



OC Community Resources

OC Animal Care Critter Chronicles

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A Fond Farewell

Jennifer Phillips began her career as Director of OC Animal Care in May 2004. Having a strong background in public administration and being an animal owner and lover for many years, Jennifer immediately began making much needed improvements to enhance the efficiency and look of the shelter, improve public safety efforts, provide outstanding care to the animals, promote excellent customer service, and provide quality field and public safety services.



Under Jennifer's leadership, OC Animal Care remodeled the front parking lot and entrance adding new customer service and animal intake areas, improved cleaning and sanitizing procedures for animal housing in an effort to improve quality animal care, expanded the veterinary clinic and substantially enhanced life-saving medical care and surgeries, in-

stituted disaster planning that benefited those affected by the recent wildfires, and improved the equipment being used for animal capture and care that increased safety for the animals and staff. She also worked tirelessly to improve

the quality and quantity of OC Animal Care's public education and outreach efforts, enhance the volunteer and animal fostering programs, and efforts to proactively promote special needs animals to local non-profit animal rescue organizations.

Because of Jennifer's dedication, and the hard work of a very dedicated OC Animal Care staff, over 50,000 animals were placed into new homes or with animal rescue groups during her time as OC Animal Care Director. OC Animal Care would like to offer Jennifer our most sincere gratitude, and we wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

Inside this issue:

A Fond Farewell	1
Our New Entrance	1-2
A Year in Numbers	2
Forever Friends	2
Adopt-A-Pet	3
Cathy's Corner	3
Pawsitive Spotlight	4
Volunteer Ceremony	5
Holiday Fun	5
Upcoming Events	6
Celebrating Success	6

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

OC Animal Care Unveils a New Entrance

Let the ribbon cutting ceremony begin! On Saturday, December 6th, OC Animal Care staff and Orange County Supervisor, Bill Campbell, hosted a grand opening ceremony to welcome shelter visitors to the brand new OC Animal Care entrance facility. The new entrance is located just south of the main administrative offices and boasts a

brand new customer service building, a new animal intake area and a beautifully landscaped entrance walkway. New signage and a freshly repaved parking lot are just two more improvements we have completed. These enhancements give us an even better opportunity to provide exceptional customer service to our community. If you haven't been to

Story continued on page 2

Find a forever friend



ocpetinfo.com

"Promoting Life,



Promoting Adoption"

Story continued from page 1

OC Animal Care recently, we invite you to come on down and check out the shelter!



Shady trees line the new entrance walkway



Orange County Supervisor, Bill Campbell, cuts the ribbon

The Year in Numbers

- **471** animals fostered by volunteers
- **158** volunteers contributed **42,312** total service hours
- **1900** animals sent to rescue organizations
- **116** animals adopted at our Forever Friends for Free event
- **76** animals adopted at mobile adoptions
 - **41** cats adopted at Catopia
- **2000** attendees at this year's Pet Fair
- **\$12,000** raised for OC Animal Care at the Angels for Animals event

Forever Friends for Free

On December 6th, OC Animal Care hosted the second Forever Friends For Free event. During this event, adopters were treated to discounted adoption fees, only paying for a microchip and a license. The reduced adoption fees brought several hundred potential adopters to the shelter looking for a forever friend. As a result, 116 dogs, cats and bunnies found their perfect match, making this our most successful adoption event ever!

adults were invited to "Roll the Dice" to win free pet supplies at the give-away booth. In addition, an OC Animal Care veterinarian was on hand to answer questions about pet health and preventative care, and a local dog trainer provided information about dog training and behavior. Volunteers were also on hand to answer questions and assist in finding the perfect pet match. Everyone was excited to see so many families looking for pets and to have the opportunity to see their favorite animals find a forever home!



This little girl shows off her dog mask!

Visitors were welcome to participate in several free activities during the event. At the children's booth, kids were able to make feathered masks of their favorite animals, while



This handsome dog found his forever home!



Adopt-a-Pet



Name: Spencer
ID: A0887864
Age: 3 years
Breed: Lhasa Apso Mix
Spencer is as cute as can be. With a face like that, it's easy to fall in love!



Name: Sally
ID: A0932524
Age: 5 years
Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Sally will purr for your attention. Make her your new best friend!



Name: Leroy
ID: A0938065
Age: 10 years
Breed: Cocker Spaniel
Leroy is an older boy who still has lots of love to give. Give him his second chance!



Name: Rhett
ID: A0937681
Age: 3 years
Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Rhett will make the perfect companion for any loving family!



Name: Big Mac
ID: A0938961
Age: 4 years
Breed: Labrador Mix
Big Mac is a loving and happy boy who enjoys his walks! Fall in love with him today!



