CRITTER CHRONICLE

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BAKERSFIELD SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | APR . MAY . JUN . 2024 | FREE

Support three quarters of a century strong

by Chuck Nordstrom, Executive Director

Seventy-five years and still counting! What a testament to this wonderful community for the support you have shown for three quarters of a century to keep this vibrant and soulful private non-profit going strong. To think of the tens of thousands of pets that have taken refuge in a nice warmed or cooled kennel on a bundle of blankets as they waited for their new loving forever home is just amazing.

I have been here for the last 21 years but have heard the stories of the shelter being on Edison Hwy previously, and one person told me that the very first location for the SPCA was actually in Shafter back in 1949! I don't know if this is true, but wherever the Bakersfield SPCA began, it began a rich history of board members, volunteers, staff and customers. It has been here to assist on the pathway for many of our furry friends who were lost, stray or abandoned and found all your support for food and housing for a brief period of time. Together as a community we have celebrated, fundraised, laughed and cried for so many with so little at different points in their lives. When they say it takes a village, there is no doubt that the Bakersfield and Kern County community has pulled off one heck of a monumental task learning, building and improving on the many changes of sheltering pets that have happened over the years!

Recently, I was recalling when low cost spay/neuter was unavailable, and we would show up at the shelter weekly at 5 a.m. to load 50 to 60 pets in carriers for them to be transported to the HOPE foundation in Fresno for spay/neuter. Or when Dr. Rakow would neuter 120+ cats in a parking lot trailer regardless of the weather! So many have done so much, as together we have built and maintained this organization to the highest standards. Well, the job is not over yet. We will continue to seek your support both financially and all hands-on-deck to keep us going strong for the next 75 years to care for those that need us the most until that new family and home become available.

Hats off to ALL of you and
Thank You from the bottom of hearts!

Celebrating 75 Years of Service
BAKERSFIELD SPCA

75 Years *and still going strong!*

What a community effort to have supported the existence of the Bakersfield SPCA for all these years. Due to your ongoing support, tens of thousands of dogs and cats have been taken in, rehabilitated (spay/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, flea treated and perhaps fluffed up a little) on their way to a new loving home. From all of the staff, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers over the past three quarters of a century, we *thank you* from the bottom of our paws and look forward to the next 75 years of service to this wonderful community!!

Veterinary Medicine:
A Look at the Last 75 Years

by Rose Rakow, DVM,
Stiern Veterinary Hospital

The Bakersfield Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in 1949 and incorporated in 1950, 75 years ago. I have been a proud member and working with them for almost 30 years. It got me thinking about what has happened in medicine and veterinary medicine in the last 75 years…

In 1948, just one year before the Bakersfield SPCA became an organization, the University of California started its School of Veterinary Medicine at the UC Davis Campus. That inaugural class (in their second year in 1949) consisted of 42 students, all men and most were veterans of WWII. The current graduating Class of 2024 consists of 150 members: 123 female and 27 males, out of 1,012 applicants.[i]

In 1951, there were 17 accredited Colleges of Veterinary Medicine in the United States. Currently there are 33 accredited Colleges of Veterinary Medicine in the United States, five in Canada and 18 in foreign countries (accreditation allows the graduate to sit for the National Veterinary Medical Boards to practice in the United States).[ii]

In the 1950s the average life span of dogs was 9-10 years; currently, it is 12-14, depending on the breed. The average life span of cats was about the same 8-10 years, and depending on lifestyle, it is currently 12-18 years.[iii]

While the Canine Distemper Vaccination was researched and produced prior to 1950, the vaccine was not commercially available for widespread use until the 1950s.[iv]

Antibiotics, penicillin, and streptomycin were released for civilian use in 1950, prior to that, though, it was for military use only. By the mid-1950s, they were widespread used in veterinary medicine.

1950 saw the research and definition of radiographic evidence of hip dysplasia in dogs. 1950 also saw the use of intramedullary pins for fracture repair.

While the first prescription diet for dogs was developed by Dr. Mark Morris for Buddy, a seeing-eye dog suffering from kidney failure, in 1939, it wasn't until 1948 that Burton Packaging Company of Topeka, Kansas agreed to can their food commercially, launching k/d as the first veterinarian-prepared food for management of a canine disease. In 1953, Hill's Prescription Diet released the first prescription cat food, c/d for urinary tract disease. It wasn't until 1968 that Hill's launched their maintenance line, Hill's Science Diet, focusing on preventative health through diet for pets.[v]

1951 through 1955 saw the emergence of tetracycline and nitrofurans drugs.

1961 through 1965 saw the emergence of drug resistant organisms and the establishment of drug withdrawal times and drug residue limits established for use in livestock and food animals.

The 1960s is thought to be when Cockapoo's first emerged as the first purposeful hybrid breed.

