

FALL 2026

ANIMAL FRIENDS

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On the Cover
Daisy the Kitten



President's Message Fall 2026

Dear Friend,

Every so often, a story captures the attention of those who care deeply about animals. The unfathomable events unfolding in Humboldt County have prompted reflection across the animal welfare community and beyond.

In April, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office opened an investigation into Miranda's Rescue, a self-reported "no-kill rescue, adoption & sanctuary facility" in Fortuna, California. The investigation was launched following disturbing reports of felonies including felony animal abuse, animal cruelty, fraud, and conspiracy.

Moments like these invite us to ask difficult questions about the larger challenges facing companion animals and the role we all play in creating a more humane future. This is an opportunity to have a conversation that has long been difficult within animal welfare.

At East Bay SPCA, every decision begins with humane care and a commitment to relieving animal suffering.

This heartbreaking situation challenges all of us to examine how animals reach these points of crisis in the first place. Crisis rarely begins with a single decision. It develops when shelters are stretched beyond their capacity for care and when prevention and community support have not kept pace with growing need.

Labels such as "no-kill" cannot fully define humane care. Our responsibility is to make the most humane decision for every animal entrusted to us.

Sometimes that means providing lifesaving medical treatment. Sometimes it means helping families stay together. Sometimes it means offering behavioral support. And, in the most difficult circumstances, it may mean relieving suffering when no humane alternative remains. Those decisions are made with an unwavering commitment to compassion.

If we want fewer animals to reach these moments of crisis, the solution begins long before an animal enters a shelter. It begins with prevention, accessible veterinary care and spay/neuter, adoption, fostering, and community support for both people and pets. As we begin our next season of strategic planning, these themes will shape how we support the pets and people of the East Bay and beyond.

Even in difficult moments, we remain hopeful because we know what is possible when a community comes together. Through transparency, partnership, and a shared commitment to humane care, we can build a future where fewer animals suffer.

Thank you for standing with us, and with the animals who depend on all of us.

ALLISON C. LINDQUIST
President & CEO

From Parking Lot to Pillows

The Walmart Pups

The small black-and-white puppy looked up cautiously from where his head lay on his siblings' back. An Animal Care Coordinator had just entered the room where several Border Collie mixes waited in a line of kennels. Some of the puppies were understandably nervous, while others came right to the front of their kennel, eagerly wagging their tails in hopes of a few scratches and pets. The Animal Care Coordinator entered each kennel, bringing food for the puppies and handing out gentle ear scratches to the ones who sought attention.



The large group of puppies had been through a major ordeal. They didn't know it yet, but thanks to a team of compassionate people working together, their world was about to get a whole lot brighter.

Just 24 hours earlier, 16 puppies had been running loose through a Walmart parking lot in Livermore when a Good Samaritan spotted them. The woman carefully corralled the puppies and loaded them into her van before bringing them to East Bay SPCA's Oakland and Dublin Adoption Centers.

Our shelters have been close to capacity for some time, so finding space and resources for an unexpected group of 16 puppies was no easy feat. Our team conducted an immediate intake, quickly creating room to safely house them and beginning



veterinary assessments. Thankfully, the puppies were relatively healthy.

Over the next few days, they were spayed/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, and microchipped. Some needed behavioral support, so our Behavior team worked closely with them to help them feel comfortable and develop crucial socialization skills. **Less than two weeks after being rescued from the parking lot, all 16 puppies had found new, loving homes.**



Saving animals like this group of puppies takes a compassionate community. From Good Samaritans like the one that rescued these puppies, to shelter staff, volunteers, and supporters, saving lives is only possible when we work together. Thank you for being a helper and giving these puppies and so many other animals the futures they deserve.

Growing a Career with Compassion

More Than a Workplace



Lisa Hammock, Director of Shelter Operations, with East Bay SPCA alum, Poppy

When Lisa joined East Bay SPCA in 2010, she wasn't planning a career in animal welfare.

After beginning a career in finance, the recession sent her in a different direction. Remembering how much she had enjoyed volunteering with cats in college, she searched for animal welfare jobs, and found East Bay SPCA.

Now, 16 years later, Lisa has been promoted to Director of Shelter Operations.

Her journey began as a Feline Associate, caring for cats and helping families through the adoption process. From there, she

embraced opportunities to learn and grow, serving in roles across shelter operations and shelter medicine & foster, before spending the past eight years as Oakland Shelter Manager.

"I've learned so much from East Bay SPCA," Lisa says. "Animal welfare changes rapidly and has been changing, especially the past five to six years."

For Lisa, that's part of what makes this work so rewarding: animal welfare is constantly evolving as new research, new approaches, and new partnerships help improve outcomes for pets and the people who love them.

At East Bay SPCA, employees are encouraged to keep learning, expand their skills, and grow

alongside the organization, building careers that make a lasting difference for animals, families, and the community.

"I love hearing from others in the industry that East Bay SPCA is at the forefront of animal welfare and employee and human welfare."

Looking back on her 16 years at East Bay SPCA, Lisa says it's the organization's commitment to growth, for both animals and people, that has kept her here.

That commitment extends beyond East Bay SPCA's walls. From sharing supplies and expertise with partner shelters to embracing new approaches to animal welfare, the organization continues to look for better ways to serve the East Bay and the greater Bay Area.

Today, as Director of Shelter Operations, Lisa hopes every employee feels that their work matters.

Whether someone joins East Bay SPCA as their first job in animal welfare or brings years of experience, careers here are built on curiosity, compassion, and a shared commitment to helping animals and the people who love them.

