



# Pawsitive Prints

The latest scoop from C.A.R.E.4Paws

Summer 2011

## A Brand-New Program by C.A.R.E.4Paws Helps Pet Owners Keep Their Furry Friends

In these tough economic times, many people struggle not just to feed themselves, but to provide their four-legged friends with the care they need. Others are battling an illness or temporary disability that leaves them unable to perform certain tasks, such as walking their dog or cleaning their cat's litter box. To prevent these animals from ending up in a shelter, C.A.R.E.4Paws launched Companion Pet Assistance, a program that—with help of a dedicated volunteer team—assists owners with basic pet care. This includes delivery of pet food and cat litter, grooming, dog walking and cleaning of bird cages and litter boxes. Not only will the project help qualifying, low-income pet owners with the altering of their cats and dogs, but as funding allows, C.A.R.E.4Paws will strive to provide financial assistance for pets in need of emergency veterinary care.



C.A.R.E.4Paws' Companion Pet Assistance program focuses on elderly, disabled and low-income pet owners to ensure they don't have to relinquish their four-legged friends to a shelter.

### Collaborating with Catholic Charities

As part of this countywide effort, C.A.R.E.4Paws is proud to announce its new partnership with Santa Barbara County's Catholic Charities, a nonprofit that provides

social services to those in need, without regard to race, religion or socioeconomic status. The organization's Wagging Dog Tales fund assists low-income seniors (age 60+) with emergency medical veterinary assistance for dogs and cats. Just as C.A.R.E.4Paws will be able to refer qualifying clients to Catholic Charities, the nonprofit will send low-income pet owners in need of pet food and other basic to C.A.R.E.4Paws. "We saw a great need to expand our Wagging Dog Tales program," says Frank Bognar, Catholic Charities' Regional Director. "C.A.R.E.4Paws will complement and extend our scope of services for older adults with dogs and cats. We are very fortunate to establish this relationship."

### Want to help?

There are many ways in which you can help us make this program successful: Refer pet owners in need of help with the feeding and/or care of their animals to us; volunteer your time to assist low-income pet owners in need; donate pet food or supplies; or make a tax-deductible donation to C.A.R.E.4Paws online or via mail. Please know that your support is greatly appreciated!



NAME: Spirit  
OWNER: Mark & Sierra  
RESCUE GROUP: DAWG

### THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

Sweet, beautiful Spirit has had a rough few years. First, his owner died, and then his caretaker had to relocate

and couldn't take the dog with him. C.A.R.E.4Paws was able to provide

boarding for Spirit until a spot opened up for him at DAWG. DAWG's staff and volunteers took excellent care of Spirit for more than a year, but shelter living was hard on this sensitive guy. He bonded with only a few people and barked if strangers neared his kennel.

Then Mark and Sierra came along. After seeing Spirit's photo online, the couple knew there was something very special about him. Spirit must have been waiting for the two to come visit, because the day Sierra and Mark walked up to his kennel, he just laid quietly with his chin on his paw, gazing up at them.

The bond was instant. And now, a month later, gentle Spirit is thriving in his forever home. "He goes to work with Dad every day, and when I pick him up in the afternoon, people ask me if he can stay just a little longer," says Sierra.



care4paws.org



The Wags n' Whiskers Festival shows that anything is possible when everyone works together for a common goal: animal welfare and an end to pet overpopulation.

## Wags n' Whiskers joined the animal community and spurred 31 adoptions.

On Sunday August 28, C.A.R.E.4Paws hosted its third annual Wags n' Whiskers Festival at Girsh Park in Goleta. The event—the largest adoption festival in Santa Barbara County—featured adoptable dogs, cats and bunnies from 20-plus local rescues and shelters as well as a range of vendors and animal welfare groups. The festival drew more than 1,000 visitors and has inspired as many as 31 adoptions so far.

Festival-goers enjoyed a long list of activities, including agility shows by Goleta Valley Dog Club, Flyball with the Santa Barbara Supersonic, police dog and search-and-rescue dog performances and dancing dogs. Dogs



C.A.R.E.4Paws' annual Wags n' Whiskers Festival promotes shelter and rescue animals, including dogs, cats and bunnies. We are at as many as 31 adoptions now, with more in the works!

(and humans) got styled on the spot by pro stylists and groomers. We also paid a special tribute to senior pets and the pit bull terrier, once known as America's dog. Local

vets and healthcare professionals shared the latest in animal wellness, while C.A.R.E.4Paws' Pawsitive Thinking Kids Corner invited children and their parents to discover how to care for all living beings. Visitors could also steal smooches from famous pups Petey and Mikey in the Kissing Booth.

Our proud sponsors include CARE Hospital, Montecito Bank & Trust, Chrissie's Fund, Valley Pets, Who's Walking Who Pet Sitting & Dog Waking Services and Monarch Pet Spas. For more info and photos, visit [www.care4paws.org](http://www.care4paws.org).



