



Cindy Gomez

October 2014

Volunteer of the Month

Riverside Edition

Issue 10

October 2014



Happy
HALLOWEEN



-TRICK OR TREAT-

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SPOOKY



HALLOWEEN

Save the date

October 1st & 18th - Shot Clinic / Snack Booth Fundraiser

October 5th - Volunteer & Employee Picnic

October 30th - New Volunteer Orientation

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. 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.

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: Congratulations to the following winning volunteers that were entered into our drawing for the month of October:

Adoptions/Socialization: **Lucia Del Toro**

Bathing & Brushing/Shot Clinic: **Doug Anderson**

Kiosk: **David Cunningham**

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.

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: Make sure to follow the volunteer pages!
Facebook: **RCDAS Volunteers** ; Instagram: **@RCDAS_Volunteers**

Cindy Gomez

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

By Elvira Valenzuela

Cindy Gomez has been an active volunteer for over a year and ten months here at Riverside. When she joined the volunteer team she was unemployed and wanted to do something with her spare time.

As an animal lover she made the decision to volunteer and give back to the animals and truly wanted to make a difference. Cindy has worked in many areas in the shelter, she has volunteered for the adoption office, shelter events, grooming, shot clinics, and assist with Welcome Trainings for new volunteers.

But, her all-time favorite task is grooming the animals and watching animals finally get adopted into a welcoming home. She currently assists in the kiosk area welcoming costumers and giving assistants to them. When we asked Cindy which moment was memorable to her; she replied, "Last summer I helped clean and groom a litter of puppies. They were very filthy and needed much cleaning up so they can be ready to be adopted".

Cindy has three dogs named Rocky, Toby and Mad-die; she also has one cat named kiddy. Both her dog Rocky and cat kiddy were adopted right here in Riverside Animal Shelter.

On her personal time she enjoys hiking with her husband Marco, she loves the great outdoors and being out side and exploring Mother Nature. Cindy's message to the volunteers is, "Any minute spent with the animals may change their lives. Your services is greatly appreciated".



Fun Facts:

- Best song that describes her is: Country.
- Craziest thing she's done: Cliff diving in Mexico.
- Craziest thing she's eaten: Raw Oysters
- Favorite car: Ford Mustang (her car)
- Favorite Color: Black.
- Favorite sports team: Angels



Brittany Fonseca

MEET THE EMPLOYEE

By Joshua L. Acevedo

Meet Brittany Fonseca, one of our Animal Care Technicians here in the Animal Shelter. She's been with the department for over a year now and loves every minute of it but before she was an employee she already knew her way around the shelter. Some may or may not know that Brittany's mom also works for the department here in Riverside, Brittany was always here in the shelter and helping her mom out. Before joining the Animal Services family she was a Dental Assistant.

Brittany loves everything about her job from working in the kennels to working with the dogs to helping a family adopted a new pet. We asked her what her favorite part of the job is and she replies, "Finding a home for the animals". We also asked what her favorite memory was so far, "Adopting 180 animals last year during the Date Fest event in Indio."

On the side, Brittany has a side business making homemade bows and hair accessories from scratch. Besides working in kennels all day and making hair accessories all week long, she finds a way to make time for her child...her furry child this is. Brittany has a mini poodle name Molly, she considers for poodle her furry child that never leaves her side and always needs attention from her.

Brittany would like to share some words with our volunteers: "We appreciate the hard you put in and it takes a certain type of person with a big heart to do this job".

Fun Facts:

- Craziest thing I ever done: Take off to Europe.
- If you won the lottery, what would be the first 3 things you would do with the money?
 - 1) Buy a house near work
 - 2) Pay off Families bills and hers
 - 3) donate to the shelter.
- Song best describes her: "Fireworks" by Katy Perry
- Phobias: Public Speaking
- Movie last seen: Mean Girls



Volunteer Voices



Ronesha Eason

Ronesha has been a volunteer with the Department of Animal Shelter since June, 2014 and is here volunteering because she hopes to be a Veterinary one day. Her love for animals is another reason she enjoys coming in on her free time so that she can socialize with the animals.

