



**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**
Riverside County Community Health Agency

Volunteer
voice

Issue 9

September 2012 Newsletter



Curta Jones
**September Volunteer
Of the Month**

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September Save The Date!

- * **September 5th: Shot Clinic, 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.**
- * **September 15th: Shot Clinic, 10 a.m. —1 p.m.**
- * **October 5th: Get Your Licks on Route 66, 11-3 Riverside Shelter**
- * **October 27th: Dogtoberfest — experienced adults only**

Reminders

- * Wash your hands with soap and water **every time** you put a cat or dog back in their kennel. Do not touch another animal until your hands are washed. This helps prevent spreading diseases.
- * DAS Policy states volunteers are only to handle adoptable animals. Only employees are allowed to handle new animals coming into the shelter.
- * Do not walk dogs that are younger than 6 months old.
- * Puppy Room: Only 2 to 4 Volunteers in the puppy room at any time.
- * Receiving: Do not cross the line on the floor upon entering. This is for your protection. Staff will help you when they are available. When waiting for help, please **DO NOT** touch the animals that are in the kennels that are to your right or left. These animals are injured or sick.

Adoptions

- * In the last 45 days, the shelter has adopted out 1,200 animals! Yes, you are reading right! That is 1,200 animals lives saved because of the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and employees. Thank you!
- * Adoptions: If a constituent asks about adoption versus a “contract,” direct this adopter to a DAS employee. Please **DO NOT** discuss contracts with adopters.
- * If a customer brings in their dog and needs to do a meet and greet with their potential new pet, you must get an animal care technician. Please do not do a meet and greet yourself.

Volunteer of the Month

Curta Jones



Curta Jones, Volunteer at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter

Little did **Curta Jones** know that when she volunteered at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, she would be able to complete the required 200 community hours for her Registered Veterinary Technician Certificate. Not only that, but she was able to accumulate those hours working in an actual clinic environment. Curta gained valuable experience by working under the guidance Registered Veterinary Technician Travis Scott, . When asked what one of her favorite assignments was, she didn't even blink before saying, "Working on the spay and neuter bus! I loved assisting with the surgeries on it."

Curta has a 3-year-old miniature pinscher named Harley who she adopted at a local shelter. Her favorite activity in life is yoga, which she says helps to keep her grounded. Another hobby is riding horses and barrel racing. **Curta** would like to let her fellow volunteers know that they can get invaluable training, especially if they are pursuing an animal career. "Helping these animals get adopted is a wonderful exercise," Curta said. "All they need is your love!"

Curta will be returning to school at the end of August and hopefully will be returning to volunteer in her spare time.

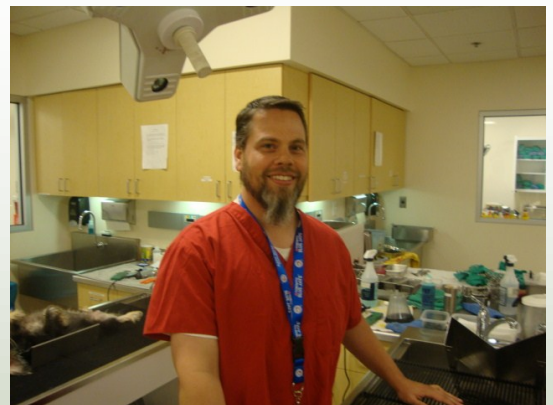
Meet the Employee: Travis Scott

Travis Scott is a registered veterinary technician completely dedicated to his career. You will find Travis in the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter clinic directing the daily flow for the surgery unit.

Travis is instrumental in training the students while in the clinic by showing them the steps it takes to become a registered veterinary technician. He wanted to make sure students or volunteers that are interested in the veterinary profession receive the education they need to move forward with their careers.

As you have just read, one of the latest volunteers, Curta Jones, could not be more thankful for all of the knowledge she has gained while working in the clinic.

Travis has two cats, Mr. B. & Desmon, and one dog, Charlie, a Maltese mix he adopted here at the shelter. The other obsession he has is his beloved Toronto Blue Jays. If you want to talk baseball, **Travis** is your man! He would like to tell all volunteers or students who are dedicated to a career in animal services, to please come and see him!



Registered Veterinary Technician Scott Travis at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter

Volunteer & Employee Picnic 2012

Our 1st Annual Volunteer & Employee Picnic was held on Sunday, Aug. 26th, at the main shelter. As you can see, everyone had so much fun. Thank goodness Frank Corvino had the huge white tent set up for shade, since the temperature reached 95 degrees. Despite the heat, everyone had a blast. That is a testament to the fun and camaraderie the volunteers, employees and their families had. All of this could not of taken place without the help of our wonderful Volunteer & Employee Picnic Committee & contributors. We would like to thank: Rob Miller, Frank Corvino, Steve Spiro, Sandra Solis, Cindy Bevil, Carol Ann Myers, Lin Casteel-Butler, Ray Gonzales, Kim McWhorter, Candace McGrew, Josh Sisler, Gile Kirk, Aldair Jimenez, Joel Youngberg, Flora Gens, Jennifer Loredo, Emily Cota, Erica Franco, Lisa Kochevar, Kacy Hodges, Cindy Gonzalez, Xiomara Santamaria, and Liyiani Santamaria.



