CRITTER CHRONICLE

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

Happy Holidays

Give a gift of love and hope by making a donation to the Bakersfield SPCA.

Director's Message

Exciting improvements for local animals

Greetings Friends,
I hope this Holiday issue finds everyone in great spirits.

We have had some very exciting changes recently here at the Bakersfield SPCA, and my hope is that through all of the changes we can count on you as always to make our animals thrive.

On October 1, we entered into a unique, collaborative partnership with the Bakersfield Homeless Center and the City of Bakersfield, to operate the City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center (CBACC) located at 201 South Mt. Vernon Avenue.

The City and County decided to part ways, and the County opened a brand new facility at 3951 Fruitvale Avenue.

The Bakersfield SPCA on Gibson Street remains completely unchanged with our dedicated staff and volunteer crew working daily to help the animals in our care there.

At CBACC, clients of The Bakersfield Homeless Center provide the daily cleaning and feeding for the animals; the SPCA hired new staff to provide medical care and office support, with the hopes of also hiring a full-time veterinarian very soon.

The City of Bakersfield has also provided office support, and their Animal Control Officers remain under the purview of The Bakersfield Police Department.

The biggest change? A complete remodel of the CBACC shelter from top to bottom — all the way down to the concrete, with funding provided from the City of Bakersfield.

All of the shelters are working to improve the lives of animals in Bakersfield, and there will be some highly progressive programs coming soon, so stay tuned!

In September, the Bakersfield SPCA, had an amazing "Unleash Your Love" event with our great partner KGET-17, and this year Rabobank and KUZZ jumped on board to help. Thank you to everyone for your great generosity—this really is the best community.

Next up is Furry Paws on February 28 at the Petroleum Club; we came close to selling out last year so get your tickets early for a magical night of fine dining, entertainment, fabulous auction items and much more. See page 3 for more information.

From all of us here at the Bakersfield SPCA and CBACC, we wish you and your families the happiest of holidays!

Until next time, peace, love and blessings,

Julie Johnson
Executive Director

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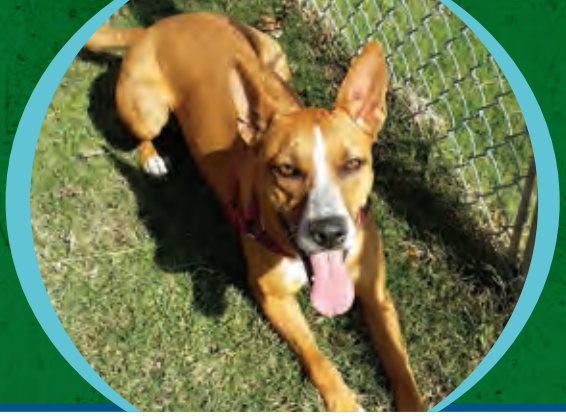
ADOPT TODAY!

The Adoption Center is open
Monday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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



ANNIE
Since January 2013

I would love to be part of your family.

Hello: From the Board President

Hello fellow pet lovers,

As the new president of the board, I hope the cooler weather is finding everyone in good spirits. There are so many good things happening with the Bakersfield SPCA.

As you know, we have entered into an agreement with the City of Bakersfield to provide sheltering services at the City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center on Mt. Vernon Avenue, which started October 1.

I think it is a great opportunity for both parties. It helps us, the Bakersfield SPCA, move forward to promote animal welfare and support our mission. It helps the City of Bakersfield, in having an experienced entity establish and care for the animals in their shelter.

While this agreement with the City is exciting, we are still operating The Bakersfield SPCA as its own privately funded, no-kill shelter. We are in existence due to the graciousness of the people of Bakersfield.

Our staff, volunteers and board members are truly amazing people. They give so much of themselves and their time. There are not enough words to describe my gratitude for them.

Our staff, volunteers and board members are truly amazing people.

In addition to the housing, care and adoption of companion animals, we also have many great programs; like Pet Therapy Group, Dog Training Classes and Summer Kids Camps. We visit schools and community organizations, teaching responsible pet care and improving the human-animal bond. The Bakersfield SPCA could not do any of this without you.

I encourage you to check us out. If any of our programs interest you or you want to know more, please give us a call. If you have time and are interested in participating on a committee, visiting schools, or walking and socializing dogs or cats, let us know, we can always use good help. The rewards are definitely worth the time.

Thank You!
Dr. Rose Rakow, D.V.M.
Bakersfield SPCA Board President & Veterinarian

Did you know that you can donate items to the Bakersfield SPCA at Amazon.com?

Click on Wish List then enter **Bakersfield SPCA** in the Find someone's list box.

