

SPRING 2026



# ANIMAL FRIENDS

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**On the Cover**  
*Kitten Dijon in Foster*



## President's Message Spring 2026

Reaching Every Corner  
of Our Community

Dear Friends,

As kitten season approaches, our resolve to reach all corners of our community to provide programs and resources to those who need it most remains our focus. Every spring, cats and kittens enter our shelter in higher numbers than at any other time of the year. It takes a village to care for this influx of animals, and we are grateful for the greatest village of all – our incredible foster families, volunteers, adopters, and supporters.

In this edition of Animal Friends, we highlight the care we are able to provide thanks to our wonderful community. Our incredible network of foster families helps care for the youngest kittens entering our shelter while our onsite volunteers ensure the animals in our care receive the love and attention they need while awaiting their homes. Accessible spay/neuter services reduce the number of homeless kittens entering shelters in our community. And thanks to truly generous community members, our Pet Food Pantry Program is able to meet the needs of pet owners who find themselves in a difficult place and need food, supplies, and other resources to care for their beloved pets.

Finally, we invite you to celebrate the impact our community allows us to make by attending this year's Growl, Meow & Wine event. Our signature event takes place this year on Sunday, May 3 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at our Baldwin Street campus in Oakland. This special evening celebrates the difference we make together for animals and the people who love them. Visit our event website at [growlmeowandwine.org](http://growlmeowandwine.org) for more information.

Thank you for being an important part of our village and helping us save lives. Your continued support allows us to create a more compassionate future for people and animals.

With gratitude,

**ALLISON C. LINDQUIST**  
President & CEO

Cheers to more lives saved!



Join us for a celebration of lifesaving care, growing adoptions, and the community that makes it all possible.

Sunday, May 3 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
8323 Baldwin St. | Oakland



For tickets & information, visit:  
[growlmeowandwine.org](http://growlmeowandwine.org)

## Thank You Central Garden & Pet

Corporate partnerships, and the people within those businesses who passionately support our work, are essential to advancing the mission of East Bay SPCA. For the past 10 years, Central Garden & Pet has set the standard for what meaningful corporate support can look like.

As a decade-long sponsor of our annual Growl, Meow & Wine (GMW) event, Central Garden & Pet has played a pivotal role in helping our signature fundraiser grow in both reach and impact. Their sustained investment has helped underwrite event costs, maximize funds raised for animals in need, and elevate the experience for our community of supporters.

Additionally, we have been honored to have multiple members of their leadership serve on our Board of Directors. Their partnership and ongoing program support helps us strengthen our veterinary services, shelter care, behavior programs, and adoption efforts year-round.

We are proud to celebrate 10 years of partnership with Central Garden & Pet and are grateful for their continued leadership in championing animal welfare throughout the East Bay.



Julie Henderson, VP of Philanthropy, and Marilyn Leahy, former Board Chair, representing East Bay SPCA at Cal Bears football game.



Central team at Cal Bears football game presenting a generous \$10,000 donation to East Bay SPCA. Thank you, Central.

# Kitten Season

## Ways to Help

Beginning each spring, East Bay SPCA's animal intake reflects a growing need from our community: the care of hundreds of newborn kittens without homes. In spring, summer, and well into fall, we focus heavily on supporting neonatal kittens, young cats, and even pregnant mothers that need medical care, behavioral support, and loving homes.



As kitten season ramps up, there are a number of actions our community can take to support our efforts and save lives:



### Foster

Short- and long-term foster carers are hugely impactful in getting cats ready for their eventual homes. Newborn kittens need bottle-feeding, careful attention, and a warm, quiet space to grow in, so our team can focus on even more animals coming through our doors. **Join our foster network at [eastbayspca.org/foster](http://eastbayspca.org/foster).**

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### Give

We make it easy for the community to pitch in by listing items needed for our fosters and shelter animals on our Amazon Wishlist. (Scan the code to the left.) You can also give financially at [eastbayspca.org/donate](http://eastbayspca.org/donate). In 2025, longtime volunteer Dr. Susan Bradshaw and her wife Katherine Ratcliff donated the funds for new, more spacious cat condos at our Oakland shelter – a major win for the felines in our care.

