

oc animal care Critter Chronicles Volume 5, Issue 2



Holiday Fun at OC Animal Care!



Santa and his, er, reindeer?

The holiday spirit was in the air this year at OC Animal Care! With Santa making several special stops to the shelter and our mature animals getting a special day, November and December were a fun and festive time for the animals and staff.

On Saturday, November 21st, we premiered our "Meet Your Mature Match" event. This was a special event focusing on all animals three years old and older. A free flea treatment and microchip were given to all adopters; along with a bag of goodies for them to take home. With a bake sale, an activity table for kids, and an opportunity drawing for the first "green" dog house in Orange County, it was definitely a memorable event for everyone. Forty-one animals found their forever home that day, just in time for the holidays!

Even during his busiest time of the year, Santa made lots of time in his schedule to visit the animals of OC Animal Care. Not only did he pose for pictures with his favorite four-legged friends, (sorry Rudolph), at the Petsmart in Fullerton, but he also helped debut the very first "Photos with Santa" at the shelter. Thanks to Santa's dazzling smile and the genorosity of our wonderful community, a total of over \$2000 was rasied at both locations! And although, we couldn't have had an event named "Photos with Santa" without the big man in red, we definitely couldn't have pulled off the magnitude of success without the help of the staff and volunteers.

After his genourous participation at our other holiday events, Santa still wasn't finished spreading his holiday cheer to



Donations everywhere!

Promoting Adoption"

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We're Here for You!
OC Animal Care
(714) 935-6848
After Hours Pick-up
(714) 935-7158
Visit Us Online
ocpetinfo.com

Find a forever friend



ocpetinfo.com

"Promoting Life,

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the animals of OC Animal Care. They received a very special visit from a group of local volunteers; of course headed headed up by Santa himself.

Volunteers with Operation Santa delivered Paws sleighloads of donated blankets, towels, dog and cat treats, toys and other animal care supplies. Operation

Santa Paws is a non-profit organization established to organize collection drives for animals at shelters during the holiday season. The volunteers spent more than an hour giving treats and love to all of the shelter pets. Volunteers remarked on what a special experience they had collecting their donations and how positive it was to make a difference in a homeless pet's life.

Thank you all for your generosity this holiday season!







More Santa Photos!







Our Volunteers are One of a Kind!

On Saturday, November 14th, OC Animal Care, in conjunction with OC Parks, hosted the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. The ceremony was held at Irvine Regional Park and had more than 150 volunteers in attendance. Volunteers were treated to a



Volunteer Kim Kane receiveing the "Excellence in Volunteerism" Award from OC Community Resources' Director, Steve Franks

picnic lunch, free train rides and OC Zoo admission. This event was our way of saying "Thank You" to our dedicated team of hard-working and compassionate volunteers. It was a small reminder of how much they are appreciated!

Special recognition goes to the following OC Animal Care volunteers for their significant accomplishments in 2008 and 2009:

Orange County Excellence in Volunteerism Award Debbie Barba Kim Kane

OC Animal Care Exceptional
Volunteer Award
Julie Milliken
Matt McFarland
Monica Rondeau
Pat Highfill
Bob Belloli
Jen Dentino

Adopt-a-Pet



Name: Carson ID: A1001346
Age: 3 years
Breed: Chihuahua
Carson may be small, but he has a huge heart. Meet this cutie today!



Name: Freddy
ID: A1001213
Age: 6 years
Breed: Poodle Mix
Freddy is a sweetheart
who is looking for his
forever family. Could it
be you?



Name: Marley
ID: A1001176
Age: 4 years
Breed: Eng. Foxhound
Mix
Marley is a fun loving
dog who can't wait to
meet you!







Name: Salma
ID: A1003756
Age: 1 year
Breed: Siamese
Salma is a beautiful girl
with a loving personality. One look and you'll
be in love!

Name: Mister
ID: A1003861
Age: 4 years
Breed: DSH
Mister is a playful cat
who is looking for a TV
watching companion.
Visit him today!

Name: Darla
ID: A1000186
Age: 4 years
Breed: Short Hair
Darla is a sweet rabbit
who is looking for her
forever home! She'll
hop into your heart!

OC Animal Care makes every effort to promote all of the wonderful animals we have available for adoption. At the time of publication, these animals were in need of lifelong homes. All adopted animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped prior to leaving the shelter. If you are interested in adopting a pet, please visit us online at ocpetinfo.com, or simply come down to the shelter!