When she is here, she enjoys walking the dogs and working the Kiosk where she can see all the animal lovers come in to the shelter. One of her memorable moments is how she meets all the great dogs and she quickly falls in love with them and wants to take them all home. She already has pets of her own so she cannot adopt at the moment.

Ronesha is a proud owner of a three dogs that she loves so much. Mojo is a Pomeranian, Ce'Jay and TJ are related as father and son and they are miniature pinchers. While she is not here at the shelter or with her lovely dogs, she enjoys playing the piano and trumpet.

Ronesha's message to the volunteers is, "Taking care of and showing love towards animals that lack the affection they need to live is more than volunteering. It is about keeping their spirits high and showing them the love that they are constantly yearning for."

Fun Facts:

Favorite song is, "To Build a Home" by the Cinematic Orchestra

Last movie she saw was Alien Abduction

Ronesha's biggest phobias are spiders

Her one wish is for all the animals to have a home.

Her role model is her mother



Luciana Caro

Luciana has been with the Department of Animal Services, here in the Riverside Shelter since September 2014. As someone who comes from Argentina she had a calling towards helping out animals but was unable to do so back in Argentina so she started volunteering here.

Luciana's favorite thing to do here at the shelter is to socialize our dogs by taking them on walks. She says, "I enjoy seeing the reaction that the dogs have when I take them for a walk." She also helps around the shelter by doing cat adoptions and greeting customers in the front desk. Her most memorable moment here at the shelter would have to be her first adoption because the very first dog she showed got adopted.

On her own time Luciana runs her online business selling home-made crochet items. If you would like to check out her website it is www.etsy.com/shop//YarrnIt

Luciana's message to the volunteers is "Be confident in what you are doing with a smile and have fun doing it!"

Fun Facts:

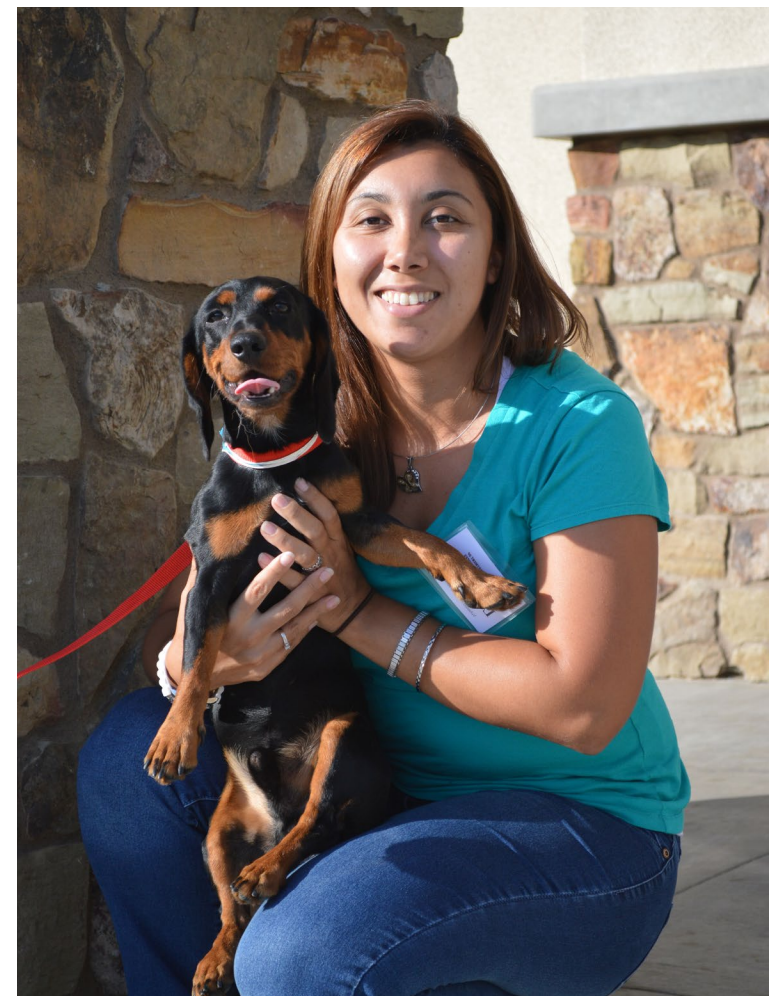
Phobia of the dark & ghost.

