



Volunteer
voices



Brandi Vasquez
July's 2013
Volunteer of the Month

Riverside Edition

July 2013

Issue 7

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Save the Date

The ASPCA Rachel Ray Challenge is off to a great start! Between the Riverside campus and the desert campuses, we've rescued over 900 animals since our June 1st kickoff! Let's keep up the good work! Extra help is needed from now until August 31st.

- July 20th—August 8th: Flavored Popcorn Fundraiser! Come in to the Volunteer Modular for more information.
- July 31st: Volunteer Fundraising Committee Meeting, 3pm in the Training Center
- August 7th: Shot Clinic Night, 6pm—9pm

Reminders

BADGES: Name badges are a part of the Volunteer Dress Code. Volunteers should be wearing theirs at all times. If you need one, please come by the Volunteer Modular.

OTTER POPS: The Volunteers will be selling Otter Pops in the Volunteer Trailer. Proceeds will go towards the Volunteer/Employee Summer Picnic. Come by during these hot summer days for yours!

POPCORN FUNDRAISER: Another fundraiser brought to you by the volunteers will be the sale of flavored popcorn. Come by to place your order from July 20th to August 8th!

KENNEL SIGNS: Please remember to use the, "Out for a walk", "Gone Visiting" or "Taking a bath" kennel signs whenever taking an animal out of its kennel. This way, ACTs can know where animals are at all times.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: The fundraising committee has begun planning for the Volunteer/Employee Picnic. If you're interested in joining, please e-mail Alejandra Unzueta at aunzueta@rcdas.org



Little Alfalfa days before being adopted...

Adoptions & Socialization

Special recognition goes out to the following Volunteers:

For assisting with the most cat adoptions: **Michelle Briseno** with 39 cats and **Kobe Kendall** with 5 cats!

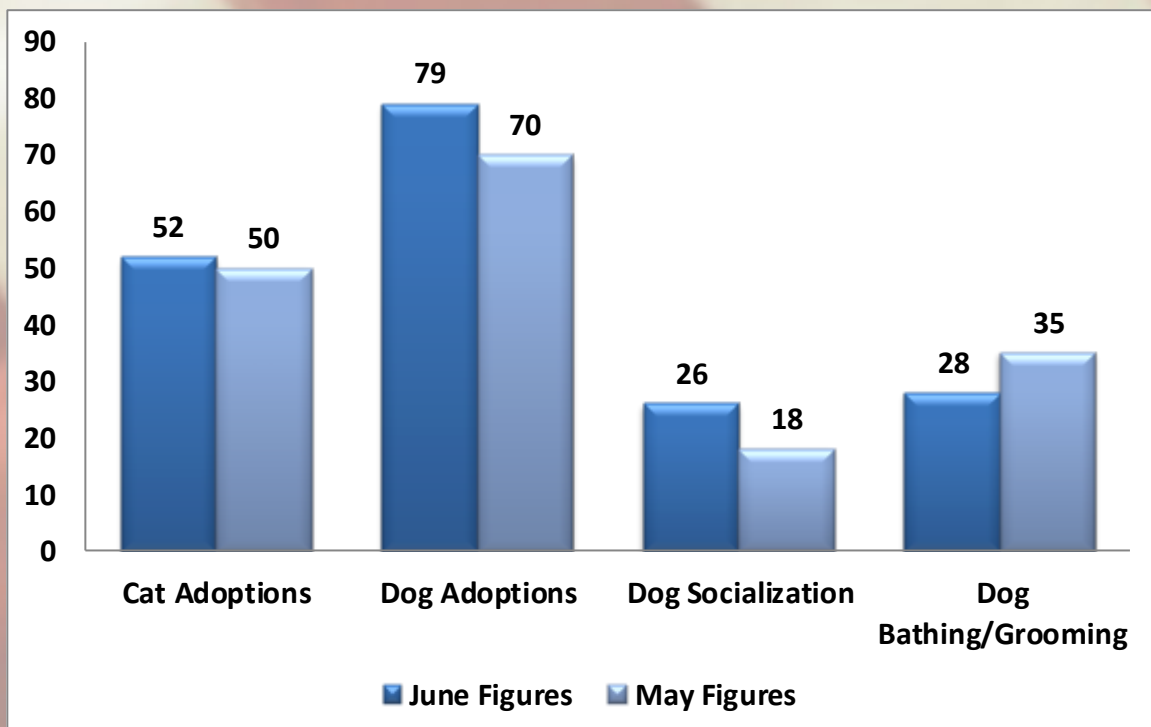
For assisting with the most dog adoptions: **Jonathan Chen** with 29 adoptions! With 6 adoptions each, **Victoria Pacillas**, **Welhelmina Henukh** and **Cindy Gomez**!

For socializing the most dogs: **Frances Ngo** with 21 dogs and **Cindy Gomez** with 3 dogs!

The many Volunteers who helped bathe or groom our animals. They made over **28** animals look beautiful!

Valerie Chavez, took over 263 new photos of our animals with the assistance of Volunteers to hold them in place!

