training
(661) 363-6000

POSTMAN
Since April 2011

LUCY
Since October 2011

JENNY
Since March 2012

Preparing your pets for Spring

Springtime … cold wet/rainy weather — not really, we live in south central California. Warm weather, yes. Temperatures are variable, one day in the eighties the next back down to sixty something. What does that mean for our four-legged friends? Or even the two-legged kind?

A few things to consider:

Parasite control

As the weather warms up, fleas, ticks, mites, biting flies and mosquitoes hatch, reproduce and emerge in great numbers. Fleas are really only noticeable on the pets that are allergic to their saliva. Most dogs and cats will react a little to them, but the real problems are the allergic ones … including humans. All pets in the household need to be treated.

by Dr. Rose Rakow, D.V.M.

Bathing with a flea shampoo will eliminate the fleas and ticks on the pet, but as soon as it gets out of the bath and dry, new fleas can jump on. There is no residual action with shampooing.

Flea collars are a concern if it is chewed or licked; some can cause an allergic or toxic reaction in cats, and how does it work to it get the fleas on the "butt-end" of the dog?

In general, a monthly spot-on is the product of choice. Never use one with any permethrin or pyrethrin ingredients in cats. If you have cats in the household, you really shouldn't use it on the dogs (unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian). NEVER use a dog product on a cat. ALWAYS make sure you use the appropriate product for your pet's size. Unless using Revolution or Comfortis/Trifexis, do NOT apply within two days of bathing. Either apply then wait two days to bathe or bathe and wait two days to apply. All of the topical spot-ons must be applied to the skin: part the hair and apply directly to the skin. Do not rub in. Try to place in an area the pet cannot reach to lick (in cats this means the back of the head).

If you have or have had a flea/tick issue in the past, the environment should be treated also: house and yard. Make sure you use a pet safe product, follow directions and treat every two to three weeks for three times or use a pest control service.

Warm weather

With variable temperatures from day to day or week to week, make sure your pets that are outdoors have plenty of clean water and shade. While to us that warm sun feels good on our skin after the winter coolness, our pets with their heavy winter coats may be too warm if they are in the sun all day without shade.

ADOPT TODAY!

GEORGETTE
Since December 2011

MARBLE
Since July 2011

Coats

Speaking of coats, as the weather warms our dogs and cats will start shedding their thick under coats. Not only does that mean we have more hair to vacuum up, but that the hair is prone to matting. If your pet has a dense coat or a long hair coat, they will need to be brushed more often, especially before bathing, as adding water will just make dead hair matt more. Even getting their hair cut, which helps, doesn't eliminate the need to brush their hair. It's just a whole lot easier to brush.

Love is in the air

Spring is breeding season. Pheromones from females in heat can spread through the air for miles. Intact female and males are unpredictable when females are in heat. They may be more playful, more aggressive and more likely to run off and or engage other animals. If your pets are not altered, they may be more intense about getting out of your yard or house. Even if they are spayed or neutered they may act differently when the pheromones of a female in heat are in the air.

Female dogs are not ready to breed until after they stop bleeding. Estrus will last an additional five to nine days. Female cats will essentially be in heat until they breed. If they don't get bred, they will continue to cycle until bred.

So please get your animals fixed, make sure they are properly treated for parasites, take care of their coats, and always make sure to provide clean water, plenty of cool shade and of course lots of love.

Rose Rakow, D.V.M
Stiern Veterinary Hospital
Bakersfield SPCA Board Member
and Shelter Vet

Volunteer Spotlight: Marilyn Lum

Marilyn Lum began volunteering for the Bakersfield nearly 10 years ago. She has been an unrelenting force working on everything from spay/neuter clinics to fundraising activities and adoption services. Her favorite event is the annual Book Sale.

Marilyn puts in endless volunteer hours helping from the set-up of the book sale, during the sale and the most dreaded, clean up and breakdown.

Marilyn is always cheery and provides great help and support, not only to customers but SPCA staff as well. One of her favorite pastimes is her dedication to sewing puppy pads, pet blankets, pot holders, tote bags, aprons and her newest "knitted scarves," which bring in much needed funds to help the animals at the SPCA.

Everyone knows Marilyn either from her days at the Pumpkin Patch or Longs Drugs. Hardly a day goes by when Marilyn is helping that someone doesn't comment "you look familiar."

Marilyn always gets the help and support from family and friends through her volunteer activities to make the lives at the SPCA just a little brighter for the homeless pets awaiting a new home.

Marilyn currently has two adopted dogs from the SPCA. Well Marilyn, the Book Sale is upon us and we look forward to seeing a lot of you over the next few months. Our hats are off to Marilyn Lum!

ELVIE
Since June 2012

ADOPT TODAY!

