CRITTER CHRONICLE

The Bakersfield SPCA is proud to be serving Kern County as a no kill shelter since 1949.

BAKERSFIELD SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | WINTER 2015 | FREE

Director's Message

Caring for animals since 1949

Greetings Friends and Happy New Year. It is so hard to believe that another year has flown by. We had so many positive things happen at the SPCA in 2014, and we were lucky to start 2015 with a bang! It is even harder to believe that your SPCA has been in existence since 1949 as Kern County's ***original*** animal welfare organization. Almost 2,000 animals pass through our doors each year thanks to your support and generous hearts.

In January, the new PizzaRev graciously donated their opening day sales to us resulting in almost $2,800 in one day.

At our partner shelter, the City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center, over 100 dogs found new homes thanks to Wings of Rescue. We have welcomed new supporters, volunteers and partners at both shelters. And WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED!

With your continued support, we will be rolling out new programs this year, new ways to get animals into loving homes, more community outreach and exciting ways for you to help us achieve new goals. We have quite a few events coming up, so here are some to keep in mind if you'd like to attend.

Furry Paws And Foggy Nights

■ **Furry Paws and Foggy Nights** is on February 27 and promises to be another wonderful night of fun.

■ **Our Book Sale** will start on April 25, and we have plenty of good reads for everyone.

Unleash Your Love

■ **Unleash Your Love** with KGET-17 will be May 6 this year so our furry friends can avoid the hot September heat.

KIDS & CRITTERS SUMMER CAMPS
SUMMER FUN & LEARNING

■ **Our Kids & Kritters Day Camp** will hold many more exciting lessons and fun time, all to help our youth become great pet owners and animal ambassadors.

We always advocate adoption instead of shopping, but we also know we may not have the perfect pet you're looking for at a given time. You can always adopt from any of the local shelters or local animal rescues. Many of their animals started at a shelter and they need adopters too. ALPHA Canine, H.A.L.T., Cathey's K-9 Rescue, Bakersfield Pitty Crew and Marley's Mutts are just a few local rescues that have some wonderful critters.

Enjoy this latest issue of our *Critter Chronicle* and as always, peace, love and blessings,

Julie Johnson

Julie Johnson
Executive Director
Bakersfield SPCA

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!

BUD
Since June 2014

I would love to be part of your family.

Are routine exams necessary?

I often get asked "why do I need to bring my dog/cat in for an exam every year? He/she is happy, active and eating well. There's nothing wrong, so why do I need to come in?"

Veterinarians should be considered your OTHER family doctor. Routine exams and preventative care can prolong your pet's life and save you a lot of money.

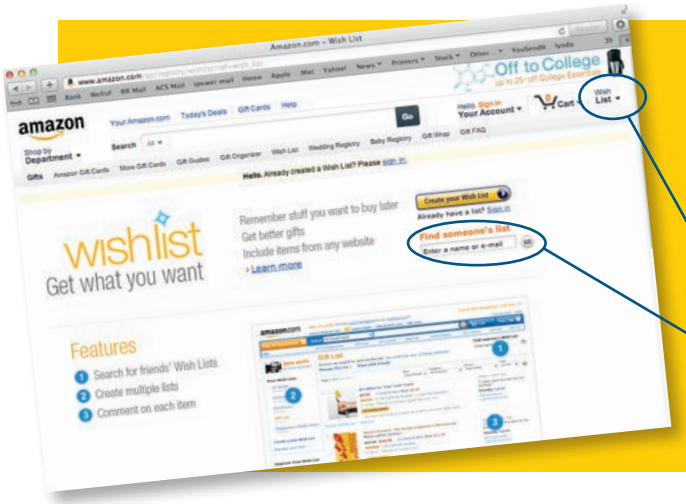
by Dr. Rose Rakow, D.V.M.
Bakersfield SPCA Board President

Let's think about this… your dog or cat ages faster than humans do. In the adult cat or dog one human year is equivalent to four to five cat/dog years. So the annual exam for your pet is equivalent to one exam every four years for the adult human. Just like in elderly humans, elderly pets may need more frequent exams.

Here are some routine problems to consider.

First up? **Parasites**; we are very careful to deworm our pets when they are puppies or kittens, but we neglect to do it as adults. Parasites are in our environment. Several internal parasites of dogs and cats also infect people, making parasite control and prevention in your pet important to decrease human exposure.

Another common health problem seen in pets is **dental disease**. Many owners do not realize that simple preventative care can prevent dental infections and tooth loss. Dental infections can lead to bone infection, septicemia, heart disease, liver disease and renal (kidney failure).