Presidential Volunteer Award

Gold Award (Contributed 500 or more hours of service)

Melissa Boehmer, James Boire, Eileen Carrillo, Michelle Coffelt, Sandy Denning, Jen Fahey, Sheena Forsberg, Cathy Franklin, Sarah Franklin, Courtney Hillis, Raeanna Monares, Debbie Muise, Liesel Prentice, Lauren Stroud

Silver Award

(Contributed 250 – 500 hours of service)

Amanda Fain, Breanna Hurt, Amy Keller, Melinda Miller, Celesta Peterson, Diana Rodgers, Matthew Smiley, Frances Schuster, Michelle Trujillo, Julie Vogel

Bronze Award

(Contributed 100 – 249 hours of service)

Lisa Baker, Debbie Barba, Bob Belloli, Richard Bouch, Shari Brekenfeld, Kelly Douglas, Gregg Garcia, Pat Highfill, Kim Kane, Ti Le, Herman Lerner, Lori Loucks, Sabrina Melton, Julie Miliken, Janet Rohm, Tara Tavonatti, Rosemarie Williams, Jill Winchell, Nick Winters, Stacey Winters, Robert Womack

2009 in Numbers

473 animals fostered by volunteers

348 volunteers contributed 53,119 total service hours

2,100 animals sent to rescue organizations

136 animals adopted at our Forever Friends for Free event

49 cats adopted at Catopia

10,255 animals adopted from OC Animal Care

3,877 animals returned to their owners



Promoting Adoption"

Celebrating Success

🥆 Animal Care takes great pride in promoting our success in adopting our animals into forever homes. We often receive updates from visitors that tell us heart warming stories of how they were either reunited with their lost pet, or had found the perfect companion to take home. Here is the success story of "Ubu" and how she found her forever home, as told by her new family...

My husband, Mike, and I have been volunteers at OC Animal Care for over a year. During this time, we've come across many dogs that we have wanted to take home, but the one thing that has stopped us has been how we believe our 14-year old Labrador/ Pit Bull mix, Laifu, would feel. Having been hit by a car when he was a puppy, Laifu developed arthritis and nerve damage that lead to deterioration of his spine and for the past year, he has not able to walk on his own. Hey relies on our support for walking and moving around. Despite his difficulties, he's always been a happy dog and otherwise healthy. Our concern for bringing another dog into the family has always been that Laifu would feel replaced, due to his relatively newfound limitations.



However, late one afternoon, things completely changed. After arriving at the shelter and getting started on our routine, we immediately noticed a frail and emaciated Labrador. She gazed aimlessly at the passing visitors. She looked so sad and hopeless. Her information card read that she had been confiscated from her prior owner due to cruelty, and that she had been at the shelter since late October. At age 9, she looked much older and frail than our 14-year old dog. Mike took her out

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Helping the Kittens of OC



Do you want to help kittens at OC Animal Care? Donate these much needed supplies to support underage kittens in our nursery and in foster care:

3 – 4 lb. bags of premium kitten food (Science Diet, Nutro, lams, etc.) 3 oz and 5.5 oz cans of premium kitten food (Science Diet, Nutro, Iams, etc.) 5 lb. bags of cat litter Cat toys Small cat food and water bowls

Litter scoopers Small litter box Small cat beds Small fleece blankets

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator a (714) 935-6194 for more information

Upcoming Events

- 2/27/10* "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" Community Service Day at OC Animal Care (10 am - 2 pm)
- 3/10/10* "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" Community Service Day at OC Animal Care (3 pm - 5 pm)
- 3/13/10 Spay Day USA at OC Animal Care
- (10 am 2 pm)
- 3/27/10* "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" Community Service Day at OC Animal Care (10 am - 1 pm)
- 4/7/10 Community Service Presentation in Rancho Santa Margarita at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center (6 pm - 7 pm)
- 4/10/10* "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" Community Service Day at OC Animal Care, Saturday, April 10th (10 am - 2 pm)
- 4/16/10 4/18/10 America's Family Pet Expo at the OC Fair and Pet Expo
- 4/21/10 Pet Parenting Class in Rancho Santa Margarita at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center (6 pm - 7 pm)

*Registration Required

Please visit: www.disneyparks.com/celebrate for more information



Pawsitive Spotlight: OC Animal Care's Adoption Partners

Thank you to the following Adoption Partners for supporting OC Animal Care in 2009:

A&A Pekingese, A Passion for Paws, A Wish for Animals, Ace of Hearts, Adopt-A-Chow LA, Adopt-A-Saint, Almost Home, Animal Alliance, Animal Referral Center, Ariel, Ark, Animal Assistance League, Barks of Love, Basset Hound Rescue, Beagles & Buddies, Best Friends Animal Society, Bichon Fur Kids, Bill Foundation, Boston Buddies, Boxer LA Rescue, Brookfield Animal Hospital, Bumper Foundation, Bunny Bunch, Cairn Rescue USA, Camp Cocker, CARE, Cats in Need - Fullerton, Whittier and Yorba Linda, Cavalier of the West, Chance's Good Dog Rescue, Coastal German Shepherd Rescue, Critters in Need, California Turtle and Tortoise Club, Doberman Pinscher Rescue, Doggie Protective Services, Eskie United, ESRA, Fetching Companions, FOCHP, Four Pawws Coonhound, Friends for Pets, Fuzzy Dog and Cat Rescue, German Shepherd Rescue of OC, German Shorthair Pointer Rescue, Ginger's Pet Rescue, Good Dog Foundation, Great Pyrenees Association, Golden Retriever Rescue of LA, Helping Persian Cats, Husky Camp, IMPS, Indian Dane Rescue,