Interested in joining our team? **Visit eastbayspca.org/careers to learn more about current opportunities.**

"Being here for 16 years hopefully shows how much I believe in our mission and our values. I'm so proud to work here."

- Lisa Hammock, Director of Shelter Operations

A Hold for Homecoming Story

Humane Advocacy In Our Community



Bella needed help.

When our Humane Advocacy Team met Bella through our Pet Food Pantry, they noticed she was struggling with a severe leg injury. Like many pet owners facing difficult circumstances, Danyel loved Bella deeply, but barriers had prevented her from seeking the care Bella needed. Before care, Danyel first needed support.

Through patient, compassionate conversations, Danyel began to trust our team. Thanks to grant funding, we were able to examine the severity of Bella's injuries at our Theodore B. Travers Family Veterinary Clinic.

Our veterinarians determined that amputating Bella's injured leg offered the best chance for a truly pain-free, healthy future. Without treatment, Bella faced ongoing pain and an increased risk of infection.

A few days before surgery, **Bella was enrolled in our Hold for Home program**, where she stayed in a safe, comfortable environment while preparing for

surgery. This eased the logistical burden on Danyel and ensured Bella received the care she needed. Danyel visited Bella nearly every day and often brought her other dog, Moose, along.

Bella's surgery was a success! She was sent home with post-op instructions and supplies, a new leash and collar, and pet food.

Bella's story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when support is offered with compassion, not judgment. By connecting Danyel with pet food assistance, affordable veterinary care, and temporary support through Hold for Home, we helped preserve the bond between a beloved dog and the person who loves her.

When pet owners know they have a trusted place to turn, they are more likely to seek help before a crisis becomes insurmountable. That's the heart of East Bay SPCA's Humane Advocacy work: removing barriers, building trust, and helping pets stay with the people who love them.

Whether a family needs pet food, affordable veterinary or behavior support, temporary boarding, or help navigating an unexpected crisis, we can help. **Our Humane Advocacy programs are designed to provide compassionate, practical solutions** before a family reaches a breaking point.

By meeting people where they are and offering support without judgment, **Humane Advocacy helps keep pets healthy, families together, and more animals out of the shelter.**

A Summer of Compassion

Humane Education at East Bay SPCA

Though school is back in session, the **memories made at East Bay SPCA's Summer Animal Camps will last a lifetime.**



This season, campers explored the world of animal welfare through hands-on learning and plenty of time with our shelter animals.

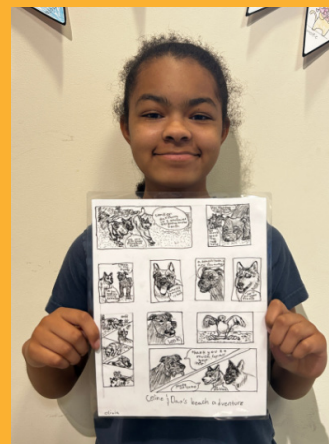
Our youngest campers discovered what it takes to care for pets through games, crafts, and by fostering their own plushie pets for the week.

Meanwhile, our aspiring artists let their creativity shine by creating comic books, one-of-a-kind snoot art with the help of shelter animals, and other animal-inspired masterpieces.

Older campers gained an even deeper understanding of animal care by exploring veterinary medicine and learning the foundations

of animal behavior and training. They also created enrichment for shelter animals and discovered how empathy and advocacy can make a meaningful difference in the lives of pets.

Whether they were observing veterinary procedures, helping available dogs build confidence, or designing adoption ads for our long-term animal residents, every camper left with new skills, lasting friendships, and a greater appreciation for the human-animal bond.



Visit eastbayspca.org/youth to learn more about our Humane Education programs.

Service Project Spotlight

Piper Sutton



East Bay SPCA volunteer Piper Sutton and her family

One Scout's Project Is Making a Lasting Difference for Our Shelter Cats

When Piper Sutton began planning her Eagle Scout project, she knew she wanted to help animals. Inspired by her family's adoption of four dogs from East Bay SPCA, she partnered with our Volunteer Manager and shelter team to create a project that will improve the safety and care of shelter cats for years to come.

Piper is fabricating custom, veterinarian-grade stainless steel barrier plates that will be installed beneath 30 cat kennels in our Oakland shelter. These removable barriers will make cleaning more efficient, help prevent cats from escaping into unsafe spaces, and create a safer environment for both the animals and the staff and volunteers who care for them.

Piper's story is a wonderful example of how one person can make a lasting impact by supporting our mission and animals. Whether you're celebrating a birthday, completing a community service project, honoring a loved one, or simply wanting to help animals and pet families in need, creating your own fundraiser through East Bay SPCA's JustGiving platform is an easy and meaningful way to make a difference.

To fund her project, Piper created a JustGiving campaign to help bring her vision to life. If you'd like to support her Eagle Scout project, please visit eastbayspca.org/giving to learn more.

You can also start your own fundraiser today and help provide lifesaving care for animals and vital support for pet families throughout our community.



JustGiving™

Access our JustGiving [East Bay SPCA profile](#) to start a campaign or donate today!

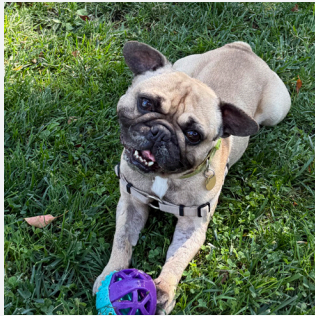
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Established in 1874, East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (**East Bay SPCA**) is proud to be one of the nation's oldest shelters. East Bay SPCA is more than a shelter, transforming the lives of cats and dogs by enriching the human-animal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

Learn more at eastbayspca.org.



@eastbayspca

East Bay SPCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
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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