

SPRING 2020

# ANIMAL FRIENDS



**SPRING  
IS IN THE  
AIR!**

## **INSIDE:**

### **PAWSPICE**

Read about our enhanced adoption program for pets with special medical needs  
*Pages 3-4*

### **JOG-A-DOG**

This volunteer program is helping shelter dogs put their best paw forward  
*Page 6*



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO ALLISON LINDQUIST

March 20, 2020

### KEEPING LOCAL ANIMALS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE IN THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

As we all adjust to life during the current COVID-19 pandemic and Shelter in Place order, I hope you and your loved ones are safe, healthy and doing as well as possible during these unprecedented times.

The East Bay SPCA remains committed to the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, shelter animals and our community. In compliance with public health and safety guidelines, we have made several temporary changes to our operations and are taking important safety precautions to prevent further contagion and help end this global pandemic.

We have suspended all public adoptions and animal services including our spay/neuter and vaccine clinics, and we have canceled our Behavior & Training classes and Humane Education programs and activities, including Spring Animal Camp through April 7. Please check our website [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org) for the latest updates on our programs and services.

To continue supporting pets in our community, our full-service veterinary clinic remains open for appointments only. For information, or to make an appointment, please call (510) 569-1606. Our annual Growl, Meow & Wine community event has been rescheduled from May 3 to Sunday, August. 16. Please plan on joining us for wine, food and fun at this later date!

As the world around us keeps changing at a dizzying pace, the need to help animals and people in our community remains constant. **To help us continue providing exceptional shelter, behavioral and veterinary care for local animals who count on us as their lifeline, we need your support now than ever before.** Please use the gift envelope included in this newsletter or visit our website to make a gift of any amount that you can at this critical time.

I know these are challenging times, and while the future may seem uncertain, our pets and our shared love of animals will help us get through whatever lies ahead.

Thank you for your vital continued support of the East Bay SPCA.

Please take good care,

**ALLISON C. LINDQUIST**  
President and CEO  
East Bay SPCA



Allison with Marble

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mark Cratsenburg** *Board Chair*
- Marilyn Leahy** *Vice Chair*
- Sandi Wright** *Treasurer*
- Miranda Helmer**
- Jay Hernandez**
- Heidi Madsen**
- Bridge Mei**
- Carrie Schliemann**
- Stacey Wells**

### LEADERSHIP

- Allison Lindquist**  
*President and CEO*
- Karalyn Aronow**  
*Vice President of Operations*
- Kristen Beitzel**  
*Vice President of Medical Services*
- Barbara Dryg**  
*Vice President of Finance*
- Kimberly Low**  
*Vice President of Development*

### LOCATIONS

- Oakland Adoption Center and Theodore B. Travers Family Veterinary Clinic**  
8323 Baldwin Street  
Oakland, CA 94621  
(510) 569-0702
- Oakland Spay & Neuter Surgery Center**  
410 Hegenberger Road  
Oakland, CA 94621  
(510) 639-7387
- Dublin Adoption Center and Spay & Neuter Surgery Center**  
4651 Gleason Drive  
Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 479-9670

### OUR MISSION

**THE EAST BAY SPCA** is committed to the welfare of cats and dogs in the communities we serve. We strive to eliminate animal cruelty, neglect and overpopulation by providing programs and education that support people and companion animals.

VISIT US ONLINE AT  
[eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
[@eastbayspca](https://www.facebook.com/eastbayspca)

The East Bay SPCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Federal Tax ID # 94-1322202



## Remembering Anthony Varner

It is with great reverence that we pay tribute to East Bay SPCA employee Anthony Varner after his passing.

Animal Care Associate, Anthony Varner, joined the East Bay SPCA in 2016. We're thankful to have worked with him these last four years and to have witnessed the joy and positivity he brought to all who knew him. Our memories are filled with him lighting up the hallways with smiles, laughter, and songs. He touched the lives of so many, including lots of furry friends.

Anthony was a renowned "turf dancer" whose influence in the late 1990's street dance culture led to a documentary that featured his style.

He is survived by a son, two daughters and countless family members, friends and shelter animals who all loved and appreciated him.

Anthony will be greatly missed.

