CRITTER CHRONICLE

IN THIS ISSUE

Introduction from our new ED!

Routine Vet Exams and Visits

Winter Safety Tips

Happy "Tails" Adoption Story

BAKERSFIELD SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS | JAN . FEB . MAR . 2023 | FREE

COZMO
Male
Chihuahua, Short Coat/ Mix

PHOENIX
Female
Terrier, Pit Bull/ Mix

SWEET PEA
Female
Domestic Shorthair Mix

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 to schedule your appointment: (661) 323-8353 Ext 2.

FEES

Dogs: $100-$400

Cats: $100

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

The Critter Chronicle is Back!

Important News & Updates

HAPPY NEW YEAR BSPCA FAMILY!!

Yes, the Critter Chronicle is back! A lot of exciting things has happened and/or changed since Covid. Allow me to bring you up to date.

First, this is Chuck Nordstrom, Executive Director writing this opening article, which, Julie Johnson previously wrote. Julie has taken another animal shelter management position in Gainesville, Florida with Alachua County. She will be greatly missed, and we all wish Julie the best in her new venture.

by Chuck Nordstrom, Executive Director

That's where I come in. The Board of Directors has entrusted me with the position of Executive Director. I can only hope to lead as well as the many previous Directors before me who I had the opportunity to work with over the last two decades. Yes, I am in my 20th year working at the Bakersfield SPCA.

Most of you may recognize me from the "Pet of the Week" segments over the many years at both KGET TV Channel 17 and KBAK TV Channel 29. Along with the TV exposure, I have worked and volunteered at all the great events, fundraisers and animal clinics sponsored by the Bakersfield SPCA. As I traverse into some deeper waters with this new position, some vacancies needed to be filled in order to keep the ship sailing smoothly.

First and foremost, we have a new Shelter Director at the City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center, Matthew Buck. He will lead that team and take over the day-to-day operations that Julie Johnson oversaw.

Secondly, I had to find someone new to take over some of my previous duties and increase awareness in this new social media and digital world, which, brings me to introduce you to Kristen White. You will see her regularly on TV with the "Pet of the Week" segments and engage with her in some new social media enhancements.

Finally, we said goodbye to Gary Wade, who took the opportunity during Covid to formally retire after 22+ years of caring for the animals in the kennels daily — longer than anyone else. Now that I have given you a brief update, I look forward to the future of undying love, care and respect for all the lost, stray and abandoned dogs and cats that depend on all of us during brief periods of homelessness until that new forever home is found.

Bakersfield SPCA Kennel Sponsorship

Joining the BSPCA Kennel Club is a great way to join the team of compassionate people dedicated to helping end the pet overpopulation crisis in Kern County. Kennel Club members will have a commemorative plaque on an SPCA dog or cat kennel.

YES! I/We wish to sponsor a kennel at the Bakersfield SPCA!

Annual Sponsorship starting at: ❑ **Pewter** $150 ❑ **Bronze** $250 ❑ **Silver** $500 ❑ **Gold** $1,000

Name/Business Name_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please make checks payable to **Bakersfield SPCA.** Please mail your check and this form to:
Bakersfield SPCA, 3000 Gibson St., Bakersfield, CA 93308

STORMY
Female
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

SHARKEY
Male
Chihuahua, Short Coat/Mix

THOR
Male
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

LIL MAN
Male
Chihuahua, Short Coat/Mix

PEPPER
Female
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

ADOPTION CENTER FEES

Dogs: $100-$400

Cats: $100

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

Questions & Answers

Routine Exams and Visits

Why is it important to see your veterinarian on a routine basis?

"I'm too busy to make an appointment," "My cat is young, indoors and nothing is wrong with her" and "my dog doesn't go anywhere" are just a few reasons people use to avoid seeing their pet's veterinarian once a year.

What is a "routine" basis?

