



# Volunteer

# Voices



**Nicole Bennett**  
*June 2014*  
**Volunteer of the Month**

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# Save the Date

**July 14 - 18: Critter Kiddz Camp**

**July 21 - 25: Critter Kiddz Camp**

**July 4: Independence Day (shelter closed)**

## 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 hours, please e-mail Elvira at [evalenzu@rcdas.org](mailto:evalenzu@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. Congratulations to **Nicole Bennett** who is May's winner of a Starbucks gift card for volunteering in the Kiosk!

**EVENTS:** If you sign up for an event, please make sure to stay for 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!

**ADOPTION PROCESS:** All animals that are being adopted must go for a vet check, even if they are staying for their spay/neuter surgery.

**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 Elvira for more information at [evalenzu@rcdas.org](mailto:evalenzu@rcdas.org)

**FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM:** Make sure to follow the volunteer pages!

Facebook: RCDAS Volunteers ; Instagram: @RCDAS\_Volunteers

# 2013 Volunteer of the Year



**Rob Murphy** began volunteering at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter in June of 2012 and has volunteered over 307 hours. As a retired principal, **Rob** jokes that working in a hectic environment with animals is as close to his former career as he can get. Through the years, **Rob** has proven himself to be a huge asset to the shelter. He loves to assist in dog adoptions, but never hesitates to help with other tasks which include helping at our monthly shot clinics, supporting our rescue efforts, greeting and directing the customers at our information desk, and even decorating our lobby for the holidays.

**Rob** enjoys being surrounded by all kinds of animals at the shelter. At home, he has a variety of pets—four cats, Chompers, Daisy, Charlie, and Maggie, along with two dogs, Rex and Lady. But that's not all; he also has cockatiels, doves, desert tortoises, koi fish, and a variety of snakes!

**Rob** states that his most memorable moment was working with the S.T.A.R.T. program and loading more than 150 animals to send to good homes. When he's not volunteering at the shelter and making the lobby area look fantastic with all of the decorations, **Rob** enjoys working with stained glass to create windows and lamps.

**Rob** believes that each animal is an individual and should be treated as such. This perspective makes him a great asset to the shelter as he assists in finding the perfect pet owners for our cats and dogs. Shelter staff and animals are very appreciative of his dedication and hard work!

# Nicole Bennett

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

By Elvira Valenzuela

**Nicole** has been a volunteer with the Department of Animal Shelter since March and she has been a big impact so far. The reason she chose to volunteer was, because of the love she has for bull terriers and is saddened when they end up in the shelter. She said she knows she cannot adopt all that come in, but the most that she can do is care for them while they are here at the shelter and she can also assist in getting them adopted.

**Nicole** enjoys helping in the Kiosk, Fiscal, and Bathing & Grooming, as well as socializing with dogs and cats. She recently started assisting in Fiscal with data entry and filing. Knowing that the animals feel good after their grooming makes her feel better. **Nicole's** favorite hobby is photography and has two dogs, Duchess a pit bull and Duke, an English Staffordshire.

One of her most memorable moments while volunteering at the shelter is when she saw a dog get adopted after it had been here for a couple of months. She knew it was going to a good home and she did not have to worry anymore.

**Nicole's** message to the volunteers is; "Take any and every opportunity to talk about volunteering so maybe others will help too."



### Fun Facts:

Favorite movie is "Shawshank Redemption".

Craziest thing Nicole has eaten is chicken heart.

Two of her phobias are not being able to touch her toes and drowning.

Last book she read was "Hunger Games".

Favorite drink is Pepsi.

Her one wish is to end animal cruelty.

Nicole's hero is her father, because he is her friend, dad and hero.

Her favorite color is red.

Favorite volunteer is Joan Doup, because they talk about books.

# Kellsey Hoesman

**Kellsey** has been with Riverside County Department of Animal Services for more than 7 months. She has always enjoyed having animals and has been working with them since she was 17 years old. She would like to study Herpetology, which is the study of reptiles, because she has a fascination with snakes.