# GIVING SENIORS A SECOND CHANCE

## SENIORS FOR SENIORS ADOPTION PROGRAM

In recent years, we have seen more and more senior pets entering the shelter system. We are excited to share our new Seniors for Seniors adoption program that will help provide more senior pets with a second chance in 2020.

Through this program, all shelter dogs and cats ages 7 and up have their adoption fees waived for senior citizens ages 65 or older at both our Oakland and Dublin Adoption Centers.

Our goal is to help older pets find new homes while also improving the health and quality of life of senior citizens. Pet ownership provides many benefits and can be especially impactful for senior citizens. Research shows that having a pet can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, decrease risk of strokes, heart attacks, depression and more.

We're happy to report our first Senior for Senior adoption, Apricot, has settled right into her new home. Now known as Apri, she was adopted by brother and sister, Bruce and Debra, and lives with fellow East Bay SPCA alumni, Dafney, Fiddlesticks and Dora.



"Apri" the day she was adopted by Bruce and Debra!

Bruce and Debra already had two dogs and a cat at home and their hearts melted when they saw Apri's picture. Debra laughed thinking about the moment she knew they were going to bring Apri home, "We weren't looking for a dog, but when we spotted her, we knew she had to be part of our family. I could just hear my mom say, 'What are you kids doing?'"



Apricot, now known as "Apri" at home with Bruce and new housemates and fellow East Bay SPCA alumni Dafney, Fiddlesticks and Dora.

Since bringing Apri home, she has become friends with her new sisters and is more confident and active around them.

**"I can't imagine our household without Apri. I hope more people will consider adopting senior animals. For years we have heard that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but you can. Many times, the learning experience is mutual," says Bruce.**

Ready to meet your match? Our staff can help you find a pet that fits into your home and lifestyle.

**Visit [eastbayspca.org/adopt-me](https://eastbayspca.org/adopt-me) to view our available animals.**

# PAWSPICE

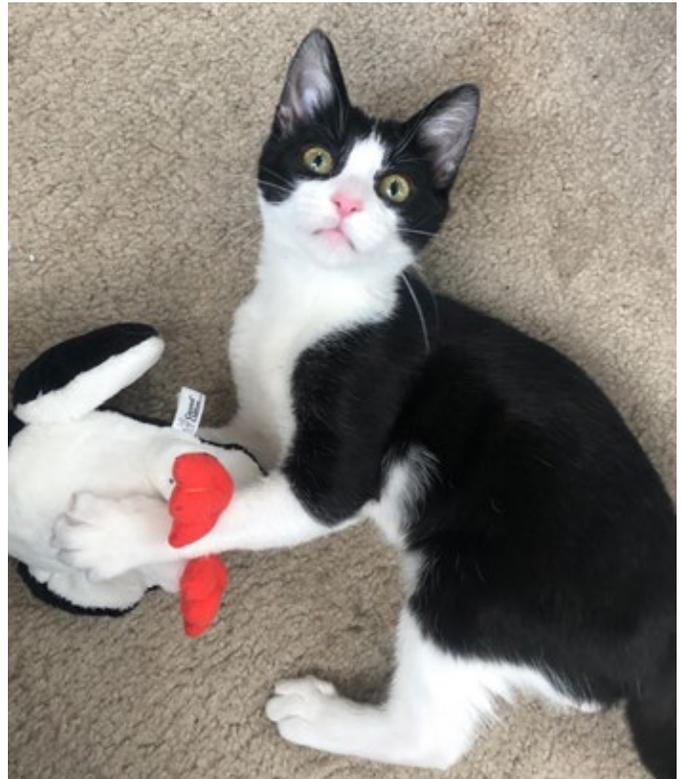
## HOSPICE, BUT WITH PAWS

In the Spring of 2019, we relaunched our Pawspice program to help animals with complex or terminal medical conditions who still have a high quality of life find loving homes. Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to waive the fees of Pawspice animals and much of their medical care is covered after adoption at our Theodore B. Travers Family Veterinary Clinic in Oakland for the remainder of their lives. This partnership between our shelters and adopters removes some of the financial barriers to adopt animals with chronic or terminal conditions who still have love to give.

In the first six months of the program, six Pawspice animals have been adopted, including a special kitten named Ringo. He arrived at our shelter with his mom and five littermates when they were transferred from a local municipal shelter to make room for more animals in need.

