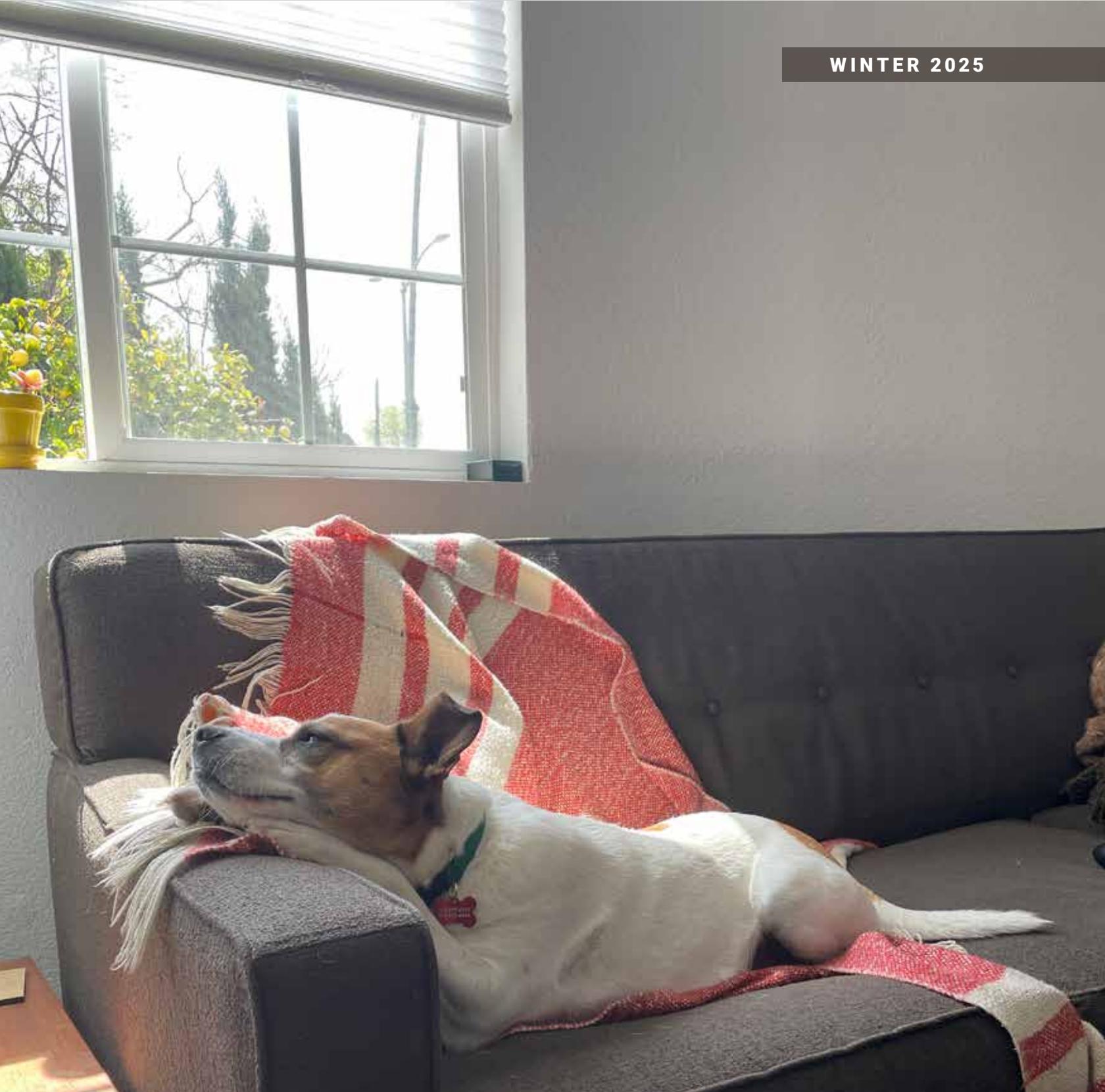


WINTER 2025



# ANIMAL FRIENDS



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**Julie Henderson**  
Vice President of Philanthropy

**On the Cover**  
*Foster Win*, page 8



## President's Message Winter 2025

Inspiring Compassion,  
Building Community

Dear Friends,

As 2025 draws to a close, we are reminded of how essential it is to keep pets safe, healthy, and at home with the people who love them. At East Bay SPCA, we know that preventing animals from entering shelters begins with providing the resources pet families need to keep their companions by their side.

We've seen a rise in stray animals this year, with more animals entering our care through our contracts with San Leandro and Livermore, and a pressing need for more stray support in Oakland (p. 4). As we expand our staffing and services to meet the needs of our community, your support enables us to reunite more dogs and cats with their owners, and to find loving adopters for pets without homes.

Through our Behavior & Training services (p. 9), veterinary care, and shelter reuniting efforts, we're working to prevent strays and supporting families in need. From offering affordable and sliding-scale medical treatment and discounted training to quickly reuniting lost animals with their guardians, our community programs reduce the strain on shelters, and protect the precious bond between people and pets.

Your partnership makes this lifesaving work possible. By ensuring that animals have the care and resources they need at home, you are helping us create a future where fewer pets enter shelters and more remain safe with the people who love them.

With gratitude,

**ALLISON C. LINDQUIST**  
President & CEO

# Stray Kittens

## Loved every step of the way

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Bucket came to East Bay SPCA by way of a thoughtful and feral-cat-savvy good Samaritan, as a three-week-old neonate kitten. She was found alone, and brought to us in a white, plastic bucket. Her rescuer had seen a mother leave one kitten behind, and spent several days observing whether she would return. When she didn't, they knew they had to intervene and give the newborn a chance.

Bucket came in howling — she was hungry, covered in fleas, and desperate for the love and care she deserved. Upon being brought to us, she was immediately bathed, dried, and fed before being paired with an experienced neonate foster. At East Bay SPCA, we receive hundreds of neonatal kittens each year, and we could not save them without the dedication of these amazing volunteers who provide

round-the-clock care including bottle feeding and constant monitoring.

After a brief setback where she lost a bit of weight, her foster and our Shelter Medicine staff worked closely to bring her back to full health. Once she was strong and ready, Bucket was made available at our Oakland adoption center, and adopted within days. She continues to bring unlimited amounts of joy and love to her new family.

Bucket's story is one of many reminders that the patience and compassion of people — from her rescuer to her foster to our amazing staff and community of supporters — can give even the tiniest of kittens a second chance.

### What "Kitten Season" Means:

Each year we see an increase in orphaned kittens as the weather warms, with intake for neonates peaking in spring and summer, leading to a large number of available animals in the fall. Through the power of our dedicated foster community, these infant strays receive continuous care until they're old enough to return to the shelter to meet potential adopters.



# Keeping Pets in Homes

It takes a village to keep tails wagging & families together.

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**When shelters, animal control, and the community work together, we can significantly reduce the number of animals who end up on the streets. We discussed stray prevention and lost pet resources with Lindsay McCall, East Bay SPCA's Vice President of Operations.**

## How does East Bay SPCA work to prevent strays?

Our mission goes far beyond caring for homeless animals — we're focused on preventing them from becoming homeless in the first place. We do that through community-based programs that make a real difference: offering affordable spay and neuter services to reduce unwanted litters, providing microchips and ID tags to help lost pets find their way home, and supporting pet owners with resources to keep their animals during tough times.

## What can pet owners do to keep pets from getting lost?

Pet owners play a huge role in preventing animals from becoming strays. The most important steps are simple but powerful: make sure pets are spayed or neutered, microchipped and have a visible ID tag — and keep them safely contained at home or on a leash. We also encourage owners to reach out for help early if they're struggling with behavior, housing,



or finances — there are often resources available to keep pets and people together. Prevention really starts in the home and in the community.

## What should pet owners do if their animal is lost?

Timing is critical — the sooner you act, the better the chances of getting your animal home safely. Start by checking your neighborhood and calling out to your pet, as many animals don't wander far. Next, contact your local animal shelter or animal control agency to file a lost pet report, and make sure your pet's microchip information is up to date. You should check local shelters' found animal listings daily. Social media and neighborhood apps like

Nextdoor can be powerful tools for spreading the word quickly. Post flyers with a clear photo and your contact info in your neighborhood, and, don't give up — pets are often found days or even weeks after going missing.

## What if a community member finds a stray?

If the pet looks healthy and friendly, check for an ID tag and try to contact the owner directly. Many lost pets are found just a few blocks from home. If there's no visible ID, take dogs to a veterinary clinic or animal shelter to have them scanned for a microchip. For healthy cats, it's best to leave them where they are. Only 7% of lost cats are found through shelters — 66% make it home on their own.

**If an animal has no microchip, contact your local animal control agency for support reporting the animal as found, and keep them safe, fed, and hydrated in the meantime.**

**If an animal appears injured, sick, or in danger, contact your local animal control agency so trained staff can help ensure your safety and the animal's. Pathways to Happiness**

## Pathways to Happiness!

**These numbers underscore the importance of a multi-faceted approach to strays in our communities, with a variety of partnerships central to the health and wellness of the pet population.**

We do everything in our power to keep pets with their people, but sometimes reuniting stray animals with an owner isn't possible. In those cases, we create pathways for animals to find happiness in new homes.

Every stray that enters our care receives veterinary and behavioral support upon arrival. After a brief holding period where we investigate any ownership history, we create an individualized adoption plan for that animal, taking into account assessed behavior, medical history, and personality.

Our Oakland and Dublin shelters support stray intake for multiple municipalities. In addition to our ongoing contract with the City of San Leandro,



JANUARY – SEPTEMBER OF 2025  
**765 STRAY KITTENS**  
A 40% increase from 2024

STRAY CANINE INTAKE PEAKED  
IN JULY 2025  
**46 DOGS  
5 PUPPIES**  
A 38% increase from 2024

IN SEPTEMBER OF 2025 WE HELPED  
**240 STRAY ANIMALS**  
Compared to 159 in September of 2024

in 2025 we established a new partnership with the City of Livermore Police Department to help stray, injured, and surrendered animals from Livermore.

Seeing an increased need in Oakland, at the same time, we began taking in more stray animals from Oakland Animal Services, ensuring we are caring for as many animals as possible from across the East Bay.

Through our ongoing partnerships and the expansion of staff and services in Dublin and Oakland, we're helping more communities and meeting the needs of an increased pet population at our shelters. Our goal is to find more animals loving homes, and to decrease the number of animals living without a home or basic care.

# Together Again

## Behind every reunion is a network of care and dedication

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Pets become lost for a variety of reasons — Rebel, a young pittie who loves to run, got loose during an exciting trip to the pumpkin patch. Thanks to a microchip, he was reunited with his family at our Dublin facility, less than 24 hours later.

Every stray that finds their way home is a reminder of the value of our community partnerships, online networks, and pet preparedness. Whether they're missing for an extended period — like Snowy, who slipped through a fence and found her way to us a year later — or redeemed within hours, these joyful outcomes make every effort worthwhile.



### Nihla

- Female, 4 years old
- Went missing in Livermore
- Reunited after 9 days

### Rebel

- Female, 8 months old
- Went missing in Livermore
- Reunited within 24 hours





## Snowy

- Male, 3 years old
- Went missing in Oakland
- Reunited after 1 year

## Choco

- Male, 7 years old
- Went missing in Oakland
- Reunited after 8 days



## Pepper

- 17 years old
- Went missing in Oakland
- Reunited after 1 month



## Foster Win

### Whiskey's journey from scared stray to beloved family member

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Whiskey came to East Bay SPCA alongside several other strays from San Leandro. A good Samaritan found the group living in a work yard and brought them to safety. A large laceration on his lip, his uncertain gaze, and fearful body language indicated a challenging life as a stray and limited positive human contact. Staff recalled how he “pancaked” to the ground when walked on leash, and froze in place inside his kennel, unsure if he could trust anyone.

After his wound was treated by our Shelter Medicine team, Whiskey's next step was emotional healing. Our Behavior & Training staff created a care plan to help him feel safe again, giving him extra space, quiet moments, and time to build confidence. It didn't take long for us to notice Whiskey opening

up around another shy dog named Cognac. The two were soon fostered together, where their friendship blossomed. Behavior staff noted how Whiskey's body language softened when Cognac was near, his tail relaxed, his eyes brightened, and he began to explore with curiosity. Time away from the shelter allowed both dogs to find calm together.

With a buddy by his side, Whiskey began to eat regularly, wag his tail, and show a playful side we hadn't seen before. Over time, he became more and more comfortable with staff and volunteers, and a regular visitor to staff offices.

After Cognac was adopted, it was Whiskey's turn. His foster caregiver, Leigh, had seen him come so far and knew she couldn't say goodbye. She adopted him

herself, giving him the new home he'd been waiting for.

Whiskey is now living his best life with Leigh and her family. Once a timid stray, he's become a confident, affectionate companion who loves being near his people. His favorite spots are the couch, snuggled up beside the kids as they play video games, and the sunny patch of grass in the backyard where he naps contentedly.

He's even learned to enjoy car rides, knowing they usually lead to something fun. Every day, Whiskey shows just how much love a rescue dog has to give. His journey from scared stray to beloved family member is proof that patience and compassion can truly change a life.

# A Legacy of Compassion

## A tribute to their daughter and activism for animal welfare

George and Risa Yuhas have been steadfast supporters of East Bay SPCA for several years and find the tax incentives and convenience of making contributions via the Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) process beneficial. "When we make our QCD, it counts towards our required minimum distribution and efficiently reduces our taxable income. It is also a very simple process and increases our ability to support East Bay SPCA's mission."

