CRITTER CHRONICLE

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

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Director's Message

A busy summer and thank yous

The months have just flown by here at the Bakersfield SPCA. We have met so many new adoptive families, generous donors and stunning volunteers. We have welcomed in many new furry faces too, all because of the wonderful community support.

Book Sale

Our Book Sale was a huge success again and was our third highest year.

Kern County Animal Welfare Summit

On June 8, we hosted the first ever Kern County Animal Welfare Summit. Presenters for animal issues included Jon Cicirelli, Director of San Jose Animal Services and Dr. Corey S. Gonzales, Licensed Clinical Psychologist.

Animal Welfare Organizations came from all over Kern County to get to know each other and discuss the massive pet overpopulation issues we all face.

The takeaways included steps in addressing a "one stop shop" for Animal Related resources for the community, targeted spay/neuter programs and a humane education component.

Many of you may notice some of the successful outcomes of these items soon, and we will continue to meet to address additional needs. It was spectacular to have so much talent, knowledge and enthusiasm in one room!

Kids and Critters Day Camps

Our Summer Day Camps sold out this year for the first time, and we may actually need to add more slots for next year! The parents and kids have been all smiles and some of our campers adopted "their pet" that they helped train and socialize.

Special Needs Rescues

We have also taken in some special needs animals that can sometimes put a big strain on our budget, but is worth every single lick and meow once they have recovered. Following these animals on a journey from abuse or neglect to getting the perfect home makes everyone here so proud of all we can do.

Facility Maintenance

On the maintenance side, we have been lucky that James Air Conditioning & Heating and McKee Electric came to our rescue during the July heat wave. Our Cat Room and Cattery had both the breaker panels and A/C units go out and both companies dashed down here to help us on their off time, to get our animals comfortable again. **Thank You so much!**

Continued on page 6

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!

CASSIE
Since 2012

I would love to be part of your family.

Hello: From the Board Past President

Greetings,

I hope that this newsletter finds you in a comfortable cool environment that is safe from the oppressive heat that we have all had to endure this summer.

As I step down from the role of Board President of the Bakersfield SPCA I want to assure you that the BSPCA is blessed to have Dr. Rose Rakow stepping up to lead us into the future. Dr. Rakow (Rose) has been a medical backbone for the BSPCA for many years and gives very freely of her personal time where the shelter is concerned. Thank you for saying yes Dr. Rakow – we appreciate you. Many thanks also go out to the other board members that have chosen to devote their precious free time to care about the companion animals that patiently wait for their forever homes at the BSPCA.

Being a board member for the BSPCA is a most rewarding experience. It is great to know that the dogs and cats that find shelter with us are so well cared for by our loving and caring staff. It is also exceptionally fulfilling to be affiliated with fabulous volunteers that give from their hearts whether it is the pet therapy group, the book sale crew, shelter care volunteers, front office volunteers or the donors that care enough to say yes to the BSPCA. Volunteer work is much easier to perform when others care as much as you do.

Thank you to all of you for taking an interest in what happens to the lost and abandoned companion animals of Bakersfield. Thank you for helping the SPCA conduct community outreach programs such as obedience classes for dogs and their owners as well as Summer Camps that teach children about responsible pet ownership. Your help is what keeps our doors open.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Thank you,

Laurie Weir

WE NEED YOUR HELP

- **Drive through & fill up our Donation Bank**
- **Credit Card Donations will be accepted all day by calling 323-8353**

Tuesday, Sept. 17
5 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
22nd & M Streets

(Across from KGET-TV 17)

- Lots of Giveaways
- Dog & Cat Adoptions
- Low Cost Microchip Clinic $20

TRUDY
Since 2011

JACK
Since 2012

TC
Since 2012

PAW PRINTS

Last August, a lovely family came into the shelter looking to adopt a dog. They had recently lost their young son and were hoping to find a dog to bring the "happy" back.

Our thoughts immediately went to a darling little female Australian Cattle dog we named Pepper. She was just about four years old and a bundle of energy. The three of them spent a lot of time with her, and we were delighted when they said they wanted to take her home.

We spoke several times over the next few months and were so happy to hear that Pepper had filled a void and that they were totally in love with her.

Over the course of time we heard of her antics and of a very special story.

You see, their son was an avid tetherball player and had his very own court set up. One afternoon while Mom was sitting on the patio, Pepper began to bat the tetherball back and forth, like she was playing a game with someone. We now hear that she is a PRO and no one can beat her! But she needed a friend …

Back came the family to the shelter for dog #2. They found a beautiful Australian Shepherd who seemed to be the perfect fit. The two dogs played in the yard together and appeared to be the perfect match for Pepper. After they filled out the paperwork, they said they just wanted to look at our puppies, and they found a puppy who was the spitting image of Pepper (dog #1). The two played and played. It was cute! But the family had only come for one dog and this puppy had a condition called "cherry eye," which will need surgery — such a dilemma.