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.

DARLA SUE
Since September 2014

TYLER
Since June 2013

JINX
Since June 2014

Owners are often unaware of a problem because the pet continues to eat. The pet may be chewing on one side of the mouth or swallowing food whole to avoid chewing.

I have clients tell me that "Fluffy had a dental exam and cleaning two years ago, she surely doesn't need it again?" Keeping in mind that whole 'four cat/dog years to one human year,' this would be a dental cleaning every eight years. Early intervention and preventative steps can prevent dental disease, delay progression of current disease and prolong the life of the animal.

Your pet cannot come to you tell you that they hurt or feel bad. Most pets are stoic, sudden pain will cause a reaction, but **chronic low grade pain** that becomes deeper and more intense over time, will not be noticeable.

Sleeping in on cold mornings, going down stairs slower, taking a different route through the yard or house, and walking while defecating are all little signs of pain that may go unnoticed until the pain is significant. Small changes in appetite, water consumption and urine production can be indications of early disease.

Routine exams can discover little disease issues before they become serious health concerns. Early intervention in renal, liver and heart disease can prolong your pet's life several years.

Sometimes a diet change is all that is needed to decrease or delay disease progression. The addition of nutritional supplements, medication and routine monitoring can decrease progression of disease, alleviate pain and prolong the life of your pet, preventing sudden heart breaking decisions. Working with your OTHER family doctor is critical to your pet's health, so if you haven't done so already, make that appointment today.

Volunteer Spotlight:
Linda Flanders

With 10 years of hugging experience as a "baby hugger" at KMC, Linda Flanders is the perfect candidate for the volunteer position of "kitty kuddler."

Twice a week Linda brings her hugs, stool and endless patience and love to the Cattery where she spends about five minutes with each cat and kitten. With an average of 75 feline in residence at the SPCA any given time, there's a whole lot of hugging going on!

"There is no better feeling than having the cats recognize me and want to come and get their hugs, especially the cats that are timid and shy when they first arrive," said Linda.

Originally from Eugene, Oregon, Linda has been a Bakersfield resident for 27 years. She is married and has two cats and one dog — all of them adopted from the Bakersfield SPCA.

BOBBY
Since December 2013

MS. KAY
Since March 2014

GRACIE
Since April 2014

Limited tickets available.
Don't miss out! Call today!

Furry Paws And Foggy Nights

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015
6–10 P.M.
PETROLEUM CLUB
5060 CALIFORNIA AVE., BAKERSFIELD

$100 PER PERSON
$750 PER TABLE OF EIGHT

TICKETS: (661) 323-8353 EXT 2

ADOPT TODAY!

GUNTHER
Since May 2014

PENNY
Since January 2014

Nova finds forever home with help of dedicated volunteers

A Super Nova, as explained by Webster, is a stellar explosion in the sky that outshines the entire galaxy — a perfect description of our very own "Super Nova."

She is a beautiful black and white Pit Bull with personality plus and a penchant for playing ball. She is very loving and just the sweetest girl. Yet Nova spent almost three years here at the shelter, being passed over time after time.

She was so eager to please, so wanting a home, that every time someone approached her kennel she charged the gate with all her might trying to get someone to notice her or at least take her out for a game of fetch. But people took this to be aggression (after all she is a Pit) and just passed on by.

One of our volunteers was visiting one day, and I asked if she could spend some with Nova. Kristi Townsend and her husband Mitch had just spent several weeks socializing a littler of feral puppies and I hoped maybe they could help Nova settle down. When I told Kristi the story about how long Nova had been here, her eyes welled up tears. They had an immediate bond, and then Kristi was on a mission to find a home or rescue for our precious girl. Operation Nova went into full swing.

Kristi and Mitch are the most giving and caring animal lovers I know. They are like knights in shining armor for the animal kingdom. Kristi made phone calls, wrote letters, got on the internet and even offered a reward. Pictures of Nova went out, videos were made, pleas of help to get this girl a home.

And then the miracle happened! A couple in Mammoth wanted another Pit as a companion for their Pit "Aussie." They were willing to take her sight unseen, not even knowing if she would get along with their dog. We were trying to figure out the logistics of getting her to Mammoth when, once again, Kristi and Mitch volunteered to drive her to her new home.

A few of us came down for her departure (at 5 in the morning!) to say our good-byes and help get Nova in her crate as we weren't sure how she would react. She jumped right in as if she knew where she was headed. We made sure her favorite toy went with her and we all shed a few tears for our girl.