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### Adopt

Opening your heart and home to a feline friend saves a life, makes room for another animal to receive care, and brings joy, comfort, and companionship for years to come. Our **Oakland and Dublin adoption centers are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, Wednesday through Sunday.

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### Spay/Neuter

If you're already a cat parent, but you haven't had the opportunity to spay or neuter your companion, now's the time! By preventing accidental litters, you're supporting the health and happiness of all East Bay cats. Our **Oakland Spay/Neuter Surgery Center** is on a mission to make this critical surgery convenient and affordable.

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### Know the Cat Community

While some feral cats require human intervention, it's important to know when to act. Leaving kittens in the care of their mother is preferable to separating them after birth, unless the mother is missing or the kittens are injured or ill. Wait 4-6 hours for a mother cat to return if the kittens are under 4 weeks old, and up to 8-12 hours if they are older, giving them plenty of space in the meantime. When it comes to adult cats, we're here to accept injured or ill strays, and have limited Trap-Neuter-Return appointments for San Leandro and Livermore residents at our spay/neuter clinic. **Learn more about when to act at [eastbayspca.org/communitycats](http://eastbayspca.org/communitycats).**

# Meet These Feline Advocates

## Positive Impacts in Our Community



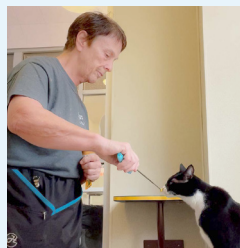
**Steph Passino** started out as a foster in 2016, and now volunteers in person with cats at our Dublin campus. Her favorite part about volunteering is the “balance of structure and heart. There’s real responsibility in caring for the animals properly,

but there’s also so much joy in it. Whether it’s a goofy kitten with a loud meow or a shy cat slowly beginning to trust, it reminds me that small acts of patience, kindness, and consistency matter.” Steph loves making a difference in the lives of each of the cats she spends time with. She’s even taken on the additional role of Feline Photographer, helping to capture cat personalities for East Bay’s online audiences. One of her favorite volunteering experiences was with Charlie, a cat who made literal “yum-yum” noises while he ate and enjoyed perching on her head as a “cat-hat.”



**Mosa Laren** and her daughter began fostering with East Bay SPCA nearly 5 years ago. Growing up, Mosa always dreamed about having a house full of cats. Fostering helps make that childhood dream a reality, and she loves that she is able

to help so many more cats this way than if they were permanent residents of her home. While it can be difficult to say goodbye to their fosters once they’re ready for adoption, she is “soothed by the comforting knowledge that I was able to help them and that they will have wonderful homes and wonderful lives with people who love them deeply. It’s an exercise for both of us in loving and letting go. I’m a better person for it.” We are immensely grateful for Mosa’s dedication to working with our cats and kittens.



**Alice Fritz** is a Feline Companion & Enrichment volunteer, but she specializes in providing positive reinforcement training for shelter cats. After working as a dog trainer for over 30 years, Alice’s first experience

training cats came from volunteering at East Bay SPCA. She enjoys mitigating some of the stress of shelter life and keeping cats engaged while they await adoption: “In an environment where life is necessarily regimented to the needs of the shelter, giving cats agency encourages them to remain or become engaged, decreases fear, and stimulates cognitive skills as well,” says Alice. She also loves working with shy cats to increase their adoptability. “It is so rewarding the first time a cat who has been very shut down develops the trust to approach,” says Alice. “Alice’s volunteer service is a true asset to our team and other folks in our community have a lot to learn from her,” says Ryan Ericksen, Volunteer Services Manager.



