

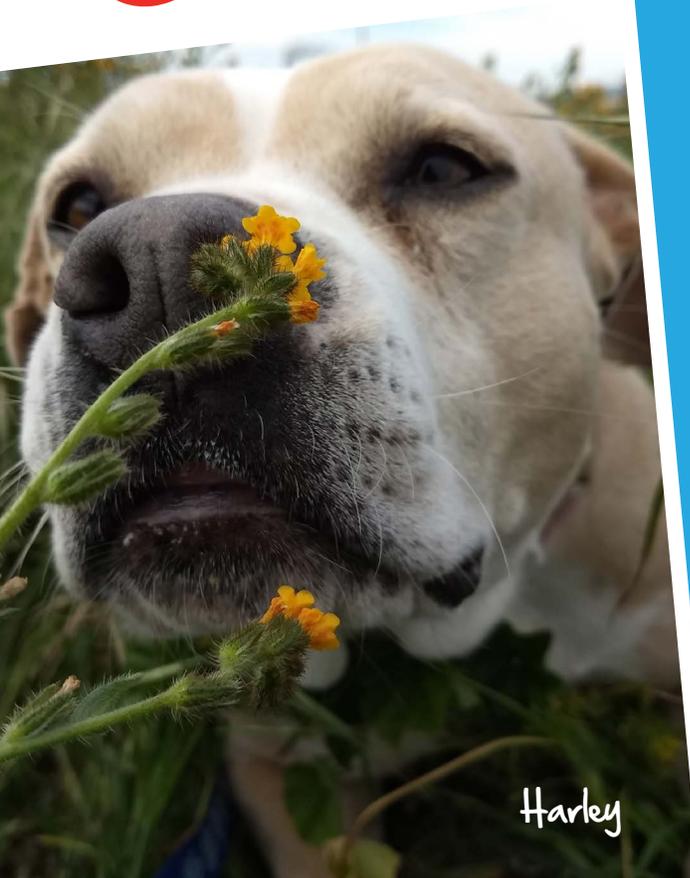


Santa Maria Valley

Humane  
Society

# Critter Chatter

2018 SPRING



Harley

► You can see Harley's full profile and see all of our adoptable dogs and cats at [www.smvhs.org/adopt](http://www.smvhs.org/adopt).

## Saving Harley

We don't promise that any of our animals are perfect. They all have their likes and dislikes, just like each of us. We do the best job that we can to inform potential adopters about all the particular behaviors that we know about our residents and try to make sure there's a good match with a new home. If an animal is adopted out and then returned, we don't view this as a failure. We view returns as fact-finding missions. When a pet is returned, we know a little bit more about that animal's likes and dislikes and we hope we can find a better fit with a new adopter. Our sweet, gentle girl, Harley, has been returned 4 times, and we hope we now know enough about her to make sure her next adoption is to her permanent home.

What Harley likes: Kisses, cuddles, attention, car rides, watching TV, being a couch potato, digging at the beach, chasing shadows on the ground, toys, playing fetch, belly rubs, going on walks, sunbathing, and relaxing on her bed in her crate.

What Harley dislikes: Fireworks, most other dogs, big and tall men, being approached from behind, small children, being left alone in an empty house — she prefers to be secure in her crate.

Harley first arrived at Santa Maria Valley Humane Society in March, 2017 as a transfer from one of our shelter partners. She has been adopted three times and returned since that time. Harley would really like her next home to be her final home. Harley is such a big love and deserves to find the right family for her. Could it be you? Harley's adoption fee has been paid by our Guardian Angel fund and her adopters will also receive a free "Bond with Your Dog" obedience class. Please share Harley's story and help her find the family she has been waiting for!



Santa Maria Valley

# Humane Society

Edwin & Jeanne Woods Family  
Animal Care Complex  
1687 West Stowell Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93458

805-349-3435  
www.smvhs.org

## WE'RE OPEN MORE HOURS:

### Adoption Center

Wednesday – Sunday  
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Animal Intake - By appointment only

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday  
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Spay & Neuter Clinic - By appointment only

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday  
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Wellness Clinic

Walk-in wellness & vaccination services  
Wednesday & Saturday  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## MISSION

The Santa Maria Valley Humane Society exists to rescue, shelter, heal, place, and train dogs and cats while engaging our Central California Coastal community through education and advocacy to end animal homelessness.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Frances Romero / Land Use & Government Affairs

### VICE PRESIDENT

Nancy Doherty / Retired Executive Coach

### SECRETARY

Brooke Gerard / Deputy District Attorney

### TREASURER

Linda Costa / CFO, Community Health Centers

Vonnie Stewart / Small Business Owner

Claire Sheehy / Retired Public Relations Executive

Mike Inkrott / Marketing Executive

Sham Duckworth / Service Manager, Honda

## LEADERSHIP

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sean Hawkins, CAWA

### ANIMAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

Denise Clift

### MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Tom Thompson, DVM

### DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & HR

Teri Creath

### CONTROLLER

Jan Minard

## BONIPAK EMPLOYEES PART OF LIFESAVING

Santa Maria Valley Humane Society implemented the Open Paw manners and skills training for shelter pets so that when our animals are adopted, they are prepared to adapt to a new home. Since we have implemented Open Paw, our return rate for adopted pets has decreased from 15% to less than 8%, a remarkable improvement in lifesaving.