In 1966, Congress passed the Animal Welfare Act.

1966 through 1970, saw the emergence of cephalosporin, ampicillins and amikacin. The beginning of synthetic expansion of drugs to alter spectrum and attempt to way lay resistance.

Canine Parvovirus appeared in the United States in 1978, unsure if it was a mutation of feline panleukopenia virus or a similar virus. A widespread vaccine was available in 1980, but the outbreak was severe and wide spread. Initially, since it was a novel virus and no immunity available, dogs of all ages were affected, now it is a disease associated mostly with puppies and unvaccinated young dogs.

1970 through 1976 saw the emergence of trimethoprim sulfa, 2nd generation cephalosporins, and chloramphenicol as antibiotics widely used in veterinary medicine. In 1980, chloramphenicol was banned for use in food animals due to human reactions.

1970s also saw the awareness of pet overpopulation and concern about the euthanasia rates at shelters. At the lowest point, an estimated 20 million dogs and cats were euthanized a year in the United States.

Spay/neuter was promoted as a means to decrease the pet overpopulation nationwide. Spay/neuter became a "package" surgery at most veterinary clinics, grouping

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THE CATTERY NO LONGER A DREAM

After years of planning the long awaited ground breaking and construction of our new Cattery is now a fact and no longer a dream.

With the help of SPCA President Marjorie Blake, Past President Ethel Miksits, Executive Director Dianna Knapp, and Director and architect John Mueller, the ground breaking was held April 28th at the Pet Adoption Center. Also in attendance were fellow Board Members, SPCA volunteers and staff.

Completion is expected later this summer. With the completion of the Cattery the current overcrowding problem we have experienced at the Pet Adoption Center will be greatly reduced.

This article, from June 1992, is when we first announced the cattery build, and we're remodeling it now!

ADOPT TODAY!

The Adoption Center is open, by appointment only, Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Please call for appointments: (661) 323-8353 Ext 2.

FEES Dogs: $100-$400 Cats: $100

Includes spay/neuter, shots, ID Microchipping, bag of food and a new leash!

Bakersfield SPCA BOOK SALE

Apr 27 to May 25

@ BSPCA, 3000 Gibson St.

WED-FRI: 11-4:30 • SAT & SUN: 11-3

Nice Selection of Cookbooks & Children's Books!

Veterinary Medicine, continued

anesthesia, medications, surgery and hospitalization for a set fee, greatly reduced from what individual pricing and what abdominal surgery normally would cost.

1971 saw the emergence of the first low income spay/neuter clinic in North Hollywood, California. Spay/neuter became a part of responsible pet ownership.

Until a few years ago, national euthanasia yearly decreased; unfortunately, it has increased over the last two years.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimated more than 920,000 shelter animals were euthanized, whereas the Best Friends Animal Society, which works toward no-kill policies, estimated the number was closer to 378,000 dogs and cats in 2022.[vi]

[i] Historical Timeline. UC Davis School of Medicine – Veterinary Medicine. Web. https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/historical-timeline. 8 January 2024.

[ii] Admission Profile for the Class of 2024. UC Davis School of Medicine – Veterinary Medicine. Web. https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/. 8 January 2024.

[iii] Frequently Asked Questions. American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges. Web. https://www.aavmc.org/about-aavmc/faqs/. 8 January 2024.

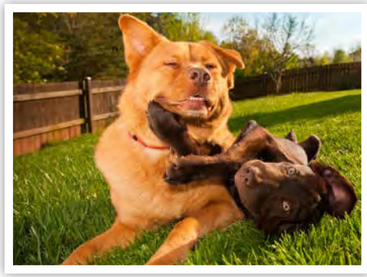
[iv] Southtowns Animal Hospital. "The Canine Distemper Vaccine". Southtowns Animal Hospital. 2 August 2018. Web. https://southtownsanimalhospital.com/uncategorized/canine-distemper-vaccine/. 8 January 2024.

[v] Our History. Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. Web. https://www.hillspet.com/about-us/our-history?lightboxfired=true#1940s. 8 January 2024.

[vi] Kelly Burch. "Pet euthanasia rates are at a 3-year high, but experts say there are ways to help besides adoption". Business Insider. 12 September 2023. Web. https://www.businessinsider.com/pet-euthanasia-rates-three-year-high-how-to-help-2023-9. 8 January 2024.