Festival-goers enjoyed various activities, like dog training demos, agility, flyball and police dog and search-and-rescue dog performances. They also got to spend time with the pets for adoption and mingle with fellow animal-lovers.





## LOOKING AHEAD

### ~Every Thursday, C.A.R.E.4Paws hosts "Fix-a-Pit" at DAWG

C.A.R.E.4Paws has kicked off its Fix-a-Pit program, hosted by DAWG (Dog Adoption & Welfare Group) in Santa Barbara. We will fix up to eight pit bull terriers and pit mixes each week at DAWG as part of our Project ResponsiBull. Open to pit bulls from across the county. For more details: 805.968.CARE (2273), info@care4paws.org.

### ~Dogtoberfest 2011, Saturday October 8 in Solvang,



Join us for Dogtoberfest in Solvang Park Saturday October 8 from 10am to 3pm. The event—sponsored by C.A.R.E.4Paws, CAPA, Santa Barbara County Animal Services and Valley Pets—will showcase adoptable dogs from the county's animal shelters and rescue groups.

It'll also feature a range of pet service providers and animal welfare groups as well as a low-cost vaccine and microchip clinic with Project Pet Safe. Visitors can enjoy agility, dancing dogs, door prizes and contests, like the Wiener Dog Race, along with a Pawsitive Thinking Kid's Corner, a special tribute to shelter dogs and, of course, great food and beer. For more info, visit [care4paws.org](http://care4paws.org) or [lompoccapa.org](http://lompoccapa.org).

### ~C.A.R.E.4Paws is gearing up for a Cat Spayathon sponsored by ResQcats

This fall, we will host another cat spayathon generously sponsored by ResQcats. We aim to fix 100 cats between October 1 and December 1.



C.A.R.E.4Paws' teaches responsible, loving pet care through its bilingual community outreach and Pawsitive Thinking elementary school programs.

## Pawsitive Outreach

Because education is the key to change for animals, today and for generations to come, C.A.R.E.4Paws offers programs that teach youth and adults how to be responsible, loving animal caretakers. This spring, our Pawsitive Thinking humane education program reached more than 2,000 elementary school children countywide.

How is this significant? Research shows that kids who learn to show compassion and respect for animals early on likely take those values into adulthood and pass them on to their children. It's the first lesson in empathy, the ability to understand and be sensitive to the experiences of all living beings. "Unconditional love of an animal can inspire good in the most hardened of beings," says Pawsitive Thinking program coordinator Karen Perkins. "Educate one to love the other and we can change the world."

### Bilingual/bicultural community outreach

With a proven correlation between irresponsible pet ownership and the drastic increase in pets found in, and relinquished to, shelters, C.A.R.E.4Paws has launched a bilingual/bicultural community outreach program that promotes the importance of spaying and neutering, licensing, rabies vaccination and microchipping.

The problem of irresponsible pet ownership often comes down to public ignorance and cultural differences, which is why this campaign takes a bilingual/bicultural approach. To further ensure success of the program, C.A.R.E.4Paws has hired a bilingual outreach coordinator, made possible thanks to a generous private donor.



Images from C.A.R.E.4Paws' Pawsitive Thinking presentations, including Science Night at Washington School and a workshop at Adam's School in Santa Maria.



[care4paws.org](http://care4paws.org)

## Cat Spayathon Aims to Curb Overpopulation

C.A.R.E.4Paws just wrapped up its Spring Spayathon for Cats, a project sponsored in part by ASAP (Animal Shelter Assistance Program). Thanks to ASAP and the many pet hospitals who helped with the project—Cat & Bird Clinic, CARE Hospital, Vet's Here, Adobe Pet Hospital, and Buellton Veterinary Clinic—C.A.R.E.4Paws was able to reach its goal of altering 100 cats during the height of kitten season. "We are thrilled to participate in this community-wide collaboration," says Angela Walters Rockwell, President of ASAP. "Working together we can truly make a difference in reducing the number of homeless cats and kittens in Santa Barbara County."

The spayathon was part of C.A.R.E.4Paws'



C.A.R.E.4Paws co-founder Carlos Abitia with a cat during a "spay day" with Vet's Here Mobile Clinic in Santa Ynez.

year-round Spay & Neuter Program, which helps qualifying low-income pet owners fix their pets for free or at low cost. Since the program kick-off in September 2009, C.A.R.E.4Paws has altered more than 900 cats and dogs through Spay Days and surgeries performed by county veterinarians in their clinics. In 2011 alone, the nonprofit anticipates fixing 1,000 pets.

In addition to the cat spayathon, C.A.R.E.4Paws has hosted several spay days for dogs at St. Francis Pet Clinic, Your Pals Pet Hospital and Animal Medical Clinic. In North County, pet clinics that take appointments include Orcutt Vet. Hospital, Village Vet. Clinic, Lompoc Vet.

Clinic and Animal Care

Hospital. C.A.R.E.4Paws thanks participating veterinarians, vet techs and staff for their great community support. It takes a village!