SARAH
Since September 2013

COCO
Since March 2013

MAYA
Since May 2013

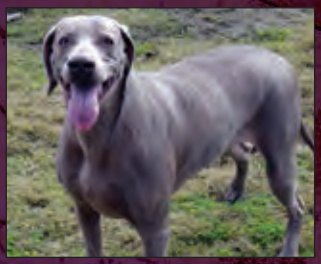
Furry Paws And Foggy Nights

THE BAKERSFIELD SPCA PRESENTS A NIGHT OF FINE DINING, MUSIC AND SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014
6–10 P.M.
PETROLEUM CLUB
5060 CALIFORNIA AVE., BAKERSFIELD

$100 PER PERSON
$750 PER TABLE OF EIGHT

PLEASE RSVP BY FEB. 20 TO (661) 323-8353 EXT 2



DAISY
Since April 2013

KIKI WIKI
Since January 2013

JAKE
Since June 2013

Preventative care for senior pets

November is Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month, so I thought I would discuss senior pet needs.

First of all, what is senior? Actually that depends on your pet, and the source. In most sources the ages range from 5 to 7 years, but really it depends on the breed. In general, smaller breeds age at a slower rate than the large or giant breeds. Our pets age more quickly than we do, making it essential that they be examined at least once a year and even more frequently as they get older. Once your pet is over 6 years old, they have officially reached a senior citizen status. Often, pets begin to develop diseases common to their senior human counterparts, such as diabetes, heart disease, endocrine disease and cancer. These diseases can go unnoticed in their early stages; therefore preventive health care is very important. Your veterinarian can detect many of these changes through simple blood and urine tests. Early detection and treatment can help your pet live a longer and happier life.

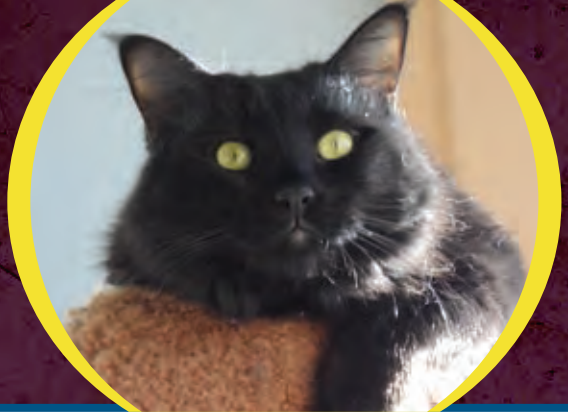
by Dr. Rose Rakow, D.V.M.

Many people discuss "preventative health care" but what is it really? Basically it is all the steps taken to keep the body healthy and to prevent disease. It is also the process of catching changes in health before disease progresses or to prevent the disease from developing. It can encompass everything from routine exams and vaccinations to routine lab-work to measure medical changes in your pet; regular check-ups to monitor condition, prevention of stress, exercise, etc. (you get the idea). This is not the same as preventing infection, which you and your vet should always discuss.

Preventative health care can also include dental care and recommendations for a nutritious diet. Routine laboratory tests can reveal changes in kidney or other organ function that can indicate early disease. Many of these diseases, for example kidney disease, can be treated with diet changes and supplements, slowing the progression of the disease thereby delaying the progression to organ failure. The three most common diseases of senior pets are heart disease, renal disease and neoplasia (cancer). All three of these with early intervention can be delayed and the pet can live a happy life.

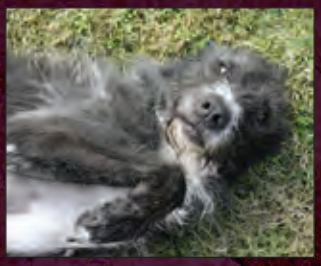
Senior pets also develop arthritis, just like senior people. There are many things that can help make their life easier. Preventing obesity is also very important, but a good diet and exercise will help with this. Keep in mind that if your pet is less active, the calorie intake must decrease also. Many joint supplements and antioxidants can help decrease pain and the inflammation in joints. Most dogs will tolerate anti-inflammatory drugs like NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), similar to ibuprofen or aspirin (which should NEVER be used in pets without veterinary approval). We never use these products in cats since their kidneys cannot handle the drugs. But there are several drugs, usually opioids, which can be used in both dogs and cats to help with pain.

In summary, just because your pet has gotten older doesn't mean that you may lose them soon. There are many steps you can take to prevent or slow diseases common in senior pets.



ADOPT TODAY!