Our staff quickly noticed Ringo was growing much slower than the other kittens. While in a foster home, it became evident that mild ailments like an upper respiratory infection (similar to the common cold for people) affected him more. Ringo was separated from the rest of the litter and moved back to our Oakland shelter to be monitored closely by our medical team and receive twice daily medications to fight his ongoing upper respiratory infection.

Medical Support and Foster Coordinator, Brittany Binzoni, developed a soft spot for Ringo. Brittany recalls, "He took his medications like a champ and I always spent extra time snuggling him. He would purr so much, longing for love and attention after being separated from his mom and siblings."



Ringo enjoying playtime in his foster home with Brittany.

Determined to make sure Ringo experienced kitten-hood outside of the shelter, Brittany decided to foster Ringo. He was going to need extensive treatment and by fostering, she could give him more affection, playtime and a comfortable home environment until our medical team could determine his medical diagnosis.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? PAWSPICE ADOPTION FOLLOW-UPS



"We are so grateful to love Toby (fka as Tofu) despite his health issues. He is very loving, happy and such a big part of our family."



"Alvin (fka Bojack) is doing great. He goes everywhere with us, whether that be Big Sur, Yosemite, or hiking in the bay. His big brother Diego shows him the ropes on our walks. His hydrocephalus does not slow him down, he is just a regular puppy that does as he pleases."



Our medical and veterinary teams discovered that Ringo had a collapsed lung lobe, meaning he would have lifelong breathing difficulties.

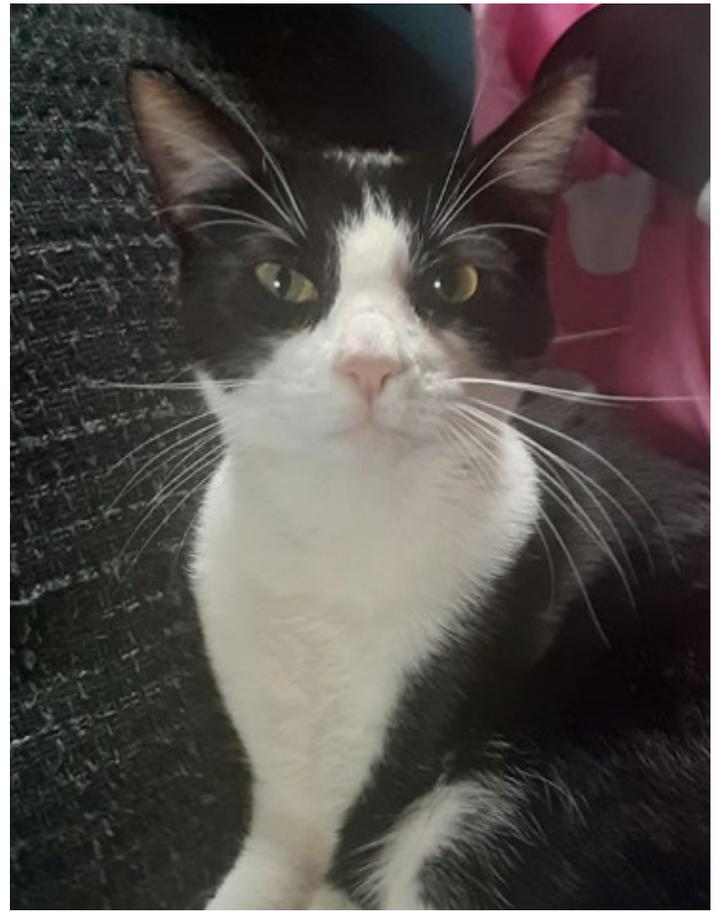
“You would never know Ringo had a medical condition looking at him. It never slowed him down (even though it probably should have!). When he wasn’t running around being rambunctious, he was so snuggly. The way he cuddled felt like his way of thanking me for giving him a second chance at life,” Brittany recalls.

Despite his condition, Ringo had a chance at a high quality of life. He couldn’t be a candidate for a typical adoption given his diagnosis, but he could be made available for adoption through our Pawspice program.

Erica and her two young children came to our Oakland Adoption Center and spotted Ringo. They had to meet him. Erica recalls, “It seemed like he wanted to venture out of the meet and greet room, which made us want to give him that experience. He was so sweet and calm, we couldn’t say no!”