Name: Martin
ID: A0937737
Age: 6 months
Breed: Short hair rabbit
Martin is a gentle bunny who loves to snack on his hay and veggies!

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!

Cathy's Corner

Are you looking to introduce a new cat into your family? Do you wonder if the your pet will get along with your cat or dog? Before bringing your new pet home, read these helpful hints:

- Confine your new cat to one medium-sized room with her litter box, food, water, and a bed. Feed your resident pets and the newcomer on each side of the door to this room, so that they associate something enjoyable (eating!) with each other's smells.
- Swap the sleeping blankets or beds used by the cats so they each have a chance to become accustomed to the other's scent.
- Once your new cat is using its litter box and eating regularly while confined, let her have free time in the house while putting your other animals in the new cat's room. This switch provides another way for the animals to experience each other's scents without a face-to-face meeting. It also allows the newcomer to become familiar with her new surroundings without being frightened by the other animals.
- After the animals have been returned to their original designated areas of the house, use two door-stops to prop open the dividing door just enough to allow the animals to see each other.

This whole process can take as little as a couple of days or over a week, depending on the pets involved. Remember, it is never recommended to put your pets together in a room and "have at it," no matter how docile you think either cat is. Keep "meetings" supervised until you are confident both animals are comfortable with each other. Who knows, your new forever family member may be the forever friend your pet was hoping for.



Pawsitive Spotlight: Bichon FurKids Rescue

Bichon FurKids is a rescue organization that focuses on Bichon Frise, Bichon mixes and Bichon "friends" in need of forever homes in Orange, San Diego and LA counties. They are an active participant in OC Animal Care's Adoption Partner Program and in 2008 they rescued more than 420 dogs, with 145 of them coming from OC Animal Care. Their motto is "No dog left behind" and with all of the amazing work that they do, this saying couldn't be more appropriate. Bichon FurKids is truly committed to rescue. They not only take the dogs that are easy to place, but also the ones that truly need rescuing. Two recent examples of Bichon Fur Kids in action are the rescues of Felix & Oscar and Alexis the "dumpster dog."

Here is the story, told by Bichon FurKids, of Alexis and the amazing before and after pictures of Felix and Oscar.

Alexis...The "Dumpster" Dog

In the true spirit of the holidays and forgiveness, we had our own very special story – the story of Alexis, the dumpster dog. We saw Alexis on a special needs email, and when we inquired about her, we were told she was probably hit by a car. When Barbara, our OC team leader, went to rescue Alexis, she heard more about her story. It turns out that Alexis was found by a homeless man when he was rummaging through a dumpster. This dear man, who himself did not have a home, heard the sounds of this little girl. He was kind enough to contact OC Animal Care to report that he had found a badly injured dog who was still alive. She had been hit by a car and, apparently, the heartless driver who hit her then picked her up and threw her in the dumpster.

The shelter sent an animal control officer who literally crawled into the dumpster to rescue Alexis. OC Animal Care vets began treatment and waited for the owner. When she was not claimed, we rescued her and took her to Stonecreek Veterinary Hospital in Irvine. Our vets

determined she had a crushed pelvis, broken hind leg in four places, and her other hind leg was dislocated. They decided they could, indeed, help this little girl with the long legs. She looked like a little deer and, in fact, Alexis is a little "deer".



Alexis, Before Surgery

Our little fur kid (she's about one year old and 10 pounds) was released to her foster home on January 10th. Her foster Mom reports that Alexis is like Mary's little lamb, following her everywhere. Alexis is very affectionate and gives kisses freely. She loves to be stroked and talked to and she responds with trust, love and a look of gratitude that warms the hearts of everyone with whom she comes into contact.

It is for dogs like Alexis, Felix and Oscar that Bichon FurKids rescues day in and day out. We only hope our story will touch some more hearts and that we will find



Precious Alexis

more foster homes, so that we can save more lives. If you are interested please email info@bichonfurkids.org or call 858-408-1937 for more information. A volunteer will get back to you quickly and with a grateful heart.

Felix and Oscar...Before and After



Believe it or not...there are two handsome boys underneath those thick coats!

Felix and Oscar are now ready for their closeups!



OC Animal Care Recognizes its Dedicated Volunteers

On Saturday, November 15th, 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 100 volunteers in attendance. Volunteers were treated to a 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!