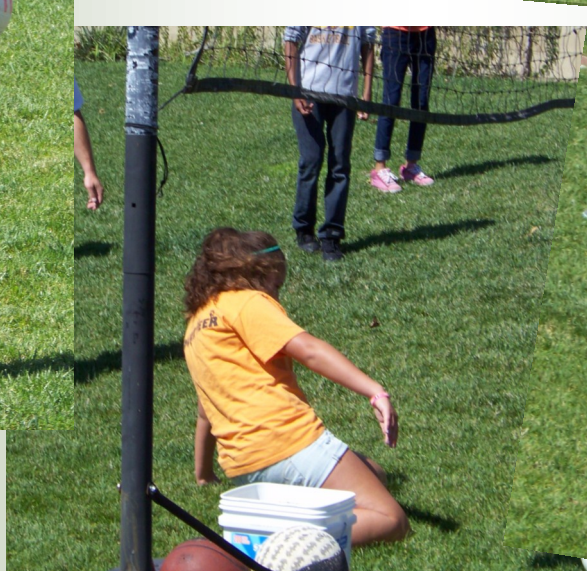
Musical Chairs



Hot Potato/Water Balloon Toss



Volleyball



Volunteer Voices



Jessica Mastronoime is following in her parents' footsteps when it comes to choosing a career. Both her parents were police officers and she aspires to become an officer too — and possibly as a K9 unit handler. Her interest in animals is what brought her to the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter in June. Her previous volunteer work included time with the Police Explorers Program through the Riverside Police Department, an opportunity that gave her a taste of what a sworn officer handles day to day.

One of **Jessica's** favorite things to do here besides get animals adopted is work in the clinic to gain more knowledge of the field and get hands-on experience. Her time spent here is surely not wasted as she plans to get as many animals out as possible. To the other volunteers she says, "Keep doing what you're doing and keep animals going out."

Skyla Salisbury has a very bright future ahead of her. As a senior at Riverside Poly, she already knows what her career is going to be: training animals for the U.S. Navy. Volunteering is something she loves to do. Prior to her hard work here, she gained fantastic experience at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. She worked with seals and sea lions. She is no stranger to water as she has played water polo for the past five years.

Skyla began volunteering at the shelter this past summer and enjoys getting the cats adopted and going to good homes. She herself has two cats, Tosh and Tank, a Pug named Snooki and many fish. By volunteering here she is learning more about animal control for future use with her career.

Her message to others would be: "Try to get people to volunteer here to help get as many animals out as possible."



Volunteer Voices

The Pet Life Saverz Youth Club was fortunate the day Kobe Kendall was selected to be one of our volunteers. **Kobe's** dream is to become a veterinarian. This young man loves talking to adopters and his most memorable moment came when he was able to help adopt out a five-toed cat named Sasha. Kobe loves animals. He has two dogs, Peanut and Bone, and three cats, Berta, Mimi and Pugley. Kobe attends Jurupa Middle School and loves to run cross country. One of the forces behind him is his mom who is a cross-country coach.



When you volunteer at a place, you'd think you would live close by to make it more accessible to donate your time. **Susan Feng**, 16, lives in Walnut, making her one of our farther-away volunteers. Despite her travel still manages to make it twice a week to the main shelter. She is involved in swimming with her high school, collects stuffed animals, and enjoys spending time with her friends. Her reasons for being here are to help the animals find homes and to gain experience to become a veterinarian.



"I enjoy all kinds of animals, but I am not sure what kind of vet I'd like to be yet," said **Susan**, who is considering attending UC Davis, a school with a solid reputation for its animal program. Even when she heads off to college, she said she'd like to return for more volunteerism.

Volunteer Voices



Amanda Langdon began volunteering at the shelter last December after her mom researched various volunteer opportunities. She visited here and fell in love immediately. Since then, Amanda has been volunteering her time every Monday and Saturday, handling a wide range of activities.

Amanda's favorite job is working with the dogs. She also enjoys assisting visitors at the kiosk in the main lobby. She finds that the shelter staff and the volunteers are supportive and friendly, which really makes her feel at home. While volunteering here she hopes to gain experience in working with animals and have fun.

At home, **Amanda** gives plenty of affection to her five dogs and a cat. Her own pets helped provide some foundation for her shelter volunteerism. She used to be a soccer player, but she has taken up photography.

As time passes and volunteers continue to come to the shelter, their hours increase little by little. **Nick Barnhisel**, 20, has volunteered more than 150 hours so far — and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

Nick has volunteered at the main shelter for the past year and has gained experience in the cat and dog care, strong knowledge of the clinic operations and he's also worked the front-lobby kiosk. But his favorite volunteer duty is grooming the animals.

As if he wasn't already doing enough to help the world, Nick also volunteers at his church in Riverside by tending a garden. When he has some free time he likes to design video games and play with his three cats, Kiwi, Junior and Sandy.



September 2012 New Volunteers

	Start Date
Amanda Coover	08-30-2012
Monika Donisthorpe	08-30-2012
Jessica Joneson	08-22-2012
Mark Joneson	08-30-2012
Claudia Christine Marin	08-30-2012
Georgina Moreno	08-30-2012
Kathy Morris	08-30-2012
Rebecca Nicholls	08-23-2012

September 2012 Volunteer Birthdays

Priscilla Barnes Sep 21	Crystal Mongello Sep 24	Laura Sollom Sep 25
Nicholas Barnhisel Sep 11	Kathy Morris Sep 18	Lori Stauffacher Sep 1
Victoria Colondres Sep 10	David Nguyen Sep 11	Julianne Tong Sep 26
Aubrienne Culbertson Sep 8	Kayla O'Connell Sep 16	Kasumi Tsai Sep 23
Candice Falencik Sep 7	Allison Perry Sep 15	Michelle Tuiaea Sep 25
Andy Garcia Sep 7	Ashley Roble Sep 8	Monica Vega Sep 23
Jacqueline Gomez Sep 3	Ebony Rush Sep 18	Joaquin Hernandez Jr Sep 18
Maria Gonzalez Sep 8	Patricia Jayne Mendez Sep 18	Amanda Langdon Sep 3
Rayanne Guerrero Sep 15	Brenda Mendrick Sep 24	