



Pawsitive Prints

The latest on responsible pet ownership, animal welfare & shelter/rescue work in Santa Barbara County

Fall 2009



Animal lovers of all ages flocked to Tucker's Grove Park for C.A.R.E.4Paws' Wags n' Whiskers Festival on September 13.

The Wags n' Whiskers Festival

On September 13, C.A.R.E.4Paws hosted its inaugural Wags n' Whiskers Festival at Tucker's Grove in Santa Barbara. Fourteen shelters and rescue groups joined the festival, bringing around 100 dogs, cats, bunnies and even rats available for adoption.

More than 20 animals found forever homes during the day. But, perhaps more importantly, the event shed light on the significant work of local shelters and rescue organizations and offered an opportunity for the public to see adoptable pets outside the typical shelter environment.

Attests Cheryl Belhasen of Lompoc's C.A.P.A. "Throughout the event, I could feel the positive energy coming from participants as well as from the crowd, because we were all there for the same

reason." C.A.P.A., who brought 10 animals, adopted out a total of six dogs during Wags n' Whiskers, the most out of any shelter. "The best thing about the festival was knowing so many people came out in hopes of adopting a rescue animal," Belhasen says.

Among the highlights for Marci Kladnik with Catalyst for Cats was adopting out the rescue group's three-legged kitty. "What a great gathering of like-minded people," says the longtime advocate for feral cats. B.U.N.S. founder Jean Silva adds, "I liked the sense of everyone working together and not competing."

A mix of animal groups and service providers also set up camp for the day, among them Cottage Hospital Therapy Pet Program, Dioji K9 Resort, Super Sonic Flyball Team, Camp Canine, {continued}



NAME: Mandy AGE: 3 yrs.
BREED: Pitbull mix
OWNER: Cristel Duncan, Summerland

ONE LUCKY DOG

Often, dogs find us, as opposed to us finding them. Cristel Duncan knows

this firsthand. Having adopted her rottie Apollo from K-9 PALS at the Santa Barbara County Animal Shelter in 2008, she returned to the shelter this February to find her big boy a friend. Cristel had her mind on a female shepherd or another rottie, but Apollo would have nothing to do with the dogs he met.

Enter Mandy, a fun, energetic pit bull mix who used to be Apollo's favorite shelter playmate. "I really didn't want a pit bull, and I didn't like the way she looked," admits Cristel. "But Apollo was thrilled to see her. He decided for me."

Today, Cristel couldn't be a prouder pit bull owner. "People tell me pit bulls are unpredictable. But Mandy will lick you to death. She needs so much love." Love Mandy gets plenty of in her new forever home. And after two years as a shelter resident, she deserves nothing less.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AKC Canine Good Citizen Testing for Longtime Shelter Residents

Joy Carrozzo with Doggee Harmony will donate her time to help longtime shelter dogs become certified as Canine Good Citizens (CGC). To apply: 805.845.5970 or doggeeharmony.com. Carrozzo also offers classes in pet first aid; dog owners can sign up on her site.

Help Pit Bulls in Need

The Humane Society in St. Louis, MO, desperately needs help with 500 pit bulls rescued from fighting rings. The HS reimburses for airfare and hotel costs. Contact: lrenner@hsmo.org.



LOOKING AHEAD

Free Dog Training Classes

Mon. Oct. 12, at 3pm at Camp Canine
Andrea Bratt Frick teaches this four-week training class; open to all breeds: 805.968.CARE (2273), care4paws.org.

Project ResponsiBull

Wed. Oct. 15, at 6.30pm at Camp Canine
This three-week session for pit bull owners includes pit bull education, dog training and a free spay or neuter: 805.968.CARE (2273), care4paws.org.

Free Spay/Neuter Clinic

Sun. Oct. 18, at Buellton Veterinary Clinic
For low-income pet owners as well as shelters/rescues. 805.968.CARE (2273).

Dogtober Fest

Sat. Oct. 24, 10am to 2pm, in Solvang
Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation and SB county shelters sponsor this event: sbcanimalcare.org.

El Capital Canyon and C.A.R.E.4Paws to Host First-of-its-Kind Doggy Retreat

Jan. 8-10, El Capitan Canyon
The ranch opens its doors to dog owners and their pooches for a weekend retreat featuring dog training, flyball and agility demos, grooming, doggie spa services and more organized. Vendors will showcase their products and services. Day visitors are welcome, too: elcapitancanyon.com; care4paws.org.

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Goleta Valley Dog Club agility instructor Scott Savidge and Annie (rescued from an L.A. shelter) entertain festival-goers.