She has 3 red tail boas named Lilith, Banshee, and Damion. **Kellsey** also has 4 dogs named Gauge, Frankie, Annmarie, and Hazel. **Kellsey** also has one uromastyx lizard named Gerti and, to round out the pack, a hairless rat named Sid. **Kellsey** always helped her mother, Aimee Hoesman, who also works for our shelter, board and train animals at her own home. She knew this was something she wanted to get involved in. On her off time, **Kellsey** enjoys playing video games, reading, drawing and hiking. Her most memorable moment at the shelter was when she helped co-workers take 30 dogs to Zuri Pet Spa & Resort and she was able to witness the transformation these dogs went through.

**Kellsey's** message to the volunteers is to let them know how much she appreciates all the help they do at the shelter. She sees how they enjoy walking the dogs and showing them tricks. She said she loves how volunteers interact with the customers when assisting in adoptions and how they get the dogs bathed and groomed. It is a lot of help and she thanks them for the love and support they give to the shelter.



## Fun Facts:

Favorite movie is "Gladiator", because she enjoys the Roman history.

If stranded on an island, the three items she would like to have with her are: beef jerky, a trampoline and her best friend, Garrett.

Her favorite dish is cheeseburgers with bacon from Johnny's burgers.

Favorite color is forest green

Favorite season is the fall, because the weather is crisp, clean, and warm plus she gets to eat turkey

If Kellsey won the lottery, these are the three items she would buy: F150 truck, a new house for her parents and whatever is left, she would donate half to the Department of Animal Services.

# Volunteer Voices



## Sandra Sosa

Sandra has been a volunteer with the department for more than a month and the reason she decided to volunteer was so that she can gain experience and be able to work with the animals. She said, "I'm getting the best of both worlds." Sandra enjoys doing miscellaneous clerical duties as well as helping in the Kiosk where she gets to help the customers that come in. One of her most memorable moments is when a customer came in with a box of kittens and she wanted to hug them all but she knew the kittens needed to be assessed first. She enjoys playing with her poodle Pinky that was given to her by her grandmother 11 years ago. Sandra's message to the volunteers is to come in as often as you can to volunteer because the shelter can use your help. She also said that when you see her, she would like for you to remind her what your name is because she forgets everyone's names because she always sees a lot of people.

### RANDOM FACTS:

The song that best describes her is "That's Alright" by Laura Mvula.

Her one wish is to live the lifestyle of a wealthy person.

The cartoon character she would like to be like is Jessica Rabbit.

The colors of the rainbow are her favorite colors.

One interesting place she has visited is Chicago and taking the train to Indiana to visit high school friends.

## Jessica Garcia

Jessica has been volunteering with the Riverside County Department of Animal Services for more than a year and has enjoyed helping in the Fiscal department in this past month. She enjoys volunteering at the shelter because she has gained a lot of clerical experience. Jessica has four dogs named, Leo, Rocky, Bruno and Precious. She also has a cat named Tiger. On her off time, she enjoys reading mystery and thriller books and the last book she read was "A Child Called It" which she thought was a good book. One of her most memorable moments while a volunteer at the shelter was when she fostered a Chihuahua she named Hershey. She grew much attached to the dog that when it was time to let go because she had found a good home for him, she got a bit sad that she was not going to see him anymore. A message Jessica has for the volunteers is that, if you would like to be hired, volunteer your time so you can gain experience and get familiar with the job.

### RANDOM FACTS:

Favorite song is "Just The Way You Are" by Bruno Mars. Her biggest wish is to have a big house so she can adopt more animals.

The super hero character she can identify herself with is Wonder Woman.

If she were an animal, she would be a lion.

Favorite sport is baseball and her favorite team is the Dodgers.



# Adoptions & Socialization



Special recognition goes out to the following volunteers:

In total, volunteers socialized and walked more than 155 dogs in May! Great job! Let's try to see if we can walk even more dogs this month! For socializing the most dogs: **Erik Patterson** with 22 dogs, **Breonna Monterrosa** with 19 dogs and **Larry Rudolph** with 17 dogs!