Our amazing volunteers at the Recognition Ceremony

Special recognition goes to the following OC Animal Care volunteers for their significant accomplishments in 2007 and 2008:

Orange County Excellence in Volunteerism Award
Sabrina Melton

OC Animal Care Exceptional Volunteer Award
Michelle Coffelt, Cathy Franklin, Sarah Cheek, Herman Lerner

Presidential Service Award

Bronze (Contributed 100 – 249 hours of service)
Bob Belloli, Richard Bouch, Michelle Coffelt, Kelly Douglas, Pat Highfill, Herman Lerner, Sabrina Melton, Derry Pierson, Frances Schuster, Jill Winchell

Silver (Contributed 250 – 500 hours of service)
Jennifer Fahey, Cathy Franklin, Sarah Franklin, Carrie Okoorian, Celesta Peterson, Liesl Prentice, Diana Rodgers, Mary Soifer

Gold (Contributed 500 or more hours of service)
Katie Evans, Lori Jones, Debbie Muise, Linda Schneiders, Diana Van New Kirk, Nick Winters, Stacey Winters

Holiday Fun

Santa Photos

Santa Claus came to town early this year and helped OC Animal Care ring in the holidays by participating in PetSmart’s “Photos with Santa.” With it being his busiest time of the year, Santa took time out of his hectic schedule to help OC Animal Care raise money for the shelter by taking pictures with all of his favorite four-legged friends. Thanks to Santa’s help, and the generosity of PetSmart, OC Animal Care raised almost \$1500 to help our animals. Thanks to Santa, our amazing volunteers, and PetSmart in Fullerton and Rancho Santa Margarita for all of their help!



Strike a Pose Santa!

Operation Santa Paws

The animals at OC Animal Care had a very special visit this holiday season from a group of local volunteers headed up by Santa himself. Volunteers with Operation Santa Paws delivered carloads 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!

Donation Mania!



Upcoming Shelter and Mobile Events



OC Animal Care is always looking for ways to promote adoptable animals and bring them into the public eye. One way that we do that is through our participation in local community events.

Each week we prepare animals at our shelter to go out into the public and potentially find a new home. Mobile adoptions are a great way to promote animals, provide information to the public, and inform our local communities of the services we provide. Here is a list of the upcoming mobile events in which OC Animal Care will be participating:

- Mobile Adoption at PetSmart, Fullerton, Saturday, February 14, 2009: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Vaccine Clinic at the Rancho Santa Margarita

Community Center, Tuesday, February 17, 2009: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

- Community Service Day at OC Animal Care, Saturday, March 14, 2009: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (1st - 6th grade) and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (7th - 12th grade)
- Foster Caretaker Seminar at OC Animal Care, Saturday, March 21, 2009: 10:30 a.m.
- April Volunteer Orientations at OC Animal Care have been cancelled. Please visit ocpetinfo.com for future dates.
- Foster Caretaker Seminar at OC Animal Care, Saturday, April 18, 2009: 10:30 a.m.
- Pet Expo at the OC Fair and Event Center, Friday - Sunday, April 17-19, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

OC Animal Care is always looking to participate in new events. If you have an upcoming community event that you would like us to be a part of, please send your information to Elizabeth Alianell, Public Education Officer, 561 The City Drive South, Orange, CA 92868, e-mail her at elizabeth.alianell@occr.ocgov.com, or call her at (714) 935-6301.

Celebrating Success

OC 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. Below is an account from a dog's perspective (written by her owner, of course) and how she found her forever home. Here is the story of Emma Chiapuzio...

My name is Emma Zen Chiapuzio and I am a Black Labrador and Great Dane mix. Something happened to me during the fire season we had in October of 2007 and I found myself at OC Animal Care. The shelter was filled to capacity with all the animals that were affected and there were a ton of puppies. Everyone wanted puppies. I was 4 months old and 40+ pounds and they nicknamed me "Big Foot." I was worried that I wasn't going to be the first to find a home, and then she came in. There's a story to how I got here and a story to how she adopted me. All that matters is, five days after we first met, we were on our way home together. All I could do was stare at her.

My life is grand! I am the center of attention. I go for walks. I go to the Dog Park, my personal favorite. I go on hikes with the canine hikers group. I go swimming. I belong to an astrological club (Yes, I have my own membership). I take the doggie bus to the beach. I have gone on so many vacations with the family in the RV. I ride a motorcycle.

I had my own private birthday party with ten of my closest canine friends. My human rarely leaves the house without me and I feel so included. My life is grand!

I have numerous stories and my human has an abundance of tales she could discuss. But this account is short and simply a story of success. I have made fabulous achievements and my human has put fourth great effort. Though the best part of my life, I received from OC Animal Care. They saved me first which gave her the opportunity to find me. The success of this union is measured in the kisses and the smiles we both give and receive. It is measured in levels of happiness we both now have in our daily lives. It is measured in that magical moment when you hug your best friend.



Emma knows how to ride in style!

~Emma Chiapuzio and her human Debra Jo Chiapuzio