Here's a chart comparing June's to May's adoption, socialization and bathing/grooming figures. Let's try to improve every month!



Volunteer of the Month

Brandi Vasquez

July's Volunteer of the Month is **Brandi Vasquez!**

Brandi began volunteering a year ago because of her love of animals. She knows she wants to work with animals in the future and volunteering at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter has been giving her much experience. **Brandi** prefers working with our shelter dogs and assisting with adoptions to find them forever homes.

Her very first adoption was one she will always remember. **Brandi** had been volunteering for about a week when a woman came in to look for a furry companion. **Brandi** assisted with the adoption of a German Shepard, whose owner later named Shannon. The wonderful feeling of finding a dog a good, loving home is one **Brandi** will always remember.

At home, **Brandi** owns four pets. She has two Pugs, named Snuggles and Bella, a Boxer named Harley, and a cat named Rascal.

To our Volunteers, **Brandi** would like to say, "Don't give up. Even saving a single life matters a lot."

Did you know...

Brandi joined a club named the Animal Kindness Club earlier this year. She started off as the secretary and has moved her way up to now being the president of the club! This club is dedicated to organizing fundraisers in order to raise donation money which is then given to animals in need.

In May, **Brandi** and her club decided to raise money and donate it to our animals! They raised \$1,000 to donate! To the right is a picture of **Brandi** and other members of the Animal Kindness Club donating to the shelter.

Thank you so much **Brandi!**



Meet the Employee

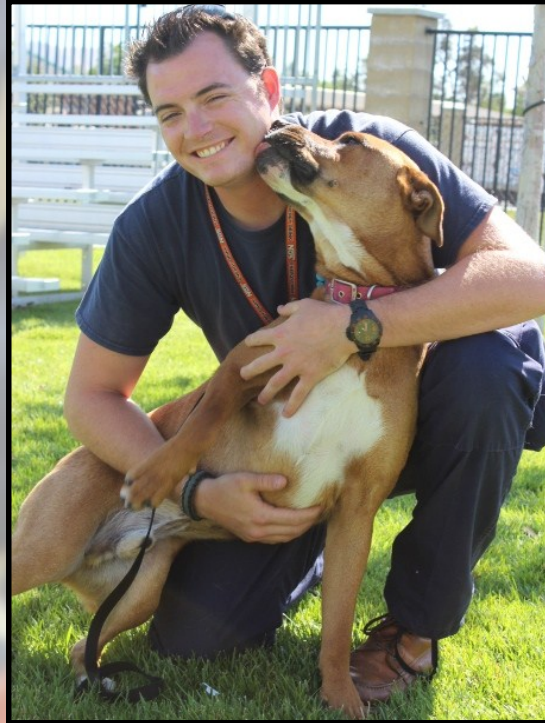
Alex Melanson

Did you know...

Here's a list of the different areas **Alex** worked before arriving at the Department of Animal Services:

- Security Guard
- Toys'R'Us Employee
- ABC Recycling Employee
- T-Shirt Maker
- Flooring Company Employee
- Custodian
- Martial Arts Instructor
- Avid Tutor

Alex has been a hard worker in many places!



Alex's love of animals brought him to work in the Riverside Department of Animal Services two years ago. He finds it very fun and fulfilling to work with dogs and assist with adoptions. Uniting families with their new, furry members makes it a joy to work at the shelter.

Currently, **Alex** is a student at the International Telephone and Telegraph

Technical Institute (ITT Tech). He's majoring in Network System Administration in hopes to one day secure a fulfilling position in his career to support a family.

At home, **Alex** has two pets. One of those is a cat, named Thor who was adopted from this shelter. He also has a beautiful German Shepard named Mika.

One of **Alex's** most favorable events was last year's Volunteer/Employee Summer Picnic. He greatly enjoyed the friendly competition between Volunteers and Employees during the games. He believes it was a great bonding time between them.

To our Volunteers, **Alex** would like to say, "Don't be afraid to ask for help and learn more new things!"



Volunteer Voices

Jonathan Chen



Because he wasn't allowed to have any pets of his own, **Jonathan Chen** decided to get his interaction time with our many animals in need. When **Jonathan** comes in to volunteer, he mostly works with our dogs. Recently, he began watering our plants as well.

Jonathan can recall two parents who came in with their young girl not too long ago. He assisted them with an adoption of a puppy. Jonathan was happy to see the girl over-powered with joy and excitement of her birthday gift which happened to be this new puppy.

To our Volunteers, **Jonathan** would like to say, "Don't be afraid to ask for clarification if you need any."

Denise Morgan

In mid-April, the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter welcomed **Denise Morgan** as a new volunteer. She tells us one of the great things of volunteering would be interacting with our lovely Pit Bulls. **Denise** had always had a fear of socializing Pit Bulls because of the media stories she has seen or heard about. Now that she has socialized with our Pit Bulls, she realized just how friendly and playful they really are. She tells us she's glad she was able to change her view towards this breed, and in turn, can let others know what she has learned.

To our Volunteers, **Denise** would like to say, "Have fun and learn as much as you can here. You can career out your these experiences into any other careers."