There was a combined total of 603 adoptions in May.  
Fantastic job!

Please, also remember to use the cat socialization and adoption log when you have assisted in showing or adopting a cat. We want to recognize these efforts as well.

## Years of Service

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

**Lori Stauffacher** with 2 years of service!

**Victor Aguilar** with 3 years of service!

**Mary Anderson** with 4 years of service!

# May New Volunteers

Please, join us in welcoming these volunteers!

Candy Estevez  
Morelia Rodriguez  
Rikki Singleton  
Alex Torres  
Darrell Wampler  
Sandra Sosa  
Cynthia Renteria  
Heather Happoldt  
Tallianne Barnes  
Jesus Bojorquez  
Erik Castro

Ruth Lopez  
Kerry Mitchell  
Lisa Perez  
Monique Ruiz  
Jacquelyne Tallackson  
Kyle Decasas  
Nicole Gonzales  
Dejane Prevost  
Heather Happoldt  
Letty Marquez

# June Birthdays

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

Jordan Breit 6/02  
Jose Lara 6/03  
Christina Alvarez 6/04  
Cynthia Montoya 6/07  
Amy Tran 6/07  
Brenda Perez 6/09  
Ashley Taylor 6/14  
Adelaida Cabanillas 6/15  
Maureen Guthormsen 6/16  
Margarita Vargas 6/18  
Daniel Villalobos 6/18

Signe Petrarca 6/19  
Brandi Vasquez 6/20  
Dominique Abarquez-Pelaske 6/21  
Amanda Pierson 6/22  
Jennifer Gulden 6/23  
Jocelyn Quiroz 6/24  
Sarah Crawford 6/25  
Andres Bautista 6/26  
Cassidy Hooper 6/29





# Hot Weather Tips

We all love spending the long, sunny days of summer outdoors with our furry companions, but being overeager in hot weather can spell danger, ASPCA experts warn.

Take these simple precautions, provided by ASPCA experts, to help prevent your pet from overheating. And if you suspect your pet is suffering from heat stroke, get help from your veterinarian immediately.

## Visit the Vet

A visit to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer check-up is a must. Make sure your pets get tested for heartworm if they aren't on year-round preventive medication. Do parasites bug your animal companions? Ask your doctor to recommend a safe flea and tick control program.

## Made in the Shade

Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful to not over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot.

## Know the Warning Signs

Symptoms of overheating in pets include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. They can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees. Animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with the elderly, the overweight, and those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

## No Parking!

Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. "On a hot day, a parked car can become a furnace in no time-even with the windows open-which could lead to fatal heat stroke," says Dr. Louise Murray, Vice President of the ASPCA Animal Hospital. Also, leaving pets unattended in cars in extreme weather is illegal in several states.

## Make a Safe Splash

Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool-not all dogs are good swimmers. Introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from his fur, and try to keep your dog from drinking pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals that could cause stomach upset.

## Screen Test

"During warmer months, the ASPCA sees an increase in injured animals as a result of High-Rise Syndrome, which occurs when pets -mostly cats- fall out of windows or doors and are seriously or fatally injured," says Dr. Murray. "Pet owners need to know that this is completely preventable if they take simple precautions." Keep all unscreened windows or doors in your home closed and make sure adjustable screens are tightly secured.

For a complete list of precautions please visit:

<http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/hot-weather-tips>

# Arts for the Animal Award Ceremony



Robert Miller, presenting the 1st place Director's Choice Award to Loriah Maddox



Candace McGrew, Dr. Drusys presenting the Kindergarten to 1st Grade, 1st Place award to Leila.



Kid's enjoying their artwork.



Tor Bergkvist - Honorable Mention

# Park-N-Bark



## Kaiser Permanente Staff

donated blankets, towels, and other goodies to needy shelter animals.



**Left to Right:** Noemi Cerda, Alicia Collins and Lisa Collins



**Right to Left:** Alicia Collins and Judy Cummings