

REDWOOD COAST



HUMANE SOCIETY

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2013

Serving Animals on the Redwood Coast
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The Redwood Coast Humane Society Newsletter is published biannually in Spring/Summer & Fall/Winter

FOSTERING – PETER’S STORY

By Brian Park

The Redwood Coast Humane Society relies on volunteers to foster homeless dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in their homes. This year Peter, a little Chihuahua mix, was found to be abandoned and seen competing for food in a nearby feral cat colony. A kind person picked him up and brought him to our shelter for safety. My wife and I were asked if we could foster a dog and we quickly agreed. Peter was shaking and very thin when I lifted him up to take home, and he buried his face in my arms. Once home he did not want to be petted, and would not eat or drink but silently slept for hours in the sun.

On the second day Peter ate well and accepted our affection. He was so thin we thought that petting might actually be hurtful so we were careful. We started a 10 day search for his owners by posting flyers at our very helpful local businesses (AARF and The Sea Trader) and at the kiosk in the Sundstrom mall. We also posted his information on our Facebook page and radio spots were provided by KTDE 100.5 FM in Gualala.

We made medical appointments for Peter through Dr. Bohn’s Gualala Veterinary Clinic to make sure he was healthy and that he received all of the necessary vaccinations. The Redwood Coast Humane Society has been able to give Peter and all of our precious animals the best medical care through your generous donations and gifts.

It was very rewarding to watch Peter prance and play and grow healthier every day. He enjoyed human company and would snuggle whenever possible. We had grown accustomed to Peter’s sweet face and constantly wagging tail but we knew it was time for us to part ways and find him a new home. We knew Peter would bring much joy to his new family and we would be able to foster another animal in his absence. The “available for adoption” flyers for Peter had just been posted when a loving family showed interest in adopting him. A few days later he was safe in his new home.



Does your family have a suitable home to foster a dog, cat, puppy or kitten? The Redwood Coast Humane Society will provide you with all the supplies and information to foster a needy animal. You supply the safe environment and open heart until your animal companion is placed in their ‘forever home’.

continued on back page...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CALYPSO THE CAT

By Barbara Forenti

The Sea Ranch Stables was in dire need of rodent control and “Calypso”, a beautiful female Calico, was in need of a new home. A perfect match was made. Calypso has become the queen of the stables. She spends her nights in the lounge, hay barn, and feed room looking for mice. Every morning and late afternoons she roams the barn aisles, checks out the horses, leaps after butterflies, greets people, catches little vermin, and surveys her domain. She spends her late mornings and afternoons basking in the sun in the lounge or sleeping in her cozy bed. Everyone at the stables loves our barn kitty, so she gets lots of petting and ear scratching daily. Calypso does have a bit of a rubber fetish - having demolished one flip flop, one rubber horse shoe pad (after stealing it from the owner’s bucket numerous times), and one foam roll - so far!

We are so thankful to RCHS for bringing Calypso into our barn lives.



WHEN LALA CAME TO GUALALA

Cal wasn’t just my neighbor – she was a good friend who over the years became part of our family of choice. I miss her terribly now that she is back in the city, but when she comes to visit it is like she never was away. We laugh and chatter and tell our stories over and over again. One of our favorites is about when my cat, Shadow, disappeared for weeks. I was really sad, and assumed she had succumbed to one of the many dangers of being an outside cat on the coast – raccoon, bobcat, or fox, to name just a few.

Then one day my phone rang. “Girlfriend, I do not mind feeding this sweet cat, but you know, she needs to go to the vet. Can you help with that?”

“Cal? Do you have my cat?”

“Why, sure. She just walked in one day after my little cat died, and she sleeps on my feet every night. I think she knew I was lonely.”



Cal was right –Cal started feeling better, and Shadow wandered back home to live out a long, happy life with us, never straying again. We laughed over the memory of it for years.

The last time Cal and her daughter drove up, our usual raucous reunion was subdued by Cal’s distress about her little seal point Siamese, LaLa, who had just fled from the car into the vacant lot next door. We put out food and hoped for the best. After a few days LaLa had not shown up and my friend left for home reluctantly. We put out signs, made a radio appeal, and I spent time every day walking around the neighborhood calling a cat I had never

actually met. Weeks went by and gradually we lost hope – an indoor cat who suddenly finds herself outside in a strange place faces some pretty grim odds.