Wags n' Whiskers, continued

Groovy Grooms and Carivintas's Dog Lover's Wine Club. Cliff Silber with Dog Planet and Andrea Bratt Frick with K9sBehave put on dog training demonstrations for kids and adults, and Linda Branch from the American Red Cross gave lessons in pet first aid.

A fast-paced agility show by Goleta Valley Dog Club captured the largest and most enthusiastic audience. "People often realize when they adopt a dog and get it home that it has a lot of energy," says the club's Co-Captain and Rally Obedience Instructor Anne Swan. "Agility is a great way to focus that energy into something positive. It serves as a relationship builder for dog and owner, and is just plain fun!" She adds, "Next year, we would like to have a mini agility course for the public to do with their dogs, if possible, so they can give it a try."

Plans are already in the works for the next Wags n' Whiskers Festival. C.A.R.E.4Paws will focus on growing the event bigger, inviting even more animal groups and service providers in the Santa Barbara County area. Another goal is to include more educational components that invite the public to get involved and learn something new about shelter animals.

The event got plenty of publicity, including several articles in local papers and live TV coverage from KEYT. To read the stories, visit care4paws.org and click on "In the Press."

IMAGES TOP RIGHT TO BOTTOM: Dura Doggie president Raad Mobrem with his team. "It was a great family event. People were energetic and really interested in the cause," says Mobrem. Below, two young festival-goers play with rabbits from B.U.N.S.; Andrea Bratt Frick from K9sBehave gives a dog training demo; Belinda Burns and Marci Kladnik of Catalyst for Cats in their festival booth. The group was happy to adopt out its three-legged kitty during Wags n' Whiskers.



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Free Marketing Tools for Shelter Groups

Did you know that several Santa Barbara nonprofits and private professionals offer free publicity assistance to local shelters and rescue groups, from creating videos and written animal profiles to designing brand-new websites?

Lisa Acho Remorenko, creator of Animal Adoption Solutions, helps shelters and individuals market their adoptable animals through written profiles and photography. Reach Acho Remorenko at lisa@animaladoptionsolutions.com or visit animaladoptionsolutions.com.

Karen Lee Stevens, founder of All for

Animals, is now producing videos of shelter/rescue dogs and cats. Learn more at allforanimals.com.



Take advantage of effective marketing programs and services that advertise adoptable cats, dogs and bunnies free of charge.

Looking to upgrade your rescue's website or need help creating a brand-new site? Designer Debra Deyette can help you at low cost or free of charge. Contact her at deyette@verizon.net.

Photographer Tiffany Evitts (see her Wags n' Whiskers photos on the previous pages) donates

her time to photographing adoption and rescue events and also shoots portraits of adoptable animals. Reach Evitts at pirate.satellite@yahoo.com

Time to Be ResponsiBull

The pit bull, more than any other breed in history, is continuously made a villain through media hypes and irresponsible ownership. It's the number-one bred dog in the U.S., and the breed that gets euthanized the most and adopted last in shelters. C.A.R.E.4Paws thinks it's time for a change. Inspired by a similar program created by Pawsitive Alliance in Washington, we launched Project ResponsiBull, a three-part class specifically for pit bull owners. It includes pit bull education, dog training and a free spay/neuter.

Hosted by Camp Canine and taught by Dog Planet's Cliff Silber, the first three-week session, which ended September 30, filled up with 10 participants. Jill Anderson of Shadow's Fund in Lompoc provided pit bull education, while Silber offered tips on basic training and leadership roles. (Go to care4paws.org and "In the Press" for class media coverage.)



Pit mix Shadow gets sweet with co-owner Jamason Upton during class.

The idea behind Project ResponsiBull is for participants to learn more about the pit bull breed, including its history, how it got a bad rap, common characteristics and how to deal with some of the typical behavioral problems. We want to inspire an ever-growing number of pit bull ambassadors who can help restore the image of the pit bull as an All-American family dog.

Another big goal: to increase pet retention among pit bull owners, something that we achieved in our very first session. Emma Bowker was ready to relinquish her pit mix, Barona,

because of behavioral problems a week prior to the session start. We convinced Bowker to sign up for the program, and after the first class she had changed her mind. "I realized Barona is a really good dog," she says. "Sure, she has issues we have to work on, but I'm not going to give her up."

C.A.R.E.4Paws Launches its FREE Spay & Neuter Program

On September 20, C.A.R.E.4Paws hosted its first Spay Day at Buellton Veterinary Clinic, inviting the public as well as local rescue groups and shelters to spay or neuter their cats and dogs for free. At the end of a successful clinic, 25 animals had been altered by long-time veterinarian Tina Taylor and her talented team of technicians.

