



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES**

County of Riverside, California

**V**olunteer  
**v**oices



**Karen  
Griffith**

*March's 2013  
Volunteer of the  
Month*

**Riverside Edition**

*March 2013*

*Issue 3*

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# Save the Date

- **March 16th: Shot Clinic, 10am—1pm**
- **March 21st: Volunteer Pizza Fundraiser (details will be emailed at a later date)**
- **April 3rd: Shot Clinic, 6pm—8pm**
- **April 20th: Shot Clinic, 10am—1pm**
- **April 18th: Volunteer Nacho Fundraiser (details will be emailed at a later date)**

## Reminders

**KENNEL CARDS:** Please do not write notes or descriptions of any kind on the front of the kennel cards unless specifically directed by staff.

**800 KENNELS:** The dogs in the back of Kennel Run 800 are dogs that only staff should handle. Please refrain from entering this room unless instructed by Jackie or Candace.

**AGILITY YARD:** Dogs can only be off leash in the agility yard located behind the Volunteer Trailer. This yard has been designed necessary to make it safe for unleashed dogs.

**ADOPTION ASSISTANCE LOGBOOKS:** The logbooks have been updated to include any socialization and adoption assistances with our adoptable animals. Comments on animals can be noted in here, which our ACT's can review.

## Adoptions

A total of 13 cats and 85 dogs were adopted out by our Volunteers in February! Our Volunteers, **Kobe Kendall** and **Jarred Jackson**, helped adopt out 5 cats each! Our top two volunteers for dog adoptions were **Victoria Pacillas** with 48 dogs and **William Jaurequi** with 12 as well!

**Congratulations to all of our Volunteers for placing pets in forever homes and thank you for all of your hard work here at the shelter!**

# **Fundraising Events!**

To prepare for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner/Awards, we've begun a couple of fundraising events. On February 26th we had a successful bake sale! And here are the dates of the upcoming & continuous fundraisers:

- **Continuous Candy/Drinks Sale:** Look for our Volunteers in the Cat Room and/or Volunteer Trailer if you need a snack!
- **March through April: Opportunity Drawing for two Disneyland/California Adventure tickets.** Look for the flyers that will soon be sent out!
- **March 21st: Volunteer Pizza Fundraiser!**
- **April 18th: Volunteer Nacho Fundraiser!**
- **April 19th: Announcement of the Disneyland Opportunity Drawing Winner at 11AM!**

**We would love any donations from our Volunteers.  
Here is a list of what is needed:**

- Canned or bottled soda
- Bottled water
- Energy drinks
- Candy & other small snacks
- Napkins
- Paper plates
- Gift Cards/Certificates
- Gift baskets
- Nacho chips
- Nacho cheese

**We appreciate your help! If you have any questions, or plan on bringing something in, please contact any of the following Fundraising Committee Members:**

**Alejandra Unzueta: [aunzueta@rivcocha.org](mailto:aunzueta@rivcocha.org)**

**Aldair Jimenez: [ajimenez@rivcocha.org](mailto:ajimenez@rivcocha.org)**

**Candace McGrew: [cmcgew@rivcocha.org](mailto:cmcgew@rivcocha.org)**

# Volunteer of the Month

## Karen Griffith



After retiring, **Karen Griffith** decided to volunteer her time at the Western Riverside County/City Shelter. Because she has owned Poodles in the past, she had the tools and the knowledge to groom them herself. This is why **Karen** decided to dedicate every Friday to grooming our animals and training Volunteers to do so as well. **Karen** knows that grooming is a very important part of saving our shelter animals and

getting them into good homes.

**Karen** lets us know that every Friday has been quite memorable for her. By far, however, there is one particular dog that walked into the grooming room which she will never forget. This dog had been matted and was in need of a good ‘furcut’ and brushing. Unfortunately, this dog did not want to partake in grooming of any kind. He resisted and struggled against **Karen** and other Volunteers until an ACT worker came in with a cat in a crate. As soon as this dog took one look at the cat, he settled down and allowed the grooming team to continue in peace. It was quite amazing how much the dog calmed down with a cat companion.