JAX
Since August 2013



LOUISE
Since October 2012

Volunteer Spotlight: Diane Ackley

Diane Ackley has been volunteering at the SPCA for more than 15 years now. And she is certainly dedicated to all she does, including her long career with Exxon Mobil. She started with them at the ripe old age of 17 and stayed until her retirement almost 40 years later. She is still a part of their matching donation program, which donates money to us for every hour she volunteers.

Upon her retirement and a brief stint in Virginia, Diane came to Bakersfield to visit her good friend Ginger Smith and decided to make this her home. She bought a house in Bakersfield, sold her house in Virginia, packed up her Ford station wagon and proceeded to "road trip" with her four cats riding in the back enjoying the scenery.

She has probably volunteered at every event the SPCA has sponsored since 1998, the Book Sale, Unleash Your Love and Puttin' on the Dog to name just a few. She was named Volunteer of the Year in 2003 (along with Ginger Smith) and again in 2007.

Presently she works the front counter at the SPCA once or twice a week taking in animals, adopting them out, answering all the phone calls and keeping our donation database up to date.

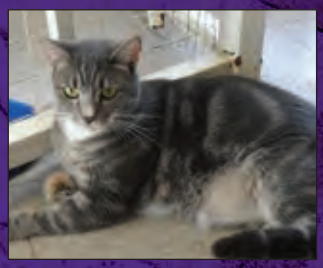
Not only does she volunteer for the SPCA, she also volunteers with the Cat People, CALM, Newcomers Club and the Bakersfield Community Concerts. We are so lucky to have her here with us.

Thank you for all you do Diane!

Holiday Wish List

Help our holidays become forever brighter

- Phone System
- Forklift
- Commercial Washer & Dryer
- 18 ft. Ladder
- 100 ft. Commercial Grade Hoses
- Garden Tools
- Push Carts
- Walk-On Pet Scale
- Digital Camera
- Thumb Drives
- Floor Squeegees
- Pooper Scoopers
- Cat Trees
- Durable Dog Toys (i.e. Kongs)
- Cat Toys
- Milk Bones
- Paper Food Tray Boats
- Puppy Training Pads
- Puppy Esbilac and KMR Milk Replacement for Kittens
- Kitten and Puppy Nursing Bottles
- Latex, Powder Free Exam Gloves in Small and Medium
- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Gift Cards to Lowe's, Home Depot, Office Max or Office Depot



CHLOE
Since August 2013

ADOPT TODAY!

RALPH
Since April 2013

PAW PRINTS

Early in July, a gentleman came into the SPCA with the cutest little white terrier clenched tightly in his arms. I could tell he was distraught, and I asked if I could help him. He looked so sad and then took a deep breath … I just knew he was about to make me cry.

He introduced himself as "Jason" and the pretty little dog as Jasmine. He said simply, "I need help." He told me he was a displaced Veteran and the only place available to him through the VA would not allow him to have a dog.

Now Jason had a letter from the Veterans Administration stating that Jasmine was a therapy dog due to medical issues, but this particular group home would not allow his dog. He was devastated at the thought of losing his precious little Jasmine, but he had no other place to go. So he came to us for help.

He had all her records from the time she was a puppy, her food, her bed, her leash and her toys. As he explained each thing about her, the tears were welling up in both our eyes. I told him, "Give me a minute and I'll see what I can do."

I went in to see our director, Julie, and told her we need to help this man after all he has done for our country.

She didn't hesitate at all. "Set it up," she said, "We can board her for as long as it takes Jason to get settled. Tell him she will be safe here, and there won't be any charges for him to worry about."

Jasmine moved into her temporary quarters that very day, and with a heavy heart Jason told her, "Goodbye for today, I will see you tomorrow."

He came every day to see her and bring her favorite treats. But he was still fighting the system tooth and nail! This man was not a quitter. Not only did he find a home that would allow Jasmine, he found a great job.

The day Jasmine left was bittersweet for the SPCA staff. We were so happy to see Jasmine and Jason reunited, but sad to see her go as we had all become very attached to both of them. We waved goodbye and wished them luck.

A helping hand is what we do at the SPCA … for the animals and the humans.

by Deryle Kidner , SPCA office staff

Thank you to our generous supporters who donated items for our sale and to all our shoppers.

Our successful sale was held November 9 and 10.

CASEY
Since October 2013

SIMON
Since July 2013

BOO
Since September 2013

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

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:
February 28, 2014, **Furry Paws and Foggy Nights!**

2013-2014 Bakersfield SPCA
Board of Directors

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Past President ..... Laurie Weir
Vice-President ..... Denise Segrest
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(661) 323-8353 ..... Extension 12

Tracy Castro ..... **Office Manager**
(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 Saturday 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.