



Volunteer
voices



Michelle Briseno
January's 2014
Volunteer of the Month

Riverside Edition

January 2014

Issue 1

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Save the Date

- January 9th: Volunteer Fundraising Committee Meeting; 5pm-6pm
- January 18th: Shot Clinic; 10am-1pm
- January 20th: Shelter Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 24th: Staff/Volunteer Game Night; 6pm-9pm

Reminders

KIOSK: We are really in need of volunteers to help at the front desk. If you're able to volunteer, even for a couple of hours, please e-mail Shea at srossite@rcdas.org. We will hold a monthly prize drawing for the kiosk volunteers. Anyone who signs up for and completes an entire shift will be entered into the drawing. Each shift worked is a separate entry. The prize for January will be a pair of movie tickets.

EVENTS: If you sign up for an event, please make sure to stay the entire designated hours. If you need to leave beforehand or cannot make it at all, please call/email the Volunteer Department.

SOCIALIZATION NOTEBOOKS: Make sure to sign in any animals you've socialized with during the day in our logbooks. We want to make sure we give credit to volunteers for your hard work!

PUPPIES: We are taking extra safety precautions to keep our puppies healthy. Volunteers should no longer be opening any kennels with puppies inside them.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Interested in helping raise funds for special volunteer events, such as our summer picnic and annual appreciation dinner? Then join the fundraising committee! We need lots of help and ideas! E-mail Shea for more information at srossite@rcdas.org

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: Make sure to follow the volunteer pages!

Facebook: RCDAS Volunteers; Instagram: @RCDAS_Volunteers








Volunteer of the Month

Michelle Briseno

Michelle began volunteering at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter almost a year ago and she has already completed more than 400 hours of service! During this time, she has assisted with more than 117 animal adoptions! She began volunteering her time because she loves animals and would like to become a veterinarian someday. She stated that when she helps with animal adoptions, she enjoys seeing the customer's face when they choose their pet. She recalls an experience when she showed a cat to a 6 year old girl and her mom. They didn't adopt the cat the first time that they saw it, but returned the next day because the child had a dream that she had to have the cat! **Michelle** has several pets of her own including: parrots, love birds, parakeets, cats, and dogs. She adopted both cats, Monster and Widget, from our shelter. When she isn't volunteering, **Michelle** likes to sketch and create water color paintings, and she also likes to read. **Michelle** shares this advice with other volunteers: "Never be afraid to ask questions that you don't know the answer to."



RANDOM FACTS ABOUT MICHELLE BRISENO!

-  Her favorite song is "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers.
-  Her favorite movie is "Pride and Prejudice" starring Kiera Knightley.
-  If she could be any animal, she would choose to be a snow leopard because she has never been in the snow.
-  Her favorite color is gray.
-  Her favorite foods are spaghetti and lasagna.
-  Her favorite season is fall.
-  Her favorite candy is Skittles.

Meet the Employee








Natalie Swickle



Natalie began working with the Animal Services department as part of an internship while attending Animal Behavior College. She volunteered her time for about a year and a half before becoming an Animal Care Technician about two years ago. **Natalie** is often found working with our shelter dogs, and she says that she enjoys being able to work with about 200 dogs before she goes home to care for her four dogs. In addition to her dogs, she has one cat and she recently adopted a pig named Cooper! **Natalie** enjoys sharing adoption stories and reunion stories with her family and friends. One of her favorite memories was when she assisted in the adoption of a dog named Tock. She said that he was covered with ticks and had to be bathed and cleaned up to make him adoptable. She

still remembers the date that he was adopted on October 1, 2010. When she is not working at the shelter, she likes to spend time hiking and camping. **Natalie** would like to tell our volunteers, “Every little bit helps. We couldn’t do this without them!”

RANDOM FACTS ABOUT NATALIE SWICKLE!

-  The craziest thing she has ever eaten was a live Armadillidiidae, more commonly known as roly polies. She said it was crunchy!
-  Her favorite food is bacon.
-  Her favorite song is “Good Times” by Willie Nelson.
-  Her favorite movie is “Milo and Otis.”
-  She has a phobia of spiders and snakes.
-  If she could trade places with anyone for a week, it would be Willie Nelson because she says, “he has to meet some crazy people!”
-  If she were stranded on an island, she would want with her: British adventurer Bear Grylls, a solar-powered radio, and a bouncy ball.

Volunteer Voices

Christ'Ann McKinney

RANDOM FACTS ABOUT CHRIST'ANN MCKINNEY!



Her favorite food is sushi.



If she were stranded on an island she would want to have a helicopter, a pilot, and a full tank of gas.



In her free time, she likes to make bead crafts.



The craziest thing that she has ever eaten was a quail egg shooter.



Her favorite color is aqua-marine.



Her favorite candy is Sour Patch Kids.

Her message to volunteers:

“Handle animals with love and care.”