**Karen** also dedicates her time to a homeless outreach program which is part of the church she attends. Six years ago, she created a ‘clothing closet’ as well. Every Sunday, **Karen** gives out clean clothing and shoes which she has collected all throughout the week to people in need.

When **Karen** isn’t dedicating her time to great causes, she enjoys gardening, collecting antiques and pottery, and singing in a choir. She also loves spending time with her furry companions, Princess, a German Shepherd that was adopted from this shelter, and her feline friend, Thomas.

To our Volunteers, **Karen** would like to say, “I think it’s rewarding that these animals get transformed, from matted to fresh beauties in a couple hours time. Thank you.”

# Meet the Employee

## Rita Gutierrez



Since she was a young girl, **Rita Gutierrez** has always known she wanted a career working with animals. You could say her path towards the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter began when she first started volunteering in San Bernardino's Devore Shelter. There, **Rita** volunteered her time to every task needed. After about six months of volunteering, **Rita** decided to look for a job in an animal organization. Being such a great volunteer, she had no problem convincing the Inland Valley Animal Humane Society to hire her. There, she held the title of 'State Humane Officer'. After four years however, **Rita** decided she wanted a career that was closer to home and her family. That's when she began working for this shelter as an Animal Control Officer. Since then, **Rita** has worked her way up to Commander of Field Services where she oversees all animal control officers in the County of Riverside.

**Rita's** favorite part of her career as the Commander of Field Services would be the challenges she faces at any given time. She loves that no two days are ever the same, which in a sense, keeps her on her toes. One of her favorite memories thus far, would be when she was dispatched to New Orleans for the Hurricane Katrina. **Rita** tells us how amazing it was to help with the recovery and that it was quite an honor to be there. Other great memories would include the successful cruelty cases she has handled. Knowing attorneys are becoming more receptive to animal cases, has made every case worthwhile.

In her free time, **Rita** continues to remain quite busy. To prepare for the AVON Walk for Breast Cancer last year, she began rock climbing and since then has continued. **Rita** also enjoys gardening, cooking and handling horses.

Being in love with animals at such a young age, **Rita** has always been surrounded with them. Over the years she has had guinea pigs, cats, mice... the list is endless! At the moment, she has a 15-year-old silky Terrier named Thelma.

To our Volunteers, **Rita** would like to say, "Working in the field is challenging, and the rewards seem very few, but if we can rescue even one critter, it makes it all worthwhile."



From left to right: Alison (**Rita's** daughter), **Rita**, and Jenn (**Rita's** daughter-in-law)

# Volunteer Voices

## Laura Soto



**Laura Soto** joined the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter in November 2012. She loves to work in the clinic because she is able to learn about the many veterinary procedures. When **Laura** isn't prepping the surgical instruments for the vet staff, she enjoys helping out with adoptions.

One of **Laura's** most memorable moments thus far, would have to be a day she volunteered for the shot clinic. She tells us how overwhelming it was to see how many people came, but she still enjoyed helping everyone.

At home, **Laura** hits her textbooks diligently, in hopes to attend veterinary school this upcoming June. Being the president of an honors organization at her school, we know she's headed in the right direction.

To our volunteers, **Laura** would like to say, "Ask questions to learn different processes and new things."

## Gina Elias

In September of 2012, **Gina Elias** joined the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter as a volunteer. While she's here, **Gina** enjoys spending time with our dogs. When she isn't helping potential clients with adoptions, she loves giving dogs alone time by taking them out on walks. **Gina** tells us that she enjoys every moment that she spends here, which makes it hard for her to pinpoint an exact date that stands out to her.

When she isn't volunteering, **Gina** spends her time with her three Chihuahuas, Tino, Boxer, and Rocky, and her pug named Sophie.

To our volunteers, **Gina** would like to say, "Try to help and adopt out as many dogs as you can."