REGGIE
Since August 2011

Furry Paws And Foggy Nights

A Big Success ... A Huge Thank You!

Our annual Furry Paws and Foggy Nights event held on February 15 was our best year yet. Thank you to everyone who came out and had a fantastic night and to all of the businesses and individuals for their generation donations!

Gaslight Melodrama
Mauricio's Grill & Cantina
Red Lobster
Casa Mexico Restaurant
Bakersfield Condors Hockey
Houston Jewelers
Houston Jewelers
Bakersfield Music Theatre
Splash Café
Spyglass Inn Restaurant
Maggie's Place Salon
Sea Venture Restaurant
Red Pepper Restaurant
Atomic Kitten Salon
Jam Raceway
Uniglobe Golden Empire Travel
Disneyland
The Limousine Scene
Fur & Feathers Luxury Pet Resort
Fred's Barbecue Factory
Los Angeles Lakers
The Pismo Beach Hotel
Pier Side Restaurant
Smart Style Salon
Cones Health Foods
Anita Powell
The Boot Barn
Mo's Smokehouse BBQ
Rabobank
Jena Williams
Annie Wisham
Robin's Envirovac

Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Cooper, Rosenlieb and Kimball LLP
Claudia Burk
Earl & Sherry Absher
Laura McElwee
San Diego Chargers
Skydive Taft
Gaye Siemen
The Don C. & Diane S. Lake Family
Willitts & Newcomb Citrus Nursery
Wool Growers Restaurant
OH MY DOG Grooming, Training
El Pueblo Restaurant

Maryann & Ron Froelich
Bakersfield Optical
Animal Lovers Bakery
Oxley Pest Control
Dewar's Ice Cream & Fine Candies
Cynthia McDonald Photography
Rock Star Nails
Cigars & More
Swanky Paws
Walter Scott
Rose Rakow
Harvey's Antiques
Flourishing Art
Protégé Salon
Valentien Restaurant

Jessica Bloom Creative
KGET TV 17
Steam Punk Fortress
Denise Segrest
The Petroleum Club
Dog Gone Crazy
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Hooters
Charity Fundraising Packages
Winspire
Action Plumbing
Dolly Garland
Anita Singer
Katie & Bryan Weiringer
Mike Schaeffer
KUZZ Radio

Representatives from Alianza Recycling and Recovery present a check to Chuck Nordstrom, left, and SPCA Executive Director Julie Johnson, second from left. Thank you Alianza for donating part of the proceeds from an E-Waste event with the Bakersfield SPCA!

JACK
Since July 2012

NALO
Since August 2011

CHARLIE
Since February 2012

Kids & Critters Day Camps

What could be better than for your animal loving child to spend a week making new friends here at the SPCA?

Kids & Critters Day Camp provides Kern County youth with a special educational opportunity to learn responsible pet ownership and promote the human-animal bond and social responsibility. Children that attend will get to "adopt" one of our animals for the week, as we teach them about disease control, vaccinations, spaying/neutering, rabies, micro-chipping, grooming, care and feeding and basic training. Children also learn about animal-related careers, breed identification and disaster planning for pets. A Field Trip to CALM is included and Roaming Reptiles will also visit this year.

Live demonstrations include X-Ray viewing, using a stethoscope, vaccine administration and, time permitting, the viewing of a spay/neuter surgery. Children also work on animal related projects, such as making cat toys, dog quilts, healthy animal treats, picture frames with photographs of their "adopted pet" and other great crafts to take home and/or help our shelter animals reduce their stress.