Craziest thing she has done is leaving Argentina to come to the United States.

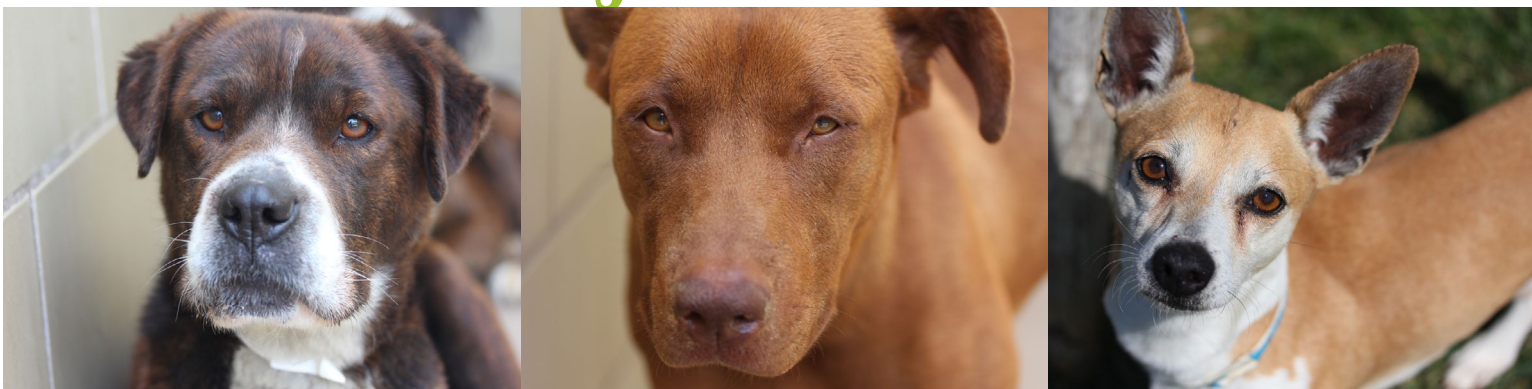
Favorite dish would have to be a Medium-Rare Steak

If she could be an animal she would be a horse because they are wild and independent.

Favorite sport is Soccer.



Adoptions & Socialization



Special recognition goes out to the following Volunteers:

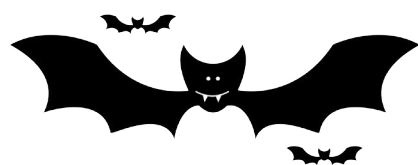
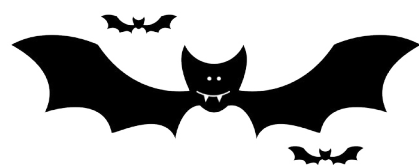
For socializing the most dogs: Dani Kerr with **16** dogs, Larry R. with **12** dogs and Marco Valencia with **8** dogs. Nice job volunteers! There was a combined total of **944** adoptions in October. Amazing! Way to go volunteers!

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



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

- Harkeerit Bathh with 2 years of service!
- Alyssa Brauning with 2 years of service!
- Andrea Chavez with 3 years of service!
- Erica Franco with 3 years of service!
- Kara Ballinger with 4 years of service!
- Nicholas barnes with 4 years of service!



September New Volunteers

Please, join us in welcoming these volunteers!