# From Being Groomed, to Getting Adopted!



Our shelter pets are some of the most loving animals we've seen. They deserve a lot of love and attention from each and every one of us.

One way to give them some pampering is through grooming. This gives our animals some much needed one-on-one time. They get a nice 'furcut', a warm and bubbly bath, and all those extra trimmings to show that their outer beauty matches their inner beauty. These animals not only look great, but feel great afterwards. Many of them walk out of the grooming doors with a high head knowing they look amazing.

A lot of dogs come in matted and not smelling so good. Unfortunately, this can put off many potential adopters from taking a great pet home. By making the dogs look and smell great, people are more prone to spend a few extra minutes considering who will be their lifelong friend.

To the top left is a picture of a cute pooch before he was groomed. He smelled a bit, had long tangled fur, a flea or two, and just way too much fur to handle! At first, he was a bit timid, but our groomers gave him a warm, massaging bath. This simple step made a big improvement. After drying him, he began to relax a little. A quick trim and spray of doggy cologne later, he was brought back to his kennel, looking and feeling fantastic.

And the best part of this story? He was adopted within a few minutes of being brought back in his kennel! This adorable dog opened up and his personality had made a family fall in love with him!



Here is our freshly groomed dog and his new family!

# February New Volunteers

Omar Gutierrez

Micaela Moriarty

Joseph Nelson

Jessica Robinson

# March Birthdays

Victoria Villicana 3/3

Nicolas Talavera 3/6

Kara Billinger 3/7

Kara Westfall 3/7

Connie Fountain 3/9

Emily Cota 3/11

Kate Butler 3/15

Jeffrey Writer 3/21

Skyla Salisbury 3/23

Ivette Perez 3/26

Jasmin Sanchez 3/26

Jan Hart 3/27

Brittany Detrick 3/27

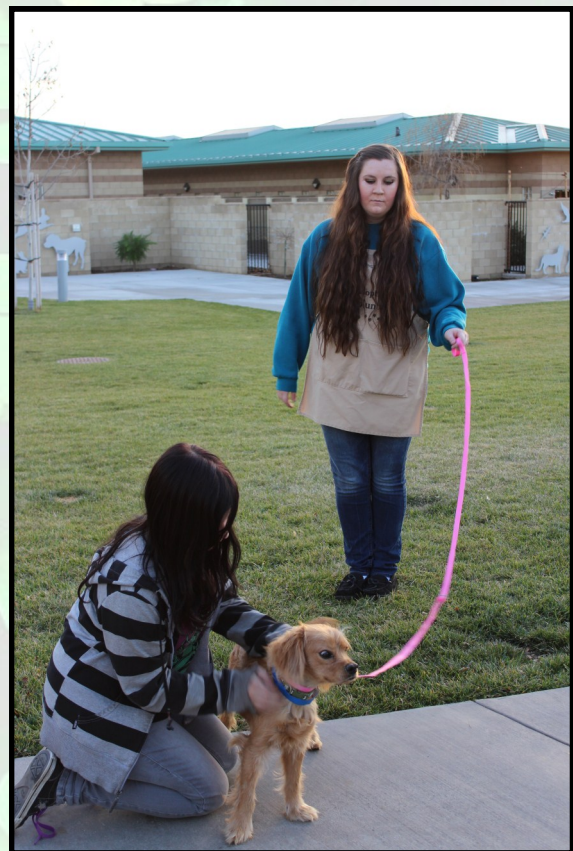
Chela Owens 3/28

Kathryn Vega 3/28

Ariel Sepulveda 3/28

Alexandria (Alex) Diaz 3/29

William Jaurequi 3/31



Brittany Kastens helping with an adoption..



# Shelter Happenings

Our Volunteers hard at work!



Lori Stauffacher grooming a pony...



Before...



and after!



Karen Griffith & Joan Doup grooming one of our dogs...



Wilhemina Henukh greeting customers with a big smile...



Will Pendleton walking a cute Pom mix...