Nova has the best home ever! Her new parents own a ski shop where she spends a lot of her time and she lives in a beautiful home surrounded by the forest. Aussie loves Nova, and they are best buddies. She has been hiking, squirrel chasing, horseback riding and snow romping. We get pictures of her on a regular basis. Every time I receive one I feel the tears coming on. She waited so long for a home and now she lives in PARADISE.

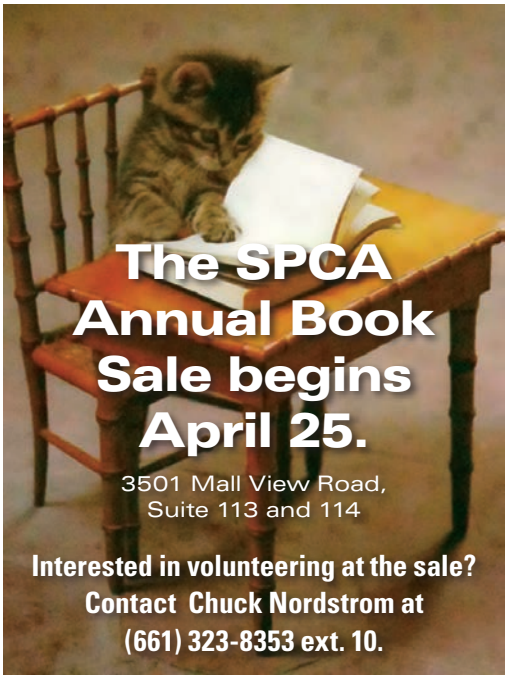
by Deryle Kidner, Adoption Counselor

CHARLIE
Since September 2013

ADOPT TODAY!

T.C.
Since April 2014

Save the dates...



HOT DOG LUNCH!

Wednesday
May 6
5 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
22nd & M Streets
(Across from KGET-TV 17)

- Dog & Cat Adoptions
- Low Cost Microchip Clinic $20
- Hot Dog Barbecue Lunch $5
- Local Celebrity Lockups
- Drive through and fill up our Donation Bank!

MINNIE
Since May 2012

CALI
Since April 2014

SIMON
Since July 2013

Take care when adding a second dog to the family

A commonly asked question is "How do I choose a second dog?" My answer is simply, let the dog you have choose for you.

Dogs are very similar to people when they meet, they instantly have a connection or they don't.

by Jacqueline Aguilar
Owner, Oh My Dog Grooming, Boarding and Training

Have you ever met someone who has not said two words to you but you know you want them out of your personal space? Or you meet someone and you just know you are going to be best friends? We can call this chemistry, and it applies to people as well as dogs.

Over the years I have dealt with dog owners who say to me "I don't know why but my dogs have never liked each other." After a few inquisitive questions, too often the problem is the new dog was introduced when the owners brought the new addition home and immediately put them together in the backyard.

If you are looking to add a dog to your family please consider looking at your local SPCA, shelters or rescues. I suggest you choose two or three dogs that appeal to you, then do a meet and greet. Bring the dogs to a neutral place that they are not familiar with and read the energy.

Observe the dogs on a leash, and they will tell you quickly if this is a match. If we have intense stares, hair erect on the backs of the dogs and rigid dominant posturing, I would suggest that you move on to the next contender.

If we have wagging tails, wiggling back ends and dancing around by both parties, I would suggest that this is a better match than the previous scenario.

If you see something in between and you really aren't sure and you like the dog, I would recommend a second meet and greet the next day to be sure you are making the best choice for everyone involved.

I understand and admire people who pick up a stray dog off the street and add them to their family. We don't always have the opportunity for a meet and greet to assess the situation. In this case, I would suggest you take both dogs for a long walk together, keeping them separate, no contact or direct interaction until you are confident that you have a good match.

It is disturbing to have a household with dogs that don't like each other. I hate to hear about a dog fight in a living room because someone made the mistake of allowing the dogs out together when they need to be kept separate. We are human and mistakes will be made. It's unfortunate but often this is reality.

When I teach a dog obedience class my goal is to teach or coach you to train your dog to be a well behaved canine citizen. I don't teach dog obedience for competition.

My passion is to keep dogs in the home and not have them turned over to shelters and rescues because they were a nuisance or a liability to the family. I can't imagine my life without canine companions, but well behaved, obedient dogs that are a pleasure to be around.

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BAKERSFIELD SPCA

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

> **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: May 6, 2015, **Unleash Your Love** and April 25, 2015, **Annual Book Sale Opening!**

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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.