Ideally, your pet's relationship with their veterinarian should begin when you get them, whether that is a 6-week-old puppy/kitten or a 9-year-old adult. "But how often seen?" is another question, and that depends on the situation, health condition and age of your four-legged friend. Puppies and kittens should receive vaccinations every 3-4 weeks until at least 16 weeks. Advantages to seeing your veterinarian for those vaccinations are numerous. A thorough exam will

by Rose Rakow, DVM, Stiern Veterinary Hospital

expose congenital issues and early intervention will help them have a happier healthier life. Vaccination companies guarantee their vaccination against the diseases as long as the vaccination was given under the supervision of a veterinarian, meaning if your pet develops the disease when vaccinated properly, the company will cover the cost of treatment and testing. Your veterinarian will monitor your pet's growth and development. Establishing the relationship between your pet and the veterinarian helps to make visits more routine and less "scary" for your pet. If the only time they go to the vet is when they are hurt or sick, they associate the clinic with the illness. Making visits stressful to everyone… the pet, you, staff and the veterinarian.

Young adult pets need fewer routine visits unless they have a medical condition that warrants monitoring. As our four-legged friends age they should be seen more often. Ideally their teeth, heart and lungs, weight, and joints should be checked at least twice a year as they get older, starting at middle age, 4-5 years old. Geriatric dogs and cats (7-8 years of age and older) should be seen twice a year, ideally. Diseases associated with senior pets usually start earlier, such as arthritis, renal/kidney disease, hypothyroid (in dogs) or hyperthyroid (in cats), liver disease and cancer. Most cancers, if caught early, are treatable through surgery.

So why would you want to make that annual or biannual chore of bundling up your four-legged friend and taking that trip to the clinic?

Several reasons come to mind…

The easiest is annual vaccinations. There are vaccinations they should receive on a routine basis, to help protect them from serious, potentially fatal diseases, least of which is rabies. Rabies is a virus that infects any mammal, including humans. In dogs, leptospirosis is a concern. Its primary host are usually rodent species, but it is spread through urine, so you may never see the rodent.

Routine exams and visits also will establish the normal for your pet, allowing your vet to notice if things start to change. Many long-term chronic disease progressions can be slowed or eased with early detection. Early intervention in renal disease or heart disease can slow the progression, enabling a longer, more comfortable life span. Early intervention in osteoarthritis will allow a more comfortable longer life.

Dental disease is a leading cause of heart and kidney disease in small animals. The infection from the gums travels through the blood stream and settles around the heart valves causing them to scar and not seal properly. A condition called endocarditis, which can lead to dilative cardiomyopathy and heart failure, is the leading cause of heart failure in small animals in the U.S. The infection can also travel to the kidneys or liver and cause infection in those organs. Brushing your pet's teeth is the gold standard to helping to keep dental disease at bay, but they will need periodic cleaning to remove calculus and tartar. Your veterinarian can help you establish good dental hygiene practices and cleaning schedules.

Establishing a relationship with your veterinarian is another reason. Your four-legged friend needs to have an established doctor-patient relationship for any prescriptions, including newer, highly effective, flea and tick medications or heartworm preventative medications. Unfortunately, here in Bakersfield, like the majority of urbanity, it is difficult to get an appointment with a veterinary clinic unless you are an established client. Maintaining a routine relationship with your veterinary staff will help if your pet needs to be seen for an unexpected illness or injury.

Since COVID started, it seems like it is harder to get an appointment and the wait for an appointment may be a month for some practices. There are many reasons… with COVID, many clinics increased appointment lengths to allow for curbside appointments and social distancing, which decreased the number of appointments booked. Most veterinary clinics continued to work full time, many times short staffed due to illnesses and quarantines. Before COVID, there was an increase in pet populations nationwide, which seemed to explode during COVID isolation. Initially veterinary clinics were not performing routine surgeries, low income spay/neuter clinics also were closed. Vaccine clinics and low-income services were also ceased. Between social distancing, isolation, conservation of medical supplies for human use, back orders and low supplies, shipping issues, and fear, the routine part of veterinary medicine was put on hold. As we came out of it, we started back up, but the number of routine visits, procedures and treatments that were missed and the additional number of pets present have back logged the system unbelievably. Nation-wide, there is a shortage of veterinarians. Multiple clinics in Bakersfield have been advertising for years for veterinary positions.

So… it is important for your four-legged friends to visit their veterinarian on a routine basis. For all of the above reasons and last of all, because the main reason 90% of us got into this profession in the first place, we really like to see your four-legged friends, in all their variety and moods.

And if your veterinarian is like me, they like the two-legged and no-legged friends also, of all sizes.

Keeping Your Pet Warm in Winter Safety Tips

Tis' the season and although Christmas is over, winter is not! We at the Bakersfield SPCA want to ensure that you and your furry babies are safe, happy, and healthy this winter. Here are some tips to help.