## It's Time to Be ResponsiBull

The American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Terrier and other "pit bull" breeds and mixes rate among the most misunderstood canines in U.S. history. This breed was once the country's number one family dog, but sadly, the cruel sport of dog fighting, along with the sensationalism the media places around the breed, has created the perception that pit bull terriers are unpredictable and vicious by nature.

Truth is, these dogs are loving, loyal and affectionate animals that are smart and eager to please their caretakers.

To change the community's perception of the pit bull terrier and to help combat pit overpopulation—which greatly contributes to the shelter overcrowding problem—C.A.R.E.4Paws started Project ResponsiBull,

a three-part program for owners of pit bull terriers and pit mixes that includes free obedience training, breed education and a free spay/neuter. The goal is to increase owner retention and inspire an ever-growing number of pit bull ambassadors who can help restore the image of the breed as America's Dog.

This spring and summer, we've hosted successful workshops at the Santa Barbara Humane Society and the Lompoc shelter, helping close to 100 pit bull owners. The more owners we reach and teach, and the more

people who get to know the pit bull terrier for what he truly is, the fewer "pits" we'll see euthanized and living in shelters. To learn more about this program, visit [care4paws.org](http://care4paws.org) and click on "Project ResponsiBull."



Ambassador Petey in his Kissing Booth was a huge success at July's Pacific Pride Festival, where C.A.R.E.4Paws promoted shelter adoptions and pit bull awareness.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### C.A.R.E.4Paws loses Lillie, its beloved Pawsitive Thinking ambassador

On Saturday June 4, C.A.R.E.4Paws sadly and suddenly lost its amazing therapy dog, Lillie. As part of Pawsitive Thinking, sweet Lillie visited schools countywide alongside mom Karen Perkins, inspiring everyone in her path. In her lifetime, Lillie faced challenge after challenge, and yet, she always persevered. Lillie, wonderful friend, we are all lucky and honored to have known you.



Lillie, C.A.R.E.4Paws' amazing ambassador, is missed by many, and especially her mom, Karen Perkins.

### C.A.R.E.4Paws releases children's book about compassionate pet care



Through fun, easy-to-read messages and cute illustrations of "Jack" and his animal friends, *Pawsitive Thinking: How to Be Your Pet's Best Pal* teaches kids about basic animal care and behavior, one's responsibilities as a pet owner, pet adoption and how to integrate a pet into the family. The book, supported in part by the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at UCSB, can be found at Tecolote and Chaucer's bookstores. You can also get a copy sent to you for a \$10 donation. Contact us for details.



# Stay Pawsitive!

[Note from the founders]



C.A.R.E.4Paws' Pawsitive Thinking Ambassadors, Zia and sweet puppy Lillie, who passed away in June.

As our shelters and rescues remain overfull with abandoned pets, and as staff and volunteers work tirelessly to care for these animals, it's sometimes hard to stay positive, or pawsitive, as we'd like to call it.

Still, we have to keep pushing. And we have to work together to get things done. This, of course, includes caring for the adoptable animals living in shelters, rescue groups and foster families across the county. But more than anything, it involves reaching out into the community to change perceptions about what responsible, loving pet care truly means.

To lower numbers, we need to promote spaying and neutering, and to improve owner retention, we have to promote basic training and basic veterinary care, including vaccination, as well as microchipping and licensing.

To that extent, C.A.R.E.4Paws keeps expanding upon all of its programs, from our Pawsitive Thinking educational outreach and spay/neuter efforts to dog training intervention and shelter adoption assistance. We have hired a part-time bilingual community outreach

coordinator to head our efforts in the areas of Santa Barbara from where a large portion of the shelter animals (mostly chihuahuas and pit bull terriers) come.

Our new Companion Pet Assistance program (featured on the front page) reaches out to owners who struggle to provide their four-legged friends with the basic care they need, whether it's pet food, grooming or dog walking.

We are also growing Project ResponsiBull to provide more spay/neuter surgeries and additional dog training classes as well as more community outreach to change the public's perception of this misunderstood breed.

We have a lot of hard work ahead, but if we keep working together, we can, and will, make a difference for the animals.

As always, a big thank you to our incredible volunteers, donors, dog trainers, vets and pet clinic staff—and the animal community—for your support and belief in C.A.R.E.4Paws.

Stay Pawsitive!

*Isabelle Gullö & Carlos Abitia*  
Co-Founders, C.A.R.E.4Paws

PS: Save the date for this year's Wags n' Whiskers Festival, August 28 at Girsh Park.

## 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.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Looking to donate your time and talents to a meaningful cause? Call us at 805.968.CARE (2273) or send an email to [info@care4paws.org](mailto: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 and animal welfare. You can make a secure donation online at [care4paws.org/help.html](http://care4paws.org/help.html) or mail a check to:

C.A.R.E.4Paws  
P.O. Box 60524  
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-0524

Your support is greatly appreciated!

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