

The Volunteer Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2019

PAW PRINTS THE VOLUNTEER VOICE

Welcome to Paw Prints, TVAR's volunteer newsletter. We welcome your feedback – whether that be in the form of articles; what you would like to see highlighted in the newsletter; volunteers you would like to see spotlighted – and the list goes on. As always – thank you ALL for All that you do for these deserving animals. Without every one of you – so many more would be lost.

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Volunteer Appreciation Event

TVAR volunteers were out in full force at the Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Blue Agave Club on June 22! Despite having been postponed due to a bad rainstorm, this event turned out to be the most well attended volunteer dinner in TVAR history.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped create this memorable event, especially Board Member and Volunteer Appreciation Event Coordinator (for the last 3 years), Sharon Silbert, who along with her Dad created many fantastic gifts and raffle prizes. Everyone had the opportunity to take home something very special and spend time with fellow volunteers who share the passion of giving these deserving animals that second chance.





Mardi Paws

Spread the word and save the date!

Please contact Lynne Menon at lmemon@tvar.org or (925) 918-5880 to help with our next Mardi Gras themed fundraising gala. We're looking for volunteers to help with decorations, data input, and follow-up phone calls.



ECAS News & Volunteer Kudos

July 2019 marked the six-year anniversary where the East County Animal Shelter (ECAS), Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR), and UC Davis partnered on a special project to improve the health and enrichment of the shelter animals.

TVAR Shelter Dog Program Coordinator Cindy Churchill championed and received TVAR Board approval for funding and ECAS' consent to participate in the comprehensive U.C. Davis Koret Shelter Assessment Program.

Program Director Dr. Kate Hurley, along with a cadre of veterinarians and veterinary technicians spent many days at ECAS doing the evaluation. The assessment was a huge undertaking for ECAS personnel, but we would all say it

This photo of shelter cat Walter, the first cat to use the very first portal, has become UC Davis' Official Signature



Thank You card for the entire assessment program, which they sent to Cindy thanking her for all her efforts!

Much has happened over these 6 years including the installment of two artificial lawn yards to help ECAS dogs and volunteers alike.

was well worth the effort. The concerted endeavor affected positive results that significantly improved the environment for the animals at the shelter. These activities included establishing vaccination and cleaning protocols, opening of pass through doors for the dogs, and installing portals for our kittens and cats.



Giving Them All Another Chance

Jack & Blondie - by Whitney Kessler

Andrew and I have been fostering with TVAR for a few years and are fortunate to stay in touch with some of our previous fosters. In 2017 we had a long-term foster, **Jack** (pictured here behind our "**Brady**"), who we almost ended up keeping, but we brought him to one last farmer's market event. The perfect adopter showed up -- Gary had his eye on Jack for a few months but he wanted to give his current dog time to live out his remaining days in peace (Gary had taken him in after his friend had passed). Gary and Jack were a perfect match and are now living the dream in Tahoe.



About a month ago we took in a new foster, **Blondie**, who we decided to adopt ourselves. Blondie was found with 5-week-old puppies which the Puppy Program took into foster. Soon after we

It is so special to me that the next time we meet up with Gary, Brady (our dog and a very patient foster mentor) will get to





took her home we got a message from Gary that he was looking to adopt another dog.

reconnect with her friend **Jack**, and Blondie will be able to reconnect with her puppy **Jill**.

Side Note from Sue James: After Dawn McKeown took the litter of puppies into foster, she told me how badly she felt about leaving the Mom behind. "Blondie" was so shy so she couldn't yet be put up for adoption. But she was such a sweet and loving girl - I knew we had to take her into foster. We reached out to Whitney and Andrew and, the rest as they say, is history.

Alfalfa - by Kristin Pace

Alfalfa was born the runt of his litter of 6 kittens that came into the program shortly after birth. He was weaker than his siblings, wasn't developing quite as quickly and needed a lot of TLC. A urinary tract infection was discovered in his first weeks of life that became a recurrent problem; he had to constantly urinate and was incontinent. An ultrasound showed a congenital birth defect that constricted his bladder, separating it into two sections.



A first and second opinion from specialists suggested Alfalfa's prognosis wasn't promising. However, he continued to be a happy, strong and adorable little kitten and we just couldn't accept that this joyful little boy wouldn't have a chance at a life free from infection.