The event marks the start of a series of Spay Days planned by C.A.R.E.4Paws and Buellton Veterinary Clinic. The next clinic is scheduled for Sunday October 18, although midweek appointments at Buellton Vet Clinic are also offered to qualifying low-income pet owners and shelters/rescues: 805.968.CARE (2273).

Fix Your Pitbull or Pit Mix for Free

To help reduce overpopulation of the pit bull breed, C.A.R.E.4Paws collaborates with D.A.W.G to fix as many pit bulls and pit mixes as possible. D.A.W.G's spay/neuter clinic provides free alters (surgeries include free shots and microshipping). Sign up through C.A.R.E.4Paws or contact D.A.W.G. directly: 805.681.0561, sbdawg.net.

Pawsitive Thinking Workshops For Kids

The key to long-lasting change is to show children the way. C.A.R.E.4Paws visits elementary schools around the county to talk to kids about responsible pet ownership. Contact us to sign up for a "Pawsitive Thinking" presentation at your (or your kids') school: 805.968.CARE (2273), care4paws.org.

Dog Training Tip of the Month

TRAINER: Andrea Bratt Frick/K9sBehave
TRICK: Train your dog to stay in heel position using your pup's own dinner.
HOWTO: Fill your dog's bowl with food and instead of putting it down, call your dog over and give him a piece of food at your left side to get him into heel position. While he is chewing, walk off carrying his bowl. If he follows you, give another piece of food in heel position. Continue walking and feeding your dog at your left side until his dish is empty.





It Takes a Village



The Wags n' Whiskers Festival proved just how much one can achieve—and have fun doing it—by joining forces. I'm amazed at the time and effort our team members put into this event, from pulling off the raffle and helping groups set up to feeding participants lunch. An impressive feat.

Who we are

C.A.R.E.4Paws is a nonprofit organization promoting responsible pet ownership in Santa Barbara County. We believe public awareness is the long-term key to animal welfare in this community and beyond. Our educational programs and community outreach focus on basic animal care and responsibility, coupled with the support for free and low-cost spays and neuters. In addition, C.A.R.E.4Paws offers dog training workshops and organizes regular adoption events. Collaborating with private and public institutions, we work to decrease the high number of animals that enter shelters and rescue groups as well as to increase adoption rates within these organizations.

Together we can inspire a greater sense of respect, compassion and accountability for our furry friends.

All animals
deserve a chance
at life, love
and happiness.

care4paws.org



I dream about dogs. Every night. You know, the kind of obsessive dreaming that keeps you half-awake and repeats itself again and again. It starts with the pups I work with through K-9 PALS. Then my mind moves onto canine residents at other shelters. Next I'm onto abused dogs, puppy mill dogs and pit bulls forced to fight.

I pray this won't start with cats, too. But the more involved I get in cat welfare, the more I worry. These numbers are enough to make you lose sleep: a single unspayed female cat, her mate and their offspring can produce 420,000 kittens in just seven years. In six years, one unspayed female dog and her descendants can produce 67,000 puppies. There are too many animals in the world and not enough homes for these pets.

I assume most people involved in rescue work have been there (which makes for a lot of sleep-deprived souls!). And I'm sure what keeps us all going is knowing that what we do really makes a difference.

Since starting C.A.R.E.4Paws, Carlos and I have met so many remarkable people, people who dedicate their lives to helping animals. It's inspiring. Even more encouraging is to see the growing number of animal groups working together. We strive for the same goals. United we can accomplish so much more, and much faster.

We're also fortunate to work with talented trainers—Andrea Bratt Frick, Cliff Silber and Joy Carrozzo among them; vets, like Tina Taylor and her crew at Buellton Veterinary Clinic; and service providers such as Camp Canine, Lemos, Dioji K9 Resort, Little Dog House, Colleen's Pet Grooming and Platinum Performance.

C.A.R.E.4Paws is taking off thanks to the incredible support we're getting from so many people, organizations and companies. Thank you all! As they say—it takes a village. (I'll try to sleep on that tonight.)

~Isabelle Gullo, Director and Co-Founder

HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Are you looking to donate your time and talents to a meaningful cause? Send an email to info@care4paws.org and let us know which program(s) you are interested in contributing to.

MAKE A DONATION

C.A.R.E.4Paws' many programs are made possible thanks to generous gifts from supporters like you. With your help, we can continue our mission to promote responsible pet ownership in this county and beyond. You can make a donation online at care4paws.org or mail a check to:

P.O. Box 60524
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-0524

Your support is greatly appreciated!

*C.A.R.E.4Paws is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