Italian Greyhound Rescue, Keeshound Rescue, Kitty Katchers, Kool Katz, Labrador Rescuers, Labradors & Friends, Laguna Beach Animal Shelter, Lhasa Happy Homes, Life Unlimited, Little Bow Wow, Love 4 Ca-



nines, Marley's Pit Stop Rescue, Meoowz RESQ, Milo's Sanctuary, Modjeska Ranch, Northern California Weimaraner, New Beginnings, New Rattitude, Noah's Bark, NORSLED, OES Southern California, Papillon Club of America, Pet Hospital, Pet Pro Life, Pet Project Foundation, Peter Zippi Memorial, Poochmatch.com, Pugs 'N Pals, Pup Squad, Pups & Pals, Rescue Alliance, RUFF, Russell Rescue INC, SAC Independent, SAFA, San Clemente Animal Control, San Diego Spaniel, Save the Dals, Schnauzers & Friends, SCLRR, Scottie/Wheaten Rescue, Second Chance Pet, Serenity Place, Shelter Pet Partners, Sierra Chow Chow, Silky Terrier Rescue, Small Dog Rescue, So Cal Abyssinian, So Cal Bulldog Rescue, So Cal Pomeranian Rescue, So Cal Shiba Rescue, South Bay Cats, Southland Sheltie, Take Me Home, The Ark of San Juan, Tibetan Terrier, Trouble's Den, Vizsla Rescue Fund, West Coast Mastiff, Westie Rescue of OC, Yorkie Club of LA, Yorkshire National

Celebrating Success

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for a walk and noticed that her spine was stiff and her legs were wobbly. She kept falling and running into things; making it evident that her vision was poor. After the walk and having been put back into her kennel, she attempted to turn around to be able to look outside. Her spine and legs were so inflexible that she tripped over her water and food bowls. She let out a sad howl. It was such a heartbreaking sight for both of us that for the first time ever, we considered seriously about bringing another dog to the family.

I'm a little ashamed to say that although I really wanted to help her, I was more concerned about how Laifu would feel and my thought was to just pay for her adoption fees to help her chances of being adopted. However, it quickly became evident with the physical/health impairments that she faced; that her chances of finding a new home would be very slim, but we decided to go with our instincts and adopt her. After meeting with the vet at the shelter, we were told of the lengthy list of

health issues that she had or was potentially facing. After we made the decision to adopt her, we mentally prepped ourselves that taking care of her would not be easy, and that she may not live for a very long time, but if we could provide her with a normal home for any amount of time, it's still worth it for her to see that life can be good.

That night, we brought her home and gave her a bath, situated her in front of the fireplace to "dry out" and gave her some food. It's then that we noticed that the majority of her teeth had decayed, thus not enabling her to eat dry food. She was extremely timid and didn't ask for anything. It was heartbreaking to observe her demeanor, as it indicated to us that she probably hadn't ever been treated well before in her life. We gave her some herbal supplements and the medications given to us by the shelter. After getting her situated and having gone through the usual routine with Laifu, Mike and I were tired, dirty and hungry. Still, we both felt an inexplicable feeling of peace. Mike named her Ubu (pronounced "ooo-boo").

Essentially after the first day, we were pleasantly surprised to find that taking care of her never turned out to be nearly as difficult as we had anticipated. It seemed that most of her ailments were brought on by psychological stress and the lack of proper nutrition. After just a few days, Ubu became more self-reliant as she progressed. All she really needed from us was love, water, food and shelter. In return, we were shown how immensely grateful, loving, and devoted she was of her new family. Her patient and humble nature makes her the rare candidate that would get along with Laifu. Her "imperfections" not only make her more special to us, but in a way enable her and Laifu to relate to each other on a different level. In those aspects, she is the perfect fit for our family right now.

Ubu has come a LONG way since coming home. Though she will never physically be a vivacious young dog, she's shown that she's still a puppy at heart. She prances on her walks and attempts to run and play with us. She is smiling all of the time and is curious about new things and people. She understands that she is a member of our family and has already developed her own routine – she says hi to each of us in the morning before heading to her breakfast bowl, and at the end of the day she goes out to the yard to take care of her bathroom needs before heading to her bed. Sometimes I find myself amazed that a dog that has been through so much is still able to open her heart to a new family and trust again.

Whatever happens, we will always be grateful for having crossed paths with Ubu. She will always have a special place in our hearts and no one can take away the wonderful memories that she's given us.

On one last note; through the actions of the shelter staff, it was clear to us that they always have the best welfare in mind of animals they care for. If it wasn't for the staff, animals like Ubu would never have gotten a second chance in life. It takes the highest level of commitment to devote one's career and livelihood to the field of animal welfare, and we are truly grateful for the work that they do.

~Alice Chen and Mike Lewis