SUMMER CAMPS

FIVE ONE-WEEK SESSIONS

July 9 – August 10

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

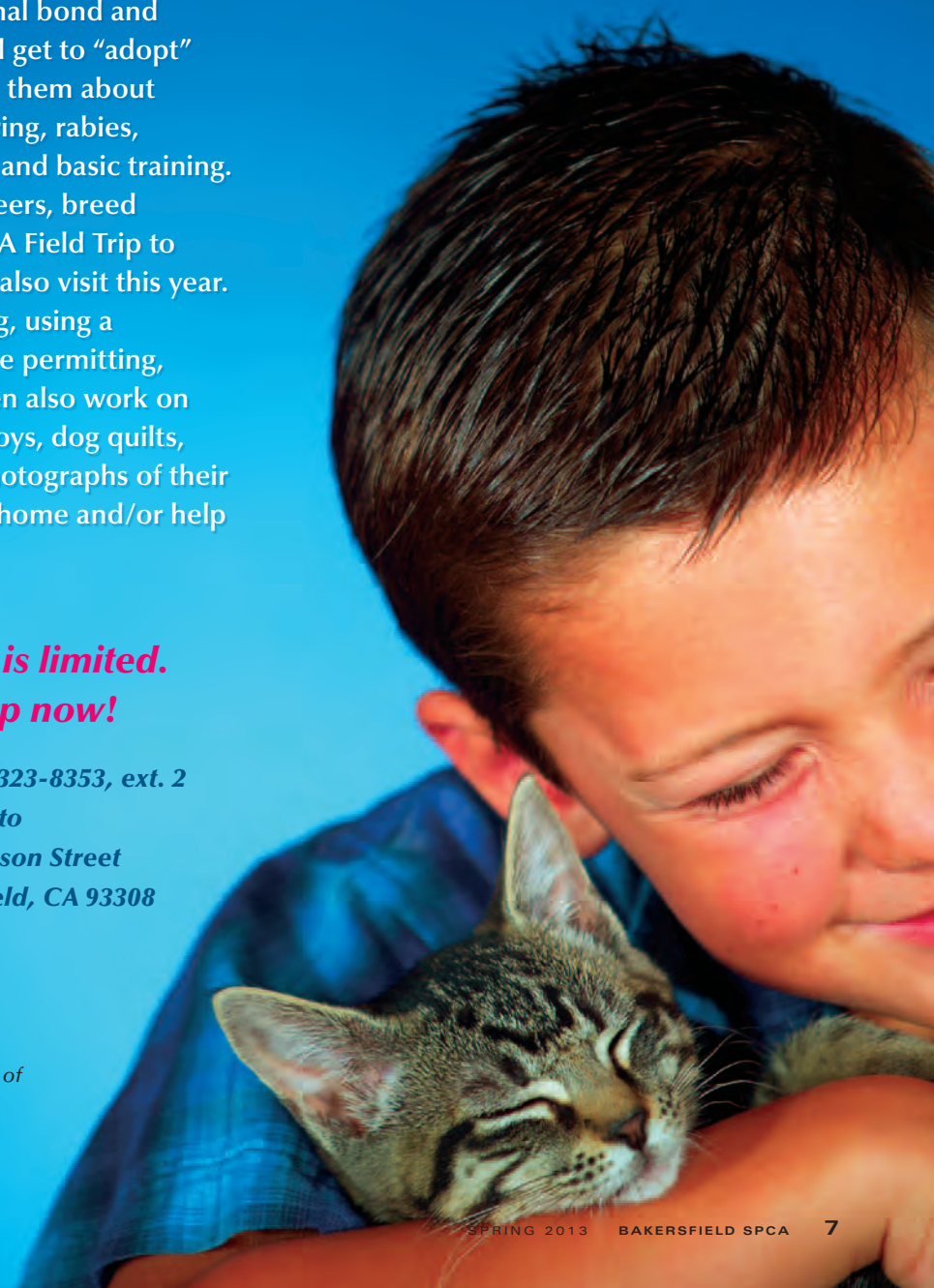
Ages 8 to 12

Cost is $180
and includes all materials

Space is limited.
Sign up now!

Call 661-323-8353, ext. 2
or come to
3000 Gibson Street
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate students with severe allergies to cats and dogs as they are involved in many of our activities.



BAKERSFIELD SPCA

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3000 GIBSON ST.
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
(661) 323-8353
BAKERSFIELDSPCA.ORG

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> **Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.**
>
> MARGARET MEAD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: April 26, **Annual Book Sale Opens** and July 9 – August 10, **Kids & Critters Summer Camps!**

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(661) 323-8353 ..... Extension 11

Chuck Nordstrom ..... **Public Relations**
(661) 323-8353 ..... Extension 10

Critter Chronicle
is produced by the Bakersfield SPCA

Graphic Design: Jessica Bloom Creative

An affordable spay and neuter solution

The Bakersfield SPCA is thrilled to be able to refer Kern County residents to the new Critters without Litters Low Cost Spay and Neuter program. The mission of the nonprofit organization is to seek to end the preventable euthanasia of healthy, adoptable pets in Kern County through strong alliances with the community, local businesses and nonprofit organizations, to increase the number of cats and dogs that are spayed and neutered, while promoting animal health and safety within our community.

Pricing for cats is $40 for males and $50 for females. Pricing for dogs begins at $65 for males and $70 for females 60 pounds and under. For dogs 61 pounds or more, it's $75 for males and $80 for females. Additional fees will be charged for in-heat or pregnant females, cryptorchidism (retained testicle) in males, or umbilical hernia repair.

The office is located at 4300 Stine Road, Suite 720 in Bakersfield and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments are necessary for spay/neuter surgery. Call Critters Without Litters at (661) 831-6000 to schedule an appointment. All pets must be secured in a carrier or on a leash when coming to the clinic for their appointment.