- Rachell Barr
- Murry Brown
- Amber Camacho
- Tracie Clay
- Janna Corby Potter
- Kiana Enriquez
- Karen Flores
- Alexandra Gonzalez
- Andrea Haikey

- Cheyenne Jimenez
- Ruben Lozano
- Darion Martinez
- Charlene McKinley-Powell
- Audrey Parra
- Alexis Rodriguez
- Gilbert Vela
- Meiya Yeh



October Birthdays

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

- Nguyen, Thy Dr 10/1
- Barrie, Tonna 10/1
- Bartlett, Shanna 10/1
- Brauning, Alyssa 10/2
- Williams, Robert 10/2
- Vredeveld, Brenna 10/4
- Cheek, Brandon 10/5
- Petrone, Kenneth 10/6
- Stewart, Deion 10/6
- Myles, Aubrie 10/7
- Chaturanyakoon 10/9
- Sartuche, Angelique 10/9
- Brucks, Alexis 10/12

- Berndt, Jennifer 10/12
- Clay, Tracie 10/13
- McKitterick, Amanda 10/14
- Parra, Audrey 10/14
- Wagner, Marci 10/14
- Bundy, Shelby 10/14
- Pacillas, Victoria 10/16
- Dembinski, Brendon 10/17
- Antonio, Patricia 10/17
- Chavez, Valerie 10/18
- Roth, Veronica 10/19
- Richardson, Ryan 10/20
- Philpott, Sarah 10/20

- Ramirez, Jose 10/21
- Rocheleau, Jennifer 10/22
- Rendon, Tatiana 10/24
- Lozano, Ruben 10/26
- Mendoza, Jacqueline 10/26
- Murillo, Jenna Rae 10/26
- Espino, Perla 10/27
- Davis, Jordan 10/27
- Concepcion, Grace 10/27
- Arreola, Gabriela 10/27
- Lamarca, Cindy 10/28
- Mullin, Rachel 10/29
- Dombek, Stacey 10/30



Autumn Safety Tips

Ah, fall—there's nothing like crisp, cool air, the first months of school and luscious foliage to get you excited for the changing seasons. Your pet, too, is probably welcoming the break from hot, sticky weather. But pet parents, beware—fall is also a time of lurking dangers for our furry friends. From household poisons to cold weather hazards, the season is a minefield! Here are some tips to keep your pet snug and healthy during the autumn months.

The use of rodenticides increases in the fall as rodents seek shelter from the cooler temperatures by attempting to move indoors. Rodenticides are highly toxic to pets—if ingested, the results could be fatal. If you must use these products, do so with extreme caution and put them in places inaccessible to your pets.

It's back-to-school time, and those of you with young children know that means stocking up on fun items like glue sticks, pencils and magic markers. These items are considered "low toxicity" to pets, which means they're unlikely to cause serious problems unless large amounts are ingested. However, since gastrointestinal upset and blockages certainly are possible, be sure your children keep their school supplies out of paw's reach.

Training tip: If you and your pooch haven't been active outdoors in a while because of the summer heat, do some remedial recall training. Dogs, like people, get rusty on their skills if they aren't using them.

Fall and spring are mushroom seasons. While 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, the 1% that are highly toxic can cause life-threatening problems in pets.

Unfortunately, most of the highly toxic mushrooms are difficult to distinguish from the nontoxic ones, so the best

way to keep pets from ingesting poisonous mushrooms is to keep them away from areas where any mushrooms are growing. Contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center immediately if you witness your pet eating a wild mushroom. In order to generate body heat, pets who exercise heavily outdoors, or who live outdoors, should be given more food during colder seasons. Make sure horses and other outdoor animals have access to clean, fresh water that is not frozen.

Autumn is the season when snakes who are preparing for hibernation may be particularly "grumpy," increasing the possibility of severe bites to those unlucky pups who find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. Pet owners should know what kinds of venomous snakes may be in their environment—and where these snakes are most likely to be found—so they can keep pets out of those areas.

Many people choose fall as the time to change their car's engine coolant. Ethylene glycol-based coolants are highly toxic, so spills should be cleaned up immediately. Consider switching to propylene glycol-based coolants—though they aren't completely nontoxic, they are much less toxic than other engine coolants.

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/autumn-safety-tips>

Pet Corner



photo courtesy of the ASPCA website.

Shelter Happenings



Rob Murphy decorating the Cat Kennel for the Spookcatular Event.



Dani Sanchez memorial tree & plaque.





Volunteer & Employee Picnic