I was elated, therefore, when the kind folks at RCHS called to say that a cat who looked like the one on the poster was creeping out to steal food from the feral cat dish at the local shelter. Could it really be LaLa, after all this time? If so, she had survived for a remarkably long while, and had crossed the highway to find food. Hoping for the best, I dropped by with a bag of LaLa’s favorite food, and we determined to lure her with it into a cat carrier.

LaLa was way too smart for that. RCHS volunteers spent hours sitting quietly on the picnic bench in the cold, waiting for LaLa to get hungry enough to tolerate their presence. Every time the wily city cat strayed into the carrier for the food she bolted back out before she could be caught. I called Cal and we began to pray for a miracle.

A few days later, our prayers were answered when our petite and stylish city girl, a bit disheveled and finally tired of her walk on the wild side, sidled right into the open door of the shelter and turned herself in to the delighted and very surprised volunteer at the counter. She had a taste of how the other half lives, and she was ready to surrender.

It was one of the best phone calls I ever made: “Hey, Girlfriend, I don’t mind feeding this sweet cat, but I think she’d rather go home.”

Thanks to the loving, persistent folks at RCHS and a whole lot of luck, Cal and LaLa are together again. There will be no more road trips without making sure the cat carrier is securely closed when the car door opens.

-Ellen Buechner and J. California Cooper

VOLUNTEERS GET MORE THAN THEY GIVE AT JAKE'S PLACE

By Judy Kohn

"I feel so welcomed and loved when I volunteer at Jake's Place. There are always kitties looking out the window watching for me. I'm usually greeted with meows and chirps which translated mean 'Where is my breakfast?' After breakfast, it's play and cuddling time. It's so fun and rewarding to watch the kitties play with each other as they chase flying objects and rolling balls. Sit in the chair and you'll have four or five kittens on your lap. The purring is really something! Then it's clean-up time and when I finish feeding, playing, and cleaning, the kittens are ready to nap. They settle into their favorite beds and doze off. Right now there are two rooms of kitties and it takes me just under two hours to give love and care to these wonderful little ones. Each has a personality of its own and deserves the best of homes. Should you decide to adopt one you can know that each has been loved and nourished by caring people. Truly, it is one of the best volunteer jobs one could have."

– Gail Taylor, volunteer

So begins a typical shift at Jake's Place, the Cat Shelter, Adoption Center, Store, and Garden of the Redwood Coast Humane Society (RCHS) in Gualala. Volunteer roles are varied and besides the daily shelter activities such as feeding the cats, playing with them and cleaning the shelter, volunteers also are involved in ways to support the shelter such as greeting the public during open hours to introduce cats and kittens to potential adoptive companions, selling RCHS logo items, transporting cats and kittens to the vet for preventative care and medical treatment, fostering cats, scheduling volunteer shifts, shopping for shelter supplies, doing laundry, event planning and participation, or helping with gardening and small construction projects. The list of opportunities for volunteers is endless.

Susan Field, volunteer, shared this: "Someone once commented in an offhanded way that taking care of the cats at the shelter was a thankless job. She was trying to commiserate with me as I swept



Mike Lane

the floor of fur balls and litter, but honestly, that's not the way I feel. Sure, walking in to find paper towels shredded all over the floor or overflowing litter boxes can make you want to do a U-turn out the door, but then a new kitten will rub up against your leg or a shy adult cat will come out of hiding for a few minutes. That's all I need to reaffirm why I'm there. I started

volunteering at the shelter last July and barely lasted a week before adopting a kitten. Even so, I look forward to going to the shelter several times a month to see who's arrived, who's still calling the shelter home, and who's been adopted. I'm glad when cats find a home, even though there's a little sadness mixed in because I miss them."



While RCHS has existed in the community for over 25 years with volunteers taking care of all animals in their own homes, the shelter in Gualala has been in operation since May 2011. Having a physical presence in the community has increased public awareness of the RCHS and our mission and has increased the number of our adoptions.

"I always show off the shelter to friends who visit me at Sea Ranch, and one of the best and most impressive things is how the shelter is organized with the cat rooms – no cages-- just homelike rooms. I know that many people don't realize that and picture a depressing room full of cages. That couldn't be further from the truth." –volunteer Linda Mahle

Another volunteer added: "The cats are so responsive to having someone there. You can really see domestication in action, and you can tell that every cat—even the shy standoffish ones—appreciates your efforts. The little ones will just make you laugh out loud with their antics! Sitting with a cat in your lap for 5 minutes will give you a little tension free moment in your day. Since I cannot have cats at home due to travel, it is a nice substitute. Working with the RCHS has been easy because everyone understands that from month-to-month my availability varies. They are a great group and many of them work incessantly to help these animals in need. It is a joy to be able to help out in some minor way."