When is "cold," too cold?
If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for them!

- Ideal winter temperatures for our pets, indoors, is usually between 69-72 degrees. Our furry friends with thicker coats prefer it on the cooler end.
- Pets that are smaller, with thinner coats, or that are young, old, sick, should not be left outside for very long in temps below 32 degrees.

How do I know if my dog is cold?
Your pets will always tell you in their own ways. Look for:

- Shivering/shaking
- Reluctance to keep walking or tries to turn around
- Lifts paws off the ground
- Any changes in their behavior: anxious, uncomfortable, whining/barking, hunched posture with a tucked tail, etc.

How do I keep them warm when outdoors?

- Buy them a warm jacket or sweater
- Go on shorter walks
- Provide a warm, cozy shelter. Invest in a good pet bed and blankets.

Follow us on social media for more information!

Critter Corner

Employee Spotlight

Hello BSPCA friends and family! My name is Kristen White, and I have been given the opportunity to be the BSPCA's Communication Specialist. I have been in the role since the beginning of October 2022, and it has been a blast! I have been in the marketing field for quite a few years now and I love every aspect of it as more of a passion than a job, so, I am living the dream with this new role. I am not only able to do what I love every day, but now I get to play with dogs and cats to do it! I could not be happier, and I am so very thankful to Chuck Nordstrom for giving me this opportunity. As this New Year begins, I am looking forward to building onto the foundation that Chuck has already laid for us and further increasing our digital media presence. I sincerely hope to do the BSPCA family proud and, hopefully, help to continue our mission to make a difference in our community.

Kristen White
Communications Specialist

Happy "Tails"

The employees of our local Pepsi distribution company, who had held a month-long donation drive, showed up to surprise us with heaps of blankets, cat & dog food, toys, and even much needed office supplies!

Once we finished unloading their truck, we took them on a shelter walkthrough to see all the cute shelter pets their donations will be helping.

In a miraculous turn of events, one of the donors found their mom's lost pup! Incredible! The family pet had been missing for a couple of months and he randomly found it for his mom!

We are so thrilled for the family reunion to add a cherry on top of the generosity received by their support! What a great day it was!

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 • 6–10 P.M.
STOCKDALE COUNTRY CLUB
7001 STOCKDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD

$125 PER PERSON • $1,000 PER TABLE OF EIGHT

PLEASE RSVP BY FEB. 14 TO (661) 323-8353 EXT 2

BAKERSFIELD SPCA

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

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BAKERSFIELD, CA
PERMIT NO. 287

> **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:
5TH ANNUAL **FOGGY PAWS & FURRY NIGHTS**, FEBRUARY 24!

2022-2023 Bakersfield SPCA Board of Directors

President ..... Susan Calp
Vice-President ..... Eric Kelley
Secretary ..... Kathleen Valenzuela
Treasurer ..... Danhira Millan
Past President ..... Rose Rakow, DVM

Members-at-Large
Claudia Burk
Katy Christenson
Ginny Farley
Jana Joke
Robin Paggi
David Teeter

Departmental Staff

Chuck Nordstrom ..... **Executive Director**
(661) 323-8353 ..... Extension 12

Critter Chronicle
is produced by the Bakersfield SPCA

Graphic Design: Jessica Bloom Creative

Our Wish List

All contributions to the SPCA can make a difference! Please see our wish list below. Items can be dropped off at our location at 3000 Gibson Street. To make other arrangements, please call us at (661) 323-8353.

- Purina One Dog Food
- Purina One Cat Food
- Purina Cat Litter (Non-Clumping)
- Cat Toys
- Dog Toys
- KMR Kitten Milk
- Kong Toys
- Kitten Bottles
- Paper Towels
- Litter Pans
- Trash Bags
- Bleach
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Kiddie Swimming Pools
- Leashes
- Bandanas
- Dog Collars
- Dog Shampoo
- Laundry Soap
- Laundry Baskets
- Pet Bowls
- Heavy Duty Garden Hoses
- Baby Gate
- Puppy Pads

Join our email list!

BE ENTERED TO WIN A STARBUCKS GIFT CARD!

New email list subscribers who sign up between February 1, 2023 and March 30, 2023 will be entered to win a $20 Starbucks gift card!

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