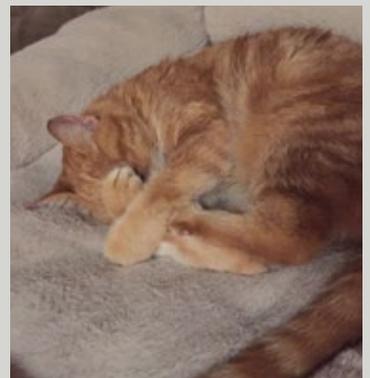
He is now known as Rebel and we recently received this update from Erica, “You would never know Ringo has only one working lung. He’s very active and loves playing with the kids. He has the best temperament and most playful attitude I’ve ever seen in a cat. He has so much love to give and is so patient with my kids. He clearly sees them as his siblings.”

We are so thrilled this special boy found the purr-fect home!



Ringo (now known as Rebel) in his new home.

**Why adopt a Pawspice pet?** Here’s what Brittany has to say about pets with special medical conditions, “They have just as much love and spirit in them as the other shelter animals. People often look over special-needs animals, and they end up staying in shelter a lot longer. My four cats are all special needs and adopting them was the best decision I’ve ever made.”



*“Jupiter is the best little dude and has become the third “dog” of the household, greeting people at the door, always being a part of the action in the kitchen, and even sitting for treats. I have no idea how many days he has left, but he has already out-lived expectations and I intend to spoil him every moment he has left...”*

*“I feel gratitude to be able to give peace and love to Lisa. She brings so much happiness into my home. She is excited to see me everyday when I get home and prances around waiting to be loved and petted. Lisa is without a doubt one of the sweetest and most thankful animals I have cared for.”*

# PUTTING YOUR BEST PAW FORWARD

## MONTHLY WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

This year we are excited to introduce a variety of affordable training workshops and seminars each month to help people better understand their pet and learn tips to modify their pet's behavior. Whether you're a longtime pet owner, new adopter or simply interested in learning more about the furry friends we share our lives with, there's a seminar or workshop for everyone.

"We've built these workshops and seminars with the goal of providing the tools and resources our evolving community needs to live comfortably with their animals," says Rebekah Piedad, East Bay SPCA Behavior and Training Manager. "At the East Bay SPCA we strive to continually support the human and animal bond. With that in mind, we built workshops and seminars to address some of the most common cat and dog behavior questions and misconceptions in a fun and efficient way."

Pet owners love their dogs and cats and want to do what is best for them, but sometimes living with animals can present some very real challenges. Knowing that people are busy and not everyone can commit to a five- or six-week training class, these workshops and seminars allow people to learn about very specific behavior challenges and common questions in a short amount of time.



*Behavior and Training Associate Micah McKechnie teaching Friendly, Fierce or Frisky: A Guide to Feline Communication.*

It's important to note that all animal behavior serves a purpose, even behaviors that we find undesirable. When we understand what that purpose is, we can better meet the needs of our animals by setting up the environment to be more conducive to seeing preferred behaviors and then reinforcing those behaviors with the very things the animal was trying to gain with the previous behavior. This both meets their needs and eliminates their motivation for continuing the undesired behavior. Our workshops and seminars aim to help people better understand animal behavior and how it can be modified through positive reinforcement.

What is the difference between a seminar and a workshop? Seminars are educational presentations only open to human attendees, while workshops are presented more like interactive training classes for animals and people together.

Workshop participants have the option to attend in an Auditing Spot or a Working Spot. The Auditing Spots are for people observing without their dog present. The Working Spots are for people who intend to bring and practice with their dogs for real-time feedback from our trainers.

Before signing up for a Working Spot, it's important to know whether your dog will be comfortable in a class environment with other people and dogs. If your dog is uncomfortable in new places or with other dogs or people, an Auditing Spot is recommended for your first workshop experience.

**For more information and to sign up for an upcoming workshop or seminar visit [eastbayspca.org/workshops-seminars](http://eastbayspca.org/workshops-seminars).**

Looking for even more advanced training? We are hosting a wide range of guest speakers who are industry experts throughout the year to provide training on various topics geared towards veterinarians, shelter/rescue workers and volunteers, private trainers, pet owners and more. See our upcoming guest speakers at [eastbayspca.org/guest-speakers](http://eastbayspca.org/guest-speakers).