Spring into Safety: Essential Tips for Pet Owners

As the vibrant colors of spring emerge and the weather warms up, many of us are eager to spend more time outdoors with our beloved pets. However, with the change in season comes a new set of potential hazards for our furry friends. To ensure a safe and enjoyable springtime for your pets, here are some essential tips to keep in mind:

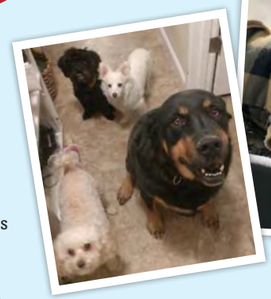


1. **Flea and Tick Prevention:** As temperatures rise, so does the activity of fleas and ticks. These pests not only cause discomfort for your pets but can also transmit diseases. Talk to your veterinarian about appropriate flea and tick prevention methods for your furry companions. Regular grooming and inspecting your pets for any signs of infestation are also crucial steps in maintaining their well-being.
2. **Allergies Awareness:** Just like humans, pets can suffer from seasonal allergies too. Keep an eye out for symptoms such as excessive scratching, licking or sneezing. Pollen, grass and other allergens can trigger allergic reactions in pets. Consult your vet if you suspect your pet is experiencing allergies, as they can recommend appropriate treatment options.
3. **Watch Out for Toxic Plants:** Spring brings forth an array of blooming flowers and plants, but not all of them are safe for our pets. Common plants like lilies, azaleas, and tulips can be toxic to dogs and cats if ingested. Be mindful of what plants you have in your home and garden, and consider pet-friendly alternatives to keep your furry friends safe.
4. **Spring Cleaning Caution:** As you embark on your spring cleaning spree, be mindful of the cleaning products you use. Many household cleaners contain chemicals that can be harmful to pets if ingested or inhaled. Store cleaning supplies securely out of reach of curious paws, and opt for pet-safe cleaning products whenever possible.
5. **Supervise Outdoor Activities:** With longer daylight hours and warmer weather, your pets may be eager to spend more time outdoors. Ensure that your yard is secure and free of potential escape routes. Supervise outdoor playtime, especially if your pets are prone to wandering off or encountering other animals.
6. **Stay Hydrated:** Hydration is key, especially as temperatures rise. Always provide fresh, clean water for your pets, whether they're indoors or outdoors. Carry a portable water bowl and some water with you when venturing out with your pet for extended periods.
7. **ID and Microchip Your Pets:** Accidents can happen, and pets may become disoriented or lost, especially with more outdoor activity. Make sure your pets are wearing collars with up-to-date identification tags, and consider microchipping them for an added layer of protection.

By following these simple yet important tips, you can ensure that your pets stay safe and healthy throughout the spring season. With proper care and attention, you and your furry companions can enjoy all the wonders that spring has to offer.

Happy Tails

Congrats James, Bolt & Fam!



Once upon a time at the Bakersfield SPCA, there was a pet adoption that left everyone feeling warm and fuzzy inside. James, our beloved onsite maintenance manager at the shelter, stumbled upon a snow-white, 2-month-old puppy that had just come to us as a stray. The pup had a bit of a rough exterior, as he was the largest of his litter and the only male with four sisters. It appeared as if he had been defending them fiercely before they came to us. But James could see past that and fell head over heels for him.

James was determined to show the puppy all the love and kindness he deserved, and he never gave up. He worked tirelessly with the pup every day to break down those walls and show him that he was safe and loved. As time went on, the puppy slowly but surely began to come out of his shell. He even learned how to play fetch like a pro at only 2.5 months old! James was so attached to the pup that he knew he had to do something drastic to keep him by his side forever.

So, one weekend James did the unthinkable. He smuggled the puppy out of the shelter and took him home. James named him Bolt, and he quickly became a part of the pack. James knew he had to come clean on Monday morning, and he did just that. Luckily, the adoption was happily finalized by the staff, and Bolt officially found his forever home with James and his family.

Now, Bolt and James are still together, living their best life. Bolt has come so far from the scared and standoffish pup he once was, and it's all thanks to James' love and patience. Here's to many more happy tails for Bolt, James, and Fam!

Remember, adopt don't shop!

BAKERSFIELD SPCA

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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: UNLEASH YOUR LOVE FRIDAY, APRIL 5!
BOOK SALE OPENING SATURDAY, APRIL 27!

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Critter Corner

Employee Spotlight: Jeanette Folck

Jeanette Folck
Health Technician

Meet Jeanette Folck! She is an essential member of the BSPCA team who started her journey as a Kennel Technician in 2006. With her passion for animal welfare and the experience she has gained over the years, she has been promoted to the role of Health Technician where she provides exceptional care and support for all the animals in need. Jeanette's dedication to her work and her love for animals is evident in everything she does! She goes above and beyond to ensure that every animal in her care receives the best possible treatment. When she is not busy taking care of the animals, Jeanette can be found in the nursery, spreading love and joy among the little puppies. Her commitment to her job and her love for the animals make her an invaluable asset to the BSPCA team.

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BE ENTERED TO WIN A STARBUCKS GIFT CARD!

New email list subscribers who sign up between April 1, 2024 and May 30, 2024 will be entered to win a $20 Starbucks gift card!

Sign up at **https://bakersfieldspca.org/email** or scan this code: