



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES**  
County of Riverside, California

**V**olunteer  
**V**oice



**October 2012**

**Issue 10**

**Alejandra Unzueta**

**October**

**Volunteer of the month!**

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# October Save The Date!

- **October 20, 2012—Shot Clinic from 10am to 1pm**
- **October 27, 2012: 9am—3pm. *Dogtoberfest* at Skip Fordyce Harley Davidson. Pet Adoptions, Pet Costume Contest, Micro-chipping, Vaccinations, Hot Dogs! Dept. & Riv. PD Demonstrations.**

## Reminders

**Volunteers:** Do not give any medical recommendations to any of our constituents. You can give them names and address of local vets, but giving them medical advice could put their pet in jeopardy.

**Please Note:** If something doesn't seem right—ask Staff! There are those situations that get out of hand very quickly. Always be on your toes and think twice before proceeding. Again, if the situation doesn't seem right—ask staff first!

## Adoptions

**August Adoptions:** 60 Cats and 78 Dogs. The Volunteers who adopted out the most cats in August were: Kobe Kendall with 10 Cats and Xiomara Santamaria with 9 cats. For dogs, the Volunteers who adopted out the most were: Brandi Vasquez with 16 and Priscilla Barnes with 12. In August, we still had our wonderful Pet Life Saverz Youth Club here volunteering. With most of our Youth Club returning to school, we want you to know we miss you. We are fortunate though to see many of you coming back to volunteer with time permitting!

**September Adoptions:** Cats 14 and 36 Dogs. We had a tie with Connor Hradecky and Kobe Kendall both with 6 adoptions. And for the dog adoptions, there was a tie also! Jacque Dinicola and Dennis Chan both with 7! Congratulations to all of you.

# Volunteer of the Month



**Alejandra Unzueta**  
*October Volunteer of the Month*

## **Alejandra Unzueta**

**Alejandra Unzueta** has been Volunteering since the beginning of this year at the Western Riverside County/City Department of Animal Services. All it took was driving by our facility one day. Because of her love of animals, she knew this was where she wanted to be, and believe us, the Volunteer Department was very fortunate when Alejandra came aboard.

Recently, Alejandra had one of those experiences that she will always carry with her. She participated with the "Transport Operation" of 150 dogs to Oregon and Washington. This was sponsored by S.T.A.R.T. (Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team). She assisted in pulling 150

dogs and helped prepare these wonderful dogs for their journey by walking them and helping with their vaccinations.

Alejandra has three pets, Gato, her cat, Lady a little Pomeranian, and Sasha her German Shepard. Outside of the shelter, Alejandra's hobbies include working in ceramics, drawing and watercolor painting.

To all of her fellow Volunteers, Alejandra would like to say, "Thank you. It is so cool that you all give your time to help the animals!"

# Volunteer Voices



**Michelle Hutton**

## **Michelle Hutton**

**Michelle Hutton** joined the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter as a Volunteer approximately 3 weeks ago and is settling in quickly. She joined as a volunteer because of her love of animals. And now that she has gotten her feet wet as they say, she is completely enjoying working with helping get the dogs and cats adopted out to their new homes. Michelle loves the feeling when she is able to save the lives of our animals here at the shelter.

Within her brief time here, she already has a favorable moment. Michelle helped adopt out 14 cats and kittens in just one day.

At Michelle's home, she has 3 dogs. Cookie a West Highland Terrier, Puggie, a Chihuahua/Pekinese mix and Bobby a Chihuahua. And at her leisure, you will find her reading and writing poems!

Michelle's future aspirations are to one day work at the shelter full time and get as many animals out as possible.

# Meet the Employee



## Betsey Webster

### Deputy Director II Administration

Betsey Webster started with the Community Health Agency in 1993. As she worked her way through different positions, her strength of taking a look at obstacles or problems within a department or organization and figuring out a course of action soon became her forte. And it

was this strength that lead her to the Department of Animal Services in 2005 when Rob Miller was selected as the Director of Animal Services. Rob Miller was a leader Betsey wanted to follow.