It is apparent from the volunteers' comments that helping RCHS is very rewarding. There are so many tasks that need to be done, and so many shifts to be filled—so new volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Even a few hours a month can make a significant impact. Those with pet allergies are still able to contribute by helping with the shopping, publicity, or fund raising.

"A lot has happened since the first day I walked into the garden at RCHS to help clear and clean-up the new outdoor space. I enjoyed meeting new people and seeing familiar faces as we worked side by side. Now when I open the gate and walk through the garden saying good morning to the feral momma cat on my way to Jake's place I am always amazed at the transformation that is still occurring. It is a living garden. I look back on the changes that have happened as this shelter has evolved. I am glad to be a part of it especially when I look at the photo board of all the

continued on pg 5

HAPPY UNIONS AND REUNIONS



Ricco

Ricco

“I just wanted to let you know how much I’m enjoying Ricco. He is the first cat I ever had that would come when he was called! Whenever I call him when I’m in the barn, he immediately calls back and then comes running out from wherever he is. Of course, he always gets a few pets... Also, he seems to be doing an EXCELLENT job with the mousing. I haven’t seen any mouse sign in the laundry/storage room for weeks!”

Ferne Fedeli



Koot and Craven

JAKE’S PLACE RETAIL SHOP



George with his “big Brother” Bo (on right) happy in Washington.



continued from pg 4

successfully adopted animals. We may be small, but we are mighty. The main part that keeps me coming back is my witnessing up close the steady devotion and generous loving care for the welfare of our four legged friends expressed by so many wonderful volunteers. I am thankful for those who stand fast with their great example, with steady good cheer.” --Tara Dino Burkhardt, volunteer

Jake’s Place is located at 39151 S. Highway 1 in Gualala (across from The Seacliff Center). We would love for you to visit. We are open Friday through Sunday from 12-3pm, so please drop in. If you are interested in volunteering, please call (707) 884-1304 or drop by “Jake’s Place” for a volunteer application or you can obtain a volunteer application on the website:

<http://www.redwoodcoasthumane.org>

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Taking care of the shelter grounds and maintenance work are volunteers Mike Lane and Lucinda (Cindy) Blair (both pictured on previous page). Whether it be fixing a gate, pruning a bush, or whatever needs to be done, both Mike and Cindy are there and always wearing a smile on their face. In addition, kitten socializing, dog walking, vet appointment facilitation and weekly refuse disposal are other ways these volunteers contribute to the missions of The Redwood Coast Humane Society.

Memorials and Honors:

Donations were given in the memory of the following people: Ali & Dan, Jeff Pratt, Julie Brooks Friedlander, Arlene Sharp, Tabatha Mondragon, Irene Reilly, Margaret Ayers, Howard Silber, and Sandy Walker.

Donations were given in honor of these people: Barb & Mike Scott and Jan Stewart; for the birthdays of Kathye & Charlie Hitt, David Moessinger & Jeri Taylor, Jacquie & Bill Kopecky, Betty Covington, and Lisa Dundee and in honor of the weddings of Greg & Sean, and Rachel & Phillip.

Donations in memory of pets: Max, Foster, Opus, Tuckers, Roxy, Tillie, Slick Willy, Louie, Moses, Honey, Tia, Angus, Radar, Makai, and Jenny and Sandy's beloved companion. Tiger received a donation in his honor.

Bed & Bone would like to honor the following dogs and cats and their invaluable companionship to their people: Roxy Brady-Petersen, Jeannie Thompson, Zasu Zasu deLongoria, Sandy Ruschmeyer, Amber Phelps, Slick Willy George, Bo Anderson and Ava Beckett.