They went home to think about which dog they were going to adopt. Much to our surprise, they came back and said, "We'll take both of them!!"

I am happy to report that the trio of Aussies is doing great and recently boarded with us while the family went on vacation. We want to thank this family from the bottom of our hearts for giving these three beautiful dogs such a wonderful home with such a great family.

by Deryle Kidner, SPCA office staff

Did you know that you can donate items to the Bakersfield SPCA through Amazon?

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

MILO
Since 2011

SIMBA
Since 2012

MINNIE
Since 2012

Keep pets cool in the summer heat

Summers in Bakersfield always include high temperatures. As I write this, we have had 12 days of triple-digit weather. Just like you or I, our pets can be affected by the heat. It is not uncommon for them to have decreased appetite, lethargy and excessive thirst. These signs can occur even if they are inside in the air conditioning, so the best treatment is prevention!

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

Feeding small meals, late evening or early morning can help with the appetite. Dogs and cats will sleep or rest away the hot times of the day and become more active in the cooler hours (notice I did not say cool). Try to schedule playtime or walks during these times. Fresh water should be available at all times; changing or refreshing the water in the bowl, or an automatic waterer will help.

Heat stress is of great concern also. Many pets are outdoors for the majority of the day. Fresh water, shade and ventilation are essential for them. Many dogs will get wet to cool off, so a swimming pool or sprinkler will help. A hard plastic child's pool is inexpensive and easy to maintain; just place it in a shady area. It doesn't need to be kept full so just a few inches of water will work. Change the water every few days, and you will usually not have any algae or mosquito problems. Misters may not be effective for pets unless it is at the pet's level. The hair coat on our pets is made to insulate and keep the skin dry. Misters tend to stay on the hair surface and not reach the skin to evaporate and cool.

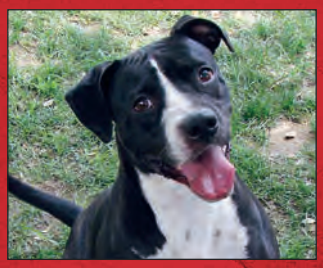
There is a big debate about shaving the hair of dogs and cats. The hair coat is insulation, but at what point is the insulation a deficit not an advantage? Some beneficial aspects of shaving include: the animal can be cooled easily with water, they dry quicker when wet, and fans can be used to aid evaporation and cooling.

Cats will find the coolest places to hide from the heat. If your cats are indoor only, remember to leave fans on in the house when you leave, especially if you only have an evaporative cooler. Make sure the cats have access to tile or porcelain as these areas tend to be cooler.

Small pocket pets and rabbits need to be kept cool without chilling them. Air conditioners blowing cold air on them can cause sickness and respiratory disorders. You need to keep them from over-heating but at the same time not cool them too much. Fans should be in the room with them, blow over the habitat, or beside it but ideally not directly into it. Rabbits outdoors need

ADOPT TODAY!

ROCKY
Since 2012



NALA
Since 2011

fans to move the air. Shade over the hutch is vital. Two liter soda bottles can be filled with water, frozen and used as ice blocks in the hutch or habitat and usually stay cool for most of the day.

Signs of heat stress may not be obvious, especially in an active dog. (These signs can be extrapolated to other species).

Initially the animal will appear distressed, panting excessively. It may produce copious amounts of saliva (drool) out of its mouth and nose. The gums may be bright red in color or purple/blue. It may be unsteady or collapse, have muscle weakness and mental depression. What do you do?

Remove your pet to a cooler area and direct a fan on it. If possible, get a rectal temperature and record it. Begin to cool your pet by placing cool (not cold or icy) towels or water on the back of the neck, armpits, groin/inguinal area. You can wet the ear flaps and paws also. Make sure you direct the fan to aid in evaporation (this is what cools the pet). Do NOT force water in your pet's mouth, but have water available if your pet desires it. Transport your pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

By following some of these simple tips, you and your pet can get through this summer happy and safely.