Jose Lara

RANDOM FACTS ABOUT JOSE LARA!



His favorite movie is “Scooby-Doo.”



In his free time, he likes to bowl and participate in his school’s business academy.



His favorite food is chocolate.



His favorite color is purple.



His favorite season is winter.



He has a cat named Lexi.

His message to volunteers:

“We need to always take care of our animals.”



Years of Service

A VERY big thank you to the following volunteers for their years of service!

Katie Gerhardt with 3 years of service!

Alyssa Brauning with 2 years of service!

Liliana Cristales with 2 years of service!

Perla Espino with 2 years of service!

Sierra Goudie with 2 years of service!

Jennifer Gulden with 2 years of service!

Jocelyn Izquierdo with 2 years of service!

Amanda Langdon with 2 years of service!

Jacqueline Mendoza with 2 years of service!



Frances Ngo with 2 years of service!

Kayla O'Connell with 2 years of service!

Danielle Sanchez with 2 years of service!

Sianna Sanchez with 2 years of service!

Caitlynn Smith with 2 years of service!

Alyssa Veliz with 2 years of service!

Vikki Hiroto with 2 years of service!

Aidan Van Gossen with 2 years of service!

Taylor Vance with 2 years of service!

December New Volunteers

Please, join us in welcoming these volunteers!

Patricia Brink

Abraham Guerrero

Marjorie Rendon

Stephanie Dolan

Jasmine Hernandez

Larry Rudolph

Thomas Esquivel

Cindy Lamarca

Vanessa Zamudio

Marlene Gomez

Aaron Perez

January Birthdays

Let's wish the following volunteers a very special day!

Eric Rivera 1/1

Clayton Coker 1/15

Stevie Hill 1/3

Vivian Briseno 1/16

Melissa Ong 1/3

Georgina Moreno 1/17

Angie Alvarez 1/4

Karen Griffith 1/19

Edith Fernandez 1/4

Eric Stringer 1/21

Haidar Iqbal 1/6

Emily Lundberg 1/21

Nancy Abdelrahman 1/6

Cindy Gomez 1/22

Michelle Hutton 1/8

Thomas Esquivel 1/23

Omar Gutierrez 1/8

Welhelmina Henukh 1/25

Donna Braly 1/9

Lindsey Coberly 1/26

Deane Lares 1/10

Marissa Matter 1/27

Jessica Garcia 1/10

Millie Cessna 1/27

Angelica Guadron 1/10

Julie Gil 1/29

Vikki Hiroto 1/11

Diana Castillo 1/30

Pamela Soto 1/14

Javier De La O 1/30

Tiffany Carpenter 1/14

Pet Corner!

Here are some car travel tips taken from the ASPCA website:

1. Keep your pets safe and secure in a well-ventilated crate or carrier. There are a variety of wire mesh, hard plastic and soft-sided carriers available. Whatever you choose, make sure it's large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in. And P.S., it's smart to get your pet used to the carrier in the comfort of your home before your trip.
2. Get your pet geared up for a long trip by taking him on a series of short drives first, gradually lengthening time spent in the car. And please be sure to always secure the crate so it won't slide or shift in the event of a quick stop.
3. Your pet's travel-feeding schedule should start with a light meal three to four hours prior to departure. Don't feed your furry friend in a moving vehicle—even if it is a long drive.
4. Never leave your animal alone in a parked vehicle. On a hot day, even with the windows open, a parked automobile can become a furnace in no time, and heatstroke can develop. In cold weather, a car can act as a refrigerator, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.
5. What in your pet's traveling kit? In addition to travel papers, food, bowl, leash, a waste scoop, plastic bags, grooming supplies, medication and a pet first-aid kit, pack a favorite toy or pillow to give your pet a sense of familiarity.
6. Make sure your pet has a microchip for identification and wears a collar with a tag imprinted with your home address, as well as a temporary travel tag with your cell phone, destination phone number and any other relevant contact information. Canines should wear flat (never choke!) collars, please.
7. Don't allow your pet to ride with his head outside the window. He could be injured by flying objects. And please keep him in the back seat in his crate or with a harness attached to a seat buckle.
8. When it comes to H2O, we say BYO. Opt for bottled water or tap water stored in plastic jugs. Drinking water from an area he's not used to could result in tummy upset for your pet.



Speedy, a former shelter dog, getting ready for a road trip. Not so fast! He needs to be secured in the car before we hit the road!

Shelter Happenings

Here are some photos of our Home for the Holidays Event! Thanks to all of the volunteers who assisted with this event and to those who worked at the shelter in December helping so many of our animals find a home for the holidays!



Volunteers Maria Byron and Joan Doup helped groom our dogs for their big day!



Staff and volunteers were all feeling the holiday spirit!



Our volunteers and staff were excited to get these pets home for the holidays!



There were decorations hanging everywhere!