TVAR sent Alfalfa to a surgical specialist for a third opinion, and even though the doctor didn't know what to expect, he felt surgery was worth a try. The doctor had never seen anything quite like it and performed an operation that was very complex and intensive. IF his bladder could heal from the repairs it endured, little Alfalfa had a chance.

Alfie had a long recovery, but as the days and weeks went by, he improved more and more. A little miracle occurred and the little guy healed! We loved Alfalfa so very much, we wound up adopting him and we are happy to report that our kitty is living a happy and healthy life. He is a very special kitten that is helping raise all the new foster kittens that come into his now forever home.

Meet TVAR's Newest Employee – Nancy Mandel

TVAR recently welcomed new Kitten Program

Administrator, Nancy Mandell. Nancy has a BA degree in Communications and over ten years of experience working in the computer technology industry at companies such as PeopleSoft and EMC. Most recently she was at the Clorox Company in Pleasanton, where she won an award for being the administrative assistant of the year.

In addition to her work experience, Nancy is an animal lover at heart, and volunteered at a local horse rescue in her spare time. Nancy's four-legged family members include three horses and two rescue kittens. We are pleased to have Nancy join the TVAR family.



Board Matters

TVAR's Board of Directors is the governing body of our organization and meets monthly. The agenda varies depending on the organization's needs at the time, but typically includes discussions on various program and financial matters, fundraising and donor outreach efforts.



The Board has been busy with various activities over the last several months. Working closely with Lynne Menon, TVAR's Marketing and Communications Director, the Board has been focused on fundraising and marketing undertakings including the Hopyard Alehouse and Tommy T's Comedy Club events, and the Robert Half and Comcast adoption/brand awareness events. Additionally, as noted in the SAVE THE DATE announcement, TVAR's 2020 annual gala planning is also well underway.

The Board is also focused on evaluating program costs which includes evaluation of our processes, veterinarians and veterinary services, emergency care facilities, staffing, and other costs directly related to the health and care of our rescue friends. We are constantly looking for ways to make our programs as effective and efficient as possible so that we can save as many animals as possible. We are very appreciative of the flexibility and support of our fosters and volunteers, including our all-volunteer board, in this process. TVAR's Board of Directors welcomes any comments or suggestions from our volunteers and is always searching for new ways to improve our image and fulfill our mission of saving homeless Dogs and Cats in the Tri-Valley Area and giving them a Second Chance.

Board Spotlight

Meet Sharon Silbert:

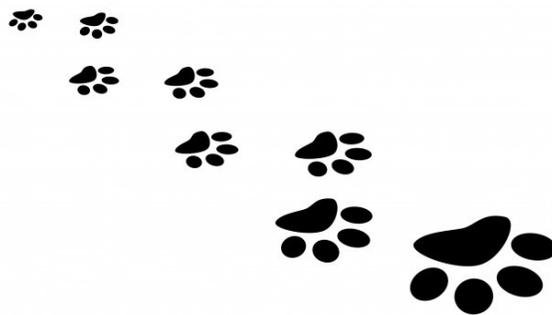
Sharon started with TVAR in 2014; has been on TVAR'S Board of Directors since 2015 and is involved in many of TVAR's programs. Sharon is currently an adviser to TVAR's Kitten Foster Program which she stepped in to run in May when Tina Aedo retired. For the last three years, Sharon has orchestrated and spearheaded the Volunteer Appreciation Event for TVAR (see Volunteer Appreciation Event article).



Sharon has fostered all species and ages from adult dogs, to puppies, to Moms and Puppies as well as kittens, bottle babies and adult cats. She has been the Go-To person for so many of TVAR's programs' needs. And she is never without a foster animal in her home, usually several!

Sharon has been in the rescue business for 24 years. Before joining TVAR, she and her husband Rick ran their own rescue and Sharon was the President of Animal Rescue of Tracy for 7 years. During her term, they were awarded Organization of the Year for 2007 and honored by the Tracy City Chamber of Commerce, County Board of Supervisors and the California State Assembly. Sharon reports that she and Rick have fostered over 650 dogs and even more cats in their rescue "career".

Those of you who know Sharon know that she is a very outgoing, friendly and talkative lady. As you might imagine, Sharon and Ricks' passion is saving animals and finding forever homes for them. Sharon is also a master woodworker – having learned her skills from her dad. Sharon is employed at Costco as a Vault Clerk and Safety Coordinator.



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