### Cat Fact



**When a cat exposes its belly, it can indicate they are relaxed and comfortable in their environment OR readiness to defend with all weapons pointed at a threat.**

**NOTE:**  
Always exercise caution when a cat exposes its belly. Not all cats like their belly rubbed, even when they are relaxed!

# BEYOND WEEKEND WARRIORS

## JOG-A-DOG VOLUNTEERS TAKE THE LEAD

For people and dogs who like to run, the East Bay SPCA's Jog-a-Dog program is an excellent way for both humans and canines to burn off energy and manage stress.

Active volunteer, Amy Fields, launched the East Bay SPCA's Jog-a-Dog program in Dublin in February 2013. She recalls, "As an avid runner and dog lover not able to have a dog of my own, I wanted to combine my two passions. I approached the East Bay SPCA with an idea to enrich the lives of our shelter dogs and Jog-a-Dog was off to the races!"



Back row (left to right) Jillian Grabenstein, Michaela DeJesus, Kathy Nagy. Front row: Sylvia Arenas and Amy Fields with bonded pair Melo and Mia who were recently adopted together!

The program allows shelter dogs to get outside and run for enjoyment and exercise while creating fun fitness opportunities for volunteers. With the help of the East Bay SPCA's Behavior & Training department,

Jog-a-Dog volunteers are trained to provide enrichment, socialization and basic behavior modification to the dogs with the goal to decrease their time in the shelter before adoption.

Starting with a handful of volunteers, the Jog-a-Dog program expanded to Oakland in September 2017 and has grown to over 30 volunteers. The program averages 60 runs per month combined between both our Oakland and Dublin campuses.

Before each run, Jog-a-Dog volunteers gather to plan runner-dog pairs and routes. While a typical route might be the beautiful Emerald Glen Park in Dublin or the Alameda Shoreline in Oakland, not all paths are suitable for all dogs. An older, but still active dog may need a shorter run or a dog that tends to react around other dogs may need an alternate route.

Mother-daughter pair, Karen and Michaela DeJesus, have been a part of the program since day one when Amy approached them knowing they were runners and animal lovers. Michaela, who still runs with the dogs each weekend seven years later, enjoys seeing each unique dog's personality shine.

"Some dogs can be anxious and jumpy in the shelter. We can get them out in the morning for a half an hour or more and they transform into completely different dogs. Beyond giving dogs a break from shelter life, we get to know more about their personalities and quirks that can help them match with an adopter," she says.

"Over time and miles together, a connection and bond forms with a dog. Of course, adoption to their forever homes is the goal, but saying goodbye can sometimes bring tears of joy and some pretty intense tugs at heartstrings," says Karen, who has since moved to Oregon and is helping the Oregon Humane Society grow its own running program.

<p><b>In 2019</b> <b>Jog-a-Dog</b> <b>Volunteers</b></p>	<p>Went on <b>423</b> runs</p>	<p>Spent <b>387</b> hours running</p>	<p>Ran <b>608</b> miles</p>
--	--	---	-------------------------------------

To learn more about Jog-a-Dog and how you can sign up, visit [eastbayspca.org/volunteer](http://eastbayspca.org/volunteer)

## THANK YOU TO OUR FOSTER FAMILIES

We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support from existing foster volunteers and candidates who are providing much needed care for our shelter animals while our Adoption Centers are temporarily closed. While we have enough foster volunteers to meet our current needs, we anticipate needing more help in the coming weeks and months. Learn more about foster care opportunities on our website at [eastbayspca.org/foster](http://eastbayspca.org/foster).



# NEW Date!

## Growl Meow



### Sunday, August 16, 2020

4:00 - 7:00 PM | 8323 Baldwin Street, Oakland

Please plan on joining us for wine, food and fun at this later date!

### Tips to keep pets and children enriched



Follow us on Facebook for tips from our behavior and training experts on keeping your pets mentally and physically stimulated as we Shelter in Place. Our Humane Education department will also be sharing lesson plans parents can use to keep their kids engaged. **Visit [facebook.com/eastbayspca](https://facebook.com/eastbayspca).**

Find all the latest updates and information about our activities, programs and services on our website at [eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org).