The passion of people helping animals is the part of Animal Services Betsey loves. When Betsey was asked what one of her favorite memories from the shelter was, there was no hesitation! Once upon a time, a little dog came to our shelter and was named "Brown Sugar". He was a casualty of Katrina. Brown Sugar was the standard plain old brown dog. And this little one had no personality, no pep, no spirit. It took about 8 or 9 months before the owners were found. Through a donation, DAS was able to fly the owners out here to reunite them with their little dog. When this little, plain old brown dog saw its owner, his little soul came alive. Betsey could not believe her eyes. He ran around, jumped up and down, spun around and turned into the happiest plain old brown dog you would ever see. As Betsey remembered this little guy being reunited with his owner, her compassion was obvious.

Betsey loves little pugs, and has 3 little ones of her own, all from Riverside Shelters: Bumble is 12 years old, Lonnie, 4, and Cassie, is somewhere between 5-7 years old!

Betsey would like to tell our Volunteers that she is honored they chose to volunteer here at the shelter and is very appreciative of their generosity. When she sees the volunteers at the Shelter, it's easy to see the joy on their faces. It's all part of those feelings Betsey shared about the plain, old brown dog named "Brown Sugar" being reunited with his owners.

# Shelter Happenings

Last month was not exactly a typical month for us here at the Riverside shelter. We took in and cared for one swan, two pot-bellied pigs, one llama, and a beautiful donkey!



# It's Grooming Time

**From Start**

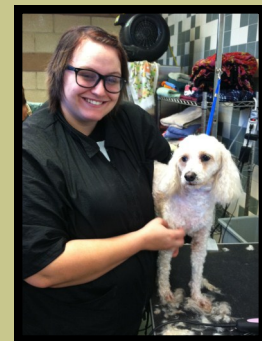


The Zuri Pet Spa came in to help groom our shelter pets.

**To Finish**



Our Volunteers, Alejandra Unzueta, Karen Griffith & Kathy Morris are ecstatic over the transformation!



Katherine Murphy from The Zuri Pet Spa presenting one very clean shelter pet!



Jenn Harris of The Zuri Pet Spa in the background and Marci Wagner, our Volunteer.



It feels so good to be clean! I'm sure I'll be out of here soon!



Kathy Morris giving one of the Shelter Buddies a good bath!

# S.T.A.R.T. One Day Animal Transport

October 4, 2012—150 Dogs and Cats

This undertaking does take a Village! The Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T.), Sue Zucker and Amy Hoesman from the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter are literally saving 150 lives today! After weeks and weeks of coordinating and organizing—here are a few of the animals on their way out and those wonderful Volunteers and employees who gave a 1000% of their love and energy to make sure this happened.



## Route 66 Event on October 5, 2012

On Friday, the Riverside shelter was the first stop of the 4th Annual Get Your Licks on Route 66 Cross-Country Adoption Tour, being held from October 5th—November 2, 2012. The shelter had special adoption rates of \$20 per dog. The event was sponsored by Fido Magazine who set up a really fun display. For each adoption, the magazine took a picture of each dog adopted, and from those adopted, will select one and feature him or her on the cover of a future issue. On Friday we had a great adoption day! We adopted out 23 Dogs and 9 Cats! It was a great day for all, especially the pets going to new homes!



Susan & Greg Sims, Publishers of Fido Friendly Magazine, & Rob Murphy, Volunteer



Arden Moore, Author and Gile Kirk, OA III, Volunteer Department

## October Birthdays!

|                    |                      |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| June Barlow        | Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Amanda McKitterick | Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Alyssa Brauning    | Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Fernando Mendoza   | Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Christina DeLaVega | Oct 30 <sup>th</sup> | Jacqueline Mendoza | Oct 26 <sup>th</sup> |
| Brendon Dembinski  | Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> | Isabelle Munoz     | Oct 16 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sarah Drobnack     | Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> | Micaela Orosz      | Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Perla Espino       | Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> | Victoria Pacillas  | Oct 16 <sup>th</sup> |
| Cari Fonseca       | Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> | Ruth Park          | Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sera Green         | Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> | Ryan Richardson    | Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Olivia Hake        | Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Heather Terry      | Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| Vanessa Lam        | Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> | Marci Wagner       | Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> |