**Tamara Kelley** began her feline foster journey more than 6 years ago. She, along with her own social cat Maxwell (who plays “Mr. Mom” to her foster kittens), finds so much joy in

watching her foster kittens grow up and get ready to find their new homes. Tamara is a special kind of foster, she takes in neonate kittens, who often need more intensive medical care than older ones. Using skills she developed in her previous job in the Pediatric ICU, Tamara is able to provide these kittens with fluids, tube feedings, and special monitoring as needed. “I love having a small piece of an animal’s life, especially if it means getting them ready for their forever home,” she says.

Want to get involved in feline care?  
Head to [eastbayspca.org/volunteer](https://eastbayspca.org/volunteer)

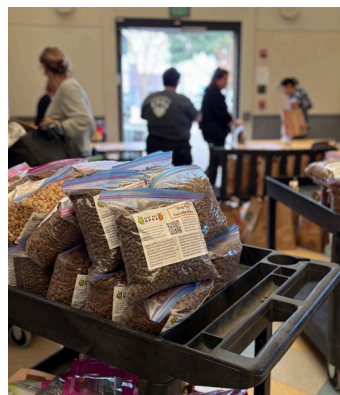
# Humane Advocacy in Action

## Feeding Pets Across the East Bay

At East Bay SPCA, we recognize that access to necessities like pet food and supplies can make the difference between keeping pets with their people, and the heartbreaking decision to surrender. Our Humane Advocacy (HA) team works diligently to provide pet food, supplies, resources, and referrals to pet parents experiencing tough times.

Our monthly **Pet Food Pantry in Oakland** provides free wet and dry pet food to hundreds of Alameda County pet parents each month, and acts as a hub for other resources: attendees can also pick up items like treats, leashes, toys, and bedding, and learn more about our other programs and services, including discounted training and our Spay/Neuter Vouchers.

In 2025, we saw an increased need for our Pantry and related services. We responded with multiple food drives, expanded Pantry hours, and additional registration slots. Our community supported our efforts by donating food, supplies, money, and time to help neighbors in need.



*These moments illustrate the impact we can have when we step up to support each other...*

### February 2025

In memory of Dublin cat volunteer Alexys Garcia, Garcia's family held a Pet Food Drive at our Dublin location, in addition to dedicating a cat condo in her honor. A surprise, larger donation brought in multiple pallets of dog and cat food, bringing the total for the afternoon Drive to over 10,000 lbs.

### August 2025

Our Humane Advocacy program was awarded \$10,000 in pet food through Pet Food Express's Fill the Foodbanks initiative: 3,354 lbs. of dog food and 1,200 lbs. of cat food, almost 70,000 meals.

### November 2025

With the temporary halt to SNAP benefits, and increased food insecurity for East Bay residents, we launched a weekend-long Pet Food Drive to help feed as many pets as possible. The response was incredible, with over 19,000 lbs. of food donated to our Pantry program.

To give to our Pet Food Pantry, head to [eastbayspca.org/donate](http://eastbayspca.org/donate), and select the Pet Food Pantry fund.



More Than a Shelter

## Affordable pet training that makes a difference.

Flexible options that fit your needs. Private, group, and online training for cats and dogs in **Oakland and Dublin**, because learning builds a kinder community.

Scan the QR code to find your ideal training session today!



Contact us at [training@eastbayspca.org](mailto:training@eastbayspca.org)  
Adopt • Volunteer • Foster • Donate

**Oakland Center**  
8323 Baldwin St.,  
Oakland, CA 94621  
(510) 569-0702

**Dublin Center**  
4651 Gleason Dr.,  
Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 479-9670

## Humane Education

Fun seasonal youth camps, inspiring school programs, birthday parties, and more! Designed to nurture compassion, empathy, and a lifelong appreciation of animals.

**East Bay SPCA empowers young people** to make a positive difference in our community.



Scan the QR code to learn more!



More Than a Shelter

Contact us at [training@eastbayspca.org](mailto:training@eastbayspca.org)  
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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](http://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