General Donations:

Generous donations and gifts were given by the following: Jack & Barbara Alberson, George & Kathryn Anderson, Lynn Bailey, Joanna Barnes, Suzanne Bastian, Geoff & Wendy Beaty, Adrian Bennett, Bette Covington, Robert & Judith Biehler, Iris Borg, Kathleen Boric, Walter & Sarah Bradley, Julius & Susan Brauner, Jerry & Maggie Brooks, Lena Bullamore, George & Sandy Bush, C Anne Byrne, Marie Carter, Felix & Tish Childs, David & Cynthia Claeys, Frances Conley, Bob & Ann Cormack, Janis Dolphin, Bill & Diane Donnoe, Patsy & Jay Doty, Beverly Elzig, Barbara Erickson, Joyce, Escher, Ted & Kathleen Fairbrother, Ferne Fedeli, Adele Fischer, AM Flack, Linda Garofola, Steve & Susan Garrity, Jeanne George, Diana & Lynn Glassman, Barbara Gomes, The Good Night Foundation & The Sea Ranch Lodge, Marilyn Green, Dorothea & Joel Gregowski, Allson Gudino, Heather Hackett, Charlie & Kathye Hitt, Earl & Dianne Homsher, Richard & Sandy Hughes, Mary Sue Ittner & Bob Rutimoeller, Norma Jahn, Beverly & William Jones, Don & Françoise Kemp, Sandy & Doug Korten, Deborah & Lloyd Kreuzer, Christine & Michael Kreyling, Mary Kroll, Mary Ann & Carter Lake, Bruce & Jutta Leibrock, Irene Liedner & William Davy, Kathy Line, Linda Mahle, Leah Martini, Ellen Matics, Ingrid Mau, Barbara & Baron McElory, David & Jeannette McPhail, Carole McQuarrie, Mendocino Transit Authority, Robert & Sophia Mitchell, Sharon Nickodem, Bob & Pat Norman, Randy Owings, Phyllis Pacheco, Judith Papas, Marion Patterson, Cynthia Petersen, Tom & Diane Preece, Sean Quincey, Bruce Reeves, Paul & Deborah Regan, Leisure Resources, Ondine Reynebawe, Elizabeth Rible, Kristine Rose, Robert & Nancy Scarola, Karen Schryver, Karen Serraton, Bob & Barbara Shimon, Sissy Silber, Vernard & Barbara Smith, Solid Waste Services, Michael Steele, Jeri Taylor, Art & Gail Thompson, Kenneth Thompson, Ellen Thompson, Gail & Arthur Thompson, John & Janet Tweedie, Marcia & Robert Valentine, Cathy Van Natta, Lena Velez, Evelyn Wadsworth, Mary & Richard Wall, Roger Warner, Twyla Weinberg, Harriet Wright, Therese Zettler.

Thank You for Your Support -

From advertising, material/product donations, professional services, to hosting our donation collection "dog houses", the Redwood Coast Humane Society couldn't perform its work without generous support from the following businesses: Accents by The Sea, Amber Pearce Dog Grooming, Anchor Bay Store, Annapolis Winery, ARFF Feed & Pet Supplies, Arena Frame & Photography, Attraction-Hair and Nail Salon, Bed and Bone, Bones Road House, Brodie Architecture & Design, Copy Plus, The Cotton Field, Cove Azul Bar & Grill, Four-Eyed Frog Books, Garcia River Casino, The Good Night Foundation, Gualala Building Supply, Gualala Nursery & Trading Company, Gualala Supermarket, Gualala Veterinary Clinic, Holmgren & Associates, Independent Coast Observer, Jay Baker-True Value Hardware, KTDE, The Loft, Outback Garden & Feed, Gil Robello DVM – PetCare, Pier Chowder House & Tap Room, Pizza and Cream, Point Arena Pharmacy, Red Stella, River Grill, Rumors, The Sea Ranch Association, Sea Ranch Supply, The Sea Ranch Lodge, The Sea Trader, Stewart's Point Store, Sundstrom Family, Surf Market, Twofish Baking Co., Walt Rush Studio at the Dolphin, and WestAmerica Bank.



**2013
DOG DAZE
&
CAT NAPS
EVENT**





PET GROOMING SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE SHELTER GAZEBO

Certified Dog Groomer / Pet Hygienist Amber Pearce is now offering services in the gazebo in the shelter garden Thursday through Sunday. The first Sunday of each month, from 12 noon – 2 pm, get your pets nails clipped for only \$10 with all proceeds benefiting the work of Redwood Coast Humane Society! Please book all appointments directly with Amber at 707-353-0050.



If you are interested in fostering, please contact us at 707-884-1304 for more information.

Consider adopting a “Barn Cat”. You may be a homeless cat’s last chance. Please contact us at 707-884-1304 for more information.

REDWOOD COAST



HUMANE SOCIETY

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Services
for Cats & Dogs
for low-income families

For more information
Please visit us on the web at
www.redwoodcoasthumane.org
or Call 884-1304

PO Box 1072, Gualala, CA 95445

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

—Mohandas Gandhi

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