Pawtiques & Treasures Sale

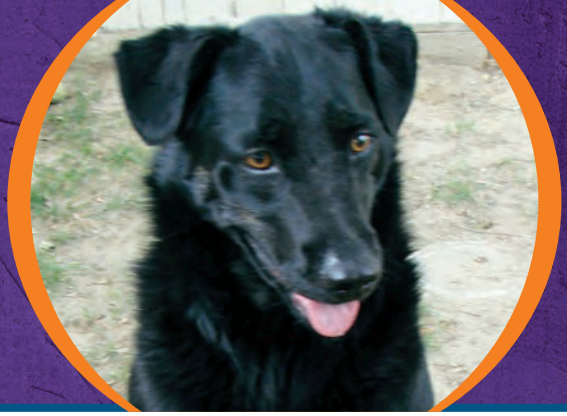
We are now accepting upscale Furniture and Home Goods for our annual sale at the SPCA.

Large appliances must be no more than three years old.
No clothes will be accepted.

Sale date is TBD

Please bring your donation to the SPCA at 3000 Gibson St.

MAISY
Since 2012



ADOPT TODAY!

THOR
Since 2011

Volunteer Spotlight:

Hats off to a Volunteer Village

Merci Beaucoup, Muchas Gracias, Many Thanks

from Marilyn Lum

Thank you Chuck for the kind words regarding my volunteer work and crafting efforts. But it takes a village to make anything work. I am fortunate to have a "village" that helps me immensely.

People that have twined through my life past and present: from my family — my sister Gerry from Vancouver, Canada, who taught me how to knit those beautiful lacey scarves; from my previous life as a Long's Drug employee — Sandi Coughlan (a good and patient friend) who taught me how to sew the tote bags. Sandi also donates many crafted items throughout the year. She sewed our raffle quilt at this year's Book Sale.

A big thank you to Janelle Molina (a quilter friend of Sandi's). The cat tote bags are adorable. Thanks also to your cat. (She said her cat told her to donate some craft items to us.)

Also from my Long's Drug years — Shirley Warkentine (a former co-worker) who donates those great wall hangings and assorted cute things. My new neighbor and friend, Patsy Carpenter, and her quilting group. They save quilt batting for me.

Tracey (SPCA office manager) who showed me how to tie those warm fuzzy pet pads. Deryle (SPCA adoption clerk) who diligently sorts and saves me any material and padding she thinks I can use. My longtime (40+ year) friends, Marguerite Hughey and Irene Randolph, who help by being my sales people at the craft table at our special events. Irene also makes home baked cookies to keep our adrenalin flowing.

And most importantly, a big thanks to all of you who have purchased our hand crafted pet items.

Being a private entity, funding is always needed. Our dogs and cats thank you for your help. Being a volunteer has been so rewarding. It keeps me healthy, happy and sane!

Director's Message,

continued from page 1

Up Next?

Unleash Your Love with our sponsor KGET-TV 17 is coming up on Sept. 17. We also have KUZZ personalities joining us this year to add some very fun twists to this year's event, and Rabobank has donation banks at all branches right now!

Right after that we will be getting ready for our 2nd Annual Pawtiques & Treasures Upscale Yard Sale (date TBD) — see more info on page 5.

We truly hope you are having a great summer despite all of this heat and please enjoy this issue.

Until next time, I wish you Peace, Love and Blessings,

Julie Johnson
Executive Director

BAM BAM
Since 2012

NALO
Since August 2011

CHARLIE
Since February 2012

Socialize! Socialize! Socialize your dog!

Take Them To Pet Friendly Places (Home Depot, Pet Shops, Parks, Pet Friendly Friend's Homes, Outdoor Cafe's, Most Banks

(Take them in the car on short trips; they can wait in the car if the outside temperature is **70 degrees or below**. Crate them if they are not yet trustworthy when left unattended.)

- NEVER use a negative action or voice when your dog is coming towards you or making eye contact.
- Never correct your dog if you do not catch them in the act. A three second rule applies. A late correction will only confuse them.
- Tone of voice – Use contrast in your voice to give your dog a clear message.
- Dogs have superior hearing in comparison to humans. Your commands need not be loud.
- Fears – Desensitize by increasing pleasure and exposure. Help them realize that life is good!
- "Off " means get off the furniture, get off of me, etc. "Down" means the "down" position.
- "Leave it" means "Not now, maybe later", like sniffing the ground or socializing.
- "NO" is ALWAYS NO, NEVER. This behavior is never permitted, like aggression or stealing food.
- There will be good days and bad days. Mistakes will be made. Work through them. Dogs are not robots.
- Think of class like when you were in elementary school. We will have a class clown, an over achiever, and under achiever, a social butterfly, someone with ADD or ADHD. Not all dogs learn at the same pace.
- Training never stops!

Please don't hesitate to call for advice or problem solving. My goal is to help you help your dog to be a pleasure to be around!

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

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BAKERSFIELD SPCA

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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: September 17, **Unleash Your Love!**

2013-2014 Bakersfield SPCA
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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
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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.