June New Volunteers

Elizabeth Arcos

Bell Audrey

Noemi Cerda

Lauren Dattilo

Stacey Dombek

Samantha Erikson

Joanna Fuerte

Kylie Gahre

William Galloway

Rachel Hale

Talynn Hamlett

Abi Hwang-Nable

Analyse Long

Frederick McCarthy III

Cynthia Montoya

Thi Nguyen

Thy Nguyen

Sam Nusbaum

Jasmine Ocampo

Chelsea Olson

Jocelyn Quiroz

Jose Ramirez

Lisabeth Santana

Sandra Santana

Jackie Sorcic

Kelly Stark

Kim Stover

Miranda Trevino

Jacqueline Vega

Daniel Villalobos

Harmony Weishchedel

Becky Yoo



July Birthdays

Frederick McCarthy III 7/05

Harkeerit Bathh7/06

Colby McCall 7/06

Guadalupe Fariaz 7/15

Rob Murphy 7/15

Allison Johnson 7/19

Stella Kim 7/25

Maria Terri Centella 7/26

Deonna Diaz 7/29

Shelter Happenings

Thank you Rob Murphy for donating plants and keeping up with our Butterfly Garden!!



Shelter Happenings

Thank you all for volunteering during the Park'n'Bark event!

Here are some photos provided by Valerie Chavez and Alejandra Unzueta.



Top and Right: We caught this young girl dancing to the bands great music!

Bottom: The ASK foundation's booth.



Shelter Happenings



Decorations up, vendors ready, and signs throughout; we were ready to adopt out animals!!!



Shelter Happenings



Clockwise from top center: Orange team (700 building) rallying up and getting ready to adopt out dogs!

A group of Volunteers with and ACT assisting with puppy adoptions.

Marie Rodriguez holding a puppy with its new family.

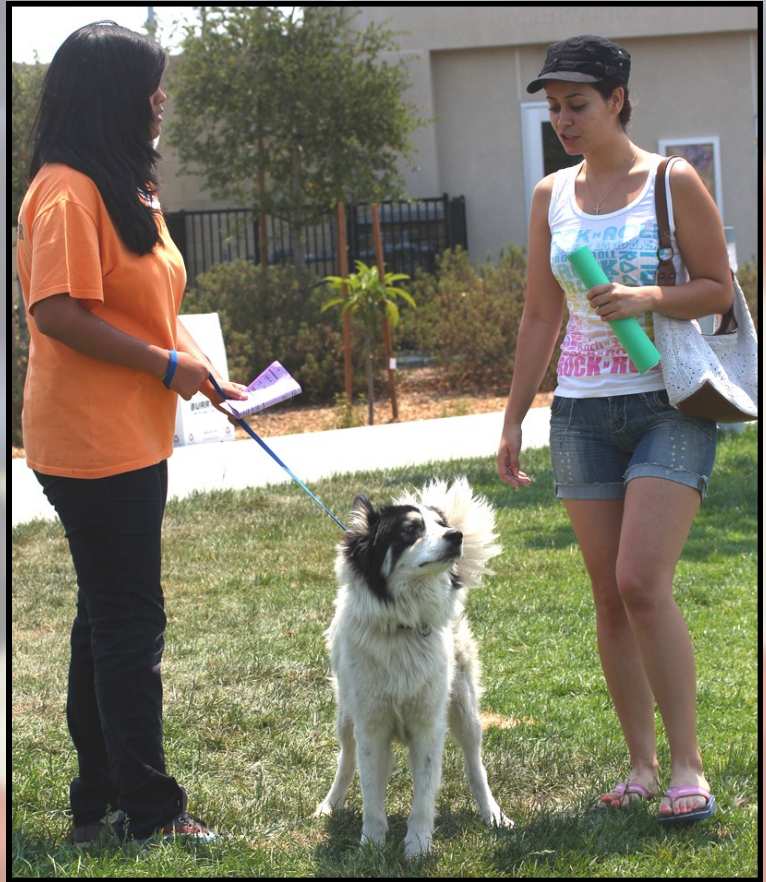
Jarred Jackson assisting with an adoption.

Shelter Happenings



The Cat Kennels were decorated and constantly flowing with people ready to visit with our cats!

Shelter Happenings



Top Left: Lisabeth Santana with a Chihuahua out on a visitation.

Top Right: Liliana Cristales assisting with an adoption.

Bottom Right: Volunteers in the Vet Check area, getting the last exam ready for the dogs going to new families.



Shelter Happenings

To the right, Kelly Stark, assisting with an adoption.



Bottom: Volunteer, Jose Ramirez, and Animal Care Technician (ACT), Natalie Swickle, working as a team to pull out a dog.



Top: Judie Kaczoroski greeting Volunteers and the public with a big smile.



Shelter Happenings



Sarah Crawford 's contagious smile brought in plenty of people...



Thi Nguyen assisting with an adoption...



Rob Murphy assisting with a visitation...



Vincent assisting the clinic by pulling out adopted dogs...