Open Paw is a rigorous program and the training requires help from many more people than the shelter staff. To help pets in the shelter learn friendly behaviors with unfamiliar people, we enlist the public to help us with daily confidence-building skills and socialization. Open Paw requires that our dogs and cats be visited by up to twenty unfamiliar people every day. The public visiting our shelter is a huge part of this training program.

We are closed to the public on Monday and Tuesday, so the shelter dogs and cats have not been receiving the social interactions that we set out as minimum requirements. We asked our business neighbors at Bonipak Produce and Betteravia Farms to help. On Monday and Tuesday morning we provide nice snacks for their employees and the employees volunteer to help us feed and socialize the dogs and cats! It's an awesome way that the community participates in our "Communities that Care" initiative by helping homeless animals prepare for success in their new homes! We encourage you to say thanks to Bonipak and Betteravia for their efforts to help homeless animals by purchasing their wonderful produce products at the grocery store next time you shop!



## SNOW MEMORIAL FUND HELPS PURCHASE X-RAY EQUIPMENT

Stephanie Snow's family announced this week that the Stephanie Snow Memorial Fund will be matching, dollar-for-dollar up to \$35,000, every gift made to the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society toward the \$70,000 purchase price of new x-ray equipment for the veterinary department at the animal shelter. Stephanie Snow was a courageous young woman whose passion in life was helping homeless animals. Sadly, Stephanie recently passed away at the age of 26 after a long battle with a rare bone disease, Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, (FOP).

"Stephanie Snow was beloved in the community," says Sean Hawkins, Executive Director of the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society. "Her very public battle with a horrible bone disease won the hearts of many citizens in Santa Maria." Stephanie was also a life-long volunteer for animal causes and helping homeless pets was her most important passion. According to Hawkins, "After Stephanie died earlier this year, her family decided to honor Stephanie by supporting her passion, helping injured and orphaned pets."

Neither the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society nor Santa Barbara County Animal Services have x-ray equipment in their veterinary departments. When sick or injured animals arriving at these two animal shelters need x-rays, those services are purchased from area private practice veterinarians. "The partnership with private vets is valued," reports Hawkins, "However, having to find a private clinic willing and able to provide x-ray services is difficult and in an emergency the delay can be life-threatening." New x-ray equipment made possible by the Snow challenge gift at Santa Maria Valley Humane Society will be utilized by both the Humane Society and Animal Services, helping more animals in need.

"Our daughter, Stephanie Snow, passed away on January 2, 2018," said Stephanie's Mom, Jennifer Snow. "Through Stephanie's courage and grace she was able to spread awareness, raise funds and be a part of the research efforts for FOP, which took our daughter's life. However, FOP is a medical condition that Stephanie had, FOP is not what defined who Stephanie was. Stephanie's number one passion in life was the welfare and care of animals, and we believe that now helping sick and injured pets heal is the best way we can remember her," Snow says.

Funds raised through the Stephanie Snow Memorial Fund are being dedicated to complete the \$35,000 match. Every donation received by the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society will be doubled by the Stephanie Snow Memorial Fund to achieve the \$70,000 fundraising goal. Donations can be made online at [www.smvhs.org/donate](http://www.smvhs.org/donate). Those wishing to support the campaign can also visit the shelter in person or mail a donation to Santa Maria Valley Humane Society, 1687 W. Stowell Road, Santa Maria, CA 93458.



“Stephanie's number one passion in life was the welfare and care of animals, and we believe that now helping sick and injured pets heal is the best way we can remember her.”



## AREA VETERINARIANS HELP PETS STAY IN THEIR HOMES

The problem of dog and cat homelessness in our community is greater than the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society can solve on its own. We know that city and county government, animal rescue organizations, and animal advocates need to be working together for solutions. We also know that area veterinarians are front line educators for pet owners and they play possibly the largest role in pet welfare and well-being.

We know through scientific fact that newly acquired dogs and cats stay in their adoptive homes when those animals begin a relationship with a veterinarian. According to a recent study, "Keeping Pets in Homes" by American Humane Association, a veterinary visit right after a pet is adopted results in a 93% chance of that adopted pet staying in his or her new home:

**“There was a significant difference in retention rates associated with veterinary visits. The retention rate among pets that had had a veterinary visit was 93.3 percent, with no difference between dogs and cats.”**

More than 1,200 homeless dogs and cats will turn to the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society for caring, compassion and hope this year. We contacted area veterinarians to ask that private practice clinics help keep pets safe and in their new homes by participating in a free health exam referral program. The animal shelter will send home a list containing the names of the participating clinics with every pet adopted from the shelter. Our hope is that adopting families establish a relationship with a veterinarian shortly after adopting a new dog and cat by utilizing the free health exam program. We also hope that by developing a trusting relationship with a veterinarian that new pet owners will better bond with their new pet, helping to keep those animals in their homes.

When selecting a private practice veterinarian for your own pets, please consider supporting these clinics because of their strong commitment to animal welfare and keeping pets in homes. All of these clinics have all elected to participate in the free health exam program for pets adopted from the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society. Working together we can make our community a better place for not only pets but the people who love them, too!

**Animal Clinic of Santa Maria  
Orcutt Veterinary Hospital  
Evergreen Animal Clinic  
Animal Care Hospital  
West Valley Veterinary Clinic  
St. Francis Veterinary Hospital  
VCA South County Animal Hospital  
Arroyo Grande Vet Hospital  
Nipomo Dog & Cat Hospital  
Pismo Beach Veterinary Clinic**