As a board member, George has special insight into our work, saying, "East Bay SPCA people (fellow board members and staff) are among the nicest and most dedicated folks I have had the pleasure to know. The programs they manage are much broader and more encompassing than I

**"She was an avid animal lover and strong supporter of animal welfare organizations, including her local SPCAs. We believe our support is a means of honoring her memory as well as helping the dogs and cats."**

realized before I joined the board, and they provide a constant source of satisfaction to the extent that I can contribute even a little towards them. I have seen the guiding principles of animal and pet-owner welfare drive pretty much everything the organization does, which makes me proud to be associated with it."

George and Risa have always had dogs as members of their family, and their support is deeply personal, given in honor of their late daughter, Katherine, who unexpectedly passed away while in college.



## Give Smarter. Help More Animals.

**Our new Smart Giving Suite makes it easier than ever to support East Bay SPCA with gifts of stocks, crypto, DAF/QCD, and more.**

Every smart gift helps local animals get the care and compassion they deserve.



Visit our Ways to Give page to find out more, or scan the code to start helping animals today!

[www.eastbayspca.org/waystogive](http://www.eastbayspca.org/waystogive)



# Keeping Pets Safe

Expert advice from our Behavior & Training team on safety at home, outside, and in unpredictable environments.

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## The Right Gear

Reliable walking equipment is your first line of defense against escape and a lost animal:



- Harnesses over flat collars – by far the safest option.
- Leave out head collars, retractable leashes, and flexi leashes. All three of these are prone to failure and can lead to injury.
- Properly fit martingale collars if harnesses are not an option. These provide more security than regular flat collars.
- "Two points of contact." Have a failsafe clip in case a dog manages to slip either their harness or collar.
- Choose long lines to mimic off-leash time for dogs who do not have reliable recall.

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## For the Outdoor Explorer

These precautions are important for avoiding escape and injury. Here are some tips to consider whether enjoying a yard, park, or other shared, public space:

- Fence height: Most medium-sized dogs have the ability to jump a 5' fence. Larger dogs (55+ lbs.) can often scale 6' fences. 4' - 5' fences are not adequate to stop the majority of dogs from getting out.
- Fence opacity: Can your dog see through the fence? If so, they are more likely to see something they will attempt to get to! A cat, a squirrel, a friendly human, another dog.
- Supervision: Dogs left unsupervised in yards are more likely to have opportunities to escape, especially if boredom is a factor. If possible, have a way to supervise your dog while in your yard, especially at night.
- Routine enrichment: We can't just expect the yard to do the work for us, any more than we can put a child into a classroom and expect them to entertain themselves. Dogs need things to do, or they may find their own activities, which could involve escape to somewhere more exciting. We have a Canine Enrichment Handout with lots of ideas for keeping dogs busy and entertained!



## Vacation Precautions

Traveling with pets can be stressful, but there are steps you can take help minimize difficulties during a journey:



- Create positive associations with your pet's crate or carrier before your trip, and make sure you are choosing carriers with high safety ratings.
- Research and test behavior medications ahead of time. Getting the dosage and administration right with your vet can make all the difference on the go.
- If flying, research up-to-date airline requirements. All airlines are different, and policies change frequently.

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## Petsitters & Walkers

Trusting your animal to a new person is a big responsibility, and you'll want to make sure that their temporary caretaker has everything they need to keep your pet safe!

- Set up a meet-and-greet so your animal can get to know a new carer, and launch the new relationship when you're sure your pet is comfortable.
- Make sure anyone caring for your pet has all the relevant information they need in writing: behaviors, routines, medications, food, and veterinarian contact. A responsible caretaker will want to know your animal's needs.
- Trust your instincts, and advocate for your animal! If you are feeling uneasy about something your caretaker is doing or saying, or if you can tell your animal is uncomfortable, be their advocate and be firm about your expectations.





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Established in 1874, East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (**East Bay SPCA**) is proud to be one of the nation's oldest shelters. East Bay SPCA is more than a shelter, transforming the lives of cats and dogs by enriching the human-animal bond through accessible and respected expertise.

Learn more at [eastbayspca.org](https://eastbayspca.org).



@eastbayspca

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

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**Oakland Adoption Center**  
8323 Baldwin Street  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Dublin Adoption Center**  
4651 Gleason Drive  
Dublin, CA 94568

**Theodore B. Travers  
Family Veterinary Clinic**  
8323 Baldwin Street  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Oakland Spay/Neuter  
Surgery Center**  
410 Hegenberger Road  
Oakland, CA 94621